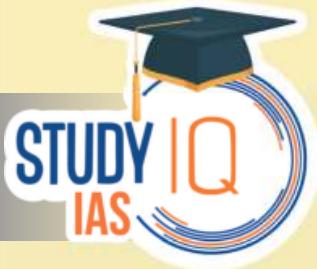




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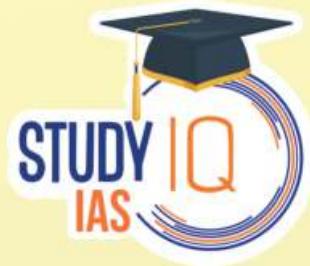
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J&K's Pulwama and Shopian get their first-ever cinema halls
page 12



'Project Cheetah' began in 2009, says Congress leader Jairam Ramesh
page 13



Smriti, Harmanpreet power India to victory in first ODI
page 17

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IN BRIEF



Darul Uloom supports survey of madrasas

GAZIABAD In a conference of madrasas organised by Darul Uloom in Deoband on Sunday, the leading Islamic seminary said it was not against the ongoing Uttar Pradesh government survey of unrecognised madrasas in the State and appealed to the management of madrasas to cooperate with officials in carrying out the survey.

NEWS ▶ PAGE 12

Protest at varsity over 'objectionable videos'

CHANDIGARH Protests erupted on the campus of a private university in Mohali over "rumours" that objectionable videos of several students were recorded by a hosteller, following which Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Sunday ordered a probe. The police arrested a student and sent a team to apprehend a youth in Himachal Pradesh.

NEWS ▶ PAGE 12

CSAT

Batch-4 On Latest Pattern FOUNDATION BATCH by AMIT GARG Ex-Faculty, VAJRAM & RAVI Starts: 21 Sept. Online: 5 Seats Left FEES: ₹12000 www.iassetu.com 2626, Old Rajinder Nagar, Delhi-60 | 88266 19699

EDUCATIONPLUS ▶ PAGE 5

NSCN(I-M) to resume peace talks with Centre

Group meets with Core Committee on Naga Political Issue

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

The extremist National Socialist Council of Nagaland or the Isak-Muivah faction of the NSCN has agreed to resume peace talks with the Centre based on the Framework Agreement signed on August 3, 2015.

The decision follows a meeting between the 11 representatives of the NSCN(I-M) and the 22-member Core Committee on Naga Political Issue comprising MPs and MLAs of Nagaland at Chumukedima near the State's commercial hub, Dimapur, on Saturday.

"The NSCN has agreed to resume talks on the condition that they are based on the Framework Agreement and the formulation papers submitted to R.N. Ravi and A.K. Mishra," T.R. Zeliang, the co-convenor of the core committee said.

Mr. Mishra, a former Special Director of the Intelligence Bureau, succeeded Mr. Ravi as the Centre's interlocutor for the Naga peace process in September 2021. The latter is now the Governor of Tamil Nadu.

Mr. Zeliang said an NSCN(I-M) delegation would leave for New Delhi on September 19 to discuss some unresolved matters with Central

NSCN(I-M) to resume peace talks with Centre
The NSCN has agreed to resume talks on the condition that they are based on the Framework Agreement submitted to R.N. Ravi and A.K. Mishra

T.R. ZELIANG
Co-convenor of Core Committee

government officials.

There are reports that a Central team has been working on a new set of "formulation papers" for packaging a set of offers, along with the old, to facilitate the final peace deal soon.

Mr. Zeliang said the meeting was focused on conveying what Home Minister Amit Shah had told the committee at a meeting in New Delhi on September 12.

The NSCN(I-M) delegation, he said, was unhappy with Mr. Mishra for omitting some important political points that Mr. Ravi had included in his formulation papers earlier.

"Our role is to act as facilitators of the peace process and convey the feeling of the Nagas and the Centre to each other. We are not at all involved with the negotiation

T.R. Zeliang, Co-convenor of Core Committee

involved with the negotiation," Mr. Zeliang said.

He said the onus was now on the Centre and the NSCN(I-M) to sign the final agreement before the Assembly election due by February 2023. The Working Committee of the Naga National Political Groups (NNPGs) is ready to sign the final agreement any time, he added.

The NNPGs consist of at least seven groups that have traditionally been the rivals of the NSCN(I-M).

Ball in Centre's court
The NSCN(I-M) said the ball of the final agreement was in the Centre's court. "We have been waiting for their response," Rh Raising, member of the outfit's collective leadership, said.

Our role is to act as facilitators of the peace process and convey the feeling of the Nagas and the Centre to each other. We are not at all involved with the negotiation

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Trust only in people's alliance: Kejriwal

CM says, just like Lord Krishna, AAP slayed 'demons'; he is a 'megalomaniac' who makes much noise: BJP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI



Arvind Kejriwal addressing the elected representatives of his party in Delhi on Sunday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

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The Executive Engineer, Civil Division No. V, Irrigation and Flood Control Department, Govt. of NCT of Delhi, Near Parivartan Complex, Sadulalpur, New Delhi - 110030 invited on behalf of President of India for the lowest per cent rate tender from approved and eligible contractors registered with Irrigation and Flood Control Department up to 3:00 P.M. on dates mentioned as below:

1. NIT 55/2022-23/EE/CD-V/Acs/ (ID No. 2022_IFC_229116_1 (Percentage rate).
H.O.A.: M/LALAD.

N.O.W.: Providing and placing 50 Nos. of stainless steel benches in various places of charan in Tughlakabad Constituency AC-52.

E.C. Rs. 19,34,858/- Earnest Money Rs 38,697/- Period of Completion 60 Days. (Date of opening 21.09.2022).

2. NIT 56/2022-23/EE/CD-V/Acs/ (ID No. 2022_IFC_229118_1 (Percentage rate).
H.O.A.: 4515 IDRUV.

N.O.W.: Demolishing and reconstruction of Zamroopur various roads/streets in Greater Kalash Constituency AC-50.

E.C. Rs. 44,54,731/- Earnest Money Rs 89,095/- Period of Completion 90 Days. (Date of opening 21.09.2022).

3. NIT 57/2022-23/EE/CD-V/Acs/ (ID No. 2022_IFC_229120_1 (Percentage rate).
H.O.A.: 4515 IDRUV.

N.O.W.: Repair and maintenance of Mulla park Kabristan at Pul Pehlaj village Tughlakabad.

E.C. Rs. 24,80,261/- Earnest Money Rs 49,605/- Period of Completion 150 Days. (Date of opening 21.09.2022).

4. NIT 58/2022-23/EE/CD-V/Acs/ (ID No. 2022_IFC_229123_1 (Percentage rate).
H.O.A.: 4515 IDRUV.

N.O.W.: Repair and renovation of Churiya Mohalla Chaupat at Tehkhand village in Tughlakabad Constituency AC-52.

E.C. Rs. 58,34,549/- Earnest Money Rs 11,6,691/- Period of Completion 150 Days. (Date of opening 21.09.2022).

5. NIT 59/2022-23/EE/CD-V/Acs/ (ID No. 2022_IFC_229125_1 (Percentage rate).
H.O.A.: 4515 IDRUV.

N.O.W.: Construction of boundary wall at Saini Nagar kabristan in Greater Kalash Constituency AC-50.

E.C. Rs. 48,20,518/- Earnest Money Rs 96,410/- Period of Completion 120 Days. (Date of opening 21.09.2022).

6. NIT 60/2022-23/EE/CD-V/Acs/ (ID No. 2022_IFC_229126_1 (Percentage rate).
H.O.A.: 4515 IDRUV.

N.O.W.: Construction of road and drain in Tehkhand village main road Mavi Mohalla and Bengali Mohalla in Tughlakabad Constituency AC-52.

E.C. Rs. 64,00,306/- Earnest Money Rs 12,28,006/- Period of Completion 90 Days. (Date of opening 21.09.2022).

7. NIT 61/2022-23/EE/CD-V/Acs/ (ID No. 2022_IFC_229128_1 (Percentage rate).
H.O.A.: 4515 IDRUV.

N.O.W.: Demolishing and reconstruction of Savitri nagar various roads / streets in Greater Kalash constituency AC-50.

E.C. Rs. 41,14,615/- Earnest Money Rs 82,292/- Period of Completion 90 Days. (Date of opening 21.09.2022).

8. NIT 62/2022-23/EE/CD-V/Acs/ (ID No. 2022_IFC_229129_1 (Percentage rate).
H.O.A.: M/LALAD.

N.O.W.: Providing and fixing 100 victorian benches at various place of park in Tughlakabad Constituency AC-52.

E.C. Rs. 16,76,805/- Earnest Money Rs 33,536/- Period of Completion 60 Days. (Date of opening 21.09.2022).

9. NIT 63/2022-23/EE/CD-V/Acs/ (ID No. 2022_IFC_229130_1 (Percentage rate).
H.O.A.: 4515 IDRUV.

N.O.W.: Construction of road in Tughlakabad village from Hanuman Mandir to Kanwar Niwas in Tughlakabad constituency AC-52.

E.C. Rs. 67,49,689/- Earnest Money Rs 13,35,894/- Period of Completion 90 Days. (Date of opening 21.09.2022).

10. NIT 64/2022-23/EE/CO-V/Acs/ (ID No. 2022_IFC_229132_1 (Percentage rate).
H.O.A.: M/LALAD.

N.O.W.: Providing and fixing Gym and Jhula in Harkesh Nagar Okha Sarvodaya School in Tughlakabad Constituency.

E.C. Rs. 21,14,518/- Earnest Money Rs 42,290/- Period of Completion 60 Days. (Date of opening 21.09.2022).

11. NIT 65/2022-23/EE/CD-V/Acs/ (ID No. 2022_IFC_229134_1 (Percentage rate).
H.O.A.: M/LALAD.

N.O.W.: Development of 3 Nos. park in Pulpelhpur & Okha Phase-I in Tughlakabad Constituency AC-52.

E.C. Rs. 70,58,682/- Earnest Money Re 14,174/- Period of Completion 120 Days. (Date of opening 21.09.2022).

12. NIT 66/2022-23/EE/CD-V/Acs/ (ID No. 2022_IFC_229136_1 (Percentage rate).
H.O.A.: M/LALAD.

N.O.W.: Construction of main entry gate at different location in Tughlakabad constituency AC-52.

E.C. Rs. 26,13,031/- Earnest Money Rs 52,621/- Period of Completion 150 Days. (Date of opening 21.09.2022).

13. NIT 67/2022-23/EE/CD-V/Acs/ (ID No. 2022_IFC_229148_1 (Percentage rate).
H.O.A.: 4515 IDRUV.

N.O.W.: Improvement of 10 Nos. of well at Lehanki village in Tughlakabad Constituency AC-52.

E.C. Rs. 40,25,213/- Earnest Money Rs 80,504/- Period of Completion 150 Days. (Date of opening 21.09.2022).

14. NIT 68/2022-23/EE/CD-V/Acs/ (ID No. 2022_IFC_229150_1 (Percentage rate).
H.O.A.: M/LALAD.

N.O.W.: Providing and fixing of 200 Nos. of Signboards at various places in Street in Tughlakabad Constituency AC-52.

E.C. Rs. 26,13,031/- Earnest Money Rs 52,621/- Period of Completion 90 Days. (Date of opening 21.09.2022).

15. NIT 69/2022-23/EE/CD-V/Acs/ (ID No. 2022_IFC_229152_1 (Percentage rate).
H.O.A.: M/LALAD.

N.O.W.: Improvement of 10 Nos. of well at Lehanki village in Tughlakabad Constituency AC-52.

E.C. Rs. 40,25,213/- Earnest Money Rs 80,504/- Period of Completion 150 Days. (Date of opening 21.09.2022).

16. NIT 70/2022-23/EE/CD-V/Acs/ (ID No. 2022_IFC_229154_1 (Percentage rate).
H.O.A.: M/LALAD.

N.O.W.: Providing and fixing of 200 Nos. of Signboards at various places in Street in Tughlakabad Constituency AC-52.

E.C. Rs. 26,13,031/- Earnest Money Rs 52,621/- Period of Completion 90 Days. (Date of opening 21.09.2022).

17. NIT 71/2022-23/EE/CD-V/Acs/ (ID No. 2022_IFC_229156_1 (Percentage rate).
H.O.A.: M/LALAD.

N.O.W.: Improvement of 10 Nos. of well at Lehanki village in Tughlakabad Constituency AC-52.

E.C. Rs. 40,25,213/- Earnest Money Rs 80,504/- Period of Completion 150 Days. (Date of opening 21.09.2022).

18. NIT 72/2022-23/EE/CD-V/Acs/ (ID No. 2022_IFC_229158_1 (Percentage rate).
H.O.A.: M/LALAD.

N.O.W.: Providing and fixing of 200 Nos. of Signboards at various places in Street in Tughlakabad Constituency AC-52.

E.C. Rs. 26,13,031/- Earnest Money Rs 52,621/- Period of Completion 90 Days. (Date of opening 21.09.2022).

19. NIT 73/2022-23/EE/CD-V/Acs/ (ID No. 2022_IFC_229160_1 (Percentage rate).
H.O.A.: M/LALAD.

N.O.W.: Improvement of 10 Nos. of well at Lehanki village in Tughlakabad Constituency AC-52.

E.C. Rs. 40,25,213/- Earnest Money Rs 80,504/- Period of Completion 150 Days. (Date of opening 21.09.2022).

20. NIT 74/2022-23/EE/CD-V/Acs/ (ID No. 2022_IFC_229162_1 (Percentage rate).
H.O.A.: M/LALAD.

N.O.W.: Providing and fixing of 200 Nos. of Signboards at various places in Street in Tughlakabad Constituency AC-52.

E.C. Rs. 26,13,031/- Earnest Money Rs 52,621/- Period of Completion 90 Days. (Date of opening 21.09.2022).

21. NIT 75/2022-23/EE/CD-V/Acs/ (ID No. 2022_IFC_229164_1 (Percentage rate).
H.O.A.: M/LALAD.

N.O.W.: Improvement of 10 Nos. of well at Lehanki village in Tughlakabad Constituency AC-52.

E.C. Rs. 40,25,213/- Earnest Money Rs 80,504/- Period of Completion 150 Days. (Date of opening 21.09.2022).

22. NIT 76/2022-23/EE/CD-V/Acs/ (ID No. 2022_IFC_229166_1 (Percentage rate).
H.O.A.: M/LALAD.

N.O.W.: Improvement of 10 Nos. of well at Lehanki village in Tughlakabad Constituency AC-52.

E.C. Rs. 40,25,213/- Earnest Money Rs 80,504/- Period of Completion 150 Days. (Date of opening 21.09.2022).

23. NIT 77/2022-23/EE/CD-V/Acs/ (ID No. 2022_IFC_229168_1 (Percentage rate).
H.O.A.: M/LALAD.

N.O.W.: Improvement of 10 Nos. of well at Lehanki village in Tughlakabad Constituency AC-52.

E.C. Rs. 40,25,213/- Earnest Money Rs 80,504/- Period of Completion 150 Days. (Date of opening 21.09.2022).

24. NIT 78/2022-23/EE/CD-V/Acs/ (ID No. 2022_IFC_229170_1 (Percentage rate).
H.O.A.: M/LALAD.

N.O.W.: Improvement of 10 Nos. of well at Lehanki village in Tughlakabad Constituency AC-52.

E.C. Rs. 40,25,213/- Earnest Money Rs 80,504/- Period of Completion 150 Days. (Date of opening 21.09.2022).

25. NIT 79/2022-23/EE/CD-V/Acs/ (ID No. 2022_IFC_229172_1 (Percentage rate).
H.O.A.: M/LALAD.

N.O.W.: Improvement of 10 Nos. of well at Lehanki village in Tughlakabad Constituency AC-52.

E.C. Rs. 40,25,213/- Earnest Money Rs 80,504/- Period of Completion 150 Days. (Date of opening 21.09.2022).

26. NIT 80/2022-23/EE/CD-V/Acs/ (ID No. 2022_IFC_229174_1 (Percentage rate).
H.O.A.: M/LALAD.

N.O.W.: Improvement of 10 Nos. of well at Lehanki village in Tughlakabad Constituency AC-52.

E.C. Rs. 40,25,213/- Earnest Money Rs 80,504/- Period of Completion 150 Days. (Date of opening 21.09.2022).

27. NIT 81/2022-23/EE/CD-V/Acs/ (ID No. 2022_IFC_229176_1 (Percentage rate).
H.O.A.: M/LALAD.

N.O.W.: Improvement of 10 Nos. of well at Lehanki village in Tughlakabad Constituency AC-52.

E.C. Rs. 40,25,213/- Earnest Money Rs 80,504/- Period of Completion 150 Days. (Date of opening 21.09.2022).

28. NIT 82/2022-23/EE/CD-V/Acs/ (ID No. 2022_IFC_229178_1 (Percentage rate).
H.O.A.: M/LALAD.

N.O.W.: Improvement of 10 Nos. of well at Lehanki village in Tughlakabad Constituency AC-52.

E.C. Rs. 40,25,213/- Earnest Money Rs 80,504/- Period of Completion 150 Days. (Date of opening 21.09.2022).

29. NIT 83/2022-23/EE/CD-V/Acs/ (ID No. 2022_IFC_229180_1 (Percentage rate).
H.O.A.: M/LALAD.

N.O.W.: Improvement of 10 Nos. of well at Lehanki village in Tughlakabad Constituency AC-52.

E.C. Rs. 40,25,213/- Earnest Money Rs 80,504/- Period of Completion 150 Days. (Date of opening 21.09.2022).

30. NIT 84/2022-23/EE/CD-V/Acs/ (ID No. 2022_IFC_229182_1 (Percentage rate).
H.O.A.: M/LALAD.

N.O.W.: Improvement of 10 Nos. of well at Lehanki village in Tughlakabad Constituency AC-52.

E.C. Rs. 40,25,213/- Earnest Money Rs 80,504/- Period of Completion 150 Days. (Date of opening 21.09.2022).

31. NIT 85/2022-23/EE/CD-V/Acs/ (ID No. 20



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- Sharda Launchpad is approved as a business incubator by the Ministry of MSME and has over the last five years been serving as the springboard for students and budding entrepreneurs.
- Sharda University's Design and Innovation in Emerging Technology (DIET) Centre is a partner of National Productivity Council (NPC) to establish centre of excellence on Industry 4.0 and Finance 4.0.
- 1200+ beds super-specialty hospital for training, research & internship opportunities.
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- Spread over 63 acres, Sharda offers hi-tech labs, well stocked libraries, AC classrooms with latest teaching aids, and facilities for indoor and outdoor sports.
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| TUESDAY, SEP. 20 |
| RISE 06:09 SET 18:21 |
| RISE 00:41 SET 15:15 |
| WEDNESDAY, SEP. 21 |
| RISE 06:09 SET 18:19 |
| RISE 01:37 SET 15:57 |

| | | |
|---------------|-----|-----|
| Delhi Weather | max | min |
| Delhi City | 35 | 24 |
| Safdarjung | 35 | 24 |
| Palam | 35 | 25 |

Delhi Palam Today
35°C The weather will be mostly dry. Day will be warm and humid. Night will be pleasant.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
36°C A mostly dry weather to prevail. Day will be very warm and humid with uneasy afternoon. Night will be comfortable.

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2 killed in jumbo attacks
KORBA (CHHATTISGARH)
Two senior citizens were killed in separate incidents of elephant attacks in Chhattisgarh's Surajpur district on Sunday, Forest officials said. The incidents took place in Premnagar forest range.

Books on Manipur will need clearance from govt. panel

15-member committee will scan material before approving

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GUWAHATI

All books on Manipur's history, culture, tradition and geography will have to be approved by a State-appointed panel before they are published, an order issued by the BJP-led government said.

University Vice-Chancellors and college teachers - serving and retired - will comprise the 15-member committee to be headed by Manipur Education Minister Thounaojam Basanta, the September 15 order issued by State's Higher and Technical Education Joint Secretary Divedita Lairenlpakam said.

The Director of the University and Higher Education Department will be the member-secretary of the panel "to accord approval for publication of books on



Serving and retired VCs and college teachers will be part of the committee. • PHOTO FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY.

these topics concerning the State".

"It has come to the knowledge of the government that some books contain materials which may either distort facts or disturb the peaceful co-existence among the various communities in the State or both," the order read.

Academics in the State, declining to be quoted, said the order would curtail academic freedom and stifle the

critics of the government. The trigger for the order was a thesis by Sushil Kumar Sharma, a brigadier who served in the Central Reserve Police Force on deputation, which claimed the Manipur kingdom measured 700 square miles at the time of the State's merger with India in 1949. The thesis came out as a book titled 'The Complexity Called Manipur: Roots, Perceptions & Reality'.

Farmers hold 'mahapanchayat' in Manesar against land acquisition

Govt. should listen to us, not acquire land without our consent, they say

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GURUGRAM

A large number of farmers, including women, held a 'mahapanchayat' at Panchgaon in Manesar here on Sunday against the State government's proposal to acquire over 1,800 acre belonging to half-a-dozen villages, including Kasan.

The meeting held under the aegis of the 'Zameen Bachao, Kisan Bachao Samgarh Samiti' was also attended by farmer leader Gurnam Singh Charuni and several political leaders.

Holding a sit-in agitation at Manesar for around three months, the farmers have been demanding that the government either release their land or increase the compensation to ₹11 crore per acre.

Samiti's president ex-Sarpanch Rohtash Yadav said the farmers had pleaded with Chief Minister Manohar Lal, the local MP, MLA and the officials concerned to re-



Farmers listening to their leaders at a meeting in Manesar on Sunday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

lease their land and the ongoing agitation had almost completed three months, but the government had no sympathy for them.

He reiterated that the farmers would not allow their land to be acquired till their demands are met. He said the government's job was to provide employment

and facilities to its citizens and not render them homeless.

Mr. Yadav added the government must listen to the farmers and not acquire land without their consent.

The government on Sunday extended an offer to the agitating farmers for talks with the Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation officials on September 22. But the farmer leaders announced that they will hold another 'mahapanchayat' on October 9 and block roads if the government failed to resolve the matter before the deadline.

Farmer and political leaders at the meeting accused the government of failing to protect the interests of the farming community.

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OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

C.ANNAMALAI (90) , Retired Foreman-Galley Press, The Hindu,Chennai passed away on 18-09-2022. Address: D 36, 17th Cross Street, Hindu Colony, Nanganallur, Chennai-600061.Contact number: 9710611079



LC Veeraraghavan, Age 87

Retd Dy. Chief Engineer
(Construction) Southern Railways.

Attained Acharya Thiruvadi on 18th Sept 2022 at Chennai.

Cremation at Besant Nagar on 19th Sept 2022.

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SAD DEMISE



Shobha Warrier (Aged 58 Yrs)

passed away in Bangalore on

16th Sept 22.

In grief:

Rugmini Warrier (Mother- 080-41534594)

KR Warrier (Husband- 944454751)

Aparna Warrier (Daughter)

Sudha Warrier (Sister- 9731218409)

Date: 17.09.2022 | Place: New Delhi

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Maharashtra ,Contact Person For

Inspection: Nakshatradi Patel

9930414940 Last Date For Inspection &

EMD Deposit - 24.09.2022 & Date of

Auction- 26.09.2022 (3 PM),

Auctioneer: Meenakshi Gupta-9625137014 / M F Islam - 99110

03339 , Insurance Claim Material Will Be Sold On As Is Where Is, 'Whatever There Is' And 'No Complaints'.

For the petitioner

By Order

Mavelikara(Kerala)

10-08-2022

Advocate: T.M.Venugopal

(Malukuzha)

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E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tender are invited from firms/contractors registered with UPLC Lucknow for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on NOIDA Authority's official website: www.noidauthorityonline.com & <http://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments & corrigendum etc.

| S. No. | Job No. | Name of Work | Amount |
|--------|-----------------------------|---|------------|
| 1. | 09/DGM(NTC)/SM(NTC)/2022-23 | Selection of Parking Contractor to operate the Noida surface parking sites (off street/on street) in Cluster-VIII (Sector-74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 94, 104 & 120) area of Noida. | 9011112.00 |

Which can be uploaded by date 26.09.2022 upto 5.00 PM.
Pre-qualification shall be opened / downloaded on date 27.09.2022 at 11.00 AM.
Dy. General Manager
Noida Traffic Cell

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CORRIGENDUM

Sub.: Extension of dates.
Ref:- 1. This office Fresh E-NIT No. 28/JJM/JSDS OF 08/2022,
Dated:- 03-08-2022

Bid submission end date for the works tendered vide above mentioned E-NIT was scheduled on 16-09-2022 is hereby extended upto 29-09-2022 upto (4.00PM) and shall be opened on 30-09-2022 at (01.30 PM) due to nil response received.
No:5054-5065
Dated:16-09-2022

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Follow humbly in your hallowed footsteps..."**

V.R. Venkataachalam

Chancellor, Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research (DU)
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Family Members
Trustees, Sri Ramachandra Educational and Health Trust
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Inculcate an entrepreneurial mindset

Entrepreneurship education may help develop a problem-solving mindset and ensure that our students remain relevant, regardless of the kind of job



right dots in their story when constructing their arguments amidst the plethora of data and opinions. Ultimately it is about being a meaningful curator.

Getting things done
One of the hallmarks of being entrepreneurial is not waiting for the perfect set of resources. Scholars of entrepreneurial studies refer to it as "effectuation". Effectuation has been a part of how we think from time immemorial; the French called it bricolage, the Indians call it jugaad, and contemporary business authors refer to it as the Art of Getting Things Done. While many universities offer courses in leadership, a course on 'excelling at execution' is not seen as often. This leaves many students believing that their first job will be all about leadership, little about followership and delivering on the ground as a creative problem solver. Making the best of the means at hand is a little *jugaad* that must be managed gracefully.

The world is changing faster than ever, and this requires young professionals to be learning equally swiftly. Inculcating an entrepreneurial mindset sparks the inclination to discover, evaluate and execute. As a society, we must reward and celebrate this spirit of problem-solving and exploration, as the curious will create, connect and create.

The writer is the Head of Department, Entrepreneurship, Director, InfoEdge Centre for Entrepreneurship, Ashoka University, and founder of IndiaPreneurship.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Kotak Kanya Scholarship

An initiative by Kotak Education Foundation under the CSR Project on Education and Livelihood of Kotak Mahindra Group Companies to help meritorious girl students from underprivileged sections of society to pursue professional graduation courses.

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Courtesy: buddy4study.com

PRIYANK NARAYAN

Today's recruitment process has become a sort of Corporate Tinder. Hiring managers frantically, swiping left and right, hoping to find the right match with the required qualifications, skills, and behaviours... Getting started in the first job is a landmark moment for young professionals.

Still, the transition from student to professional is tumultuous and often tedious. Besides being thrown out of the cosy blanket of being a student, they must face the reality of navigating organisations and delivering results that count. This leaves recruiters expecting new hires to seamlessly assimilate into the labyrinth of corporate life with a seemingly different mindset.

Our education has trained us to think in silos, forcing us to solve problems through specialised knowledge rather than thinking beyond the comfort of our discipline.

The biggest challenge we face as educators, today, is that we are preparing our students for jobs that are changing every day and roles that don't yet exist. Numerous surveys have shown that more than 50% of graduates are not equipped with the skills to perform in their first job, and close to a third believe that their degree failed to provide them with future-ready skills.

Given this context, entrepreneurship education may help develop a problem-solving mindset to help young professionals thrive.

'Being entrepreneurial' is a valuable competency that can ensure our students remain relevant, regardless of the kind of job they have been entrusted with. This leg-up in the professional world can be facilitated.

Inter-and cross-disciplinary collaboration

An entrepreneurial mindset promotes cross-disciplinary collaboration and allows students to develop critical-thinking abilities when approaching a problem. This gives students and instructors numerous "real-world" possibilities for growth. This interdisciplinary mindset creates T-shaped learners who possess deep capabilities in a core function (the vertical part of the T) and broad capacities in di-

verse areas (the horizontal part of the T). Companies are angling towards investing in T-shaped professionals to allow the horizontal movement of new employees as they adapt to the constantly evolving business landscape.

This makes the exposure to every discipline – from basic statistics to political philosophy – just as significant as the depth of knowledge in any field. An interdisciplinary perspective encourages students to structure problem-solving in different areas and allows them to identify what needs to change in their approach to problem-solving.

Recognising relevance
When young adults are given the opportunity and space to think critically,

they also develop the ability to choose what information is relevant.

This has become increasingly important in the age where 'WhatsApp University' is the primary source of knowledge.

University of Washington professors Carl Bergstrom and Jevin West offer a course, which trains students to identify and call out misinformation. "We wanted to show our students that you don't have to have a Master's degree in Statistics or Computer Science to be able to call b***** on this stuff," says Bergstrom to *Forbes*. They emphasise that statistical correlations are valuable tools, but students should ask whether the relationships make sense. An alert student can connect the

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| ► Electrical Engg. Major: E-Vehicle | ► Geo-Science and Engg. |
| ► Information Technology | ► IDD in Computer Science & Design Engg. |
| ► Mathematics & Computing | ► Artificial Intelligence (AI) |

Admission Process: Based on the JEE (Advanced) rank of the candidate.

How to apply: For more information on programme structure, eligibility and application process, visit Institute's website:

[https://www.rgipit.ac.in/en/page/BTech](http://www.rgipit.ac.in/en/page/BTech)

Note: Admission will be based on the IIT JEE (Advanced) rank of the applicant. If seats remain vacant in any of the branch after completion of seat allotment in regular rounds, then those vacant seats will be filled through JEE (Mains) Rank.

Last date of application (First Round): 27-09-2022



IN BRIEF



Preparations on for President's Mysuru visit

MYSURU
S.T. Somashekhar and officials on Sunday reviewed arrangements at the Chamundi Hills, where President Draupadi Murmu will inaugurate the Dasara festival on September 26. The focus was on the stage and the security aspects and was being implemented as per the directions of the office of the President and in compliance with the protocol to receive the First Citizen. The number of visitors at the venue could also be limited.

Maoists stop train, snatch walkie-talkies

VISAKHAPATNAM
Around 50 armed Maoists stopped a goods train at KM 433 in the block section between Bacheli and Bhansi of Dantewada-Kirandul section under Waltair Division, around 5.30 p.m. on Sunday. The Maoists stood on the track and held a red cloth across the track. When the driver stopped the train, they snatched the walkie-talkie sets from the driver and handed over some pamphlets. The train resumed journey after the Maoists moved into the jungle.

Kerala auto driver wins ₹25-crore jackpot

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
A 32-year-old autorickshaw driver from Thiruvananthapuram on Sunday won the whopping ₹25 crore first prize of the *Thiruvonam* bumper lottery run by the State Lotteries Department. Lady luck smiled on B. Anoop, a resident of Sreevaram, who had purchased the winning ticket (no. TJ 750605) on Saturday evening. The ticket was among the last on sale at the Bhagavathy Lottery Agencies, Pazhangadi.

Karnataka rejects Kerala's rail proposals

The lines will have to pass through eco-sensitive zones: Bommai

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU

Karnataka has rejected Kerala's proposals for two railway lines to connect the States, citing that the lines will have to pass through eco-sensitive zones that could potentially damage the environment.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai conveyed the decision to his Kerala counterpart Pinarayi Vijayan during their meeting here on Sunday.

The two proposed rail lines envisages connecting Thalassery with Mysuru and Kasaragod with Dakshina Kannada.

"The bilateral meeting had been planned when we met in Thiruvananthapuram. We have rejected the



Warm welcome: Basavaraj Bommai felicitating Pinarayi Vijayan during their meeting in Bengaluru on Sunday. ■ PTI

proposal to connect Kasargod and Dakshina Kannada as places around Sullia-Subramanya fall in eco-sensitive zones. The Railways had earlier rejected the proposal but later said the project could be taken up if both States agreed.

Besides the environment issue, we feel that the line will not benefit Karnataka passengers. We cannot agree to it," Mr. Bommai told presspersons after the meeting.

Meanwhile, Karnataka has also rejected another proposal discussed by Mr. Vijayan on increasing the number of night buses plying through the forest area from two to four.

Fund allocation by CM triggers row in Karnataka

Cong. terms it eyewash ahead of polls

STAFF REPORTER

KALABURAGI/BENGALURU

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai's announcement of increasing the allocation for Kalyana Karnataka Region Development Board (KKRDB) from the present ₹3,000 crore to ₹5,000 crore has triggered a row with the Opposition Congress describing this as a strategy to impress voters ahead of the Assembly polls.

Addressing a press conference in Kalaburagi on Sunday, Priyank Kharge, spokesperson of KPCC, said it was a promise that was made not for implementation but for impressing voters. "Making tall promises ahead of elections and going

back on them is their [BJP's] habit," he said. Referring to Mr. Bommai's previous promise of increasing the special grants to KKRDB from ₹1,500 crore to ₹3,000 crore, Mr. Priyank said that the government had released only ₹1,500 crore to the KKRDB head account and the remaining ₹1,500 crore was diverted from SDP grants to aspirational talukas' initiatives.

Meanwhile, Mr. Bommai slammed Mr. Priyank and accused him of not being interested in development of the region. "Everyone should work together to overcome backwardness of the region and should not indulge in politics," he said.

When asked by reporters whether he would petition the Centre, Mr. Khan indicated that he might hold a "relaxatory" press conference at the Raj Bhavan soon.

Mr. Khan seemed to suggest that Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan had restrained the police from prosecuting the offenders.

"Any attempt to interrupt, restrain, overawe or harm the President or Governor is a cognisable offence under Section 124 of the Constitution. He says police reluctant to investigate foiled 'attack' in 2019

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Governor Arif Mohammed Khan seemed to be on a collision course with the Kerala government. Mr. Khan hinted that he would seek legal recourse for the police reluctance to investigate the foiled "attack" against him at the Indian History Congress venue in Kannur in 2019.

When asked by reporters whether he would petition the Centre, Mr. Khan indicated that he might hold a "relaxatory" press conference at the Raj Bhavan soon.

Mr. Khan seemed to suggest that Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan had restrained the police from prosecuting the offenders.

Talks fail to enthuse Kerala's expectation

Karnataka turns down infra projects

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A high-profile meeting held between Chief Ministers of Kerala and Karnataka in Bengaluru on Sunday reportedly failed to live up to the Kerala's expectation in terms of an infra leap.

After the meeting with Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, the office of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan stated that both governments had agreed to approach the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to implement the alignments from Tholpetti to Purakkattiri and Sulthan Bathery to Malappuram of the Mysore-Malappuram

Economic Corridor project as an alternative to National Highway 766, where night time travel curbs are in force as it passed through the tiger reserve.

However, the office was silent on extending the SilverLine semi-high-speed railway project to Mangalore from Kasaragod, though it was widely reported that it would be at the top of the agenda during the discussion. The reports from Karnataka stated that it turned down the key infrastructure proposals of Kerala, raising environmental concerns. The proposal to construct an underground rail route by Kerala was also rejected.

Raj Thackeray hints at MNS 'going solo' for civic polls in Vidarbha

He tells party workers to start campaigning

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE

PUNE

Exhorting his party cadre to begin strengthening the organisation at the ground level, Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray, who began his five-day tour of the Vidarbha region on Sunday, hinted that a fight against the "dominant political parties" of the region was essential if the MNS had to gain a toe-hold in Vidarbha.

Mr. Thackeray reached Nagpur on Sunday, where he held meetings with MNS office-bearers ahead of the civic polls.

According to sources, the MNS chief, who has been making efforts to revive his party in Maharashtra, is believed to have questioned his party workers as to why they were lagging in building the MNS in this region, which has long been dominated by the Congress and the ruling BJP.

"Go to the voters thinking that the Nagpur Municipal elections have been announced. Get to work, we want to contest every seat," Mr. Thackeray told his party workers.

The BJP currently dominates the 151-seat Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC), where the MNS has virtually no presence.

In its 15-year-old existence, the MNS has never exerted much influence beyond fixed pockets in Mumbai city, Pune and Nashik. The MNS had notched up impressive performances in the 2012 polls to the Pune and Nashik civic bodies. A flurry of meetings between Mr. Thackeray and top BJP leaders in the past weeks had sparked widespread speculation of a possible alliance between the parties ahead of the high-stakes Brihanmumbai Corporation (BMC) poll and other civic bodies. The meetings were followed by 'Ganpati diplomacy' which saw Mr. Thackeray and BJP leaders like Mr. Fadnavis, as well as Chief Minister Eknath Shinde of the rebel Shiv Sena faction, visiting each other's residences for Ganesh *darshan*.

But this diplomacy may prove anticlimactic as the MNS general secretary earlier this week hinted that the party would field its candidates in all 227 wards for the Mumbai civic body polls, with the party going to the electorate on focus on both the 'Hindutva' and the 'Marathi manoos' planks.

Mr. Thackeray's decline and fall as political force to reckon with had commenced with the MNS' twin debacles in the 2014 Lok Sabha and Assembly elections which left the party in utter disarray, with the slide continuing through the 2017 civic polls as well as the 2019 state and national elections. Following its rout in the 2019 Assembly election, the MNS had changed its ideological direction by veering towards 'Hindutva' politics, signalled by Mr. Thackeray's adoption of a saffron flag.

Finishing touches

Deft hands: Artisans making idols of Goddess Kanaka Durga ahead of the Dasara festivities in Vijayawada on Sunday. ■ K.V.S. GIRI



Deft hands: Artisans making idols of Goddess Kanaka Durga ahead of the Dasara festivities in Vijayawada on Sunday. ■ K.V.S. GIRI

Rahul flays BJP over soaring prices

'Impossible for the common man to fulfil their dreams in present-day India'

STAFF REPORTER

ALAPPUZHA

Attacking the BJP-led Union government over unemployment and soaring prices, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday in Kerala said that it was impossible for the common man to fulfil their dreams in present-day India.

He was speaking at a public meeting as part of the Bharat Jodo Yatra at Kuravanhodlu near Alappuzha. Mr. Gandhi said the government was only interested in helping a few crony capitalists.

"The country is facing big issues in the form of unemployment, high prices, environmental problems, and poor roads and hospitals. These are big complicated problems. But the Prime Minister gives the impression that all these issues can be solved in seconds. Unlike him, I don't like to lie to people. We are unable to pro-



Home call: Rahul Gandhi visiting a house during the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Alappuzha district on Sunday. ■ PTI

vide our youngsters with jobs. It is something this country should be ashamed of. There is too much inequality in India. We cannot allow a few people to own everything while millions cannot eat," he said. The Congress leader said the BJP and RSS were dividing the country along religious, caste and language lines.

"India today is full of anger and hatred where brother is fighting brother. A family that fights with itself cannot achieve anything. It can have no vision for its future. It cannot progress. A home in which a brother fights with his brother or a sister fights with her mother

cannot be successful. And, that is what the BJP is attempting to do to our country. They do it to benefit a few rich and powerful people. The irony is that you have a country with the highest levels of unemployment and highest prices and the same country has the richest people in the world. On the other side, the government hardly creates an environment to allow others to grow and fulfil their dreams," Mr. Gandhi said, adding that harmony was required for progress.

On the poor condition of roads in the State, Mr. Gandhi said no one's back could survive driving on Kerala roads. "It is not purely a criticism of the Left Democratic Front government. The UDF also built roads when in power. But there is a serious problem with standards about roads in Kerala," the Congress leader said.

'Online dispute resolution is an example of social engineering'

Nandan Nilekani talks of systems to resolve legal issues

STAFF REPORTER

BENGALURU

More than 16 million disputes have been on-boarded in online dispute resolution (ODR) systems in the country two years after NITI Aayog's initiative to advance ODRs, said Nandan Nilekani, Chairman and Co-founder, Infosys, on Sunday.

He was addressing the graduating students at the 30th annual convocation ceremony of National Law School of India University (NLSIU) and spoke about the importance of social engineering and better informal systems where many legal issues in the country can be resolved.



ODR refers to the resolution of disputes through technology and alternative dispute resolution (ADR) processes. He added that more than 100 companies and 40 government departments now use ODR. He also

cited a recent incident where a non-profit organisation called Ajeevika Bureau employed ODR to resolve over 3,000 wage disputes from during the pandemic times between migrant labourers and their contractors.

It is necessary to reinvent structures and systems not just inside the government but also in industry and civil society, he said. He pointed out how lack of effective systems and structures affects the poor and marginalised while also widening the opportunity gap.

"We need this form of social engineering to advance our law and justice systems urgently", Mr. Nilekani said.

Doctors got just 20% of insurance money

PMGKP is the insurance scheme for health workers who died fighting COVID-19

A.S. JAYANTH

KOZHIKODE

Dependents of doctors got just over 20% of the total money distributed under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package (PMGKP) insurance scheme for health workers who died fighting COVID-19 in the country.

The scheme ensures an insurance coverage of ₹50 lakh each. According to a Right to Information Act (RTI) reply from New India Assurance Company Ltd. on September 16, the "total number of beneficiaries under PMGKP insurance scheme" as on August 31 was 1,962 and the amount disbursed was ₹981 crore. Among them, the number of doctors whose beneficiaries got compensation was 424 and the amount disbursed was ₹212 crore.



A doctor during a door-to-door screening of COVID-19 at Dharavi during the peak of the pandemic in 2020. ■ FILE PHOTO

Asked about Statewise data, the company said that "neither such information is available nor required to be maintained by this Public Authority, hence cannot be provided". This information was made available by the Union Ministry of Health and

Family Welfare. On September 8, the company said in another RTI reply that 974 people had been given compensation to the tune of ₹487 crore. Among them, 206 were doctors and the amount distributed was ₹103 crore. On August 5, the

CPI(Maoist) to celebrate anniversary

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BHADRADRI KOTHAGODEM

The Bhadradevi Kothagudem-Alluri Sitarama Raju (BK-ASR) division committee of CPI (Maoist) has given a call for a week-long celebration of the 18th anniversary of its formation across the division from September 21 to 27.

In a statement, the banned outfit's BK-ASR division secretary Azad said that as many as 124 Maoist cadres shed their blood as part of the revolutionary struggle for tribals' rights in the last one year.

Most people are living in abject poverty with no access to proper food, shelter, drinking water, education, health and livelihood opportunities, he alleged.

company said that 445 beneficiaries had been "compensated for the doctors" who died due to COVID-19 under the scheme and ₹222.5 crore had been disbursed as compensation.

"Just over 21.5% of the money disbursed under the PMGKP has been given to doctors. As per the data collected by the Indian Medical Association, over 1,800 doctors have died in the line of COVID-19 duty. This means over 75% of doctors who succumbed to the infection have not benefited from the scheme because a majority of them were not working in COVID-designated hospitals," K.V. Babu, Kannur-based ophthalmologist and RTI activist, who managed to get these documents, told *The Hindu* on Sunday.



Era of war is over

India did well to caution Vladimir Putin over the Ukraine war

Compared to its relatively low-key past, the Summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's (SCO) Council of Heads of State in Samarkand took place in the cross-hairs of international attention. Apart from the SCO's new agreements on regional engagement, discussions among the eight members including four Central Asian states (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan) focused on inducting Iran as a member, broadening the SCO dialogue partners to West and South Asia, and on trade, tourism and counter-terrorism in the region. However, more focus was on the bilateral meetings on the sidelines, as this was the first such major conference that Russian President Vladimir Putin attended since the Ukraine war, as well as part of the first visit abroad by Chinese President Xi Jinping since the COVID-19 pandemic and Taiwan tensions. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's attendance was equally meaningful, given that it was the first time he met Mr. Putin since the war, and Mr. Xi since the stand-off at the LAC, in 2020. This was also the first time he came face to face with Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, and speculation was rife that he would hold meetings with India's adversaries. While the meetings with Mr. Sharif or Mr. Xi did not materialise, western capitals focused on his Putin meeting. Mr. Modi's opening comment to Mr. Putin, that the "era of war" has ended, has been read as an "admonition" of Russia's war in Ukraine. However, it would be wrong to read Mr. Modi's engagement with Mr. Putin as any kind of "public shaming", but rather an expression of the concern over the war, something that Mr. Putin said he understands. A day before, Mr. Putin had also said to Mr. Xi that he understood China's concerns, indicating Russia's realisation of the need to effect a ceasefire and dialogue.

India now comes into prominence as Chair of the SCO, and is making preparations for next year's SCO summit ahead of the G-20 summit in New Delhi. India needs to ensure the participation of all SCO members including China and Pakistan, despite the tensions, which will entail some diplomatic elbow grease by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in the next few months, beginning this week at the UN General Assembly. India's pitch to the SCO for connectivity with the Eurasian region hinges on its development of Chabahar port through Iran and traversing U.S. sanctions, while still competing with the China-Pakistan backed transit routes through Gwadar. On terrorism, India will have to ensure the SCO walks the talk on building a new consolidated list of terrorist groups, an area where it is frequently thwarted by China. Meanwhile, New Delhi will also have to balance its ties, keeping western partners in the Quad and other groupings reassured, especially as the polarisation between the U.S.-EU coalition and a Russia-China-led combine continues to grow.

Crisis in Caucasus

Armenia and Azerbaijan must work out a lasting ceasefire

The violent border clashes between Armenia and Azerbaijan have raised fears of another war in the Caucasus. The countries had fought a disastrous weeks-long war in 2020 over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region in which Azerbaijan made gains before Russia forced a ceasefire. Tensions remained with the occasional flare-ups, but Tuesday's clashes were the deadliest since 2020. Armenia and Azerbaijan have accused each other of provocation, but the fighting, as per initial reports, took place on the Armenian side and Armenia took heavier casualties. It may not be a coincidence that the crisis broke out at a time when Russia, Armenia's security ally, has been struggling to hold its gains in Ukraine. Armenia is a member of the Russia-led Collective Security Treaty Organisation, whose NATO-like charter stipulates that an attack against one member could be treated as an attack against all. Armenia had turned to Russia for help, but Moscow's response was rather cautious – it called for de-escalation and claimed that it had brokered another ceasefire.

The dispute over Nagorno-Karabakh goes back to the pre-Soviet era. When the Soviet Union was formed, the Armenian majority enclave became part of the Azerbaijan Soviet Republic. When the Soviet Union collapsed and Armenia and Azerbaijan became independent republics, the clashes resurfaced. Armenian rebels in Nagorno-Karabakh fought off the Azeri forces and joined Armenia. But Azerbaijan never gave up its claims; nor did the two countries reach any peace agreement over the enclave. Unlike in the 1990s, Azerbaijan now looks economically and politically stronger. In the 2020 conflict, it got military and diplomatic assistance from Turkey while Russia was reluctant to get dragged into the conflict on behalf of Armenia. Now, Russia's ability to project power in its neighbourhood appears to be further limited on account of Ukraine. On the other side, gas-rich Azerbaijan, which still has the backing of Turkey, is being courted by the EU for increased gas supplies. These regional developments seem to have emboldened Azerbaijan. But its ambition could be costly for everyone. Russia will find it difficult to retain its influence in Central Asia and Caucasus if it continues to ignore Armenia. At the same time, getting dragged into another battlefield would be challenging. A conflict in the Caucasus would further destabilise the global energy markets, hurting all economies, particularly energy-starved Europe. For Turkey, which is trying to balance between Russia and the West over Ukraine, another war in its neighbourhood would further complicate its foreign policy choices. The last thing the world needs now is another war. So, all sides should enforce a lasting ceasefire between Armenia and Azerbaijan and ensure calm in the troubled mountains of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Geopolitics without geoconomics, a fool's errand

India's current policy of pursuing geopolitical ends without geoeconomic ballast is a regressive step



HAPPYMON JACOB

and clean energy.

India's move to stay out of IPEF, a U.S.-sponsored soft trade arrangement at best, comes two years after India walked out of the negotiations on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) which came to effect earlier this year. Both the agreements lay at the heart of the Indo-Pacific and could potentially shape the economic character of the broader Indo-Pacific region.

Over the past few years, New Delhi has developed a keen desire to be part of the geopolitical developments in the Indo-Pacific and has gone about it with great aplomb. It has managed to emerge as a major pivot of the global Indo-Pacific grand strategic imagination, avoided the temptations to militarise/securitise the Quad (Australia, Japan, India and the United States), and has ensured that the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) states do not feel uneasy by the ever-increasing balance of power articulations in the Indo-Pacific.

What New Delhi is missing

And yet, New Delhi's vision for the Indo-Pacific appears half-baked and unsustainable in the long term, given the inadequate attention New Delhi is prepared to give to the geo-economic developments of the Indo-Pacific. Policymakers in New Delhi today do not appear to appreciate the inescapable linkages between geopolitics and geo-economics. Put differently, even as contemporary great power behaviour has moved beyond the classical geopolitical imaginations, thereby emphasising geo-economics as the foundation of geopolitics, New Delhi continues to be stuck in the old binaries.

India's decision to take to the Indo-Pacific and Quad in a big way while unwilling to join two of the region's key multilateral trading agreements goes to show that geo-economics and geopolitics are imagined and pursued parallelly in New Delhi, not as complimenting each other. The most recent example is India's refusal to join the trade pillar of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) while deciding to join the three other pillars of the IPEF – supply chains, tax and anti-corruption,

A regressive step, China factor
There are several reasons why New Delhi's decision to stay out of various regional trading agreements is a regressive policy decision. For one, the absence of the world's fifth largest economy from various regional trading platforms will invariably boost China's geo-

Third, we have no option but to address some of the deeper chal-



economic hegemony in Asia. Given the growing fear in India about the negative implications of China-India trade, it is important to have a nuanced view of this. For one, the fear in India of China dominating the Indian market is not entirely unreasonable. To be more precise, there is a fear in India that a deeper Sino-Indian economic partnership could be weaponised by Beijing for geopolitical purposes. And yet, the only viable option to deal with such a challenge is to prepare for and face the challenge, even if it means incurring costs in the short term, so as to eventually overcome the challenge.

The reality is that despite the military stand-off on the Line of Actual Control, India-China trade has only increased in the past year. Therefore, if it is not possible for India to avoid trading with China; it is better for India to deal with the issue sooner rather than later and in a comprehensive manner. Perhaps this is also an opportune time to do so. There is an attempt, however feeble, by countries such as the U.S. to economically decouple from China, and to create forums without China on board, the IPEF being one such example. In other words, India must not shy away from trading with China as part of multilateral arrangements while at the same time joining arrangements which have no Chinese presence.

The second reason why staying out of IPEF is a bad idea is because for India, it would be hard to integrate itself into the regional and global supply chains without being a part of important regional multilateral trading agreements.

Missing Indo-Pacific moment

Let us get back to the argument about the inherent relationship between geo-economics and geopolitics. The most important long-term consequence of New Delhi's decision not to join the RCEP or the IPEF is that India will miss out

on the unfolding Indo-Pacific moment in a big way. The Indo-Pacific and the Quad are not military arrangements; India has been very clear about it. If they are not military arrangements, what are they? At the risk of oversimplification, they could be characterised as geo-economic instruments which will allow its key members to pursue their geopolitical interests. If so, by deciding not to be a part of two of the Indo-Pacific's key trade agreements, New Delhi may have effectively undermined the pursuit of its own geopolitical interests in the region.

The door is still open

New Delhi should rethink its geo-economic choices if it is serious about enhancing its geopolitical influence in the region. Given that India has not closed the door on the trade pillar of the IPEF, we have an opportunity to rethink our position. In fact, India should also rethink its decision not to join the RECP and seek to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) from which the U.S. walked out and China is seeking to join. If joining all three is too radical for New Delhi, India should start with the IPEF and the CPTPP, both of which do not have China on board. India should also proactively lobby to become a part of the Minerals Security Partnership, the U.S.-led 11-member grouping to secure supply chains of critical minerals.

If indeed, India seeks to be a part of the Asian century and its economic growth story in particular (China's share in global trade today is 15% and India accounts for 2%), it must let go of its historical hesitations and phobias regarding multilateral trading arrangements. To that extent, the current policy of pursuing geopolitical ends without geo-economic ballast is ill-thought out.

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The gender pay gap, hard truths and actions needed

Asymmetries abound in India's labour market and closing the gap is key to achieving social justice for working women



DAGMAR WALTER & SUSAN FERGUSON

ing the gender pay gap.

While the full impact of the pandemic is yet to be known, it is clear that its impact has been uneven, with women being among the worst affected in terms of their income security – partly due to their representation in sectors hard hit by COVID-19, combined with the gendered division of family responsibilities. Many women reverted to full-time care of children and the elderly during the pandemic, foregoing their livelihoods to do so.

A wider pay gap

This is attested by the International Labour Organization's "Global Wage Report 2020-21" which suggests the crisis inflicted massive downward pressure on wages and disproportionately affected women's total wages compared to men. This greater wage reduction for women means that the pre-existing gender pay gap has widened.

Despite notable progress in closing the gender pay gap over time in India, the gap remains high by international standards. Indian women earned, on average, 48% less compared to their male counterparts in 1993-94. Since then, the gap declined to 28% in 2018-19 as in the labour force survey data of the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO). The pandemic reversed decades of progress as preliminary estimates from the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2020-21 show an increase in the gap by 7% between 2018-19 and 2020-21. The data further suggests that faster decline



in female wages during the pandemic contributed to this decline, compared to a faster growth in male wages, which requires urgent policy attention.

Discrimination as factor

While individual characteristics such as education, skills or experience explain part of the gender pay gap, a large part of the gender pay gap can still be attributed purely to discrimination based on one's gender or sex. Gender-based discriminatory practices include: lower wages paid to women for work of equal value; undervaluation of women's work in highly feminised occupations and enterprises, and motherhood pay gap – lower wages for mothers compared to non-mothers.

At the international level, the United Nations has put the challenge of closing various forms of gender inequality at the heart of its actions. The ILO has enshrined 'equal pay for work of equal value' in its Constitution and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) provides an international legal framework for

realising gender equality and addressing the intersecting forms of discrimination and vulnerabilities among women and girls.

Steps taken by India

India has taken several steps in the legislative sphere to close the gender pay gap, especially at the lower end of the wage distribution. In this regard, it was one of the pioneering countries to enact the Minimum Wages Act in 1948 and followed by the adoption of the Equal Remuneration Act in 1976. In 2019, India carried out comprehensive reforms in both the legislation and enacted the Code on Wages.

Evidence shows that the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in 2005 benefited rural women workers and helped reduce the gender pay gap, both directly and indirectly. Directly, by raising the pay levels of women workers who participated in the programme, and indirectly, benefits accrued to women involved in agricultural occupations through higher earnings, as MGNREGA contributed to the rapid rise in overall rural and agricultural wages in the country.

In 2017, the Government amended the Maternity Benefit Act of 1961, which increased the 'maternity leave with pay protection' from 12 weeks to 26 weeks for all women working in establishments employing 10 or more workers. This is expected to reduce the motherhood pay gap among mothers in the median and high-end wage earners working in the formal economy.

Apart from enabling legisla-

tions, efforts are being made through the Skill India Mission to equip women with market-relevant skills to bridge the learning-to-livelihood gap and the gender pay gap.

While the gender pay gap is slowly narrowing, at the current rate of progress it will take more than 70 years to close it completely. Accelerated and bold action is needed to prevent a widening of the gender pay gap and closing the existing gap.

One of the targets of the UN Sustainable Development Goal 8 is "achieving full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities and equal pay for work of equal value" by 2030. In support of this Goal, the Equal Pay International Coalition (EPIC), was launched in 2017 as a multi-stakeholder initiative led by the ILO, UN Women and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) that seeks to achieve equal pay for women and men everywhere.

Equal pay for work of equal value is necessary to close the gender pay gap. Closing the gender pay gap is key to achieving social justice for working women, as well as economic growth for the nation as a whole.

Dagmar Walter is Director of the International Labour Organization Decent Work Technical Support Team for South Asia and Country Office for India. **Susan Ferguson** is the United Nations (UN) Women Representative in India; part of the UN in India Team

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Cheetah reintroduction

The Government deserves praise for the reintroduction of the cheetah in India (Page 1, September 18), which highlights its commitment to biodiversity conservation and the protection of nature. The step should lead to the protection of all other species in India.

VIDHYA B. RAGUNATH,
Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu

■ It is a very long way ahead before India can have any

hope of trying to conserve the species. I wonder whether any thought has been given to how the animals will survive against other wild creatures. All in all, it looks to be an exercise that has entailed a great expenditure of money. Whether all this would be fruitful, is the big question.

SUMAN KAUSHIK,
Patacharkuchi, Bajali, Assam

■ One of India's leading conservationists has been making a very strong point

that instead of focusing on at least 10 other endangered species in India, the Government is needlessly spending money in bringing the cheetah all the way from Africa. He has also shared his concern about the well-being of the cheetah in a new environment. These are issues needing answers.

N. NAGARAJAN,
Secunderabad

■ A word of advice
The Prime Minister's calculated advice, or word of

caution, to Russian President Vladimir Putin, that "today's era is not of war", appears to have received widespread appreciation across the world. Even Mr. Putin appears to have responded by saying that Russia is aware of the Indian stand on war and peace, which is encouraging.

The political Opposition in India should express its concurrence with the Government's stand on the issue. Such issue-based opinions would also help

elevate the status of the Opposition and help it gain popular support.

P.R.V. RAJA,
Pandalam, Kerala

Climate change worries
There is no doubt that the extreme weather events being experienced in India are a result of climate change and global warming ('Science & Technology' page, 'How climate change is altering Indian monsoon', September 18). Emissions caused by the burning of

fossil fuels and trapping of heat in the atmosphere have increased fluctuations in the monsoon, causing a rain deficit in West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. This in turn is affecting crop patterns, especially rice production. Unless steps are taken to reduce emissions, such extreme weather events will continue to have bearing on food security.

Dr. THOMAS PALOCAREN,
Vellore, Tamil Nadu



A disruptive nexus of China and Pakistan

There is little doubt that China uses Pakistan as a proxy military and nuclear power against India



SUJAN CHINOY

Recently, China used its status as a permanent member of the UN Security Council (UNSC) to put a hold on the UN Security Council's Al Qaeda and ISIL (Daesh) Sanctions Committee's (also known as the UNSC 1267 Committee) listing of Laskar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorist Sajid Mir, one of India's most wanted in the 2008 Mumbai attacks. Earlier, China had blocked the listing of US-designated terrorists Abdul Rehman Makki and Abdul Rauf Azhar of the LeT and the Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), respectively. It may be recalled that China brazenly opposed the listing of JeM chief Masood Azhar for ten years until 2019 before lifting the hold.

These terrorists are based in Pakistan and enjoy the patronage of its "deep state". Despite China's efforts to save its "all weather friend" from global censure, Pakistan continues to be in the "grey list" of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

China's misuse of its P-5 status disrupts collective efforts to counter terrorism. Such actions are in direct contrast to the consensus at the global level on the scourge that is international terrorism.

Counter-terrorism is not the only area in which the Sino-Pak tandem has weakened global efforts. The two have a long history of collusion in the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems as well. There are other examples of collaboration in military matters and in the area of infrastructure and connectivity that have proved destabilising to regional stability in South Asia.

Missile proliferation

The Sino-Pak nexus in the field of nuclear and missile proliferation is well recorded. The illicit A.Q. Khan network evolved into a three-way proliferation with China and Pakistan helping one another with bomb designs. Together, the two countries also helped North Korea with weapons of mass destruction (WMD) technologies. The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) had reported that between 1991 and 1993, China supplied 34 M-I



short range missiles to Pakistan in violation of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR). Subsequent cooperation included Chinese supply to Pakistan of ring magnets for high-speed centrifuges and the grandfathering of existing arrangements to deepen cooperation through the Chashma series of nuclear reactors.

Strong military ties have been the bedrock of China-Pakistan relations since the 1960s. For China, this has emerged as a low-cost tool to balance India and keep it hemmed in the sub-continent. Around 47% of China's military exports go to Pakistan and involve the full spectrum of support from small arms to fighter jets, as well as ships and submarines. These include advanced equipment such as the JF-17 fighter jets, the K-8 training aircraft, Airborne Warning and Control Systems (AWACS), the Al-Khalid tanks and the Babur cruise missile, among others.

The so-called China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which runs through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (POK) is one of the mainstays of connectivity under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). It violates the Sino-Pak border agreement of March 1963, Article 6 of which explicitly refers to its interim nature. Undertaken without any wider consultation with India, which has territorial claims over the region through which it runs, the CPEC has proved disruptive to both India-Pakistan and India-China relations.

China got engaged in the CPEC project for its own ends, more strategic than economic. The Karakoram Highway passes through the Khunjerab Pass and facilitates direct linkages between occupied Kashmir territory on both sides, including the trans-Karakoram tract of Shaksgam claimed by India, now part of China-occupied Kashmir. The CPEC offers China access to the Indian Ocean, natural resources and facilitates greater control over a strategic partner prone to upheavals.

Today, China is one of Pakistan's largest lenders, holding more than 27% of Pakistan's debt. Bilateral trade hovers around \$20 billion but is skewed in favour of China which enjoys a huge favourable balance of trade in the region of \$18 billion.

There are signs of resentment in Pakistan at over-dependence on China, and the exploitative and usurious terms inherent in the CPEC projects.

One of the abiding features of the Sino-Pak collusion concerns the status of Jammu and Kashmir. During the 1950s, China's position on the Kashmir issue was relatively neutral. In the 1960s and 1970s, after the border conflict with India, China stepped up its rhetoric of support for "self-determination" for the people of Kashmir on the basis of UN resolutions. As the 1980s progressed and as relations between India and China gradually improved, China's stand underwent some change, with emphasis on resolving the issue on the basis of UN resolutions and relevant bilateral agreements.

After the abrogation of Article 370 by India in August 2019, China vehemently opposed the internal political changes effected by India. China unsuccessfully tried, thrice, to trigger discussions on J&K in the UN Security Council at the behest of Pakistan.

Sujan Chinoy is the Director General of the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi. Views expressed are personal.

Itself a party to the Kashmir dispute, China is surreptitiously pushing Pakistan to alter the status of Gilgit-Baltistan (GB) by converting it into its fifth province. The intention is to dilute the interim character of the 1963 agreement between the two countries and consolidate the *de facto* possession of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (POK) territory by Pakistan and that of Shaksgam by China.

Political support

Apart from synchronising their positions at the UN, China and Pakistan have created new tandems extending to other international organisations such as the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). Pakistan is China's main bridge to Islamic world. Pakistan plays a key role in fending off pressure on China within the OIC on account of its human rights violations in Xinjiang and the ill-treatment of its Muslim minorities, especially the Uyghurs. Pakistan also remains sensitive to Chinese concerns with regard to East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM) separatists seeking refuge in FATA (Federally Administered Tribal Areas).

As Pakistan has gradually drifted away from the U.S., it has moved closer to China. China's economic rise and growing clout is an enticing factor for a stricken economy such as that of Pakistan. As part of their Faustian bargain, the two act as hand maidens for each other on critical issues. In return for giving Pakistan a reprieve at the UN in the listing of Pak-based terrorists, China uses the former to secure its interests in the OIC. Taken in by the Sino-Pak shenanigans, the OIC has adopted hypocritical positions on the treatment of the Muslim minority in Xinjiang.

There is little doubt that China uses Pakistan as a proxy military and nuclear power against India. A key strategic objective for China is to seek access to basing facilities in Gwadar and other sites in the Indian Ocean littoral. Moreover, Pakistan's use of terrorism as an instrument of state policy appears, ironically, to be valued and encouraged by China, as demonstrated by the latter's actions at the UN.

Sujan Chinoy is the Director General of the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi. Views expressed are personal.

What numbers don't tell us

Prisons are meant to facilitate rehabilitation but have become disempowering spaces with a mental health crisis



MAITREYI MISRA

The latest numbers are out. 9,180 prisoners with mental illness, 150 deaths by suicide, five prisoners with schizophrenia and epilepsy have died.

While we know the numbers, we do not know what is being considered as a mental illness and whether these numbers are limited to persons who are in the mental health ward, or does it also include those who are living in barracks but still on psychiatric medication. We also do not know when the onset of the illness was and what the different illnesses were or how long they have been in prison for. The National Crime Records Bureau's (NCRB) Prison Statistics India Report is out for the year 2021. Perhaps it needs repeating, yet again that there is a mental health crisis in prisons.

We often hear that the aim of punishment (or at least one of its aims) is reform and rehabilitation. Yet when we look at the place where that punishment is served, we find conditions that, instead of promoting rehabilitation, ensure despair, hopelessness and helplessness. In any case, our prisons are not overcrowded with convicts, rather it is the undertrial population that makes up for over 70% of prison population. More than half of those with mental illness were undertrials (58.4% were undertrials, while 41.3% were convicts). However, the numbers could very well be higher.

For instance, Project 39A's report on mental health and the death penalty, *Deathworthy*, revealed that over 60% of death row prisoners had a current episode of mental illness, but many of them had not been identified by the prison as needing treatment and care. *Deathworthy* also revealed that suicide had little to do with mental illness and a lot with absent social support, violence, distress, and despair.

Lack of solutions

India's National Mental Health Policy, 2014, considers prisoners a class of people vulnerable to mental ill-health. But while the NRCB gives us data confirming this categorisation, it does not take us much further towards crafting solutions, and leaves us none the wiser. Why do we have so many prisoners living with mental illness? Were all these prisoners living with a mental illness before incarceration, or did they have their first episode in prison? The system is not equipped

to give us such crucial information.

Understanding these numbers in a meaningful context is important because without that our default response to this crisis will continue to be that of treatment and conversations will get stuck at the poor health-care infrastructure in prison.

To resolve the mental health crisis in prison, a purely medical approach will take us only so far. We need to take a more all-encompassing approach, move beyond treatment of individuals and towards identifying the social and underlying determinants of mental health in prisons. We need to look at mental health in prisons from a social and structural perspective as well. Otherwise, we might end up with a heavily medicated prison population, but not a healthy one.

Aspects of incarceration

There are aspects of incarceration that cause distress – loss of liberty, loss of close contact with loved ones, loss of autonomy. A certain amount of distress in the prison population is, therefore, bound to be present. However, firstly the conversation cannot simply end there; the distress must be addressed in a way which is not limited to medicating it away. Secondly, there are aspects of incarceration that are now assumed to be its common features, such as overcrowding and violence, but are certainly not inherent to incarceration. It would be absurd to think a population subject to persistent violence (of different kinds) will be healthy.

Anyone who has interacted with prisoners and prison officials will attest to the fact that each is suspicious of the other and the relationship (as skewed as it is) is based on mistrust and fear. Spaces which are meant to facilitate rehabilitation instead become spaces with further disempowerment and disenfranchisement.

It is no coincidence that these goals that are essential for a mentally healthy population. Reform, rehabilitation or reintegration are meant to make prisoners confident in their lives, their choices and their ability to take decisions and be responsible and accountable for it. The process is meant to be empathetic and caring. Instead, it is violent, harsh and ultimately leaves the prisoner no better off, if not worse off. That there are high rates of suicides and mental illness shouldn't surprise us. It should, though, make us question the aim and effectiveness of our penal and social justice policy.

*Maitreyi Misra heads Mental Health and Criminal Justice team at Project 39A, National Law University, Delhi. She is the lead author of Project 39A's report *Deathworthy: A Mental Health Perspective of the Death Penalty*.*

STATE OF PLAY

Floods and its political economy

Parties that have been in power since the 1990s will have to share the blame for the situation

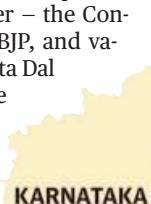
K.V. ADITYA BHARADWAJ

The recent flooding of parts of Bengaluru, particularly the IT corridor, triggered an expected blame game between the ruling BJP and the opposition Congress as to who "wrecked" Bengaluru. Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai termed the encroachments of lakes, wetlands and storm water drains (SWDs) connecting lakes a "legacy" that his government inherited.

Looking back at how things have turned out since the 1990s, all parties that have been in power – the Congress for 13 years, the BJP, and various avatars of the Janata Dal for 10 years – will have to share the blame for the present state of affairs. Since the mid-1990s, which saw quick development of the IT corridor, this part of the city has been hit by floods many times. The Bellandur lake has spewed froth and foam and even been on fire, due to unbridled development and severe disruption of water ecology.

The IT corridor and its adjoining areas stretch from east Bengaluru along the Outer Ring Road to south-east Bengaluru. These areas were the worst-hit parts of the city by floods even before 2022. The location of Electronic City, established in 1978 to the south-east of the city, has played a key role in the spatial direction of the burgeoning IT corridor in the mid-1990s.

The IT boom saw not only tech parks and office spaces come up in the east-south-east axis of the city's outskirts, but also residential projects, schools and other amenities to cater to those working here. With an unrelenting construction boom, it has the densest settlements of labour colonies as well as upscale apartments. Development in this region has largely been unplanned; it is guided by a demand-supply logic without any regulation and rigged by a nexus of realtors and politicians. Experts have been pointing to a complete disregard for lakes, wetlands



KARNATAKA

and SWDs along the east-south-east axis of the city. Climate change has only increased the frequency of extremely heavy rains in short interval events in Bengaluru. This has been one of the main reasons for flooding of parts of the city. Flooding has been more pronounced where the water flow ecosystem has been disrupted.

This unchecked development led by market forces has happened in the absence of government intervention for provision of basic infrastructure such as housing. It is striking that the Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA) never tried to develop a housing layout in the city's bustling IT corridor. Their layouts don't seem to spatially match the direction of development in the city.

A planned development in these areas may not have allowed for the existing density and would have also addressed concerns of regional disparity in development within the city. As a testament to the resilience of planned development, older parts of Bengaluru are able to handle extreme weather events better, though chinks in their infrastructure also show up.

The areas most flooded now were mostly governed by gram panchayats and town municipalities, which have relatively weak regulatory mechanisms, during the peak of the development boom. They were included within the city limits only in 2007. Civic agencies are still playing catch-up to provide infrastructure. Ironically, the world-renowned IT hub is yet to get a functional modern drainage system and piped drinking water.

There is perhaps no quick fix for the mess and it needs a great political will to take a long-term view and set things right. The government has started a drive to remove encroachments of SWDs and wetlands, just as it has done every time there have been floods. Every time, the drive has stopped at the gates of the rich and powerful. This trend is irrespective of the party in power.

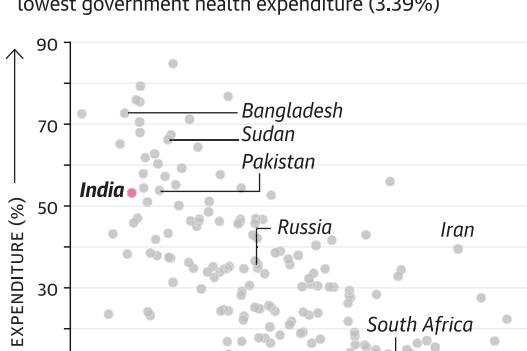
adhyita.bharadwaj@thehindu.co.in

DATA POINT

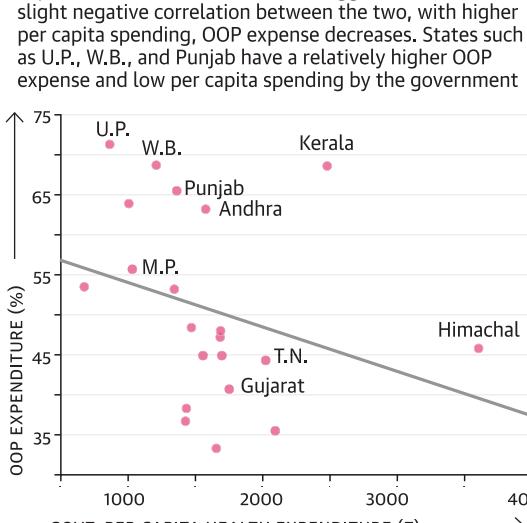
A not-so-clean bill of health

Indians pay half their health expenses out of their pockets, while South Africans spend just 5% with the government and insurance taking care of the rest. The share of out-of-pocket (OOP) expenditure in India is one of the highest in the world. On the other hand, government health expenditure on health was among the lowest. As health is a State subject, States undertake a majority of public health spending. However, public health spending as a share of total government expenditure has largely remained stagnant or reduced for most States in recent years. In nine States, the share of out-of-pocket expenditure in total health expenses was above 50%, while in 17 States, the government spending per capita on health was below ₹2,000. Notably, in several States, health inflation has surged after the pandemic, a cause of concern given low levels of insurance coverage and insufficient government health budget. The findings are based on the recently released report, "National Health Accounts 2018-19". By Jasmin Nihalani

INDIA'S HEALTH SPENDING | Chart plots OOP expenditure as a share of health expenditure (%) and government health expenditure* as a share of their total expenditure*. Among 189 countries, India has one of the highest OOP health expenditure (53.2%) and the lowest government health expenditure (3.39%).



OUT-OF-POCKET | Chart plots OOP expenditure as a % of health expenditure against the govt.'s per capita expenditure in FY19. As the trine suggests, there is a slight negative correlation between the two, with higher per capita spending, OOP expense decreases. States such as U.P., W.B., and Punjab have a relatively higher OOP expense and low per capita spending by the government.



STATE-WISE SPENDING

Table lists the State government health expenditure (GHE) as a share of total expenditure for FY19 and the change from the average health expense between FY16 and FY18. The change in government expenditure ranged between 1.3% points (in Jharkhand) to -1.2% points (J&K), showing that health spending largely remained stagnant

| States | GHE FY19 | Change % point |
|-------------|----------|----------------|
| Odisha | 5.6 | +0.6 |
| Gujarat | 7.4 | +0.5 |
| Kerala | 7.4 | +0.3 |
| W.B. | 6.5 | +0.3 |
| M.P. | 4.9 | +0.2 |
| A.P. | 5.5 | +0.2 |
| Assam | 7.1 | +0.1 |
| Jharkhand | 6.1 | +1.3 |
| Rajasthan | 7.0 | +0.9 |
| T.N. | 6.9 | +0.9 |
| Bihar | 5.5 | +0.8 |
| Haryana | 5.3 | +0.6 |
| Himachal | 7.4 | +0.6 |
| Uttarakhand | 6.0 | +0.6 |
| J&K | 3.1 | -1.2 |

Text & Context

NEWS IN NUMBERS



Tax collection grows

30 In percentage, the growth in gross direct tax collections till September 17 of the current fiscal year on higher advance tax mop-up, buoyed by the economic revival post-pandemic, according to the Finance Ministry. Gross collection of direct taxes for 2022-23 stands at ₹8,36,225 crore compared to ₹6,42,287 crore in the year-ago period, the Ministry informed in a statement. This includes revenue from corporate income tax of ₹4.36 lakh crore and Personal Income Tax (PIT) of ₹3.98 lakh crore. PTI

FPI investments

12,000 In ₹ crore, the amount pumped by foreign investors into the Indian equity market in September in the hopes that global central banks, particularly the U.S. Fed, may go slow on rate hikes as inflation starts to cool off. This comes following a net investment of ₹51,200 crore in August and nearly ₹5,000 crore in July, the data showed. Between October 2021 and June 2022, they sold a massive ₹2.46 lakh crore in the Indian equity market. PTI

Highway accidents

60 The number of lives lost in road accidents on the 100-km stretch of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad highway between Ghodbunder in Thane and Dapchari in Palghar district in 2022, according to police officials. News of former Tata Sons chairman Cyrus Mistry dying in a car accident on Maharashtra's Palghar district's Mumbai-Ahmedabad highway drew focus to road accidents in the country. Officials added that over 260 accidents were witnessed on the 100-km stretch, leaving 192 persons injured this year. PTI

Discom payment dues

713 In ₹ crore, the outstanding dues of power distribution companies towards power producers, declined sharply from ₹5,085.30 crore as of August 17 following a strict action against defaulter utilities. The defaulter utilities were barred from trading at power exchanges under the Electricity (Late Payment Surcharge and related matters), Rules 2022. The latest update regarding late payment surcharge dues showed that three discoms in Karnataka and one in J&K had outstanding dues. PTI

PLI scheme applicants

75 The number of applications received by the Union government from domestic players under the PLI (Production-Linked Incentive) scheme for speciality steel, according to an official. Applicants include all major steel players like Tata Steel, JSW Steel, JSPL, AMNS India and SAIL, a senior Steel Ministry official said. However, no proposal has been received from any foreign entity. The Union Cabinet in July last year approved a ₹6,322 crore PLI scheme to boost the production of speciality steel in India. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

EXPLAINER

The ban on the export of broken rice

How is the ethanol blending programme connected to the rice export ban? How have rice-importing countries reacted?

THE GIST

■ On September 9, the Centre instituted a ban on the export of broken rice. Additionally, it mandated an export duty of 20% on rice in husk (paddy or rough), husked (brown rice) and semi-milled or wholly-milled rice.

■ In the ongoing Ethanol Supply Year, because of supply constraints there has been an uptick in the procurement of rice from the FCI. The export ban is a means to catch-up with this supply and additionally, unburden the FCI from provisioning to distillers.

■ With trade disrupted in the Black Sea region, prices of rice are surging because traders are betting it will be an alternative for wheat which is becoming prohibitively expensive. India accounted for 41% of the total rice exports in the world in 2021.

SAPTAPARNO GHOSH

The story so far: On September 9, the Centre instituted a ban on the export of broken rice. Additionally, it mandated an export duty of 20% on rice in husk (paddy or rough), husked (brown rice) and semi-milled or wholly-milled rice. The measures do not affect export of basmati or parboiled rice. The Secretary at the Department of Food and Public Distribution Sudhanshu Pandey stated that the measures would ensure adequate availability of broken rice for consumption by the domestic poultry industry and for other animal feedstock. Additionally, it would sustain production of ethanol that would further assist the successful implementation of the Union government's Ethanol Blending Programme (EBP). However, the measures may affect countries dependent on Indian food exports in the face of a lost 'breadbasket' in Ukraine owing to the Russian conflict.

What does it have to do with inflation? The lower the supply of a commodity, the higher would be the price of a product, which results in inflationary pressures. The adequacy of rice stocks in the country would ensure that markets do not experience excess demand and thus, trigger an abrupt price rise. For seven consecutive months, inflation has been above the Reserve Bank of India's 6% tolerability threshold. The Consumer Price Index (CPI), or retail-based inflation, stood at 7% in August this year with rural and urban inflation scaling 7.15% and 6.72% respectively. This was furthered by an uptick of 7.62% in food prices during the same period.

The COVID-19 pandemic also had an impact on India's previously held surplus. As a reaction to the distresses caused by the pandemic to the vulnerable sections the Union Cabinet had introduced a food security program, called the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GAY) in March 2020. The scheme provisions an additional 5kg ration per person each month in addition to their normal quota of foodgrains under the National Food Security Act. In March, the scheme was extended for another six months until September 2022.

The *Hindu Businessline* had reported this week that foodgrain stocks (including rice,

wheat and unmilled paddy) in the Food Corporation of India (FCI)'s central pool had dropped 33.5% on a year-over-year basis to 60.11 million tonnes as of September 1 – prompting doubts on the continuation of the scheme. Research analysts at Nomura observe that on the whole, though rice stocks should remain above buffer levels, the current export restrictions may not necessarily improve the demand-supply situation materially, implying that there remains an upside risk to the price of rice. "As such, we believe there is a risk that further curbs on rice exports could be imposed, particularly in categories still exempted," it states.

What happened to rice production? The major rice cultivation season in India is the Kharif season, that entails sowing the crop during June-July and harvesting them in November-December.

In the 2018-19 Ethanol Supply Year, the government had allowed the FCI to sell surplus rice to ethanol plants for fuel production.

It is imperative to note that rice is a water-intensive crop which also requires a hot and humid climate. Thus, it is best suited to regions which have high humidity, prolonged sunshine and an assured supply of water. It is for this reason that the eastern and southern regions of the country, with sustainable humidity and suitable mean temperatures are deemed favourable for the crop. While the two regions are able to grow paddy crops throughout the year, higher rainfall and temperature prompt the northern regions to grow only one crop of rice from May to November. Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Punjab, Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are among the rice producing States in India.

A perusal of Indian Meteorological Dept's data, between June 1 and September 14 illustrate that Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Punjab and Bihar have experienced deficient rainfall. The latter refers to rainfall being 20-59% below normal in a particular region. Although West Bengal, the country's largest

producer, has overall experienced a normal rainfall, its major productivity areas such as Nadia, Burdwan and Birbhum have had deficient rainfall. This indicates a potentially lower produce this year.

What are the concerns on ethanol blending?

Ethanol is an agro-based product, mainly produced from molasses, which is a by-product of the sugar industry. The EBP endeavours to blend ethanol with vehicular fuels as a means to combat the use of fossil fuels and in turn, rising pollution. As per the government, sugar-based feed stocks alone would not be able to meet its stipulated target of 20% ethanol blending by 2025.

In the 2018-19 Ethanol Supply Year (ESY), the government had allowed the FCI to sell surplus rice to ethanol plants for fuel production. The idea was to have in place an insurance scheme and an emergency provision for distillers.

However, in the ongoing ESY, because of supply constraints there has been an uptick in the procurement of rice from the FCI. The total ethanol produced from rice lifted from the FCI stood at 26.64 crore litres whereas that from damaged food grains outside the FCI purview stood at 16.36 crore litres. This means that the production accruing from FCI rice has increased 10-fold from the 2.2 crore litres used in a full ESY. At the same time, production from damaged foodgrains stands at half.

Thus, the export ban would endeavour to catch-up with this supply and additionally, unburden the FCI from provisioning to distillers.

What are the likely after-effects of the ban?

Geopolitical tensions between Russia and Ukraine have unsettled global food supply chains. With trade disrupted in the Black Sea region, Bloomberg reported in March that prices of rice are surging because traders are betting it will be an alternative for wheat which is becoming prohibitively expensive.

India accounted for 41% of the total rice exports in the world in 2021, larger than the next four exporters (Thailand, Vietnam, Pakistan and United States) combined.

As for broken rice, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) states that



India accounted for more than half of the commodity's global exports in the first half of 2022. As per government figures, between April and August this year, broken rice's share in the overall rice export mix (of India) was 22.78% compared to 18.89% in FY 2021.

In descending order, China, Senegal, Vietnam, Djibouti and Indonesia are the biggest importers of India's broken rice.

Senior Executive Director at the All-India Rice Exporters Association Vinod Kumar Kaul told *The Hindu*, "Thailand, Vietnam and Pakistan would gain should we happen to lose this market. Once lost, regaining the market would be a task."

Mr. Kaul pegs the losses to the exporters from the ban to be around ₹5,600 crore for the full year.

EXPLAINER

The process of inclusion/exclusion from the Scheduled Tribes list

What are the new tribal groups on the list? How are they selected? What is the process?

ABHINAY LAKSHMAN

The story so far: On September 14, the Union Cabinet approved a proposal to add several tribes to the list of Scheduled Tribes (ST) in States such as Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh and Uttar Pradesh, so that they can avail of benefits meant for STs, including reservation. The announcement by Minister of Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda came even as six tribal communities of Assam – Adivasi, Chutia, Koch-Rajbongshi, Matak, Moran and Tai-Ahom – threatened to launch protests over an "inordinate delay" in their inclusion in the ST list.

Which communities have been added to the ST list?

The communities approved for inclusion in the ST list are the Hatti tribe in the Trans-Giri area of Sirmour district in Himachal Pradesh, the hill tribes of Narikoravan and Kurivikkaran of Tamil Nadu, the Binjhia community in Chhattisgarh and the Gond community in certain districts of Uttar Pradesh. The Cabinet has approved the addition of several alternative names for already existing Scheduled Tribes in Chhattisgarh and Karnataka so that the difference in

spellings and pronunciations do not result in members of these communities being left out of the benefits meant for them.

Significantly, even as the Union Cabinet has decided to include these communities under the ST list, this is not the first time they have been categorised for benefits of reservation. Most of these communities had been either included in the list of Scheduled Castes (SC) or Most Backward Classes till now.

How is a community added or removed from SC, ST lists?

The process begins at the level of a State or Union Territory, with the concerned government or administration seeking the addition or exclusion of a particular community from the SC or ST list. The final decision rests with the President's office issuing a notification specifying the changes under powers vested in it from Articles 341 and 342. The inclusion or exclusion of any community in the Scheduled Tribes or Scheduled Castes list come into effect only after the President assents to a Bill that amends the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 and the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950, as is appropriate, after it is passed by both the Lok Sabha



and Rajya Sabha.

A State government may choose to recommend certain communities for addition or subtraction from the list of SCs/STs based on its discretion. This recommendation may come from studies it commissions like in the case of classifying the Hatti community in Himachal Pradesh. Following this, the proposal to include or remove any community from the Scheduled List is sent to the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs from the concerned State

government. After this, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, through its own deliberations, examines the proposal, and sends it to the Registrar General of India (RGI). Once approved by the RGI, the proposal is sent to the National Commission for Scheduled Castes or National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, following which the proposal is sent back to the Union government, which after inter-ministerial deliberations, introduces it in the Cabinet for final approval.

As for the communities approved for addition to the list by the Cabinet earlier last week, a Bill was introduced in Parliament by the Tribal Affairs Minister this year, specifying the exclusion of the Gond community from the SC list in four districts of Uttar Pradesh and moving them to the ST list. Similarly, another Bill was also introduced by Mr. Munda, to shift certain communities in Jharkhand from the SC list to the ST list and add synonyms and variations in spellings for certain other communities in the ST list.

What is the criteria to begin the process?

To establish whether a community is a Scheduled Tribe, the government looks at several criteria, including its ethnological

traits, traditional characteristics, distinctive culture, geographical isolation and backwardness. However, in March this year the Supreme Court said it wanted to fix fool-proof parameters to determine if a person belongs to a Scheduled Tribe and is entitled to the benefits due to the community. It said the judiciary was no longer sure about an "affinity test" used to sift through distinct traits to link a person to a tribe. There is the likelihood, it said, that contact with other cultures, migration and modernisation would have erased the traditional characteristics of a tribe. An apex court Bench of Justices Hemant Gupta and V. Ramasubramanian referred the question of fixing the parameters to a larger Bench, pointing out that the issue was a "matter of importance" when it came to issuing caste certificates.

How many Scheduled Tribes are there officially?

According to the Scheduled Tribes in India as revealed in Census 2011, there are said to be 705 ethnic groups listed as Scheduled Tribes under Article 342. Over 10 crore Indians are notified as STs, of which 1.04 crore live in urban areas. The STs constitute 8.6% of the population and 11.3% of the rural population.

THE GIST

■ On September 14, the Union Cabinet approved a proposal to add several tribes to the list of Scheduled Tribes in States such as Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh and Uttar Pradesh.

■ The inclusion of any community in the ST/SC list come into effect only after the President assents to a Bill that amends the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 and the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950, as is appropriate, after it is passed by both houses.

■ To establish whether a community is a Scheduled Tribe, the government looks at several criteria, including its ethnological traits, traditional characteristics, distinctive culture etc



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Losing a nation, in seven acts

A Turkish journalist's book on her country's descent into 'dictatorship' has a message for India

SATISH DESHPANDE

In this article dated February 21, 2020 sociologist Satish Deshpande evokes Turkish journalist Ece Temelkuran's work on the descent of Turkey from a liberal, democratic republic to an authoritarian "dictatorship" to warn about the parallels with this process in other countries including India.

Ece Temelkuran, a Turkish journalist and writer, in her book, *How to Lose a Country*, describes how her homeland was stolen from her by what she considers the dictatorship of Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Subtitled "The seven steps from democracy to dictatorship", the book outlines a saptapadi that Indians have become intimately familiar with over the past six years. In fact, Ms. Temelkuran's main point is that this is now a global trend.

The story begins with the creation of a movement that claims to be of and for the "real people", the authentic owners of the nation unjustly marginalised in the past by assorted conspiracies. This is followed by an assault on rationality and on language, where new meanings are thrust upon old terms and argument is replaced by aggressive slogans. The third step is a shedding of all shame and decency on the part of leaders, who then teach their followers to do so as well, all in the name of an authentic indigeneity.

After this comes the dismantling, or co-option, of all the institutions that are intended to act as checks and balances on executive power, including the judiciary, the media and the Constitution. The fifth step is the designing of new citizens, who will be pre-calibrated to the new normalcy that has been speedily established, shrugging off the weight of history. The sixth step is the reduction of all liberal and secular thinking persons to a stage of irrelevance and despair where they can only "laugh at the horror" that their country has become. The seventh and last step, of course, is when the new rulers build their own country, having crushed all possible sources of resistance to their agendas.

How the liberals react

Ms. Temelkuran emphasises that the early steps in this journey are marked by confident expectations of the liberal establishment that the disturbances are temporary, and the built-in safeguards in the system will take care of the threats. But this confidence soon gives way to helpless disbelief expressed in incredulous exclamations: "They can't do this!", "How did they get away with that?", and so on.

Ms. Temelkuran persuasively argues that, in the last two decades, this sequence has been repeated

in countries as different from each other as Hungary, Brazil, the United States and Turkey (to name a few), and it is currently under way in the United Kingdom.

India finds no mention in Ms. Temelkuran's book, which is mainly addressing Anglo Americans and Europeans. But the resemblance to our recent history is uncanny. We can argue about the exact sequence, and about the relative importance or distinctiveness of this or that step, but the overall trend is striking in its similarity. Oddly enough, this book is useful precisely because it is saying nothing new, nothing that we do not already know. It is merely holding out a mirror, and there is something helpful about seeing our own experiences reflected back to us as part of a larger phenomenon. This relativising of what we are accustomed to thinking of as uniquely Indian draws attention to three features of our recent history that we may otherwise neglect.

A major section of the media and many artists, performers and other such public persons are completely identified with the power centre to the extent that they have no autonomous identity left

The first is that this journey towards an authoritarian communism is flagged off by neoliberalism and the values it promotes. This may sound disappointingly formulaic, part of the same tired left-wing rant that most people have stopped hearing long ago. But think about it. Today, large sections of our population are convinced that some minorities ought to be legally deprived of citizenship. Could we have arrived at this point if neoliberalism had not discredited social welfare as an idea? Whatever its faults, welfarism did assume that citizens are connected to each other not only by communitarian but also by civic-national ties. Neoliberalism cut the ties that connected individuals to each other and to the state, thereby undermining our secular-social bonds. Or, to take an opposite example, think about why neoliberalism seems self-evidently opposed to things like reservation.

The second feature on which a lot has been said already is the unique role of the media in India. As the world has been repeatedly told, India has more than 400 news channels that broadcast news 24X7, far more than any other country on earth. But what is remarkable here is not so much the giant medium, but the invisible, yet incredibly effective, work that has gone into creating an audience that is primed for the

message before it even arrives. The stunning swiftness and reach of the new social media are often credited with – or blamed for – the spread of bigotry. This is unfair, for most of that credit belongs to those who tutored the addressees to receive the message without the slightest trace of scepticism. This is no mean achievement in a country where, until yesterday, people prided themselves on their scepticism and wore their cynicism on their sleeves. The same suspicious lot are now eager consumers of the most crudely concocted fake news and alternative facts.

A fundamental disconnect

The final feature concerns the composition and positioning of the opinion-making classes, or of intellectuals in the broad sense. There are two related but distinct aspects to this. The first is the degree to which a left-of-centre perspective has monopolised the more formal and institutional parts of the intellectual world. This has meant that, taken as a whole, our intellectual class was never really outside the sphere of state power, but very much an insider. This is in spite of the sharp disagreements and antipathies that may have separated specific persons or groups from particular political parties or leaders. In fact, even during the Emergency, when a large number of politically active persons including some intellectuals was actually imprisoned, there was never a fundamental disconnect between the corridors of power and the opinion makers. Today, we have a clear split – a major section of the media and many bureaucrats, artists, performers and other such public persons are completely identified with the power centre to the extent that they have no autonomous identity left.

On the other side of the divide is that segment of the intellectual class that is completely cut off from the power centre and has been made its target. This latter segment is struggling to come to terms with its unprecedented, total and aggressive exclusion from the power centre.

The other aspect is the relative scarcity of right-wing intellectuals. This ought to be a matter of concern for liberals and leftists because it denies those in power the benefits of moderation and refinement in the pursuit of their agendas. It also ensures that the politics of resentment plays out in extreme ways that damage institutions and cause irreparable harm to the intellectual ecosystem.

But the immediate message conveyed by *How to Lose a Country* is that it is imperative to act at once, before the *saat pheras* (seven acts) are over, and we are bound over to an authoritarian regime.

Satish Deshpande teaches Sociology at Delhi University. Views are personal



KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

Me, myself and I

A landslide victory at the polls is what all parties are aiming for!

S. UPENDRAN

A 'landslide' is usually associated with something bad. If that is the case, why is it that during elections, a big victory is called a 'landslide victory'? (N. P. Rajkumar, Chennai)

Landslides are a common occurrence during the rainy season in hilly and mountainous regions. Heavy or continuous rain usually causes mud and rocks to come sliding down the mountain/hill, and in the process, destroy everything along their path. Houses, vehicles, people, trees and animals often get buried in a landslide. While it is true that a 'landslide' is usually associated with something bad, a 'landslide victory' is seen as something good – at least from the point of view of the winner! When someone has a landslide victory in an election, he wins the contest by an overwhelming margin; he defeats his rivals soundly. What is it that a landslide does? It buries everything along its path. Someone who wins an election by a landslide, destroys everything in his path; in this case, it suggests that the candidate doesn't just beat his opponents, he buries them!

The young candidate won by a landslide. The local MLA believes that his party will register a landslide victory.

When it snows that comes crashing down a mountain and buries everything in its path, then it is called an 'avalanche'.

Why is the pronoun 'I' always capitalised in English? (K Nalini, Hyderabad)

Considering the fact, that the British at one point in time were ruling nearly half the world, it is quite possible that they thought no end of themselves. After all, they proudly proclaimed that theirs was an Empire on which "the sun never sets"! Perhaps, they had big egos and decided to capitalise the pronoun 'I'. I am only joking. Like all other European languages, five or six centuries ago, this pronoun in English was not capitalised. In fact, there was a time when this pronoun was pronounced and spelt like the German word for 'I' – 'ich'. With the passage of time, however, both the pronunciation and the spelling of the word gradually changed – from 'ich', it became 'ic', and then later, 'i'. Once the word was reduced to a single letter, the uncapitalised 'i' caused many problems. Readers found it strange to come across a single letter word in the middle of a sentence. Scribes and printers worried that when written separately, the single letter would attach itself to the word before it or after it – thereby, creating more problems for the reader. In order to overcome this problem, writers like Geoffrey Chaucer, the author of the *Canterbury Tales*, adopted different techniques to highlight the 'i'. He chose to make it larger than the other letters in the same line – something which all writers and printers were already doing when 'I' occurred as the first word in a sentence. Eventually, everyone chose to capitalise the word.

What is the correct pronunciation of the word 'sew'? (K. Narendra, Pune)

There are quite a few people in our country who make this word rhyme with 'jew', 'zoo' and 'chew'. Native speakers of English, however, pronounce it like the word 'so'. The machine that tailors use is not a 'sue-ing' machine, but a 'so-ing' machine.

Don't buy a single vote more than necessary. I'll be damned if I'm going to pay for a landslide.

Joseph P Kennedy
upendrankye@gmail.com

THE GIST

■ Ece Temelkuran, a Turkish journalist and writer, in her book, *How to Lose a Country*, describes how her homeland was stolen from her by what she considers the dictatorship of Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

■ Ms. Temelkuran argues that, in the last two decades, this sequence has been repeated in several other countries as well. While India finds no mention in Ms. Temelkuran's book, the resemblance to our recent history is uncanny.

■ Apart from what is already mentioned in the book, there are three other uniquely Indian features which have flagged off our journey towards an authoritarian communalism. The first is by neoliberalism and the values it promotes. The second feature is about the unique role of the media and the final feature concerns the composition and positioning of the opinion-making classes, or of intellectuals in the broad sense.

■ Ms. Temelkuran persuasively argues that, in the last two decades, this sequence has been repeated

THE DAILY QUIZ

Roger Federer, one of the greatest sportspersons, hung up his racquet last week. A quiz on the tennis legend.

1 How many Grand Slam singles titles did Federer rack up?

2 Federer is the only player in tennis history, male or female, to win two different Majors five (or more) years in a row each. Name the Slams and the years.

3 After which famous encounter did Federer remark thus: "Sometimes it was weird, I look on the other side of the net, I saw him... sometimes I was like, it's just true, kind of that this is happening now, that I'm playing against him!"

4 Federer with 103 titles is one of the two players to have won a century of crowns. Who holds the record with 109?



◀ Roger Federer completed a career Grand Slam by claiming the 2009 French Open. Who was his vanquished opponent seen in this photo? ■ GETTY IMAGES

Please send in your answers to the dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Questions and Answers to the September 16 edition of the daily quiz:

1. In 1920, the Chennai Corporation Council approved a proposal to provide tiffin to the students of a corporation school at a subsidised cost and this man was responsible for it. Ans: **Theagaraya Chetty, the then President of the Corporation**
2. The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu after whom the midday meal scheme is named after. Ans: **M. G. Ramachandran**
3. This human rights body founded by Jayaprakash Narayan which argued in the Supreme Court about the right to food. Ans: **People's Union for Civil Liberties**
4. Recently, the midday meal scheme was revamped and renamed to this. Ans: **PM Poshan Shakti Nirman Scheme**

5. The amount of calories in nutrition primary and upper primary children are supposed to get. Ans: **450 calories for primary and 700 calories for upper primary children**

Visual: The midday meal scheme rose from this man's Buddhist thoughts. Ans: **C. Iyothee Das**

Early Birds: Nandana Baishya| Ravindra Kumar Sahu| K. N. Viswanathan

FROM PAGE ONE

Lumpy skin disease virus is different...

However, the experimental trials conducted on animals afflicted in the ongoing 2022 outbreak with the vaccine have revealed encouraging results, ICAR and the Ministry of Agriculture have stated. The vaccine is a live attenuated, or a weakened version of the virus that when injected into animals is expected to stimulate the immune system and protect against a probable infection. Currently, the only vaccines available for the disease are vaccines for goat pox and sheep pox, which are related to the LSD virus.

"That's the million-dollar question on what the implications of this genome sequencing mean for the vaccine," Sridhar Sivasubbu of the CSIR-IGIB and one of the scientists associated with the genome sequencing study said.

This specific study, he said, threw no light as there were too few animals tested and only a broader sample of viral genomes spanning several States could answer if the variants identified and analysed in Rajasthan as part of the study were widespread in India.

NIA conducts searches in Telangana, A.P.

An NIA release said the case related to Abdul Khader of Nizamabad and 26 others. The accused were organising camps for imparting training to commit terrorist acts and promote enmity between different groups on the basis of religion.

Four detained

During the searches on Sunday, incriminating material which included digital devices, documents, two daggers and cash worth ₹8.31 lakh were seized. Four persons were detained. Further investigation is on.

The teams of the NIA cordoned off the houses of suspected PFI activists with the help of the local police since dawn. The officials questioned friends and family members of the suspects. Some of them reportedly fled on prior information, informed sources said.

Four persons, including a second year degree student, were detained in Nizamabad for links with the PFI. The father of one of them – Sameer – said his son was attending karate classes run by one of the accused. "The

Another point of concern that the IGB study raises is that one of the animals appeared to have two different variants of the LSD virus when virus was extracted from its nose as well as from the skin, suggesting that the virus appeared to be able to evolve within a single host. This again speaks to the increased infectivity of the LSD virus in 2022 compared to 2019.

Lumpy skin disease is a contagious viral disease that spreads among cattle through mosquitoes, flies, lice, and wasps by direct contact, and also through contaminated food and water.

The disease causes fever and nodules on the skin, and it can be fatal. Symptoms include skin nodules of about two to five centimetres, high fever, reduced milk production, loss of appetite, and watery eyes.

The Centre recently said about 57,000 cattle have died so far due to the disease. The disease has raised concerns over its impact on the dairy business. India is the world's largest milk producer at about 210 million tonnes annually.

Rabta Madaris-e-Islamia Arabia, the body that governs the madrasas affiliated with Darul Uloom, released a manifesto that included a four-point advisory that said the management of madrasas should provide documents to the officials conducting the survey and maintain transparency in financial records.

It further said the ownership records should be kept in order and the madrasa land should be registered as per the law. The madrasas have also been advised to maintain a clean and hygienic environment and provide healthy food to students.

The conference, attended by around 250 madrasas of the State, was addressed by Maulana Arshad Madani,

president of Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind, and Maulana Mufti Abdul Qasim Nomani, rector of the seminary.

Addressing the media, Mr. Madani said the seminary or the Muslims, in general, had no objection to the survey being conducted by the Yogi Adityanath government and the doors of the madrasas were open to all. "So far, the picture of the survey that has come out, there is nothing to fear or be apprehensive about."

Reiterating that madrasas had played an important role in the Freedom Movement, Mr. Madani appealed to the directors of the madrasas "to cooperate in the survey as we have nothing to

hide". The senior Islamic scholar said as much as the community needed doctors and engineers, it also needed clerics and muezzins to serve at the mosques across the country.

On the funding of madrasas, Mr. Madani said Muslims take government help in worldly matters. "We don't seek government support in matters of religion...in running of mosques and madrasas."

Answering a question on the education in madrasas, Mr. Madani said the Darul Uloom was working with the government to streamline the education in madrasas, and in the next five to seven years, the seminary would

admit only those who had passed the Class 10 from a recognised education board.

Mr. Nomani said the madrasas were being run as per the freedom of thought, belief, and religion guaranteed by the Constitution. He advised the management of madrasas to maintain transparency in financial matters and get their accounts audited.

Earlier, Maulana Mufti Shukrul Bastevi, chief of Rabta Madaris-e-Islamia Arabia, said the madrasas played an important role in preserving the Islamic heritage and in uprooting the British colonial rule.

"On one hand we fulfilled the theological needs of the largest minority in the country and on the other we created responsible citizens for the country." He said the madrasas had consistently raised their voice against terrorism and helped provide education to the poorest sections of society.

"The intelligence agencies are free to check these madrasas. Over the years, none of the madrasas have been found indulging in anti-national activities." He appealed to the media to keep a positive outlook on madrasas.

NIA conducts searches in Telangana, A.P.

NIA now suspects my son was attracted to terror-related activities," he said.

He said the officials knocked on the door of his residence in Autonagar around 3 a.m. Taking away Sameer for questioning in Hyderabad, they seized three laptops, cellphones and documents, he added.

A shopkeeper in Nizamabad, Sheikh Mukhith said his house was searched by a team from 3 a.m. till 10.30 a.m. and he was served a notice to appear in the Hyderabad office of the NIA. The agency took his two phones, passport and bank passbooks. The locals staged a dharna and raised slogans against the NIA at Kazanagar near Buchireddypalem in Nellore district. The family members of Sheikh Ilyas, who was missing for over three months, were grilled. He ran an eatery in the area.

The house of Yousef, said to be a key activist of the PFI, was also searched at Vishwanagar Colony of Nandyal town in his absence. The officials met with resistance here too as some people obstructed them.

L-G opens cinemas in Pulwama and Shopian

Theatres in Valley closed since 1990

PEERZADA ASHIQ SRINAGAR

South Kashmir's Pulwama and Shopian districts, once a hub of militancy, on Sunday saw the inauguration of two cinema halls by Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha. These cinema halls are the first such entertainment spaces in the highly volatile districts.

"Inaugurated multipurpose cinema halls at Pulwama and Shopian. They offer facilities ranging from movie screening, infotainment and skilling of youth," Mr. Sinha said.

The opening of these cinema halls is part of efforts to set up multipurpose cinema halls in every district of J&K. All cinema halls closed in the Kashmir valley in 1990 when militancy broke out. The effort to reopen cinema halls in 1998-99 failed to revive the movie culture.

Mr. Sinha said it has been decided to come up with multipurpose cinema halls in every district under 'Mission Youth'. "In coming days such cinema halls will come up in every district so that youth can benefit from it," Mr. Sinha said.

Meanwhile, Mr. Sinha also dedicated a 120-ft-tall National Flag to the nation at Pulwama, which was earlier prone to frequent gunfights and anti-India protests.

"Tricolour is the symbol of one nation, one emotion, one identity. It is the honour and pride of our great nation, the reflection of dreams of our forefathers and the aspirations of our youth," he stated.

The Lt. Governor said that the new development initiatives inaugurated in Pulwama were aimed at empowering the youth, enabling self-development, sharpening skills and helping them to realise their dreams.

World leaders and royalty arrived in London on Saturday night and Sunday to offer condolences on behalf of their countries and say their final goodbyes to Queen Elizabeth II whose state funeral is scheduled for Monday. The 96-year-old Queen – Britain's longest reigning monarch of 70 years – died on September 8 in Scotland. President Droupadi Murmu was among those who visited Westminster Hall in the British Parliament complex on Sunday, where the Queen is lying in state.

President Droupadi Murmu visited Westminster Hall London where the body of Her Majesty the Queen Elizabeth II is lying in state. The President offered tributes to the departed soul on her own behalf and on behalf of the people of India," the President's official Twitter handle said. Among those with her was Deputy High Com-



Paying tributes: President Droupadi Murmu signing a book of condolences on Sunday, the eve of the Queen's funeral. • AP

missioner to the United Kingdom, Sujit Ghosh.

U.S. President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden, along with U.S. Ambassador to the U.K. Jane Hartley could also be seen in Westminster Hall paying their respects. Thousands of people continued to arrive in Westminster Hall, some apparently unaware of the high-profile visitors on the balcony.

the media that he waited 12 hours. Others in London for the funeral included Japan's Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako, French President Emmanuel Macron and First Lady Brigitte Macron.

As *The Hindu* went to press, the leaders gathered at Buckingham Palace for a reception hosted by King Charles III and Camilla, the Queen Consort. Over the weekend, the king met with heads of government from Commonwealth realms – of which he is the head of state. These included Prime Ministers Justin Trudeau of Canada, Andrew Holness of Jamaica, Jacinda Ardern of New Zealand, Anthony Albanese of Australia.

The Queen's funeral will be held at 11 a.m. local time at Westminster Abbey followed by a 4 p.m. service at St. George's Chapel in Windsor and a burial at 7.30 p.m. at King George VI Memorial Chapel, Windsor, which will be closed to the public.

8 preachers held under PSA, say police

Insurgency down in northeast, Army shifts to LAC

Assam Rifles has now been given the responsibility of counter-insurgency operations in the region

DINAKAR PERI
LAIPU/ NEW DELHI

With insurgency having significantly gone down in the northeast as seen by recent revocation of Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) in several parts of the region, the Army has been able to pull out most of its troops from counter-insurgency (CI) duties to refocus on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) amid the stand-off with China in Eastern Ladakh in the last two years. Assam Rifles is now responsible for all CI duties.

There is only one Army Brigade in the entire Eastern sector now tasked with CI duties with its mandate spread across four districts of Assam bordering Arunachal. "Insurgency has waned and the counter to it has also changed. It is a whole-of-the-nation approach now. Now the battle is for the mind-space," said Brig. K.S. Gill, commanding the 73 Brigade. Recruitment still happens but has come down in last two years, he stated.

Elaborating, he said while space for United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) is shrinking, residual potential still remains and "it's a threat in being" as threat of use of Improvised Explosive Devices

With public support and our constant domination of these areas, I am sanguine that in the future, more such areas will reach a level of peace. The situation is dynamic and is being constantly monitored

LT. GEN. R.P. KALITA
Eastern Army Commander

that in the future, more such areas will reach a level of peace," he said speaking on the sidelines of an event at Kibithu. The situation is dynamic and is being constantly monitored, he stated.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has also been active and keeping up the pressure. In addition to dwindling recruitment, there have also been desirations among the cadres and also differences among the various factions.

In this regard, the footprint of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN) has been seen in Assam of late, officials on the ground said, with inputs suggesting that that NSCN (Ky) is working with ULFA. NSCN (Ky) is active in Longdeng, Tirap and Changlang districts of Nagaland and so offers a conduit for ULFA.

With public support and our constant domination of these areas, I am sanguine

tives by the Army to win hearts and minds of the people, those that have caught attention are an effort to impart training in football and another to impart training to students to crack national-level entrance examinations for engineering and medicine.

Football tournament
For instance, the 'Capt. Jintu Gogoi, VrC Memorial Football Tournament' organised in February-March this year by the Army in coordination with the Assam Football Association and Tinsukia District Sports Authority was a huge draw. It brought together 64 teams from several districts of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, according to Lt. Col. Kumar Gaurav, who was involved in the organisation of the tournament.

"It was not just a match, but a platform for budding talent to go ahead and get national recognition," he said.

Capt. Gogoi from Assam served in 17 Garhwal Rifles and was posthumously awarded the Vir Chakra (VrC) for his actions during the Kargil conflict of 1999.

Commenting on reorientation, Lt. Gen. Kalita said the deployment of Army on CI duties is dictated by the

security situation and the violence parameters and as situation improves, Army is de-induced and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) and police take on the responsibility of ensuring peace and stability.

"In northeast also, with improvement in situation, Army has got de-induced and is geared to look at the primary role," he said while cautioning that even while being employed for CI Ops, the units are always prepared for a conventional role at all times.

"We have a large border with three neighbouring countries, each with its own unique dynamics. Therefore, our units and troops are always prepared, trained and equipped for multifarious tasks and multiple threat scenarios," Lt. Gen. Kalita added. "This is an ongoing exercise all round the year," he added.

Two Divisions of troops have been pulled off CI duties and redeployed along the Line of Actual Control in tune with the overall reorientation towards the LAC carried out by the Army since the May 2020 stand-off. Of the 3,488-km-long LAC, 1,346 km falls in the Eastern sector.

CBI visits Goa to probe Sonali Phogat death case

BJP leader was found dead in August

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Saturday visited the hotel in Goa where BJP leader Sonali Phogat had stayed before she died under mysterious circumstances in August.

Based on the findings so far, the agency recreated the sequence of events leading up to the incident. Forensic experts also accompanied the CBI team to gather evidence. The case was referred to the CBI through the Ministry of Home Affairs on September 12, soon after Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said that on the request of the victim's family members he would urge Un-

ion Home Minister Amit Shah to transfer the probe to the Central agency.

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar also said that the CBI would investigate the allegations of foul play if the victim's family members were not satisfied with the local police's probe.

The 42-year-old was declared dead at a hospital in north Goa's Anjuna on August 23. The post-mortem report revealed blunt force injury on her body after which the local police had registered a murder case. The police had alleged that she was forcibly drugged by her two associates, who were arrested after being arraigned as accused.

APPEAL
I am Elavarasi aged 14 years, suffering from Myelodysplastic Syndrome and underwent Bone Marrow Transplantation as only curative treatment. But my immunity is very low to combat infections. The total medical management and supportive care costs are Rs.4,00,000+. Please donate and support me as my family is extremely poor and cannot afford this huge expenditure at Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai. I need your contribution and blessings. Donations sent by CbD, Favours, Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai will be acknowledged. The donations sent through CbD, DINEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/C No. 6018201063310, IFSC No. CNRB0016018) favouring WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE is exempted under 80G IT.

All correspondence is done through WWS, Regd. Public Charitable Trust, Flat No. GF 1, Cordell Apartments, O.No.13, N.M.29, Pyrofts Garden Lane, Chennai - 600046. Ph: 044-4213740 | 128235247 | 7338978027. E Mail: id: womenwelfaresyndicate@gmail.com Website: www.womenwelfaresyndicate.org

Elavarasi

Darul Uloom supports survey of madrasas, issues advisory

Seminary asks all managements to cooperate with officials of U.P. government

ANUJ KUMAR
GHAZIABAD



Ready for scrutiny: Maulana Arshad Madani addresses a press conference in Deoband on Sunday. • PTI

In a press conference of madrasas organised by Darul Uloom in Deoband on Sunday, the leading Islamic seminary said it was not against the ongoing Uttar Pradesh government survey of unrecognised madrasas in the State, and appealed to the management of madrasas to cooperate with the government officials in carrying out the survey.

Rabta Madaris-e-Islamia Arabia, the body that governs the madrasas affiliated with Darul Uloom, released a manifesto that included a four-point advisory that said the management of madrasas should provide documents to the officials conducting the survey and maintain transparency in financial records.

It further said the ownership records should be kept in order and the madrasa land should be registered as per the law. The madrasas have also been advised to maintain a clean and hygienic environment and provide healthy food to students.

The conference, attended by around 250 madrasas of the State, was addressed by Maulana Arshad Madani,

admit only those who had passed the Class 10 from a recognised education board.

Mr. Nomani said the madrasas were being run as per the freedom of thought, belief, and religion guaranteed by the Constitution. He advised the management of madrasas to maintain transparency in financial matters and get their accounts audited.

Earlier, Maulana Mufti Shukrul Bastevi, chief of Rabta Madaris-e-Islamia Arabia, said the madrasas played an important role in preserving the Islamic heritage and in uprooting the British colonial rule.

On the funding of madrasas, Mr. Madani said Muslims take government help in worldly matters. "We don't seek government support in matters of religion...in running of mosques and madrasas."

Answering a question on the education in madrasas,

'Rahul the acknowledged leader of Cong.'

The rank and file want him to be president of the party, says former Union Minister Chidambaram

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Former Union Finance Minister P. Chidambaram on Sunday favoured a consensus for the post of the All India Congress Committee (AICC) chief, and asserted that Rahul Gandhi will always have a "pre-eminent place" in the party irrespective of whether he is president as he is the "acknowledged leader" of the rank and file.

So far, Mr. Gandhi has declined to take on the mantle of party presidency but may change his mind, the Congress Working Committee member said, just days ahead of the notification of the poll to elect the AICC chief.

Mr. Chidambaram said there was no occasion for any controversy over the fairness and transparency of the party president election, and asserted that had central election authority chairman Madhusudan Mistry's last statement on the concerns of some of the leaders come on the first day, the matter would have stood resolved.

I am certain whoever is elected Congress president will rise to the occasion and command respect among the leaders and the rank and file of the party

P. CHIDAMBARAM

Congress leader



Underlining that it was not the practice of any political party to publish the roll of the electoral college, he said the PCC-wise electoral roll would be available for inspection at the office of the PCC concerned, while the all-India electoral roll would be available for inspection at the office of the AICC.

"Every nominated candidate will be entitled to a copy of the electoral roll. Mr. Mistry has since clarified these self-evident points and the MPs have said they were satisfied. The matter is rested," Mr. Chidambaram said.

Lok Sabha members Shashi Tharoor, Manish Tewari, Karti Chidambaram, Pradyut Bordoloi and Abdul Khaleque had written to Mr.

Mistry, seeking clarity on the issue of electoral rolls, to which the party's poll panel chief had clarified that anyone wanting to file nomination for the post of Congress president would be able to see the list of the more than 9,000 PCC delegates at the AICC's central election authority office from September 20.

Consensus candidate

Mr. Chidambaram also asked if the media had raised such issues when the BJP or any other party held its election. "I cannot recall Mr. J.P. Nadda asking for the electoral roll or filing his nomination," he said.

On whether consensus or election would be better for

the post of AICC president, Mr. Chidambaram said while election was the default option, "the better course, and all parties follow this, is to elect a national president by consensus". If my recollection is correct, Mr. Nadda, and before him Mr. Amit Shah, Mr. Rajnath Singh and Mr. Gadkari, were all elected by consensus," he said.

On whether Mr. Gandhi will heed appeals of party workers and leaders, Mr. Chidambaram said he did not know the answer to that question. "Rahul Gandhi is the acknowledged leader of the rank and file of the party. They want him to be the president of the party also. So far, he has declined. He may change his mind," he said.

Asked whether the Gandhi family would continue to occupy a place of pre-eminence in the party if a non-Gandhi president was elected, he cited the history of the Congress and pointed out that between 1921 and 1948, Mahatma Gandhi was the acknowledged leader of the Congress, and afterwards, Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira

Gandhi, one following the other, were the acknowledged leaders of the party.

"Apart from the leader, there were several people who held the office of president of the party for one or two or three years. There have been periods in the Congress's history when the leader and the president were the same person, and there have also been long periods when the leader and the president were different people," he said.

The Rajya Sabha member said if Mr. Gandhi was elected Congress president, he would be both the leader and president, but if he is not, he would remain the acknowledged leader of the party and there would be another person holding the office of the president.

Asked if a non-Gandhi family person would command the same respect and authority, the senior leader said: "I am certain whoever is elected Congress president will rise to the occasion and command respect among the leaders and the rank and file of the party."

'Project Cheetah' began in 2009, says Ramesh

Congress leader slams Modi for 'lying'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Sunday shared a letter on Twitter which, he said, initiated Project Cheetah in 2009 and accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of being a "pathological liar" for criticising previous governments for not making constructive efforts to reintroduce the big cat in India.

Mr. Modi on Saturday hit out at the previous governments, saying, "It is unfortunate that we declared cheetahs extinct in 1952, but for decades no constructive efforts were made to reintroduce them in India. Now, with new strength and vigour, the country has embarked on the project of rearing the population of cheetahs during this *amrit kaal*." He made the remarks after releasing three of the eight cheetahs flown in from Namibia into special enclosures at the Kuno National Park in Sheopur district of Madhya Pradesh.

"This was the letter that launched Project Cheetah in 2009. Our PM is a pathological liar. I couldn't lay my hands on this letter yesterday because of my preoccupation with the Bharat Jodo Yatra," Mr. Ramesh tweeted.

Along with the tweet, Mr. Ramesh shared the letter he, as then Minister for Environment and Forests, had written to M.K. Ranjitsinh of the Wildlife Trust of India in 2009.

In the letter, Mr. Ramesh had asked Mr. Ranjitsinh to prepare a road map for the reintroduction of cheetahs and include a detailed analysis of different potential sites.



Jairam Ramesh

8 MLAs who joined Goa BJP to meet PM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

PANAJI

Eight MLAs who recently switched over from the Congress to the ruling BJP in Goa will meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Delhi on Monday, a senior party leader said on Sunday.

Six of them, led by Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant and the BJP state unit president Sadanand Tanavade, will leave for Delhi by flight on Sunday night, while MLAs Michael Lobo and Digambar Kamat, who are currently out of station, will join them later in the national capital, he said.

According to BJP sources, the MLAs were also likely to meet BJP president J. P. Nadda and Union Home Minister Amit Shah during their Delhi visit, but the appointments are not confirmed yet.

The BJP retained power in the 40-member Goa Assembly after the election in March and has 28 MLAs, while the number of Congress MLAs has been reduced to three.

Vacant offices, unaware office-bearers: curious case of delisted parties

EC recently struck off 86 of them

DAMINI NATH
MUNEEF KHAN
NEW DELHI

Behind the Election Commission's recent list of "non-existent" political parties are "office addresses" that were vacated years ago or those that could not be traced at all, but in some cases, the move has come as a surprise for office-bearers.

The EC has been on a mission to clean up the list of registered unrecognised political parties, deleting 284 since May for either being unreachable during a physical check or not responding to communications. As per its latest order on September 13, the EC delisted 86 parties, of which 14 were in Delhi. These parties were found to be in violation of the Representation of the People Act, which mandates that every registered party must inform the EC of any change in address, office-bearers, name, or Permanent Account Number.

'No knowledge'

Among the six delisted parties *The Hindu* tried to track down in Delhi was the Loktantrik Janata Front. Its office in east Delhi's Laxmi Nagar had no signage or address displayed. Sitting in the dimly lit, third-floor office, Yogesh Chaturvedi said he had been member of the party for at least 12 years. He said the party had contested the Uttar Pradesh Assembly election in the past. "We have not received any notice from EC yet, our lawyer will respond if we do. We are very much still active," he said. The party's main cause was "reservation on the basis of income criteria, not caste," he said.

For Suman Sharma, 60, acting president of the Rashtriya Krantikari Janata Party, the news of his party's delisting came as a surprise. He said he had "regularly filed" contribution reports, tax statements and other necessary documents to the EC since founding the party in 2007. While he said the address had changed from the

city's Karol Bagh locality to Sangam Vihar, the EC's deletion order mentioned the old address. He said the party had contested elections in Delhi and Bihar. In the 2009 Lok Sabha election, its New Delhi candidate, Harrendra, secured 1,079 votes.

"We have not fought any elections since 2014. However, I did try contesting in 2019 from the South Delhi constituency, but my application was not accepted...I have no clue as to why our party was delisted and I will raise this issue with the ECI," Mr. Sharma said.

The EC's September 13 order had highlighted that a party must contest an election within five years of its registration, and should continue to contest thereafter. "If the party does not contest elections continuously for six years, the party shall be taken off the list of registered parties," it said.

For some of the delisted parties, the addresses registered with the EC had new occupants or none at all. The unmarked basement of a three-storey building in Chirag Enclave was listed as the address of one such party, the All-India Babu Jagjiwan Ram Baba Saheb National Congress, but upon visiting, it was found to be empty. Residents said the party office was vacated close to a decade ago.

The tale of the Bharatiya Parivartan Party was similar. Its registered address, the ground floor of a Delhi Development Authority flat in Panday Nagar, has been home to a family since they purchased the house in 2008.

A neighbour said he remembered a "dabang type", implying a strongman character, had rented the flat years ago, for a few months. He recalled a makhshali office, but didn't remember much else about it.

While the delisted parties have till October 13 to approach the EC with proof of their existence, it remains to be seen how many actually do so.

Fruits of labour



A farm worker plucking apples at an orchard in Budgam district of central Kashmir. Apple harvest is at its peak in the region but import of apples from Turkey and Iran has led to a fall in the prices in major markets across the country, say farmers. ■PTI

Sawar, Sawara and Saunra: one and the same tribe now

With the Union Cabinet approving spelling variations for 11 tribes in the State, the decades-long struggle has drawn to an end

SHUBHOMOY SIKDAR

RAJPIUR

Soon after he got a government job as a teacher in Basantar in 2010, Shivprasad Bhoi, now 39, was asked to get his Scheduled Tribe certificate attested. What he then presumed to be a simple exercise turned out to be a nightmare. A spelling variation in the name of his tribe, Sawar, eventually resulted in his dismissal from service 15 months later. He did not get paid for his services during the period and has not found another job ever since.

"Not having my ST certificate turned out to be a huge impediment. Seeking help from government officials and Ministers proved futile. I kept insisting I was from the Sawar tribe, but the spelling variation meant nothing could be done. I was left with no choice but to return to farming," Mr. Bhoi said.

Last week, the Union Cabinet approved the inclusion of spelling variations for 11 tribes on the list of Schedule

Tribes of Chhattisgarh and 'Sawar' or 'Sawara' was one of those. According to Shammi Abidi, Commissioner, Scheduled Tribe Development Department, and Director, Tribal Research and Training Institute (TRTI), the decision will benefit nearly one lakh people across Chhattisgarh.

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Mr. Bhoi is still hoping for retrospective relief when the note gets parliamentary approval and presidential assent but admits that the chances are slim. However,

he is relieved that many others from these tribes may not meet the same fate as his.

A long process

The ruling Congress in Chhattisgarh and its main challenger, the BJP, are both claiming credit for the latest approval. However, it came through a long process fraught with challenges, say community leaders and others who have worked closely with these tribes over the past decade and a half.

"The system is such that

the burden of proof lies with the applicant who wants a certificate issued or attested. Most miss out because they are illiterate and did not know what was entered in the documents they had been issued or had inherited from their parents. Some families didn't even keep the documents. In certain cases, the pronunciation changed the entire word. For example, if a teacher misheard something at the time of admission or the sub-divisional magistrate got the spelling wrong at the time of issuance, it just stuck," says G.M. Jha, a former Deputy Director at the TRTI.

He explains how a "non-issue" turned into a big stumbling block due to officials' lack of understanding and indifference. "Articles 342 (1) and (2) of the Constitution give clear direction on who is deemed to be an ST and who can be included. However, around 2004, the then director of the TRTI issued a book that wrongly interpreted a Supreme Court order and the terms 'synonym' and 'synonymous' in it. This then became a reference point for officials across districts and they started rejecting applications with spelling variations that stemmed from phonetic variations. Often, the poor and illiterate tribals would have no recourse against outright rejection or intense scrutiny even if their case was genuine. They would abandon the pursuit altogether," says Mr. Jha.

Mr. Jha said all such communities endured countless "trials and tribulations" for over a decade and a half.

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'Time for increased action against COVID'

WHO Chief Scientist stresses increasing vaccination, testing and sequencing to spot new variants

RAMYA KANNAN

CHENNAI

In light of the World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus' declaration that the end of the COVID-19 pandemic is nigh and with nations wondering whether they can let their guard down and resume 'normalcy' as it existed pre-pandemic, WHO's Chief Scientist Soumya Swaminathan clarified on the points made by Dr. Tedros in his speech and underlined the importance of not letting up efforts just yet.

"What Dr. Tedros actually said was: 'We have never been in a better position to end the pandemic. We are not there yet, but the end is in sight. If we don't take this opportunity now, we run the risk of more variants, more deaths, more disruption, and more uncertainty.' He also made the point that governments must increase efforts now so we can reach the end. Thus, he was actually saying governments must do the opposite of 'letting down their guard'. Now we need to be increasing our



We are not approaching a situation where COVID-19 is becoming a seasonal virus. There is high transmission in all parts of the world currently, regardless of season

SOUMYA SWAMINATHAN
Chief Scientist, WHO

guard – particularly increasing vaccination, surveillance testing, genomic sequencing to spot new variants," Dr. Swaminathan explained.

"We are not approaching a situation where COVID is becoming a seasonal virus. There is high transmission in all parts of the world currently, regardless of season. And as much mentioned above, it is critical that we persist with, and strengthen, the public health prevention methods that we know work," she further clarified.

Dr. Swaminathan drew attention to the six policy briefs that the WHO released last week to help countries update their policies and strengthen the response to COVID-19. "As the Director-General said: 'These policy briefs are an urgent call for

clear and open communication, and tackling the 'infodemic'. "Further, we know how to treat cases now and have drugs to prevent severe disease in the most high risk groups," she said.

Another critical role that nations have to play is in the area of vaccinations. "It is critical that all countries vaccinate 100% of people in high risk groups. A third dose is needed in these groups to offer maximum protection. We have seen that with waning immunity, there is a risk of infection or re-infection with new Omicron sub-variants. However, protection against severe disease seems to be robust and longer lasting, so, even if people get infected, they will not land in hospital," she said. As far as repurposing health infrastructure that nations have created to fight COVID-19 goes, Dr. Swaminathan said the question does not arise.

In fact, the briefs underline the need for sustained financing and a trained, protected and respected workforce to maintain these life-saving actions in the con-

text of competing health and non-health emergencies. Additionally, they recognise the need to strengthen the acute and longer-term response for COVID-19 in relation to other pressing public health issues. She spoke of the need to pay attention to long COVID. "We are learning more about the long-term complications of COVID and the need to have clinical infrastructure in place to deal with the cardiac, neurological, metabolic and mental health sequelae of infection," she said.

She stressed that research into all aspects of COVID would continue to be a crucial part of the response and must additionally be supported and strengthened.

"The virus is continually adapting and staying one step ahead of us. Research into broad spectrum antivirals and pan-coronavirus vaccines is very important. Further, we need to promote coordinated interdisciplinary research into zoonotic diseases that can give rise to the next pandemic, and develop countermeasures that are quickly repurposable," Dr. Swaminathan said.

Mann arrived at airport, but his return was rescheduled

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI/CHANDIGARH

In a last-minute change, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann rescheduled his return journey from Frankfurt to Delhi on Sunday.

He was on a trip to Germany from September 11 to 18 to attract investments and strategic tie-ups in various sectors. Now, he will be returning on Monday. "The Punjab Chief Minister has delayed his departure as he was reportedly unwell," an official said.

A State government source confirmed to *The Hindu* that Mr. Mann did not board the flight as per the fixed schedule. Mr. Mann, along with the team of officials, was dropped at the Frankfurt airport by cabs. However, after he was dropped, the India consulate reportedly informed the cab staff to pick up the Chief Minister from the airport as he did not board the aeroplane, the source said.

Asked about the issue, Chander Suta Dogra, the director of media communication of Punjab's ruling party Aam Aadmi Party, said: "Mr. Mann was a little unwell and would catch a flight later tonight from Frankfurt and would be back."

Lufthansa flight LH 760 was scheduled to depart at 1.40 p.m. local time from Frankfurt. It was already delayed by "three hours" because of a late inbound flight and an aircraft change, but was further delayed because of a heated exchange between some passengers and the cabin crew, according to a witness.

"A person donning a white kurta-pyjama and resembling Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann entered the aircraft along with other passengers... after some time four or five of them left the aircraft," said an eyewitness who did not want to be identified.

The pilot later announced that some passengers had to leave and that there would

be a slight delay as their baggage was being removed from the plane. The flight scheduled to depart at 1.40 p.m. local time took off at 4.30 p.m. and landed in Delhi at 4.40 a.m. IST.

"Our flight from Frankfurt to Delhi departed later than originally planned due to a delayed inbound flight and an aircraft change. For data protection reasons, we do not provide any information regarding individual passengers," a Lufthansa spokesperson said.

Mr. Mann's visit starting September 11 was to attract investments and strategic tie-ups in sectors such as renewable energy, car manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, and advanced agricultural practices.

Navneet Wadhwa, media in-charge of the Chief Minister's office, said while no specific time was mentioned in the itinerary, Mr. Mann's departure from Frankfurt to India was slated for September 18.

Frankfurt-New Delhi flight leaves without Punjab CM

Mann arrived at airport, but his return was rescheduled

Kinnow orchards shrink, price of fruit set to rise

Farmers lament dip in production due to polluted water

A.M. JIGEESH

FAZILKA

Prepare to pay more for the sweet and juicy kinnows this winter. The harvest of the citrus fruit, a hybrid between king (*Citrus nobilis*) and willowleaf (*Citrus deliciosa*) mandarins, is likely to witness a drop of about 50% due to many issues, including the early summer that hit Punjab in March.

Fazilkala in Punjab is known for the best-quality kinnow. The fruit is grown on about 2.5 lakh acres in the district. Trees and orchards on about 50,000 acres have been estimated as destroyed in the district alone. "The trees and orchards have dried up in this area. The reason is polluted canal water. Groundwater cannot be used for kinnow. Canal water is polluted with chemicals from factories. We have been facing issue for the past four or five years. When water is released to canals in April, it is getting mixed with polluted water. Such a major loss has happened for the first time," said Rajinder Singh Sekhon, who has won thrice the best kinnow farmer award given by the State and Punjab Agriculture University.

On the 13 acres of kinnow under his care, Mr. Sekhon lost the trees in about six



No longer juicy: A farmer harvesting kinnows on a farm on the outskirts of Faridkot in Punjab. ■ FILE PHOTO

acres. "Earlier, the production was about 2,000 quintals from 13 acres. This time, I am expecting just 400 quintals. The harvest will begin in December and continue till March. My expense for one acre is about ₹25,000," he said.

The farmers are expecting a production loss of about 75%. While the fruit fetched the farmers ₹10-15 a kg so far, they have been offered ₹30-35 a kg now. However, this may still not help recover the expenses, Mr. Sekhon said.

H.S. Rattanpal, Head of the Department of Fruit Science, Punjab Agriculture University, said there were two reasons for the decrease. "The early summer and increase in temperature in March resulted in fruits and flower shedding. Se-

cond, in areas such as Fazilkala, canals broke, creating water stress and waterlogging. We expect a 40% to 50% decrease in production. As a result, consumers may have to pay more for kinnow this time," Dr. Rattanpal said, adding that the decrease in production could be higher in southern Punjab.

Bharatiya Kisan Union (Ekta Ugrahan) Fazilkala district president Gurbhej Rohiwal said water scarcity and polluted water destroyed many orchards. "Our estimate is that the district will see a decrease of 35% in kinnow production. We have demanded a solution for the polluted water and compensation for farmers. Small farmers, who have land holding below five acres, suffered the most," he said.

Punjab farmers demand aid to stop stubble burning

They want AAP govt. to pay for alternative disposal methods; 14 incidents have been reported so far

VIKAS VASUDEVA
CHANDIGARH

As the harvesting of paddy has started in parts of Punjab, the six-month-old Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government is all set to face the stiff challenge of dealing with the perennial issue of stubble burning, with farmers indicating that they will continue to burn paddy stubble unless government suitably compensates them for the expenses incurred on alternative methods of disposing of crop residue.

Close to the autumn season every year, stubble burning remains a contributing factor to pollution in the air, especially across the country's northern region, and the AAP, which is in power in



Perennial problem: A farmer burning paddy stubble on a farm at a village on the outskirts of Amritsar. ■ FILE PHOTO

Delhi, has over the years invariably blamed Punjab for its air pollution during the month. This year, however, with AAP governments in Delhi and Punjab, resorting to the blame game may just not be an easy way for the

party. While the paddy harvesting is yet to pick up in Punjab, so far 14 stubble-burning incidents have been reported. Government data based on satellite imagery show that in the ongoing Kharif season till September

16, as many as 14 cases of farm fires have been reported in the districts of Amritsar (11) and Tarn Taran (three).

Several farmer unions are up in arms against the government, demanding suitable monetary compensation for the expenses incurred on alternative methods of disposing of crop residue.

"We are not in favour of stubble burning but then there should be a viable option. It's not out of choice, but out of compulsion that farmers have to burn the stubble. The government has been in power for six months now and they were very well aware of the stubble burning issue, but so far no concrete solution could be seen on the ground," Jagmohan

Singh, general secretary of Bharatiya Kisan Union Ekta (Dakunda), told *The Hindu*.

"We should be given a bonus of at least ₹100 a quintal on paddy or paid ₹2,500 an acre in connection with the ban on stubble burning," Mr. Singh said.

On September 16, Agriculture Minister Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal held a meeting with district agriculture officers to discuss a blueprint to control stubble burning. He said that to control the issue, concrete steps such as providing agriculture implements on subsidies to farmers, running awareness campaigns and some new scientific methods such as decomposer spray are being adopted to stop the practice in the State.

Railways detects fraudulent withdrawal of PF money

Alert issued across zones to rule out similar cases

S. VIJAY KUMAR

CHENNAI

After fraudulent withdrawal of funds from Provident Fund accounts was detected and reported by one of the Zonal Railways, the Ministry of Railways has issued an alert calling for special checks across the railway administration to rule out similar embezzlement.

According to railway sources, the *modus operandi* of the suspects was to remit unlinked amount lying in the account of the unit in the ledger accounts of some working employees. They would then create fake documents and withdraw funds from the PF account of the employees.

Lack of scrutiny

Preliminary investigation revealed that non-implementation of the instruction for countersigning of journal

vouchers above ₹1 lakh by a junior administrative grade officer, internal checks not being conducted at prescribed intervals, lack of proper scrutiny of unlinked balances and suspense heads and sharing of login credentials along with one time password were some of the factors that facilitated the fraud.

Soon after the scam was exposed, the Railway Board issued an alert to the Principal Financial Advisers of all Zonal Railways and produc-

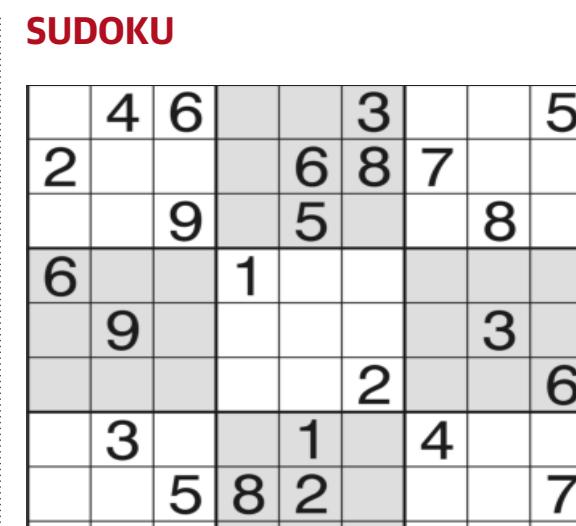
tion units informing them that all journal vouchers produced within a unit, which are not supported by transfer transaction certificate, will only be accepted in the Integrated Payroll and Accounting System with the digital signature of the accounts officer. The alert also directed the authorities concerned to ensure the implementation of an earlier Railway Board order, which issued on October 27, 2021, to prevent such frauds.

The heads of departments

were told to sensitise employees not to share their credentials since it would enable such withdrawals from their accounts. The alert, which did not specify the quantum of fraudulent withdrawal or the place where it occurred, said further probe is on and called for an action taken report.

A couple of years ago, an official of the Central Railway was held on charges of allegedly siphoning off ₹70 lakh from PF accounts of railway employees, sources said.

SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to puzzle 13664

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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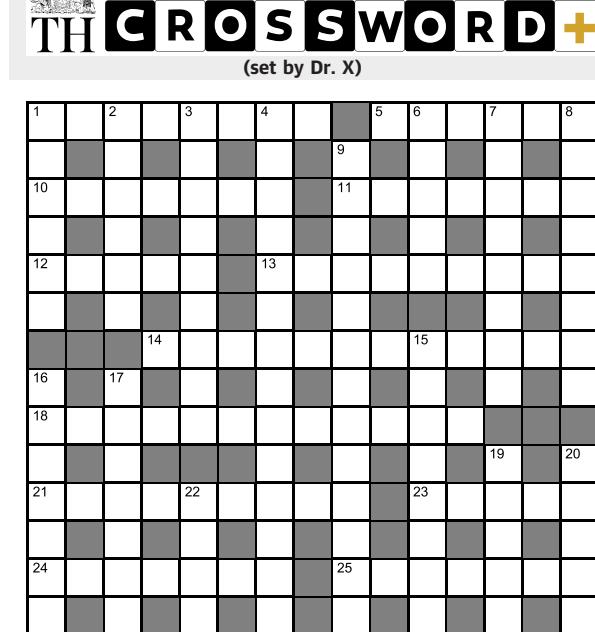
FAITH

Rama, the sole protector

Rama is the embodiment of dharma and the Ramayana is the handbook on dharma in practice. Dharma is considered the highest principle that supports all things in the universe. Valmiki clarifies on Rama's commitment to dharma in a verse wherein it is said Rama is the sole protector of all beings in the universe, and a staunch defender of His own dharma, faith, virtue and principles. He is the protector of all those who seek His refuge. When Rama entered Dandakaranya, the rishis were overwhelmed by His presence and it is said they experienced Brahma Anubhuti on seeing Him, pointed out Sri B. Damodara Dikshitar in a discourse.

But the forest was also the home for the rakshas who lived on human flesh, and in their wily ways caused obstruction to the meditative life of the sages. As for Rama, Sita and Lakshmana, they cherished the divine and sacred atmosphere of the whole area purified by the performance of yagas and by the chanting of Vedic hymns. The sages received and honoured their guests with great warmth and offered their humble hospitality with fruits, flowers and water. They also sought Rama's protection from the atrocities of the demons who constantly thwarted their yagas.

They told Him, 'Whether in Ayodhya or in forest, You alone can save us. Our mission is to live in peace by meditating on Brahman. We train ourselves to overcome anger and to control our senses. We do not desire a life of material comfort. Neither can we fight nor retaliate the acts of aggression on us caused by demons. Our only strength is our penance and if we use it against them, we lose whatever we have gained by it. We are helpless like the foetus in mother's womb that cannot protect itself. It is your duty to protect us from the dangers.' Rama promises to protect them.



Across
1 Comfortable clothes, popular for picnic (8)
5 Upset by couple of fellows breaking regulation (6)
10 Native American hut in hamlet, one in a higher position (7)
11 Centre hosting full moon party, close to Phuket presumably (2,5)
12 Blow up as fool gets noisy (2,3)
13 Endless ruckus by deranged radical (9)
14 What chauffeur might do to deceive? (4,3,1,4)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site at <https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn>
SCAN
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Death toll from clashes along Tajik-Kyrgyz border crosses 90

Both countries blame each other for violations following Friday's ceasefire

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BISHKEK

At least 94 people were killed in clashes between Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan this week, in the worst violence the countries have seen in years, while the international community called for calm.

The situation on the contested border between the two Central Asian neighbours was however calm on Sunday afternoon, according to Kyrgyz authorities.

Clashes regularly erupt between the two former Soviet republics, as around half their 970-km border is still to be demarcated.

Tajikistan said on Sunday that 35 of its citizens were killed, the first official death



Assessing damage: A man looking at a house damaged during fighting in Batken, southwestern Kyrgyzstan on Saturday. • AP

toll since armed clashes broke out on Wednesday.

On its Facebook page, the Tajik Foreign Ministry reported 25 injured, including women and children.

The Ministry accused Kyrgyz soldiers of killing 12 people in a drone strike on a

mosque, and six others in an attack against a school.

Meanwhile, Kyrgyzstan said on Sunday at least 59 people had died in the southern border region of Batken, and 144 had been injured.

Tens of thousands of people were evacuated from

Kyrgyz border regions over the past days, according to NGOs.

This toll by far surpasses figures from April 2021, when clashes left 50 dead and raised fears of a large-scale conflict.

The two sides agreed a ceasefire on Friday and Tajikistan's President Emomali Rahmon met his Kyrgyz counterpart Sadyr Japarov at a summit in Uzbekistan.

But the two countries traded blame for ceasefire violations a few hours later.

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Sunday called for "no further escalation" between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan in phone calls with the leaders of the Central Asian nations.

27 killed as bus carrying people for quarantine in China crashes

The accident took place on a highway in Guizhou province

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BEIJING

Twenty-seven people died en route to a COVID-19 quarantine facility when their bus crashed in southwest China on Sunday, local authorities said, in the country's deadliest road accident this year.

The crash took place on a highway in rural Guizhou province when the vehicle carrying 47 people "flipped onto its side", Sandu county police said on social media.

Twenty people were being treated for injuries, the police said.

The Guizhou government said on Sunday that the vehicle was "transporting people linked to the epidemic to quarantine" from the provincial capital of Guiyang.

being towed by a truck.

Another viral photo appeared to show the bus driving at night, with the driver and passengers wearing hazmat suits.

"This feeling can't simply be represented by lighting a candle and saying RIP," read one Weibo post with more than 15,000 likes.

Some people on social media used the accident to criticise China's unrelenting zero-COVID policy, which has often seen entire housing compounds of thousands relocated to purpose-built quarantine facilities, sometimes hundreds of km away. "What proof do you have that you won't be on that bus at night someday?"

Photos shared widely on social media on Sunday showed a passenger bus, its top completely crumpled, in

13 injured in clashes in Pak. procession

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LAHORE

Activists of a radical Islamist group attacked a Shia procession in Pakistan's Punjab province, leaving at least 13 people injured, police said on Sunday.

According to an FIR, the Shia procession was going to Imam Bargah (congregation hall) in Sialkot, about 130 km from Lahore, when a group of people armed with pistols, clubs and stones attacked the mourners.

"The Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan leaders wanted that the Shia procession should not pass in front of their mosque cum seminary. The local Shias were determined to go to Imam Bargah by the same route they take every year," a police officer said on condition of anonymity.

Iranian woman's death sparks dress code debate

Calls for reining in 'morality policing'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
DUBAI

As Iran reels from a woman's death after her arrest by its "morality police", the Sunday front page of financial newspaper *Asia* declared: "Dear Mahsa, your name will become a symbol."

The police unit – responsible for enforcing Iran's strict dress code for women, notably the wearing of a headscarf in public – had already faced growing criticism in recent months over its excessive use of force.

The death of Mahsa Amini, 22, has reignited calls to rein in its actions against women suspected of violating the dress code, in effect

since the 1979 Islamic revolution.

The day after her funeral, nearly all Iranian press dedicated their front pages to her story on Sunday.

"The nation has expressed its sorrow over Mahsa's sad death," stated the front page of ultra-conservative newspaper *Javan*.

Amini was on a visit with her family to the capital Tehran when she was detained on Tuesday. She was declared dead by state television on Friday after having spent three days in a coma.

Filmmakers, artists, and political and religious figures have taken to social media to express their anger against the morality police.

Powerful earthquake strikes Taiwan

People trapped as three-storey building collapses; part of a passenger train derails

ASSOCIATED PRESS
TAIPEI

A strong earthquake shook much of Taiwan on Sunday, toppling a three-story building and temporarily trapping four people inside, stranding about 400 tourists on a mountainside, and knocking part of a passenger train off its tracks.

The magnitude 6.8 quake was the largest among dozens that have rattled the island's southeastern coast since Saturday evening, when a 6.4 quake struck the same area. There were no immediate reports of serious injuries.

Most of the damage appeared to be north of the epicentre, which Taiwan's Central Weather Bureau said was in the town of Chishang at



Joint effort: Firefighters moving a person during a rescue operation at the site of a collapsed building in Yuli. • AFP

the relatively shallow depth of 7 km.

The three-story building, which had a 7-11 convenience store on the ground floor and residences on the upper ones, collapsed in nearby Yuli town, the island's Central News Agency said.

The 70-year-old owner of the building and his wife were rescued first, but it took longer to get to a 39-year-old woman and her 5-year-old daughter.

A photo released by the Hualien city government showed the girl lying on a

blanket and being handed down a metal ladder from the top of the debris by helmeted rescue workers in orange uniforms.

The top two stories of the building were left sprawled across a small street and onto the other side, with electricity wires pulled down by the fallen structure.

More than 7,000 households were reported without power in Yuli, and water pipes were also damaged.

Also in Yuli, a landslide trapped nearly 400 tourists on a mountain famous for the orange day lilies.

Debris from a falling canopy on a platform at Dongli station in Fuli town hit a passing train, derailing six bogies, the Central News Agency said.

shelters in Kyushu's Kagoshima and Miyazaki prefectures, where the JMA has issued a rare "special warning" – an alert that is issued only when it forecasts conditions seen once in several decades.

"Please stay away from dangerous places, and please evacuate if you feel even the slightest hint of danger," Prime Minister Fumio Kishida tweeted after convening a government meeting. "Please move to safety while there is still light outside."

The JMA has warned the region could face "unprecedented" danger from high winds, storm surges and torrential rain.

SPORT



The end: Saurabh signals victory after claiming the last New Zealand-A wicket. • K. MURALI KUMAR

India-A pulls off a fine victory

Saurabh's five-for puts Carter's century in the shade

NZ-A IN INDIA

ASHWIN ACHAL
BENGALURU

Saurabh Kumar (5/103) struck gold to guide India-A to a 113-run win over New Zealand-A in the third and final 'Test' at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Sunday. The home side claimed the series 1-0.

Left-arm spinner Saurabh, who attacked the stumps, finished with a nine-wicket haul. His performance doubly impressive given that he shouldered the bulk of the duties in the absence of Rahul Chahar.

Leg-spinner Saurabh left the field in the morning with an injury, and bowled just a single over for the day.

Joe Carter (111, 230b, 12x4, 1x6) battled hard for New Zealand-A. Carter was the ninth wicket to fall, when he charged at pacer Mukesh Kumar and lost his stumps. It was a rash shot, given that New Zealand-A was less than an hour away from saving the game.

Sarfraz Khan, called to bowl to fill the gap left by Chahar, picked up two crucial middle-order wickets in Mark Chapman and Robert

O'Donnell. While Chapman mishit a long hop, O'Donnell was pinned on the pads by a flat delivery.

That all five of Saurabh's wickets came through leg-byes was testament to his nagging accuracy. Batters were most vulnerable when stuck on the crease; a moment's indecision enough to be caught in front. A couple of New Zealanders were unhappy at being given out leg-before, indicating that they got some bat on it.

The scores: India-A: 293 & 359/7 dec.

NZ-A – 1st innings: 237.

NZ-A – 2nd innings: Rachin Ravindra lbw b Saurabh 12, Joe Carter b Mukesh 111, Joe Walker b Shardul 7, Dame Cleaver lbw b Saurabh 44, Mark Chapman c Mukesh b Sarfaraz 45, Robert O'Donnell lbw b Sarfaraz 19, Tom Bruce lbw b Saurabh 8, Cam Fletcher c Sarfaraz b Malik 13, Jacob Duffy lbw b Saurabh 4, Matthew Fisher (not out) 0; Extras (lb-5, w-1, nb-14): 20; Total (in 85.2 overs): 302.

Fall of wickets: 1-15, 2-30, 3-115, 4-197, 5-222, 6-253, 7-267, 8-290, 9-301.

India-A bowling: Thakur 18-5-44-1, Mukesh 15-3-39-1, Saurabh 27.2-3-103-5, Chahar 1-0, Malik 15-1-62-1, Sarfaraz 9-0-48-2.

India-A – 1st innings: 293 & 359/7 dec.

NZ-A – 1st innings: Rachin Ravindra lbw b Saurabh 12, Joe Carter b Mukesh 111, Joe Walker b Shardul 7, Dame Cleaver lbw b Saurabh 44, Mark Chapman c Mukesh b Sarfaraz 45, Robert O'Donnell lbw b Sarfaraz 19, Tom Bruce lbw b Saurabh 8, Cam Fletcher c Sarfaraz b Malik 13, Jacob Duffy lbw b Saurabh 4, Matthew Fisher (not out) 0; Extras (lb-5, w-1, nb-14): 20; Total (in 85.2 overs): 302.

Fall of wickets: 1-15, 2-30, 3-115, 4-197, 5-222, 6-253, 7-267, 8-290, 9-301.

India-A bowling: Thakur 18-

Mulani's five-for gives West massive win

Central accepts the inevitable

DULEEP TROPHY

S. DIPAK RAGAV
COIMBATORE

Left-arm spinner Shams Mulani's five-wicket haul (5/72) took West Zone to a massive 279-run win over Central Zone on the final day of the Duleep Trophy semifinals at the Sri Ramakrishna College ground here on Sunday.

Chasing 501, Central resumed day four on 33 for two and was bowled out for 221.

Nightwatchman Kumar Kartikeya (39), who starred in the first innings with a five-wicket haul, showed what he can do with the bat.

He swept well against Mulani hitting him for a couple of boundaries before Atit Sheth went past his defence.

It was the opening West was looking for as Mulani then had Shubham Sharma caught behind and Chintan Gaja (3/49) removed Priyam Garg and skipper Karan Sharma.

Rinku Singh (65) and Ashok Menaria, who came in as a concussion substitute for Venkatesh Iyer, stitched an 88-run stand for the seventh wicket.

The left-hander used his feet well to the spinners and

punished anything short as he made a run-a-ball fifty.

After a 20-minute rain break, Mulani had Rinku caught at short-leg and the left-arm spinner then cleaned up the tail.

Shreyas Iyer, Priyank Panchal and Sarfaraz Khan will join West for the final while Shaw and Rahul Tripathi will play for India-A in the one-day series against New Zealand-A in Chennai.

The scores:

West Zone – 1st innings: 257.

Central Zone – 1st innings: 128.

West – 2nd innings: 371.

Central – 2nd innings: Hi-

manshu Mantri c Gaja b Mulani 18, Yash Dube c Shaw b Gaja 14, Kumar Kartikeya c Sheth 39, Shubham Sharma c Het b Mulani 24, Karan Sharma c Het b Gaja 14, Priyam Garg lbw b Gaja 6, Rinku Singh c Jaffer b Mulani 6, Ashok Menaria (not out) 32, Ankit Rajpoot c Rahane b Unadkat 2, Gurav Yadav c Rahane b Mulani 0, Aniket Choudhary c Jaffer b Mulani 4; Extras (lb-1, w-2): 3; Total (in 57.1 overs): 221.

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

3-97, 4-101, 5-108, 6-121, 7-

209, 8-212, 9-213.

West bowling: Unadkat 13-

2-44-1, Gaja 11-2-49-3, Kotian 9-1-35-0, Mulani 18.1-3-72-5,

Sheth 6-0-20-1.

MoM: Prithvi Shaw.

Rinku shines

Rinku Singh (65) and Ashok Menaria, who came in as a concussion substitute for Venkatesh Iyer, stitched an 88-run stand for the seventh wicket.

The left-hander used his feet well to the spinners and



Bamboozled: Mandeep becomes one of Sai Kishore's 10 victims in the match. • R. RAGU



In full flow: Smriti firmly put the Indians on the victory path with a polished 91. ■ GETTY IMAGES

Rohit backs Rahul as his opening partner

India skipper describes Kohli as a 'third opener and definite option'

AUS IN INDIA

RAKESH RAO
MOHALI

Putting all speculations to rest, Rohit Sharma has categorically backed K.L. Rahul to be his first-choice opening partner and described Virat Kohli as a "third opener" and a "definite option".

Experimentation over
Speaking to the mediapersons here ahead of the three-match T20I series against Australia beginning on Tuesday, Rohit indicated that, with the T20 World Cup just over a month away, the time for experimentation with the team combination was over.

"Rahul will open the batting in the World Cup. We do not want to experiment with that position a lot. Sometimes, his performance goes quite unnoticed but we are very clear [on] what Rahul brings to the table."



Solid support: The presence of Rahul, left, at the top is crucial, feels Rohit. ■ AFP

He is a quality player and his presence at the top is very crucial for us."

About Kohli, Rohit said, "Virat is our third opener and he will open in some of

the games. In the last match of the Asia Cup, we were happy with the way he played [as an opener].

"Since we have not taken a third opener..., Virat opens for his franchise in the IPL and he has done really well, so he is a definite option for us. It is always nice to have options and flexibility. You want the players to be in best shape batting at any position."

Talking about the last-minute inclusion of Umesh Yadav as a replacement for Mohammad Shami, who will miss the series after testing positive for Covid, Rohit said, "There were few options, but few of them are injured like Prasidh [Krishna], while Avash Khan needs time to recover after being sick during the Asia Cup. [Mohammad] Siraj is playing for his County and we did not want him to fly all the way, for one or two games."

Even without a rested David Warner, there is no dearth of resources in this line-up. The seriousness of the Australian think-tank could be gauged from the fact that, initially, for this series, the selectors made only one change - Cameron Green for Warner - from the team for the World Cup.

But injuries to all-rounders Mitchell Starc, Mitchell Marsh and Marcus Stoinis forced the selectors to play safe. They named Daniel

third half-century and scored at more than run-a-ball strike-rate.

Yastika Bhatia (50, 47b, 8x4, 1x6) also notched up her

to another fifty as she added 99 runs with her deputy and then finished it off in style with a slog-sweep six.

While both Yastika and Smriti drove majestically through the covers during the PowerPlay, the Indian

vice-captain also played a lot of pull shots with English bowlers drifting down the leg-side.

Earlier, Jhulan, the 39-year-old legend, was parsimonious, giving away only 20 runs in 10 overs with as many as 42 dot balls.

She didn't concede a single boundary or six and also bowled a fine off-cutter to get rid of the seasoned Tammy Beaumont (7).

After seamer Meghna Singh (1/42) hurried the other opener Emma Lamb (12) with a short ball, Jhulan and the two spinners Deepi (2/33) and Gayakwad (1/40) choked the run flow consistently.

However, Sneh Rana and Pooja Vastrakar, along with Meghna, did leak a few runs as England put up a 220-plus score in the end.

Smriti aces the chase as India wins opener

Harmanpreet and Yastika chip in with half-centuries; Jhulan makes an impact with parsimonious spell

INDIA IN ENG

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
HOVE

The graceful Smriti Mandhana once again enhanced her reputation as one of India's biggest match-winners with an attractive 91 that literally decimated England by seven wickets in the opening women's ODI here on Sunday.

Harmanpreet Kaur won a good toss and veteran India pacer Jhulan Goswami was accuracy personified with 42 dot balls in one of her last international games as England managed a sub-par 227 for seven.

Never in trouble

India was never in trouble during the chase as Smriti (91, 99b, 10x4, 1x6) literally drove and pulled her way before missing out on a deserved

sixth ODI hundred by nine runs.

But by the time she was dismissed, Smriti ensured a 45th-over finish for the Women in Blue.

Yastika Bhatia (50, 47b, 8x4, 1x6) also notched up her

SCOREBOARD

ENGLAND

Emma Lamb c Yastika b Meghna (26b, 2x4), Tammy Beaumont lbw b Jhulan (7) (21b), Sophia Dunkley c Deepi b Harleen (52b, 3x4), Alice Capsey c Harmanpreet b Sneh (28b, 3x4), Danni Wyatt b Deepi (43b, 3x4), Amy Jones b Rajeshwari (10b), Alice Davidson-Richards (not out) 50 (61b, 4x4), Sophie Ecclestone lbw b Deepi (31b, 4x4), Charlie Dean (not out) 24 (21b, 2x4); Extras (b-2, w-5, nb-2): 9; Total (for seven wkts. in 50 overs) 227.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-20 (Lamb, 7.1 overs), 2-21 (Beaumont, 8.4), 3-64 (Capsey, 17.3), 4-88 (Dunkley, 24.3), 5-94 (Jones, 26.6), 6-128 (Wyatt, 33.2), 7-178 (Ecclestone, 42.5).

INDIA BOWLING

Jhulan (10-2-20-1), Meghna (8-0-42-1), Rajeshwari (10-0-40-1), Pooja (2-0-20-0), Sneh (6-0-45-1), Deepi (10-1-33-2), Harleen (4-0-25-1).

INDIA

Smriti Mandhana c Davidson-Richards b Cross (99b, 10x4, 1x6), Shafali Verma c Dean b Cross (1b), Yastika Bhatia b Dean (50b, 47b, 8x4, 1x6), Harmanpreet Kaur (not out) 74 (94b, 7x4, 1x6), Harleen Deol (3-0-16-0).

Toss: India; MoM: Smriti.

India won by seven wickets with 34 balls remaining to take a 1-0 lead in three-match series.

Second ODI: Sept. 21, Canterbury, 5.30 p.m. IST.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-3 (Shafali, 1.3), 2-99 (Yastika, 17.4), 3-198 (Smriti, 36.3).

ENGLAND BOWLING

Wong (5-0-35-0), Cross (10-1-43-2), Davidson-Richards (7-0-48-0), Dean (10-0-45-1), Ecclestone (9-0-42-0), Lamb (3-0-16-0).

INDIA

Smriti Mandhana c Davidson-Richards b Cross (99b, 10x4, 1x6), Shafali Verma c Dean b Cross (1b), Yastika Bhatia b Dean (50b, 47b, 8x4, 1x6), Harmanpreet Kaur (not out) 74 (94b, 7x4, 1x6), Harleen Deol (3-0-16-0).

Toss: India; MoM: Smriti.

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Second ODI: Sept. 21, Canterbury, 5.30 p.m. IST.

Australia knows what it takes to win in India

With many in visiting squad familiar with the conditions, hosts could find it tough

RAKESH RAO MOHALI

Not many visiting teams appear as confident as Australia when it steps on the Indian turf. Notwithstanding India's envious record at home, across formats, the Australians have not lost a T20I series in their last two visits.

The trend could continue for the World champion in the three-match T20I series beginning on Tuesday.

Even without a rested David Warner, there is no dearth of resources in this line-up. The seriousness of the Australian think-tank could be gauged from the fact that, initially, for this series, the selectors made only one change - Cameron Green for Warner - from the team for the World Cup.

But injuries to all-rounders Mitchell Starc, Mitchell Marsh and Marcus Stoinis forced the selectors to play safe. They named Daniel



Time for action: Left-arm spinner Agar will hope to be a roaring success on the Indian pitches. ■ AFP

Sams, Sean Abbott and Nathan Ellis as replacements.

Raised in Western Australia, David played 14 T20Is for Singapore. After creating a flutter in franchisee leagues all over the world, David was bought by Royal Challengers Bangalore before being acquired for ₹8.25 crore by Mumbai Indians in the auction last March.

Raised in Western Australia, David played 14 T20Is for Singapore. After creating a flutter in franchisee leagues all over the world, David was bought by Royal Challengers Bangalore before being acquired for ₹8.25 crore by Mumbai Indians in the auction last March.

Australia, having drawn

the 2017-18 series 1-1 and won the 2018-19 clashes 2-0, is looking good to test India's preparedness for the World Cup. With many members of this Australian squad familiar with the conditions here due to their IPL experience, India could find it tough.

Players like skipper Aaron Finch, Steve Smith, Glenn Maxwell, Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood, Kane Richardson, etc., have spent enough time in India to know what it takes to succeed.

In the three matches spread over six days, the home team's batters face a formidable Aussie attack. Clearly, the home advantage looks minuscule when challenged by a balanced team like the one Australia has put together.

In the last World Cup, Australia did not start as the favourite but ended up as a champion. The team eyes something similar here.

Fruhvirtova caps dream run with maiden title

The 17-year-old claws back yet again, upstages Linette in the summit clash

CHENNAI OPEN

N. SUDARSHAN
CHENNAI

Linda Fruhvirtova survived a searing examination of her growing reputation as the next big Czech tennis star with a fine come-from-behind 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 victory over Magda Linette to clinch the WTA Chennai Open at the SDAT Tennis Stadium on Sunday.

The triumph was the 17-year-old's maiden Tour-level title as she became the youngest winner since Coco Gauff in 2021 (Parma) and the youngest Czech to do so since Nicole Vaidisova in 2006 (Strasbourg).

"I am pretty much in shock and don't have the right words," Fruhvirtova said on court, tearing up. "It's unbelievable. Again, great atmosphere to play in and something I will always remember."

It was Fruhvirtova's second straight three-setter, and in the first set she seemed a step slower, having spent a good three hours more than Linette on court in this tournament.

Linette has a snappy feel to her game, a short backsw-



A star is born: Fruhvirtova showcased her potential in eye-catching fashion. ■ R. RAVINDRAN

serves doing the job - helped the 30-year-old take the first set 6-4. But in the second, the Pole relaxed and her serve went up and down.

She saved three break points in her first service game, held her next two losing a solitary point before

coming under pressure in the fourth. Fruhvirtova hit a fierce return winner and finished on the right side of a mighty long rally to earn two break opportunities.

Linette sent a forehand long to go 3-5 down and soon the teenager levelled the match.

In the third set, Linette lifted her level again. Someone who beats Ash Barty and Ons Jabeur at a Grand Slam tournament isn't to be trifled with and she played some clinical tennis to go 4-1 up. But a medical timeout to nurse her right leg broke her rhythm and it was soon 4-4.

Fruhvirtova had rediscovered her aggressive touch, and egged on by a near-capacity crowd, she made the play, pressuring the Linette serve to go 30-15 up.

Her poise, staying power and lack of nerves were in full display as she hit a fine forehand winner to close out a lengthy rally.

A forced error from Linette sealed the break and made it 5-4, giving the Czech a chance to serve for the title. The Pole's last stand was to come up with two smashing return winners, but that was it.

A special reunion for Stefani and Dabrowski



Stefani and Dabrowski... moment to savour. ■ R. RAVINDRAN

told *The Hindu* recently. Though Stefani and Dabrowski were visiting India for the first time, they have a connection with the country. The latter won her maiden Grand Slam title in mixed doubles with Rohan Bopanna at the 2017 French Open. When Stefani won the bronze with Laura Pigossi at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021, Stefani's coach was Sanjay Singh, also Leander Paes' coach when the Indian bagged the bronze at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.

IN BRIEF



Stimac set to continue as India coach

KOLKATA
Igor Stimac is set to continue as the Indian team coach after the All India Football Federation Technical Committee, on Sunday, recommended an extension of his contract till the end of the AFC Asian Cup in July next year. PTI

Facile win puts Arsenal on top

LONDON
Arsenal moved back to the top of the Premier League as goals from William Saliba, Gabriel Jesus and Fabio Vieira put the gloss on a dominant performance to beat Brentford 3-0. Monza won its first ever match in Serie A on Sunday after stunning 10-man Juventus 1-0 to pile more pressure on under-fire Massimiliano Allegri.

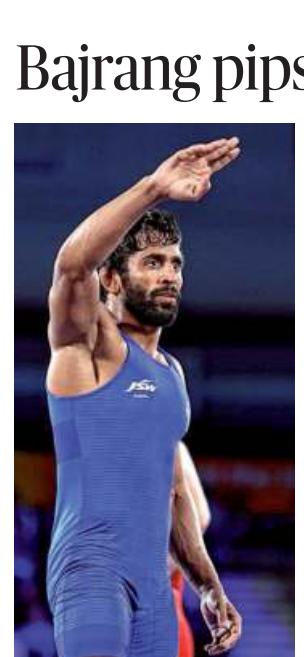
Vaishali holds Lagno

ASTANA
Vaishali made an impressive start to her campaign in the Women's Grand Prix when she drew with Russian Kateryna Lagno in 31 moves on Sunday. Vaishali, the second lowest-ranked player in the 12-player field, joined the fray after K. Humpy withdrew citing personal reasons.



Sudha Singh retires

NEW DELHI
Sudha Singh, the 36-year-old Indian distance runner, has decided to retire from competitive international athletics. Sudha is a two-time Olympian and Asian Games gold medallist. In the 2010 Asian Games in Guangzhou, Sudha clocked 9:55.67 for the 3000m steeplechase gold.



WRESTLING

SPORTS BUREAU

Bajrang Punia defeated Puerto Rico's Sebastian Rivera by the skin of his teeth in the 65kg bronze medal match to claim his fourth medal in the World wrestling championships in Belgrade on Sunday.

Bajrang, who picked up a head injury in the pre-quarterfinal bout and lost to American John Diakomihalis in the last eight before getting back to medal contention on Saturday, rallied from 0-6 down to record an 11-9 victory. It was his third bronze other than a silver.

After conceding six points inside 35 seconds, Bajrang fought back with a throw and a takedown to level the scores. Rivera regained the lead through another two-pointer in the first period and later extended it to 9-6.

Arya and Sandeep win a race each

In Novice Cup, Kyle signs off on a happy note winning the final race

JKNRC

RAYAN ROZARIO
COIMBATORE

Dark Don racing boys Arya Singh and Sandeep Kumar beat the heat and the challenge to win a race each in the premier Formula LGB4 class of the 25th JK Tyre FMSI National Racing Championship at the Kari Motor Speedway here on Sunday.

After scoring a double win in the Novice Cup on the opening day, Chennai's Kyle Kumaran signed off on a happy note as well winning the final race in a commanding manner.

The reverse grid did test the Dubai-based youngster. Starting eighth in the opening race of the day, Kyle



Terrific trio: Dark Don boys Arya, Sandeep and Ashwin were dominant in the LGB Formula 4 category. ■ SIVA SARAVANAN

fought all the way through to seal the second spot on the podium. His city-mate Aadithya Parasuram, starting second took the top slot.

The Endurance League, powered by United CRA, saw more action in the pit lane

20:09.536, 2. Viswas Vijayaraj (Ahura Racing), 3. Tijil Rao (Dark Don).

Race 2: 1. Sandeep Kumar (Dark Don) 28:10.333, 2. Ashwin Datta (Dark Don), 3. Arya.

Novice Cup: Race 1: 1. Aadithya Parasuram (Hasten Performance) 15:19.654, 2. Kyle Kumaran (DTS Racing), 3. Dhruv Goswami (Msport).

Race 2: Kyle 16:30.407, 2. Aadithya, 3. Vinith Kumar (DTS Racing).

Endurance League: 1. Abhishek Vasudev & Amarnath Meno 1:00:57.449, 2. Rakshith S. Dave & Mohammed Mikail, 3. Prathipathi Jayanth & S. Seshadri.

RE Continental GT Cup: Race 1: Pro: 1. Navaneeth Kumar 13:57.292, 2. Ullas Nanda, 3. Sudheer Sudhakar.

Amateur: 1. P.M. Soorya

14:05.893, 2. Varun Gowda, 3. R. Rohan.

Haritashree, Samprit win

SPORTS BUREAU

Haritashree Venkatesh and Samprit Sharma won the girls' and boys' titles respectively in the Asian under-16 tennis tournament in Agartala on Sunday.

The results (finals): Boys:

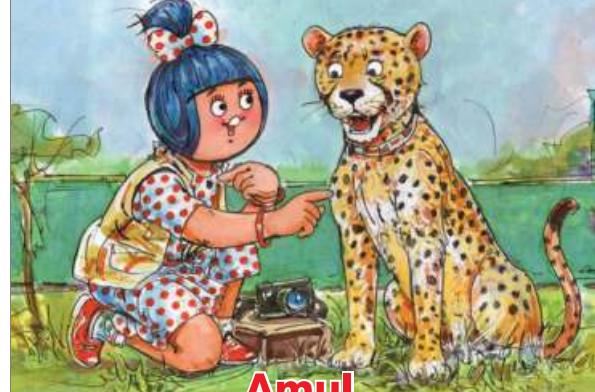


Young champs: Haritashree and Samprit receiving their reward. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Samprit Sharma bt Tanush Ghyldal 6-4, 6-0. **Doubles:** Samprit & Antariksh Tamuly bt Twijilang Debbarma & Ashwajit Senjam 4-0, 4-0.

Girls: Haritashree Venkatesh bt Rituja Saha 6-2, 6-2. **Doubles:** Isheetta Midha & Sai Jayani Banerjee bt R Kakaramudi & Rubani Kaur Sidhu 5-4(3), 4-1.

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Ashakiran breaks 800m meet record

Ashlin and Sakshi emerge the fastest

ATHLETICS

SPORTS BUREAU

Jharkhand's 15-year-old Ashakiran Barla, a semi-finalist at last month's under-20 World championships in Colombia, broke the girls' 800m meet record in the 17th National youth athletics championships at Bhopal on Sunday.

Long jumper Mubssina Mohammed won Lakshwadeep's first National-level gold in athletics.

Kerala's Ashlin Alexander and Maharashtra's Sakshi Champal Chavan emerged the fastest boy and girl of the championships, winning the 100m crowns.

The results (gold medallists only): Boys: 100m: Ashlin Alexander (Ker) 10.87s. 400m: P. Abhiram (Ker) 48.56s. 800m: 5,000m walk: Arti (Har) 24:33.15s.



Mubssina (long jump).

1:56.12s. **Pole vault:** Kuldeep Kumar (UP) 4.80m. **Discus:** Atul (Har) 57.44m. **Decathlon:** A.S. Arvind (TN) 5392 points.

Girls: 100m: Sakshi C. Chavan (Mah) 12.22s. 400m: Isha Rajesh Jadhav (Mah) 55.39s. 800m: Ashakiran Barla (Jha) 2:08.45s MR, OR 2:08.56. **High jump:** Pavana Nagaraj (Kar) 1.68m. **Long jump:** Mubssina Mohammed (Lak) 5.90m. **5,000m walk:** Arti (Har) 24:33.15s.

Ruud all praise for 'best friend' Durasovic

DAVIS CUP

SPORTS BUREAU

Despite the presence of World No. 2 Casper Ruud, the hero for Norway's dominance over India was the unfancied Viktor Durasovic with his smart singles and doubles game in the Davis Cup World Group tie in Lillehammer.

Two-time Grand Slam finalist Ruud himself was all praise for Durasovic, his "best friend", even though the two do not play the same tournaments.

One of his best

"Viktor has played some of his best matches in Davis Cup. It was one of the best matches I have seen him play. In the last Davis Cup tie we had lost the doubles. So, the goal was to win today. Viktor was returning good, serving great. He was the main reason for us winning the first set, and then the



Easy does it! Durasovic and Ruud kept it simple and sewed up the match against India. ■ OLYMPIAPARKEN

third. We didn't have any strategy. We tried to be aggressive and play well," said the 23-year-old Ruud.

Telling statement

Durasovic made a telling statement by emphasising that the Norwegian pair played the singles style in the doubles match, and reasoned that it perhaps helped the team win.

that the Indian pair did not "come out firing and playing sharp" for a team that was 0-2 down. Saketh said that being a break down early in the third set made it hard for the Indian team in the doubles. "We could have played better," Saketh said.

India captain Rohit Rajpal said: "Durasovic played out of his mind", in both singles and doubles.

Deserved to win

"People rise to the occasion in Davis Cup. Durasovic did. He played better than Casper today in doubles. Ramkumar underperformed in the second singles. He had his chances. Doubles, they played better than us. They deserved to win," said Rajpal.

Sumit Nagal did execute a consolation win in the fourth rubber, after Durasovic stole the thunder and took the tie away in favour of Norway.

Yuki Bhambri conceded

Hyderabad: Trainer L.V.R. Deshmukh's filly Galwan, who is in good condition, has an edge over her rivals in the Major Mir Mujtaba Hussain Memorial Cup, the feature event of Monday's (Sept. 19) races.

1 NEARCO PLATE (Div. I) (1,200m, 3-y.o only (Cat. II), 2,05 p.m.: 1. City Of Gravitas (8) Antony Raj 56, 2. Ivahnoe (3) P. Ajeeth Kumar 56, 3. Pancho (1) M. Madhu Babu 56, 4. Rovaniemi (4) Suraj Narredu 56, 5. Stay Smart (9) B. Nikhil 56, 6. Alina (10) P. Sai Kumar 54.5, 7. Avancis (7) A.A. Vikrant 54.5, 8. Clefairy (6) Akshay Kumar 54.5, 9. Ikra (1) Aneel 54.5, 10. Lights On (5) R.S. Jodha 54.5 and 11. Sweet Whisper (2) Nakhat Singh 54.5.

1 CLEFAIRY, 2. IVAHNOE, 3. ROVANIEMI

2 NEARCO PLATE (Div. II) (2,000m, (Terms) Maiden, 3-y.o only (Cat. II), 2,40: 1. Good Day (5) Nakhat Singh 56, 2. La Mirage (10) A.A. Vikrant 56, 3. Protocol (4) Md. Ismail 56, 4. Samrat (1) Mohit Singh 56, 5. Wind Sprite (6) Akshay Kumar 54.5, 6. Humanitarian (2) Suraj Narredu 54.5, 7. N R I Fantasy (7) Antony Raj 54.5, 8. Sweet Dancer (9) Gaurav Singh 54.5, 9. Sweet Talk (3) Santosh Raj 54.5 and 10. Yalgeton (8) Surya Prakash 54.5.

1. HUMANITARIAN, 2. WIND SPRITE, 3. YALETOWN

3 GIMCRACK PLATE (1,400m, 5-y.o & upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 3,15: 1. Mirana (10) Ashad Asbat 60, 2. Lamha (8) Akshay Kumar 59.5, 3. Mark My Day (7) Nakhat Singh 58, 4. Strategist (3) P. Ajeeth Kumar 57.5, 5. Makthoob (9) Gaurav Singh 55, 6. Four One Four (11) Dashrath 54, 7. Royal Grace (2) Afroz Khan 53.5, 8. Sun Dancer (12) Kuldeep Singh 53.5, 9. Castle Rock (4) G. Nares 53, 10. Star Babe (1) Santosh Raj 52.5, 11. Angel Tesoro (6) P. Sai Kumar 51.5 and 12. Wot's Up Jay (6) G. Naresh 50.5.

1. MALIBU, 2. CLASSY DAME, 3. HAPPY GO LUCKY

4 BONGIR CUP (1,600m), 5-y.o & upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 3,50: 1. Beauty Flame (7) Santosh Raj 60, 2. Ice Berry (6) Gaurav Singh 56.5, 3. Explosive (2) P. Ajeeth Kumar 56, 4. Turning Wheel (5) Akshay Kumar 56, 5. Melting Ice (3) R.S. Jodha 54, 6. Forever Bond (4) Surya Prakash 53, 7. Sorry Darling (1) Rafique Sk. 52.5.

1. TURNING WHEEL, 2. BEAUTY FLAME, 3. ICE BERRY

5 MAJOR MIR MUJTABA HUSSAIN MEMORIAL CUP (1,800m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 4,25: 1. N R I Sport (1) Antony Raj 60, 2. Akido (7) Kuldeep Singh 59, 3. Galwan (6) P. Ajeeth Kumar 59, 4. Francis Bacon (2) Surya Prakash 58, 5. Just Incredible (8) Aneel 55.5, 6. Wallop And Gallop (5) P. Sai Kumar 55, 7. True Icon (4) Akshay Kumar 54.5 and 8. Barber (3) Akshay Kumar 50.5.

1. GALWAN, 2. BARBET, 3. N R I SPORT

6 NARAYANPET PLATE (1,200m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 5,00: 1. Malibu (10) Deepak Singh 60, 2. Malibu (1) Mukesh Kumar 59.5, 3. Classy Dame (7) R.S. Jodha 59, 4. N R I Millennium (8) Antony Raj 57, 5. Essential (11) Kiran Naidu 56.5, 6. Happy Go Lucky (2) Akshay Kumar 55, 7. Archangels (5) A.A. Vikrant 53.5, 8. Blazing Jupiter (3) Kuldeep Singh 53, 9. Plethora (4) Nakhat Singh 53, 10. Its On (12) D.S. Deora 52, 11. Doe A Deer (9) Dashrath 51.5 and 12. Wot's Up Jay (6) G. Naresh 50.5.

1. MALIBU, 2. CLASSY DAME, 3. HAPPY GO LUCKY

7 DAY'S BEST: TURNING WHEEL JACKPOT, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6, MINI JACKPOT, 3, 4, 5 & 6, TREBLE: (i) 1, 2 & 3, (ii) 4, 5 & 6, TANALA: All races.

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

Evidently, it can.

THE HINDU

/ Revealing tomorrow.