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party poll, Fumio Kishida

India takes on Australia in pink ball Test from today page 13





### **Kejriwal throws 5-point** challenge at Punjab govt.

Aam Aadmi Party chief and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Keiriwal, 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 Divakar Academy

#### Firecracker ban dampens Ramlila celebrations

NEW DELHI The biggest, oldest and most popular Ramlila 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. (retd.) 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

Late in the evening, Con-

gress' 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 be-

come a centre for anti-Dalit

bal had questioned the deci-

sion-making process with,

"We know yet we don't

While Ms. Sonia Gandhi is

the acting president of the

party, many believe that

most decisions are being ta-

ken by her children.

**CONTINUED ON ▶** PAGE 8

Earlier in the day, Mr. Si-

activities".

know."



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

group of 23 letter writers -

the 'G-23', which is seeking

internal reforms, wrote a

fresh letter to Congress pre-

sident Sonia Gandhi to con-

vene a meeting of the Con-

gress Working Committee

for a debate on the state of

affairs in the party, includ-

ing the Punjab turmoil and

Congress workers from

Chandni Chowk, the consti-

tuency that Mr. Sibal has re-

presented in the Lok Sabha

in the past, protested out-

side his residence, holding

placards with "Get well

soon" messages, though

there was no direct response

from the party to the press

desertions from the party.

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 organisation, which has given them political identity, by rushing to the media every now and

### 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

firecrackers that are

loud and toxic, and

two infants through

air pollution

their fathers, flagging

permits only "green or re-

duced-emission" ones. Ban

March 2020: Court orders

is a celebration,

but you should also be

mindful of the people

living around you...

follows petition filed by



**CBI Joint Director in** Chennai to probe violation of the 2018 ban stacked for sale at a shop in Every day there

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

Oct. 2018: SC bans use of

hearing on October 6.

posted the case for further

people who

have asthma

JUSTICE M.R. SHAH

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 signifi-

cance with the onset of the wedding season and festivals like Dussehra and Deepa-

"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

Nipah virus antibodies (IgG

fection was confirmed last

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 andetected in another sample from the Rousettus species

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

conclude that the Nipah out-

**CONTINUED ON ▶** PAGE 8

break 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

## dence, it would be logical to

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

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 in-

### month.

tibodies, while the same was

### collected from Kodiyathoor. The results of over 50 bat

Given the current evi-

### Bid amounts for PM's mementoes fall BIG LEARNINGS MADE EASY

NEW DELHI Bids on Olympians' gear, in-

DAMINI NATH

cluding 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 medallist 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.

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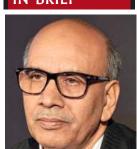
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**CONTINUED ON ▶** PAGE 8



Mangu Singh's tenure as **DMRC MD extended** 

The Delhi government on Wednesday extended the tenure of Mangu Singh as the Managing Director of the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) till March 31, 2022. Mr. Singh has been the MD of DMRC since January 1 2013,

### Eatery that denied entry to woman in saree shut

taking over from E.

Sreedharan.

NEW DELHI A restaurant that allegedly denied entry to a saree-clad woman here was issued a closure notice by the South Delhi Municipal Corporation for operating without a proper trade licence, following which the owner said he has shut operations. SDMC officials said that a closure notice was issued to the Aquila Restaurant located at Ansal Plaza in Andrews Ganj for operating without a licence. PTI

### Women who fled critical care centre rescued

Nearly five months after two women had escaped from a critical care centre here, the Delhi Police's anti-human trafficking unit of the Crime Branch rescued them from a red-light area in Pune, police

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एव शैक्षणिक सत्र-2021-22 हेत् नए शैक्षणिक संस्थानों द्वारा

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Therefore, we hereby once again call upon you all to pay Rs.11,83,033/- (Rupees Eleven Lakh

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कल्याण पोर्टल पर पत्नीकरण एवं पत्नीकव संस्थानो

## Ban on firecrackers takes the bang out of Ramlila celebrations

Biggest events likely to be cancelled as authorities yet to communicate guidelines

JATIN ANAND

The biggest, oldest and most popular Ramlila events that the Capital has been hosting for decades, in some cases for centuries, are likely to be cancelled entirely this year.

The organisers, who had agreed to keep the celebrations low-key last year in the wake on 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'".

The "mismanagement" said the organisers, has left them with limited to non-existent alternatives for Ramlila celebrations, which are supposed to start from October 6. A handful of them, however, are hopeful of pulling off smaller, single-day events for the sake of continuity.

According to the organisers, an estimated 700 events are planned across the city every year at varying scales, of which around a hundred are the biggest and among the oldest in the country.

The over 170-year-old



Up in smoke: File photo of Ramlila celebrations at the Red Fort ground. Such display not possible this year, say organisers.

Ramlila organised by the Shri Ramlila Committee (SRC) in central Delhi, with its origins in Mughal Emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar's decision to patronise the event during his reign, is among those likely to be cancelled, along with other big and popular events.

"On the one hand, there isn't enough time to make the arrangements since the guidelines are vet to be communicated to the organisers; on the other, given the ban on firecrackers, a quality display during the Ramlila is not possible," said Rajesh Khanna, general secretary, SRC.

"They (authorities) have

seem possible at all this year. In a way, it [cancelling events] seems to be the right thing to do; not many have the heart to seek contributions from homes which have lost one member or more to COVID," he said. Ashok Goel Devraha, gen-

adequate scale. That doesn't

eral secretary of Delhi Dharmik Sangh, an umbrella body of Ramlila organisers in the city, said events would be organised for the sake of continuity, no matter the scale.

"Whether we organise them at home or with just the families of committee members in attendance, we will organise the event in honour of Lord Ram. In Pitampura, for instance, we will organise a single-day Sampoorna (complete) Ramlila and use electronic effects to simulate fireworks," said Mr. Goel, who is also the president of Shri Keshav Ramlila organised at Netaji Subhash Place.

Anil Sharma of the R.K. Puram Ramlila Religious Committee said its members would meet on Thursday to take a final call. "No matter how small the celebration is, we will do something to mark the occasion," he said.

## FIR against eatery for flouting COVID-19 rules; manager held

Licensing Unit of Delhi Police issues closure order

HEMANI BHANDARI NEW DELHI

Delhi Police has registered an FIR against a restaurantcum-bar in Connaught Place for flouting COVID-19 norms.

The manager of the restaurant, House of Commons, has been arrested and the Delhi Police Licensing Department has issued closure order to the eatery.

A senior police officer said a team checking the area on Monday night found the restaurant packed with people, none of whom were wearing masks or following social distancing norms.

#### Hookah on menu

"People were dancing and hookah [which is prohibited in Delhi] was being served," the officer said.

The officers approached a person sitting behind the counter who identified himThe restaurant was packed with customers, none of whom were wearing masks

SENIOR POLICE OFFICER

self as Pankaj Rai, the manager of the restaurant. When asked about the violations, 'Pankaj could not give a satisfactory response", the police said, adding that Pankaj has shared the name of the restaurant owner.

A case has been lodged under Sections 188 (Disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant), 269 (Unlawfully doing an act which may spread infection), 270 (Malignantly doing an act which may spread infection) of the Indian Penal Code; and relevant sections of the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897, and the Cigarettes

and Other Tobacco Products Act, 2003.

Many restaurants and bars in the national capital are reportedly not following CO-VID-19 safety guidelines. Although law enforcement agencies are taking action in certain markets, most violations are going unreported. In August, the police registered an FIR against 'Key Nightclub' in Hotel Samrat for violating norms.

Since April 19, Delhi Police has issued 2,65,258 challans for mask violations, 29,982 challans for flouting of social distancing rules, and 1,463 challans for ignoring norms on public gatherings.

Police teams periodically visit markets, malls, hospitals, schools and residential areas to ensure people are wearing masks and following social distancing norms.

## 18,000 samples collected so far for sixth serological survey

Govt. plans to collect 28K samples; results to be out by Oct. 15

STAFF REPORTER

About 18,000 random blood samples have been collected so far as part of the sixth serological survey and the exercise is expected to be completed by Tuesday. The result of the survey is likely to be announced by October 15, officials said.

Last week, the Delhi government had started the sixth serological survey to assess the percentage of population having antibodies against COVID-19, either through natural infection or vaccination.

The government aims to



Vaccination drive under way in the city on Wednesday.

collect 28,000 random blood samples from all the 272 wards for the survey. "In most districts, sample collection will be completed by Saturday. In one or two districts it will take till Tuesday. It will take about two weeks more after it for results to be out," an official said.

#### 41 fresh cases Meanwhile, the city reported

in 1857.

cated them.

no new COVID-19 deaths over 24 hours and the toll stood at 25,087, according to the health bulletin released by the Delhi government. Fortyone new cases were reported over 24 hours, taking the tally to 14,38,821. A total of 71,983 tests were conducted, with a test positivity rate of 0.06%. Of the total cases, 14,13,342 have recovered, leaving only

The villagers, along with

their animals, lived in it till

the beginning of the 20th

century when the Archaeo-

logical Survey of India relo-

These years were not

kind to the monument. In

fact, Sir Syed Ahmad Khan,

who has devoted reams to

the monuments of Delhi

(Asar-us Sanadid, pu-

blished 1847), dismisses it

with the words, "Near Bijai

Mandal lies Begumpur

where Khan-e-Jahan Khan-

e-Firoz Shahi has con-

structed a mosque. It is ve-

ry similar to the Khirki

## Plea in HC seeks removal of verdict from Net

Court issues notices to Centre, Google on petition citing 'right to be forgotten'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday sought replies from the Centre, Google and India Kanoon on a plea seeking removal of a judgment and an order in connection with a seven-year-old FIR under 'Right to be Forgotten', and asked how far this rule

होने की तिथि

उप निदेशक

आदिवासी कल्याण आयक्त

Justice Rekha Palli issued notices asking them to respond to the petition while listing the matter for further proceedings on December 1, when several similar petitions are also fixed for hearing.

The court orally observed that the 'right to be forgotten' depends on how far it has to be stretched. "Tomorrow, people who defraud the banks will come and say 'please remove the judgment'. We have to balance the rights," it said.

made it impossible for us to

organise the Ramlila. It feels

like this is precisely what

they wanted in the first place;

had that not been the case,

they would have spoken to us

Satish Aggarwal from East

Delhi's Shri Balaji Ramlila

Committee said there was

neither enough time to col-

lect contributions for the

event nor a way to tide over

the prohibition on the use of

the celebrations last year on a

relatively smaller but still

"We were able to pull off

well in advance," he said.

'Not enough time'

firecrackers.

The court was hearing a petition by one Sukhmeet Singh Anand seeking removal of a judgment and an order passed in 2015 and 2018 in connection with an FIR registered against him in 2014 by the Economic Offences Wing.

The FIR was registered against the petitioner and other persons in 2014 pursuant to a complaint by Samsung Gulf Electronic FZE, Du-

The plea, filed through advocate Tarun Rana, said merely by typing Mr. Singh's name on Google, the web page takes visitors directly to the links of the orders.

## Resolve technical issues. Faceless Services: Gahlot

33 services are part of programme

grievances related to

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot on Wednesday convened a review meeting to assess the implementation of the department's 'Faceless Services' initiative.

Transport Commissioner Ashish Kundra, senior officials from NIC and other officers the department were also present at the meeting, where the Minister issued instructions to expedite the process of resolving technical issues, pendencies and grievances related Faceless to Services.

Approval rate

Since the phased launch of the initiative in February, the department has received 2,16,835 applications for vehicle-related services and 2,08,224 on driving licence-related services till September 27, the government stated. Out of these, 92% and 79.9% of all applications under driving licence and vehicle-related services, respectively, got



approved, according to government statistics.

The number of applications for learner's licences from August 7 to September 28 was 57,755, of which 78.7% of candidates successfully received their learner's licences and 12,260 applicants have yet to attempt their tests.

The 'Faceless Services' initiative envisions providing contact-less, queueless, hassle-free services to the applicants with transparent service delivery as its prime focus, the government said. At the moment, 33 transport-related services are part of the programme, except for the driving tests and fitness tests for vehicles.

## Workshop conducted to link FBOs with NGOs

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

On International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste, the Delhi government organised a workshop to connect food business operators (FBO) such as restaurants and hotels with NGOs distributing food to the needy.

The government is also helping NGOs to get registered with it to carry out food donation and ensure quality food is distributed

to the needy, said government authorities.

"The registration is very simple and the process is online. Today [Wednesday] we registered six NGOs," an official said. The FBOs are already regiswith tered government.

The aim is to ensure that the food donated to the needy is fresh and both the NGOs and the FBOs stick to protocol prepared by the government.

# Call of the mosque

south remain, they are no

longer in use as the steps

leading up to them have

steps and passing under

the domed entrance gate-

way into the massive cour-

tyard, one feels a sense of

continuity with those who

would have come here ear-

lier and a sense of anguish

The 247-foot-long by

223-foot-broad courtyard

has been a witness to histo-

ry. The arched cloisters on

the three sides and three-

aisle deep prayer hall in

the west would have once

rung out with the sound of

azan and the prayers of the

faithful. Today, it is over-

grown with grass and

the west has an imposing

entrance gateway with a

tall arched pylon in the

central frontage and taper-

ing turrets at each of its

corners. Clearly inspired

by Iranian design, it is the

earliest example of a 'four-

iwan (vaulted rectangular

The main prayer hall on

weeds.

at its dilapidated state.

Walking up the 15 stone

been destroyed.

Jahanpanah.

One of the most abiding monuments in the city, the Begumpur Masjid holds many tales in its tapering turrets and multidomed roofs



RANA SAFVI

Even though prayers are no longer held here, the Begumpur Masjid is the second largest mosque of Delhi and has been in the news lately due to its rapidly deteriorating condition.

In the 14th century, Delhi got its fourth city, grandly named Jahanpanah or the 'Refuge of the World'. It was built by Sultan Muhammad bin Tughlaq, who is notorious for his eccentric decisions including the shifting of his capital from Delhi to Daulatabad in the Deccan. This meant that the city was not destined to flourish, even though he returned to it soon after.

It was left to his successor, Sultan Firuz Shah Tughlaq, to give Delhi its most abiding monument.

An ardent builder and antiquarian, Sultan Firuz Shah repaired many of the old monuments such as the Surajkund in modern-day Faridabad and the Qutub Minar. He built baolis (stepwells), schools, hospitals, hospices, hunting lodges and the fifth city of Delhi, named Firozabad, while his minister Khan-i Jahan Jauna Khan built seven mosques spread out over a vast area. Out of these, the largest was in the heart of

It was built in 1387 in the village of Begumpur from which it gets its name. Its boldly projecting gateway, double-pillars, tapering turrets, multidomed roofs mark it as a Firuz Shah Tughlaq-era mosque. Its entrance is hidden in the narrow lanes of Malviya Nagar. It could once be accessed from three sides, but though domed gateways in the north and

> crumbling domes of Begumpur Masjid have

hall)' mosque in India and, in turn, it inspired later mosques such as those in Jaunpur built by the Sharqi sultans.

had built a new city near the Yamuna and under the Lodi dynasty the capital was shifted to Agra, Jahanpanah was once again neglected.

of time under Sher Shah Sur and Humayun, Agra remained the capital till 1648. When it did shift back to Delhi under Shah Jahan, it was to the new city of Shahjahanabad.

been crying out for help.

Since Sultan Firuz Shah ple, its grandeur is stark,

Except for a brief period

Sometime during this period, the 64 domes of the Begumpur mosque became home to villagers. According to H.C. Fanshawe (in Delhi, Past and Present, published in 1902) the arcades of the 'Refuge of the World' were also used to give refuge to some English

mosque. I didn't find the building attractive enough to sketch, so have left it out.' He must have seen it at a time when it was occupied by the villagers and their cattle. Today, shorn of peo-

A portion of the arcade domes had collapsed earlier and the ones that survived are now crying out for help and hoping that its plea doesn't go unheard.

its sheer size majestic and

its upkeep appalling.

Hogi iss dher imaarat ki kahaani kuchh tau

Dhundh alfaz ke malbe mein maa'ini kuchh tau (Surely a story hides behind these ruins, somewh-

Search the debris of words, the meaning is there, somewhere)

(The author is a historian who writes on heritage and culture)

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# Junior classes can resume after festive season ends, says Baijal

Though pandemic situation is under control, we cannot let down our guard: L-G

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Junior classes will be allowed to resume only after the upcoming festival season concludes, Lieutenant-Governor Anil Baijal said on Wednesday following a Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) meeting. Only students of Classes IX-XII are currently attending school.

It was also decided that festive gatherings will be allowed, subject to observance of COVID-19 protocol.

The L-G said that though the pandemic situation in the city is under control, we cannot let down our guard.

According to sources present in the meeting, the Health Department made a presentation on the current COVID-19 situation in the city and the preparedness in

Woman found

A 38-year-old woman was

dead inside

public toilet

STAFF REPORTER



Government school students return after attending classes in Delhi on Wednesday. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

terms of hospital infrastructure and availability of oxygen and medicines. The department also shared information regarding resumption of Classes IX-XII.

"Even as the experts expressed satisfaction at the prevailing situation, it was strongly reiterated that guard cannot be let down in

terms of COVID-appropriate behaviour and there can be no laxity in enforcing the norms, especially in light of the forthcoming festive season," a source said.

It was further decided that all remaining classes would be allowed to resume after the festive season ends, the source added

The L-G also directed the police and district administration to enforce COVID-19 rules at public gatherings during the festive season, and strictly ensure separate entry and exit points, no standing crowds and appropriate social distancing for seating. No activities such as fairs, stalls and giant wheels that attract crowds in violation of social distancing will be allowed. The onus is on the organisers to ensure CO-VID-19 rules are followed, the source said.

Cover all groups

The Lieutenant-Governor, according to the source, also noted that while vaccination had increased, a change in strategy was needed to mandatorily cover all groups that have high public interface.

# Police officers pose as municipal

Accused had run off with jewellery from a house in Kalkaji

STAFF REPORTER

found dead inside a public toilet in South East Delhi's Sarita Vihar on Wednes-DCP (South-East) Esha Pandey said that a call was

Deputy Commissioner of received around 9 a.m. regarding a body found inside washroom. When the police reached the spot, they found the woman in the differently abled section of the toilet in Rajasthani Camp. The woman had been reported missing children on

The body has been shifted to AIIMS for post-mortem, the police said.

# employees, arrest four for burglary

Delhi Police officers, posing as municipal employees, arrested four men for their alleged involvement in a case of burglary.

Police (South East) Esha Pandey said Nitin, 25, Anoop, 24, Irfan, 26 and Ashu, 24, allegedly committed a burglary on September 18 in Kalkaji. Bidesh Haldhar (28), a Mehrauli-based jeweller, has been arrested for buying stolen gold and silver ornaments from the accused.

A burglary case was lodged on September 18 after a Kalkaji resident filed a The disguised officers checked houses in Ambedkar Nagar to nab the accused

Deputy Commissioner of Police (South East)

complaint alleging that she and her husband found the front door of their house open when they returned from work, and all the jewellery was missing.

Autorickshaw driver During investigation, CCTV

footage of the crime scene showed four men carrying a bag on the day of the incident. Footage from other cameras in the area showed the accused taking an autorickshaw from Ravidas Marg.

The autorickshaw driver told the police that the accused got off in Mehrauli. Later, based on information from sources, the police found that the men had shifted to Ambedkar Colony.

"To trace and nab the suspects, a team from Kalkaji police station then posed as municipal employees and checked suspected houses in the densely populated colony of Ambedkar Nagar and managed to arrest Nitin," Ms. Pandey said, adding that the other accused were sub-

### *Showing the way*



A mural encouraging education for the girl child adorns a wall of ISBT Flyover. The artwork has been done under a project by the North Delhi Municipal Corporation in partnership with Delhi Street Art. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

## Delhi govt. has power to float new excise policy: HC

Court refuses to stay closure of vends with L7 licences

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

The Delhi government has the power and jurisdiction to float the New Excise Policy 2021, the Delhi High Court observed on Wednesday and refused to stay the closure of retail vends having L7 licences for the sale of Indian liquor in private sector under the old policy with effect from September 30.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice D.N. Patel, dealing with an application by one such licence holder - Rattan Singh - for stay on the closure, said that prima facie, the new mechanism did not violate any of his rights.

The application was part of the plea seeking to extend the licence in parity with other categories under the provisions of the Delhi Excise Act.

The government ought to be given free movement in the joints. It ought to be kept in mind that change is inevitable and excise policy is no exception. New experiments are always being permitted in matters of policy. Prima facie, we do not want to prejudice the resultant effect of the policy," said the Bench which also comprised Justice Jyoti Singh.

The court further stated that to withdraw from the sale and distribution, in a phased manner, of liquor was a policy decision of the Delhi government under the new regime, which has its own benefits.

"Prima facie, the mechanism which is going to be adopted under the new poli-

of the petitioner... Even if L7 licences are brought to an end with effect from September 30, there is no prima facie case in favour of the petitioner because there is no discrimination," the court

'Public won't suffer'

The court stated that the public at large was not going to suffer on account of the closure as other categories of vends would continue to operate.

"There are different types of licences for different purposes, from L1 to L35... Public at large is not going to suffer. Other licences would continue. Public will have to move out of their comfort zone. Everything will not be at the doorstep when there

### 3 STPs yet to reinstall new systems

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) has written to the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) to instal monitoring systems in at least three Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs), after they were stolen.

The DJB runs the STPs in the city to clean the sewage before it flows into the Yamuna. Currently, the river is polluted and not even fit for bathing in the Delhi stretch, except for Palla, the point where the river enters Delhi, as per government data. "It is learnt that OCEMS (Online Continuous Effluent Monitoring Systems) earlier installed at Yamuna Vihar Ph-II, Coronation Pillar Ph-I &II and Kondli Ph-IV have been stolen & new OCEMS are yet to be installed at these STPs," the letter said

### INTERVIEW | DEEPA MALIK

## 'We've made place in the hearts of people'

The way India has celebrated para sports marks a new era for the Games: PCI chief

ASHOK KUMAR

her

Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna awardee Deepa Malik, the first woman from India to win a medal in the Paralympic Games and the president of the Paralympic Committee of India, speaks to The Hindu on the state of affairs for para sports in the country, society's growing interest in the Games and the way forward. Excerpts:

India jumped from 43rd spot in Rio to 24th in Tokyo Paralympics with 19 medals. We had won just four medals at Rio in 2016. Was the Tokyo Games just a one-off good tournament or things have changed fundamentally for para sports in the country

over these five years? ■ Definitely things have fundamentally, changed that's why this change has happened. The Rio Paralympics brought in a revolution which was taken forward. The medals haul in 2016 proved that there is a lot of potential in para sports. The attention of the government shifted to para sports, accepting it as mainstream sports. Para sports were included in all the mainstream-funding programmes of the government and the awareness

spread. The media took notice, so did social media. The working of the federation became more streamlined. There was a deliberate attempt to conduct proper selection trials and introduce sciences in sports. Talent pool was identified and nurtured, aiming at future events such as the Tokyo Paralympics. The coaches have understood after Rio that medals can be won when sports sciences are introduced.

You said funding for the Games has improved. Please elaborate.

■ Under the Target Olympic Podium Scheme, more than ₹17 crore were sanctioned to the athletes for preparation. The State governments too came forward and funded preparations. We also received funding from private companies under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) scheme, but they came in a bit late. Government funding comes after the team is formed and the talent has been identified, but these athletes need to be continuously trained. We do need more funding, there is no doubt about it.

What is the state of affairs of para sports in India in terms

THEMAHINDU

an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THO PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher &



of the interest it generates among the masses?

■ The way India has celebrated para sports, it definitely marks a new era for the Games. It jumped started with Rio and now with Tokyo, there is not just more awareness but we have made place in the hearts of the people. People have begun to follow the Games. Now, they make enquiries on social media as to when they are going to see the para-athletes in action again. As a president, I made deliberate efforts to revive our social media handles. We were applauded by the International Paralympic Committee for the maximum

engagement from India. I think the shift has taken place. We are feeling welcomed everywhere.

Still, para-athletes don't get contracts for endorsements on a par with able-bodied athletes. Your views.

■ It is happening slowly. I have also been pushing it individually. My crusade is that why we (para-athletes) are used only for inspirational or CSR activities; we should also be involved in mainstream promotions. But for this to happen the responsibility also lies with individual athletes. They need to augment their digital media presence.

What could be the short-term and long-term measures to promote para

sports? ■ The short-term measure is definitely to nurture our pool of excellence. For long-term, a lot of work needs to be done. As an apex body, we can work to a certain extent but the State bodies need to take more responsibility, pushing the policies at State-

Given the present condition of the infrastructure and the policies, what could be a realistic goal for India for the next Paralympics?

■ If we don't face the CO-VID-19 problems and get regular participation at international levels, I think the 19 medals can be easily converted into 30-odd with more gold medal-winning perfor-

### In everlasting memory of



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### Snake found at Rashtrapati Bhavan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A two-feet-long wolf snake was found in a restroom of Rashtrapati Bhavan and was rescued by the animal rescue NGO Wildlife SOS.

The NGO said it is under observation at its transit facility before being released into its natural habitat.

CM YK



Nālandā

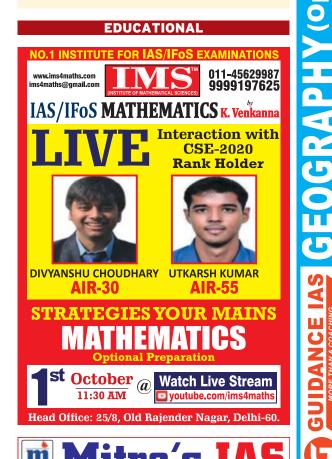
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For further details and downloading of complete tender documents please visit https://nalandauniv.euniwizarde.com & https://eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app . The eligible bidders are requested to submit the e-tenders through https://nalandauniv. euniwizarde.com. The terms and conditions shall be applicable as per the NIT. The pre-bid meeting with the prospective bidders is 06.10.2021 and the last submission date is 20.10.2021

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such as Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telangana

and Gujarat since last few years. Notably

the state has become the center of gravity

### Jail for former T.N. minister, husband

R. SIVARAMAN CHENNAI

Former Social Welfare Minister R. Indira Kumari and her husband A. Babu have been convicted and sentenced by a special court to five-year rigorous imprisonment for siphoning off ₹15.45 lakh from a government department and parking the sum in two trusts run by him under the pretext of running schools for children with disabilities.

P. Shanmugam, former Director of Rehabilitation of the Disabled, has been sentenced to three-year rigorous imprisonment. The court also imposed a fine of ₹10,000 on each of them. R. Venkatakrishnan, a personal assistant to Indira Kumari, was acquitted.

Ms. Indira Kumari held the portfolio of Social Welfare in the AIADMK government. She joined the DMK in 2006, and has been the State secretary of the party's literary wing.

### Timings DELHI

THURSDAY, SEP. 30 RISE 06:14 SET 18:09 RISE 00:00 SET 14:20 FRIDAY, OCT. 01

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RISE 01:44 SET 15:49

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### Delhi Palam Today

36°C A dry weather is likely. A hazy morning turns very warm and humid day with uneasy afternoon. Niight remains comfortable.

#### **Delhi Palam Tomorrow** 36°C The weather will be

mostly dry. Day will be very warm and humid with uneasy afternoon. Night will be slight

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2019

## Gurjars, Rajputs stake claim to Mihir Bhoj

The issue may have political consequences in U.P.

GHAZIABAD

Over the past week, Samrat Mihir Bhoj emerged from the pages of history books to make headlines in the vernacular newspapers of western Uttar Pradesh as Gurjars and Rajputs staked their claim to the 9th century ruler of the Gurjara-Pratihara dynasty.

While Gurjars claim the king belonged to their caste, the Rajputs say 'Gurjara' referred to a place, not a caste, and that Mihir Bhoj was a Rajput king.

In poll-bound U.P., observers say, the issue will have political consequences, particularly in west U.P., where the Gurjar vote could prove decisive in at least a dozen constituencies.

The issue surfaced days before CM Yogi Adityanath unveiled a 12-foot high statute of Mihir Bhoj in Dadri town of Gautam Buddh Nagar in a college named after the ruler on September 22. The plaque referred to the ruler as Gurjar Pratihar Samrat. It offended the Rajputs. Just before the event, the word Gurjar was removed. In his speech, Mr. Adityanath tried to placate both the communities.

However, it didn't cut much ice with the Guriars, who have formidable numbers in Dadri and the neighbouring Jewar constituency. There was a time when Gurjars of the re-



The recently inaugurated statue of Mihir Bhoj. • ANUJ KUMAR

gion swore by Congress leader Rajesh Pilot but today both have sitting BJP MLAs. Local sources say it's internal politics that put Mr. Adityanath on a sticky wicket.

### 'Distorting history'

The Opposition leaders - Samajwadi Party's Akhilesh Yadav, BSP's Mayawati and Rashtriya Lok Dal's Jayant Chaudhary - took the BJP government to task for distorting history and playing caste politics.

On September 26, Gurjars held a massive mahapanchayat in a Dadri village, demanding the word Gurjar to be restored. For young Gurjars, it has become an emotive issue. "The new narrative has come to us as a shock," said Dr. Veerpal Singh, a professor in Chaudhary Charan Singh University who hails from the Guriar community.

Reacting to this, Prince Arunoday Singh Parihar, who claims to be a direct descendant of Bhoj, wrote to the PM to stop "distortion of Rajput

## After Surat success, AAP takes aim at Gandhinagar

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

After tasting success in the Surat municipal elections, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has now set its eyes on the upcoming civic body polls in Gandhinagar where the voting will take place on October 3.

The entry of AAP in the civic polls here has made the contest tripartite, giving jitters to the BJP and the Congress.

On Wednesday, AAP leader and Delhi Deputy CM Manish Sisodia asked the people of Gandhinagar to give his party a chance to change the face of the State capital.

He addressed a well attended town hall meeting and also held a roadshow appealing the citizens, mostly government employees, to vote for AAP. Addressing a press conference, Mr. Sisodia alleged that even as the voters had given a chance to the Congress in the past, the party betrayed the people's mandate and helped the BJP capture the municipal body.

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### **NBCC Organises Zonal health camp**

IAS 2020

Under NBCC's employee welfare initiatives, an in-house free health check-up Camp was organized for employees on September 11, 2021 at NBCC Zonal office in West Bengal. During this camp, a team of Doctors examined about 43 employees including ex-employees / contractors COVID appropriate behavior was ensured throughout the program.

#### NFL bags Seven PRCI Excellence Awards

National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) has bagged seven awards in the prestigious 11th Public Relations Council of India (PRCI) Excellence Awards held at Goa. NFL received awards for CoVID Management in Public Sector, Annual Report, House Journal, Promotion of Arts, Govt. Communication Films. In the individual category, Sh. B. V. Vittal, GM (HR) won Best HR Person of the year award and Sh. Sanjeev Randeva, DGM (CC & HR) received 'Communicator of the year Award Corporate Branding.Shri Nirlep Singh Rai, C&MD congratulated the entire Corporate Communication team on this achievement and hailed the CC team for keeping up with the communication objectives of the Company.

#### Uttarakhand govt signs MoU with Population Services International to strengthen urban health

The Uttarakhand Health and Family Welfare Society, Government of Uttarakhand and Population Services International (PSI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to improve urban health in the state. The MoU was signed between Dr. Rakesh Kumar, Chief Advisor, Population Services International (PSI) and Ms. Sonika, Mission Director, National Health Mission (NHM), Uttarakhand in the presence of Hon'ble Health Minister, and Health Secretary. They were joined by Dr. Amit Arun Shah. Deputy Director (Health), USAID/India; Mr. Gautam Chakraborty, Lead - Health Financing, USAID/ India; Mr. Pritpal Marjara, Senior Country Representative, PSI and other PSI representatives. Through this partnership, PSI will provide technical assistance on the urban health component under the NHM in the state. The overarching responsibility will primarily include the support to the state government in health systems strengthening such as developing health systems strengthening strategy and implementation plan; strengthening quality of data, HMIS and monitoring, identifying gaps in implementation of national programs; piloting innovations, support in capacity building and development of Behavior Change Communications strategy and IEC materials; documentation of best practices; research and learning agenda; activating coordination committees among all the key public and private sector players. It will also include public-private participation to develop health financing, service delivery models and support in logistics and supply chain management in primary healthcare. Another key focus area will be to identify state and city-level convergence issues to address social determinants of health, such as water, sanitation, gender and nutrition. There the focus on urban health is extremely important. It is interconnected to the overall quality of life and must be looked through a multi-sectoral lens. Through Samagra, we will work with the state government in identifying the gaps in urban health and

aligning our efforts to support the state's objectives. The road to recovery will eventually be possible if states focus on accelerating progress towards universal health coverage (UHC) with a sharper focus on primary healthcare. Cities around the world were able to manage the pandemic better because of their initiatives under

### Jain( Deemed to be university) signs Mou with ASC centre & college

JAIN (Deemed-to-be-University), India's leading NAAC "A+" Graded University (as per the revised framework), announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ASC Center and College, Bengaluru. The MoU enables the army personnel and their families to enroll in both on-campus and online courses offered by JAIN (Deemed-to-be-University). The candidates can choose programs from various disciplines such as Management, Commerce, Sciences, and Technology from JAIN (Deemed-to-be-University). They can enroll in on-campus learning Programs such as MBA, MCA, M.Sc., PG Diploma, Ph.D., and Certification Programs at the University Campus in Bengaluru. The on-campus Degree Programs can be pursued by the Army Personnel during the Study Leave offered during their tenure by the Indian Army. UGC (University Grants Commission) Entitled Online Degree Programs such as MBA, MCA, M.A, B.Com, and BBA are also offered to the Army Personnel and their dependents. The candidates can choose from programs of their interest from the diverse range of 70+ electives offered. Online Degree Programs provide greater flexibility for the candidates to pursue their degree as they can learn anytime, anywhere, and also write exams online. Learning materials can also be downloaded onto their devices and accessed from remote locations with low connectivity. So, their dream of acquiring a Degree is impended by transfers and accessibility to the Internet. The MoU was signed in an event held in Bengaluru and was jointly chaired by Lt. Gen. B.K. Repswal, VSM, the Commandant of the ASC (The Army Service Corps) Centre and College, Bengaluru, and Dr. Chenraj Roychand, Chancellor, JAIN (Deemed-to-be University). Other officials from ASC Centre and College, Bengaluru, and JAIN (Deemed-to-be University) were also present during the event.

### Punjab & Sind Bank inks agreement

with Shriram Automall India Limited Puniab & Sind Bank has entered into an agreement with Shriram Automall India Limited (SAMIL) on 09.09.2021; a company specialized in repossession and auction of pre-owned vehicles. SAMIL will support Bank in resolution of non-performing vehicle loans. They will provide Bank an all in one solution from taking of possession of vehicles hypothecated to Bank loans which have become NPA to auction of vehicle. This arrangement between Punjab & Sind Bank and SAMIL will give a positive push to Bank's recovery in stressed vehicle loan

#### Rajasthan tops in Solar Installed Capacity in India

Rajasthan has topped in Installed Capacity of Solar energy in India with 7737.95 MW as per state wise report as on 31st Aug, 2021 released by MNRE. The state was contesting to be the top with various states

for global and country-wide solar energy investors and developers. Despite COVID situations in 2020-2021, the state has been advancing in the solar energy from its 2nd position in Dec 2020 with 5389.48 MW and has made a record by adding new solar installed capacity of 2348.47 MW and nearly Rs. 10,000 Crore Investments within just 8 months in 2021. Rajasthan's Solar Energy Policy 2019 has been beneficial to the solar sector investors. Additionally, RIPS scheme to promote the investment in the state, has driven the growth of the overall investment in the renewable energy sector in the state In fact, In April, 2021 the state had approved the customized investment proposals totaling 34,200 MW of Adani, Renew Power, JSW Solar, Greenko in the renewal energy, of which majority of them are in Solar Energy clubbed with Wind and Hydro. Rajasthar has ample barren land and it covers about 60% share of DMIC which is rapidly growing Dr. Subodh Agarwal, ACS Energy & CMD RRECL, said the Solar Energy Policy 2019 and Wind & Hybrid Energy Policy 2019 were made considering the benefits to the investors and the state's growth. It is a matter of pride that Rajasthan has topped in all India Solar Installed Capacity. The state's ease of doing business and policy framework has become a model with this milestone in the solar energy sector." For the ease of doing business, Rajasthan has been constantly innovating the processes and notably, the state has achieved the place among the top states in the country in 2019 with an implementation score of 98.39% The state has focused development in the sectors such as Renewable energy. Auto & Auto components, Textiles & Apparels, Food Processing, Petro Chemicals, Mines & Minerals, ESDM, Pharmaceuticals and Leather & Footwear with country leaders brands and companies of the each sector's presence and investments in the state

### Second edition of Gujarat Travel & Tourism excellence Award held

IGujarat Travel and Tourism Excellence Award-2021 Second Edition organised by the Gujarat Tourism Department and the Tourism Corporation Tourism Gujarat Limited (TCGL), being made in making Gujarat an all-round tourism hub as it is developing into a best tourism spot, alongside being developed as industrial powerhouse, global destination for investing and spreading 'Khusbu Gujarat-ki' all around. State Government Gujarat-ki' all around. has undertaken a novel concept of border tourism, setting up National Salt Memorial at Dandi to commemorate Mahatma Gandhi's famous Dandi March. Gujarat was the first state in the country to announce Heritage Tourism Policy in 2020. Tourism Minister said the State Government is committed to attract global tourists to Gujarat, having vast stretches of white Rann of Kutch 1,600 km long coastline, historic stepwells Vav, temples at Somnath, Ambaji and other places. Awards were distributed in the 26 . categories of best of 3-star, 4-star and 5-star hotels, heritage hotels, eco resorts, homestav establishments, inbound and outbound tour operators, best tour operators of other states to Gujarat, travel boggers, photographers for different kinds of tourism cuisine, chef, theme, tour guides, best initiative by a district, travel and tourism start-ups, innovative tourism

### **SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED**

General Public is hereby informed that

one boy Namely: Sonu Kumar @ Sunny, S/o

Ashok Rai, R/o Village Akilpur Bajahiya, P.S.

Dariyapur, District Chhapra Saran, Bihar, has

been kidnapped since 08.11.2017 from Old



case vide FIR No. 154/2017 dated 08.11.2017 has been registered at P.S. Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi. The description Sex: Male, Height: 3'6", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Built: Medium, ID Mark: A cut mark on right eye brow, Wearing:

Brown colour checked shirt with half sweater and sky blue pant. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing boy but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this missing boy kindly inform to the Website: http//cbi.nic.in

E-mail Id - cic@cbi.gov.in Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 SHO Fax No. 011-24368639 PS Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi Ph.: 011-23961522, 8750871302 DP/281/RLY/2021

### SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one girl Namely Manju D/o Wasudev R/o Jhuggi No. N-41B-702, JJ Camp, Suraj Park, Badli, Delhi has been missing/ kidnapped from the jurisdiction of PS. Samai Pur Badli, Delhi since 16.04.2021. In this regard, a case FIR No.218/2021 dated 20.04.2021 U/s 365 IPC has been registered at P.S. Samai Pur Badli, Delhi. The description of the missing kidnapped girl are as under.



Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 Fax No. 011-24368639 DP/1279/ON/2021

http://cbi.nic.in

Sd/- SHO Samai Pur Badli, Delhi PH.011-21710052, 7065036326

### SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



one person Namely: Waseem, S/o Shamsher, R/o: H.No. C-15, Street No. 4, Kabir Nagar, Babarpur, PS. New Jafrabad, Delhi has been missing/kidnapped from his house since 20.09.2021. from the area of P.S. Timarpur, Delhi In this regard a case vide DD No. 79A, dated 20.09.2021 has

General Public is hereby informed that

been registered at P.S. Timarpur, Delhi. The description of the missing/ kidnapped boy is as under: Age: 28 years, Height: 5' 6", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Long, Built: Thin, Wearing: White colour T-shirt, blue colour jeans and leather slipper in his feet. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this missing person kindly inform to the following.

Website: http//cbi.nic.in E-mail ld - cic@cbi.gov.in Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 P.S. Timarpur, Delhi Fax No. 011-24368639 Ph.: 011-23812734, 8750870130 DP/1536/N/2021

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**DEATH ANNIVERSARIES** 



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R.Surendira Prasad.

R.Goutham Prasaath

Daughters-in-Law:

Mital Surendira & Jayanthi Arun

Grandson: S.Aswin & S.Harshad

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### SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



one boy Namely: Karan, S/o Shamsher Singh, R/o H.No.2, Medical Staff, Colony Mahadipur, District Mahadipur, Arunachal Pradesh, has been kidnapped since 22.01.2018 from Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi. In this regard a case vide FIR No. 16/2018 dated 17.02.2018 has been registered at P.S. Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi. The description of the kidnaped boy

General Public is hereby informed that

is as under: Age: 1.5 years, Sex: Male, Height: 2' Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Built: Medium, ID Mark: A old injury mark near eye, Wearing: Yellow and blue woollen suit, Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing boy but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this missing boy kindly inform to the following.

Website: http//cbi.nic.in E-mail ld - cic@cbi.gov.in

Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 Fax No. 011-24368639 PS Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi Ph.: 011-23961522, 8750871302 DP/283/RLY/2021

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# Kannur University approves revised syllabus following row

Committee looked into issue after controversy over Golwalkar, Savarkar texts

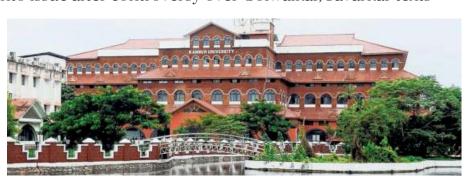
STAFF REPORTER

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

An external expert committee looked into the syllabus after it stirred a controversy over the inclusion of texts by Rashtriya Swayamsevak 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,



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

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

The committee further recommended the inclusion of and Gandhian ideas in the syllabus. It was also decided to include the ideas of leaders such as Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Muhammad Ali Iinnah 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

## Afghan students hit as ICCR stipends end

SYED MOHAMMED

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



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, Raiasthan, Madhya Pradesh, coastal Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

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pal	3.8	30.5	23.4	Mumbai	100	30.7	24.			
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nfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)										

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

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 prematu

## 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 Udupi 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 office-bearers of the samiti. All the petitioners are close relatives of Lakshmivara 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

The Bharatiya Janata Party and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak 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



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.

## <sup>+</sup> 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

The High Court of Karnataka on Wednesday rejected the olea 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 Wednesday's challenging

A Division Bench, comprising Justices Aravind Kumar and Pradeep Singh Yerur, 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 pe-

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

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

## Police begin interrogation of Monson

Four petitioners in cheating case give statements to investigation team

STAFF REPORTER

The Kerala Crime Branch police on Wednesday began interrogation of Monson Ma vunkal, the self-styled antique dealer and confidence trickster, even as his houses at Kaloor and Cherthala were searched again.

The four petitioners in the case, who alleged that they were duped by Monson, also arrived to give their statements.

The Crime Branch was given three-day custody of Monson, allowing it to interrogate and confront him with the petitioners who had raised allegations against

Digital evidence

On their way to depose before the police, the petitioners told the media that digital evidence pertaining to the scam and information received from similar victims

KOZHIKODE Reiterating that he had no financial dealings with alleged fake antique dealer Monson Mavunkal, Kerala **Pradesh Congress** Committee (KPCC) president and MP K Sudhakaran has said he would initiate legal action against the "fraudster" if he

is propagating such lies. Addressing a news

would be handed over to the investigation team.

M.T. Shameer, one of the petitioners, said email exchanges in which Monson claimed about his frozen funds in a private bank and documents attached therewith would be given to the police. Yakoob, another

Wednesday, Mr. Sudhakaran admitted that he had met Monson and had sought treatment at his house. It was a five-day treatment, he said, adding he had no deal with Anoop, one of the complainants in the multi-crore fraud case. He alleged that Monson was a "government-protected fraud". "Why is the

complainant, alleged that

Monson had strong connec-

tions with senior police offic-

ers and had even organised

meetings to substantiate his

accused's phone calls would

expose the transaction de-

tails, money trail, and his

He said an analysis of the

claims and convince them.

CPI(M) is targeting me: Sudhakaran

conference nere on

government not

investigating the links between him and officials?' Mr. Sudhakaran asked.

He said no evidence would be obtained against him. "I visited a place where a lot of people went. None has a problem when Ministers and officials go

there," Mr. Sudhakaran said. He accused the CPI(M) leadership of trying to frame him by linking him to

Monson.

connections. The investiga-

tion team, however, is vet to

petitioned the Chief Minister

and who was among the first

to be duped, and Rajeev,

who was duped in connec-

tion with a land deal, also ap-

peared before the police.

periodicals and dailies. Books of all major

stock includes many

nearly 15 periodicals.

publishers will be available

in the library. The current

recently released titles and

"Some staff members

dailies and periodicals while

books from all streams will

be made available. You will

have offered to sponsor

Anoop, one of the six who

confirm it.

## 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 op-

portunity for fraudsters. A few who identified fake appointment letters said fraudsters who secured biodata 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.

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

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

first-of-its-kind initiative

Perhaps the



Whiff of antiseptic to make way for bibliosmia

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

discharge. We are also planning to arrange 'Pushthakakoodu' for other visitors, including

providing an extra facility, we want to promote reading among the visitors," says K. Prasad, district panchayat While the library at the

outpatients. Apart from

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 them before or on the day of 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

find many titles of renowned authors such as O.V. Vijayan and Madhavikutty, while latest books such as K.R. Meera's Ghatakan 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

rime 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

t may not be an exaggeration to say that when it comes to seek-Ling 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 operative since the days of Jawaharlal Nehru. The website says (https:// bit.ly/39PlqdI): "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 \( \frac{1}{2} \) 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 vear 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

swered 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 Coranavirus". 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

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.

constitutional offices.

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 exofficio capacity, the Government 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 Act1 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.

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## 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 duran 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.

### Us versus them

The minority in Assam has been visited by violence so often that it has become part of their everyday life, although it is the tribals who are the historical subjects of evictions. Among the various minorities in the State, it is the Muslim minorities who are victimised the

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



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

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, Puniab 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,

■ 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 lovalty 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 Puniab is an indication, one wonders where she will lead the party to. The hype around her is unwarranted. S. VENKATARAMAN,

**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

# A lesson from China on gig workers' rights

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



SOWMIYA ASHOK

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. The petition has asked for 'gig workers' and 'platform workers' to be declared as 'unorganised workers' so they come under the purview of the Unorganised Workers Social Security Act, 2008. In short, the petition demands social security benefits from food delivery platforms such as Zomato and Swiggy and taxi aggregator apps such as Ola and Uber.

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. Both platforms run a duopoly in the sector, capturing over 90% of the market share, and employ millions of gig workers. In a notice to labour aggregator partners, Meituan said it prohibited signing on delivery workers "through deceptive or coercive means".

### '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'. In China, this was especially the case in Wuhan, the pandemic's epicentre, where there was a clear transition of social discourse in favour of delivery workers. People's Daily, the largest state-affiliated daily in China, responded to public sentiment by ranking delivery work among the top 10 occupations.

The media aided this transformation. In the fall of 2020, Renwu, a monthly Chinese magazine, took an exhaustive look at the plight of deliv-



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. One indicator of how seriously an issue is taken by the public is its virality on the Chinese web. In 2015, for instance, a TED-style talk on China's pollution crisis got 100 million views across major video streaming sites within 48 hours of its release, resulting in policy change.

The Renwu piece highlighted how delivery workers were trapped in a 'sophisticated labour control system" that they had unwittingly downloaded onto their phones. Simply put, the algorithm that is put in place by platforms is designed to create animosity between app users and workers, where the platform inherently shifts the pressure of receiving orders and maintaining smooth flow of deliveries onto the workers.

But it is important to note that the pushback against influential platforms had begun long before CO-VID-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. In early 2021, in successive strikes spanning over two months, delivery workers protested against poor working conditions. In cities such as Shenzhen, Tongxiang and Linyi, delivery workers protested against new company policies that slashed their pay per delivery. A protest in Taizhou saw a delivery worker set himself on fire demanding 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". At the time of her fieldwork, the Chinese state had not intervened in the market to restrain the monopoly powers of platforms or initiate antitrust investigations. This provided platforms with unrestricted powers to exercise technological control.

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, via the new anti-monopolistic guidelines.

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. In April, Caixin reported that a government official disguised himself as a Meituan driver and worked a 12-hour shift barely making RMB 41 (\$6.32) for a day's work. He was featured in a television programme in Beijing and stated that 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. Many of these government initiatives have been public-driven. It was in the government's interest to intervene when it realised that there was growing discontent not only among the delivery workers but also the public about their plight.

### 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 strikes disbanded only after the Joint Commissioner of the Labour Department called a hearing with the platform's operations manager and the workers' union. It was the first time in India that such a negotiation was taking place, that too on the street. This year, in the lead up to Zomato's July IPO, several anonymous Twitter accounts set up by delivery workers called customers' attention to what they deem as "exploitative practices" employed by platforms. The PIL in the Supreme Court is another major step in this regard.

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 Instacart app as a show of solidarity until demands for better working conditions are met. Indians could make an effort to be better informed about the way platforms work by seeking out delivery workers and asking about their work conditions and the pressures they face. We will then be aware of the price that a person, who we only see as a miniature bike on our apps, pays for our convenience.

Sowmiya 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 battlefront 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 harebrained 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. He had to step down soon after, as he openly and frequently crossed swords with Captain. Appointing Mr. Sidhu as Congress president of Punjab and unleashing him to undermine Mr. Singh because of his streak of independence was a foolish idea of the Gandhis.

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. Mr. Singh's performance should have been

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through various means

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Trend and progress of

reviewed objectively and diligently. The complaints of his colleagues could have been conveyed to him in confidence. He could have been warned of stern action if he didn't mend his ways. Due process should have been followed to remove him. He deserved to be treated with dignity and grace given his age, stature, long service in the Congress, and the esteemed chair he occupied.

The Gandhi high command is no different from other high commands. No party in India, either national or regional, has inner party democracy. They are all controlled by an individual or a family. "Difference of opinion is the one crime Kings don't forgive," said Ralph Waldo Emerson. That is the bane of Indian democracy.

### **Still finding their feet**

But Mr. Gandhi and Ms. Vadra would be delusional in comparing themselves to Mr. Modi or Mamata Banerjee of the Trinamool Congress or K. Chandrashekar Rao of the Telangana Rashtra Samithi or M.K. Stalin of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam. The others are unquestioned leaders of their parties while the Gandhi siblings are yet to find their feet; they are not hammered and shaped well in the furnace of politics. They lack the tenacity and grit of other party supremos. They forget that their writ in the party does not run. Twenty-three senior Congress leaders have openly challenged them. Many Congress leaders have migrated to the BJP. The party is facing a crisis in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh. It is in a shambles in Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh. This was not the right moment to draw Mr. Singh into battle, especially since he still has a large following among the Sikhs. He declared that he will keep his political options open and met the Union Home Minister on Wednesday. The Sidhu saga is the chronicle of a farce foretold. Mr. Singh's characterisation of him as being "unstable" has proved to be true and was foreseen by many. The volatile president resigned from his post after wreaking havoc.

The best politicians and generals choose their battles wisely. But the Gandhis have opened up one more battlefront in Punjab with the formidable Mr. Singh when their party has a shaky hold on other States and is in danger of disintegrating. A certain victory in the Assembly elections in Punjab, where the BJP is weak and the Akali Dal is in disarray, now seems a sure defeat for the Congress. May wisdom dawn on the Gandhis to save the Grand Old Party from extinction. India, now more than ever, needs a robust and vibrant Opposition that fashions itself after Jawaharlal Nehru and not Indira Gandhi.

Captain G.R. Gopinath is founder of Air Deccan

### From riots to reconciliation

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

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.

Since the 2013 Muzaffarnagar riots, Hindutva politics has become hegemonic, particularly in western Uttar Pradesh, and religious polarisation has become the only game in town. However, farmer leader Rakesh Tikait's slogan, "Allahu Akbar, Har Har Mahadev", at a recent mahapanchayat in Muzaffarnagar has sent a message of Hindu-Muslim unity in that riot-torn city. One mahapanchayat certainly cannot repair the enormous damage that Hindutva politics has inflicted on the secular social fabric of western Uttar Pradesh or the rest of India. But what is comforting is that at least an attempt is being made to turn the page.

### 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.

One of Tikait's comrade-in-arms was Ghulam Mohammad Jola. After Mahendra Singh Tikait's death in May 2011, his sons, particularly Rakesh Tikait, began to speak the language of the Hindu Right thus threatening the secular nature of the movement. Provoked by the Tikait sons' behaviour and the 2013 riots, Mr. Jola broke away from the BKU and formed his own farmers' union, the Bharatiya Kisan Mazdoor Manch (BKMM). This outfit had a new slogan: "Ek Ho, Nek Ho (Come together, Be Pious)". In a

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. When people complained, the senior Tikait apparently assuaged them by saying, "He was offering namaz and namaz is not an abuse." The region that once displayed such understanding of religious harmony is now the hotbed of religious polarisation.

### 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. A prominent cleric of Muzaffarnagar, Maulana Kaleem Siddiqui, was recently arrested for allegedly running the "biggest conversion syndicate". That Muslims of all rank and file are busy preaching Islam and are converting Hindus to Muslims in every nook and corner of the country with the sole objective of turning India into a Muslim land has been one of the Hindu Right's most favourite campaigns. The attempts by Uttar Pradesh's governing regime to weaponise this campaign using state might are likely to dominate political conversations over the forthcoming Assembly elections. One is not too sure how far this polarisation can help the incumbent regime's electoral ambitions. But the farmers' movement has clearly disrupted the Hindutva narrative and has ignited the need for Hindu-Muslim reconciliation, at least in western Uttar Pradesh.

Shaikh Mujibur Rehman teaches at Jamia Millia Islamia Central University and is the author of the forthcoming book, Shikwa-e-Hind: The Political Future of Indian Muslims

### **DATA POINT**

### Bad bank and bad loans

bank' for taking over and resolving non-performing assets (NPAs). The bad bank was set up to deal with ₹2 lakh crore of NPAs. The existing NPAs amount to ₹8.3 lakh crore and are expected to increase due to the pandemic. A major reason for the significant increase in NPAs is the industrial sector, which is responsible for ₹3.4 lakh crore of bad loans. Banks are increasingly wary of lending to industries and have turned towards personal/retail loans in a big way, a sector that has the least share of bad loans. While industrial NPAs are on the decline, this can be attributed to loan write-offs. However, NPAs in other sectors are on the ascent. By Jasmin Nihalani



2. % OF TOTAL LOANS | The graph shows the loans

2018

The industry sector's share in total loans came down

from 41.7% in 2016 to 30.2% in 2021. On the other

time, personal/retail loans have surged

Services

2016

2017

hand, the personal/retail sector's

share increased from 21.3% in

2016 to 29.1% in 2021

30

received by a sector as a % of overall loans extended.

While the share of industrial loans has decreased over

Agriculture

2020

2019

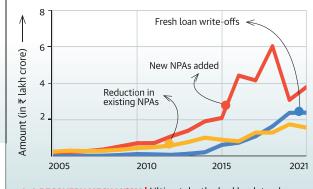
2021

₹ 3,41,634 cr. ₹ 8,77,855 cr. Gross NPAs of industries Total loan amount in all banks as of written off by banks between 2014 and 2020 | between 2014 and 2020 December 2020

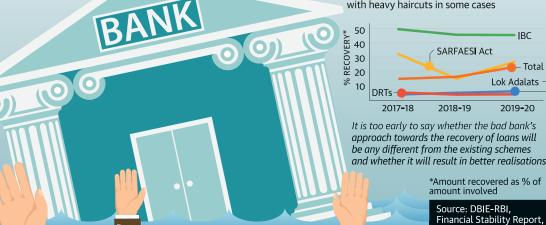
1. % OF TOTAL BAD LOANS The graph shows the bad loans in a sector as a % of overall bad loans. At 46%, the industry sector is still the largest contributor in 2021, but its share of bad loans is declining. In contrast, the share of all

Industry Personal Loans Agriculture 20 other sectors has increased 2016 2017 2018

3. WRITING THEM OFF I The chart shows new NPAs added, fresh reductions in NPAs, and new loan write-offs in a year. While overall, NPAs came down after peaking in 2018, a significant chunk of this can be attributed to write-offs from the accounts



4. A RECOVERY MECHANISM | Ultimately, the bad bank too has to recover the NPAs. The existing mechanisms for recovery of written-off loans have only worked well in patches with heavy haircuts in some cases



### The Man Frinder. FROM THE ARCHIVES

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

### 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 Chinawatcher persisted in reporting that Mao had long been dead and that the man taking the review of the million Red Guards at Tienanmun was a "double". The "watcher" has now ceased to pursue this trade. During the more turbulent years of the Cultural Revolution, there was no let-up on the monitoring of communist Chinese news and broadcasts. On one occasion, the failure of Chairman Mao to appear at an army function - it turned out later that he had a bad cold sparked a rumour which in Hong Kong soon became a "report" that he was dead or dying. A subsequent rally of high-ranking army officers pledging allegiance to the Chairman was televised by the Chinese and monitored in Hong Kong. The blurred images showed Mao in a bad light, and as he appeared to be supported on one arm by a nurse, the "report" went out from Hong Kong that he was seriously ill. Two weeks later, at another rally, only Madame Mao showed up. This prompted the "news" that the Chairman was succumbing to Parkinson's Disease.

### 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. Endowed with a poet's imagination and emotional nature and having in himself also the intuitive insight of a prophet's vision he concentrates in his study of the national problem on the fundamental issues involved and searches for the root causes that underlie our present degradation and misery. The fruits of such an earnest and intuitive study of our national ills are contained in a recent publication of the poet entitled "Greater India".

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 ref ring 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 Inteligence) 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

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[a]rty 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 cricketerturned-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

has

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

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

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 Septem-

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".

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

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

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Defence Minister Rainath 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 muniand 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 efficienthe statement added.

### **NEET-UG** aspirants seek fresh exam

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

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

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

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.

## Abducted man released in Kabul

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

KALLOL BHATTACHERIEE 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 In-

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-

cal traders in Kabul. He has been running his business despite the political disturternal Affairs did not confirm the citizenship status of Mr. Arendeh though it is known that he has family members living in the National Capital Region here.

Since the arrival of the Taliban on August 15, the security situation in Kabul has seen several ups and downs. The control of the police in Kabul was initially given to the Haqqani Network of the Taliban, but it was taken over by Mullah Baradar last week. He appointed new officials in defence and intelligence wings of the outfit.

In the meantime, a large number of kidnappings and robberies were reported from major cities of Afghanistan and the Taliban has

### Taliban urge DGCA to resume Afghan flights

Call for smooth passenger movement

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

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 Af-

aimed to commence their scheduled flights (sic). Therefore, Afghanisation Civil Aviation Authority requests you to facilitate their commercial flights," Aljah Hameedullah Akhunzada, Acting Minister, Afghanistan Civil Aviation Authority, said in the letter. The Indian official, on the

condition of anonymity, said, "The matter is being reviewed by the Ministry of Civil Aviation." The letter followed the resumption of operations at the Kabul airport on September 4 with the help of a technical team from Qatar. It was closed due to the damage to its infrastructure following a

### Meet on 'USA Education Loan Festival' on Oct. 2

Webinar will discuss education loans

STAFF REPORTER

A webinar on the 'USA Education Loan Festival 2022', presented by WeMakeScholars along with The Hindu EducationPlus, will be held on October 2 at 5 p.m.

WeMakeScholars is an organisation funded and supported by the IT Ministry, Government of India, with a sole motive of assisting study abroad aspirants with funding, free of cost. The webinar will be a cur-

tain-raiser for the USA Education Loan Festival 2022, which is a 15-day event for students aspiring to study in the United States and will be useful for both parents and aspirants. The panellists will discuss all possible options included in collateral and non-collateral education loans and the webinar will have a question-and-answer session for the

audience. Participating applicants will be offered discounts on bank processing fee, rates, interest



and various other concessions. Those opting for unsecured education loans will get their loans sanctioned within four working days if all the required documents are submitted immediately.

Damini, Co-founder and CEO, WeMakeScholars; Arjun, Co-founder and CMO, WeMakeScholars; Vijay, Manager, EliteScholars (Unsecured loans); and Archit Siddoju, Country Head, Public Banks (secured loans), will speak at the webinar. The discussion will be mod-



erated by Pankaja Srinivasan, free-

To register, vihttps:// bit.ly/3CW7bjN or scan the QR code

### Two killed as heavy rain continues in Kolkata

Several parts of the city waterlogged

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Two persons, including a child, were killed when a dilapidated two-storeyed house collapsed in north Kolkata on Wednesday.

The city and other areas of gangetic West Bengal had been receiving heavy rainfall since Tuesday because of a low pressure area.

Several parts of the city, including Bhabanipur where polling is scheduled on Thursday, were water-

logged. Disaster Response Force personnel rescued several persons from a house in Ahirlitola street in north Kolkata. The twoyear-old girl and an elderly woman were declared dead later in the afternoon. Kolkata recorded nearly

100 mm of rainfall in the past 24 hours, while Diamond Harbour and Sagar in South 24 Parganas recorded 150 mm and Haldia in Purba Medinipur 220 mm in the past 24 hours.

# No discrimination in U.P.: Adityanath

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

OMAR RASHID

If the Dewa Sharit, a tamous 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 governments of SP and BSP, Kanwariyas who would play music during their Kanwar yatra had to face police

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

lathicharge.

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 develop-

## 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 midday 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 Wednes-

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** Although this year's bud-

get 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 stu-However, there has been dents, who are to be incorporated into the formal education system, was a key recommendation of the Na-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.

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

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

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

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.

The statement did not

## Amarinder meets Shah, sparking off rumours

Former Punjab CM's next political destination could be BJP

NISTULA HEBBAR

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 Thukral 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 diversification".



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

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 BIP 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

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

Party insiders said the

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

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.

### Mamata is BJP's Trojan Horse: Adhir

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee was the Trojan Horse of the BIP and should be kept out of all efforts to cobble up an opposition platform ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha election, senior Congress leader and State president Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said on Wednesday.

Mr. Chowdhury said the Trinamool Congress chief was an "untrustworthy ally", trying to grow nationally at the cost of the Congress.

Chavara

## Faleiro says he will work to consolidate Congress family Trinamool Congress, the

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Congress family is now fragmented and I will work towards bringing the family together, said former Goa Chief Minister Luizinho Faleiro, who joined the Trinamool Congress on Wednes-

Mr. Falerio, who had resigned as a Congress MLA earlier this week, joined the Trinamool Congress in Kolkata with nine others, including a few Congress

"Today, the Congress family is fragmented into the

For The Kerala Minerals And Metals Ltd

YSR Congress, the Sharad Pawar Congress [Nationalist Congress Party] and the Indira [Gandhi] Congress. I will try to ensure that the Congress family is once again consolidated," Mr. Falerio said moments after officially joining the Trinamool

Earlier in the day, Mr. Falerio and others met Trinamool chairperson and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee at the State Se-

The entry of former Congress leaders from Goa into

the Trinamool comes as a major shot in the arm for West Bengal's ruling party, which is trying to expand its footprints beyond the State.

Senior Trinamool leaders, including party general secretary Abhishek Banerjee, MP Saugata Roy and Minister Subrata Mukherjee, were present at the press conference where leaders from Goa joined the party. Mr. Roy described the development as a "major milestone in Trinamool's journey". The party would contest alone in Goa, added Mr. Banerjee.

## Nitish swears by Bihar's special category status

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

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

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

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

sahab," he said.

punished," he said.

AAP throws 5-point

challenge at Congress

government in Punjab

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,

"I have a message for our new CM Channi

"First, there are allegations that he (Chan-

ni) inducted tainted Ministers and tainted of-

ficers. They need to be removed. Also, peo-

ple are upset over the Bargari (sacrilege)

case. The masterminds of the caseshould be

promised employment or an unemploy-

ment allowance and that needs to be imme-

diately 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 can-

celled, so they should do the same."

Mr. Kejriwal said that the Congress had

asking it to fulfil its 2017 election promises.

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 BIP 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.

### **CHENNAI METRO RAIL LIMITED** (A Joint Venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of Tamil Nadu) Admin Building, CMRL Depot, Poonamallee High Road, Koyambedu, Chennai - 600 107, India. **NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

	Contract Name	and Other Developments underneath Kathipara Grade Separator				
ı	Contract No	CMRL/BD/ Kathipara-GS/2021/498/01				
ı	Documents downloaded from	30.09.2021 to 29.10.2021				
	Pre Bid Meeting Date	08.10.2021 on 11:30 hrs at CMRL Office- Koyambedu Admin Building, Chennai-107.				
ı	Due Date of Bid Submission	29/10/2021 up to 17.00 hours (IST)				
ı	Date of Bid Opening	30/10/2021 at 17.05 hours (IST)				
ı	For complete details ple	ase visit e-procurement website:				

http://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app. Any Corrigendum/Addendum to this publication, if any, would appear

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E-mail: krishnan.rm@cmrl.in சாதனை கடந்து சுதந்தீரம் அடைந்தோம். சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்தீரம் படைப்போம்.



No. <u>24845</u> /WR Dtd.: 29.09.2021

APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR WALMI (ODISHA)

persons, both serving and retired, having following qualifications, for the post of Director, WALMI (Water and Land Management Institute), Pratapnagari, 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

 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 in so required or can be fixed at a lump sum amount of Rs 1.5 lakhs per month

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 essed 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 "wrsec@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

Special Secretary to Government



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

Department of Water Resources, Govt. of Odisha invites applications from the interested

limit of 62 years as on 1st January of 2021.

Tenure: - The appointment will be purely on a contractual basis for a period of

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OPR-32001/11/0001/2122



TENDER NOTICE E-Tendering Portal https://etenders.kerala.gov.in or www.kmml.com Tender ID 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

### TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS:TIRUPATI **NOTICE INVITING TENDER - CUM - REVERSE TENDERING**

Roc,No.TTD-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 pertendernotice & for details of e-tender please log on to the web site http://www.apeprocurement.gov.in (or) For further details if any please contact: 0877-2264355 (or) 0877-2264292.

राजस्थान सरकार निदेशालय चिकित्सा एवं स्वास्थ्य सेवाएं, राजस्थान, जयपुर दुरभाष सं0 : 0141-2224878 ई-मेल: rmsc.mnjy@gmail.com

क्र.: एफ04( )एमएनजेवाई/ टेलीरेडियोलॅजी/2021-22/ 785 दिनांक : 27.09.2021 ई-निविदा सचना

राज्य के 53 जिला/ उपजिला/ सेटेलाइट चिकित्सालय में एक्स-रे जांचों की रिपोर्ट को टेलीरेडियोलॉजी के माध्यम से आउटसॉसिंग के माध्यम से करवाया जाना है, इच्छुक निविदादाता द्वारा प्रारूप एवं विस्तृत विवरण विभाग की वेबसाइट www.rajswasthya.nic. in एवं सूचना एवं जन सम्पर्क विभाग की वेबसाईट www.dipr.rajasthan.gov.in तथा sppp.rajasthan.gov.in पर विवरण प्राप्त कर सकते हैं एवं आवेदन वेबसाईट www. eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर कर सकते है। UBN No.: MHS2122SLOB02430

निदेशक (जन स्वास्थ्य) DIPR/C/9921/21 चिकित्सा एवं स्वास्थ्य सेवाएं, राज.जयपुर OFFICE OF MEMBER SECRETARY

RAJASTHAN MEDICARE RELIEF SOCIETY MAHARANA BHUPAL GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL, UDAIPUR Notice Inviting Bid No. GHU2122A0058

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://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://spop.rajasthan.gov.in) of the state 1- UBN NO GHU2122GLRC00074

Member Secretar

schedule.

SAVE WATER- SAVE LIFE

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Maharana Bhupal Govt. Hospital Udaipur

Rajasthan Medicare Relief Society

DIPR/C/9910

DIPR/C/9710

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER (PPP) P.W.D.

RAJASTHAN, JAIPUR 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 Nagaur-Tarnau-Deedwana-Mukungarh Section

Sindhari-Bishangarh Section & Sanderao-Bali-Mundara Section of SH-16

of SH-8,19,60, 82A & 83 under RSHIP Tranche-1, Package-03/I and Barmer-

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

ospective Bidders are advised to visit the above websites for the same UBN No: PWD2122SLOP07351 V. K. Singh

Addl. Chief Engineer (PPP) email: aceppp.pwd@raiasthan.gov.in Tel: +91-141-2223547 PWD, Rajasthan, Jaipui

MCC/488/2021-A3-GAD Last date of submission of EOI is on 20/10/2021 at 5.00 PM

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: Cost of RFP/ Bid Document

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 or details and amendments, please visit CPP portal www.eprocure.gov.in

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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 - CPRIBLR21NIT12 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 availed/downloaded from CPRI website: http://www.cpri.res.in and CPRI e-procurement portal: www.tenderwizard.com/CPRI from 30/09/2021 onwards. Purchase Authority-CPRI CPRI/ADVT/28 /2021



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 JJM 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

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

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

## '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

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 CO-VID-19 and ending malnutrition are equally important and

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 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

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 bo-

Food insecurity arising out of the pandemic may

cheap food with low nutritive value, causing long-term adverse impact on the cognidevelopment 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 second wave COVID-19.

As COVID-19 demanded

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, CO-VID-19 may inflict repeated shocks on families and com-

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 highquality 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 intervenand additional tions, financing will be required for ensuring food and nutritional security, especially for the population vulnerable 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://

### SC dismisses appeal filed by Adani Gas

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

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

"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 79page 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 especially authorities. around memorialisation and threats to land owned by ci-

vilians, in addition to the Ta-

mil leadership consistently

highlighting the long-pend-

ing 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 waraffected Tamils have been demanding for over a de-

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 is 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 Indiabacked 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

## Define exemptions from data protection law: panel

It finds middle ground on clause

SOBHANA K. NAIR

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 entire Act infructuous.

In past deliberations, Congress MPs Jairam Ramesh, Manish Tewari and Gaurav Gogoi; Trinamool Congress MPs Derek O' Brien and Mahua Moitra; Biju Janata Dal (BJD) MPs Bhartruhari Mahtab 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 that 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.

## Cabinet clears 2 railway line doubling projects

It will cost over ₹1,000 crore each

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on Wednesday approved the doubling of the Nimach-Ratlam (Madhya Pradesh) railway line as well as of the Rajkot-Kanalus (Gujarat) railway line, with an estimated project cost of over ₹1,000

crore each. The total length of doubling of the line for the Nimach-Ratlam line is 132.92 km, with an estimated project cost of ₹1,095.88 crore, and the estimated length for

the Rajkot-Kanalus line is 111.2 km, with an estimated cost of ₹1,080.58 crore. Both projects are targeted for completion by 2024-25.

The Railways said: "The line capacity utilisation of Nimach-Ratlam section is up to 145.6% with maintenance blocks. Project route section has become oversaturated well above optimum capacity even without a

maintenance block." The Rajkot-Kanalus section is a part of the busy Mumbai-Ahmedabad-Viramgam-Okha section.

## 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

SCAN TO PLAY

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 implemen-

tation 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).

## TH CROSSWORD+ 13365

14 Head of department lops everyone's heads after new HOD provides no

Display keystrokes of genius.

Type your answers in our online grids:

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

17 Perhaps vegetable's regurgitated before shedding its kernel (5) 18 Offer leeway (4)

any escort (8)

23 Cut joke after second cut (5.3)

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)

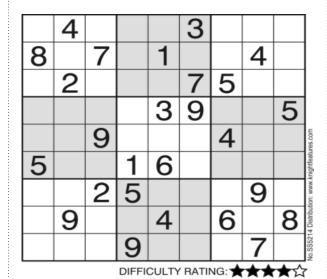
13 Doctor Murthy finally ends drinking liqour, to start like a teetotaller (5) **15** Jackpot! Almost winning five elections — a third promise (4,6)

single-man regime? (8)

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)

### **SUDOKU**



#### Solution to puzzle 13364 Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

Ρ	L	Α	_	С	Ε		Р	R	0	С	U	R	Ε	D		4	3	2	8	7	5	9	6	1
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Κ		0		Т		L		Α		S		R		1	П	4	7	$\sim$	0	$\sim$	4	0	0	_
L	Е	Z	Т	-	G	0		Т	I	ш	О	0	٧	z	П		/	9	р	2	4	J	Ø	5
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Ν	Е	Α	R	М	-	S	S		Α	D	0	R	ш	D		5	4	/	2	1	8	6	3	9

### **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 dyana, 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.

M ND-NDE

## 12 Held firm, overturning award - that's a little drastic (8)

## 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)

16 Other wise elders organised no doctor (4)

19 Deviously entrap, make headway? (6)

21 Make use of return ticket to take model out, tour around Spain without

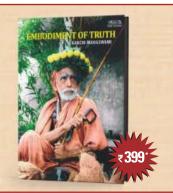
26 Greek island has an effect (6)

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)

17 Excited man finds love, losing independence - rich year for his 18 Boy, girl running back-to-back laps regularly near sports department in full throttle (3,5)

25 Snack chewed with drug (4)



A SPECIAL PUBLICATION FROM THE HINDU GROUP

### TRANSCENDING TIME

The journey of an Inimitable Sage traced through lens and letters





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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
BPCL	436.90	7.30
Britannia Ind	3972.75	30.90
Cipla	987.60	16.60
Coal India	185.70	11.15
Divis Lab	4806.45	22.40
Dr Reddys Lab	4881.00	47.85
Eicher Motors	2843.25	39.80
Grasim Ind		
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
ICICI Bank	709.50.	7.65
IndusInd Bank	1123.20	11.55
Infosys	1692.25	5.15
Indian OilCorp	127.45	4.50
ITC	238.10	0.35
JSW Steel		
Kotak Bank	2030.45	37.75

IIITOSYS	1092.25	D.T.
Indian OilCorp	127.45	4.50
ITC	238.10	0.3
JSW Steel	679.80	18.9
Kotak Bank	2030.45	37.7
L&T	1721.00	16.1
M&M	812.10	6.0
Maruti Suzuki	7384.05	39.8
Nestle India Ltd	19506.75	38.0
NTPC	140.65	8.70
ONGC	144.75	2.5
PowerGrid Corp	195.05	11.10
Reliance Ind	2527.85	20.20
SBI Life		
State Bank	460.00	15.10
Shree Cement	29382.40	139.4
Sun Pharma	811.30	36.20
Tata Consumer		
Products Ltd		
Tata Motors	330.25	0.9
Tata Steel	1295.55	14.6
TCS		
Tech Mahindra	1395.35	18.7
Titan	2147.50	18.20
UltraTech Cement	7464.55	-123.7
UPL		
Wipro	640.75	1.1

	<b>EXCHANGE RA</b>	ΓES	
	Indicative direct rat except yen at 4 p.m.		
	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 Ringitt	17.67	17.75
	Source:Indian Bank		

### IN BRIEF



Overseas borrowings of firms jump to \$2.84 bn

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.



	45,123 0.10 79.09 0.00					
NIFTY 50	DDICE	CHANGE				
Adani Ports						
Asian Paints	3323.05	-56.65				
Axis Bank	782.15	7.05				
Bajaj Auto	3899.25	-9.45				
D E.	1742275	110 00				

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

more jobs, the Commerce Ministry said in a statement exports had touched \$185

so create close to 62 lakh after the Cabinet meeting. "By September 21, India's 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

billion [in 2021-22]. This is

to give the ECGC ₹4,400 crore as capital, which will enable it to provide insupolicies worth rance ₹88,000 crore," he said, adding that 97% of ECGC beneficiaries were micro, small and medium enterprises.

### Goyal urges U.S. firms to push for FTA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

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. Goval 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

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 10vear NCDs (at 6.75% p.a.), marked the first successful IBC resolution in the financial services sector, chairman Ajay Piramal said in an



"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.

## 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.

### Standard Life sells 5% stake in HDFC AMC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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

According to bulk deal data available with the BSE, the promoter sold a 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

The government has extended the ₹4.5 lakh crore **Emergency Credit Line Gua**rantee 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 mi-

nistry said.

### CIL to ramp up fuel supply to power plants

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

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.

### 'H-1B will exist till talent RBI lifts PCA curbs on IOB issue is tackled globally' post review

Visa denials decline: Nasscom's Singh

NEW DELHI 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

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

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.



YUTHIKA BHARGAVA

The need for H-IB 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 Shivendra 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

"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.

2020-March 2021," he said.

## 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 Ma-Director Punit naging

Goenka. ZEEL, which had last week announced its merger



works 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.

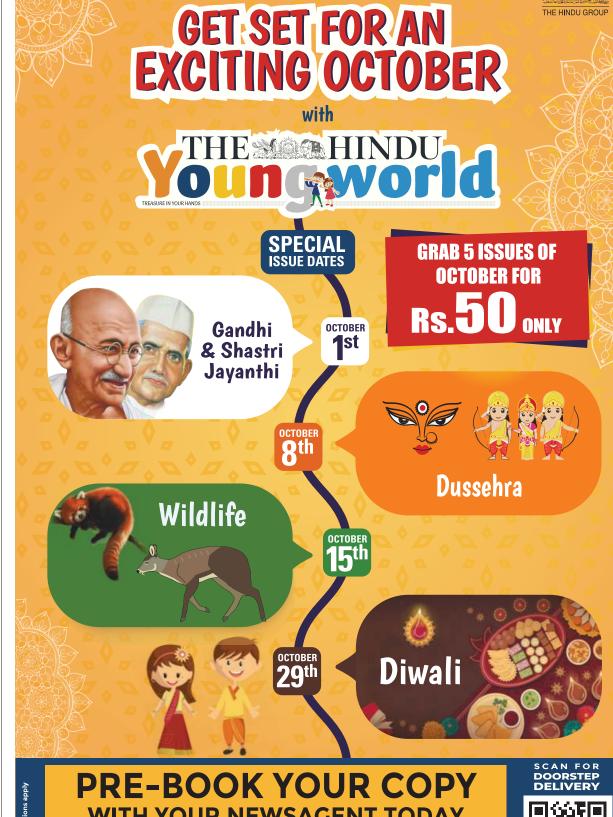
### **AIL case: NCLT** allows Valli to withdraw plea

SANJAY VIJAYAKUMAR

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

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.



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# 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

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 econo-

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 carrying 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

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 serious-

ly 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

## Moscow warns YouTube for blocking German RT channels

Unprecedented act of media aggression: Foreign Ministry

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Russia on Wednesday threatened to block YouTube and take other retaliatory measures, after the U.S. videosharing 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 likeaided 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 neces-"We believe these mea-

sures 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, Steffen 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 You-Tube 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."

U.S. to stop using drones

Taliban tell

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.

### **ELSEWHERE**



100 killed in clashes for Yemen's Marib

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 Iranbacked Houthi rebels, who have stepped up their assault on Marib, the government's last northern stronghold. AFP

### North Korea says it tested hypersonic missile

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

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. followed His moves

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-revolu-Constitution. Mr. tion 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

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,



The Adani Group will sign a build-operate-transfer deal

after controversially ejecting India and Japan out of the East Container Terminal (ECT) project, following resistance from trade unions and sections of Buddhist monks who objected to "foreign involvement" in national assets. The cancellation of the tripartite agreement on the ECT project was a major cause of strain in bilateral ties, with New Delhi voicing concern over Colombo reneging on a commitment made in 2019. Tokyo

too expressed displeasure. Colombo pitched the

WCT project as a "compromise", while the Indian role in the WCT project, through investment from Adani Group, is said to be "strictly private sector", unlike the proposed ECT that entailed governmental involvement.

Confirming the project in a tweet in March 2021, Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani had said: "Grateful to the leaders of GoI, GoSL, SLPA & John Keells for the opportunity to build WCT, Colombo. This partnership is a symbol of the deep strategic relations between countries with great intertwined history. It will launch decades of container growth."

In addition to the obvious strategic significance of the Colombo Port in the Indian Ocean, the popular argument from the Indian side for investing in it has been that over 70% of the transhipment business at the Colombo Port is linked to the Indian market.

## Putin, Erdogan hail bilateral relations

Leaders met at Putin's Sochi residence

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

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

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

to find compromises favourable to both parties".

### **Great benefits**

Mr. Erdogan said he believes there are great benefits in "Turkey and Russia keeping stronger relations each passing day".

In Syria, the two countries last year sponsored a ceasefire deal in the Idlib region, home to the last major jihadist and rebel stronghold in northwest Syria.

"The steps we have taken with Russia related to Syria are of utmost importance," Mr. Erdogan told Mr. Putin. The peace there depends on Turkey-Russia relations."

Despite their clashes, the two countries have grown closer in recent years thanks to tensions between Moscow and the West and Ankara's increasingly delicate relations with its NATO allies.

In 2019, Turkey agreed to the purchase of the Russianmade S-400 air defence system that led to U.S. sanc tions last year.

### JK Tyre's Regularity Run in 17 cities

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

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

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

"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

NEW DELHI

the earlier one was dissolved at the end of Tokyo Games, the Sports Authori-Wednesday.



A new core group of the

The results: Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) for the next Olympic cycle will be drawn up next month after ty of India (SAI) said on

## Gailey jolts Praveen in triple jump

Double for sprinter Taranjeet and distance runner Komal

### **ATHLETICS**

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Gailey Venister Devasahayam, 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 foulridden 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 21year-old Gailey from Tiruchi, who is coached by former national high jump record-holder N. Annavi, his wife Suganthi and son Mothi

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

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



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

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

preet 30:51.74. 3,000m stee-

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

Damneet Singh (Pun) 64.20m;

2. Praveen Kumar 61.81; 3. Ravi

24.32. 800m: 1. K.M. Chanda (Del) 2:03.40s; 2. K.M. Deeksha 2:04.62; 3. Radha Chaudhary 2:06.00. 10,000m: 1. Sonika (Har) 35:42.36; 2. Kavita Yadav 36:25.19; 3. Chatru Gumnaram 37:20.79. 3,000m steeplechase: 1. Komal Jagdale (Mah) 9:51.76s; 2. Kajal Sharma 10:47.18; 3. Rebi Pal 10:50.42. 400m hurdles: 1. Nanhi

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

## FC Goa makes the summit clash

Edges out Bengaluru FC in the sudden-death

### **DURAND CUP**

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA

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 backpass from Goa defender Papuia 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 Muhammed Nemil reached him unmarked with a nice cross following a cor-

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

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

wins, eight losses and two

draws. Of those 62 wins, 39

were by knockout and 23 by

decision. He won 12 World

His retirement from box-

ing followed a disheartening

defeat to Yordenis Ugas in

cross.

## 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

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 42year old said in a 14-minute video posted on his Facebook page.



pursue his political ambition. • AFP

"It is difficult for me to acing my retirement." cept that my time as a boxer is over. Today I am announc-year, 72-fight career with 62

Pacquiao finished his 26-

Paradise, Nevada, USA on August 21. Pacquaio 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. M ND-NDE

# 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

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 opportunity to the seamers, the spinners and the batters," the

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 "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

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, Punam Raut, Jemimah Rodrigues, Deepti Sharma, Sneh 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,

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

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

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



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

## 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

D oyal Challengers Banga-Nore 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). laiswal 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 lefthander 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. • SPORTZPICS/IPL

his stay. Samson (19, 15b, 2x6) made room to loft left-Shahbaz spinner 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-

Harshal, the leading wick-

### 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

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

	go o can									
	RR		RCB							
	46	Dots	31							
	10	Fours	18							
	7	Sixes	2							
	56/0	PP	54/1							
	7.45	DD.	0.01							

### **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;

### **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

### **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 ov-

**FALL OF WICKETS** 1-48 (Padikkal, 5.2), 2-58 (Koh-

### li, 6.5), 3-127 (Bharat, 15.6).

### **ROYALS BOWLING**

Morris 4-0-50-0, Tyaqi 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

## Super Kings will be keen to keep the winning run going

SPORTS BUREAU

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

and would like to maintain its winning momentum going into the playoff stage.

### **TODAY'S MATCH**

CSK has form on its side In 2021

### 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

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

SHARJAH, 7.30 P.M. IST Played: 15

| CSK 11 Played 1 | SRH 0 | CSK 1 STAR SPORTS 1 & SS SELECT 1 (SD & HD)

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

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

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 allrounder 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

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

√ieron Pollard has con-Ktradicted 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	М	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

### **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-Russia-FIDE Kazakhstan: 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 & SS 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**



### successful knee surgery

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. РТІ

### 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, PT

### Anargya wins title

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.



## Messi strikes as PSG gets the better of City

Sheriff stuns Real; Liverpool routs Porto; Atletico edges AC Milan

### CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

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, play-

ing in just its second ever

game in the group stage of

the competition, upset re-

cord 13-time winner Real Ma-

drid 2-1 in the Spanish capi-

tal. Uzbekistan winger Jasur

Jakhshibaev put the Moldo-

vans in the lead before the



### achieved by Messi. Thill thrills

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

Luxembourg attacking midfielder Sebastien Thill. The 27-year-old Thill fired home different season in the coma sublime half volley with 62 petition, a feat only also seconds of regular time remaining at the Santiago Bernabeu two week after Sheriff

> its opening group game. In Group B, Mohamed Salah and Roberto Firmino

scored twice as Liverpool hammered Porto 5-1 and Luis Suarez claimed a 97thminute winner as Atletico Madrid edged AC Milan 2-1. American Jesse Marsch

lost his fifth game in nine

matches in charge of RB

Leipzig in the 2-1 home defeat to Club Brugge. The results: Group A: PSG 2 (Gueye 8, Messi 74) bt Manchester City O; RB Leipzig 1

(Nkunku 5) lost to Club Brugge 2 (Vanaken 22, Rits 41). Group B: Porto 1 (Taremi 75) lost to Liverpool 5 (Salah 18. 60, Mane 45, Firmino 77, 88); AC Milan 1 (Leao 20) lost to Atletico Madrid 2 (Griezmann 84,

Group C: Borussia Dortmund 1 (Malen 37) bt Sporting Lisbon

Suarez 90+7-pen)

Group D: Real Madrid 1 (Benzema 65-pen) lost to Sheriff Tiraspol 2 (Yakhshiboev 25, Thill

Group F: Atalanta 1 (Pessina had beaten Shakhtar Do-68) bt Young Boys O. netsk earlier in the month in Group H: Zenit St Petersburg 4 (Claudinho 9, Kuzyaev 49, Sutormin 80, Wendel 90+4) bt Malmo O.

### India men in last four

SPORTS BUREAU

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 The Indian women, ho-

wever, 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. Sathiyan bt Noshad Alamiyan 11-7, 11-6, 6-11, 11-6; Harmeet Desai lost to Amir Hossein Hodaei 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).

M ND-NDE



# All eyes on Deepika and Das in WC final

The couple will look to regroup and make amends for its Tokyo Olympic flop show

**ARCHERY** 

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA YANKTON (USA)

Star Indian archery couple -Deepika Kumari and Atanu Das – will look to start afresh after their Tokyo Olympics debacle when it competes in the World Cup Final, starting here on Thursday.

The two-day showpiece competition will also mark the return of the duo that failed to make the cut to the Indian senior team for the just-concluded World Championships at the same venue.

After being sidelined from the Indian team, the duo competed on its own at SAI, Kolkata and the two would look to make amends for their medal-less outing in Tokyo Olympics.

### Elusive medal

An Olympic medal remained elusive for the Indian archers despite their impressive build-up to the Games.

Competing as World No. 1, Deepika Kumari, who was the lone Indian woman archer in fray, made a quarterfinal exit with a tame loss to Korean sensation An San.



Time to refocus: Deepika will be eager to put the Tokyo performance behind her. • FILE РНОТО

Das was the best among the Indian men but he also bowed out in the pre-quarterfinal, while they lost to Korea in both men's team and mixed pair sections.

With the losses still fresh in their minds, the duo would look to start afresh in the two-day World Cup

Deepika, who has slipped to World No. 2, has four silver and a bronze medal from seven appearances at the World Cup Final, and it remains to be seen whether she is able to match the feat of Dola Banerjee.

Dola is the only Indian to have won a gold at the premier competition, in 2007.

Deepika will start against 23-year-old Russian Svetlana Gomboeva, fresh from her team silver at the Tokyo

For Das, this will be his first World Cup Final appearance and he has an easy draw against Germany's Maximilian Weckmueller, who won a silver at stage two of the World Cup in Lausanne, Switzerland.

The best eight archers from four stages of the World Cup qualify for the World Cup Final, which will see a total of 32 competitors across men's and women's recurve and compound sections.

### Lone qualifier

This time India would have a participation in the compound section, where Abhishek Verma is the lone qualifier, after winning a gold at the third stage of the World Cup in Paris.

The 2014 Asian Games gold medallist Verma will face World No. 4 Braden Gellenthien of the USA in his quarterfinal fixture later in the day.

Verma has two individual medals - one silver (2015) and a bronze (2018) - at the World Cup Final and he also has a silver in the mixed pair event with Jyothi Surekha Vennam in 2018

Verma will look for his first gold medal in three appearances at the World Cup

### Rutuja and Webley-Smith lose in pre-quarterfinal

### **INDIANS ABROAD**

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Rutuja Bhosale and Emily Webley-Smith of Britain were beaten 2-6, 6-4, [1-10] in the doubles pre-quarterfinals by the Belarusian duo of Vera Lapko and Lidziya Marozava in the \$235,238 WTA tournament in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan.

In the men's Challenger in Murcia (Spain), Sriram Balaii and Ramkumar Ramanathan reached the doubles semifinals with a 7-6(5), 6-3 victory over Davide Galoppini and Francesco Passaro of

In the ITF women's event in Monastir (Tunisia), Jennifer Luikham shocked top seed Ipek Soylu of Turkey 6-4, 6-2 in the first round. Other results First round:

€44,820 Challenger, Lisbon, Portugal: Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan & Purav Raja bt Tiago Cacao & Goncalo Falcao (Por) 6-3,

€44,820 Challenger, Murcia, Spain: Miljan Zekic (Srb) bt Ramkumar Ramanathan 3-6,

\$15,000 ITF men, Lubbock, USA: Charles Broom (GBR) & Chad Kissell (USA) bt Parth Ag-

\$15,000 ITF men, Cancun, Mexico: Michael Zhu (USA) bt Siddhant Banthia 6-4, 6-3. \$15,000 ITF men, Cairo,

Egypt: Luciano Darderi (Ita) bt Rishab Agarwal 6-0, 6-0; Lorenzo Gagliardo (Arg) bt Nitin Kumar Sinha 3-6, 6-4, 6-4. \$15,000 ITF men, Monastir,

Tunisia: Singles: Christoph Negritu (Ger) bt Abhinav Sanjeev Shanmugam 6-3, 2-6, 6-4.

**Doubles:** Credit Chaiyarin (Tha) & Youssef Labbene (Tun) bt Ajeet Rai (Nzl) & Niki Poonacha 7-6(7), 3-6, [10-4]. Women: Doubles: Shrivalli

Bhamidipaty & Smriti Bhasin bt Greta Medeghini & Lara Pfeifer (Ita) 6-0, 3-6, [10-6]; Sharmada Balu & Sravya Shivani bt Ferdaous Bahri & Ginerva Parentini (Ita) 7-6(5), 6-3; Ginerva Peiretti (Ita) & Jennifer Luikham bt Anouk Koevermans (Ned) & Snehal Mane 7-6(2), 5-7, [10-7]; Chompoothip Jundakate (Tha) & Niditra Rajmohan bt Margaux Komano (Fra) & Elena Milovanovic (Srb) 1-6. 6-3, [10-6]

\$25,000 ITF women, Lisbon, Portugal: Mariana Drazic (Cro) & Sara Lanca (Por) bt Ana Filipa Santos (Por) & Sathwika Sama 6-2, 6-3; Francisca Jorge & Matilde Jorge (Por) bt Lara Salden

### Women's Natl. boxing from Oct. 21

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The National women's boxing championships will be staged in Hisar from October 21 to 27 after more than a year due to the pandemic.

The tournament, to be held on the campus of the St. Joseph's International School, will have competitions in 12 categories -48kg, 50kg, 52kg, 54kg, 57kg, 60kg, 63kg, 66kg, 70kg, 75kg, 81kg and +81kg - following a revamp in weight divisions by the International Boxing Association (AIBA).

According to a Boxing Federation of India (BFI) release on Wednesday, performances in the event will be considered for the selection of the Indian squad for the World women's championships to be held later this year.

The last date of registration by number is Oct. 8 and by name Oct. 13.

Entries can be sent to ewnboxing2021@gmail.com along with info@boxingfederation.in and suhail@box-

### Wasim resigns as PCB's chief executive

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Pakistan's cricket board said on Wednesday its chief executive had resigned, two weeks after New Zealand and England abandoned tours in the country over security concerns.

The PCB gave no reason for Wasim Khan's resignation, but said it would meet later on Wednesday to "consider the matter".

"(The) Pakistan Cricket Board today confirmed Wasim Khan has tendered his resignation as chief executive," said in a state-

Khan had made huge efforts to revive international cricket after a 2009 terror attack on the Sri Lankan team sent Pakistan into iso-

lation for years. Hired on a three-vear contract in 2019, he had organised Pakistan's tours of England and then New Zealand amid severe COVID-19 restrictions last year.

## Financial crisis leads to Barca's salary reduction

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Barcelona's salary cap has been significantly reduced because of its financial struggles, becoming more than seven times smaller than that of rival Real Madrid, the Spanish league said on Wednesday. The league said Barcelo-

na's spending limit on salaries for the 2021-22 season has been set at €97 million (\$113 million), about €285 million (\$334 million) less than a year ago. The reduction was part of

the reason the Catalan club failed to give Lionel Messi a new contract and led to him joining Paris Saint-Germain. Messi reportedly earned

nearly €140 million (\$163 million) per season, although he said he had agreed to cut his salary in half so he could stay with the club.

Series of factors

Each club has a different salary cap calculated based on a series of factors that in-



Messi. ■FILE PHOTO

clude revenues, costs and debts. It is proportional to roughly 70% of a club's reve-

The adjustments are part of the Spanish league's longstanding financial control measures to reduce clubs' debts and keep them financially healthy.

Barcelona's struggles had already forced the league to slash the club's cap from a league-high €670 million (now \$785 million) in 2019-20 to €385 million (\$450 million) last season.

In addition to losing Mes-



Griezmann. ■FILE PHOTO

si, Barcelona also sent Antoine Griezmann on loan to Atlético Madrid, and its only signings this offseason were free agents.

Six other clubs now have bigger spending limits than Barcelona's

Madrid's cap is the highest, going from €470 million (\$550 million) to €739 million (\$863 million), which is €642 million (\$750 million) more than Barcelona's. Madrid benefited from better management and especially from not making big signings in recent transfer windows.

## Klopp expects goal spree to end

Feels it would be difficult to run riot against Man City

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Jurgen Klopp admits he fears Liverpool's goal spree will come to an end in Sunday's Premier League showdown with Manchester City.

It was the sixth successive match that Liverpool had scored three or more goals, only the third time in the club's history the feat has been achieved. It has scored 20 times in

17 days and have 26 goals in its first nine fixtures to equal a club record for a top-flight campaign set in 1922 and replicated only one other time in the 2016-2017 season. But Reds boss Klopp

knows it will not be so easy to run riot when Pep Guardiola's Premier League champion visits Anfield this

"We play against Man City, I don't think now it makes too much sense to think too much about how many goals we can score against them," Klopp said.

"We need a complex and complete



Big test: Klopp knows that Liverpool will not have it easy against Guardiola's Manchester City. • AFP

against them to have a chance only and that's it.

"But I'm really looking forward to it. I'm looking forward to playing at home again after a while.

'We have two days more (than the three Liverpool had between Brentford and Porto) to the City game, which will be helpful, and then we will be fresh again and then give it a go." But Liverpool is on an 18-

match unbeaten run and Brazil midfielder Fabinho believes the win over Porto was just the confidence boost it needed before fac ing City.

"A performance like this just gives us more confidence for the future," Fabin-

RAKESH RAO

knockout format.

play format.

Each match will involve

seven pairs from two teams.

The event will follow the

four-ball-better-ball Match-

league is the list of illus-

trious mentors like Gaurav

Ghei, the first Indian to

qualify to the British Open

in 1997, four Arjuna Awar-

dees – Shiv Kapur, two-time

Indian Open winner Ali

Sher, Amit Luthra and Non-

ita Lall Qureshi – and Asian

Tour regulars Chiragh Ku-

Other mentors include

mar and Naman Dawar.

The high-point of the

League brings DGC's

### Full capacity for LaLiga games

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Spanish football stadiums can be at full capacity again starting this weekend, authorities said

Spain had only allowed 60% of seats to be filled at the start of the season but health officials said pandemic conditions have continued to improve across the country in recent weeks.

Local regions still have the final decision on how many fans will be allowed + in stadiums, and Catalonia will keep the restrictions at 60% for now, meaning there won't be immediate changes for matches hosted by Barcelona.

Defending league champion Atlético Madrid is expected to fill the Wanda Metropolitano Stadium for its match against Barcelona on Saturday. Authorities said they will reevaluate the health conditions in a month.

### IN BRIEF



Raducanu gets wild card into BNP Paribas Open

U.S. Open champion Emma Raducanu has received a wild card into the BNP Paribas Open next month

The 18-year-old Brit stunned

the tennis world earlier this month by becoming the first qualifier in the professional era to win a Grand Slam singles title. Raducanu made her WTA Tour debut in June and soon reached the fourth round at Wimbledon. AP



Ballon d'Or to be awarded in November

Football's prestigious Ballon d'Or will be awarded on November 29 in Paris, event organiser France Football magazine announced on Wednesday. The nominees for the awards, which include men's and women's player of the year, best young player and best goalkeeper, will be announced on October 8. Last year's event was cancelled because of the coronavirus pandemic. AFP

### Gorsa to train Indian shooters and coaches



Partnership: Petar Gorsa with Dr. Amit Bhalla of Manay Rachna Educational Institutions. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

KAMESH SRINIVASAN

World Championship silver medallist and Tokyo Olympics finalist, Petar Gorsa of Croatia, will train talented Indian shooters and groom the coaches, in collaboration with the Manav Rachna Educational Institutions

The 33-year-old, a versatile shooter in air rifle and 50-metre rifle events, has entered into an agreement with MREI to help Indian shooters emerge as Olympic champions.

"Petar was here for two days. He wanted to see our facilities. We have a shooting school in Noida and he visited that. Apart from training our shooters, he can also study here if he wants, as we have many interesting courses," said the vice-president of the Manav Rachna Institutions, Dr.

"We will scout talent which is immense in our country and bring them on a competitive platform" added Dr. Bhalla

As part of its drive to-

wards sporting excellence, Manav Rachna has, over the years, brought champions like three-time Olympic gold medallist Ralf Schumann of Germany, World champion Daniele Di Spigno of Italy, World and Olympic Champion Russell Mark of Australia, two-time Olympic me-Munkhbayar Dorjsuren of Germany, and London Games gold medal-

list Peter Wilson of Britain,

to guide the Indian talent.

## Lahiri all set for new season

Among his immediate goals is winning a PGA Tour title

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Indian golfer Anirban Lahiri is all set to open his 2021 campaign at the Country Club in Jackson with the Sanderson Farms Championship on Thursday, with a PGA Tour among his imme-

diate goals. In a last-gasp effort, Lahiri managed to make the Top-125 to qualify for the FedExCup and also keep his Tour card. Lahiri plays his first two rounds with Russell Knox and J J Spain.

Lahiri said, "I skipped last week (Fortinet Championship) and then came the Ryder Cup. Now leading up to next week (Sanderson) with all the preparations and time off I am hoping I can hit the ground running."

He added, "Yeah I mean I have lots of objectives, lots of targets in the coming season. I need to start checking off my list of things that I need to achieve that have kind of got piled up now over the last few years so time to get some of those things checked off the list."

One of his immediate goals is winning his first PGA Tour title despite having been on it since 2015. He has even been runner-up and, in the just-concluded season, he was T-3 at Barbasol. So, he just needs to get that final step done. Lahiri has checked in for

the first two events - San-



Positive swing: Lahiri hopes that he can hit the ground running leading up to the upcoming events. • FILE РНОТО

Hospital. He is unlikely to get into the limited field event, the CJ Cup and Zozo Championship, but will surely play as many events early in the season to get set when 2022

Lahiri has admitted that keeping his card was at the back of his mind even as he prepared for the Olympics after finishing T-3 at the Barbasol Championship.

### **Element of risk**

With the Tour still having a tournament after the Olympics and Lahiri missing an event due to the Olympics, there was always an element of risk, but the Indian survived.

"Sure keeping the card is a goal for every player," said Lahiri, who had come through the Korn Ferry Tour final series route before the pandemic.

He said, "Frankly, there derson Farms and Shriners was a lot on my plate and I

### played from October 14 to A quality field of 18 franchisees - with 18 players each, a coach and a mentor

think I am quite pleased with the way I handled the pressure with covid situation, And you know how challenging it can be for not fully exempt players, not knowing till the week if you

"So, I am glad I was able to do that and I had to dig deep. I am proud of how I managed that." He also said, "I was totally spent every which way and all this happened within 3-4 months of having Covid."

are into the tournament or

country's leading coaches Leading the Asian chal-Amandeep Johl, Brandon lenger is Korea's K.H. Lee D'Souza, Jasjit Singh and who takes his bow in the Ajai Gupta, professionals PGA TOUR's 2021-22 season from the Ladies Tour Meher at this week's Sanderson Atwal and Ayesha Kapur be-Farms Championship with sides leading amateur Gauri three clear goals in his mind Monga. Each team owner secure a second TOUR vicpaid ₹5 lakh to the DGC in tory, break into the world's an event that does not offer any prize-money. top-50 and qualify for the International Team to compete in the 2022 Presidents

Cup against the USA.

Sharing the details at a press conference on Wednesday, chairman of the



Ghei. THE HINDU ARCHIVES

Tournament Committee Balbir Singh Sandhu said, "The upper limit for handicap is 24 for male golfers and 30 for ladies. From a total of 324 players, 38 players have handicaps of five or under while 105 have single-digit handicaps. Overall, 71 percent of the golfers have handicaps of under 18.

"For the purpose of scoring, 75 percent of the original handicap will be considered. Each team should have a lady golfer and a golfer over the age of 70. Each team can have a maximum of one golfer from the under-20 category.'

Ghei, the best known player from the DGC, said, "This provides a great opportunity for the members and mentors, across teams, not only to test their preparedness on the course but also exchange quality knowledge in a very healthy environment."