



BJP loses to Congress in bypoll in Ladakh Hill Development Council
page 7



Pressure mounts on Russian President amid setbacks in Ukraine
page 10



Finance Ministry links high imports to 'bright growth prospects'
page 14

Women in Blue look to make amends in ODI series against England
page 16

PRINTED AT - CHENNAI - COIMBATORE - BENGALURU - HYDERABAD - MADURAI - NOIDA - VISAKHAPATNAM - THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - KOCHI - VIJAYAWADA - MANGALURU - TIRUCHIRAPPALLI - KOLKATA - HUBBALLI - MOHALI - MALAPPURAM - MUMBAI - TIRUPATI - LUCKNOW - CUTTACK - PATNA

IN BRIEF



FIR against Yediyurappa, Vijayendra in graft case

BENGALURU
The Lokayukta police have registered an FIR against former Karnataka CM B.S. Yediyurappa, his son and BJP State vice-president B.Y. Vijayendra and three other members of his family in a case of alleged corruption.

STATES ▶ PAGE 6

Gujarat is no Pakistan, says Devendra Fadnavis

MUMBAI
Amid political controversy over Maharashtra losing the \$20 billion Vedanta-Foxconn semiconductor project to Gujarat, Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said "Gujarat is no Pakistan, it is our brother".

STATES ▶ PAGE 3

'ACB planting fake news against Amanatullah'

NEW DELHI
AAP on Saturday said the ACB found nothing at its MLA Amanatullah Khan's house but was spreading lies to malign the party. It said Mr. Khan's arrest was part of the "BJP's conspiracy" to poach AAP legislators and topple the Delhi government.

CITY ▶ PAGE 2

MAGAZINE ▶ 8 PAGES

CLASSIFIEDS ▶ PAGE 4

Cheetahs from Namibia get a new home in India

PM releases three at National Park in Madhya Pradesh

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a coalition of cheetahs into the Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh on Saturday.

Eight animals – including five females – were flown from Windhoek, Namibia, to Gwalior, followed by a helicopter ride to the grasslands of Kuno Palpur. Mr. Modi released three of them.

The cheetahs will be released in specially designed enclosures where they will live for a month and begin a lifetime of acclimatisation to Indian prey and forest conditions.

Mr. Modi, in a televised address, said it could be "months" before ordinary citizens could visit Kuno to spot the animals. "They have now come as guests and it will take some time before they get used to living in India," he said.

He remarked that though cheetahs had become extinct in India in 1952, no meaningful effort was made to rehabilitate them for the past seven decades.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 7

MORE REPORTS ▶ PAGE 8



Checking in: Prime Minister Narendra Modi after releasing a cheetah at the Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh on Saturday. Each animal has a dedicated tracking team • PTI

Joymala's case flags gaps in private ownership norms for elephants

Six States have 96% of captive elephants without ownership certificates

ROHAN PREMKUMAR
UDHAGAMANDALAM

The ongoing dispute between the governments of Tamil Nadu and Assam over the alleged mistreatment of a temple elephant named Joymala, has brought into focus the prevailing lacunae in enforcing norms on private ownership of elephants in India.

Joymala, who was leased by Assam to Tamil Nadu, is



Jumbo issue: The temple elephant Joymala in Sivillipettai, Virudhunagar district. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

in the news after animal rights organisations alleged that the elephant was being mistreated. Legal battles are under way at the High Courts of Madras and Gauhati, with both States making contrasting claims.

While Tamil Nadu is one of the States to have strict controls governing the private ownership of elephants, the lack of law en-

forcement in certain other States has led to a thriving "black market" in which elephants are captured illegally and trafficked to different places, allege activists and conservationists.

A response in 2020 from the Project Elephant Division of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) to an application filed under

the Right to Information (RTI) Act showed that the ownership of at least one out of every four elephants held by private individuals was not supported by the relevant documentation. The Ministry has clarified that it's illegal to hold elephants in captivity without ownership certificates.

While Tamil Nadu reportedly has only one ele-

phant without an ownership certificate, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Assam, Tripura and Madhya Pradesh account for 96% of elephants in captivity without ownership certificates. "As per the RTI Act response, 694 out of 723 elephants in India that are privately owned and without documentation are in these States," Antony Rubin, an animal welfare activist, said.

Activists allege that many elephants without documents have been captured in Assam, Tripura and other northeastern States. They are sold at elephant markets, from where they are sent illegally to other States. Arunachal Pradesh, which has 109 elephants in captivity, has not released any data on whether these elephants have ownership certificates.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 7

Start-up to take movies to Kashmir

Chennai-based Jadoo to open mini theatres in Pulwama, Shopian today

SANGEETHA KANDAVEL
CHENNAI

After over 30 years, culture and cinema are all set to receive a big push in Kashmir Valley thanks to Chennai-based entertainment start-up Jadoo. The company is opening two mini theatres in Pulwama and Shopian on Sunday.

Lieutenant-Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha will be viewing the screens.

"During the 1980s and early 1990s, theatres in the Valley had to pull down their screens due to rise in militancy. People in this region had to travel four to six hours to watch a film," Rahul Nehra, founder and managing director of Jadoo, told *The Hindu*.

"J&K had some of the most beautiful theatres three decades ago. After that, the audience was there but the cinema went missing. So, with the help of the government we decided to set up operations here," he said. It took 15 days to set up the screens and get the facilities ready, he said.

25 more theatres soon

In the coming months, the start-up will set up theatres at Adam-pur, Kathua and Bhaderwah. Currently, the start-up has 20 screens up and running across the country and it will be adding 50 more in the coming months. "Of this, 25 will come up in J&K alone," Mr. Nehra said. "At Bhaderwah, we

will be operating from an old theatre that was shut down in the 80s. This is a 120-seater theatre. We are working on it," he said.

The start-up invests anywhere between ₹50 lakh and ₹1 crore to set up each of these centres depending on the location. It has earmarked around ₹25 crore for the upcoming theatres.

Founded in 2018 by actor, classical dancer and Padma Shri awardee Shobhana and Mr. Nehra, who is a technocrat with a degree from NIT-Trichy, the start-up owns and operates entertainment zones that consist of a 30-50 seater cinema hall, virtual reality zones, interactive education zones and cafes.

HAPPYEST HEALTH
Better Knowledge. Better Health.

TROUBLE SLEEPING? IT COULD BE MELATONIN DEFICIENCY

Scan to read

www.happiesthealth.com

IAS SETU™
DREAM BELIEVE ACHIEVE

011-46019699
08826619699
www.iassetu.com

LIVE ONLINE

GS FOUNDATION BATCH 2023

Inaugural Price 2499/- COUPON CODE HINDU25

For First 25 Students

Starts: 1st October

250 Live Classes

Prelims paper 1

GS paper 1, 2, 3 and 4

Access for Recorded Lectures Till Mains 2023

First 25 Students ₹ 2499/-

Next 10 Students ₹ 2999/-

Next 10 Students ₹ 3999/-

Next 10 Students ₹ 4999/-

Next Students ₹ 39000/-

Scan QR Code to Download our Android App

CSAT On Latest Pattern

FOUNDATION BATCH-04 Starts 21st SEPT Online: 8 Seats Left by AMIT GARG

Office: 26/26, Near Aggarwal Sweets, Old Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi-110060

China blocks listing of Lashkar 'commander' Sajid Mir at UNSC

This is Beijing's third attempt in three months

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

For the third time in three months, China blocked a joint India-U.S. attempt to put a Pakistan-based terrorist on the UN Security Council's 1267 list, placing a hold on the proposal to add Lashkar-e-Taiba 'commander' Sajid Mir, who is wanted for the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, as well as attacks in the U.S. and Denmark.

Mir is presently lodged in a Pakistani jail after being convicted of terror financing at a hurried trial earlier this year.

The move on Thursday in

Spreading terror

Who is Lashkar-e-Taiba 'commander' Sajid Mir?

- Mir is one of India's most wanted terrorists and has a bounty of \$5 million placed on his head by the U.S. for his role in the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks
- He is wanted for the attack on a Danish newspaper over blasphemous cartoons
- He was involved in attacks on Australian military installations
- He is wanted in the "Virginia Paintball Jihad" case that involved training LeT operatives at a paintball facility in the U.S.
- Mir recruited and trained the attackers, including Ajmal Kasab, and directed the killings

New York came even as Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping attended the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Samarkand, where the Eurasian grouping had agreed to take strong and consolidated action against terrorism in the region.

India has in the past criticised China for its "double standards" and for being "two-faced" on the issue of terrorism for consistently stopping the listing of Pakistani-based terrorists on the UNSC 1267 list, despite the fact that the groups they be-

long to were listed decades ago.

Stance at Samarkand

At the SCO meeting on Friday, President Xi had, in his address, spoken about the need for concerted action on terrorism by the eight members of the grouping. The SCO grouping comprises India, Pakistan, China, Russia and four Central Asian states.

Briefing the media, Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra had said that Mr. Modi had also raised the issue during the restricted meetings with the leaders in Samarkand and agreed to a new "unified list" of terrorists, separatists and extremist organisations.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 7

Joblessness below pre-COVID levels: FinMin

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India's inflation, the Ministry said, is "in control" and expected to moderate in coming months from the 7% mark in August as global supply constraints ease.

However, upside risks remain as producers will likely

दिल्ली सरकार
आप की सरकार



Dengue Par Vaar Dilli Hai Taiyar

**Dengue testing and treatment facilities
are available free of cost in Delhi Govt. hospitals**

Dengue spreads rapidly during the monsoon months. However, one must avoid panic and take measures to prevent it from spreading further:-

| REMEMBER: | | |
|--|---|--|
| Don't allow water stagnation inside your home, in flower vases and anywhere in the surroundings. | Empty the water cooler every week or add a little oil/petrol. | Always cover the water tank with a lid, properly. |
| Don't throw broken utensils, bottles, tins, tyres, coconut shell or disposables in the open. | Wear full sleeves and use mosquito repellents. | Use bed net at home and hospital during fever regularly. |

Delhi Govt. is prepared to take care of your family's health.

Lokayukta police register FIR against Yediyurappa, Vijayendra

Case pertains to corruption in Bengaluru Development Authority housing contract

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The Lokayukta police have registered an FIR against former Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, his son and BJP State vice-president B.Y. Vijayendra and three other members of his family in a case of alleged corruption to award a Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA) contract when he was the Chief Minister.

Cooperation Minister S.T. Somashekar, who was the BDA Chairman, and IAS officer G.C. Prakash, who was its Commissioner in 2019 when the alleged offence occurred, are also accused in the case booked under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

This is the first FIR against Mr. Yediyurappa on the al-



B.S. Yediyurappa, and, right, B.Y. Vijayendra ■ FILE PHOTO



leged corruption that pertains to his tenure from 2019 to 2021. This is also the first FIR against Mr. Vijayendra, who has been aspiring for a larger role in the run-up to the 2023 Assembly polls. This period had seen several allegations levelled against the father-son duo and was said to be one of the reasons for Mr. Yediyurappa being

asked to step down.

Sting operation

Details of the case had first come out as a sting operation aired on a private channel in 2020. The FIR states that Dr. Prakash demanded a bribe of ₹12 crore on behalf of Mr. Yediyurappa for a ₹666.22-crore BDA group housing contract from Chan-

drakanth Ramalingam, who had allegedly got the contract at the insistence of Mr. Somashekar. Mr. Ramalingam allegedly paid ₹12 crore to Dr. Prakash, but a conversation in which he is heard saying the money had not reached Mr. Vijayendra had been aired on television.

Alleged WhatsApp conversations between Mr. Yediyurappa's grandson Shashidhar Maradi and Mr. Ramalingam about payment of another ₹12.5 crore as bribe, to ensure pending bills of his firm were cleared, and alleged bank transactions showing laundering of this money by Mr. Yediyurappa's family members through a set of seven shell companies are also part of the complaint, the FIR said.

Kerala Governor ups the ante against government

'CM failed to brief matters of State'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Governor Arif Mohammed Khan has appeared to have upped the ante in the evidently bitter dispute with the Kerala government.

Speaking to journalists in Kochi on Saturday, Mr. Khan seemed to draw the curtain back on the Raj Bhavan's increasingly fraught relationship with the government. His words also arguably signalled a personal falling out with Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

Mr. Khan alleged that Mr. Vijayan had forsaken the

Chief Minister's duty to brief the Governor on matters of the State. Mr. Vijayan rarely returned calls or replied to his letters. The government had used "every trick in the box" to intimidate the Governor and make him fear for his physical safety.

Mr. Khan's seemingly indignant riposte to Mr. Vijayan's damning indictment of the Governor's "anti-government posturing" seemed to shed light on what appeared to be growing mistrust between the administration and Raj Bhavan.

Vote bank politics in not celebrating Liberation Day: Amit Shah

'Once Prime Minister decided to celebrate, everyone followed suit'

THE HINDU BUREAU
HYDERABAD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi took the 'momentous' decision to celebrate the 'Hyderabad Liberation Day' officially which "unfortunately no other government dared to do so in the last 75 years because of vote bank politics," claimed Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday.

"I am happy and not at all surprised that once Mr. Modi decided to celebrate the liberation day, everyone has followed suit. But they do not want to call it 'liberation day' as they are still fearful in their

hearts. I am asking them to throw the fear out as the Razakars cannot make decisions for the country anymore," he said at a public meeting at the Parade Grounds.

The Home Minister earlier laid a wreath at the Martyrs War Memorial, hoisted the national flag, paid floral tributes to Sardar Patel statue, and took the salute to the parade of contingents of paramilitary forces of CISF, CRPF, and RAF. "I wish to congratulate Mr. Modi for having understood the wishes of the people of the region and decided to celebrate the libera-

10% quota for STs from next week: KCR

CM unveils plan at 'National Integration Day' in Telangana

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

The Telangana government will start implementing 10% reservation to Scheduled Tribes (STs) in the State from next week by issuing necessary orders, whether or not Centre gives its nod for it, Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao announced at the Telangana Adivasi-Girija Atmagourava Sabha organised as part of the National Integration Day celebrations here on Saturday. He also made another major announcement stating that the government would also implement Girija Bandhu, on the lines of Dalit Bandhu scheme, by giving ₹10 lakh each to ST families not having any landholding or any livelihood activity.

However, it would be taken



Lambada tribe women performing dance during 'Liberation Day' celebrations in Secunderabad on Saturday. ■ NAGARA GOPAL

up only after the completion of giving podu land pattas to tribal communities.

Mr. Rao said village level committees were tasked with identifying lands eligible for podu pattas in tune with GO-140 guidelines and once the pattas were distributed the tribal concerned would also be extended the investment support under the Rythu Bandhu scheme.

The State Assembly had adopted a resolution requesting the Centre to in-

crease the ST reservation in Telangana from 6% to 10% over seven years ago but the Centre was unmoved.

In tune with the long-pending demand of the tribal communities, particularly lambadas, for *maava nate, maava raj* (our place, our rule) the State Government had upgraded over 3,000 gudemams and thandas as gram panchayats allowing the local communities handle the administration by becoming sarpanches.

The Chief Minister said the government was also giving 5% quota for STs in all licensed trade activities and recently ₹300 crore was sanctioned for supplying 3-phase power to all tribal habitations.

erabid is integrated into the Union, we cannot have a united country, and the dream of Mahatma Gandhi to have a free country would not have happened," he observed.

The Home Minister accused the Nizam regime of resorting to many discriminatory practices and rules to quash the local people's lives, language, employment, land rights, aspirations, and culture.

"There are many unknown martyrs and their stories should be taken to every nook and corner of the country," he said. Mr. Shah also recalled the massacres at Parbhani and Gundrampally - touted as south's Jallianwala Bagh.



only betraying the martyrs who sacrificed their lives in the fight against the Nizam and his militia army."

In an oblique reference to the Telangana Rastra Samiti (TRS) government, he charged that those in power may have decided to ignore the 'liberation day' but the people should not forget the valiant struggle and sacrifices made by erstwhile freedom fighters.

Paying glowing tributes to Sardar Patel repeatedly, he said "without him, it would have taken several years to liberate Hyderabad from the Nizam and Razakars. 'Operation Polo' was taken by 'Iron Man' Sardar Patel after he had realised that unless Hy-

| PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER NATIONAL HIGHWAYS, BLOCK-D, NIRMAN BHAWAN, NIGAM VIHAR, SHIMLA-171002 | | | | | | |
|---|--------|--------------------|--|----------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Notice Inviting Bid | | | | | | |
| Bid No. PW-CE-NH-CTR-Tender Notice/EPC-47/2022-2740-48 Dated :16-09-2022 | | | | | | |
| RFP for "Strengthening of Pavement Including Improvement of Road Safety Work (Construction of Retaining Wall, Breast Wall, Thrie Beam Crash Barriers, Road Side Drains, Slab Culverts, Solid Cause Way etc.) in Km 286/00 to 329/00 on NH-05 in the State of Himachal Pradesh on EPC Mode." [Tender No. EPC-47/2022]. | | | | | | |
| The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways through Chief Engineer NH HPPWD Shimla is engaged in the development of National Highways and as part of this Endeavour, it has been decided to undertake "Strengthening of Pavement Including Improvement of Road Safety Work (Construction of Retaining Wall, Breast Wall, Thrie Beam Crash Barriers, Road Side Drains, Slab Culverts, Solid Cause Way etc.) in Km 286/00 to 329/00 on NH-05 in the State of Himachal Pradesh on EPC Mode" through an Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) Contract. | | | | | | |
| Himachal Pradesh invites bids from eligible contractors for the following project: | | | | | | |
| State | NH No. | Tender Package No. | Name of work | Estimated Civil Cost Of Project* | Completion period | Maintenance period |
| Himachal Pradesh | NH-05 | EPC-47 | Strengthening of Pavement Including Improvement of Road Safety Work (Construction of Retaining Wall, Breast Wall, Thrie Beam Crash Barriers, Road Side Drains, Slab Culverts, Solid Cause Way etc.) in Km 286/00 to 329/00 on NH-05 in the State of Himachal Pradesh on EPC Mode | Rs.80.65 Crores* | 12 Months | 5 years |

NOTE: 1. The Estimated Project Cost is the Civil Cost of the work without GST and is used only for Evaluation Purpose. The bid should be quoted as per BoQ inclusive of GST.

The complete BID document can be viewed / downloaded from official portal of e-procurement portal of MoRTH & (<https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app>) from 16-09-2022 (1800 Hrs. IST) to 31-10-2022 (upto 1100 Hrs IST). Bidder must submit its Technical bid & Financial bid at ([https://bims.gov.in/eprocure/app](https://bims.gov.in/)) and also Technical Bid at (<https://bims.gov.in/>) before 31-10-2022 (upto 1100 Hours IST). It is mandatory to submit the Technical Bids on (<https://bims.gov.in/>) also. Bids received online shall be opened on 01-11-2022 (at 1100 Hours IST). Any document not uploaded on e-procurement portal shall not be considered.

Bid through any other mode shall not be entertained. However, a BID Security of ₹1,612 Crore (One Crore Sixty One Lacs and Thirty Thousands Only) shall be transmitted through SFMS Gateway to "Executive Engineer, National Highways, Rampur", document fee receipt deposited through Bharatkosh / NTRP only, Power of Attorney and Joint Bidding Agreement etc. shall be submitted physically by the Bidder on or before 01-11-2022 (at 1100 Hours IST). Please note that the Chief Engineer, NH, HPPWD, Shimla-2 reserves the right to accept or reject all or any of the BIDs without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Officer In-charge

For and on Behalf of Governor of HP
Chief Engineer,
National Highway, Nirman Bhawan
HPPWD, Shimla-171002

Phone/Fax 0177-2629416

e-mail: ce-nh-hp@nic.in

HP / 4181/22-23

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (NH)
HP.PWD. Shimla-2.

| CITY UNION BANK LIMITED | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Credit Recovery and Management Department | | | | | | |
| Administrative Office : No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumkambam - 612 001. E-Mail id: crmdm@cityunionbank.in, Phone: 0435-2432322, Fax: 0435-2431746 | | | | | | |
| TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002 | | | | | | |
| The following properties mortgaged to City Union Bank Limited will be sold in Tender-cum-Public Auction by the Authorised Officer of the Bank, under Rule 8(6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, under the SARFAESI Act, 2002, for recovery of a sum of Rs.1,36,83,036/- (Rupees One Crore Thirty Six Lakh Eighty Three Thousand and Thirty Six Only) on 07-09-2022 together with further interest to be charged from 08-09-2022 onwards and other expenses, any due to the Bank by the borrowers / guarantors No.1 M/s. Hindustan Steel Co., No.3/G/179, Near Masjid Chowk, NIT, Faridabad, Haryana - 121001. Also at: M/s. Hindustan Steel Co., Plot No.4/B, Bajri Industrial Area, Patl Bhakti Road, Faridabad - 121005. No.2) Mr. Abhishek Yadav, S/o. Mr. Satbir Singh Yadav, House No.1334, Sector - 08, Faridabad, Haryana - 121006. No.3) Mr. Satbir Singh Yadav, S/o. Mr. Surjan Singh Yadav, House No.1334, Sector - 08, Faridabad, Haryana - 121006. No.4) Mrs. Nidhi Yadav, W/o. Mr. Abhishek Yadav, House No.1334, Sector - 08, Faridabad, Haryana - 121006. | | | | | | |
| Note: That our 11 - Faridabad Branch has also extended Financial Assistance (CREDIT CARD AGAINST LOAN: 5121200200795) dated 25-04-2018 requested by No.1 of you represented by No.2 of you as Proprietor for the facility for a Total Amount of Rs.1,00,000/- The balance outstanding as on 07-09-2022 is Rs.56,675/-. | | | | | | |
| Immovable Property Mortgaged to our Bank (Property Owned by Mr. Satbir Singh Yadav, S/o. Mr. Surjan Singh Yadav) | | | | | | |
| House No.1334, measuring 156.66 Sq.Yards situated at Sector - 8, Faridabad and is bounded as under: North - Road, South - House No.1324, East - House No.1336, West - House No.1322. | | | | | | |
| Reserve Price : Rs.1,10,00,000/- (Rupees One Crore Ten Lakh only) | | | | | | |
| AUCTION DETAILS | | | | | | |
| Date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale | | | | | | |
| 28-10-2022 | | | | | | |
| City Union Bank Limited, Faridabad Branch, E5/10, BP Railway Road, Near Neelam Bata Chowk, Faridabad, Haryana - 121001. | | | | | | |
| Telephone No.0129-2421708, Cell No.9354776693. | | | | | | |
| Terms and Conditions of Tender-cum-Auction Sale: | | | | | | |
| (1) The intending bidders should be present in person for the auction and participate personally and give a declaration in writing to the effect that he/she is bidding for himself / herself. (2) The intending bidders should submit their bids only in the Tender Form prescribed in sealed envelopes addressed to The Authorised Officer, City Union Bank Ltd., together with a Pay Order / Demand Draft for | | | | | | |

FROM PAGE ONE

China blocks listing of Lashkar 'commander'

"I must mention that each of the SCO member state was very, very clear in recognising the threat that this challenge poses to our region and through across the membership of the SCO," Mr. Kwatra said.

Mir's case has been particularly egregious as despite him being on India's UAPA most wanted list, and the U.S. FBI's most wanted list, he has not been placed on the UNSC's list yet.

In the 26/11 attacks trial, Mir was identified as having recruited and trained the attackers, including Ajmal Kasab, sending David Headley to Mumbai to carry out reconnaissance operations, and directing the killings during the three-day siege of Mumbai, particularly at

Chabad House.

As *The Hindu* had reported in June, the discrepancy had been pointed out as pressure mounted on Pakistan to crack down further on terror groups in order to allow a reprieve from the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), which pursues actions against UNSC 1267-listed terrorists worldwide.

Mir is also wanted for his involvement in the attack on a Danish newspaper over blasphemous cartoons.

According to officials, the U.S. had made the proposal, co-sponsored by India, at the beginning of September, just as they had proposed to list Let deputy chief Abdur Rahman Makki in June, and Jaish-e-Mohammad deputy chief Rauf Asghar.

Cheetahs from Namibia get a new home in India

The introduction of the cheetah in India is being done under Project Cheetah. According to the Environment Ministry, this is the first time a large carnivorous species has been moved across continents for establishing a new population.

The released cheetahs are radio-collared and their movements will be tracked. Each animal has its dedicated tracking team. There is also a team of wildlife scientists, biologists and Laurie Marker, a renowned zoologist and founder of the Cheetah Conservation Fund, which has worked on restoring the species in Africa. The process to bring cheetahs into India spans several decades, including an ingenious proposal in

2005 by the CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad, to clone an Asiatic cheetah. This came to naught after Iran refused to share an animal.

In 2010, the Environment Ministry put together a plan recommending locations in India suitable for the cheetah and for sourcing cheetahs from Africa. This, however, brought legal problems as conservationists challenged estimates by the Wildlife Institute of India of the suitability of Indian sanctuaries for the animal. Kuno Palpur was originally intended as a second home for the Asiatic lions in Gir but the Gujarat government has opposed despite a Supreme Court order directing the transfer.

Congress wins bypoll in Ladakh Hill Council

Joblessness below pre-COVID levels: FM

"This fall can be attributed to a pick-up in agricultural and non-agricultural activities coupled with the end of reverse migration resulting from increased employment opportunities in industrial and urban areas," the review suggested.

As per the *Periodic Labour Force Survey*, the unemployment rate in urban areas shrank for the fourth consecutive quarter to 7.6% in the April to June quarter, lower than the corresponding pre-pandemic level, the review pointed out.

Employment growth has continued in July and August as well, the Ministry said, citing the S&P Global Purchasing Managers Indices for the Manufacturing and Services sectors and a

private job portal's data.

"The unemployment rate is now below pre-pandemic levels as measures taken earlier and later during the pandemic period are coming to fruition," it reasoned.

Arguing that the surge in private consumption in Q1 may not be driven just by pent-up demand and free mobility but may also "be a reflection of increasing effectiveness of income support and targeted subsidies provided by the government, creation of jobs from elevated levels of public sector capex, and general rise in employment levels".

"The relatively bright outlook is also mirrored in the country's relatively strong position in the external sector," the Ministry stressed.

Jyomala's case flags gaps in ownership norms

Data also shows that Assam is home to the highest number of elephants without any ownership certificates, with 335 out of 905 captive elephants not having any documents to prove ownership. Mr. Rubin said it was illegal to buy or sell elephants in India. Rules only allow for elephants to be exchanged or donated to temples or between private individuals. However, without an ownership certificate, the keeping of any elephant in captivity by a private individual is illegal, as per the new amendments to the Wildlife Prevention Act.

"It's a smuggling ring," prominent animal rights activist and former Union Minister Maneka Gandhi told *The Hindu*. Ms. Gandhi said elephants were illegally captured in the Northeastern States and trafficked to different parts of the country. "They are either sent to temples or used for begging, and when State Forest Departments try to act against

the smugglers, they cross State borders and escape action," she said.

'Elephant' G. Rajendran, an advocate and activist, said that in many cases, one ownership certificate is used multiple times for different animals when they are transported within the country. "All elephants look the same to any normal person. So one ownership certificate is used for different animals, and unless there is proper monitoring and identification of each of the individual animals in captivity, it becomes extremely difficult to trace whether the animal was captured illegally and is being smuggled," Mr. Rajendran said.

Tamil Nadu Additional Chief Secretary (Environment, Climate Change and Forests), Supriya Saha, said the State government was again enumerating the number of elephants in private custody, and checking whether they all had ownership certificates.

Jaishankar to hold talks with Blinken

The Minister is likely to take up \$450-mn U.S. package to Pakistan for modernisation of F-16s

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI



Bilateral ties: U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken with S. Jaishankar (right) in Phnom Penh on August 4. ■ AFP

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will visit Washington DC from September 25 to 28 to hold talks with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, the Ministry of External Affairs announced on Saturday. The interaction between the two will take place after the High Level Week at the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), where Mr. Jaishankar will lead the Indian delegation from September 18 to 24.

The visit to Washington DC will provide India an opportunity to take up the latest announcement from the U.S. of \$450-million package that would be used to mo-

derise the F-16 fighter jet fleet of Pakistan. Senior Indian officials have already conveyed India's displeasure

on the matter but a high-level conversation on the issue is awaited. The interaction will be part of India's contin-

uous engagement of major dialogue partners around difficult issues like energy security against the backdrop of the Ukraine crisis and tension in Taiwan.

As part of India's campaign for reform of the UN Security Council, the Minister will be hosting a meeting in New York with his G4 counterparts from Brazil, Japan and Germany. The G4 partners have been championing the expansion of the UNSC by increasing the number of seats from 15 to 25.

Mr. Jaishankar will also attend the High Level Meeting of the L.69 Group on "Reinvigorating Multilateralism and Achieving Comprehensive Reform of the UN Security Council." The group con-

sists of developing countries from Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean and Small Island Developing States that are focused on the reform of the UNSC.

On September 24, Mr. Jaishankar will address an event – "India@75: Showcasing India UN Partnership in Action", which will highlight India's contribution in the field of South-South Cooperation.

He will represent India at ministerials of the Quad, IBSA (India-Brazil-South Africa), BRICS, CELAC (Community of Latin American and Caribbean States) and CARICOM (Caribbean Community).

Mr. Jaishankar will address the UNGA on September 24.

IN BRIEF



Kedarnath priests oppose gold plating move

DEHRADUN

A section of priests in Kedarnath have opposed the gold plating of the walls inside the sanctum sanctorum of Kedarnath temple. The protesting seers said that the facade of the ancient temple is against tradition and will disturb the structure that survived centuries of harsh weather and several disasters. The anonymous donor had agreed to afford all the renovation cost that would be incurred in the process.

Murmu leaves for London to attend Queen's funeral

NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu left for London on Saturday to attend the state funeral of Queen Elizabeth II and to offer condolences on behalf of the Indian government. Queen Elizabeth II, who died aged 96 at Balmoral Castle in Scotland on September 8, will be laid to rest at Westminster Abbey on September 19.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar had visited the British High Commission on September 12 to convey the condolences. ■ PTI

Bomb blast in Bengal school triggers panic

KOLKATA

A crude bomb explosion rocked a school building in the West Bengal's North 24 Paraganas on Saturday triggering panic among the students and teachers. Bombs were allegedly thrown on the roof of the institution at about 11.45 a.m. when classes were under way at Titagarh High school. Senior police officials reached the school and started a probe into the incident.

Article 370 dilution leaves scar on J&K people's psyche'

CPI(M) will make efforts to restore our rights, says Tarigami

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR



M.Y. Tarigami

also spokesman of the Guptar alliance, said.

The CPI(M) held a street protest in Srinagar on Saturday. Holding placards in their hands, the supporters shouted slogans against the anti-people and repressive

policies of the BJP government.

"The BJP government has taken repressive measures to contain the dissent. Hundreds of people including political, religious and social activists were booked under various draconian laws and shifted to jails outside J&K. We demand an immediate review of the cases of all those who are under detention to facilitate their release," he said.

Mr. Tarigami also questioned the government over its claims of job creation, investments and other promises in the region following the abrogation of Article 370.

Over 87,000 people donated blood: govt.

6,136 camps set up across India

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI



With more than 87,000 (87,137) people voluntarily donating blood in a single day (as per provisional reports till 7.40 p.m. on Saturday), the country has surpassed the previous best of 87,059 (2014) to create a new world record on Saturday.

As many as 6,136 camps and over 1.95 lakh blood donors were registered (so far) on E-Rakt Kosh portal for the mega drive – another aspect of this nationwide effort, the Health Ministry mentioned in its release.

Raktaan Amrit Mahotsav was started by Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, who on Saturday donated blood at a camp set up at Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi.

On Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 72nd birthday, the Union Health Ministry started a mega drive for voluntary blood donation from September 17 to October 1, which is National Voluntary Blood Donation Day.

Mansukh Mandaviya donating blood in Delhi.

The Health Ministry has also launched the E-Rakt Kosh portal, where registration for donors began on September 17.

The Arogya Setu app is another platform available for registration.

"I have done my bit for humanity. The gift of blood is a gift to someone's life. Be a proud blood donor! Share your blood donation certificate and inspire others to join this noble cause of humanity," said the Minister in a tweet.

The Ministry will also be creating a database of donors through this exercise.

3 militants arrested, say J&K police

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Three local militants, who were allegedly behind the killing of a migrant labourer in north Kashmir's Bandipora in August, have been arrested, said the Jammu and Kashmir police on Saturday.

These militants were in touch with a Lashkar-e-Taiba handler in Pakistan, claimed the police.

"Three local militants, identified as Waseem Aram, Yawar Reayz and Muhammed Sheikh, all residents of Sadunara (Bandipora), were in touch with a LeT handler Baber, who is operating from Pakistan. Baber had instructed them to kill any non-local labourer to terrify them in order to leave the Valley and carry out more such strikes in future to revive the local militancy in Bandipora,"

Mohammed Zahid, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Bandipora, said.

On the intervening night of August 11-12, Amreza Masroori from Bihar, was shot dead by militants in Sadunara.

Talking about the delimitation of Lok Sabha seats, Mr. Tharoor said, "We need to reimagine federalism. There is a serious scope for

disenfranchisement of south as politically powerful north gains more seats in Parliament and south will see a loss of political power."

Taking off from the day's developments where there were two competing events to mark Hyderabad's integration with India, Mr. Rama Rao said, "74 years earlier, a Home Minister flew down to Hyderabad to unite and integrate Hyderabad into Indian Union. Now we have a Home Minister who flew down to divide and bully us. Wanting to dictate terms to us."

The myth about devolution of funds needed to be challenged legally as well,

Mr. Rama Rao added.

"Why do we need to have centrally sponsored schemes? The Centre can have control over policy, currency, trade, etc. Now, we have a situation where there are toilets without water connection. There are homes in Tamil Nadu where the people don't want the tap inside. They should have a choice. Why should the Centre dictate what and how the States do?" asked Mr. Thiagarajan. Making a case for a strong Centre, Mr. Rajendranath said, "Elected politicians know the best. If an MLA or an MP doesn't transgress into the domain of a sarpanch, we will be better off."



Sharing thoughts: Shashi Tharoor, MP, and Telangana Minister K.T. Rama Rao at a panel discussion. ■ G. RAMAKRISHNA

"As the Navy would now take over and start operationalising the aviation complex, we would be backing it up."

Essentially, most of the installation has been completed. "When the flights start coming in, various tuning happens. Whatever is needed the shipyard would be backing it up," he explained. "Certain other integrations would also be happening and that would also be done by the shipyard."

"We need 45-60 days to complete their installation and the ship needs to be brought into the dry dock," Mr. Nair elaborated on the timelines.

The ship also has a guarantee period which is typi-

cally one year but can go back or forth depending on the operational requirements of the Navy, Mr. Nair added.

Large parts of the aviation complex have been pro-

cured from Russia, another shipyard official said.

LR-SAM is a joint development by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) of Israel, and is manufactured by Bharat Dynamics Ltd. MF-STAR is manufactured by the IAI and is also in service on other frontline warships of the Indian Navy.

INS Vikrant, which was commissioned into the Navy on September 2, has undergone five sets of sea trials since August 2021, which both the shipyard and Navy officials said were extremely successful.

However, the aviation trials are to be carried out

ers, and unmanned aerial vehicles. The keel was laid in 2009 and was launched into water in 2013.

The ship uses an aircraft operation mode known as Short Take Off But Arrested Recovery (STOBAR) for which it is equipped with a ski-jump for launching aircraft, and a set of three 'arrestor wires' for their recovery onboard.

Initially, the carrier would be operating the existing MiG-29Ks in service, while a decision on the procurement of an advanced fighter, between the Boeing F/A-18 E/F Super Hornet and the Dassault Aviation Rafale, is expected in the next few months.

"As the Navy would now take over and start operationalising the aviation complex, we would be backing it up."

Essentially, most of the installation has been completed. "When the flights start coming in, various tuning happens. Whatever is needed the shipyard would be backing it up," he explained. "Certain other integrations would also be happening and that would also be done by the shipyard."

"We need 45-60 days to complete their installation and the ship needs to be brought into the dry dock," Mr. Nair elaborated on the timelines.

The ship also has a guarantee period which is typi-

cally one year but can go back or forth depending on the operational requirements of the Navy, Mr. Nair added.

Large parts of the aviation complex have been pro-

cured from Russia, another shipyard official said.

LR-SAM is a joint development by the Defence Research

Resolve problems gripping nation, Rahul tells Modi

The Congress leader was speaking at a meeting in Alappuzha

STAFF REPORTER

ALAPPUZHA

Taking potshots at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday said Mr. Modi was busy photographing cheetahs instead of resolving the problems gripping the country.

He was speaking at a public meeting as part of the Bharat Jodo Yatra at Haripad in Alappuzha.

'Absurd actions'

Terming Mr. Modi's actions absurd, the Congress leader said the people of the country were suffering due to unemployment and rising prices. "People of India are going through tremendous pain. At the same time, the Prime Minister has got eight cheetahs from Africa. The problems of the nation are unemployment and prices. But the Prime Minister is engaged in releasing cheetahs in the wild and busy photographing them. The Prime Minister should be spending his time resolving the unemployment crisis and prices issue," Mr. Gandhi said.

The Congress leader said he was happy that cheetahs were reintroduced in the country.

"I don't have any problem with cheetahs. They



Addressing unemployment: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Alappuzha on Saturday. ■ PTI

have done nothing wrong. But the Prime Minister should do something about millions and millions of youngsters who do not have a job. He should also do something about the pain the people of India are suffering due to rising prices," Mr. Gandhi said.

Unemployment

Mr. Gandhi said the youngsters in the country were committing suicide due to unemployment.

"Two-three big businessmen have captured all the wealth of the country. They enter, dominate and squeeze all others. They are able to do it because they remain close to the leader-

ship of the country. On one side there are two-three big business people and on the other side crores of people remain unemployed. They are left to suffer the indignity of the highest prices. Crores of countrymen have fallen back to poverty," he said, adding the Union government was attacking MSMEs, farmers and labourers.

Earlier in the morning, the yatra was given a rousing welcome on the district border at Krishnapuram.

Mr. Gandhi later interacted with youngsters on the issue of mounting unemployment and with students of Sabarmati Special School.

He said he headed the 'original' Sena.

village as the victims, the other five –Suhail, Hafizul Rehman, Junaid, Karimuddin and Arif – are from a neighbouring village.

The post-mortem examination, conducted late on September 14 at Lakhimpur Kheri District Hospital, revealed that the girls had faced sexual violence before being murdered.

They were abducted

"Give death sentence to the culprits," the mother of the girls said. She had filed the complaint on which the first information report (FIR) was registered by the police on

Will hold Dasara rally at Shrivirthi, says Uddhav

ABHINAY DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

Amid the ongoing controversy between the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena and the rival Eknath Shinde faction over the Shiv Sena's annual Dasara rally, Mr. Thackeray on Saturday asked the party functionaries to prepare themselves for the event at the traditional spot at Shriviji Park in Mumbai.

"We are going to hold the Dasara rally at Shriviji Park. Prepare yourself for the event," he told the Shiv Sainik at Shiv Sena Bhavan in Mumbai. As part of the preparations for the mega rally, the 62-year-old Thackeray will meet Sena functionaries on September 21 and discuss the plans.

Both the factions had filed applications with the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation seeking a nod to conduct the rally and the approval was still pending.

In an oblique reference to the party's rival and Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Mr. Thackeray said that attempts to weaken the Sena by engineering splits and defections were made in the past and had failed. "Even now it wouldn't succeed," he asserted.

He said he headed the 'original' Sena.

Wednesday. The content of the FIR, which was accessed by *The Hindu*, reads, "Three unknown boys came with Chotu, from our village to my house and started man-handling my daughters. When I opposed them one of them kicked me and forcibly took my daughters on the bike and fled. After searching for many hours, the bodies of my daughters were found hanging from a tree on a farm. The petitioner fully believes that the two teenage girls were raped before being murdered."

The FIR has been registered under Sections 302 (murder), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 452 (criminal house trespass), 376 (rape) of the Indian Penal Code, and Sections 3 and 4 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

CM's relief

The family was earlier reluctant to perform the last rites before their demands were fulfilled. Later on Thursday, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath instructed officials to provide compensation of ₹25 lakh, a house, and farming land to the family.

The elder brother of the

girls said: "We want death sentence for the six persons at the earliest and a bulldozer to raze their houses."

The younger girl was studying at a nearby college. When asked how the girls were helping the family, the brother, who works at a private factory in Delhi, said,

"Since my mother's uterus operation, both of them were taking care of the family and helping in whatever way possible."

After the incident, a few police personnel have been deployed by the district administration outside the house of the victim to main-

Jet that flew in cheetahs had earned its stripes

It was the flagship for an earlier conservation campaign

MURALI N. KRISHNASWAMY
CHENNAI

The Terra Avia Boeing 747-400 that flew in the eight African cheetahs from Windhoek, Namibia to Gwalior on Saturday was on a special mission, but the aircraft itself had been the flagship of another conservation campaign much earlier.

The jet's striking paint scheme – the image of a tiger – was planned in 2015 when the aircraft was with the Russian carrier Transaero Airlines, now defunct. The plane, first owned by Singapore Airlines in 2001, was acquired by an American bank in 2012. It was later leased to Transaero.

As part of the project, known as the 'Striped Flight', the visual was to run across parts of the fuselage, with the nose to sport the head of one of the world's largest big cats, the endangered Russian Amur tiger.

Putin's tiger project

In an email to *The Hindu*, Andrey Shorshin, Press Secretary of the Amur Tiger Center, said the special livery, "Caring for Tigers together", was unveiled on June 22, 2015, at Moscow's Vnukovo airport. The scheme, which was a joint project by the Tiger Center



The jet's paint scheme was planned in 2015 when it was with a Russian carrier. ■ PTI

and Transaero, had the goal of highlighting the need to conserve endangered species. In a survey conducted in 2015, the number of Amur tigers in the wild in Russia had been found to have stabilised between 510 and 540 individuals. Mr. Shorshin added that conservation of the Amur tiger was a key theme foregrounded by Russian President Vladimir Putin at the Tiger Summit in 2010.

Under the campaign, Transaero planned an extensive social media programme under the tag "Wildlife". Documentaries

produced by the Amur Tiger Center were also screened for passengers on the 'Striped Flight'.

In another email, Anton Tretiakov, CEO, Aquiline International Corporation Limited – one of the partners in the cheetah translocation project to India – said Aquiline International, which provides charter services and leasing of long-haul freighters, had been contacted by Action Aviation to undertake the India flight.

Modifying the jet

He said that after Transaero had folded up, the jumbo jet had been stored in Spain from 2015 to early 2022. It was moved to Sharjah for a complete maintenance check. The jetliner was then flown to Fujairah to remove the seats and made ready for the 'cheetah mission'.

On the preparations for the flight, the official said there were 13 veterinarians. The team began their work for the flight two weeks before their departure to Namibia. He said that as there were certain temperature and pressure limits required for the safe airfreighting of the wild animals from Namibia to India, the Boeing 747 was considered the best option for the operation.

'Cheetahs are a diversion tactic by govt.'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Congress called Prime Minister Narendra Modi's releasing the cheetahs in a Madhya Pradesh national park a "tamasha," aimed at diverting attention from important national issues such as unemployment and the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra'.

Congress communication chief Jairam Ramesh also recalled that it was the Congress-led UPA government that had first thought of the cheetah project.

"PM hardly ever acknowledges continuity in governance. Cheetah project going back to my visit to Capetown on 25.04.2010 is the latest example," Mr. Ramesh, who was the Environment and Forest minister, tweeted on Saturday.

While several Congress leaders including Rahul Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge and Shashi Tharoor wished the Prime Minister on his birthday, the Congress also used the occasion to target his government over unemployment and price rise.

"Eight cheetahs have come. Now tell us why 16 crore jobs have not come in the past eight years," tweeted Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, referring to the BJP's pre-2014 Lok Sabha election promise of providing two crore jobs every year.

Addressing a press conference, party spokesperson Supriya Shrinivas said, "It worries and pains me that Mr. Modi's birthday is being celebrated by the youth of this country as National Unemployment Day".

The Indian Youth Congress (IYC), led by B. V. Srinivas, organised 'Berojgari Mela' (unemployment fairs) across the country to mark Mr. Modi's birthday.

Kin of Lakhimpur victims demand death penalty for accused

Six persons have been arrested for the alleged rape and murder of two teenage Dalit sisters in this Uttar Pradesh district

MAYANK KUMAR
LAKHIMPUR KHERI

Lakhimpur Kheri district of Uttar Pradesh is once again in the news for the wrong reasons after the bodies of two teenage Dalit sisters were found hanging from a tree in a village in the Nighan police station limits on Wednesday. The family of the victims has now demanded capital punishment for the men accused of raping the girls before killing them.

Six persons have been arrested on charges of rape and murder. While Chotu Gautam hails from the same

village as the victims, the other five –Suhail, Hafizul Rehman, Junaid, Karimuddin and Arif – are from a neighbouring village.

The post-mortem examination, conducted late on September 14 at Lakhimpur Kheri District Hospital, revealed that the girls had faced sexual violence before being murdered.

They were abducted

"Give death sentence to the culprits," the mother of the girls said. She had filed the complaint on which the first information report (FIR) was registered by the police on

Wednesday. The content of the FIR, which was accessed by *The Hindu*, reads, "Three unknown boys came with Chotu, from our village to my house and started man-handling my daughters. When I opposed them one of them kicked me and forcibly took my daughters on the bike and fled. After searching for many hours, the bodies of my daughters were found hanging from a tree on a farm. The petitioner fully believes that the two teenage girls were raped before being murdered."

The FIR has been registered under Sections 302 (murder), 323 (voluntarily causing hurt), 452 (criminal house trespass), 376 (rape) of the Indian Penal Code, and Sections 3 and 4 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

CM's relief

The family was earlier reluctant to perform the last rites before their demands were fulfilled. Later on Thursday, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath instructed officials to provide compensation of ₹25 lakh, a house, and farming land to the family.

The elder brother of the

girls said: "We want death sentence for the six persons at the earliest and a bulldozer to raze their houses."

The younger girl was studying at a nearby college. When asked how the girls were helping the family, the brother, who works at a private factory in Delhi, said,

"Since my mother's uterus operation, both of them were taking care of the family and helping in whatever way possible."

After the incident, a few police personnel have been deployed by the district administration outside the house of the victim to main-

tain law and order.

There is a lot of anger among the villagers.

"What has happened is very disturbing, the culprits must be hanged. The family has lost everything," said Ramesh, a villager.

Opposition slams BJP

A number of political leaders, including a Congress delegation, visited the family on Friday. Local BJP legislator Shashank Verma also visited the grief-stricken family.

Former Chief Minister and Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav said: "Under

the BJP rule, caste oppression is forcing Dalit families to migrate. The truth is that the lives of innocents are completely unsafe under the BJP government and criminal elements are fearless.

The reality is that anarchy is rampant in Uttar Pradesh under the BJP rule."

Lakhimpur Kheri district, located roughly 140 km from the State capital of Lucknow, has been making headlines in the past few years due to the cases of crime against women. In August 2020, a case of rape and murder of minor girls aged three was reported from the district.

KERALA STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
Ernakulam - 682 024 Phone: 0477 5771
e-mail: kspcbelekm@gmail.com

E-TENDER NOTICE

Date: 14.09.2022
No.PCB/CL/RDS/PM_u_& PM_s_2022-23
E-Tenders are invited for the supply of Respirable Dust Sampler PM_u and Advanced PM Samplers.

TenderID: 2022_KSPCB_508003_1
Closing date: 28.09.2022 at 05.00 PM

Details available in the site
www.etenders.kerala.gov.in & www.keralapeb.nic.in

Sd/-
CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS, TIRUPATI BIRR'D TRUST HOSPITAL, TIRUPATI

e-TENDER NOTICE

BIRR'D Trust Hospital, LTD, Tirupati is inviting re-tenders from the eligible Manufacturers / Firms / Authorized Distributors for the Work "Rate Contract Supply of Orthopedic Trauma Implants on Consignment Case to Case Basis to BIRR'D Hospital for a period of Two Years", NIT ROC No. TTD-104021/31/55-2022- BIRR'D & Tender ID : 543621 in AP eProc. Portal. Date of upload: Tender - 19-09-2022 and closing date : 04-10-2022. For details log on to the website:<https://tender.approcurement.gov.in> & <http://www.tirumala.org>. Contact No. 8639885454

ROC No. PR4/13946/Adv. No.219/ PRO/2022. Dated: 17.09.2022

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

MALABAR CEMENTS LIMITED
(A Government of Kerala Undertaking)

An ISO 9001:2015, 14001:2015 Company, Walayar Post, Palakkad - 678246 - Kerala

Email : materials@malabarments.com

TENDER NOTICE

↳Supply of Special Steel Cord Belt 720 MM. ↳Supply of Cement Mill Diaphragm Liner Plates. ↳Supply of Cement Mill Pinion Bearings. ↳Supply, Installation and Commissioning of 145 KV SF6 Circuit Breaker. ↳Supply of 160 KV VFD Panel. ↳Supply of Explosives. ↳Disposal of Scrap. Thro: 'MSTC-1'. Disposal of Old Vehicles Honda City. ↳Supply of 4000 MT Granulated Blast Furnace Slag to Malabar Cements Ltd, Walayar on for Walayar Basis.

Sd/- MANAGING DIRECTOR

43/2022-23 Appointment of contractors for outsourcing of Limestone Mining operations at Anandabadi Mines, Ariyalur District,T.N

44/2022-23 Appointment of contractor for supply of manpower to various departments at Ariyalur Cement Works, Ariyalur District,T

Vampire facial anyone? Untrained hands push it as a 'post-COVID' indulgence

Doctors see high number of patients whose wellness treatments have gone haywire; Delhi Medical Council recently issued notice after botched hair transplant

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

A post-COVID rush to wellness centres for an "immunity boost and a healthy glow" has left doctors worried about the quick-fix treatments that these centres promise.

As these "remedies to look good and feel fresh", packaged so well by the centres, have started gaining traction and drawing customers in huge numbers, doctors have cautioned against making a bee-line for these centres, confirming that they have received patients coming in after "magic treatments" go haywire.

What is adding to the worry is the fact that many of these services are now offered at home. So basically invasive healthcare procedures get done without trained doctors and adequate equipment and safety back-up, doctors caution.

Popular treatments include IV drips of essential vi-

tamins and nutrients, vampire facials and repeated chemical peels.

Dr. Amit Bangia, associate director, dermatology, Asian Hospital, says that while COVID-19 pandemic may be on the decline, post-COVID symptoms are persisting. Fatigue and dullness are among the most visible symptoms. The increased screen time during the pandemic too has been enervating. This, coupled with a lack of exercise, poor skincare routine and use of steroids to treat COVID-19, is pushing people into wellness and skincare clinics.

Speaking about the ill-effects of such treatments, he says the market currently has a lot of quick fixes which get done without adequate checks and balance.

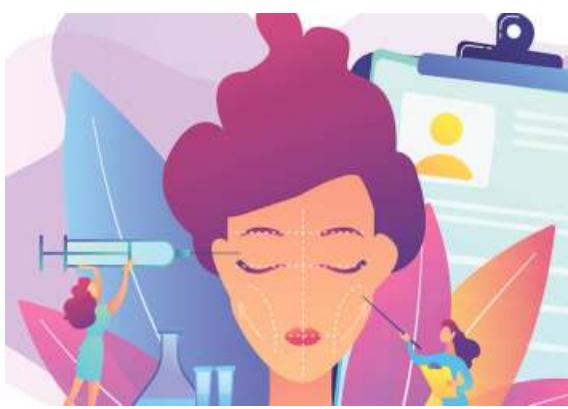
"We are getting patients with complaints of cases gone wrong. Take for example a very popular treatment – vampire facial. This involves using the customer's own blood which is ex-

tracted and mixed with other nutrients and used in a procedure. But when offered by untrained and unqualified professionals, who neither understand skin nor the sterile conditions required for the procedure, problems and infections will definitely be seen," he says.

Tackling stress

Chemists too state that supplements aimed at helping people tackle stress, sleep, anxiety and hair loss are flying off the shelves. "Post COVID, the days of taking Vitamin E, B, C and D supplements, using alternative healthcare support or going by the age-old wisdom of eat-sleep-exercise and keeping stress at bay don't seem to have the same appeal. We have seen a steady and growing market for supplements," said a popular chemist at Central Delhi.

"Everyone wants results and they want it quick. So what better than a pill or an IV drip? These should not



Quick fix: Popular treatments are IV drips of essential vitamins and vampire facials. ■ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

be treated as walk-in, on-demand procedures as each comes with its own set of drawbacks. There has to be a proper protocol starting from giving the patients information, counselling them about the procedure and telling them upfront about the complications, after-care required, benefit of the treatment and the cost involved. We do get cases where patients come in with side-effects of botched pro-

cedures done by people who are not qualified and with equipment that is not standardised. Quality control is a key factor in this field. Looking and feeling good should be achieved in a safe, sustained manner," Dr. Nivedita Dadu, skin specialist, says.

Worried about this, the Delhi Medical Council earlier this month issued a public notice (against salons and such establishments do-

ing hair transplants, another invasive procedure) warning that those performing highly technical procedures that require expertise and skill of a trained professional without the adequate people and infrastructure would invite legal action. "This is following the case of a person's death in Delhi after a hair-transplant surgery went wrong," said Dr. Girish Tyagi, Registrar, Delhi Medi-

SPECIAL

cal Council.

Dr. Dinesh Kumar Devraj, secretary-general, Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists & Leprologists, says that one of the major issues they were facing is that patients are over-promised or given to believe that unrealistic expectations will be fulfilled.

"COVID has left behind several issues. Acute and increased hair fall, chronic fatigue, weight gain after the

initial loss are the most common issues. So then tagging invasive medical procedures as 'wellness or salon service' expose the patients to a lot of harm. Procedures which are not approved, procedures not done by qualified trained professionals, procedures not done under sterile, strict aseptic controlled conditions without following proper protocols are a problem," he said.

Popular wellness clinics, speaking about the concern among doctors, say the "highest standards of patient care and training are offered".

Wellness market

"There is no question of laxity and we do provide counselling, evaluation, recovery support, trained professionals and the best equipment in the market," says the staff of one such clinic in central Delhi.

The overall wellness market in India comes to ₹490 billion (by some estimates)

and wellness services alone make up 40% of this market. The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry, a non-governmental trade association and advocacy group based in India, notes that the wellness industry in India has evolved rapidly from its nascent unstructured beginning in the early 1990s to a comprehensive ecosystem today.

It states that the government faces challenges mainly because the wellness centres are unorganised to a high extent. "There is difficulty in application of control over the unorganised sector, implementing a control mechanism for regular monitoring and auditing unorganised players is tough," it notes.

It adds that hurdles in creating awareness in consumers of the benefits and safety of the centres which are compliant and accredited further aggravates the problem.

New rules for child welfare panel members

Bar on persons associated with bodies getting foreign funds

JAGRITI CHANDRA
NEW DELHI

The recently amended rules for implementation of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, bar a person associated with an organisation receiving foreign funds to be part of child welfare committees (CWCs), which are tasked with giving directions for care and protection of children who are abused, exploited, abandoned or orphaned.

The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection Amendment) Model Amendment Rules, 2022, were notified on September 1 and came into effect immediately. This follows the passage of the Juvenile Justice (Amendment) Bill, 2021, in Parliament in July last year. The rules make several changes to aspects under the Act including those that govern adoption, foster care and sponsorship, and modify eligibility criteria for joining the CWCs.

Rule 15 (4B) says "a person associated with an organisation receiving foreign contribution shall not be eligible to be a chairperson or member of the committee."

Rule 15 (4C) also says that any person working on the implementation of the Act in any NGO or organisation such that it causes conflict of interest will also be ineligible.



Those on CWC have the power of a magistrate and also receive a salary from the government... and are therefore equivalent to government officials, who are barred under FCRA from receiving foreign funds

PRIYANK KANOONGO
Chairperson of National Commission for Protection of Child Rights

able to be on a CWC. It adds that those who have "any family member" or "close relative" working for an NGO will be disqualified. Any person working in rescue and rehabilitation in the district, or a person representing someone running a child care institution or member of the Board or Trust of any NGO can also not be on a CWC.

Authority in cases

A CWC appointed by the State government under the Act has the authority to dispose of cases of children in need of care and protection brought before them. It can also order an inquiry to ensure their safety and well-being and give an order for their rehabilitation either in family-based care such as through restoration to family or guardian, adoption, foster care or send them to child care institutions.

When a senior official of the Women and Child Development Ministry was asked

about the possible conflict of interest due to receiving of foreign funds or relatives working at an NGOs, he only replied, "Detailed discussions were held on this."

The Chairperson of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, Priyank Kanoongo, explained the changes and said, "Those on CWC have the power of a magistrate and also receive a salary from the government... and are therefore equivalent to government officials, who are barred under FCRA from receiving foreign funds."

"A lot of people appointed to CWCs come from the NGO sector. Where will these people now come from? The rules are also overboard and do not define who is a family member or a close relative. This will reduce the pool of human resource available for appointments to CWC," says Bharti Ali, Co-founder, HAQ- Centre for Child Rights.

Govt. gives top priority to skill training: Modi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Industrial training institutes (ITIs) will have an important role to play in the era of the fourth Industrial Revolution, and therefore the government has ensured modern courses in sectors such as coding, AI, robotics, 3D printing, drone technology, and telemedicine are offered by them. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday.

The youth of India should be equally proficient in education and skills, and the government has given top priority for creation of new institutions for skill training, he added.

Mr. Modi was addressing more than nine lakh students of ITIs on the occasion of Vishwakarma Jayanti. Vishwakarma is worshipped as the god who is the divine architect. Artists, craftsmen, weavers, carpenters and construction workers offer prayers on this day.

He said that the government's efforts to ensure expansion of technology has provided more job opportunities. "Be it mobile repair work in the village or work concerning new technology in agriculture, spraying fertilizer or be it supplying medicine with the help of drones, many new jobs are being added to the rural economy," Mr. Modi said.

Fishing for luck



On point: An angler during the Kashmir Fly Fishing Competition on the Lidder river organised by the Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Department in Pahalgam on Saturday. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

Auction of gifts to Prime Minister begins

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The fourth edition of the Union Culture Ministry's e-auction of gifts given to Prime Minister Narendra Modi by the NCC in 2021 was also among the most bid-upon items, with 15 bids taking it from a base price of ₹1,100 to ₹3,600.

The auction began at 10 a.m., with 1,222 items up for

p.m., taking the price from a base of ₹8,600 to ₹42,74,400.

A lifetime membership card of the National Cadets Corps Alumni Association given to Mr. Modi by the NCC in 2021 was also among the most bid-upon items, with 15 bids taking it from a base price of ₹1,100 to ₹3,600.

The auction began at 10 a.m., with 1,222 items up for

grabs through the website dedicated to this purpose pmmemmentos.gov.in.

The auction will be on till October 2 and the proceeds would go towards the Narmada Gange project.

As of 6.30 p.m., a few of the featured mementoes, including sports equipment signed by the Commonwealth and Paralympic

Games athletes and a model of Subhas Chandra Bose's statue placed at the India Gate recently (all with the base price of ₹5 lakh), had not received any bids.

However, during the last auction conducted in 2021, the javelin used by Olympic gold-medallist Neeraj Chopra had fetched a price of ₹1.5 crore.

'Crime scripts' to unravel illegal trade of marine species

Detailed analysis conducted by WCS-India showed that Tamil Nadu recorded most seizures between 2015 and 2021

SHIV SAHAY SINGH
KOLKATA

An analysis of the illegal trade of marine species in India between 2015 and 2021 pointed out that sea cucumbers were the most frequently seized marine species group. Tamil Nadu recorded the highest enforcement action with 126 seizure incidents of the marine species.

The study conducted by the Counter Wildlife Trafficking team of the WCS-India (Wildlife Conservation Society-India) recorded 187 media reports citing marine wildlife seizures by various enforcement agencies in India from 2015 to 2021.

"A total of 187 incidents of illegal trade of marine species were collated between January 2015 and December 2021. Data collected for seven groups of marine wildlife species were analysed within the report, which includes sea cucumber, coral, Synbranchidae (seahorse and pipefish), Elasmobranch

(shark and ray), seashell, sea fan and sea turtle," stated the recently released report titled "Illegal trade of marine species in India: 2015-2021".

The report pointed out that collectively, 64,172 kg plus 988 individual (unweighed) sea cucumbers were seized by the enforcement agencies in Tamil Nadu, Lakshadweep and the Andaman Islands. Of the 187 incidents of the illegal trade of marine species, 122 incidents involved the seizure of sea cucumber.

The document not only provided insights into the nature, the volume and the extent of the illegal marine trade across the country but also analysed the incidents involving the illegal sea cucumber trade. They were further researched using "crime scripts", to understand how the smuggling networks operated. The crime script had been prepared on the basis of the 122 incidents of seizure bringing

out what went into the preparation, pre-activity, activity and post-activity phase of the smuggling of the marine group of species.

The report pointed out that due to the legalised trade of sea cucumbers in countries with close proximity to India, the sea cucumber consignments were often smuggled through those countries, to be laundered and then re-exported to the Southeast Asia markets.

Marine biologist Vardhan Patankar said that the illegal marine trade, although common, often went unreported due to the nature of the trade and as a result, the civil society, the policymakers and the local communities were left in the dark about the scale of the problem, making it hard to investigate the report and analyse.

While the most incidents of seizure (122) were of sea cucumbers, sea fan followed

with 20, seahorse and pipefish 18, seashell 18 incidents, shark and rays 15, sea coral 12 and sea turtle five.

State-wise data

Similarly in terms of State-wise seizures, Tamil Nadu (with 126 seizures) was followed by Maharashtra (13 incidents), Lakshadweep (12 incidents) and Karnataka (eight incidents). Marine wildlife incidents were reported across 18 States, including the eight coastal States and the two island territories, the report stated. The document also cautioned that a high number of seizure incidents alone "does not always indicate a high frequency of wildlife crime, and it may be a result of effective enforcement or more media interest".

Aaron Savio Lobo, Senior Advisor Marine program at WCS-India said that when it came to illegally traded marine wildlife, the largest volumes were harvested as an incidental catch in unselective fisheries such as trawling and gillnetting. "This includes the likes of seahorses, sharks, manta and devil rays. This is unlike the most terrestrial traded wildlife species which are directly harvested. Countering marine wildlife trade thereby requires paradigm changes in fisheries management as a whole to reduce their capture in the first place," he added.

The report threw light on international illegal marine trade routes. "Out of the 122 sea cucumber incidents recorded between 2015 and 2021, 34 incidents either mentioned attempts to illicitly export sea cucumbers to neighbouring countries or countries with established markets for trade. Sri Lanka (26 incidents), China (six incidents) and Malaysia (two incidents) were recorded as countries that are either transit locations or destinations of trade," it said.

SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 9 |
| 7 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 3 |
| 1 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 7 |
| 9 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 4 |
| 4 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 1 |
| 2 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 5 |
| 5 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 8 |
| 8 | 6 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 6 |

Pressure mounts on Russia amid setbacks

Russian forces are setting up a new defensive line in Ukraine's northeast after their forced retreat

ASSOCIATED PRESS
KYIV

Pressure on Russian President Vladimir Putin mounted both on the battlefield and in the halls of global power as Ukrainian troops waging a counteroffensive pushed on Saturday to advance farther into the country's partly recaptured northeast.

At a high-level summit in Uzbekistan, Mr. Putin vowed to press his attack on Ukraine despite recent military setbacks. He also had to address concerns over the drawn-out conflict voiced by India and China.

Diplomatic push

The hurried retreat of his troops this month from parts of a northeast region they occupied early in the war, together with the rare public reservations expressed by key allies, underscored the



Fresh salvo: Service members of pro-Russian troops firing a mortar in the direction of Avdiivka in Donetsk. ■ REUTERS

challenges Mr. Putin faces on all fronts. Both China and India maintain strong ties with Russia and had sought to remain neutral on Ukraine.

Mr. Xi, in a statement released by his government, expressed support for Russia's "core interests" but also interest in working together to "inject stability" into

world affairs. Mr. Modi said he wanted to discuss "how we can move forward on the path of peace."

On the battlefield, Western defence officials and analysts on Saturday said Russian forces were apparently setting up a new defensive line in Ukraine's northeast after Kyiv's troops broke

through the previous one and tried to press their advances further into the east.

The British Defence Ministry said during a briefing that the line likely is between the Oskil river and Svatove, some 150 km southeast of Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city.

The new line emerged after the Ukrainian counteroffensive punched a hole through the war's previous frontline, allowing Kyiv's soldiers to recapture large swathes of land in the northeastern Kharkiv region that borders Russia.

Ukrainian forces, in the meantime, continue to cross the Oskil river in the Kharkiv region as they try to press on in a counteroffensive targeting Russian-occupied territory, according to the Washington-based Institute for the Study of War.

The Institute said in its Sa-

turday report that satellite imagery it examined suggest that Ukrainian forces have crossed over to the east bank of the Oskil in Kupiansk, placing artillery there. The river, which flows south from Russia into Ukraine, had been a natural break in the newly emerged frontlines since Ukraine launched its push about a week ago.

"Russian forces are likely too weak to prevent further Ukrainian advances along the entire Oskil River if Ukrainian forces choose to resume offensive operations," the institute said.

Elsewhere in Ukraine, Russian forces continued to pound cities and villages with missile strikes and shelling.

In the southern ZapORIZHIA region, one person was wounded when Russian forces shelled the city of Orikhiv, the region's Governor Oleksandr Starukh said.

Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan hold talks to end border fighting

At least 24 killed, over 100 injured in clashes this week

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MOSCOW

The security chiefs of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan sat down for talks on Saturday to stop fighting on the border between the two countries that so far has killed at least 24 people and wounded over 100.

The Kyrgyz border service announced the new round of talks as the two ex-Soviet nations traded blame for shelling that resumed on Saturday morning after what appeared to be a brief respite overnight.

Kyrgyz hospitals and clinics also treated 103 people wounded in the shelling, the ministry said. It wasn't immediately clear whether there were any casualties on Tajikistan's side.

Tajik authorities, however, accused Kyrgyz forces of



Heightened hostility: Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov with his Tajik counterpart Emomali Rakhmon in Samarkand. ■ REUTERS

livered to hospitals in the Batken region that borders Tajikistan.

destroying a mosque and targeting civilian infrastructure, including residential buildings.

The Presidents of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, Sadyr Japarov and Emomali Rakhmon, met on Friday at the summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in Uzbekistan to discuss the border situation.

Biden warns Putin against use of nuclear weapons in Ukraine

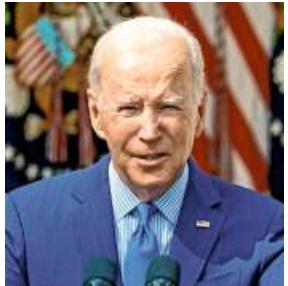
'Any such move by Russia would change the face of war'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Joe Biden has warned his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin against using chemical or tactical nuclear weapons in the wake of serious losses in his war in Ukraine.

"Don't. Don't. Don't," Mr. Biden said, in an excerpt from an interview with CBS that was aired on Friday.

Mr. Biden was responding to an interviewer's question about the possibility of Mr. Putin, whose Army is incurring heavy losses in the Ukraine counteroffensive this month, resorting to chemi-



Joe Biden

cal or tactical nuclear weapons.

"You would change the face of war unlike anything since Second World War," Mr. Biden said.

"They will become more

of a pariah in the world, more than they have ever been," the U.S. leader added.

Ukraine has recaptured swathes of territory in the east from occupying Russian forces in recent weeks, boosted by heavy weapons supplied by Western allies.

But Mr. Putin remained steadfast, saying the war was proceeding according to plan.

"The plan is not subject to adjustment," Mr. Putin said on Friday. "Our offensive operations in Donbas itself do not stop. They are going at a slow pace."

EU wants war crimes tribunal over mass grave

Most of 450 bodies 'show torture signs'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PRAGUE

The Czech Republic, which currently holds the EU presidency, on Saturday called for the establishment of an international tribunal for war crimes after a new mass grave was found in Ukraine.

The appeal follows the discovery of around 450 graves outside the formerly Russian-occupied city of Izium with most of the exhumed bodies showing signs of torture.

"In the 21st century, such attacks against the civilian population are unthinkable and abhorrent," Czech Foreign Minister Jan Lipavsky said on Twitter.

"We must not overlook it. We stand for the punishment of all war criminals," he added.

"I call for the speedy establishment of a special international tribunal that will prosecute the crime of aggression," Mr. Lipavsky said.

Investigators said some bodies in the graves found near the eastern Ukrainian city of Izium had hands tied behind their backs. They also found the bodies of children.

The Czech Republic has received around 4,000 refugees from Ukraine and provided military aid worth some \$150 million to the country.

Israel strike on Syria airport kills five soldiers

2 members of Iran-backed groups die

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BEIRUT

An Israeli strike on the Damascus International Airport and nearby military posts south of the Syrian capital killed five soldiers, state media reported on Saturday.

State news agency SANA, quoting an unnamed military official, said the strikes happened after midnight on Friday, causing "material losses" as well. It added that some of the Israeli missiles were shot down before reaching their targets.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the strikes killed five Syrian soldiers and two

members of Iran-backed groups.

The Israeli Army declined comment, saying it does not react to "foreign reports."

The strike on the Damascus International Airport came 10 days after Israel launched a missile attack on Syria's Aleppo airport in the north that put it out of commission for a few days. It was the second attack on Aleppo's airport within a week.

On June 10, Israeli airstrikes on Damascus International Airport caused significant damage to infrastructure and runways and rendered the main runway unserviceable.

CELEBRATING 144 YEARS

ANNIVERSARY

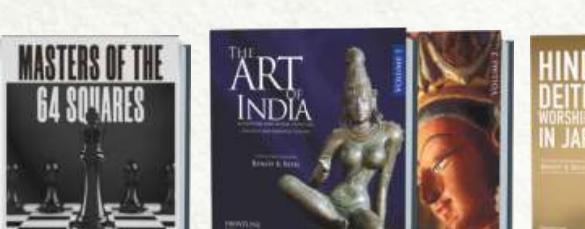
SALE

16TH SEPTEMBER - 25TH SEPTEMBER

UP TO 44% OFF*

ON SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS OF THE HINDU GROUP

THE HINDU GROUP



BOOK YOUR COPY
ONLINE

Visit : publications.thehindugroup.com/bookstore

For bulk booking, e-mail: bookstore@thehindu.co.in | For any enquiries call: 1800 102 1878



Avail the offer by visiting our Regional / Branch Offices also : (10 am to 6 pm)

Ahmedabad 9422317519 | Bangalore 080 22071801 | Chennai 98431 31323 | Coimbatore 0422 2217538 | Hyderabad 0402 3459500
Hubli 0836 2335700 | Kochi 0484 2301653 | Kolkata 033 44023333 | Kozhikode 0495 2762202 | Madurai 0452 2528497 | Mangalore 0824 2417575
Mumbai 022 22021099 | Mysore 9980771213 | New Delhi 011 43579797 | Puducherry 97890 96972 | Pune 9822043600 / 9850616999
Salem 0427 2444153 / 2444154 | Thanjavur 04362 272227 | Tirunelveli 0462 2580369 | Tiruchirappalli 0431 2302801 | Tirupati 0877 2255555
Thiruvananthapuram 0471 2502001 | Vellore 70104 50939 | Vijayawada 0866 2553044 / 2552044 | Visakhapatnam 0891 2536159

Can a newspaper's reporting ethos and design philosophy have something in common?

Evidently,
it can.

THE HINDU

/ Revealing on September 20, 2022



COVID end in sight?

Why is the WHO insisting that the world must be more alert than ever to control the SARS-CoV-2 virus?

RAMYA KANNAN

The story so far: "We are not there yet, but the end is in sight." At a press conference on September 14, World Health Organization (WHO) director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said: "Last week, the number of weekly reported deaths from COVID-19 was the lowest since March 2020. We have never been in a better position to end the pandemic." But the WHO chief also warned that if the world does not seize the opportunity now, there will be more risks ahead.

What are the numbers now?

■ As per ourworldindata COVID-19 dashboard, as of September 16, a total of 4,53,481 new cases had been recorded across the world. On the same day, the cumulative count of cases was 611.33 million. In contrast, the seven day average of new cases hit a peak on January 24, 2022 at 3.44 million cases per day.

Does this mean the world can let down its guard?

■ Not yet, according to Dr. Tedros, who, on the contrary, calls for greater energy, a last-mile spurt. "A marathon runner does not stop when the finish line comes into view. She runs harder, with all the energy she has left. So must we," he said during his address.

"We can see the finish line. We're in a winning position. But now is the worst time to stop running. Now is the time to run harder and make sure we cross the line and reap the rewards of all our hard work. If we don't take this opportunity now, we run the risk of more variants, more deaths, more disruption, and more uncertainty," Dr. Tedros further said.

He added that the WHO is releasing six policy briefs outlining the key actions that all governments must take to finish the race. The briefs are a summary, based on the evidence and experience of the last 32 months, of what works best to save lives, protect health systems, and avoid social and economic disruption. The briefs are an urgent call for governments to take a hard look at their policies, and strengthen them for COVID-19 and future pathogens with pandemic potential, Dr. Tedros insisted.

'The best way to prevent more dangerous or more transmissible variants from emerging is to stop unconstrained spread, and that requires integrated public-health interventions, including vaccine equity'

systems, and avoid social and economic disruption. The briefs are an urgent call for governments to take a hard look at their policies, and strengthen them for COVID-19 and future pathogens with pandemic potential, Dr. Tedros insisted.

What should be the priority areas?

■ The WHO chief urged nations to invest in vaccinating 100% of the most at-risk groups, including health workers and older people, indicating that these groups are the highest priority to achieving 70% vaccine coverage. He added that it was important for countries to keep testing and sequencing for SARS-CoV-2 besides integrating testing and surveillance with similar measures for other respiratory diseases.

Dr. Tedros made a strong case for putting in place a system in order to integrate care for COVID-19 into primary health, and said patients should continue to receive the care that is right for them. While the numbers are dropping globally, it is better to plan for surges of cases, ensuring at the same time that one is always prepared to handle emergency or pandemic situations with the necessary supplies, equipment and health workers. He also called for broad-based strategies for infection prevention and control precautions to protect health workers and non-COVID patients in health facilities. The six policy briefs of the WHO set out guidelines for clinical management of COVID-19; managing infection prevention and control measures for COVID-19 in health care facilities; reaching COVID-19 vaccination targets; COVID-19 infodemic management; and building trust through risk communication and community engagement. In an article in *Nature* early this year, Aris Katzourakis, a professor who studies viral evolution and genomics at the University of Oxford, argued that rosy assumptions would endanger public health and that policy makers must act now to shape the future, referring to a COVID-19 context. "The best way to prevent more, more-dangerous or more-transmissible variants from emerging is to stop unconstrained spread, and that requires many integrated public-health interventions, including, crucially, vaccine equity."

What about research?

■ In an editorial, *The Lancet Infectious Diseases* acknowledged that it was good news indeed that the link between cases and deaths had weakened, even if it wasn't broken, at least in highly vaccinated countries. The vast research effort that has gone into COVID-19 over the past two years has given the world tools to turn a pandemic disease into a manageable, endemic one, the *Lancet* paper pointed out. "Better vaccines and treatments will be required to maintain this success, and large parts of the world's population still do not have access to vaccines. However, research organisations, funding bodies, and industry should now lead a compensatory effort that, applying lessons learned from combating COVID-19, redirects research towards the control of infectious diseases (and, indeed, non-communicable diseases) that take a toll of human life year in and year out."

Has the emissions deadline been extended?

Why have thermal units got an extension on installing pollution-control technology?

SHIV SAHAY SINGH

The story so far: On September 5, the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) extended the deadline for installing pollution control technologies in the country's thermal power plants (TPPs). This was the third time that the Ministry has extended the deadline for installation of pollution control technologies. The country's first emission norms for control of sulphur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and mercury (Hg) from coal-fired power plants were notified in December 2015, and the thermal plants were given a timeline of December 2017 to comply.

What does the notification say?

■ In the notification, the Ministry set up three different timelines for three categories of thermal power plants for ensuring installation of pollution-control technologies. The categorisation of power plants was done in April 2021 on the basis of an amendment to The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

For power plants within a 10 km radius of Delhi-NCR and million plus cities, the deadline has been extended to December 31, 2024 from the earlier deadline of December 2022. In case of power plants within a 10 km radius of critically polluted cities, the deadline has been extended to December 31, 2025 from the earlier December 31, 2023. For all other power plants across the country which had an earlier timeline of December 31, 2024, the new deadline stands at December 31, 2026. The notification also extends the timeline until 2027 for retiring units (power plants which are over 25 years old or more) and 2026 for non-retiring units.

This extension comes alongside two dilutions granted to thermal power plants for water and NO_x norms. In June 2018, water norms for units installed post-January 2017 were diluted from 2.5 cubic metres per megawatt-hours to three cubic metres per megawatt-hours. Similarly, in May 2019, NO_x norms for units installed between 2004 and 2016 were diluted from 300 milligrams per cubic metres to 450 milligrams per cubic metres.

What are the concerns?

■ Environmentalists have raised red flags over the deadline extensions and the dilutions. According to Anjal Prakash, Research Director and Adjunct Associate Professor with the Bharti Institute of Public Policy at the Indian School of Business (ISB) and Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) author, the manner in which the extensions have been made since 2015 across parameters including sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and mercury, act as a roadblock. "It could potentially dent India's emission targets. The deadlines needed to be met earlier as the further increase in SO₂ emissions will further dampen the current air pollution scenario, resulting in a double whammy with current climate catastrophes being witnessed across our cities at the moment," he added.

A thermal power plant converts heat energy into electric power by burning fossil fuels (coal) and pumps out a lot of gases which are by-products of the burning. Along with carbon dioxide, thermal power plants release SO₂ (sulphur dioxide) which is a major contributor to particulate matter in air pollution. The process of eliminating sulphur compounds from the exhaust emissions of fossil-fuelled (coal-fired) power plants is known as flue gas desulphurisation (FGD). This is accomplished by including absorbent materials, which can eliminate up to 95% of the sulphur from the flue gas by scrubbing.

Seven years since the first notification for thermal power plants to control the emission level of SO₂ within



Polluted skies: The National Thermal Power Corporation plant in Dadri. ■ AFP

prescribed standards, the percentage of plants that have installed FGDs remains negligible.

How many plants have installed desulfurisation units?

■ Data from Central Electricity Authority (CEA) points out that till February 2021, of the total thermal power of

211.6 GW (giga watt) across 600 units installed in the country, only 8.2 GW (across 20 units) have installed FGDs. Installation of FGDs is a time-consuming process and takes a minimum of 36-42 months for commissioning from the date of award. Data by CEA till February 2021 show bids for installation of FGDs have been awarded to power plants generating 85.7 GW (across 190 units). Environmentalists argue

that going by the pace at which bids are being awarded for FGDs' installation, a majority of power plants are most likely to miss the new deadline too.

What are the challenges?

■ The Ministry of Power and Renewable Energy has often referred to constraints in the implementation of FGD technology at thermal power plants. In response to a question in the Lok Sabha in August 2022, the Ministry pointed out that alongside the minimum time period required for FGD commissioning of 36-42 months there is limited availability of vendors and that there is a price escalation factor too due to the limited supply of components. According to the Ministry, the COVID-19 pandemic had an impact on the supply chain and manpower availability. Two years ago, an association of power producers had written a letter to the Prime

Minister's Office seeking more time for installation of FGDs and raised the issue of supply disruptions in China, pointing out that only 20-30% of emissions-reducing components are manufactured in India and the country is dependent on China.

In another reply in December 2021, the Ministry informed the House that the FGD system to control pollution was installed for 1,340 MW of coal-fired thermal power capacity of the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC). With 24 coal-based power stations, NTPC is the largest thermal power generating company in the country which has an installed capacity of 48,720 MW.

Despite the push for alternative sources of power, major production of electricity in India is achieved through coal-based thermal power plants which accounts for 75% of the country's total power generation. With severe levels of air pollution recorded in the past few years in the Delhi-NCR region and other cities, the cost of installing FGDs, say experts and environmentalists, should not come in the way of the benefits a clean-up will provide for air quality and health.

What lies ahead?

■ Going by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's commitment made at the 2021 UN Climate Change Conference, India proposes to achieve the goal of 500 GW of non-fossil fuel by the year 2030 and will achieve the net zero emission target by 2070. Environmentalists argue that if the MoEF&CC, which should have penalised power plants for not switching to pollution-control technologies, keeps extending the deadline, the transition to cleaner sources of power will take much longer. According to Ritwick Dutta, environmental lawyer and founder of Legal Initiative for Forest and Environment, India's National Clean Air Programme's target of reducing air pollution by 20-30% by 2024 will never be achieved if the government gives repeated leeway to violators. "With this extension, a clear message has gone from the Central Government to all power companies that they should not take environmental norms seriously," he contended.

Will the future of the Commonwealth change?

After Queen Elizabeth's reign, will several nations go the Barbados way and shed ties with Britain's monarchy?

NARAYAN LAKSHMAN

The story so far: The death of Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom, the country's longest serving ruler, who reigned for over 70 years, marks not only the end of an era for the British monarchy, but also a turning point for the 14 Commonwealth realms of which she was the Head of State. There has been a significant transformation of the socioeconomic milieu in these countries compared to the Elizabethan era, including calls in several nations to establish a republic and break free of historical ties to the British monarchy. Thus, it is possible that during the reign of the incumbent King Charles III, the Queen's successor, more nations will follow in the footsteps of Barbados, which in 2021 became the 18th country to remove the British monarch from the role of head of state and substitute them with a national government functionary.

What is the Commonwealth and what are its realms?

■ The Commonwealth of Nations is a group of 56 countries comprised mostly of former British colonies. While members of the Commonwealth are predominantly located in Africa, the Americas, Asia, and the Pacific, with many of them emerging economies, the three European members of the group are Cyprus, Malta, and the U.K. The developed nations of the Commonwealth are Australia, Canada, and New Zealand.

The Commonwealth consists of both republics and realms. The British monarch is the Head of State for the realms, whereas the republics are ruled by elected governments, except in the case of five countries – Brunei Darussalam, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malaysia, and Tonga – each a self-governed monarchy.

The realms are comprised of Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, the Bahamas, Belize, Canada, Grenada, Jamaica, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu.

How is the Commonwealth viewed by its members?

■ Even if the situation is changing vis-à-vis the realms and their Heads of State, the broader Commonwealth group, of which India and other South Asian countries are members, remains strong and fosters policy



End of an era: Britain's King Charles III attends a vigil around the coffin of Queen Elizabeth II. ■ AFP

coordination among its members through its Heads of Government Meetings, a feature that has gained additional salience in the context of post-pandemic economic recovery. In this regard, Queen Elizabeth played a critical role in championing the organisation and maintaining the group's relevance, regularly travelling to meet with leaders of Commonwealth nations across the world.

This has not always been the case. During the Queen's third and final visit to India in 1997, many expected an apology for the Jallianwala Bagh massacre of 1919, carried out by the erstwhile colonial government, and ordered by General Reginald Dyer. Yet that apology never came, and instead the Queen only referenced the killings during a banquet speech when she said, "It is no secret that there have been some difficult episodes in our past. Jallianwala Bagh is a distressing example." Tactless remarks by her husband, Prince Philip, questioning the number of deaths in the massacre, added salt to injured sentiment. It was also in 1997 that the U.K. handed over control of Hong Kong to the People's Republic of China, thereby losing after 156 years what was considered to be one of the most important colonies in Asia.

More recently, in March 2022, King Charles' son and new heir to the throne, Prince William, his wife, Kate, and other royals faced demonstrations and demands for reparations for slavery while on a tour of the Caribbean that also witnessed several gaffes and awkward moments by the visitors from the U.K.

Which nations are moving towards ending formal ties to the British monarchy?

■ The debate in some of the Commonwealth realms, including for example Australia, has led to popular movements to reposition the country in question as a republic. In Canberra, the administration of Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese appointed in June 2022 for the first time a Minister, Matt Thistlethwaite, to set in motion the gradual

transition towards a republic. In this regard it is likely that there will be a referendum on the question of severing official ties to the monarchy in the months ahead.

While Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern of New Zealand has said that her country would support King Charles, she added that it would become a republic "in time".

Similarly, Prime Minister Philip Davis of the Bahamas has said he intends to conduct a referendum to remove King Charles from the role of official Head of State, thereby moving the country, which gained independence in 1973, towards being a republic. Governments in five other Caribbean nations – Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Grenada, Jamaica and Saint Kitts and Nevis – have signalled their intention to act similarly.

Thus, it is not beyond imagination that following the death of Queen Elizabeth, the Commonwealth realms might fade into being a relic of the past, and nations that suffered a history of colonialism – along with its attendant violence and resource extraction – will move forward to establish themselves as republics.

ROGER FEDERER

The master who waved a magic wand on court

A player who reconciled with his tennis mortality, tweaked his technique, spruced up his fitness and competitively excelled across three decades in the sport is on his way out

N. SUDARSHAN

In focus

■ Federer first made his mark at Wimbledon 2001 when, as a 19-year-old, he upset the then grass-court king Pete Sampras

■ Two years later, he broke through at Wimbledon for his first Major trophy, and that kick-started a four-year period where he was the undisputed best

■ From 2004 to 2007, he won 11 of the 16 Majors to be held, with the only suspense during every Slam fortnight being how much more he could elevate his level of play

On July 3, 2022, Roger Federer attended a special ceremony at Wimbledon to mark the 100th anniversary of the Centre Court. A year ago, he had trudged out of the same hallowed turf in a pensive mood, following a painful straight-set defeat – including a dispiriting 0-6 scoreline in the final set – to Poland's Hubert Hurkacz in the quarterfinals. "I hope I can come back one more time. I've missed it here," Federer said on that sunlit celebratory centenary Sunday. "I knew walking out here last year it was going to be a tough year ahead. Maybe I didn't think it was going to take me this long to come back but the knee has been rough on me. But I've been happy."

Just over 10 weeks later, Federer announced that the upcoming Laver Cup (September 23-25) would be his last ATP Tour-level tournament. The Swiss could not sufficiently recover from the knee surgery he had undergone in the aftermath of the 2021 Wimbledon reverse. It was his third since the start of 2020, a period which saw him play just six professional tennis events. "The message to me lately has been clear," he said. "I am 41 years old. I have played more than 1,500 matches over 24 years. Ten-

Playing the way purists would approve of – with elegant classicism, touch, precision and economy of movement – he appeared to herald the changing of the guard with the pulsating five-set victory.

Since then, Federer's career has been about managing the pressure of expectations as much as tennis. Two years later, he broke through at Wimbledon for his first Major trophy, and that kick-started a four-year period

nis has treated me more generously than I ever would have dreamt, and now I must recognise when it is time to end my competitive career."

The ending may not have been to his many fans' liking but in the future, when memories shift and time doesn't act as a fixative, Federer's will only be remembered as a stellar career, a fantastic longlist of achievements which can never be whittled down.

He won 20 Grand Slam singles titles, 103 ATP singles trophies, 28 Masters crowns and six ATP Finals (year-end championship). Of his 1,526 matches, he won 1,251 (82%) and was also ranked the World No.1 for 310 weeks, a record Novak Djokovic surpassed only last year.

Federer first made his mark at Wimbledon 2001 when, as a pony-tailed 19-year-old, he upset the then grass-court king and seven-time champion Pete Sampras

threat. Pitted against the down-to-earth rugged artistry of the young Spaniard, the aesthetic splendour of Federer's play seemed like a fragile art. The Spaniard – holder of a men's record 22 Grand Slam singles titles to date – beat Federer in three consecutive finals at Roland-Garros (2006-08), at 2008 Wimbledon and at 2009 Australian Open.

Then came Djokovic and his elastic genius, with which he has now accumulated 21 Majors. While the Serb's success on synthetic surfaces and clay was considered largely commonplace, his rise on grass astounded many. On a surface which Andre Agassi called "ice slathered with Vaseline", on which Federer went around choreographing his play with the grace of a figure-skater, Djokovic defended every blade of grass and found the tennis

to fell Federer in two finals (2014 and 2015).

"I didn't want to have a rival," Federer told *Sports Illustrated* in 2018. "I just wanted to be the best and there was the rest basically. That's how I saw it... And then when Rafa came onto the scene, I guess at first I had to also appreciate the rival, that he's going to be around. And maybe I had to adjust my game."

Intelligent serve

It is this ability to reconcile with his tennis mortality, tweak his technique, spruce up his fitness and competitively excel across three decades in the sport – all under the golden veneer of his artistic brilliance – that will eventually come to define Federer. In what was arguably the greatest era in men's tennis, he was at the top of the totem pole.

The ascent of Nadal

But Rafael Nadal's ascent, first on clay, then on grass and eventually on hard courts, was the first real

where he was the undisputed best. From 2004 to 2007, he won 11 of the 16 Majors to be held, with the only suspense during every Slam fortnight being how much more he could elevate his level of play.

The ascent of Nadal

But Rafael Nadal's ascent, first on clay, then on grass and eventually on hard courts, was the first real

When he started out, he was predominantly a net-rusher. From Rod Laver to Stefan Edberg to Sampras, all saw shades of themselves in him. It helped that his initial successes came at Wimbledon. He looked the part. Even as he slowly morphed into a baseline-hugger, he continued to play what was quintessentially grass-court tennis, showcasing his remarkably intelligent first serve and devastating backhand slice. His razor-sharp instincts and magic hands only added to this allure.

But after years of under-performance against Nadal, he changed to a bigger racket-head for probably the first time in his career. Tennis players are sticklers for habits. Every change is a revolutionary act. But the shift helped Federer be more consistent with his serves and effectively counter players tar-

geting his one-handed backhand with spin-loaded shots. Nadal leads Federer 24-16 in the head-to-head count. But Federer has beaten him in seven of their last eight matches, including the 2017 Australian Open final which gave the Swiss his 18th Slam title, ending a four-and-a-half-year drought.

Renewed purpose

Playing with renewed purpose, he added two more Majors – 2017 Wimbledon and 2018 Australian Open – and subsequently returned to the top of the ATP rankings to become the oldest-ever men's No.1, a record he still holds (36 years and 10 months). Against Djokovic, the difference largely came down to fitness. Tennis-wise, the match-up worked the best, even better than the Federer-Nadal rivalry. Each has beaten the other at all four Slams. If Federer was the master of tennis' first act, the serve, Djokovic was of the second, the return. Federer hit with pin-point accuracy but Djokovic could nullify it like none other.

The high point of this was the 2019 Wimbledon final, in which Federer held two match points – on his own serve – in the fifth set before losing. He was nearly 38 then and had come within a single stroke of becoming the oldest men's singles Grand Slam champion. "You take it on your chin, you move on," Federer said hours after that defeat. "You try to forget, try to take the good things out of this match. There's just tons of it. For now, it hurts, and it should, like every loss does at Wimbledon. [But] I'm very strong at being able to move on because I don't want to be depressed about an amazing tennis match."

As a player, Federer was committed only to the moment and the task at hand, leading a mystical journey towards sporting nirvana which fellow kindred spirits could partake in. At other times, with his wife Mirka and four kids in tow, he shed the aura that came with being one of the greatest players, and gave the impression of being one among us. He found Zen, both on and off the court.



ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH

KHARKIV

The centre of counter-offensive

Ukrainian troops have regained swathes of territories in the country's northeast

STANLY JOHNY

Kharkiv, Ukraine's second largest city, lies just 30 km south of the Russian border. This predominantly Russian speaking former capital of Soviet Ukraine was one of the early targets of the Russian invasion that started on February 24. Russian troops made quick advances towards the city in the early days of the war but were stopped at its gates by Ukrainian resistance. The Russians then tried to encircle it, and continued to shell the defensive lines. But by May, when their main battlefield focus shifted towards Donetsk and Luhansk in the east, Russian troops withdrew from the outskirts of Kharkiv city, but continued to hold much of Kharkiv Oblast, including small but strategically important cities such as Izium and Kupiansk. Not any more.

Last week, Russian troops were pushed back from much of the Oblast by a lightning Ukrainian counter-offensive. Ukraine's quick advances have clearly exposed the weak links in Russia's defence of the territories it captured during the seven-month-long conflict.

Kharkiv is no stranger to conflicts. After the collapse of the Russian Empire, Kharkiv was briefly part of the German-occupied anti-communist Ukrainian State. But after the German withdrawal and the defeat of the Whites (anti-communist forces), the Bolsheviks restored their control over the whole of Ukraine. Kharkiv



eventually became the capital of Soviet Ukraine. The Nazis took the city in October 1941. The almost three-year-long Nazi occupation was one of the most brutal phases of Kharkiv's modern history. The Nazi occupiers and their local collaborators massacred some 15,000 Jews, more than 10% of the city's pre-war Jewish population. They also turned against communists and Ukrainian nationalists. Tens of thousands were killed and some 60,000 were sent to Germany for slave labour.

The Red Army, which had to withdraw from Kharkiv to the Izium area came under further attack and suffered another setback in 1942, like the Russians did in Izium last week. Two Soviet counter-offensives (first in May 1942 and then in February 1943) were unsuccessful. Finally, in a pre-winter offensive of August 1943, the Soviets broke through the Donbas region in the same year, Kharkiv also witnessed the insurrection of small but significant separatist forces who briefly took over state administration

behind the Dnieper River. The Battle of Kiev would follow quickly.

The Russian link

After Ukraine became independent following the disintegration of the Soviet Union in 1991, Kharkiv emerged as one of the busiest and most dynamic cities of the new republic in which Russian and Ukrainian ethnicities as well as a small Jewish minority co-existed. Given its territorial proximity to and deep cultural links with Russia, pro-Russian sentiments also remained strong in Kharkiv.

When Ukraine's elected government of Viktor Yanukovych was toppled by the West-backed Euromaidan protests in 2014, Kharkiv saw a pro-Russian unrest.

When Russia annexed Crimea through a referendum and a separatist civil war broke out in the neighbouring Donbas region in the same year, Kharkiv also witnessed the insurrection of small but significant separatist forces who briefly took over the city was tight.

But the question is whether the Russian withdrawal was a tactical retreat, like in 1941, for regrouping and counterattack or whether Ukraine would be able to consolidate its gains in the recaptured territories and keep the Russians at bay. As long as the war continues, everything is a possibility.

SWEDEN DEMOCRATS

Rise of the far-right

The anti-immigrant SD has emerged as the largest party in the opposition bloc

G. SAMPATH

Sweden's Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson resigned last week after her government narrowly lost the general elections. Andersson's Swedish Social Democratic Party, which has been in power since 2014, was edged out by the right-wing Opposition which rode a strong wave of support for the Sweden Democrats (SD), an ultra-nationalist, far-right party which traces its origins to neo-Nazi groups of the 1980s. While Andersson's party secured 30% of the vote, the SD, led by 43-year-old Jimmie Åkesson, saw in the rising crime rates a chance to move from the fringes to the mainstream, which they did by connecting a legitimate problem (worsening law and order) with their pet agenda – an end to immigration.

The Sweden Democrats, with 20.5% of the votes and 73 seats, have emerged as the largest entity in the right-wing coalition, which also includes the Moderate Party (19% vote share and 68 seats); the much smaller Christian Democrats (19); and Liberals (16). In the 2018 elections, too, the SD had done well, securing 62 seats and prompting an avalanche of editorials decrying the rise of the far-right in Sweden. Back then, however, the dominant public opinion – in a country that's deemed a gold standard of progressive politics – was so hostile to the SD that none of the Opposition parties dared to ally with them, allowing the Social Democrats to return to power. Not any more.

The 2022 elections are a watershed moment for the country: for the first time an ultra-nationalist, anti-immigrant party would be in a position to influence Sweden's public policy as part of the ruling coalition. Before the elections, Moderate Party leader Ulf Kristersson was the Opposition's candidate for Prime Minister, with none of the other coalition members keen on having the SD as part of the government. But with the SD emerging as the largest member of the bloc, there are likely to be protracted negotiations over government formation – a process that took four months in 2018. While Mr. Kristersson is still likely to be the next Prime Minister, it remains to be seen whether the SD, as kingmakers, would be agreeable to staying out of the government.

At any rate, the rightwing bloc seems united on the core issues that propelled the rise of the SD: immigration and law and order. In 2015, when it had a population of 10 million, Sweden



Sweden also witnessed a sharp rise in crime, especially gang violence. Sweden has seen 50 deadly shootings in 2022 alone – a far cry from the boringly peaceful Nordic paradise of the popular imagination. The SD, led by 43-year-old Jimmie Åkesson, saw in the rising crime rates a chance to move from the fringes to the mainstream, which they did by connecting a legitimate problem (worsening law and order) with their pet agenda – an end to immigration.

Sweden's progressive politics was perhaps adequate in 'normal times'. But after the Ukraine war, amid a cost of living crisis sparked by rising energy prices, and a government seen as too soft on crime, the SD had enough ammunition to stoke people's unspoken, subterranean prejudices and anxieties. Mr. Åkesson's slogan, not surprisingly, is Make Sweden Great Again, and it is fixated on two issues that hark back to a singular xenophobic agenda: clamp down on immigration and crack down on criminals through tougher policing. In other words, even the law-and-order agenda, which seems legit, is susceptible to be deployed as a dog whistle for anti-immigrant sentiments.

Sweden, to its credit, held out the longest against the wave of far-right populism sweeping through Europe. But clearly, even Swedish 'exceptionalism' – it was the only country in Europe not to impose a lockdown at the peak of the COVID pandemic – has its limits.

Sweden's progressive politics was perhaps adequate in 'normal times'. But after the Ukraine war, amid a cost of living crisis sparked by rising energy prices, and a government seen as too soft on crime, the SD had enough ammunition to stoke people's unspoken, subterranean prejudices and anxieties. Mr. Åkesson's slogan, not surprisingly, is Make Sweden Great Again, and it is fixated on two issues that hark back to a singular xenophobic agenda: clamp down on immigration and crack down on criminals through tougher policing. In other words, even the law-and-order agenda, which seems legit, is susceptible to be deployed as a dog whistle for anti-immigrant sentiments.

Sweden, to its credit, held out the longest against the wave of far-right populism sweeping through Europe. But clearly, even Swedish 'exceptionalism' – it was the only country in Europe not to impose a lockdown at the peak of the COVID pandemic – has its limits.

PM Modi unveils policy for logistics

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday unveiled the National Logistics Policy that seeks to address challenges facing the transport sector and bring down the logistics cost for businesses from 13-14% to a single digit.

At the unveiling, he said the policy aims to expedite last-mile delivery, helping businesses save time and money. While the new policy addresses challenges of the logistics sector, together with the infrastructure augmentation plan it would address gaps, he said. For Indian products to capture world markets, the country has to strengthen its support system.

"National Logistics Policy helps in making the support system modern."

LEAF to aid marginalised farmers

N. ANAND
CHENNAI

Ooty-based Lawrencedale Agro Processing India (LEAF), an integrated agriculture technology firm, is planning to 'transform the lives' of more than three million marginalised and tribal small-hold farmers within the next two years, said a top executive.

According to founder-CEO Palat Vijayaraghavan, the marginalised farming community can substantially spur the consumption of multiple services helping India reach its GDP target of \$5 trillion.

To achieve this, LEAF is implementing a go-to-market strategy through LEAF Farmer Network powered by Mastercard.

'Bright growth prospects driving high imports'

FinMin flags priority for financing imports, says if next 3 quarters clock just 5.4% average growth, FY23 GDP will expand 7.2%

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India's growth has been robust and inflation in control, even as the world's major economies are afflicted by slowing growth and high inflation, the Finance Ministry said on Saturday, reckoning that the economy would grow 7.2% this year driven by a revival in consumption, employment and investments.

Financing India's imports, which have exceeded \$60 billion for six straight months, will have to be accorded high priority, the Ministry noted, linking the 'faster' growth in imports to the country's 'bright' growth prospects.

"The increase in the price of imported commodities not only led to an upturn in headline inflation but also widened the trade balance.



'Power tussle': In winter, focus on energy security in advanced nations may spur geopolitical tensions, says FinMin. ■REUTERS

A relatively buoyant growth and a relatively stronger external sector is now set to converge with declining inflation to deliver for India a strengthened macroeconomic outlook for the balance period of the current year," it said.

"Downside risks to growth will persist insofar as India is integrated with the rest of the world. Nor is there room for complacency on the inflation front as lower crop-sowing for the Kharif season calls for deft management of stocks of agricultural com-

modities and market prices without unduly jeopardising farm exports," the Ministry said. With the economy growing 13.5% in the first quarter of this year, India's real GDP is now 'nearly' 4% above pre-COVID levels marking a strong beginning to India's growth revival in the post-pandemic phase', the Ministry said.

In the next three quarters, the real GDP 'needs to grow by (only) 5.4% on average every quarter' to achieve the 7.2% growth in 2022-23 as projected by the Reserve Bank of India, it underlined, citing a positive outlook on consumption, investment and employment.

Services to lead growth
"The contact-intensive services sector is likely to drive growth in 2022-23 building on the release of pent-up de-

mand and near universalisation of vaccination. A sharply rebounding private consumption backed by soaring consumer sentiments and rising employment will sustain growth in the months ahead," the Ministry noted.

Vigilance needed

Policymakers, however, cannot remain satisfied and 'sit back for long periods', the Ministry cautioned, stressing that 'eternal macroeconomic vigilance is the price for stability and sustained growth' in these uncertain times.

"In winter months, heightened international focus on energy security in advanced nations could elevate geopolitical tensions, testing India's astute handling of its energy needs so far," it pointed out, indicating that that could be one of the key risks ahead.

Ambuja calls for EGM, to issue warrants

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Ambuja Cements, which has been acquired by the Adani family, has called for an extraordinary general meeting (EGM) with its shareholders on October 8.

In the EGM, Ambuja Cements will seek shareholders' approval for the appointment of Gautam Adani and others on the board and a ₹20,000 cash infusion through preferential allotment of warrants.

The firm has sought approval for preferential allotment of 47.74 crore warrants at ₹418.87 to Harmonia Trade and Investment Ltd., a promoter group entity, totalling ₹20,001 crore in one or more tranches. Warrant holders would pay about 25% of the issue price at the time of subscription.

Resurgent acquires South East U.P. Power via IBC

Acquirer brings in ₹3,251 crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

SEUPPTCL has about 1,500 km of transmission lines and five sub-stations

SEUPPTCL has about 1,500 km of transmission lines (765 kV and 400 kV) and five sub-stations.

About 900 km of transmission link under the project is still to be completed.

Once the transmission project is completed, the total enterprise value will be about ₹6,500 crore.

Resurgent Power – a joint venture based out of Singapore – is co-sponsored by Tata Power and ICICI Venture and has other global reputed institutions as investors.

'Amid pandemic, 28 mn Indians joined LinkedIn'

India is the second-biggest market after U.S. for the professional networking company, says Gupta

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA
NEW DELHI

In the last two years, amid the COVID-19 pandemic, about 28 million Indians joined the professional networking platform LinkedIn, a senior company official said. India has also emerged as the fastest-growing country for the platform in terms of engagement globally.

"At 64 million members in 2020, the LinkedIn community stands at a whopping over 92 million members in India today – a 44% growth in members since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic," Ashutosh Gupta, India country manager, LinkedIn, said in an interview.

Mr. Gupta also added that the company's revenue in India, which was the second-biggest market for the com-



Adding heft: The LinkedIn community in India has touched more than 92 million members, says the company. ■REUTERS

pany in terms of users after the U.S., also witnessed a growth of 84% from the years FY20 to FY22.

Talking about the evolution of conversations on the platform, Mr. Gupta said when the company started, the value proposition it offered was around jobs, and

that still remained the biggest value proposition why people came to LinkedIn.

Multiple other dimensions had been added to that value proposition – for example, business networking and learning new skills, which picked up very strongly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are seeing more personal, vulnerable stories and conversations emerge via the workplace lens

"How people engage on LinkedIn has evolved due to so many peoples' personal and professional lives blurring during the pandemic," he said. "We are seeing more personal, vulnerable stories and conversations emerge – but very much through the professional / workplace lens," he said.

"When you think about professionals, it is a very big term. What do you mean by a professional? Are cricketers not professionals or when I go on a vacation and I am sharing that with my business network, is that not a

professional conversation? So that envelope has expanded a little bit," he added.

He also pointed out the firm was focussing on encouraging skill-based hiring via LinkedIn Learning, which saw a 'huge' surge in demand during the pandemic.

"Traditionally, we have been hiring using a template... I need somebody from this college, should have done this work... We don't always focus on skills. We are trying to shift the focus to skills," Mr. Gupta said.

"LinkedIn Learning plays a big role. As soon as you complete a course, you can add that skill on your profile. But recruiters' also need to change. Now, when recruiters enter search on LinkedIn, profiles that come are based on skills match."

SPORT

Rampant Patidar notches up another century

Ruturaj falls for 94, the visitors face a target of 416 in the fourth innings

NZ-A IN INDIA

ASHWIN ACHAL
BENGALURU

Rajat Patidar (109 n.o., 135b, 13x4, 2x6) and Ruturaj Gaikwad (94, 164b, 11x4) got among the runs to put India-A in a position of strength in the third 'Test' against New Zealand-A here on Saturday.

On the penultimate day, India-A declared on 359 for seven to leave New Zealand-A a stiff target of 416. At close of play, the visitor moved to 20 for one.

Patidar's great run continued, as he notched up his second century in this series. A few months prior, Patidar had scored 122 for Madhya Pradesh against Mumbai in the Ranji Trophy final held at this venue.

Patidar's exploits for RCB in the IPL has helped the batsman no end. "Scoring runs for RCB definitely helped me gain confidence," Patidar said. Gaikwad was on course



Purple patch: Patidar has hardly put a foot wrong in recent times. ■K. MURALI KUMAR

to make his second hundred of the match. A tame catch to mid-off, however, brought his demise.

Opener Priyank Panchal batted well for his 62. He was dismissed at the stroke of lunch, when he patted an innocuous short ball from spinner Joe Walker back to the bowler.

Sarfraz Khan (63, 74b, 7x4, 2x6) played a few attractive strokes. In the search for quick runs, Sarfaraz swept a

full toss from left-arm spinner Rachin Ravindra to Robert O'Donnell at mid-wicket. Rachin sent back Upendra Yadav and Shardul Thakur in the same over, which prompted India-A to declare.

With the New Zealand-A bowling lacking bite, the batsmen – apart from Patidar – missed the chance to record big, eye-catching scores.

The scores:

India-A – 1st innings: 293.
New Zealand-A – 1st in-

nings: 237.

India-A – 2nd innings:

Priyank Panchal c&b Walker 62, Abhimanyu Easwaran lbw b Soria 4, Ruturaj Gaikwad c Chapman b Walker 94, Rajat Patidar (not out) 109, Sarfaraz Khan c O'Donnell b Ravindra 63, Upendra Yadav b Ravindra 1, Shardul Thakur st Fletcher b Ravindra 0, Rahul Chahar lbw b Bruce 10; Extras (b-12, lb-2, nb-1, w-1): 16; Total (for seven wkts. decl. in 85 overs): 359.

Fall of wickets:

1-8, 2-130, 3-232, 4-340, 5-342, 6-342, 7-359.

New Zealand-A bowling: Duffy 19-6-53-0, Solia 12-43-1, Fisher 12-0-53-0, Walker 13-1-64-2, Ravindra 18-2-65-3, Chapman 1-0-9-0, Bruce 8-0-40-1, O'Donnell 2-0-1.

New Zealand-A – 2nd in-

nings: Rachin Ravindra lbw b Saurabh 12, Joe Carter (batting) 6, Joe Walker (batting) 0; Extras (lb-2); Total (for one wicket in 20 overs): 20.

Fall of wicket:

1-15.

India-A bowling:

Thakur 6-4-3-0, Mukesh 3-2-1-0, Sau-

rabh 4-1-13-1, Chahar 1-0-1-0.

LIVE TELECAST

England Women vs India Women

1st ODI, Sory Six (SD & HD) & LIV, 3.30 p.m.

Premier League: SS Select 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 4.30 & 6.45 p.m.

WTA Chennai Open: Sory Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 5 p.m. onwards

La Liga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Voot Select, 5.30, 7.45, 10 p.m. & 12.30 a.m. (Monday)

Durand Cup: (final): Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Voot Select, 6 p.m.

Serie A: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Voot Select, 6.30, 9.30 p.m. & 12.15 a.m. (Monday)

Bundesliga: Sory Ten 1 (SD & HD) & LIV, 7 & 11 p.m.

Durand Cup: intriguing summit clash on the cards

Little to choose between BFC and MCFC in battle of equals

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA
KOLKATA

Two prominent Indian Super League outfits - Bengaluru FC and Mumbai City FC - will be battling it out for the first crown of the new football calendar when they meet in the final of the 131st Durand Cup at the Salt Lake Stadium under lights here on Sunday.

The final will see the culmination of more than a months' engagements that saw a record 20 teams contesting in the initial round before the knock-outs pruned out the competition to have the two of the most consistent outfits reaching the title clash.

Mumbai city FC, the winner of both the ISL title and the League Winners Shield in the 2020-21 season, has gradually warmed up to its current form which saw it overcoming the local favou-

rite, Mohammedan Sporting SC in the semifinals.

In good form overall

The team has been good both in defence and attack where the combination of Scotsman Greg Stewart and Lalianzuala Chhangte fetched it a few good wins. Chhangte currently is the highest scorer of the tournament with seven goals to his credit.

"We are here to win the Durand Cup and start the ISL season with more confidence and I am happy with my team till now. I am expecting an exciting match as

Bengaluru is a strong team with good players in its ranks. My message to the team in the final will be to enjoy the game," said the Mumbai City FC gaffer Des Buckingham.

Bengaluru FC, which outplayed the reigning ISL champion Hyderabad FC in the semifinals, is also high on confidence with its attacking pair of Sunil Chhetri and Roy Krishna showing good form.

"I think we have to play as a team tomorrow. Mumbai has some very good players like Greg Stewart and others. So, we know what they can do. We don't have any injuries and our target will be to win the trophy without any injuries," said Simon Grayson, the English coach in charge of Bengaluru FC, which won the ISL title in the 2018-19 season.

Dark Don's Arya strikes it hot on opening day

JKNRC

RAYAN ROZARIO
COIMBATORE

Kolkatta's Arya Singh (Dark Don Racing) played it cool on a rather hot day to finish on top of the podium in the premier Formula LGB4 class on the opening day of the 25th JK Tyre FMSCI National Racing Championship (JKNRC) at the Kari Motor Speedway in Chettipalayam on Saturday.

Chennai's Kyle Kumaran of DST Racing packed a punch at the start, winning the JK Tyre Novice Cup with ease.

Durasovic and Ruud seal it for Norway

DAVIS CUP

SPORTS BUREAU

Viktor Durasovic showed that Norway was not exactly a one-man army! Ranked a modest 325 in singles and 224 in doubles, the 25-year-old Durasovic stood up to the task, along with world No. 2 Casper Ruud, in guiding Norway to an unbeatable 3-0 lead in the Davis Cup World Group tie against India at the Haakons Hall in Lillehammer on Saturday.

In a nerveless third-set display, she battled from a break down to edge the two-hour 53-minute contest that is now sure to fetch her a spot in the top-100 for the first time.

"It was the best atmosphere I have ever played in," said the 17-year-old. "Respect to her [Podoroska]. She played amazing. I never thought I would win a three-setter against her. She made me go over my limits."

Fruhvirtova will face Magda Linette in the final after the Pole's opponent Katie Swan of Great Britain withdrew from her semifinal while being 0-3 down in the first set. Swan pulled out owing to illness.

The start of the evening was marked by some frighteningly good tennis. Fruhvirtova's power stood out, especially from the backhand wing, as she clobbered balls when allowed time and space.

It forced Podoroska, who largely plays percentage tennis and pulls the trigger only when the kill is assured, to up her game. The Argentine

used the short angles well and denied Fruhvirtova the chance to dictate from the middle of the court. The Czech had to hit on the run and off-balance, resulting in a fair share of errors.

Podoroska broke in the fifth and seventh games to have two looks at the first set. But just like it had in her quarterfinal against Eugenie Bouchard, a medical time-out for her opponent (exhaustion) threw her off and the score was soon 5-5.

The experienced Podoroska, however, recovered from a break and held in quick succession and pocketed the

Fruhvirtova outlasts Podoroska

The 17-year-old keeps her nerve to prevail in a two-hour 53-minute humdinger

CHENNAI OPEN

N. SUDARSHAN
CHENNAI

Linda Fruhvirtova's teenaged promise was in full bloom in front of a vociferous crowd at the SDAT Tennis Stadium on Saturday as she beat Nadia Podoroska 5-7, 6-2, 6-4 to enter her maiden WTA Tour-level final.

In a nerveless third-set display, she battled from a break down to edge the two-hour 53-minute contest that is now sure to fetch her a spot in the top-100 for the first time.

"It was the best atmosphere I have ever played in," said the 17-year-old. "Respect to her [Podoroska]. She played amazing. I never thought I would win a three-setter against her. She made me go over my limits."

Fruhvirtova will face Magda Linette in the final after the Pole's opponent Katie Swan of Great Britain withdrew from her semifinal while being 0-3 down in the first set. Swan pulled out owing to illness.

The start of the evening was marked by some frighteningly good tennis. Fruhvirtova's power stood out, especially from the backhand wing, as she clobbered balls when allowed time and space.

It forced Podoroska, who largely plays percentage tennis and pulls the trigger only when the kill is assured, to up her game. The Argentine

used the short angles well and denied Fruhvirtova the chance to dictate from the middle of the court. The Czech had to hit on the run and off-balance, resulting in a fair share of errors.

Podoroska broke in the fifth and seventh games to have two looks at the first set. But just like it had in her quarterfinal against Eugenie Bouchard, a medical time-out for her opponent (exhaustion) threw her off and the score was soon 5-5.

The experienced Podoroska, however, recovered from a break and held in quick succession and pocketed the



Czech and mate! Fruhvirtova recovered from a deficit to turn the tables on Podoroska in a high-quality semifinal. ■ R. RAVINDRAN

opening set. And when the 25-year-old broke the Fruhvirtova serve in the opening game of the second stanza, the door had seemingly shut for the youngster.

But the tables turned and Fruhvirtova broke thrice to gallop through the set 6-2. Podoroska fluffed her angles and with not much power in her shots, Fruhvirtova feasted on the short balls.

At 2-2 in the third, the momentum shifted again as Podoroska broke to 3-2. Fruhvirtova called for another time-out, this time to strap her left ankle. But Podoroska didn't let it affect her and in-

stead shadow-practised on the side where Fruhvirtova was seeking treatment, perhaps to show that she wanted to get on with it.

But her serve remained wobbly. She held to 4-2 after saving a break point but couldn't manage it two games later as Fruhvirtova restored parity to 4-4.

On the Podoroska serve at 4-5, Fruhvirtova ran up three match points, only the former to erase all, the third with a nonchalant drop.

That, though, remained her last act, as she doublefaulted on the fourth match point.

IN BRIEF

Dortmund moves to the top after Bayern loses

DORTMUND

Borussia Dortmund beat Schalke 1-0 to climb to the top of Bundesliga on Saturday as Bayern Munich suffered a 0-1 reverse at Augsburg. Manchester City won 3-0 over Wolves to move top of the Premier League.

Top results: Premier League:

Wolves 0 lost to Man City 3 (Grealish 1, Haaland 1, Foden 1); Tottenham 6 (Kane 8, Dier 21, Bentancur 47, Son 73, 84, 86) bt Leicester 2 (Tielemans 6-pen, Maddison 41); LaLiga: Barcelona 3 (Lewandowski 34, 48, Depay 41) bt Elche 0; Bundesliga:

Dortmund 1 (Moukoko 78) bt Schalke 0; Augsburg 1 (Berisha 59) bt Bayern 0.



Flexible: Suryakumar has pulled his weight at any given slot.

I love batting at No. 4'

Suryakumar says it challenges him a lot

CRICKET

AMOL KARHADKAR
MUMBAI

number. You need to do what is required in that situation," Suryakumar said.

"If you go in [in] the seventh over, you need to understand what you need to do. And in the end, if you go in at No. 7, you need to score like 12-ball 25 and you need to know how to make it happen."

Suryakumar, thanks to his ability to execute high-risk innovative strokes with elan, is often compared with South Africa's A.B. de Villiers. He has been trying to emulate de Villiers' model of batting conventionally in the nets before letting himself loose in T20 games.

"I actually try to follow the same mantra as him. I have also heard the same from many players who played with him at RCB that whenever he bats in the nets, he tries to bat normally, he just tries to watch the ball closely. So I also actually started doing."

Sai Kishore's seven-for ends the game as a contest

South has an overall lead of 580 runs with nine wickets in hand

DULEEP TROPHY

S. DINAKAR
SALEM

Sai Kishore's body language oozes self-belief. He relishes face-offs. Confidence is everything.

He is skilful, fit and has the strength of mind to deliver on big occasions.

With bounce, turn and the odd straight one, the lanky Sai bamboozled North with a destructive seven for 70.

Mammoth lead

Bundled out for 207, North handed South a mammoth first innings lead of 423, on Saturday, the third day of the Duleep Trophy semifinal at the SCF ground.

As a contest, this game is over and the formalities will be completed on day four. South, which for all practical purposes is through to the final, was 157 for one in its second innings after not enforcing the follow-on.

Day three was not about Sai alone. The prolific Rohan Kunnummal followed his first innings 193 with a sizzling 72-ball 77 (9x4, 2x6), flashing his cover-drives with



Flummoxed: Sai Kishore snared Dhull with one that spun away. ■ R. RAGU

a flourish, using his feet to spinners and dominating the bowlers.

Kunnummal, a natural, appeared to be batting on a different pitch. Mayank Agarwal, with cultured stroke-making, was unbeaten on 53 (76b, 6x4) at stumps.

Earlier, North struggled on a surface where survival wasn't easy. A few balls reared while some kept low from patches on the pitch.

And Sai bowling with precision and control from an easy high-arm action, was not making existence easier for them.

Settling into a lovely bowling rhythm, Sai sliced through the line-up.

who spun the ball, played a valuable supporting role.

But then, it was Sai's day in Salem.

The scores:

South Zone – 1st innings: 630 for eight dec.

North Zone – 1st innings: Yash Dhull c Bhui b Sai Kishore 39, Manan Vohra c Kunnummal b Gowtham 27, Dhruv Shorey c Pandey b Thyagarajan 28, Mandeep Singh c Indrajith b Gowtham 14, Himanshu Rana lbw Sai Kishore 17, Nishanth Sindhu st Bhui b Sai Kishore 40, Anmol Malhotra c Vihari b Sai Kishore 0, Pulkit Narang (not out) 12, Mayank Dagar c Ravi Teja b Sai Kishore 11, Siddharth Kaul c Indrajith b Sai Kishore 0, Navdeep Sainio lbw b Sai Kishore 4; Extras (b-4, lb-5, nb-1, p-5): 15; Total (in 67 overs): 207.

Fall of wickets: 1-67, 2-71, 3-116, 4-116, 5-164, 6-166, 7-183, 8-201, 9-201.

South Zone bowling: Sai Kishore 25-4-70-7, Basil Thampi 7-0-19-0, Ravi Teja 4-0-14-0, Gowtham 22-5-68-2, Thyagarajan 9-3-22-1.

South Zone – 2nd innings: Rohan Kunnummal c (sub) b Sindhu 77, Mayank Agarwal (batting) 53, T. Ravi Teja (batting) 19; Extras (b-4, lb-4): 8; Total (For one wkt in 28 overs): 157.

Fall of wicket: 1-124.

North Zone bowling: Dagar 6-0-39-0, Sindhu 12-1-62-1, Narang 7-0-39-0, Rana 3-0-9-0.

West Zone has one foot in the final

Sets Central a mammoth target of 501 for victory

S. DIPAK RAGAV
COIMBATORE

The third day's play between West Zone and Central Zone in the Duleep Trophy semifinals at the Sri Ramakrishna College ground on Saturday was less intense in comparison to the first two days. West made 371 in its second innings, setting Central a humongous target of 501.

Shaw, who resumed on 104, was dismissed for 142 (140b, 15x4, 4x6). It took a brilliant effort from Yash Dubey, diving to his right at short-midwicket, to remove Shaw.

Armaan Jaffer looked solid, executing some fine shots through the leg-side, including two flicks of Gourav Yadav to get to 49. However, in a hurry to get to his half-century he mistimed a lofted shot.

Het Patel (67) started positively hitting Karan for three boundaries before he switched to the cautious mode. The Gujarat wicket-keeper hit a half-century



Solid effort: Het compiled a patient half-century. ■ M. PERIASAMY

ry put the game beyond the reach of Central.

The scores:

West Zone – 1st innings: 257.

Central Zone – 1st innings: 128.

West – 2nd innings: Prithvi Shaw c Dubey b Karan 142,

Yashasvi Jaiswal lbw b Aniket 3,

Ajinkya Rahane b Rajpoot 12,

Rahul Tripathi lbw b Rajpoot 0,

Armaan Jaffer c Dubey b Karan 49,

Shams Mulani lbw b Kartikeya 29,

Het Patel lbw b Kartikeya 67,

Atit Sheth c Garg b Kartikeya 20,

Tanush Kotian b Gourav 28,

Jaydev Unadkat lbw b Gourav 1,

Chintan Gaja (not out) 11;

Extras (b-4, lb-1, w-2).

Fall of wickets: 1-22, 2-33.

West bowling: Unadkat 3-0-

13-0, Gaja 4-0-14-1, Kotian 2-

0-6-0, Mulani 0.2-0-0-1.

Bajrang stays on course

WRESTLING WORLDS

SPORTS BUREAU

Bajrang Punia (65kg) stayed in the quest for another medal in the World wrestling championships in Belgrade on Saturday. Beginning his journey from the pre-quarterfinals, Bajrang beat Cuban Alejandro Valdes 5-4 despite picking up an injury (on the top of his head) during the bout.

Bajrang put on a strap to protect the injury during his next bout but lost to John Diakomihalis of the USA 10-0 in the quarterfinals.

The Indian made it to the repechage round when Diakomihalis progressed to the title clash.

Sagar Jaglan (74kg) made a good start to his bronze medal hunt by beating Mongolian Suidkhoo Olonbayr 7-3 in the repechage round, but lost to two-time Asian medallist Yones Emaami of Iran 6-0 in the bronze medal contest.

YOU KNOW
WHAT WILL
NEVER RETIRE?
THE SWEET
SOUND OF THAT
INCREDIBLY
WELL-TIMED,
SINGLE-HANDED
BACKHAND
SHOT, PLACED
AGONISINGLY
BEYOND THE
REACH OF
THE OPPONENT,
FOLLOWED BY
THE FOUR
MAGICAL WORDS,
“GAME, SET,
MATCH,
FEDERER.”



Thank you for
letting us witness
excellence, Roger.

SPORTSTAR



Flexible: Suryakumar has pulled his weight at any given slot.

I love batting at No. 4'

Suryakumar says it challenges him a lot

CRICKET

Struggling India aims to give Jhulan a fitting farewell

After setback in T20 series, the team will be eager to up its game



Battle-scarred veteran: A great journey nears its end as Jhulan is set to retire after this ODI series. ■ GETTY IMAGES

INDIA IN ENGLAND

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
HOVE

After an ordinary showing in the shortest format, the Indian women's cricket team will have to drastically lift its game and give veteran Jhulan Goswami a fitting farewell in the ODI series against England beginning here on Sunday.

India got most things wrong in the Twenty20 International series, which it lost 1-2.

Middle-order woes

The middle-order issues that have troubled the team remain far from resolved. D. Hemalatha was given a chance, but could not make much of an impact. Though Jemimah Rodrigues has been named in the squad, questions remain over her fitness.

While Smriti Mandhana and skipper Harmanpreet Kaur continue to hold the bat together, Shafali Verma needs to find consisten-

cy. With Jhulan retiring at the end of the three-match ODI series, the pace department also doesn't inspire a lot of confidence.

Renuka Puri Singh has done well of late but the team still relies heavily on spinners.

Pooja Vastrakar, Sneha Rana and Deepthi Sharma merit a place in the side. But, is going with three all-rounders and no specialist in a playing eleven the right option?

The teams (from): India: Harmanpreet Kaur (Capt.), Smriti Mandhana (Vice-Capt.), Shafali Verma, S. Meghana, Deepthi Sharma, Taniyaa Bhatia (wk), Yastika Bhatia (wk), Pooja Vastrakar, Sneha Rana, Renuka Thakur, Meghna Singh, Rajeshwari Gayakwad, Harleen Deol, D. Hemalatha, Simran Dil Bahadur, Jhulan Goswami and Jemimah Rodrigues.

England: Amy Jones, Tammy Beaumont, Lauren Bell, Mai Bouchier, Alice Capsey, Kate Cross, Freya Davies, Alice Davidson-Richards, Charlie Dean, Sophia Dunkley, Sophie Ecclestone, Freya Kemp, Issy Wong and Danni Wyatt.

Match starts at 3.30 p.m. IST.

Vansh and Mahika triumph

JHAWAR: Vansh Nandal beat Deepam Malik 2-6, 6-4, 6-4 in the boys final of the AITA National series under-18 tennis tournament at the Joygoa Academy on Saturday. Deepam claimed the doubles title in partnership with Sagar Kumar. In the girls final, Mahika Khanna outplayed Sreemanya Reddy 6-0, 6-2. In the doubles title clash, Shrijana Thapa and Tamanna Panwar turned the match around after a bad start against Gia Alana Pereira and Danica

Fernando to prevail 0-6, 6-0, [13-11].

The results: U-18: Boys

(final): Vansh Nandal bt Deepam Malik 2-6, 6-4, 6-4. **Semifinals:** Vansh bt Aarjun Pandit 6-4, 2-6, 6-3; Deepam bt Bhicky Sagolshem 6-1, 5-7, 6-1. **Doubles (final):** Deepam Malik & Sagar Kumar bt Tushar Mittal & Ansh Kundu 6-3, 6-2. **U-18: Girls (final):** Mahika Khanna bt Sreemanya Reddy 6-0, 6-2. **Semifinals:** Mahika bt Shatakshee Chaudhary 6-1, 6-2; Sreemanya bt Bhumiaka Rohilla 6-7(0), 7-5, 6-3. **Doubles (final):** Shrijana Thapa & Tamanna Panwar bt

Gia Alana Pereira & Danica Fernando 0-6, 6-0, [13-11].

Tanush to meet

AGARTALA: Tanush Ghildyal recovered from a slow start to beat Aashraya Mehra 3-6, 6-4, [10-6] in the boys' semifinals of the Asian under-16 tennis tournament in Agartala on Saturday. In the final, Tanush is scheduled to play Samprit Sharma. Tiruja Saha and Haritashree Venkatesh set up the girls' final. **The results (semifinals):**

Boys: Tanush Ghildyal bt Aashraya Mehra 3-6, 6-4, [10-6]. **Rubani Kaur Sidhu & R**

Kakarlamudi bt Tanisha Roy & Tiruja Saha 4-0, 1-4, [10-7]. **Vansh:**



Prachi and Aahan shine

ASIAN U-12 TENNIS

SPORTS BUREAU

Prachi Malik and A. Aahan helped India outplay Chinese Taipei 2-0, dropping mere three games, in clinching the third place in the Asian under-12 tennis championship in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan, on Saturday.

The Indian boys, however, were beaten in the third place match 2-0 by Myanmar.

Tavish Pahwa went down fighting in two tie-breaks in the second singles after Fazal Ali Meer had lost the first match 4-6, 2-6.

Thailand won the girls title beating host Kazakhstan 3-0, while Kazakhstan beat Thailand 2-1 for the boys title.

The results (third place):

Boys: Myanmar bt India 2-0 (Phee Sar Sei bt Fazal Ali Meer 6-4, 6-2; Dah Woo bt Tavish Pahwa 7-6(4), 7-6(4)).

Girls: India bt Chinese Taipei 2-0 (A. Aahan bt Tsai-Jung Chiang 6-1, 6-2; Prachi Malik bt Ya-Tsen Ko 6-0, 6-0).

Purav-Divij duo wins title

Sai Karteek & Parikshit reign in Monastir



Delighted duo: Purav and Divij are all smiles after the triumph. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU

Second-seeded Purav Raja and Divij Sharan beat top seeds Arjun Kadhe and Fernando Romboli (Bra) 6-4, 3-6, [10-8]. \$15,000 ITF, Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt: **Men: Final:** Jesse De Jager & Roland Stuurman (Ned) bt S.D. Prajwal Dev & Abhinav Sanjeev Shanmugam 7-6(6), 6-4.

Women: Semifinals: Aliona Falei & Nino Natasvlishvili (Geo) bt Melis Ayda Uyar (Tur) & Sraava Shivani 6-4, 6-3.

\$15,000 ITF men, Monastir, Tunisia: **Final:** Sai Karteek Reddy Ganta & Parikshit Somani bt Sun Qian & Tang Sheng (Chn) 6-3, 6-4.

doubles title.

Other doubles results:

\$53,120 Challenger, Istanbul:

Final: Purav Raja & Divij Sharan bt Arjun Kadhe & Fernando Romboli (Bra) 6-4, 3-6, [10-8].

\$15,000 ITF, Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt: **Men: Final:** Jesse De Jager & Roland Stuurman (Ned) bt S.D. Prajwal Dev & Abhinav Sanjeev Shanmugam 7-6(6), 6-4.

Women: Semifinals: Aliona Falei & Nino Natasvlishvili (Geo) bt Melis Ayda Uyar (Tur) & Sraava Shivani 6-4, 6-3.

\$15,000 ITF men, Monastir, Tunisia: **Final:** Sai Karteek Reddy Ganta & Parikshit Somani bt Sun Qian & Tang Sheng (Chn) 6-3, 6-4.

Umesh undergoing rehab at NCA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON

India pacer Umesh Yadav is rehabilitating at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru after suffering a thigh muscle injury while playing for English country side Middlesex against Gloucestershire last month.

Umesh, who was injured in the Royal London One-Day Cup match on August 21, will not be available for Middlesex's last two matches of the county championships.

CHINMAYA INTERNATIONAL RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

Swami Chinmayananda Lane, Nallur Vayal Post,
Siruvani Road, Coimbatore - 641 114, Tamil Nadu, India.
Phone: 91-422 2613 303 Web : www.cirschool.org
e-mail : admissions@cirschool.org

ADMISSIONS OPEN
Classes V - IX (CBSE) & XI (CISCE and IIB)
for the academic year 2023 - 2024

ENTRANCE EXAMINATION
India & Dubai - 30 Oct, 2022
Other countries - 30 Oct to 6 Nov, 2022

A Truly Unique Co-Ed Boarding School with a East - West Blend of Culture and Academics. Over 580 High-Achieving Students from 24 Indian States and 20 Other Countries.

A STANLEY PRODUCT

UPGRADE TO QUALITY COMFORT™

Enjoy Quality Comfort by creating and customising your very own seating landscape with Slumbermate's modular sofa system. Its unique design offers you the flexibility to choose your colors, layout, and comfort level making it a true statement of your lifestyle. Slumbermate's promise of Ultimate Quality Comfort is only made possible through Stanley's state-of-the-art manufacturing facility and high-quality materials sourced from the world's best producers.

Experience Slumbermate's Quality Comfort exclusively only at Stanley's Sofas & More.

Exclusively Available @ **SOFAS & MORE**

DELHI Call: MG Rd +91 98106 93968
Kirti Nagar +91 93138 40882, +91 99714 55014

slumber mate
Ultimate Quality Sleep

www.sofasandmore.in stanleysofasandmore

AGRA Call: +91 89796 62226

Center Plaza, Parinay Kunj, Civil Lines Road

Rise of the rivers

Several long-forgotten, destroyed waterbodies in Bengaluru have had a rebirth with the recent unprecedented heavy rain

TEXT AND IMAGES BY K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

Bringing Cauvery water from afar in pipes for domestic consumption in Bengaluru is like "looking for ghee while butter is on your palm", says B.N. Umesh, a pharmacist, citing a Kannada proverb to imply how the city is looking for distant sources of water while letting its rivers go to seed. He got thinking on these lines as the recent rain submerged vast areas of Bengaluru and has, at least for a short time, brought back to life many of its rivers that had been presumed "dead".

The Vrishabhavathi, for instance, was in spate during the downpour that

lasted days. The Arkavathy's tributary, which partly flows through the city, had carried nothing but sewage and industrial pollutants in recent years. Facing similar problems is the Arkavathy itself, which originates in the Nandi Hills along with the Vrishabhavathi and travels 35 km to join the Cauvery, and the Kanva, which takes birth at Magadi and traverses 55 km to join the Shimsha, which too merges with the Cauvery.

These small tributaries once flourished and people in the region used to depend on their water for daily needs and agriculture, says Rame Gowda, a farmer who now uses borewell water as the Arkavathy is polluted. He says domestic animals refuse to drink from these rivers as the water smells terrible

with industrial waste dumped in it. Kumar, 30, of Shanbhoganahalli, near Channapatna, remembers his childhood days when he used to play in the Seetha Thore, a stream that joins the Kanva. But as he grew older, both the stream and the river "vanished" and the riverbed became a convenient place for dumping garbage.

After the recent rain, the Arkavathy and the Kanva got back their glory, though ephemerally. But the rain hardly helped the likes of Rame Gowda. As waters flooded the fields in this drought-prone area, crops were destroyed, pouring misery on farmers. And Umesh's idea of tapping these local resources for local needs is lost in the constant rush for big and expensive projects.



Breaking the banks: The Seetha Thore, one of the streams rejuvenated by the recent heavy rain in Bengaluru. It joins the Kanva river near Channapatna in Ramanagara district in Karnataka.



New life: After many years, the Kanva flows as a proper river with the rain fuelling a rejuvenation.



Quick flow: The Vrishabhavathi seen from Nayandahalli in Bengaluru.



Spring of life: A rejuvenated stream flowing to join the Kanva at Thittamaranahalli of Ramanagara district.



On show: The Kanva dam built in 1946 attracting tourists after the heavy water flow in the river.



Unfettered flow: After three decades, the crest gates were opened to release water from the Thippagondanahalli reservoir, which caters to the drinking water needs of a part of Bengaluru.



Wave after wave: The Arkavathy in full flow as seen from Manchanabele in Magadi taluk of Ramanagara district.



On the rise: The Arkavathy river flows briskly.



Slamming through: The Vrishabhavathi in a non-stop gush.