



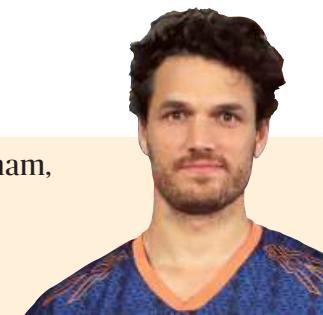
Election Commission
allots new names and
symbols to LJP factions
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Climate change to top
agenda of Denmark PM
Mette Frederiksen's visit
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President Tsai Ing-wen
warns of catastrophe
if Taiwan falls
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Coulter-Nile, Neesham,
Bumrah and Ishan
help MI crush RR
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IN BRIEF



Bid to bring international
designs to Delhi streets

NEW DELHI
The Dialogue and Development Commission of Delhi, in partnership with WRI India, organised an international workshop on 'Transforming Delhi's Streets' here on Tuesday. The purpose of the virtual workshop was to understand international best practices in street design and development, the government stated.

CITY ▶ PAGE 2

Court pulls up police for 'harassing' riots victim

NEW DELHI
A Delhi court on Tuesday pulled up the city police for "harassing" a victim of the north-east Delhi riots by repeatedly serving him notice and asking for documents in relation to the investigation in his case. It noted that his grievance "seems to be real and not illusory". The court also rapped the Delhi police for being "silent about the status of the probe" being carried out in the case.

CITY ▶ PAGE 2

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OPPORTUNITIES ▶ PAGE 7

Opposition closes ranks in Lakhimpur Kheri aftermath Kin of farmer demand second autopsy, say bullet injury ignored

Witnesses, FIR speak of Minister's son firing at victim while fleeing accident site

OMAR RASHID
LAKHIMPUR KHERI

The family of one of the four farmers killed at Tikonia village here in Uttar Pradesh in the violent incident involving the convoy of Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Ajay Mishra on Tuesday demanded that a fresh autopsy be conducted, refusing to accept the findings of the post-mortem report.

The family of Gurvinder Singh of Bahraich said while the autopsy report showed that he had died of internal injuries, they alleged he had been shot dead by Ashish Mishra, the Minister's son, while trying to evade agitated farmers after vehicles in the Minister's convoy ploughed through the crowd.

In the FIR lodged against Ashish Mishra in Lakhimpur Kheri early on October 4 on the complaint of Hari Singh of Bahraich, it is mentioned that Ashish ran towards the sugarcane fields after his car lost balance, and he was firing shots while trying to hide. Hari Singh, the complainant, accused Ashish of shooting Gurvinder dead.

The FIR was lodged under



Damage control: AGD Gorakhpur Zone Akhil Kumar interacting with the family members of one of the victims at Moharnia village in Bahraich district, Uttar Pradesh, on Tuesday. ■ PTI

IPC 302, 304A and under criminal conspiracy among other charges.

Fresh panel
Following the family's complaints, Bharatiya Kisan Union spokesperson Rakesh Tiwari said the Uttar Pradesh government had formed a fresh autopsy panel and sent doctors to Bahraich in a helicopter, adding that the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) was also not satisfied with Gurvinder's autopsy report.

The cremation of three other farmers had been carried out with the consent of their families, Mr. Tiwari said.

Sukhvinder Singh, Gurvinder's father, alleged that his son died after being shot by Ashish. "He was shot. Terri's (Ajay Kumar Mishra) son Monu (Ashish Mishra) shot him. They have presented a wrong autopsy report," said Mr. Sukhvinder in Bahraich.

The family has said it will not conduct the last rites till the demands for a fresh autopsy are met.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10



Priyanka Gandhi speaking to the media virtually. ■ PTI

Chhattisgarh CM stopped at airport

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel staged a protest at the Lucknow airport after the authorities refused to allow him into the city. "I told them [the airport staff] that I am not headed for Lakhimpur Kheri. But they refused." He was not allowed to leave the terminal building. ▶ PAGE 11

through a crowd of protesters. An FIR filed in Bahraich on Monday accused Ashish Mishra, son of Mr. Ajay Mishra of having driven his vehicle into the farmers.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

RELATED REPORTS ▶ PAGE 11

Arrest those responsible, says Varun

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

BJP leader Varun Gandhi became the first ruling party MP to demand that a video, which reportedly shows protesting farmers in Lakhimpur Kheri being mowed down by a vehicle said to belong to a BJP leader, be taken cognisance of by the police and the perpetrators arrested. In a tweet, the Pilibhit MP said the visuals were enough to "shake one's soul".

Mr. Gandhi's demand comes a day after he wrote to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath demanding a CBI inquiry into the violence in Lakhimpur Kheri. Mr. Gandhi will address a press conference on Wednesday morning and is expected to head for Lakhimpur Kheri soon after.

.....

In a statement, Ms. Vadra questioned the legality of her "continuing confinement" and said she had neither been served any notice nor given a copy of the first information report (FIR) which has been circulated on social media.

Four farmers were killed in Tikonia village of Lakhimpur Kheri on Sunday when vehicles from the convoy of Union Minister of State for Home Ajay Mishra ploughed

+

Climate experts, theorist get Physics Nobel

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
STOCKHOLM

The Nobel committee said it was sending a message with its prize announcement just weeks before the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow. "What we are saying is that the modelling of climate is solidly based in physics theory," said chair of the Nobel Committee for Physics Thor Hans Hansson.

Dr. Manabe, 90, and Dr. Hasselmann, 89, share one half of the 10 million kronor (\$1.1 million) prize for their research on climate models, while Dr. Parisi, 73, won the other half for his work on the interplay of disorder and fluctuations in physical systems.

Moody's gives 'stable' rating to India

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Rating agency Moody's Investors Service has upgraded India's sovereign rating outlook to 'stable' from 'negative', citing an ebbing of risks from COVID-19 and the negative feedback between the real economy and the financial system.

While it retained India's rating at Baa3, reflecting the lowest investment grade rating, Moody's said it expects real GDP to surpass pre-pandemic levels of 2019-20 this year itself, as the ongoing economic recovery is picking up steam with activity ticks broadening across sectors. It expects 2021-22 to record 9.3% growth in GDP, followed by 7.9% next year.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

Two-finger test not done, says IAF chief

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The two-finger test was not done in the case involving a lady officer in Coimbatore, and all disciplinary action recommended by the inquiry would be taken, said Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal V.R. Chaudhari on Tuesday.

"Let me assure you that Air Force law is very strict on any such incidents. The two-finger test... that has been misreported. The actual fact is this has not been done. All disciplinary action that comes from this inquiry will be taken," he asserted. In an FIR registered on September 20 in Coimbatore, the officer said she was raped by her colleague, a Flight Lieutenant, under the influence of alcohol on September 10, and that she was subjected to the two-finger test at the Air Force Hospital later.

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IN BRIEF



City reports 37 fresh cases, zero fatality

The city reported 37 new COVID-19 cases and zero death in 24 hours, as per a bulletin released by the Delhi government on Tuesday. The total number of cases stood at 14,39,027 with the death toll touching 25,088. A total of 55,537 tests were done and the test positivity rate was 0.05%.

3 months after death, family awaits answers

Three months after a 50-year-old man was allegedly found dead on a railway track at Faridabad railway station after being picked up for questioning by Ambedkar Nagar police, the family of the deceased staged a protest outside the office of DCP (South) on Tuesday. The family said that they want an FIR to be registered in the matter and that they have been meeting senior officers for the last three months but their requests have fallen on deaf ears.

Man arrested for piracy of NCERT books

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

A 38-year-old man has been arrested for his alleged involvement in printing pirated NCERT books, the police said on Tuesday.

Lakhs of students seem to have fallen prey to pirated NCERT books being floated in the market. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime Branch) Rajesh Deo said that these books are injurious to children's health as the ink used on the paper is cheap and harmful. "We have sought remand of the accused and are trying to ascertain the number of books already floated in the market and whether the content of the books was same as original ones," he said.

The police said that information was received that a publication unit involved in printing pirated NCERT books is operating in trans-Yamuna area. "These poor quality pirated books are being supplied in the market at cheaper rates causing huge revenue loss to NCERT. The offset unit has been publishing pirated books of different subjects for Classes VI to XII," Mr. Deo said.

A team was constituted, including NCERT officials, and a raid was conducted in Mandoli on September 19, he said.

The police said that a large number of finished and semi-finished books were seized.

The owner of the manufacturing unit, Manoj Jain, was absconding at the time of the raid and was arrested on October 4. The accused is a college drop-out.

Supertech case: complaint lodged with vigilance dept.

26 officials of NOIDA named as accused

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NOIDA

The New Okhla Industrial Development Authority (NOIDA) has filed a complaint with the Uttar Pradesh Vigilance Department for lodging an FIR against the people involved in the illegal construction of Supertech's twin towers here, officials said on Tuesday.

Altogether, 26 officials of NOIDA, four directors of real estate developer Supertech Group, and two architects have been named as accused in the complaint, the officials said.

NOIDA CEO Ritu Maheshwari confirmed the development and said the authority will be going ahead with demolition planning of the twin

Experts deliberate on ways to transform Delhi's streets

From sustainable mobility to data-driven processes, global lessons for the Capital

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

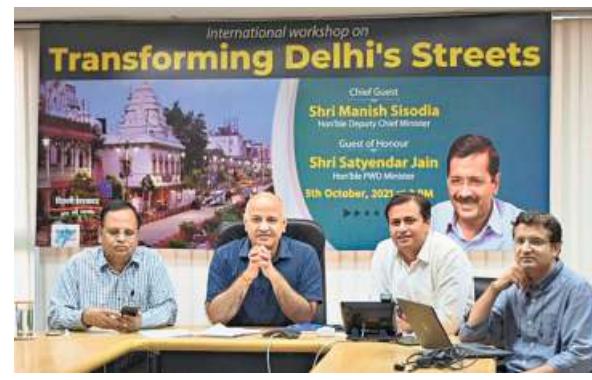
The Dialogue and Development Commission (DDC) of Delhi, in partnership with WRI India, organised an international workshop on 'Transforming Delhi's Streets' here on Tuesday. The purpose of the virtual workshop was to understand international best practices in street design and development, the government stated.

According to the government, the workshop was organised to learn from the journeys of top global cities in street transformation and apply those lessons to Delhi's streets.

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and PWD Minister Satyendar Jain were the chief guests. Jasmine Shah, vice chairperson of DDC, and O.P. Agarwal, CEO of WRI India, along with other top officials of WRI India and senior officials and engineers of the PWD Department, also attended the workshop.

Global participation

According to the government, the workshop saw participation of city makers and transport experts from London, New York, Seoul, Singapore and Bogota among others, sharing insights and experiences of street transformation. The workshop also saw participation from Bengaluru and Mumbai. The session facilitated a direct interaction between all the experts and



Ministers Satyendar Jain and Manish Sisodia, and others at a virtual conference in the city on Tuesday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

the Delhi government.

Mr. Jain reaffirmed the Delhi government's commitment to redesign over 540 km-long roads in the city as per best global practices with an aim to make them safe, sustainable, pedestrian-friendly and accessible, especially to senior citizens and children. He emphasised the importance of global participation as a learning exercise and sought continued support from design experts across the world to collaborate with the Delhi government for redesigning roads.

Mr. Sisodia said that the government is committed to focussing on infrastructural reforms and road redesigning with similar vigour. Mr. Shah, meanwhile, said, "It is illuminating to see almost all global cities began their journeys in street transformation only 15-20 years ago and have managed to do so in a short period."

Gyeng Chul KIM from Seoul encapsulated the para-

digm shift in Seoul from roads being a car-oriented space to becoming human spaces with focus on human mobility. He said that Seoul places public transport and pedestrian mobility as priority areas in its transport policy and law. From building flyovers and footbridges, which were inequitable and inaccessible to many, Seoul has incorporated more pedestrian squares, pedestrian crosswalks and lanes dedicated to buses.

Ong Eu-Gene from Singapore shared the details of the road repurposing project in that country. He said that redesigning streets is not about just creating infrastructure or using the technology. It is about connecting places, people and possibilities, he added.

Michael Reploge from New York emphasised the need to integrate data-driven processes in redesigning roads, recording progress and revising yearly priorities. He detailed the observa-

tions from the speed camera programme adopted in New York where most vehicles that received one traffic violation, did not receive another within a calendar year.

Reducing traffic
Alex Williams from London shared London's Vision of Streets for All. London has focused on increasing the use of bicycles and buses. The London City Planning has made the buses more reliable and consistent with 24-hour operations, which has reduced traffic congestions due to private motor vehicles and made roads safer for cyclists and pedestrians.

Dario Hidalgo from Bogota illustrated the sustainable mobility "A-S-I" approach adopted in 1998 i.e. Avoid motorised travel, Shift to environment-friendly modes of transport and Improve the energy efficiency of transport modes and vehicle technology. The expert suggested that since Bogota and Delhi have similar population density, their programmes could give an insight to the Delhi government to develop its programme.

Jana Urban Space presented the TENDER SURE project being currently implemented to redesign 50 km of road in Bengaluru in collaboration with BBMP.

Officials from Mumbai shared their experiences in setting up the Mumbai Street Lab to implement design interventions in road redevelopment.

Court pulls up police for 'harassing' Delhi riots victim

Repeatedly served notice despite submitting papers: applicant

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Tuesday pulled up the city police for "harassing" a victim of the north-east Delhi riots, by repeatedly serving him notice and asking for documents in relation to the investigation in his case, while noting that his grievance "seems to be real and not illusory".

No acknowledgement
The applicant, one Mohd. Salman, represented by advocate M.R. Shamshad, had moved a plea before Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Arun Kumar Garg, seeking directions to the Investigating Officer (IO) in the case.

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"... the court is unable to comprehend the purpose of recording the said statement, when the aforesaid

Expressing discontent

- A Delhi court had pulled up the police for their 'lackadaisical approach' in handling the riots cases and for not taking action despite repeated orders after the prosecutor failed to appear before the court and the investigating officer came without reading the police file.
- While discharging Tahir Hussain's brother Shah Alam and two others in a vandalism case, the court had expressed serious

reservations on the probe while noting that it 'will surely torment the sentinels of democracy'

• In another case, the police were rapped for their 'poor standard of investigation' and for filing 'half-baked chargesheets'

• While dismissing a revision petition by the police, the court had said that there was a complete lack of supervision of probe by senior officers

landlord is not a witness of the alleged incident... apprehension of complainant regarding the alleged harassment by the IO and SHO Khajuri Khas in the name of further investigation, prima facie seems to be real and not illusory," the order read.

Unbiased probe

"Joint Commissioner of Police, Eastern Range, is directed to file a comprehensive status report of further investigation in the present case under his signature within a period of two weeks from today and shall ensure that investigation in the present case is carried out by the IO in an unbiased manner so as to find out the real culprits and not to harass the complainant and the witness unnecessarily," the order further said.

The court also rapped

the Delhi police for being "silent about the status of the investigation" being carried out by the IO in the present case.

While noting that the report received from the DCP (North-East) does not disclose the exact status of further investigation in the case, "The IO is directed to produce the case diary, whereupon the IO has produced the case diary along with draft chargesheet in the present case".

The judge said that it "shows that the probe carried out in the case is far from satisfactory in as much as steps taken by the IO" for collection of various investigation material.

The court also added that no plausible explanation has been given by the police for not collecting CDRs of all the accused in the case.

Delhi govt's ambitious HIMS project gets Cabinet go-ahead

Citizens to get health card, can make appointments from home

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Delhi Cabinet gave financial nod to its ambitious Health Information Management System (HIMS) project. As part of the project, each citizen will have a health card, which will be a repository of their medical information.

The government said

doctors will be able to see a patient's medical history using the card and the patients will be able to make appointments from home. The health card will act as a unique health identifier for each individual through which everything from their medical history to appointment dates can be accessed.

All citizens between 1 and 18 years would be issued a health card linked to their parent's health card. All newborns (up to 1 year) would be linked to their mother's health card.

In a related development, the Cabinet approved ₹48.14 crore for procurement, distribution and



Arvind Kejriwal

transportation of foodgrains for citizens without ration cards residing in the Capital.

This decision, the government said, would benefit about 40 lakh non-PDS beneficiaries in Delhi. On May 25, it was decided by the Delhi Cabinet to provide free dry ration (foodgrains) to the people in need.

The non-PDS foodgrains in Delhi will be distributed to the target beneficiaries through the identified location or school.

About 16,000 metric tonnes of wheat and 4,000 metric tonnes of rice would

be required by the government to provide free ration to 40 lakh non-PDS beneficiaries.

₹2.1 crore on transport
The government will buy this ration from the Food Corporation of India and ₹42.4 crore will be spent on the purchase. About ₹2.1 crore will be spent on transportation among the major share of expenses.

An MoU between IIT Kanpur and the Delhi Pollution Control Committee was also approved by the Cabinet. According to the government, the agreement is related to the technology that will allow accurate information about the real-time source of air pollution in Delhi to be made available.

Also, sources of air pollution will be tracked in real time. A forecast will be issued for air pollution management in Delhi. CM Arvind Kejriwal said this will go a long way in identifying and resolving various factors of Delhi's pollution.

In his bail plea, Mr. Kumar, through his advocate Pradeep Rana, claimed that the police had built a false case and presented his "guilty image".

The wrestler was arrested on May 23 after he and his co-accused allegedly assaulted and killed fellow wrestler Dhanikar in the parking lot of the city's Chhatrasal Stadium.

Court refuses to grant bail to Sushil Kumar

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Noting that Olympic medallist Sushil Kumar was "prima facie visible" in a video and seems to be causing "severe injuries" to fellow wrestler Sagar Dhanikar, a Delhi court dismissed his bail plea on Tuesday.

"As per the chargesheet, it was a daring and awful act of the accused persons for causing such brutal injuries to the victim without having any fear, and as per the chargesheet, they are having firearms as well as other weapons like sticks, etc.," Additional Sessions Judge Shivaji Anand said, while dismissing the bail application.

In his bail plea, Mr. Kumar, through his advocate Pradeep Rana, claimed that the police had built a false case and presented his "guilty image".

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Govt. identifies 150 air pollution hotspots

Green Delhi app now available on iOS

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Tuesday said the government has identified 150 air pollution hotspots compared to 13 last year. These points will be strictly monitored, he said.

He added that a "Green War Room" – from where authorities will be monitoring air pollution and coordinating with other departments – will function 24x7 during winter.

"The results of the Green Delhi app since its launch last year have been appreciable. We received 27,000 complaints, of which more than 23,000 complaints have been successfully resolved. We have been receiving most of the complaints from three departments – municipal corporation, DDA, and PWD. The process of working with the Green Delhi app for about a year has enabled us to mark 150 such hotspots now," Mr. Rai said.

He said the "Green War Room" is the central point of contact. The government,

however, did not release the list of the hotspots.

The government launched the app in October last year where citizens can file complaints about air pollution causing activities such as garbage burning, dust due to construction activities etc. and even upload photos and videos.

"Last year, the app was launched for Android phones, but today onwards, iOS phones can access the app as well," the Minister said.

The war room was also started last year by the Delhi government to monitor pollution and coordinate action.

Erickshaw driver held for murder

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

An e-rickshaw driver was stabbed to death allegedly in south-east Delhi's Sarita Vihar on Monday night, the police said on Tuesday. DCP (South-East) Esha Pandey said the accused, Avdesh alias Pappu, has been arrested. The deceased has been identified as Arvind.

On Monday night, Arvind's e-rickshaw brushed against Avdesh's following which an argument ensued. The argument turned violent when Avdesh stabbed Arvind. A case under Section 302 (punishment for murder) of the Indian Penal Code has been registered and further probe is underway, the police said.



New alternatives: Ambedkar University's cut-offs are lower than those set by Delhi University. ■ FILE PHOTO

97.50%. For BA (Hons) History, the cut-off is 96.75% for NCT candidates and 98.50% for candidates from outside Delhi. BA (Hons) Mathematics has cut-off at 94.25% for NCT candidates and 95.25% for candidates from outside Delhi. For BA (Hons) Hindi, the university has set the cut-off for NCT candidates at 81.75% and for candidates from outside Delhi at 82.25%.

Two campuses

At the Kashmere Gate campus, AUD offers BA (Hons) with a major in English, economics, history, mathematics, psychology, sociology, social science and humanities and sustainable urbanism.

According to the admission process by the university, those candidates that have made it to the first list will have to get their documents verified physically on campus between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. on October 6 and 7. The last day for payment is October 7.

Celebrations
October 10, 2021

NATIONAL DAY

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In celebration of the 110th National Day of the Republic of China (Taiwan)



President Tsai Ing-wen
Republic of China (Taiwan)

The Republic of China (Taiwan) is celebrating its 110th National Day (widely known as the Double Tenth Day) on the 10th of October 2021. Ever since its inception in 1912, the Republic of China (Taiwan) has encountered numerous difficulties and challenges internally and externally. Based on our firm commitment to democracy, freedom, and rule of law, as well as with staunch support from friendly countries, Taiwan has never in one moment shown weakness and retreated from the above-mentioned universal values.

Standing Strong in Democracy

Taiwan celebrates Double Tenth National Day as an internationally recognized beacon of freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law. This hard-won accomplishment underscores a deep-seated commitment to building a kinder, more resilient society in which all voices are heard. At a time when the world is facing challenges such as COVID-19, climate change and environmental degradation, Taiwan is a living proof that democracy works, and is the best way of turning back the tide of authoritarianism while promoting peace, stability, sustainable development and inclusive prosperity.

Building Momentum for Economy

As the sun rises over Taiwan for Double



Taiwan-India Cooperation



Taiwan and India - Staunch Partners for Freedom, Democracy and Development

Tenth National Day, it shines on a country with GDP growth estimated at 5.88 percent for 2021. The local economy is performing better than at any point in the last decade. Success looks set to continue thanks to farsighted policy like the Six Core Strategic Industries plan for transforming Taiwan into a significant force in the global economy. Building on the government's 5+2 Industrial Innovation Program, it sets out a vision to develop the industries of the future and achieve the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals in 2021.

Paying it Forward for Global Health

Taiwan gives thanks on Double Tenth National Day to allies and like-minded partners for standing with the country in its hour of COVID-19 need. The Taiwan Model, widely celebrated for saving lives and strengthening the global response to the pandemic, by its mask and personal protective equipment donations, came under intense pressure from a second wave of coronavirus. Buoyed by this backing and love, the country will continue paying it forward as a force for good in the world

those who wish to pursue higher education and Mandarin Chinese language studies in Taiwan. In 2021, twenty Taiwan Education Centers in total have been launched in university campuses in India. Over 8,000 students have taken Mandarin courses at Taiwan Education Centers, 668 bilateral academic agreements have been signed between 68 institutions of higher education in Taiwan and 256 of that in India.

For science and technology cooperation, Taiwan and India have cooperated in implementing 94 joint research projects, holding 20 bilateral workshops on various subjects and publishing over 160 SCI papers since 2007. Both countries are currently working on setting up Technology Innovation Hubs in universities to develop cutting-edge technologies. The eleventh Taiwan-India Joint Committee Meeting on Cooperation in Science & Technology will be held once the pandemic related protocol allows.

The Covid-19 pandemic poses great challenges and unfolds new areas of further cooperation between Taiwan and India in e-commerce, online interaction, and biochemical technology. On the auspicious occasion of the 110th National Day of the Republic of China (Taiwan), we are confident that, through joint efforts, Taiwan and India will continue to prosper further in the years ahead.

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स्वतंत्रता के अनुरूप विधियां

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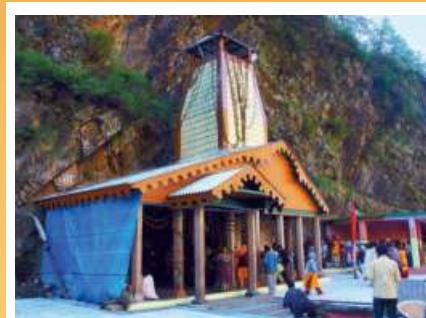
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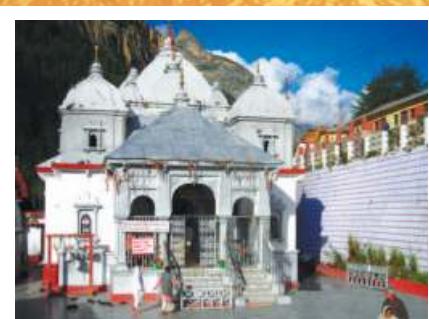


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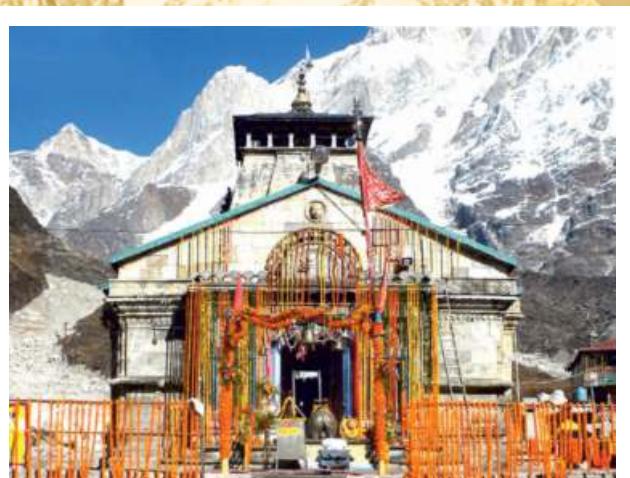
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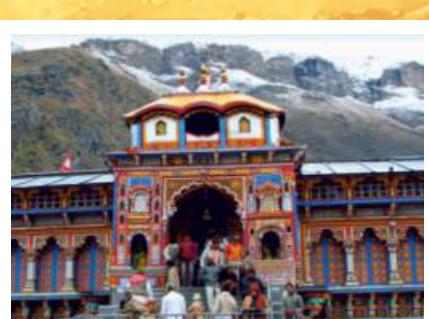
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केदारनाथ



बद्रीनाथ



हेमकुण्ड साहिब

आस्था एवं विश्वास की प्रतीक
चारधाम यात्रा में सभी श्रद्धालुओं
का हार्दिक स्वागत है



पुष्कर सिंह धामी
मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तराखण्ड



नरेन्द्र मोदी
प्रधानमंत्री

चारों धामों में प्रतिदिन श्रद्धालुओं के दर्शन करने की संख्या की अनिवार्यता समाप्त कर दी गई है

कुछ बातों का विशेष ध्यान रखें

- कोरोना प्रोटोकॉल एवं सामाजिक दूरी का पालन करना अनिवार्य होगा।
- देवस्थानों में आवास, खान-पान, चिकित्सा-स्वास्थ्य, स्वच्छ पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता का विशेष ध्यान रखा जाये।
- देवस्थानों/मंदिरों में दर्शन के दौरान मूर्तियों को छूने की नहीं होगी अनुमति।
- चारों धामों में मौसम सर्द है, तीर्थ यात्री अपने साथ गर्म कपड़े जैसे किस्वेटर, शॉल, जैकेट एवं टोपी आदि साथ लायें।
- तीर्थ यात्री मौसम की जानकारी प्राप्त कर यात्रा करें।
- यात्रा के दौरान किसी भी सहायता के लिए पुलिस, पर्यटन विभाग, देवस्थानम बोर्ड में संपर्क करें।

यात्रा हेतु पोर्टल <http://smartcitydehradun.uk.gov.in> पर पंजीकरण कराना अनिवार्य है तथा प्रत्येक श्रद्धालु को अधिकतम 72 घण्टे पूर्व की कोविड नेगेटिव रिपोर्ट अथवा वैक्सीन की डबल डोज़ लगी होने का सर्टिफिकेट ले जाना अनिवार्य है।

Sidhu's overtures to woo Cong. leadership

He takes to Twitter to praise Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's stand on the Lakhimpur Kheri incident

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

After Congress's general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra was detained in Uttar Pradesh, cricketer-turned-politician Navjot Singh Sidhu on Tuesday sought to reach out to the party's central leadership.

Mr. Sidhu, whose status as PCC president is still not clear as he has not formally withdrawn his resignation and nor has the central leadership so far rejected or accepted his resignation, took to Twitter to express his appreciation towards Ms. Vadra's stance on the "Lakhimpur Kheri" incident.

"When in doubt walk the path of truth, never compromise on moral values!! Moral Authority" thy name is @priyankagandhi," said Mr. Sidhu in a tweet, which in political circles is being seen as an attempt to mend fences with the party's central



Cricketer-turned-politician Navjot Singh Sidhu has said his party would 'march' towards Lakhimpur Kheri, if Priyanka Gandhi Vadra is not released by October 6. ■ PTI

leadership.

Mr. Sidhu added that Punjab Congress would launch a 'march' towards Lakhimpur Kheri, if by October 6, Ms. Vadra is not released and the accused were not arrested.

"If, by tomorrow, the Union Minister's son behind the brutal murder of Farmers is not arrested, and our leader @PriyankaGandhi being unlawfully arrested,

fighting for farmers is not released, the Punjab Congress will march towards Lakhimpur Kheri!" he tweeted.

Mr. Sidhu had recently resigned from his post saying that the issues, especially surrounding the "sacrilege" and other, for which he had taken a committed stand before the people of Punjab are being compromised.

Party insiders said that

since his resignation, the party's central leadership has been annoyed with Mr. Sidhu's abrupt move but is apparently in a bind as it doesn't want Mr. Sidhu to be seen as a 'martyr' in the electoral battle, who has chosen emotional and sensitive issues surrounding Bargarh sacrifice and inclusion of tainted leaders in the government as the basis for quitting.

However, the party wants a swift end to the crises, even it means replacing the PCC chief.

Last week also, Mr. Sidhu had tweeted, "Will uphold principles of Gandhi Ji & Shastri Ji ... Post or No Post will stand by @RahulGandhi & @priyankagandhi! Let all negative forces try to defeat me, but with every ounce of positive energy will make Punjab win, Punjabiyat (Universal Brotherhood) win & every punjabi win!!"

AAP, Congress stage protests

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Referring to the Lakhimpur violence, the Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party on Tuesday held protests and said the BHP in the Centre and in Uttar Pradesh was "throttling democracy".

Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi asked the BJP to respect democratic values rather than perpetrate the rule of coercion to stifle voices.

Members of AAP staged protests in several parts of Punjab.

In Himachal Pradesh, Congress members staged protests across all the districts against the arrest of Priyanka Gandhi Vadra.

'Andhra Pradesh's request to divert river water is untenable'

Telangana urges Tungabhadra Board to take action

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Telangana has termed Andhra Pradesh's request to divert an additional 2 tmc ft of water from the Tungabhadra dam to the TBP-Right Bank High Level Canal (HLC) as "untenable and against the Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal-I award", and that it would be detrimental to the requirements of the Rajibanda Diversion Scheme (RDS) already getting deficit flows. In a letter addressed to the Secretary of Tungabhadra Board, Engineer-in-Chief (General-Irrigation) of Telangana C. Muralidhar on Tuesday said the utilisation of Krishna water for the Kurnoor-Cuddapah canal from the Srisailam reservoir by Andhra Pradesh for the diversion of another 2 tmc ft. water to HLC from Tungabhadra

dam, in addition to the 2 tmc ft. water already being diverted, is not agreeable to Telangana till the RDS gets its quota. Against the allocation of 15.9 tmc ft. water to RDS (Telangana), the maximum volume of water reaching the ayacut in Jogulamba-Gadwal district is not going beyond 5-6 tmc ft even in the best case scenario, although Andhra Pradesh has been drawing water indiscriminately from Srisailam without any allocations and approvals.

Restrictions imposed

The ENC pointed out that KWDT-I had imposed restrictions on Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka on the utilisation of water in Tungabhadra Sub-Basin and held that the Tungabhadra river shall contribute substantial flows to the main stream of the Krishna

river for utilisation of downstream projects. Contrary to the view of KWDT-I, Andhra Pradesh had been using Tungabhadra river flows and regulated releases from Tungabhadra dam to KC Canal.

Andhra Pradesh was also drawing water to the KC canal from three unauthorised sources – from the escape channel at Banakacherla cross regulator, from the Muchumari lift scheme and from Malyala pumping station, all drawing water from Srisailam – and diverting regulated releases meant for the KC canal to HLC from the Tungabhadra dam. The ENC requested the Board Secretary to complete modernisation works at the earliest so that Telangana is allowed the required flows for utilisation of allocated water for the RDS canal.

Gauhati High Court takes up eviction case that claimed two lives

Civil society group had petitioned court for cognisance

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

The Gauhati High Court has taken cognisance of the eviction drive at Dhalpur in Assam's Darrang district that claimed two lives on September 23.

The case was taken up following a petition by civil society group Axom Nagarik Samaj seeking a "court-monitored investigation into the incident as well as eviction process".

The court clubbed the case with a PIL plea filed in connection with the eviction drive by Congress MLA Debabrata Saikia and fixed October 7 as the date of hearing.



A man being kicked by a security man in Dhalpur. ■ FILE PHOTO

ing.

Killed in police firing

Two persons, including a minor, were killed in police firing during the eviction drive. The victims were Bengali-speaking Muslims

marked for eviction for allegedly occupying government land illegally. While the police arrested village leaders Chand Mamud, Asmat Ali Ahmed and Sarifuddin for "instigating" the violence during the eviction drive, the Congress suspended its Baghbar MLA Sherman Ali Ahmed for raking up an incident in 1983 involving the area where the eviction was carried out. The MLA was also arrested for a "provocative" statement on the killing of eight Assamese youths in 1983. On Tuesday, he was presented before a local court that sent him in police custody for two days.

Petition alleging non-compliance of IT rules by Twitter infructuous

Decision taken after Centre satisfied with platform: Delhi HC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday closed proceedings in a petition alleging non-compliance of new IT rules by Twitter, saying that "nothing remained" in view of the Central government being satisfied with the micro-blogging platform appointing a Chief Compliance Officer (CCO), Resident Grievance Officer (RGO) and Nodal Contact Person.

Justice Rekha Palli further noted that Twitter has already dealt with the complaint raised by the petitioner – lawyer Amit Acharya – with regards to certain objection-

able tweets and thus the petition has become infructuous. While disposing of the petition, the judge also clarified that the petitioner was free to take appropriate legal recourse against the action taken by Twitter on his complaint against the allegedly objectionable tweets.

"What remains in this? Nothing remains now. Prayers are satisfied. You challenge the order if you have a grievance," observed the judge. "Respondent No 1 (Centre) has filed an affidavit categorically stating that Respondent No 2 (Twitter) is fully complying with the IT Rules. In view of the afore-

said, which is not denied by the petitioner, nothing further survives," the court said.

The IT (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Ethics Code) Rules, 2021 seek to regulate dissemination and publication of content in cyberspace, including social media platforms and were notified in February by the Central government. Last month, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY) had told the court that Twitter has appointed CCO, RGO, and Nodal Contact Person in compliance with the new IT Rules.

(Deputy) High Commissioner held talks in this regard. Once certain permissions are obtained from the External Affairs Ministry, the decks would be cleared to resume the service," she said.

The proposal to revive the Karaikal-Jaffna ferry service, as a component of the Sagarmala Programme of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways to promote coastal shipping, is being actively pursued by the Indian and Sri Lankan governments since 2011. The scheme envisages commencement of passenger shipping between Karaikal, Puducherry, and Kankesanthurai (KKS Port) Jaffna, Sri Lanka.

Ferry service to Sri Lanka awaiting MEA approval'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PUDUCHERRY

Lt. Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan on Tuesday said ferry service between Karaikal and Jaffna in Sri Lanka, was awaiting approval from the External Affairs Ministry.

Addressing mediapersons after flagging off 'Saamruddha Naukayan', an ocean expedition of the National Cadets Corps (NCC) group, headquarters, Puducherry, at the Thengai Thittu harbour, Ms. Soundararajan said a ferry service had already existed, but was later stopped.

"Steps are being taken to resume the sea connectivity and linking Karaikal with Jaffna. The Sri Lankan Minister and

the proposal to revive the Karaikal-Jaffna ferry service, as a component of the Sagarmala Programme of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways to promote coastal shipping, is being actively pursued by the Indian and Sri Lankan governments since 2011. The scheme envisages commencement of passenger shipping between Karaikal, Puducherry, and Kankesanthurai (KKS Port) Jaffna, Sri Lanka.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

(PSPCL Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala)
Corporate Identification No. U40109PB20108GC033813/Website: pspcl.in
(Contact Number 9646107248, Email: se-tl-jal@pspcl.in)

Tender Inquiry no. 13/4 Date 4/10/2021

Dy. Chief Engineer/TL, Circle, Punjab State Power Corporation Limited, Room No. 310, 2nd Floor, Shakti Sadan, Jalandhar, invites two Nos. E-Tender of: (1) Laying of tower foundations. Erection of towers and stringing & sagging of conductor with earth wire for the Augmentation of 0.2 sq'ACSR with 0.4 sq' ACSR of 66KV Allied Recycling feeder emanating from 220KV S/S Kohara for the extension of load M/s Sharmanji Yarns Pvt Ltd, Lakhawal Road, Kohara, 0.267KM/0.4 sq' SC on M/s towers. (2) Laying of tower foundations. Erection of towers and stringing & sagging of conductor with earth wire for augmentation of ACSR Conductor of 66KV Wadala Granthian to Udhonarganj line from 0.15 sq' to 0.2 sq' 16,480 km s/c including replacement of 13 nos. rusted towers. For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 05.10.2021 from 5.00 PM onwards.

Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

C-364/21 PSPCL 76155/12/484/2021/8559

dated 03.09.2016, has been lodged at P.S. Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi. Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

SHO
P.S. ODRS, Delhi
Ph.: 011-23961522, 8750871302
9868377475

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male, **Age:** 55-60 years, **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Height:** 5'5", was wearing Blue T-shirt and Black Pant, was found dead at KM Pole No. 11/22-24 Down Line, Transport Nagar, Delhi, at 01:50 PM. In this regard a **DD No. 14PP**, dated 03.09.2016, has been lodged at P.S. Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

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AM. In this regard a **DD No. 05PP**, dated 02.05.2016, has been lodged at P.S. Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi.

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APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male, **Age:** 25-30 years, **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Height:** 5'7", ID Mark: Yashodha written in right hand, was wearing White Shirt and White Pant, was found dead at KM Pole No. 26/24-26 Down Line near Bakher Village, Delhi, at 06:10 AM. In this regard a **DD No. 05PP**, dated 02.05.2016, has been lodged at P.S. Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

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regard a **DD No. 12PP**, dated 03.11.2015, has been lodged at P.S. Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi.

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Detail in relief

The SC order on payment to kin of COVID-19 victims is a recognition of their plight

The most welcome feature of the Supreme Court of India's order detailing the modalities for payment of ex gratia financial assistance to the families of those who died of COVID-19 is the stern caveat that no State shall deny the benefit solely on the ground that a person's death certificate did not specify the cause of death as due to the novel coronavirus disease. Thanks to the Court's assertiveness, the Union government shed its initial wariness about incurring the financial burden of compensating the next of kin of the over 4.49 lakh people officially recorded as having died due to the virus infection. The National Disaster Management Authority issued guidelines last month, specifying that ₹50,000 be paid for each death. While the primary requirement to avail of this assistance is that the death should be certified as having been caused by COVID-19, the Court has rightly ruled that the cause mentioned in the death certificate would not be conclusive by itself, and that if other documents are provided, the family shall be entitled to the ex gratia payment. Experience over the last year-and-a-half has shown that hospitals tend to attribute some deaths to co-morbidities rather than the infection; and many died after testing negative during a spell of hospitalisation or after discharge. It has now been made clear that deaths occurring within 30 days from the date of testing or from the date of being clinically determined a COVID-19 case shall be treated as eligible for the aid, "even if the death takes place outside the hospital/in-patient facility".

Given the fact that independent data analysis has revealed a possibly huge undercount in the official COVID-19 toll maintained by the State governments and the Centre, the view that only a certified COVID-19 death should be eligible for compensation has been rightly discarded. Of course, some documentary evidence will still be required to establish the cause, but once it is submitted, the payment should be disbursed within 30 days. It is a matter of consolation to those likely to have their claims rejected or disputed that the Court has created an appeal mechanism in the form of Grievance Redressal Committees at the district level. These panels can issue amended official documents to certify COVID-19 deaths, as well as the power to call for records or information from the hospitals where the deceased were admitted. To buttress the need for a humane approach, the Court has included those who took their own lives under the shadow of the pandemic in the ambit of the scheme. It has also advised the authorities to avoid technicalities in processing claims. The assistance will be welcomed by those affected, not because it will be enough to address the adverse impact that numberless families have suffered due to the pandemic, but as a sign that there is some recognition of their plight and immediate succour available.

With a bang

The IMD can further improve its models to forecast shortfall as well as excess rains

The southwest monsoon has officially ended in India with 87.4 cm of rainfall between June and September, or just 0.7% short of the historical average of 88 cm. In many ways this was an exceptional year. By August end, India was staring at an all India monsoon rainfall deficit of nearly 9%. This was primarily due to monsoon rain in August, usually the second雨iest month, being short by 24%. Early in the monsoon, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) had forecast "normal" rains with "a tendency towards the positive side" and the August failure had it backtrack a little. It forecast – correctly in hindsight – strong rains in September but maintained that the overall monsoon rainfall while still "normal" would be towards the lower end. However, September rainfall – 35% more than the monthly normal – was so munificent that it completely closed the deficit and was well beyond the IMD's expectations. Normally, India gets about 17 cm of rain in September, but at 22.9 cm this year, it was more than the 19 cm in August.

Monsoon 2021 capped a rare three years of healthy rain. In 2020, India received 109% of the long period average (LPA) and in 2019, 110% of the LPA and not since 1996, 1997 and 1998 has India got three consecutive years of normal or above normal rain. Much of the rain was focused on southern India, with large parts of northeast and eastern India receiving below normal rainfall, but this is not concerning for two reasons: the base level of monsoon rains is higher in the northeastern regions than the rest of India and the region also gets the retreating monsoon which normally commences by October end. Three years of good rains have boosted storage in India's key reservoirs. The monsoon, however, proved erratic for agriculture. The two key months for *kharif* crop sowing, July and August, were the ones when the monsoon failed and the excess September rains meant there are real fears of crop damage due to excessive moisture. The Government is expecting record crop output with *kharif* crops expected to yield 150.5 million tonnes until June 2022, which is slightly higher than the 149.56 million tonnes harvested last year. There are record surpluses expected for rice, pulses and oilseeds. While this could advantage exports it might also mean demands by farmers for more remunerative prices. These excess rains may be a rare event but the Government should capitalise on it and ensure adequate stocks for next year. The IMD should not be content that it got its overall prediction right but must analyse how its models could be improved to forecast shortfall as well as excess rains.

RBI microfinance proposals that are anti-poor

The proposed guidelines will favour private credit institutions at the cost of public sector banks



MADHURA SWAMINATHAN

In June 2021, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) published a "Consultative Document on Regulation of Microfinance" (<https://bit.ly/3ixTH3>). While the declared objective of this review is to promote the financial inclusion of the poor and competition among lenders, the likely impact of the recommendations is unfavourable to the poor. If implemented, they will result in an expansion of microfinance lending by private financial institutions, in the provision of credit at high rates of interest to the poor, and in huge profits for private lenders.

The recommendations

The consultative document recommends that the current ceiling on rate of interest charged by non-banking finance company-microfinance institutions (NBFC-MFIs) or regulated private microfinance companies needs to be done away with, as it is biased against one lender (NBFC-MFIs) among the many (commercial banks, small finance banks, and NBFCs). It proposes that the rate of interest be determined by the governing board of each agency, and assumes that "competitive forces" will bring down interest rates. Not only has the RBI abandoned any initiative to expand low-cost credit through public sector commercial banks to the rural poor, the bulk of whom are rural women (as most loans are given to members of women's groups), but, in addition, it also proposes to de-regulate the rate of interest charged by private microfinance agencies.

According to current guidelines, the 'maximum rate of interest rate charged by an NBFC-MFI shall be the lower of the following: the cost of funds plus a margin of

10% for larger MFIs (a loan portfolio of over ₹100 crore) and 12% for others; or the average base rate of the five largest commercial banks multiplied by 2.75. In June 2021, the average base rate announced by the RBI was 7.98%. A quick look at the website of some Small Finance Banks (SFBs) and NBFC-MFIs showed that the "official" rate of interest on microfinance was between 22% and 26% – roughly three times the base rate.

Crucial for rural households

Microfinance is becoming increasingly important in the loan portfolio of poorer rural households. In a study of two villages from southern Tamil Nadu, done by the Foundation for Agrarian Studies, we found that a little more than half of the total borrowing by households resident in these two villages was of unsecured or collateral-free loans from private financial agencies (SFBs, NBFCs, NBFC-MFIs and some private banks).

There was a clear differentiation by caste and socio-economic class in terms of source and purpose of borrowing. First, unsecured microfinance loans from private financial agencies were of disproportionate significance to the poorest households – to poor peasants and wage workers, to persons from the Scheduled Castes and Most Backward Classes. Second, these microfinance loans were rarely for productive activity and almost never for any group-based enterprise, but mainly for house improvement and meeting basic consumption needs.

Our data showed that poor borrowers took microfinance loans, at reported rates of interest of 22% to 26% a year, to meet day-to-day expenses and costs of house repair. How does this compare with credit from public sector banks and cooperatives? Crop loans from Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) in Tamil Nadu had a nil or zero interest charge if repaid in eight months. Kisan credit card loans from banks were charged 4%



GETTY IMAGES

per annum (9% with an interest subvention of 5%) if paid in 12 months (or a penalty rate of 11%). Other types of loans from scheduled commercial banks carried an interest rate of 9%-12% a year. As even the RBI now recognises, the rate of interest charged by private agencies on microfinance is the maximum permissible, a rate of interest that is a far cry from any notion of cheap credit.

A loan breakup, violations

The actual cost of microfinance loans is even higher for several reasons. First, on account of the method of repayment: a loan of, say, ₹30,000 from an NBFC-MFI has to be repaid in 24 equal monthly instalments of ₹1,640. Every month, a principal of ₹1,250 and an interest of ₹390 is repaid. In the first month, the simple interest on this loan is 15.6% per annum but by the end of the first year, the interest rate is 31%. This is because every month the principal is reduced (by ₹1,250) but the interest charge is the same. In short, an "official" flat rate of interest used to calculate equal monthly instalments actually implies a rising effective rate of interest over time.

In addition, a processing fee of 1% is added and the insurance premium is deducted from the principal. As the principal is insured in case of death or default of the borrower or spouse, there can be no argument that a high interest rate is in response to a high risk of default.

Does the borrower understand this mechanism? In line with RBI

regulations, we found that all borrowers had a repayment card with the monthly repayment schedules. On their regular visit, the loan collector would tick off the instalment paid. This does not mean that borrowers understood the charges.

Further, contrary to the RBI guideline of "no recovery at the borrower's residence", collection was at the doorstep. Note that a shift to digital transactions refers only to the sanction of a loan, as repayment is entirely in cash. Many borrowers said the debt collector used bad language in a loud voice, shaming them in front of their neighbours.

If the borrower is unable to pay the instalment, other members of the group have to contribute, with the group leader taking responsibility. In our survey, there was no organic connection of microfinance to any group activity or enterprise. As an agent of a NBFC-MFI told us, "we have used the groups formed earlier for other activities solely to show that we lend to a group".

The shift now

While microfinance lending has been in place since the 1990s, what is different about the recent phase of growth of financial services is that the privately-owned for-profit financial agencies are "regulated entities". In fact, they have been promoted by the RBI. Lending by small finance banks (SFBs) to NBFC-MFIs has been recently included in priority sector advances. And, post-COVID-19, the cost of funds supplied to NBFC-MFIs was lowered, but with no additional restrictions on the interest rate or other parameters affecting the final borrower.

In the 1990s, microcredit was given by scheduled commercial banks either directly or via non-governmental organisations to women's self-help groups, but given the lack of regulation and scope for high returns, several for-profit financial agencies such as NBFCs and MFIs emerged. By the

mid-2000s, there were widespread accounts of the malpractices of MFIs (such as SKS and Bandhan), and a crisis in some States such as Andhra Pradesh, arising out of a rapid and unregulated expansion of private for-profit micro-lending.

The microfinance crisis of Andhra Pradesh led the RBI to review the matter, and based on the recommendations of the Malegam Committee, a new regulatory framework for NBFC-MFIs was introduced in December 2011. A few years later, the RBI permitted a new type of private lender, SFBs, with the objective of taking banking activities to the "unserved and underserved" sections of the population.

Today, as the RBI's consultative document notes, 31% of microfinance is provided by NBFC-MFIs, and another 19% by SFBs and 9% by NBFCs. These private financial institutions have grown exponentially over the last few years, garnering high profits, and at this pace, the current share of public sector banks in microfinance (the SHG-bank linked microcredit), of 41%, is likely to fall sharply.

The proposals in the RBI's consultative document will lead to a further privatisation of rural credit, reducing the share of direct and cheap credit from banks and leaving poor borrowers at the mercy of private financial agencies. This is beyond comprehension at a time of widespread post-pandemic distress among the working poor. The All India Democratic Women's Association, in its response to this document, has raised concerns about the implications for women borrowers and demanded that the rate of interest on microfinance not exceed 12% per annum. To meet the credit needs of poorer households, we need a policy reversal: strengthening of public sector commercial banks and firm regulation of private entities.

Madhura Swaminathan is Professor, Indian Statistical Institute, Bengaluru

With AUKUS, India must keep its head above water

The security grouping spells opportunities but also possible unique challenges which New Delhi can ill-afford to ignore



DINAKAR PERI

The announcement by the United States of a trilateral 'enhanced security partnership' involving Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States (AUKUS) has taken everyone by surprise, competitors and allies alike. With close partners on both sides, India has maintained an ambiguous stand on the issue. A lot of commentary since has talked of how this is a welcome step for India to access technologies, build complementarities and so on. While it does present opportunities, the flip side is that AUKUS represents a threshold breach and could pose unique challenges for India, depending on how China responds to it, and the issue spiralling.

A different game now

The decision by the U.S. to make a very rare exemption, even for its allies, to supply nuclear-powered attack submarines (SSN) takes the whole issue of arms transfers and containing China's expansion to a new level. Submarines are the most potent and secretive military platform to asymmetrically counter an adversary and an SSN represents the pinnacle. The entry barrier for acquiring these is very steep, proven by how few countries possess them; and once that is breached, there is no technological leap to counter it but only in-

cremental measures to negate it, which would nonetheless be another expensive endeavour.

The U.S. has now set a precedence to this and how it unfolds and how long it remains an exception has to be seen. The next question is how will China, which has sharply reacted to the announcement of AUKUS, respond to this? Will it resort to further proliferation, in any manner, as it has done in the past, and likely involving its closest partner, Pakistan?

If so, the only country in the region which will face the real implications of this is India; for the others, it is more of stated positions and rules-based order which are a matter of convenience and not of survival. The whole Pakistani missile and nuclear weapons programme and its proliferation trail are proof of it.

Data leak

The China threat notwithstanding, this development is as much, if not more, about the tussle between arms industries of the two sides which collectively dominate the global arms industry. A case in point is the leak, in 2016, of 22,000 pages of secret data on the capabilities of six Scorpene submarines being built for the Indian Navy by the French Naval Group (then DCNS) barely months after DCNS was declared the winner in the Australian tender, only to be thwarted by the U.S. five years later.

While the real intention (of the leak) and those responsible may never be known, the fallout, though likely coincidental, was on India. The Naval Group had then said that it may have been the vic-



AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE/GETTY IMAGES

tim of "economic warfare."

India's stand, China factor

Another tangent that needs to be observed as the initiative takes shape is whether AUKUS is an attempt by the U.S. to position Australia as a 'Net Security Provider' in the Indo-Pacific. This is especially so given India's reluctance to add a military dimension to the Quadrilateral grouping comprising India, Australia, Japan and the U.S.

The Quad – as a grouping of major democracies in the Indo-Pacific – has seen momentum in terms of engagement in the last two years especially in the backdrop of a violent stand-off between India and China along the disputed boundary in Eastern Ladakh last year which is yet to be resolved. However, India has reiterated on several occasions that it sees the Quad as a platform for consultations at the political and diplomatic level but does not see a military dimension to it. So, with Australia and Japan being U.S. allies, the limiting factor for deepening military engagement for the Quad as a grouping, beyond a point, is India.

Incidentally, the current Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Karambir Singh, since he assumed charge of the force in May 2019, had stated his reluctance in using the term 'Net Security Provider' and instead propagated the phrase, 'Preferred Security Partner'.

Probably the best articulation of this was put forward in May 2018 by his predecessor and then Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Sunil Lanba, while delivering a talk at the Vivekananda International Foundation. Responding to questions, he stated that there were "dependencies" for group members on China and also the "uncertainty" of America when push comes to shove. He said, "So I don't think there is [a] need for a military dimension to Quad... We are not going down that route. And I don't think there is [a] need to go down that route."

Admiral Lanba further said, "What do you think a military dimension will achieve? India is the only country in the Quad with a land border with China. In case of conflict... nobody will come and hold your hand." The validation for this observation manifested itself in 2020 in the Himalayan ranges with a new normal now on the ground along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and the trust between India and China along with the agreements that held it in tatters.

More recently, on several occasions External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, while terming the Quad as a platform that looks at the future, has also echoed similar views.

Speaking at the Raisina Dialogue in April, he categorically stated that Quad will not be an

'Asian NATO' and added that "people need to get over this..." He had also highlighted 10 broad subjects of cooperation including vaccine collaboration, climate action, emerging technologies, resilient supply chains, semiconductors, disinformation, counterterrorism and maritime security among others.

The Quad versus AUKUS

The outcome of the first ever in-person meeting of Quad leaders in the U.S. on September 24 only reinforces this trend. The Quad countries have outlined cooperation in several important areas including high technology; military cooperation and a mention of China were conspicuous in their absence. Essentially, the Quad is taking shape as an organisation of broader cooperation among the four countries, while AUKUS, for now, remains an organisation for high-end military trade. This only gives further credence that the U.S. may be preparing Australia for a greater military role in the Indo-Pacific.

Afghanistan has shown that New Delhi cannot depend on or tag along with anyone to protect its national interests. Given the surprise and setback India received with the sudden exit of the U.S., the country can ill-afford to lower its guard by taking AUKUS at face value. While working with AUKUS through other platforms and advancing its own strategic cooperation with each of the countries, India also needs to offset any fallout of the development which will only unfold in the long term.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Farmers' protest

It is baffling why the Uttar Pradesh government has been trying to prevent Opposition party leaders from visiting Lakhimpur Kheri, where four farmers were mowed to death (Inside pages, October 5). The facts are already in the public domain and it is only natural that the leaders of these parties would like to meet the affected families. In the Hathras gang rape case too there were similar restrictions. The

question/observation raised and made by Chhattisgarh Chief Minister – as to whether Indian residents require a passport or visa to visit Uttar Pradesh – is pertinent.

D. SETHURAMAN,
Chennai

■ There is no gainsaying the fact that this country has never been very considerate when it comes to the interests of the farmers and other unorganised sections. The present government's

reluctance to extend statutory protection to MSP is of a piece with that approach. Should not we, as a society, be equally concerned about the welfare of the 'annaduwa' who ensures that there is food on our table? Should we be grudging them for even the protection of a decent MSP?

G.G. MENON,
Tripunithura, Kerala

■ China's intrusions
As with India, China will continue to practise this

form of "Grey zone" warfare with other nations ('World' page, "China sends 52 jets towards Taiwan", October 5). It will be misplaced optimism for India to expect a shift in China's foreign policy approach. China is adept at protracting negotiations only to buy time and consolidate its

The challenge of going back to school

Guidelines on re-opening schools focus more on health measures than on addressing learning difficulties



SAJITHA BASHIR

After one and a half years of being shut, schools are re-opening in most States. A majority of the children enrolled in school before the pandemic have most likely had limited or no structured learning opportunities during this period. That reality is all the more jarring because the more privileged sections, representing a minority, were able to ensure continuity of education through online classes provided by schools, support from family, and increased spending on tuition and tutoring apps.

Leaving no child behind

Despite the scale of the shock to the education system, a review of the State governments' Standard Operating Procedures/guidelines on school re-opening shows that the emphasis is on health and sanitation measures. There is very little discussion on the practical approaches required to ensure that every child returns to school and to address the learning difficulties that children will face.

Across the world, guidance on school re-opening centres around certain principles. The first is a strong focus on equity. Special efforts must be made for children from disadvantaged backgrounds, who were disconnected during the pandemic, so that they can return to school in an environment that fosters belonging. The second is effective and regular communication with parents. The third is to support student's socio-emotional development. The fourth is to re-organise the curriculum to reinforce core academic skills, focusing on language learning and mathematics, especially in the elementary years. The fifth is to extend learning time and hire additional teachers where needed. The sixth is to enhance training and regular support for teachers. And finally, to secure additional funding to address the crisis.

Let us start with the issue of additional funding for education. A recent study by the World Bank and UNESCO shows that, for a sample of 29 high-income, lower-middle-in-



come and low-income countries across the world, the average annual education budgets not only increased post-COVID-19 but increased at a higher rate than before COVID-19 (4% post-COVID-19 compared to 1.1% before the pandemic). In the group of 14 lower-middle-income countries to which India belongs, five countries (Bangladesh, Morocco, Nigeria, the Philippines, and Ukraine) increased their spending substantially. Three countries (Egypt, Pakistan and Tanzania) held their spending constant or reduced it marginally. Four countries (Kenya, Kyrgyz Republic, Myanmar and Nepal) reduced their spending by between 1% and 6%. India reduced its spending by over 9%, along with Uzbekistan. This comes on top of a 2% decline in education spending in India in the previous year. The share of spending on education in the overall budget also declined to 2.6%, while most countries either maintained or increased this share. It is difficult to envisage how an emergency of the scale and depth seen in India can be addressed with fewer resources.

Even the task of bringing every child back to school in India is a herculean one and requires detailed planning. First, millions of migrant children saw their education disrupted. Their numbers are not known - how many went back to their home States, how many rejoined schools there, or how many returned. Many of these children may now be working to support families who have lost their livelihoods. Second, close to 40% of school students in India are in private schools. Most of them are in 'low-cost' schools for the poor, which have been buffeted by the crisis. Over 60% of government and private school principals in India stated that

their schools suffered from dropouts and face financial challenges, according to a recent survey (Global School Leaders and Alkot, report forthcoming). The School Children's Online and Offline Learning (SCHOOL) survey covering 15 States and Union Territories, conducted in August 2021, revealed that over 25% of children who had previously been enrolled in private schools had switched to government schools. If this ratio is approximately correct for the country, we might expect a transfer of about 20 million children from private to government schools.

On the academic front, many States have announced short 'bridge courses', sometimes as short as 45 days. The goal is to resume the textbook-based syllabus of the current grade of the child as soon as possible. Examination timetables are being drawn up, as if nothing happened. These unrealistic expectations are being framed in the face of overwhelming evidence of the devastating learning losses suffered by children, especially disadvantaged groups (see research brief of the National Coalition on Education Emergency, for example). The SCHOOL survey showed that 42% of students in grades 3-5 in villages and urban bastis could only read a few letters. Only 55% of students in grades 6-8 could fluently read a simple conversational sentence. The required knowledge of academic language in the upper primary/lower secondary grades would be all but lacking.

Language learning, especially reading with comprehension, is critical for ensuring progress in all subjects. While children are struggling to read in their native language, in many States, the majority of children are studying in English-medium

schools, both government and private. Learning in a second language is difficult in the best of circumstances. In the majority of the English-medium schools, teachers are not proficient in English and the students have no home exposure to the language. Research from the U.S. during the early stages of the pandemic showed that the proportion of 'English language learners' (i.e., those with limited proficiency in English) obtaining 'failing grades' increased dramatically within just a few months of school closures and despite the provision of structured online learning. Imagine the situation for tens of millions of children in India who had limited or no exposure to English - their language of instruction - for months.

The loss in mathematics skills can be even more precipitous. Studies from other countries show that learning losses over the summer break of about two months are more severe in mathematics compared to reading (in the native language). Over such short periods, the loss may involve forgetting mathematics procedures rather than general concepts. But much deeper losses in conceptual understanding can be expected after a loss of structured instruction over a 18-month period.

Support for teachers

The guidance and support to teachers and schools, especially in elementary education, has to be to focus on language learning, core mathematical competencies and socio-emotional learning. Teaching should not be driven by the sequence of chapters in the textbooks or the subjects in the syllabus. It would be necessary to restructure the 'daily timetable' to focus on these areas and provide additional instructional time. Support to teachers must be practical and regular, adopting a 'coaching' model, instead of mass teacher training programmes. This support must include additional learning materials and formative assessment tools and techniques. It may be necessary to mobilise retired teachers and volunteers also. All this requires long-term commitment, resources and organisational effort.

Sajitha Bashir, former Adviser and Manager in the World Bank's Global Education Practice, is part of the National Coalition on Education Emergency info@educationemergency.net

The Met on the mat

A new culture of ethics, not deterrent punishments alone, can transform the conduct of the police



R.K. RAGHAVAN

The Metropolitan Police of London are in the news for the wrong reasons. The gruesome murder of a teacher, Sabina Nessa (28), when she was walking through a park in south-east London to meet her friend at a pub, has caused outrage. The police have been accused of negligence yet again. An Albanian garage worker has been held as a suspect.

Diminishing trust in the police

According to the media, since the death of Sarah Everard, a 33-year-old marketing executive, in March this year, at least 81 women have been killed in the U.K. where the suspects are men. Many critics bemoan the fact that women are not being protected despite the Met being led by a woman Commissioner, Dame Cressida Dick.

What has added fuel to the fire is that a Met police officer, Wayne Couzens, was arrested for raping and murdering Everard. Couzens falsely arrested Everard on the charge of violating COVID-19 restrictions, forced her into a hired car, drove far away, raped her, strangled her and then burnt the body. Couzens had planned his barbaric crime for several weeks. Everard was a random target - a lone young woman negotiating a poorly lit area. It is appalling that despite being linked to two previous allegations of indecent exposure, Couzens had gone unpunished. This was culpable indifference on the part of senior officers. It is difficult to believe that this despicable behaviour had not been escalated to more senior officers.

One is reminded of the senseless deaths of a father and son in Sattankulam in Tamil Nadu. They were arrested allegedly for keeping their shop open and thus violating lockdown restrictions. They later died in hospital, after being tortured by the police in custody. The police in the U.S. have a similar inglorious record. One cannot forget how in May 2020, a black man, George Floyd, was pinned to the ground by three police officers in Minneapolis until he died of suffocation. His crime was that he had bought cigarettes with a counterfeit bill at a convenience store.

Two points emerge from these and other episodes, some of which are reported and many of which are buried stealthily. Police organisations in several parts of the world are not trusted for civilised and lawful behaviour. This is despite the many mechanisms that are in place that do not permit clandes-

tine police actions against crime suspects. The numerous controls that have been established have not had the desired effect.

A few unscrupulous and overzealous policemen are responsible for this sorry situation. Blame sometimes also lies at the door of a few in the political executive who misuse their authority to settle personal scores with their adversaries. The judiciary has tried to set right this distortion in the criminal justice system, but success has been marginal. The Chief Justice of India recently gave expression to his misgivings on police conduct. But deterrent punishments are not the answer; only a new culture of ethics can bring about visible transformation. Bringing about such a change will take decades and requires enlightened police as well as political leadership. Merely upgrading police technology, such as compulsory body cameras on patrol policemen and video recording of police station proceedings, without a corresponding change in mindset will not be enough.

Perhaps most painful is the popular impression that women are easy prey to marauding policemen. It is unfortunate that the whole force gets a bad name because of a few deviants such as the senior officer in Tamil Nadu who is facing trial for sexual harassment of a female colleague. This is no justification, however, for showing any latitude to the police leadership or police officers.

A possible example for all chiefs
Met Commissioner Dick is a doughty warrior. She is the first woman to occupy this position. It is a travesty that a force headed by a distinguished woman officer is being accused of gender insensitivity. She has been facing calls to resign ever since the murder of Everard. But she has never shown inclination to step down. She apologised for the Met's failure in recognising the danger posed by Couzens and said she would do everything in her power to ensure that the force has learned from "one of the most dreadful events" in its history. Her resolve to make London safer is impressive and could set an example for police chiefs everywhere.

Many good choices have been made in several Indian cities. Commissioners are being credited with striking innovations in the area of response to distress calls from the public, especially women and the elderly. The pursuit of speed and professionalism in this regard is a never-ending challenge. Enormous government funding for additional infrastructure - both manpower and technology - can help shape a sleek and humane police force. But only marginally.

R.K. Raghavan, former CBI Director, is Professor of Criminal Justice and Policing at the Jindal Global University, Sonipat, Haryana

Crackdown there, hope here

China's sweeping overhaul of its tech sector could benefit India in the near future

ANIL K. ANTONY

Last year, China stopped Ant Group's blockbuster initial public offering. This came as a shock to the world as Ant Group, Alibaba's fintech arm, was on track to raise \$37 billion and its valuation was reportedly nearing more than \$300 billion. This episode was perceived as an attempt to rein in the successful entrepreneur, Jack Ma. Prior to this incident, he had committed one of the cardinal sins in modern China, which was to publicly criticise the government's tech policy for stifling innovation.

Clampdowns galore

A year since, hardly a week goes by without the world hearing of yet another high-profile crackdown on a Chinese tech company. China has foisted sweeping regulations, anti-trust and anti-monopoly lawsuits, cyber security probes, and algorithm controls on the entire tech segment, ranging from e-commerce websites, search engines, ride sharing and food delivery apps to e-learning portals. These clampdowns are estimated to have wiped off over \$1.5 trillion of value from Chinese tech stocks.

China's obsessive efforts to ensure that no private entity gains enough data to ever be in a position to even remotely challenge Chinese Communist Party-led state dominance, and that no competing country gains access to the citizen database through any unforeseen means, drive much of this overhaul.

We should not overlook the fact that these efforts are limited only to the consumer tech sector. State support to manufacturing and 'hard' tech industries, which are perceived to be of higher value, including 5G/6G, semiconductor chips, artificial intelligence, biotechnologies, batteries, aviation and space tech, has only increased.

We are witnessing a conscious redirection of efforts to areas that would maximise China's geopolitical and geo-economic gains. It would not be surprising to see more state-owned enterprises like ZTE and state-supported heavyweights like Huawei focus on strategic high technology and attempt to be pioneers in

the global market.

These developments could be beneficial for India. The rate of digitisation accelerated during the pandemic in India. Start-ups here raised a record \$10.46 billion in the first half of this year alone. India's tally of unicorns has crossed 60. This trajectory and India's projected growth will make the country the first destination of the funds fleeing Chinese stocks during these crackdowns. However, mirroring the U.S. start-up ecosystem, India's emphasis too is on consumer tech, from which China is tactically distancing itself. Not to be forgotten, the U.S. also has a far-reaching system for research and development of strategic technology.

The recently concluded Modi-Biden talks as well as the Quad summit emphasised technological cooperation. The U.S. undoubtedly remains China's lone rival in the high tech space, and the extent of this partnership will be important for India. U.S. interests will more likely be inclined towards the possibilities of market entry and penetration of its firms. India should strive to move beyond this to complementary collaborations.

Open to partnerships

India should also remain open to partnerships with friendly nations, keeping the enhancement of its internal capacity as the objective. An example would be the ongoing talks with Taiwan to bring in a semiconductor chip manufacturing plant to India. If successful, this could drive next-generation industries, including 5G devices and electric vehicles.

The strides India has made in sectors including biotech and space tech have shown that with the right political will and private participation, India could be self-sufficient and also reach global competitiveness. Similar concerted efforts to develop indigenous manufacturing and hard technology are vital if India is to retain its strategic autonomy and securely reach its stated goal of being among the largest three economies by the latter stages of this decade.

Anil K. Antony is a tech entrepreneur, public policy commentator and works on Congress's digital initiatives. He tweets @anilkanton

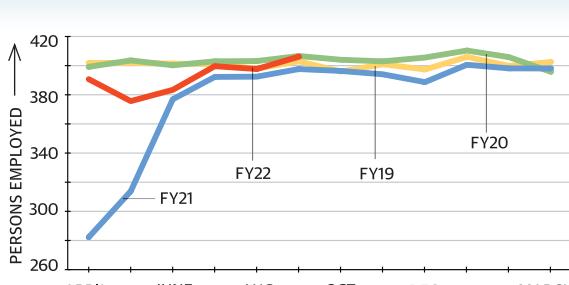
DATA POINT

Employment rises in September

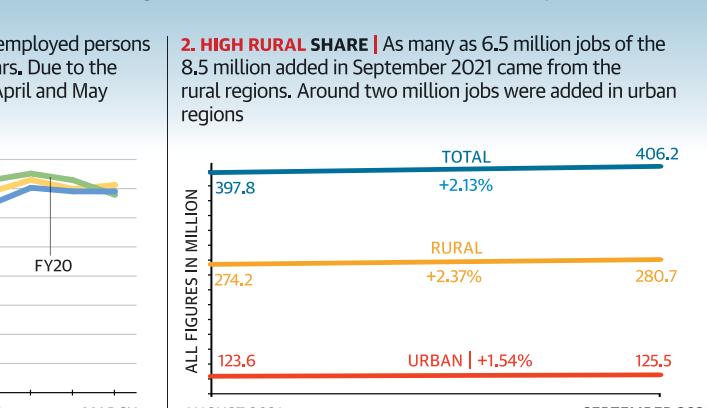
In India, 8.5 million (mn) new jobs were gained in September 2021, increasing the total employment to 406.2 mn from 397.8 mn in August, according to CMIE. The total employment in September was the highest since March 2020, when national lockdown came into force. Most of the jobs added were in rural India. The construction and manufacturing sectors accounted for the bulk of such jobs. However, jobs in these sectors decreased in urban areas. The quality of employment also improved as salaried jobs increased in both rural and urban regions.

Total employment stood at **406.2 mn** in September 2021, just 0.5 mn behind the September 2019 figure

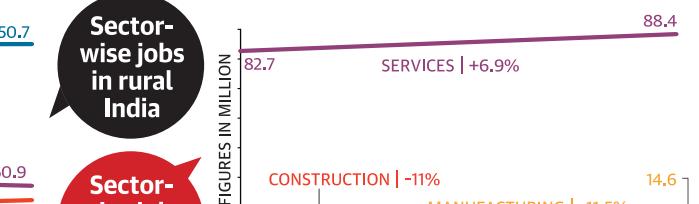
1. CATCHING UP | The graph shows the number of employed persons (million) at the end of every month across four years. Due to the second COVID-19 wave, the total employment in April and May 2021 was much lower than the usual levels



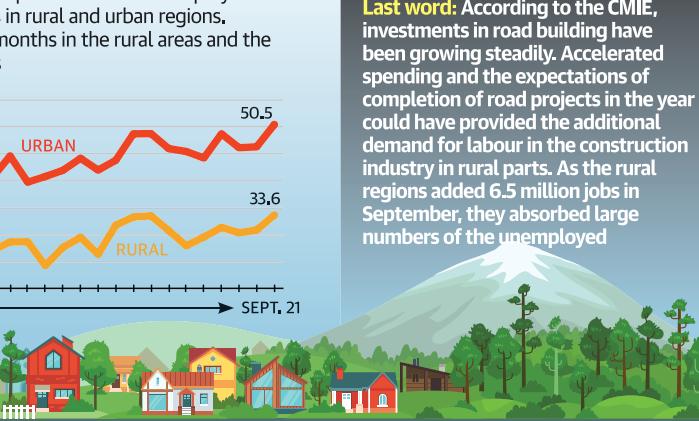
2. HIGH RURAL SHARE | As many as 6.5 million jobs of the 8.5 million added in September 2021 came from the rural regions. Around two million jobs were added in urban regions



3. RURAL INDUSTRY LEADS THE WAY | Job gains in the rural regions in September were driven by the construction and manufacturing sectors. As many as 7.5 million and 4.7 million jobs were added in both sectors, respectively. Interestingly, employment in these sectors fell in the urban regions. On the other hand, the service sector shed workers in the rural areas but added workers in urban regions



4. SALARIED JOBS PEAK | Another positive aspect of the rise in employment in September was the increase in salaried jobs in rural and urban regions. Such jobs were at their highest level in 20 months in the rural areas and the highest in nearly two years in urban regions



The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO OCTOBER 6, 1971

Baboon used to save patient's life

Chicago, Oct. 5: Three doctors today explained how they used a baboon in a 5½ hour emergency operation which may have helped to save the life of a 49-year-old alcoholic suffering from hepatitis. The patient came out of a three-day coma after his blood was circulated through the baboon's liver, the doctors reported in the journal of the American Medical Association. Drs. Daniel Hollander, Gerald Klebanoff and Robert Osteen said the patient, who had been a heavy drinker for 15 years, was admitted to Wilford Hall Medical Centre at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas in July, 1970. The baboon was placed beside the patient's bed and an artery and veins were linked to those of the baboon. Ten hours after the cross-circulation of blood, the patient showed dramatic improvement in his mental status, but then suffered a relapse. A total transfusion of human blood was then completed and a day later the patient began to recover, the researchers said. Thirty-six hours after the cross-circulation, the patient was able to follow simple command and answer simple questions, the doctor said.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO OCTOBER 6, 1921

Swadeshi programme

Chatrapur, October 3: Mahatma Gandhi's message of Swadeshi and boycott of foreign cloth is being repeated every day all over the country, but no business attempt appears

FROM PAGE ONE

Kin of Kheri farmer want second autopsy

"Hundreds of farmers present there saw what happened. At least they should show the bullet injury in the post mortem," said Mr. Miskeen. "They didn't mention the bullet injury in the report. They said he had injuries in his leg and abdomen. Abdomen injury we can understand, but how can anyone die of leg injury?" asked Mr. Miskeen.

Persons claiming to be eyewitnesses in Tikonia said they saw Ashish Mishra sitting in the SUV that moved down the farmers on Sun-

day.

They alleged that after his car lost balance, he abandoned the vehicle and fled on foot. While doing so, he fired at Gurvinder who tried to catch him.

Ashish Mishra has, however, claimed that all allegations against him were false and that he was not at the site of the incident but in his ancestral village Banveerpur, a couple of kms away at a wrestling event organized by his father Ajay Mishra in memory of his grandfather.

Priyanka held: Oppn. favours joint action

In subsequent violence, four others, including a journalist covering the protests, were killed.

"I have myself seen a portion of a paper on social media in which they have named 11 people – 8 of whom were not even present at the time I was arrested... I have not been produced in front of a Magistrate or any other judicial officer either. I have also not been allowed to meet my legal counsel who has been standing at the gate since morning," the Congress leader said in a statement.

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar compared the Lakhimpur Kheri incident with the Jallianwala Bagh massacre.

Earlier in the day, Ms. Vadra shared a 25-second video of Sunday's incident at Lakhimpur Kheri and asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi why he had not sacked Minister of State for Home Affairs Ajay Mishra 'Teni' nor arrested his son, who has been named as an accused.

"You have arrested Opposition leaders like me without any order or warrant. I want to know why this man is still free," she asked.

Cases registered

Soon after this, the U.P. government registered cases against her, Mr. Hooda and nine others under Section 151 and other relevant sections of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) dealing with preventive detention due to apprehension of breach of peace.

Former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram, in a statement, said the facts and circumstances of Ms. Vadra's arrest "conclusively establish that there is no rule of law in U.P." "Law and Order in U.P. seem to mean Mr. Adityanath's law and Mr. Adityanath's order," he said.

Moody's upgrades India rating to 'stable'

In June 2020, Moody's downgraded India's rating to Baa3 from Baa2 with a negative outlook.

On Tuesday, it said that downside risks to growth from subsequent coronavirus infection waves were mitigated by rising vaccination rates and more selective use of restrictions on economic activity.

Moreover, higher capital cushions and greater liquidity suggests banks and non-bank financial institutions pose much less risk to the sovereign than Moody's previously anticipated. "While risks stemming from a high debt burden and weak debt affordability remain, Moody's expects that the economic environment will allow for a gradual reduction of the general government fiscal deficit over the next few years, preventing further deterioration of the sovereign credit profile," it said.

Over the medium term, Moody's expects real GDP growth to average around 6%, reflecting a rebound in activity to levels at potential as conditions normalize.

The growth projections take into account structural challenges, including weak infrastructure, rigidities in labour, land and product markets that continue to constrain private investment and contribute to post-pandemic economic scarring," it explained.

The normalisation of growth levels will enable a 'gradual fiscal consolidation and stabilisation of the government's debt burden, albeit at high and above pre-pandemic levels', the rating agency said.

Debt levels

However, Moody's said the higher debt burden and weaker debt affordability made the economy less resilient to external shocks.

Bank provisioning has allowed for the gradual write-off of legacy problem assets over the past few years. In addition, banks have strengthened their capital positions, pointing to a stronger outlook for credit growth to support the economy," it averred.

15 High Court judges transferred

Names were recommended to Law Ministry by the SC Collegium a fortnight ago

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

In a major shuffle, the Law Ministry on Tuesday notified the transfers of 15 judges across 11 High Courts.

The transfer orders, recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium around a fortnight ago, were out on the website of the Department of Justice (DoJ).

According to the DoJ list, Justice Jaswant Singh of the Punjab and Haryana High Court has been transferred to the Orissa High Court, while Justice Sabina of the Rajasthan HC has been sent to the Himachal Pradesh High Court.



Justice Sanjaya Kumar Mishra of the Orissa High Court has been moved to the Uttarakhand HC, and Justice Manindra Mohan Shrivastava of the Chhattisgarh High

Court has been shifted to the Rajasthan High Court.

Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah of the Patna High Court has been transferred to the Andhra Pradesh High Court, while Justice Ujjal Bhuyan of the Bombay High Court has been sent to the Telangana High Court.

Justice A.M. Badar of the Kerala High Court stands transferred to the Patna High Court while Calcutta High Court's Justice Arindam Sinha has been sent to the Orissa High Court.

The Gujarat High Court's Justice Paresh R. Upadhyay stands transferred to the Madras High Court, while Justice M.S.S. Ramachandra Rao of the Telangana High Court has been sent to the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

Considered to be one of the biggest reshuffles in recent times, the Law Ministry put out a list of the transfers and postings on Twitter.



Mette Frederiksen

Denmark Prime Minister arriving on Saturday

Climate change on top of agenda

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

Climate change solutions will be at the top of the agenda for Denmark Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen, who will visit India this week – the first head of state or government to arrive in Delhi since February 2020.

Ms. Frederiksen, who last held a summit with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in September 2020 where they had announced the first "Green Strategic partnership", is expected to discuss investments in Indian renewable technology, supply of green technology and outline their climate positions on reducing carbon emissions ahead of the upcoming COP26 UN summit on Climate Change in Glasgow this November.

Bilateral ties

"The visit will give both sides an opportunity to discuss the entire gamut of bilateral relations and review the progress in the implementation of the 'Green Strategic Partnership', said the Ministry of External Affairs statement on Tuesday.

"PM Frederiksen's visit will connect the dots between the way India is developing and how Denmark can help India to do so in a more sustainable way, according to its needs," Danish Ambassador to India Freddy Svane told *The Hindu*.

No more adjournments on Zakia Jafri's petition

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission of India on Tuesday allotted the names Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) and Rashtriya Lok Janshakti Party to the LJP factions led by Lok Sabha member Chirag Paswan and Union Minister Pashupati Kumar Paras, respectively.

In letters to the two leaders, the EC also said it had allotted symbols – helicopter for Mr. Paswan's faction and sewing machine for Mr. Paras'. These would be applicable for the ongoing byelections to two Bihar Assembly seats.

On October 2, the EC

passed an interim order on

the dispute between the

two groups about who re-

presents the LJP. It had said

that both factions would

not be allowed to use the

name Lok Janshakti Party

and its symbol of

"bungalow".

The Bench led by Justice A.M. Khanwilkar posted the case to October 26 after se-

nior advocate Kapil Sibal said the listing was quite unexpected and he was yet to complete the filing of records. Mr. Sibal said he was "personally embarrassed" to seek an adjournment. "There are 23,000 pages of records," the senior lawyer said. Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta said the case has been adjourned for nearly a year and a half for the same reason. The court said it had been pending since 2018.

Kanhaiya's exit was expected, says CPI

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court said it will not entertain any further adjournments in hearing a petition filed by Zakia Jafri, widow of slain Congress MP Ehsan Jafri, challenging the SIT's clean chit to then Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi in the 2002 Godhra riots.

The Bench led by Justice A.M. Khanwilkar posted the case to October 26 after se-

cated, with Colombo expressing willingness to iron out differences. The statement from President Rajapaksa's office said the Minister of Energy has been "entrusted with the task of resolving the situation" regarding the Trincomalee oil tanks in a manner that is "beneficial to both countries".

The subject Minister is

likely to travel to New Delhi soon," an official source said,

requesting anonymity, citing

the sensitivity of the ongoing negotiations. India has been linked to the project for over three decades now, but the proposal for India and Sri Lanka to jointly refurbish and commission the World War II-era oil storage facility has only hit roadblocks, with worker unions and nationalist groups periodically opposing any Indian involvement.

New Delhi will likely host

at least four top Ministers

from Colombo soon, officials told *The Hindu*.

The party has planned week-long protests across the country condemning the killing of farmers in Lakhimpur Kheri. It demanded the arrest of the Minister and his son concerned.

It wanted the government to institute a judicial probe into the violence. It reiterated the demand to withdraw the three Central farm laws that had led to a prolonged agitation by farmers' groups.

A report presented by party general secretary D. Raja at the council meeting said the BJP-RSS combine was aggressively pursuing the Hindutva agenda. The Constitution was systematically subverted by redefining and altering the fundamental tenets of Indian state that constitute the secular and welfare state as defined by the Constitution, it alleged.

Must look at weaknesses and strengths of 13A

In meeting with Shringla, Gotabaya expresses desire to revive spirit of relations of the 1960s and 1970s

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

There is an "urgent need" to understand the "weaknesses and strengths" of the 13th Amendment to the Sri Lankan Constitution and "act accordingly", President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on Tuesday told Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla, while expressing a desire to revive the spirit of the relations of the 1960s and 1970s.

Mr. Shringla called on the President on Tuesday morning, before wrapping up his official visit. In addition to underscoring the need to expedite bilateral projects, the Foreign Secretary, in his meeting with President Rajapaksa on the final day of his visit, reiterated India's position "on complete implementation of the provisions under the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, including devolution of powers and the holding of provincial council elections at the earliest", the Indian mission said in a statement, referring



Foreign Secretary H.V. Shringla calling on Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on Tuesday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

to the nearly 34-year-old legislation that remains contentious in Sri Lanka.

Regional security

Both countries agreed on the need for "short-term and long-term steps" to take relations to a "higher level", the President's office said adding that President Rajapaksa is expecting India's support in advancing the 1971 proposal made by then Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike to declare the Indian Ocean a peace zone.

According to official

sources in Colombo familiar with the Foreign Secretary's discussions over the last few days, the Indian official had raised concern over maritime security in the region, particularly in the wake of Sri Lankan authorities recently apprehending massive hauls of narcotics that India suspects came from a "regional drug mafia". "Any threat to Sri Lanka's peace and security is a threat to the region and Sri Lanka must not become a conduit," the Indian side is said to have conveyed.

However, last week, the Adani Group obtained 51% stake in a deal signed with Sri Lanka's John Keells Holdings and the Sri Lanka Port Authority, to jointly develop the West Container Terminal at the Colombo Port, offered as a "compromise" to India.

According to official sources, both sides identified areas of greater collaboration in the energy sector. The development of the Trincomalee Oil Tank Farm at the eastern tip of the island nation was a key point of discussion, sources indicated.

New Delhi will likely host

at least four top Ministers

from Colombo soon, officials told *The Hindu*.

The President's remarks on elevating ties come after considerable strain in relations over Colombo's unilateral move earlier this year, cancelling a trilateral Port terminal project agreement signed with India and Japan in 2019; and New Delhi's persisting concern over the "slow pace" of India-backed development projects amid China's increasing presence in Sri Lanka's economic and developmental spheres.

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Sri Lanka's John Keells Hold-

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IN BRIEF



Pawar likens U.P. violence to Jallianwala massacre

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar on Tuesday compared the recent Lakhimpur violence to the Jallianwala Bagh massacre of 1919. "The Uttar Pradesh Government has created a situation similar to the Jallianwala Bagh massacre and it will have to pay its price one day," Mr. Pawar warned.

Mehbooba flays Priyanka's arrest

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti criticised the Uttar Pradesh government's action against Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. "GOI [Government of India] first gets a docile media to berate Congress and lament lack of a viable opposition but systematically ensures they don't discharge their duties by illegal arrests," Ms. Mufti tweeted.

CPI(M) demands ouster of Ajay Mishra

Minister of State for Home Affairs Ajay Kumar Mishra, whose cavalcade allegedly mowed down farmers in Lakhimpur Kheri, must be sacked immediately since there could be no impartial inquiry if he remained in the post, the CPI(M) Polit Bureau said on Tuesday. "There is clear video evidence of the convoy, with sirens blaring, driving into farmers and killing them. The Minister has gone so far as to accuse those injured and killed as being outsiders and claimed the involvement of Khalistani elements to defend himself," the CPI(M) said.

Trinamool team makes it to strife spot

Party delegation of five MPs eludes police, meets families of farmers who were killed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A five-member delegation of the Trinamool Congress managed to sneak into Lakhimpur Kheri on Tuesday and meet the families of farmers killed when vehicles in Union Minister Ajay Kumar Mishra's convoy allegedly ran amok.

Rajya Sabha member Dola Sen, who was part of the delegation, said it was shameful that in the 75th year of India's Independence, MPs and MLAs, who are meant to uphold the law, were brazenly committing murders and getting away with it.

Ms. Sen, along with her Rajya Sabha colleagues Abir Ranjan Biswas and Sushmita Dev and Lok Sabha members Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar and Protima Mandal, spent 14 hours on the road from Delhi to reach Lakhimpur



Ground study: A delegation from the Trinamool Congress meeting the family members of the victims of the violence in Lakhimpur Kheri, Uttar Pradesh, on Tuesday. ■ PTI/@USHMITADEVAIC

Kheri on Monday night. At various checkpoints en route where they were stopped, they escaped police scrutiny by posing as tourists. They stayed the night at Lakhim-

pur Kheri, avoiding detection. Early on Tuesday, they managed to visit the homes of two of the victims, 20-year-old Lovpreet Singh and 60-year-old Nachattar Singh.

"Justice is all that the families are demanding. Their mouths can't be shut down by compensation. They want immediate arrest of Minister of State for Home Ajay

Mishra and his son Ashish Mishra, whose culpability in the incident has been proven beyond doubt," Ms. Sen told *The Hindu*.

It was only when the Trinamool delegation was leaving Nachattar Singh's home that the police discovered them. Ms. Sen said the police tried to obstruct their way as they left the village.

It is shameful, she said, that elected representatives of the country are barred without any valid reasons from visiting parts of Uttar Pradesh.

"BJP MPs and MLAs are getting away with brazen murders under the Narendra Modi regime. What can be more shameful and shocking than this? And let us not forget that this is happening when the country is celebrating 75th year of Independence," Ms. Sen said.



Making a point: Bhupesh Baghel staging a sit-in at the Lucknow airport on Tuesday. ■ PTI

Baghel stages protest at Lucknow airport

He was barred from stepping outside

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel staged a protest at the Lucknow airport after the authorities refused to allow him into the city.

It is shameful, she said, that elected representatives of the country are barred without any valid reasons from visiting parts of Uttar Pradesh.

"BJP MPs and MLAs are getting away with brazen murders under the Narendra Modi regime. What can be more shameful and shocking than this? And let us not forget that this is happening when the country is celebrating 75th year of Independence," Ms. Sen said.

Lucknow. But they blankly refused," he said.

Following an argument with security officers, Mr. Baghel sat on the floor in protest. He was told that Section 144 was in place in Lucknow too.

"I asked them: if Section 144 is in place, how was the Prime Minister allowed to hold a function here? The police officers had no reply to this question," he noted.

Mr. Baghel was inaugurating an urban planning conference.

"The BJP has been a supporter of the British, who always believed in suppressing farmers. They are just carrying on with the British legacy. That is the reason why Mr. Modi did not speak on Lakhimpur Kheri, and that is the reason why 48 hours after the incident, he is not sacking Ajay Mishra Teni," Mr. Baghel remarked.

It was unfortunate that on the one hand, India was marking the 75th year of Independence with an "extravagant" Amrit Mahotsav, while on the other, BJP leaders were "mowing down farmers and getting away with it", he said.

Viral video was shot by eyewitnesses: SKM

The 29-second clip was slowed down for clarity

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Cellphone video footage has emerged from Lakhimpur Kheri showing SUVs ploughing into a group of farmers from behind and driving on, as well as occupants of the car exiting the vehicle even as a person seems to be caught under the wheels.

The Samyukt Kisan Morcha says the 29-second video purporting to show the actual moment of impact was shot by eyewitnesses, adding that the footage had been

edited to slow it down for clarity.

"The footage was obtained by one of the social media supporters of the farmers' movement. It was slowed down to show what exactly happened, that too from behind unaware, peacefully walking protesters. No other editing was done," said Kavitha Kuruganti, an SKM leader representing the Mahila Kisan Adhikaar Manch, who has been handling the platform's media updates. Bharatiya Kisan Union leader Rakesh Tikait had urged farmers and eyewitnesses to come forward with any evidence or videos showing the truth of what had happened.

The 29-second video which became viral on social media later on Monday night shows a jeep hitting a group of men walking on a rural road, some holding flags. An elderly man in a white kurta

and green turban is thrown onto the windshield of the vehicle by the force of the impact while others fall by the road. Soon after, a second SUV drives past as well. Another shorter clip

Another shorter 10-second video posted on Twitter on Tuesday morning appears to show a man in a blue kurta jump out of the same jeep and run away, even as a man seems to be caught under the wheels of the vehicle.

The SKM claimed that such videos proved the truth of their allegations. "Many eyewitness accounts are now being captured on videos, which also reveal that the Minister's son Ashish Mishra

was indeed driving the vehicle, from which he later got down and ran away, with cover and support provided by the police, and while firing on protesters," said an SKM statement.

Responding to journalists' queries on the videos, Mr. Ajay Mishra said he had evidence to prove that neither he nor his son was present at the spot. He said based on the videos, it was visible that the driver was killed after being pulled out of the car, adding that if it had been his son, he would have been dead.

The Uttar Pradesh police did not respond to queries on the authenticity or investigation of these videos.

My son was run over, and not lynched, says reporter's father

OMAR RASHID
LAKHIMPUR KHERI

On Monday evening, some 20 km from Tikonia where hundreds of farmers demanded justice for the victims of Sunday's incident, Ram Dulare Kashyap was returning home to Nighasan—with an axe on his shoulder and a bunch of kush grass—after performing the last rites of his son, Raman Kashyap.

Raman, a journalist, was among the eight persons who was killed after vehicles in Union Minister Ajay Mishra's convoy ploughed into a crowd of protesting farmers. Apart from Raman, the driver of a car in the convoy of Union Minister Ajay Mishra, identified as Hari Om Mishra, and two BJP workers—Shubham Mishra and Shyam Sunder—were also killed.

Raman, who had been working with local television channel, according to his family, had left home at noon on Sunday to cover the protests planned by the farmers.

Mr. Kashyap, a former teacher, says his son was killed after being run over by



Ram Dulare Kashyap returning after conducting the last rites of his son Raman. ■ OMAR RASHID

Press Council asks for report

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Taking *suo motu* cognisance of the killing of journalist Raman Kashyap in the Lakhimpur Kheri violence, the Press Council of India has directed the Uttar Pradesh Director General of Police to submit a report.

The Hindu. He said he saw marks on his son's body indicating that he was run over by the car. His son also had an injury on his head, he said.

"There were marks of being dragged and of friction. No other marks...*Gadi se hi mera beta mara hain. Ab chehe kiski gadi ho* (my son was killed by a vehicle, no matter whose vehicle it was)," he said.

He does not blame the farmers. "I would have figured out that the farmers had murdered him had I seen lathi marks on his body. The farmers did not run the car over anyone. Whoever drove it must be from the BJP or someone close to the MP's son," Mr. Kashyap told

VIJAYAWADA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (VMC)

'e' Procurement Notice No.CE-09/VMC/AE/2021-22, DL-05-10-2021

S. No. Name of the work No. of Call Estimate Amount Rs. in Lakhs

1	Providing Dust free Road with End-to-End Paving with Foot Paths and Pavers to K.T. Road from C.V.R. Fly-Over to Chitti Nagar Junction in 46 th & 47 th Divisions in Circle-1 area. With Reverse Tendering Process.	2 nd call	300.00
2	Providing Dust free Shoulders with Pavers for Air Quality improvement on the Road from Dabakotlu Excel Plant Road Junction to Vambay Colony Disney Land Road in Circle-2 area. With Reverse Tendering Process.	2 nd call	300.00
3	Providing CC pavement & Footpath from Chitti Nagar Junction to Ganapathi Rao Junction (Nehru statue) in Division Nos.32, 34, 35 & 37. With Reverse Tendering Process.	1 st call	350.00
4	Providing Pavers to RTC work shop from NH-9 to By-Pass Road for Dust free roads. With Reverse Tendering Process.	1 st call	300.00
5	Providing BT Road with HOT Mix Process in Iron Yard balance roads for Dust free roads. With Reverse Tendering Process.	1 st call	300.00
Total (5 works)			1550.00

Contact: Superintending Engineer (W), VMC, Vijayawada – 98665 14183 Further details can be seen @ 'e' procurement market place at www.approcurement.gov.in

Download of bid documents starts from : 07-10-2021 from 03.30 P.M.

Last date / time for receipt of tenders : 21-10-2021 upto 4.00 P.M.

Sd/- XXXXX
CHIEF ENGINEER

ODISHA JOINT ENTRANCE EXAMINATION-2021 (OJEE-2021)

No: OJEE / 350

Date : 04.10.2021

NOTICE REGARDING WEB COUNSELLING FOR MBA, MCA, M.TECH, M.ARCH, M.PLAN, M.PHARM, LE-TECH (DIPLOMA), LE-TECH (B.SC), LE-PHARM AND INT. MBA PROGRAMMES

OJEE Web-based Counselling process for MBA, MCA, M.Tech, M.Arch, M.Plan, M. Pharm, LE-Tech (Diploma), LE-Tech (B.Sc), LE-Pharm and Integrated MBA Programmes is going to start from 5th October 2021. For detailed Schedule, Seat Matrix and Counselling Brochure, the candidates are advised to visit OJEE websites (www.ojee.nic.in / www.odishajee.com).

Notice of web-based counselling for other courses will be published soon.

h-19:

Sd/-
CHAIRMAN, OJEE

OIPR-1420/11/014/2122

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NIT No. 25/S-II/2021-22 Press Tender			
S. No.	Name of work	Reserve price	Date of release of tender in e procurement solution
1.	Improvement of sewerage system by replacement of old/badly silted up sewer lines at K-Block Kalkaji under EE(S) II (AC-51 Kalkaji)	343175/-	2021_DJB_209166_7 1.10.2021
2.	Replacement of old and damaged water line from Kalkaji UGR to Govind Puri under EE(S) II (AC-51 Kalkaji)	4697287/-	2021_DJB_209166_8 1.10.2021

Further details in this regard can be seen at govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in

(Ashok Kumar)
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SOUTH) II

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD (A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)

49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan Race Course Road Bengaluru – 560 001. website : www.kiadb.gov.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-25/8368/2021-22 Date: 04.10.2021

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

(Through GOK e - Procurement Portal Only)

KIADB is inviting item rate Tender under two cover system are invited as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from Class-IV Contractors (Civil) registered in KPWD who have got adequate financial resources & sufficient past experience for the following works: (1).

IN BRIEF



Decision on Covaxin's WHO approval next week

HYDERABAD
The World Health Organization (WHO) said a final decision on grant of Emergency Use Listing for Covaxin will be taken at a meeting next week. Covaxin manufacturer Bharat Biotech, which has been submitting data on a rolling basis to WHO, had submitted additional information at the organisation's request on September 27.

Shah to visit J&K first time since Aug. 2019

NEW DELHI
Union Home Minister Amit Shah is likely to visit Jammu and Kashmir later this month as part of the Centre's ongoing outreach programme in the newly created Union Territory. This will be Mr. Shah's first visit to J&K after Article 370 of the Constitution was read down, and the former State was bifurcated into two Union Territories in August 2019.

Interpol launches online cybersecurity campaign

NEW DELHI
The Interpol has launched an online campaign to apprise people of major cyber threats to help them protect their computer systems, networks and personal information from cybercriminals. "Whether it's in a business or in a personal setting, cybercrime is often just a single click, tap or swipe away," it said. The three-week campaign, from October 4 to 22, would be run primarily through social media.

4 remanded in NCB custody till Oct. 11

MUMBAI
A court here on Tuesday remanded four persons in the custody of the Narcotics Control Bureau till October 11 in the cruise ship drugs case in which Aryan Khan, son of Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan, is also an accused. Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate R.M. Nerlikar remanded Abdul Qadir Sheikh, Shreyas Nair, Manish Rajgariya and Avin Sahu in NCB custody.

Health benefit package under Ayushman Bharat revised

Rates for 400 procedures changed; scheme will cover black fungus from now on

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The National Health Authority (NHA), the apex body for implementing Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Aroga Yojana (AB PM-JAY), has revised the Health Benefit Package (HBP) Master under the scheme.

In the revised version of Health Benefit Package (HBP 2.2), rates of some packages have been increased by 20% to 400% under the PM-JAY. Rates of around 400 procedures have been revised and one new additional medical management package related to black fungus has also been added, according to a release issued by the Health Ministry on Tuesday.

The HBP 2.2 is expected to be rolled out from November this year.

Health Minister Mansukh



Life line: The revised packages for oncology will enhance cancer care for beneficiaries. • FILE PHOTO

Mandaviya said HBP 2.2 would enable the empowered hospitals to provide better services to the beneficiaries under Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY. "The revised packages for oncology will enhance cancer care for the beneficiaries in the country. Addition of new packages related to black fungus will be a huge relief. The rational-

ised HBP will further improve the uptake of schemes in private hospitals leading to reduced out-of-pocket expenditure," he added.

Dr. R. S. Sharma, CEO, NHA, said new packages had been added to cover more disease conditions and regular rates of the packages were being revised to provide better services.

Anganwadi workers to get insurance

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The government's insurance scheme announced last year for health workers on the COVID-19 frontline will now also cover anganwadi workers and helpers, a senior official of the Ministry of Women and Child Development said on Tuesday.

The scheme under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package provides a cover of ₹50 lakh in case of death due to COVID-19 or accidental death on account of COVID-19 related duties.

'42 fighter squadrons not possible in next 10-15 years'

IAF chief says the force will remain at 35 squadrons

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

It is not possible for the Indian Air Force (IAF) to reach the sanctioned strength of 42 fighter squadrons in the next 10-15 years, and the force will remain at 35 squadrons, given the current phase-outs and inductions, according to Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal (ACM) V.R. Chaudhary.

Addressing the annual press conference on Tuesday ahead of Air Force Day on October 8, he said that deliveries of the S-400 Surface to Air Defence (SAM) systems from Russia were on track, but cautioned that the SAM systems could not be a replacement for fighter jets.

"The four squadrons of Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)-MkIA, six squadrons of the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) and six Me-



ACM V.R. Chaudhary

dium Role Fighter Aircraft (MRFA), and then factoring in the phase-out, it will remain at 35 squadrons in the next decade," he stated.

S-400 regiment

To questions, he remarked that the first S-400 regiment should be inducted within this year. On force modernisation, he disclosed that the last four MiG-21 squadrons would be phased out in the next four years.

"We are fully committed to the AMCA programme, for which an ambitious timeline has been set by DRDO themselves. The AMCA will roll-out well before the end of this decade. We hope to start inducting the AMCA by the early years of next decade," he stressed.

On the military cooperation between China and Pakistan, he remarked that their only concern was "dissemination of information of western tactics and technology which passes hands from Pakistan to China... We are prepared to handle a two-front contingency".

On formation of integrated theatre commands, he reiterated, "Theatreisation needs to be done keeping in mind future warfare. Should be synchronised. Doctrines and strength of each service need to be kept in mind."

Medical education has become a business: SC

It slams sudden changes to NEET-SS

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said the tragedy of medical education in the country was that it had become a business.

The observation from a Bench led by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud came while the court pulled up the government and the National Board of Examinations (NBE) for making last-minute changes to the pattern of the National Eligibility-cum- Entrance Test- Super Specialty (NEET-SS) 2021.

The court wondered whether the eleventh hour changes were a move to facilitate the filling of the seats in private medical colleges. Justice Chandrachud remarked, "The impression we get is medical education has become a business, and medical regulation has also

become a business".

The court noted that questions under the revised pattern were wholly from General Medicine, which was a feeder category. The earlier pattern had 60% of the questions coming from the student's chosen field of speciality and the rest from the feeder category.

The court reasoned that this sudden change was meant to favour General Medicine, in which the largest pool of students were found, to fill the seats.

The court surmised that private institutions benefited from this. It remarked that since seats in government colleges never lay vacant, it must be for their private counterparts that the pattern was altered. "The interest of students is far higher than that of the institutions," it said.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said the previous Uttar Pradesh Government (the Samajwadi Party dispensation) did not want to construct houses for the poor, and even obstructed the Centre's plans under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY).

He was speaking on day one of the three-day conference organised by the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry on "New urban India" in Lucknow.

He said the beneficiaries of the three crore PMAY houses built so far had been



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being welcomed by Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath in Lucknow on Tuesday. • PTI

come "lakhpati". "Urban planning had become a victim of politics" earlier, he stated.

The U.P. Government be-

Urban planning a victim of politics'

PM slams previous U.P. govt. for showing little interest in housing schemes

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said the previous Uttar Pradesh Government (the Samajwadi Party dispensation) did not want to construct houses for the poor, and even obstructed the Centre's plans under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY).

He was speaking on day one of the three-day conference organised by the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry on "New urban India" in Lucknow.

He said the beneficiaries of the three crore PMAY houses built so far had been

fore 2017 did not even construct 18 of the 18,000 houses sanctioned under PMAY. After Yogi Adityanath came to power in 2017, nine lakh

houses had been built under PMAY-Urban and 14 lakh more were in various stages of construction, he claimed.

Earlier during the day, Mr. Modi visited the exhibition on various urban missions in the country and interacted with beneficiaries of PMAY-Urban from Uttar Pradesh.

He virtually inaugurated the work of 75 urban development projects in the State under the Smart Cities Mission and AMRUT and a fleet of 75 electric buses.

He also announced the setting up of a Atal Bihari Vajpayee Chair at the Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University in Lucknow.

845 COVID orphans to get PM CARES aid

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A total of 845 COVID-19 orphans have so far been identified and approved for receiving benefits under the PM CARES Fund, a senior official said on Tuesday.

"A total of 3,915 applications have been submitted on the portal by citizens in the past four months. Of these, 845 have been approved by district Magistrates," the official said.

The PM CARES provides a corpus of ₹10 lakh for each child when he or she reaches 18 years of age which will be used to give a monthly financial support for five years thereafter.

Govt. offers reward for Samaritans

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Good Samaritans who rescue victims of serious road accidents and rush them to a hospital within the golden hour will now be rewarded with ₹5,000.

They will also be eligible for a cash prize of ₹1 lakh which will be given to 10 such Samaritans in a year.

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways wrote to all States and Union Territories on Monday informing them of the new scheme, which comes into effect from October 15, 2021 and continues till March 31, 2026.

Adani got assets at 3 airports for a song, alleges AAI union

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Airports Authority of India's aeronautical and non-aeronautical assets at the Mangaluru, Lucknow and Ahmedabad airports were transferred to the Adani group at a fraction of earlier estimates, the Airports Authority Employees' Union has alleged.

In an open letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 2, it alleged that as

sets valued at ₹1,300 crore at the time the Civil Aviation Ministry had sought approval from the government's Public Private Partnership Appraisal Committee (PPPAC), were transferred to Adani Enterprises Ltd. for a mere ₹500 crore last year.

According to contracts signed between Adani Enterprises and the AAI for airports in Mangaluru, Lucknow, Ahmedabad in February 2020, the latter

had to pay ₹74.5 crore, ₹147 crore and ₹277 crore respectively. According to the Record of Discussion of 85th meeting of PPPAC held on December 11, 2018, these properties were pegged at ₹363 crore, ₹583 crore and ₹384 crore, respectively.

Responding to emailed queries, the Adani Group said it met the terms laid down in the bid document for privatisation of six airports.

observed. A mere reprimand or disciplinary action will not translate to the crime of abetment of suicide unless "there are repeated specific allegations of harassment and insult deliberately without any justifiable cause or reason". The court said it was not only the moral obligation of a teacher but also his "legally assigned duty" under Section 24 (e) of the RTE Act, 2009 to hold regular meetings with the parents.

The case concerned the death of a 14-year-old by suicide in Rajasthan in 2018. The appellant, a teacher, was accused of 'insulting' the boy.

Seeking support

The report was launched globally, and in the survey across 21 countries, only 41% of young people in India said it is good to seek support for mental health problems, compared to an average of 83% across all countries surveyed.

Mental health issues in developing countries such as India have been on the rise, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said on Tuesday while releasing the Unicef's global flagship publication: "The State of the World's Children 2021; On My Mind: promoting, protecting and caring for children's mental health".

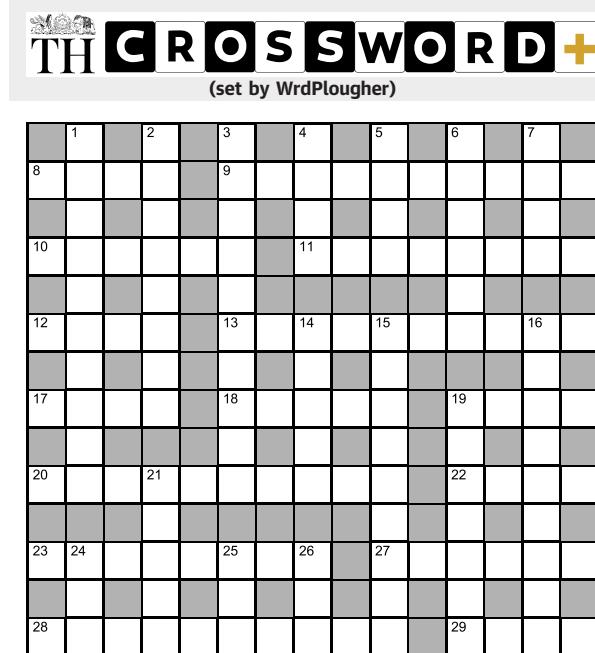
Speaking on the occasion, the Union Health Minister said COVID-19 was a test of mental stress for the entire society. Presenting the key findings of the report, Dr. Yasmin Ali Haque, Unicef India Representative, said the survey found that around 14% of those aged 15 to 24 in India, or 1 in 7 reported often feeling depressed or having little interest in doing things. "Children have not only been living an emotional tragedy, many are also at a higher risk of neglect and abuse," she added.

Faith in his story have a pull that even Rama in the flesh did not have! Hanuman was so taken with Rama and His name, that he was not interested in accompanying Rama to Sri Vaikuntha, where worship of the Lord in the form of Rama was not possible. Hanuman, instead, chose to stay back on earth, declaring that he would be present whenever Rama's name was uttered.

Rama's name and Rama's story have a pull that even Rama in the flesh did not have! Hanuman was so taken with Rama and His name, that he was not interested in accompanying Rama to Sri Vaikuntha. Tondaradippodi Azhvar's use of the phrase "Indira lokam" is not a reference to svarga loka, which he would not at all be interested in. He is talking about Paramapada. To Tondaradippodi Azhvar, even Paramapada is not as desirable as being in Srirangam. Thiruppaan Azhvar, likewise, said that his eyes which had seen Lord Ranganatha, would see nothing else.

Perhaps, this similarity in thought is the reason why idols of Tondaradippodi Azhvar, Thiruppaan Azhvar and Hanuman are in close proximity in the Srirangam temple. Kulasekhara Azhvar, too, can rightly be placed in this category.

TH CROSSWORD (set by WrdPlougher)

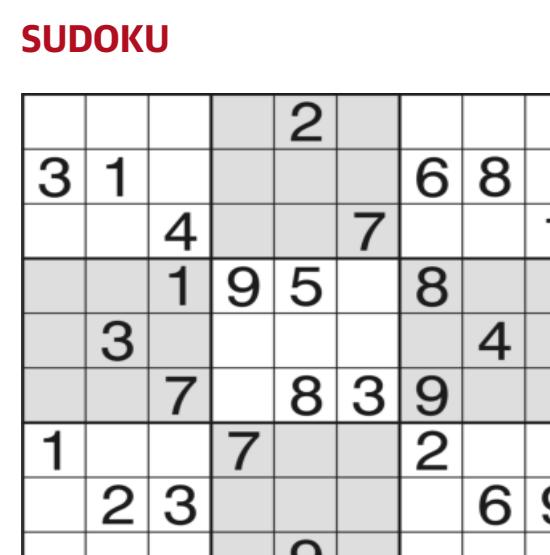


■ ACROSS

- 8 Grilled dope for the straight dope? (2-2)
- 9 Openmindedness is a sign of piety essentially – every ending has it (10)
- 10 Throw nuts around, no time to dine in (6)
- 11 In two years, return call with old rare freeholders (8)
- 12 Better half! Right! Wife visiting a couple, one from Christchurch (4)
- 13 Reach a stage eventually where relief effort loses universal link

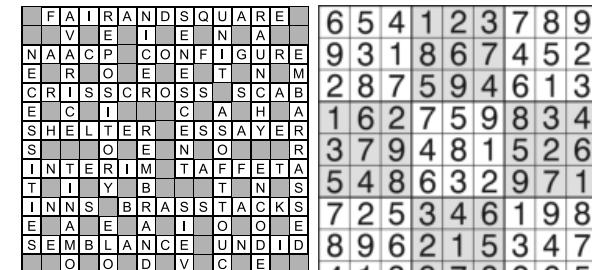
- Display keystrokes of genius.
Type your answers in our online grids:
<https://rgo.page.link/jjpTn>
- while backing off, going in (10)
17 Corner no lady to strip (4)
18 Take in a hungry pet wandering around party (5)
19 Nancy pulled out a gun (4)
20 Romantic notion bent journalist, leaving him unprotected by chief (10)
22 Drink backwash furiously from the pot (4)
23 Bachelor and soldier, still? (8)
27 Capture nothing – around about nothing – like it over a Century (4,2)
28 Hey, look around! New apartment finally has lease document (4,6)
29 Losing out in the end – let go! Awkward to look at (4)
- DOWN
- 1 Progressive article skirts the point – at least editor rejected (4-6)
2 Narrowly miss by heart-breaking margin – no! Oh, woef! (8)
3 In crowd, door is ajar, youngsters squeezing through one (10)
4 Follow dame before she rejects boy (4)
5 Harry, Ron, and Hermione's larks – second half lacking oomph at the beginning (4)
6 A foray into recollection of old golden, golden years (3,3)
7 Prison Warden locks up convict at last (4)
14 Fake outrage not worth a farthing (5)
15 Books to circulate, cultivating warm practical eye – catching visual beauty (7,3)
16 Rerouting race near Pennsylvanian city briefly to reach a commuter town (10)
19 Diagnostician medic loses order enjoying the Summer in France (8)
21 A girl makes for a broken heart? (6)
24 Fight about watering holes? (4)
25 Once more being imprisoned in rehab place (4)
26 Carry bag (4)

SUDOKU



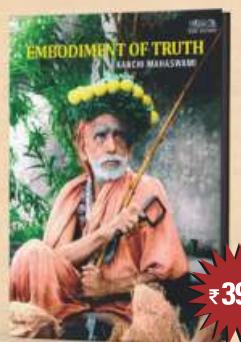
DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★

Solution to puzzle 13369 Solution to yesterday's Sudoku



FAITH

Story of Rama



₹399

A SPECIAL PUBLICATION FROM THE HINDU GROUP

THE HINDU GROUP

TRANSCENDING TIME

The journey of an Inimitable Sage traced through lens and letters



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MARKET WATCH

	05-10-2021	% CHANGE
Sensex	59,745	0.75
US Dollar	74.44	-0.17
Gold	45,766	0.50
Brent oil	82.85	1.60

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	743.95	-0.25
Asian Paints	3254.75	53.15
Axis Bank	782.60	3.60
Bajaj Auto	3864.00	38.05
Bajaj Finserv	17847.50	41.30
Bajaj Finance	7724.20	29.15
Bharti Airtel	699.25	17.85
BPCL	443.85	8.00
Britannia Ind	3882.20	-10.70
Cipla	934.55	-22.95
Coal India	197.95	8.00
Divis Labs	5217.85	-2.85
Dr Reddys Lab	5034.60	-8.10
Eicher Motors	2760.10	14.20
Grafix Ind	1627.00	-14.15
HCL Tech	1305.15	26.50
HDFC	2741.45	16.25
HDFC Bank	1595.45	9.70
HDFC Life	733.15	6.50
Hero MotoCorp	2844.55	-11.00
Hindalco	495.30	-10.40
Hind Unilever	2708.65	22.45
ICICI Bank	697.10	-3.10
IndusInd Bank	1168.60	48.80
Infosys	1692.80	14.05
Indian Oil Corp	129.90	3.65
ITC	234.70	-1.90
JSW Steel	679.35	-1.80
Kotak Bank	1982.35	-8.60
L&T	1716.70	1.45
M&M	843.05	1.90
Maruti Suzuki	7258.25	87.95
Nestle India Ltd.	1939.55	-97.40
NTPC	145.40	-0.15
ONGC	163.65	16.05
PowerGrid Corp	189.95	-1.70
Reliance Ind	2609.50	53.05
SBI Life	1261.95	31.10
State Bank	464.70	1.55
Shree Cement	28766.45	-522.85
Sun Pharma	820.50	-11.50
Tata Consumer Products Ltd.	801.45	-12.85
Tata Motors	344.95	2.95
Tata Steel	1316.85	-7.30
TCS	3833.30	60.00
Tech Mahindra	1413.00	14.00
Titan	2192.65	37.35
UltraTech Cement	7464.00	-51.60
UPL	714.65	11.70
Wipro	646.85	5.80

EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	74.25	74.57
Euro	86.11	86.48
British Pound	101.21	101.65
Japanese Yen (100)	66.72	67.01
Chinese Yuan	11.52	11.57
Swiss Franc	80.10	80.45
Singapore Dollar	54.69	54.94
Canadian Dollar	58.94	59.23
Malaysian Ringgit	17.76	17.84

Source: Indian Bank

IN BRIEF



NMDC cuts iron ore price for fourth time this year

HYDERABAD Iron ore producer NMDC has reduced the prices by ₹200 for a tonne of Lump and by ₹400 for the same quantity of Fines. This is the fourth reduction NMDC has effected in the prices in as many months. Effective October 5, the new prices are ₹5,950 per tonne of Lump Ore and ₹4,760 per tonne of Fines.

India AI market to touch \$7.8 billion by 2025: IDC

BENGALURU India's Artificial Intelligence (AI) market may reach \$7.8 billion by 2025, growing at 20.2% CAGR, as per an International Data Corporation (IDC) report. The AI software segment would dominate the market, rising from \$2.8 billion in 2020 at 18.1% CAGR by end 2025.

Ekki Pumps invests in agri tech start-up

COIMBATORE Ekki Pumps of Coimbatore has invested an undisclosed amount in Kisan Pro, a Bengaluru-based agri tech start-up. UAE-based Manu Midha of Innovacer, White Hill Ventures, and Amit Tripathy of OYO, are some of the other investors. Kisan Pro said in a release.

Tekion raises \$250 mn from investors

BENGALURU Bengaluru-based Tekion, developer of cloud-native automotive SaaS platform Automotive Retail Cloud, on Tuesday, announced a Series D financing round of \$250 million, which pushed the firm's valuation to more than \$3.5 billion.

Services PMI flags first hiring since Nov.

September index reading of 55.2 shows expansion slowed slightly from August's 18-month high of 56.7



Hiring again: Buoyed by signs of improvements in underlying demand, service providers took on additional staff. ■ R. RAGU

The India Services Business Activity Index, which had hit an 18-month high of 56.7 in August, eased to 55.2 in September but was well above its long-run average. A reading above 50 indicates an expansion in activity.

While the loosening of COVID-19 curbs amid a receding

second wave saw stronger demand including increased footfalls at services businesses, business confidence weakened in September on concerns about inflationary pressures. Higher fuel, material, retail and transportation prices pushed up the average cost burdens faced by Indian service providers further last month.

Forecasts of better demand in the year ahead supported business confidence regarding output, but growth looks set to be constrained by rising inflation expectations, said Pollyanna De Lima, economics associate director at IHS Markit. "We saw a substantial decline in positive sentiment among service providers due to this factor," she noted.

Travel curbs hurt Travel restrictions continued to weigh on international demand for Indian services as new export business contracted for the nineteenth

month in a row, and at the quickest rate since May, IHS Markit said.

September's composite PMI, which includes both manufacturing and services, was little changed at 55.3. Employment at the composite level stabilised after contracting in each of the prior 18 months as a marginal reduction in jobs at goods producers broadly offset the growth at service providers.

The signs from forward-looking indicators were, however, mixed and there was no guarantee that the recovery in hiring would sustain, Ms. De Lima cautioned.

165 GW on a daily basis.

Overall, total coal stocks of 78,09,200 tonnes were available at the 135 plants as on October 3 and that was sufficient for four days. The daily coal requirement of these plants is 18,24,100 tonnes. Among the 135 plants, not even one had 8 or more days of coal stocks.

Centre lets captive mines sell 50% coal

REUTERS
CHENNAI

Coal mines that produce coal solely for their own use, known as 'captive mines' will now be allowed to sell 50% of their annual output in the open market, the government said on Tuesday.

"Availability of additional coal will ease pressure on power plants and will also aid in import substitution of coal," the Coal Ministry said in a statement.

MFIs seek additional ₹7,500 cr. under credit guarantee scheme

Banks unable to approve more funds under NBFC category

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The World Trade Organization (WTO) has said global merchandise trade volume will grow 10.8% this year, higher than 8% estimated in March.

Growth should moderate as merchandise trade approaches its pre-pandemic long-run trend and issues such as chip scarcity and port backlogs may strain supply chains, the WTO said.

body for MFIs, cited data aggregated from its members to flag that they had applied for ₹18,500 crore from 44 banks under the credit guarantee scheme.

"As the banks are accounting for this portfolio under NBFC category, once they reach the exposure limits under NBFCs, they are unable to approve more funding for MFIs," Sa-Dhan, the self-regulatory body said. MFIs also sought

a tweak in the scheme's norms to make a distinction between banks' exposure to them and other non-banking finance companies (NBFCs).

"The additional amount

will support the funds flow

for MFIs with lower grading,

which are smaller and cater

to poorer sections and re-

moter areas," the regulatory

body said.

In a letter to the Minister,

Sa-Dhan, the self-regulatory

'BMW India confident of meeting 2021 sales target'

'Surpassed 2019's figures this year'



Vikram Pawah

Despite the COVID-19 outbreak, he said the company had surpassed the sales number of 2019. In 2019, BMW had sold 8,500 units of all models, while this year it had sold more than 9,500 units so far, he said, indicating the demand recovery.

"This time the bounce back is much stronger. And this gives us confidence that we will deliver on our plan for this year and next year as well," he added.

OUR MIGHTY PENS HAVE FOUND A SMART NEW ALLY.



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videos online, as against 67% in Japan, 69% in Indonesia, 74% in Brazil, 76% in Mexico, 78% in S. Korea, 79% in the U.K., 83% in the U.S. and 92% in China.

Bain forecasts that by 2025, three in four Internet users, or 600-650 million Indians, would consume short-form videos (SFVs), with active users spending up to 55-60 minutes a day. Meanwhile, long-form video

FB whistleblower calls for regulation

'The company intentionally hides vital information from the public, governments around the world'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

WASHINGTON

A Facebook whistleblower went before U.S. lawmakers on Tuesday to push them to regulate the social media giant, after an outage hit potentially billions of users and highlighted global dependence on its services.

Former employee Frances Haugen testified on Capitol Hill after she leaked reams of internal research to authorities and *The Wall Street Journal*, which detailed how Facebook knew its sites were potentially harmful to young people's mental health.

She spoke to Senators less than a day after Facebook, its photo-sharing app Instagram and messaging service WhatsApp went offline for roughly seven hours, with "billions of users" impacted, according to tracker Down-detecto. Ms. Haugen warned in a pre-prepared statement of the risk of not



Out in the open: Former Facebook employee Frances Haugen testifying during a Senate Committee hearing. ■ REUTERS

creating new safeguards for a platform that reveals little about how it operates. "I believe that Facebook's products harm children, stoke division and weaken our democracy," her statement said. "Congressional action is needed. They won't solve this crisis without your help."

In her testimony, she noted the danger of the power in the hands of a service that is woven into the daily lives of so many people.

Concerns on privacy

"The company intentionally hides vital information from the public, from the U.S. government and from governments around the world," Ms. Haugen's statement said.

Need for more players'

REUTERS

BRUSSELS

Facebook's outage the previous day shows the repercussions of relying on just a few big players and underscores the need for more rivals, EU antitrust chief Margrethe Vestager said on Tuesday.

Facebook employees said they believed the more than six-hour outage was caused

by an internal mistake in how Internet traffic is routed to its systems.

The incident showed the need for more competition, Ms. Vestager said on Twitter. "We need alternatives and choices in the tech market, and must not rely on a few big players, whoever they are, that's the aim of the DMA [Digital Markets Act]."

and damage young people's well-being.

Ms. Haugen, a 37-year-old data scientist from Iowa, has worked for companies including Google and Pinterest – but said in an interview on Sunday with CBS news show *60 Minutes* that Facebook was "substantially worse" than anything she had seen before.

'Massive child sex abuse in French Catholic Church'

Pope expresses 'great pain over the appalling findings'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

PARIS

French Catholic clergy sexually abused around 2,16,000 minors spanning seven decades since 1950, a "massive phenomenon" that was covered up by a "veil of silence", an independent commission said on Tuesday.

The commission's two-and-a-half-year inquiry and 2,500-page report prompted outrage as the Catholic Church in France and around the world faces a growing number of abuse claims and prosecutions.

Pope Francis expressed "great pain" over the "appalling" findings, a Vatican spokesman said, adding: "His thoughts turn first to the victims, with great sorrow for their wounds and gratitude for their courage in

speaking out." The report found that the "vast majority" of victims were pre-adolescent boys from a variety of social backgrounds. Their abusers were mainly priests, bishops, deacons and monks. When claims against lay members of the Church, such as teachers at Catholic schools are included, the number of child abuse victims climbs to 3,30,000 since 1950, the report found.

'Worrying report'

"These figures are more than worrying, they are damning and in no way can remain without a response," commission chief Jean-Marc Sauve told a press conference that unveiled the nearly 2,500-page report.

"Until the early 2000s, the Catholic Church showed a profound and even cruel

indifference towards the victims," Archbishop Eric de Moulins-Beaufort, president of the Bishops' Conference of France (CEF), which co-requested the report, expressed his "shame and horror" at the findings.

Mr. Sauve denounced the "systemic character" of efforts to shield clergy from sex abuse claims and urged the Church to pay reparations even though most cases are well beyond the statute of limitations for prosecution.

His commission detailed 45 recommendations to avoid further abuse, not least a requirement that priests inform prosecutors of any child abuse during the sacrament of confession – under Catholic doctrine priests are usually bound to absolute secrecy.

Tsai warns of 'catastrophic consequences' if Taiwan falls

'Can't let authoritarianism have upper hand over democracy'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

TAIPEI

Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen warned of "catastrophic consequences" if the island were to fall to China and vowed to "do whatever it takes" to guard against threats in an article published on Tuesday.

Taiwan lives under the constant threat of invasion by China, which views the self-ruled democratic island as its territory to be re-taken one day, by force if necessary. President Xi Jinping has described the seizure of Taiwan as "inevitable" and Beijing has ramped up military, diplomatic and eco-



Tsai Ing-wen

nomic pressure since Ms. Tsai's 2016 election, as she views the island as "already independent" and not part of a "one China". Nearly 150 Chinese warplanes had breached Taiwan's ADIZ since Friday

Some Afghan girls return to secondary school

The Taliban are trying to soften image

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

KABUL

Girls have returned to some secondary schools in a northern province of Afghanistan, Taliban officials and teachers said on Tuesday, but they remain barred from classrooms in much of the country.

The new hard-line government also announced at a stage-managed rally that some women civil servants have been called back to work and a backlog of salaries would be paid, signs the Islamists may be trying to soften their public image after 50 days in power.

A video posted by the group's spokesman Suhail Shaheen showed dozens of

schoolgirls in black, some wearing white head scarves and others with black face veils, sat in chairs waving Taliban flags.

'No policy change'

"Girls are going to high schools in Khan Abad, Kunduz Province," tweeted Doha-based Shaheen, who has been nominated as the new Afghan government's permanent representative to the United Nations.

But in Kabul, Education Ministry official Mohammad Abid said there had been no policy change from the Taliban's interim central government, telling AFP on Tuesday: "High schools still remain closed for girls."

Over 100 musicians flee Afghanistan

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

SYDNEY

More than 100 music students and teachers have fled Afghanistan in a nail-biting flight from Kabul following the Taliban's takeover of the country, their institute's founder and principal said.

Fearing a crackdown on music by the country's new leaders, 101 members of Afghanistan's top musical institute landed in Doha on Sunday, Ahmad Sarmast said.

The group, about half of them women and girls, plan to fly to Portugal with the support of the government there, said Mr. Sarmast, founder of the Afghanistan National Institute of Music.

Biden promised to defend disputed islands: Kishida

New Japan PM speaks to U.S. President

REUTERS

TOKYO

New Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said on Tuesday that he received a "strong" message from President Joe Biden about the United States' commitment to defending the disputed East China Sea islets, known as the Senkaku Islands in Japan.

In phone talks on Tuesday that lasted roughly 20 minutes, the allies also confirmed their cooperation towards achieving a free and open Indo-Pacific, Mr. Kishida told reporters.

The call came a day after Mr. Kishida called a parliamentary election for October 31, and vowed to bolster

the country's response to the pandemic. He was voted in by lawmakers last week as the nation's Prime Minister. "We confirmed that we would work together toward the strengthening of the Japan-U.S. alliance and free and open Indo-Pacific," Mr. Kishida said. "We also confirmed we would work closely on issues related to China and North Korea."

Especially, the President made a strong comment on the U.S. commitment to defend Japan, including the Article 5 of the U.S.-Japan security treaty," Mr. Kishida added, referring to U.S. defense obligations to Japan, which cover the uninhabited island.

Sri Lanka to reform terror law to keep EU trade deal

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's President vowed "immediate steps" to amend anti-terror legislation to retain a lucrative trade status with the European Union, his office said on Tuesday.

The EU had warned Sri Lanka that its generalised system of preferences (GSP Plus) – a favourable trade scheme to encourage developing nations to respect human rights – could be withdrawn if Colombo did not improve its rights record.

Gotabaya Rajapaksa told a visiting EU delegation on Monday that he had instructed the Justice Minister and the Attorney General to carry out urgent reforms to the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA). The law allows police to arrest and detain suspects for long periods. Confessions extracted from suspects can be used against them, and many have been held for decades without charge.

"Immediate steps will be taken to amend the necessary provisions of the PTA," Mr. Rajapaksa's office quoted him as saying. "President Rajapaksa also stated that the country would abide by the agreements on human rights in the world today."

Filming first movie in space

Russian actor and director reach ISS for 12-day mission

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

MOSCOW

A Russian actor and a director on Tuesday arrived at the International Space Station (ISS) in a bid to best the United States and film the first movie in orbit.

The Russian crew is set to beat a Hollywood project that was announced last year by *Mission Impossible* star Tom Cruise together with NASA and Elon Musk's SpaceX. Actor Yulia Peresild, 37, and film director Klim Shipenko, 38, took off from the Russia-leased Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan as scheduled. But they belat-

edly docked at the ISS after veteran cosmonaut Anton Shkaplerov switched to manual control.

The crew travelled in a Soyuz MS-19 spaceship for a 12-day mission at the ISS to film scenes for *The Challenge*. The movie's plot centres around a woman surgeon who is dispatched to the ISS to save a cosmonaut.

Blinken meets Macron to repair AUKUS damage

ASSOCIATED PRESS

PARIS

French President Emmanuel Macron and U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken met on Tuesday to explore potential cooperation in the Indo-Pacific and other areas as the Biden administration moved to repair damage caused to relations by excluding France from a new security initiative with Australia and the U.K., known as AUKUS.

A U.S. State Department official said the two discussed possible joint projects that could be announced by Mr. Macron and President Joe Biden when

they meet later this month in Europe at a date and specific venue that has yet to be decided.

The official didn't elaborate on what those projects might be, but said they would likely involve the Indo-Pacific and Western efforts to blunt China's growing there and elsewhere, NATO and other transatlantic objectives involving the European Union, and counterterrorism cooperation in Africa's Sahel region.

The official said Mr. Macron and Mr. Blinken had agreed to use the spat as an opportunity to "deepen and strengthen coordination".

SPORT

IN BRIEF

PKL Season 8 from Dec. 22

MUMBAI

The eighth season of Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) will begin on December 22 in Bengaluru. The player auctions were conducted between August 29 and 31 in Mumbai. Mashal Sports, the organisers, said keeping the health and safety of players in mind, this year the league will be held without spectators at a single venue, moving away from the traditional caravan format. PKL

Kenkre beats Kerala United

BENGALURU

Kenkre FC came from a goal down to defeat Kerala United 2-1 in a Group-B match of the 2021 I-League Qualifiers here on Tuesday. The results:

Kenkre FC 2 (Lester Fernandez 65, Ranjeet Singh Pandre 72) bt Kerala United FC 1 (Bujair Valiyath 48). Corbett FC 1 (Himanshu Patil 15) drew with ARA FC (Vladislav Nuriev 2).

The double delight of the well-hit six – all this and distance too



BETWEEN WICKETS

SURESH MENON

In the first 50 matches of the IPL so far, 586 sixes have been hit. That's over 11 sixes per match. You can either rejoice in this, or speak dourly about the quality of bats, the smallness of boundaries, the technique of batsmen or the pressure on bowlers. John Arlott called the six "the most companionable of shots," cutting the distance between player and spectator both literally and figuratively.

Now with the added pleasure of knowing exactly how far the ball travelled, distance, something incidental, shares the stage with the other aspects of the shot.

Great sight

The well-hit six can be an aural and visual treat at once. The deep and almost polite sound of the bat making contact and the sight of the ball against the blue sky curving its way to its urgent appointment beyond the ropes is

surely one of the pleasures of the game.

The first six I can remember was hit at our school grounds by a school hero named Gowrisankar, who had been picked for the Indian Schoolboys tour of Australia. I must have been seven or eight; the ball hit the tiled roof of the pavilion and rolled down gently. It was magical.

When you see some of the bats cricketers in the early part of the last century used, it is a wonder they cleared the boundary. Till 1910 in England, for a hit to be declared a six it had to clear the ground. Thus Albert Trott's famous shot which bounced off the roof of the Lord's pavilion fetched only a four. Many boundaries hit by him and others like Gilbert Jessop would count as six today.

Nayudu's hitting

Do modern batsmen hit higher and farther than their predecessors? C.K. Nayudu once hit a six at Chepauk, the ball landing near a coconut tree fifty yards from the ground. I saw Chris Gayle strike five sixes in an IPL over, but none looked to be travelling the same distance.

Nayudu's six-hitting – he hit 11 of them while making 153 against the MCC in 1926 – hastened the acceptance of India into Test cricket, so the six has played an important

role in India's history.

The most famous sustained hitting in first class cricket was recorded in 1911 by E.B. Alletson, who, batting for Notts against Sussex, scored 189 in 90 minutes, the last 142 of those in 40 minutes. One of his eight sixes carried 146 metres which should put into perspective some of the big hits in the IPL.

Arlott, who has written a book about that one innings, says at one point, "Alletson, after lunch, went out to bat at 2.15... (he) was out at 2.55 – which was probably the next time anyone at the ground looked at the clock."

In another place he quotes the cricketer C.P. Foley who watched the match thus: "Time was wasted in trying to prise one ball out of the new stand into whose soft wood Alletson had driven it, no chisel being available..." I wonder what today's commentators would have made of such hitting.

The IPL is not about hitting sixes, or at least not only about hitting sixes. The fear that what is too common and too easily done might somehow reduce the pleasure the shot brings, both to the player and the spectator, has proved to be largely unfounded.

When Brendon McCullum hit 13 sixes in the course of his 158 off 73 balls in the first-ever IPL match, he made a promise on behalf of

the format itself: Sixes are sexy,

Mumbai Indians crushes Rajasthan Royals to stay alive

Coulter-Nile, Neesham, Bumrah wreak havoc as RR crashes to 90/9; Ishan's unbeaten 25-ball 50 takes MI home in 8.2 overs

IPL 2021

SPORTS BUREAU

Mumbai Indians came up as clinical as it could get and must be hoping it didn't come just a little too late in the day.

In a must-win game, MI crushed Rajasthan Royals by eight wickets, with 11.4 overs to spare, at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium on Tuesday.

With the win, fashioned by their seamers who reduced RR to 90 for nine, Rohit Sharma's men have maintained their right to dream of a place in the playoffs, and by extension, a hat-trick of IPL titles; their fate might still not be in their own hands, however.

For now, though, they can reflect on one of their best nights this season. They won the toss and chose to bowl, and brought into the squad Ishan Kishan and James Neesham.

The Kiwi seamer took three for 12, including the prize wicket of RR skipper Sanju Samson. But it was his trans-Tasman neighbour Nathan Coulter-Nile who turned out to be the des-



Lights out! Dube, who had led RR's big chase against CSK, is castled by Neesham. ■ SPORTZPICS/IPL

troyer-in-chief. The Australian pacer took four for 14, his best IPL figures. There were two wickets for Jasprit Bumrah too. On a slow, low wicket, MI's steady attack gave little away. The RR bat-

ters made things easier for the MI bowlers, too. At 26 for no loss after three overs, with openers Evin Lewis and Yashasvi Jaiswal looking in good touch, RR seemed on its way to a good total. It was

to the dugout, though, that the RR batters seemed in a hurry to make their way back to. Jaiswal was the first to go, as he tried to cut Coulter-Nile and edged behind the stumps to Ishan. Lewis, the

top-scorer with 24, fell lbw to a ball from Bumrah that didn't bounce as high as he wanted it to. It was only the beginning of RR's horror sto-

SCOREBOARD

RAJASTHAN ROYALS

Evin Lewis lbw b Bumrah 24 (19b, 3x4, 1x6), Yashasvi Jaiswal c Ishan b Coulter-Nile 12 (9b, 3x4), Sanju Samson c Jayant b Neesham 3 (6b), Shivam Dube b Neesham 3 (8b), Glenn Phillips b Coulter-Nile 4 (13b), David Miller lbw b Coulter-Nile 15 (23b), Rahul Tewatia c Ishan b Neesham 12 (20b), Shreyas Gopal c Ishan b Bumrah 0 (1b), Chetan Sakariya c Coulter-Nile 6 (11b, 1x4), Kuldeep Yadav (not out) 0 (4b), Mustafizur Rahman (not out) 8 (7b, 1x6), Extras (w-2, nb-2); Total (for nine wkts. in 20 overs): 90.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-27 (Jaiswal, 3.4 overs), 2-41 (Lewis, 5.3), 3-41 (Sanju Samson, 6.1), 4-48 (Dube, 8.3), 5-50 (Phillips, 9.4), 6-71 (Tewatia, 14.6), 7-74 (Shreyas, 15.6), 8-76 (Miller, 16.4), 9-82 (Sakariya, 18.4).

ROYALS BOWLING

Mustafizur 2.2-0-32-1, Sakariya 3-1-36-1, Shreyas 1-0-9-0, Kuldeep 2-0-16-0.

Toss: MI; **MoM:** Coulter-Nile.

Mumbai Indians won by eight wickets with 11.4 overs to spare.

MUMBAI INDIANS BOWLING

Boult 4-0-24-0, Jayant 2-0-17-0, Bumrah 4-0-14-2, Coulter-Nile 4-0-14-4, Neesham 4-0-12-3, Pollard 2-0-9-0.

MUMBAI INDIANS

Rohit Sharma c Jaiswal b Sakariya 22 (13b, 1x4, 2x6), Ishan Kishan (not out) 50 (25b, 5x4, 3x6), Suryakumar Yadav c sub (Lomron) b Mustafizur 13 (8b, 3x4), Hardik Pandya (not out) 5 (6b); Extras (lb-1, w-1, nb-2); Total (for two wkts. in 8.2 overs): 94.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-23 (Rohit, 3.2), 2-56 (Suryakumar, 5.4).

RR: Oct. 7 vs KKR, Sharjah, 7.30 p.m. IST

MI: Oct. 8 vs SRH, Abu Dhabi, 7.30 p.m. IST

Next assignment

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INNINGS SCAN

RR	Dots	MI
66	22	
7	9	
2	5	
41/2	56/2	
4.50	RR	11.28

ry. Later, Ishan led MI's comfortable chase with an unbeaten 50 (25b, 5x4, 3x6).

I will come to Chennai and play my last game there'

— Dhoni hints at continuing in the IPL



Srinivasan and Dhoni... a strong bond. ■ FILE PHOTO: R. RAGU

S. DIPAK RAGAV meet all the fans," said Dhoni.

N. Srinivasan, Vice-Chairman and Managing Director, India Cements, along with CSK players Deepak Chahar, Shardul Thakur and Imran Tahir, spoke about the company's 75-year journey at the virtual function.

"Ever since the advent of Chennai Super Kings, India Cements has gone to another level. It is more likely to say India Cements is now known because of CSK as it is for being 75 years old."

"India Cements is a strong brand but CSK outbeat it in no time. For that, we have to thank only one person – captain M.S. Dhoni," said Srinivasan.

Kohli & Co. will be keen on a top-two finish

SRH, which is already out of the tournament, has little to play for

SPORTS BUREAU

Royal Challengers Bangalore will have an eye on a top-two finish when it takes on Sunrisers Hyderabad at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi on Wednesday.

Wins in the remaining two games – the second against table-topper Delhi Capitals – will take the Virat Kohli-led side to 20 points, and if Chennai Super Kings loses to Punjab Kings in its last game, second place, and with that two chances to qualify for the final, can be RCB's.

Fancying its chances

On current form, RCB can fancy its chances. It has won three matches on the bounce with contributions from nearly every member of the playing XI. Of these, Glenn Maxwell with three

Points Table

Team	M	W	L	PTS	NRR
Delhi Capitals (Q)	13	10	3	20	0.526
Chennai Super Kings (Q)	13	9	4	18	0.739
Royal Challengers (Q)	12	8	4	16	-0.157
Kolkata Knight Riders	13	6	7	12	0.294
Mumbai Indians	13	6	7	12	-0.048
Punjab Kings	13	5	8	10	-0.241
Rajasthan Royals	13	5	8	10	-0.737
Sunrisers Hyderabad (E)	12	2	10	4	-0.475

After the RR-MI match on Oct. 5

consecutive half-centuries, Harshal Patel with 26 wickets and Yuzvendra Chahal with 14 wickets have shone the brightest.

However, one facet RCB can look to improve is the scoring rate immediately after PowerPlay. Kohli and Devdutt Padikkal, excellent otherwise, have tended to slow down in the middle ov-

ers. Runs at a brisk pace can bring greater rewards.

Mohammed Siraj has claimed just one wicket from five matches in the UAE leg, but the bowling unit as a whole has held strong.

For SRH, already out of the tournament, there is little to play for. Green shoots ahead of the next season is all that Kane Williamson will

TODAY'S MATCH



ABU DHABI, 7.30 P.M. IST

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Played: 18

RCB 8 | SRH 10

In 2021

Played 1 | RCB 1 | SRH 0

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

be looking for.

There is hope in Umran Malik, who was brought in as a short-term replacement for T. Natarajan.

The 21-year-old Jammu & Kashmir cricketer's searing pace against Kolkata Knight Riders forced everyone to sit up and take notice. The next few matches will be revealing.

Speaking about it on Monday after his side's win over CSK, Ashwin said, "I think it is definitely not a personal battle or one-on-one battle."

"The incident that happened the other day was, I got really charged up because that was entirely untoward by both Tim Southee and Eoin Morgan

Not a personal battle: Ashwin on Morgan incident

S. DIPAK RAGAV

Delhi Capitals off-spinner D.R. Ashwin opened up about his verbal exchange with Eoin Morgan and Tim Southee during his team's match against Kolkata Knight Riders last week.

The exchange, which took place after Ashwin's dismissal, followed a sequence during which Ashwin and Rishabh Pant took a run off an overthrow that had deflected off the DC captain.

"I would not say anyone is wrong here, it is just that the sort of way the game was played in the 1940s cannot be the same way you want somebody else to apply it."

"My two cents to this is, I am sure you like to play the game the way you want to, but do not expect that [from others], if it is not within the laws of the game, and have a go at them for unnecessary reasons."

to give the batter a send-off who just got out.

"The worst situation was that I was not aware that the ball had hit Rishabh, so I just felt like that they already decided to have a go at me. That is one of the reasons I said that the words that were used were not in the right direction and not in the right space," he added.

Speaking about it on Monday after his side's win over CSK, Ashwin said, "I think it is definitely not a personal battle or one-on-one battle."

"The incident that happened the other day was, I got really charged up because that was entirely untoward by both Tim Southee and Eoin Morgan

Abhishek guides Delhi to compound title

ARCHERY

Y.B. SARANGI

JAMSHEDPUR

Seasoned archer Abhishek Verma overcame the odds of travelling across several time zones and contrasting weather conditions to help Delhi beat a youthful Andhra Pradesh side 230-227 in the final and win the compound men's team title in the 40th NTPC National archery championships at the Tata Archery Academy campus here on Tuesday.

Abhishek, who claimed a mixed team silver medal with V.Jyothi Surekha in the World championships in Yankton and competed in the World Cup Final in the same US city before returning on October 1, shot well to enable Delhi, the last edition's silver medallist, to come from behind and claim the crown.

In the women's final, Madhya Pradesh, consisting of Ragini Marko, Muskan Kiran and Srishita Singh, beat Punjab in a closely-contested final 232-230 to bag the team championship.

The results:

Compound: Team: Men: Final: Delhi bt Andhra Pradesh 230-227.

Third place: Maharashtra bt Haryana 223-229.

Women: Final: M.P. bt Punjab 232-230; **Third place:** All India Police bt Jharkhand 226-223.



Bull's-eye: The triumphant Delhi team of Aman, Kopalpreet, and Ritik. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

CSK opener is having a dream season in the IPL

S. DINAKAR

CHENNAI

He steps out of the crease as soon as the ball is released. And then times the ball to the far corners.

Watching the charge-down-the-wicket act, the bowler shortens his

TV PICKS

IPL 2021: Star Sports 1 & SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.
UEFA Nations League: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 12.30 a.m. (Thursday)

IN BRIEF



Thiem says he doesn't need wrist surgery

LONDON World No. 8 Dominic Thiem said he will not require surgery on a wrist injury that has ruled him out for the rest of the season. "I was in Belgium to decide if I need surgery on my wrist or not and luckily I have very, very good news. I won't need the surgery," the Austrian announced on Twitter on Monday. REUTERS



Barty opts out of BJK Cup finals

SYDNEY A return to court for Ash Barty this season looked less likely on Tuesday after the World No.1 was omitted from Australia's team for next month's Billie Jean King Cup finals in Prague. The Wimbledon champion, who returned to Australia after a third-round exit at the U.S. Open in September, led her country to the final of the last completed edition of the Fed Cup in 2019. REUTERS



MANCHESTER Former Manchester United midfielder Park Ji-sung appealed to the club's fans to stop singing a song that contains a racial stereotype about his native South Korea. "I know that United fans don't mean any offence to him for that song. But still I have to educate the fans to stop that word (dog meat), which is usually these days a racial insult to the Korean people," Park told the UTD podcast on Monday. AP

Sriram Balaji fails to qualify

MOULIERON-LE-CAPTIF (FRANCE) Sriram Balaji was beaten 6-2, 7-6(0) by top seed Zizou Bergs of Belgium in the first qualifying round of the €66,604 Challenger tennis tournament in France. Balaji will partner Divij Sharan in doubles.

The results: Qualifying singles (first round): Zizou Bergs (Bel) bt Sriram Balaji 6-2, 7-6(0).

PHF confident of taking part in Junior WC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA KARACHI

Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) is confident of participating in the FIH Junior World Cup to be held in Bhubaneswar from November 24 to December 5, after having missed the last edition of the event in India due to visa issues.

PHF President Brig (retd.) Khalid Sajjad Khokhar said that despite being informed late about the tournament by the world body (FIH), the federation has still managed to send all necessary documents to the Indian High Commission on time for smooth processing of visas for its contingent.

"We don't want to see a repeat of what happened last time when the Junior World Cup was held in India in 2016. We have now submitted all documents so there is enough time for the host country to issue us required visas," he said.

"We are confident this time there will be no glitches and our team will be given the best security for the World Cup," he said.

Naamya shoots sports pistol gold

Aishwary in record breaking spree in 50m rifle 3-position; India on top in medal's tally

SHOOTING

SPORTS BUREAU

LIMA

Fourteen-year-old Naamya Kapoor, competing internationally for the first time, won the women's sports pistol gold ahead of qualification topper Manu Bhaker in the Junior World Championship shooting here.

Naamya shot 36 in the final to beat Camille Jedrzejewski of France and Manu. The French girl had progressed for the fight for gold after winning the shoot-off against Manu, who had topped qualification with 587, one point ahead of Rhythm Sangwan.

Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar, meanwhile, shattered the world record in the final and national record in qualification of the 50m rifle 3-position event.

Olympian Aishwary shot 463.4 in the final as he outclassed Lucas Bernard Denis Krysz of France by 6.9 points for the gold. Aishwary had shot 1185 in qualifi-



High point: Naamya Kapoor and Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar's gold medal-winning performances added lustre to India's showing. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

cation (397 kneeling, 398 prone and 390 standing) to equal the junior world record and beat Sanjeev Rajput's national men's record of 1181 set in the 2019 Rio de Janeiro World Cup.

India is on top of the me-

dals table with eight gold, six silver and three bronze medals. US is in second with four gold, five silver and three bronze. Italy and Hungary follow with two gold each, while France, Belarus and Germany have won at



High point: Naamya Kapoor and Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar's gold medal-winning performances added lustre to India's showing. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

least one gold medal each. **The results:**

Men: 50m rifle 3-position:

1. Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar 463.4 (WRJ) 1185 (NR); 2. Lucas

Bernard Denis Krysz (Fra) 456.5 (1176); 3. Gavin Raymond Leigh Barnick (US) 446.6 (1168); 11.

4. Rhythm Sangwan 27 (586).

Women: 25m sports pistol:

1. Naamya Kapoor 36 (580); 2.

Camille Jedrzejewski (Fra) 33 (584); 3. Manu Bhaker 31 (587);

4. Rhythm Sangwan 27 (586).

Pandora Paapers?

Amul
Rich in taste!

daCunha/AB/772

National hockey camp for men resumes

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

BENGALURU

The Indian men's hockey team's chief coach Graham Reid says the focus of the ongoing National camp will be on setting future priorities after the historic bronze medal-winning show at the Tokyo Olympics.

"The boys are all excited to resume training and we are looking at our future engagements," Reid said.

After a break following the Olympics success, the players resumed training here on Monday. According to a release issued by SAI, all COVID-related protocols are

being followed in the camp.

"They are undergoing outdoor training in a different slot and are not mixing with other campers at SAI Bangalore. The revised SOPs of the SAI allows for outdoor training."

Assistant coach Piyush Dubey said the players are now re-focusing on the future engagements. "Our entire focus for the time being is on the Asian Champions Trophy in Dhaka in December this year and this month-long camp shall mainly target on improving the physical conditioning of the players," he said.

NEW DELHI ROUND-UP

Sonnet Club wins in Super Over

Sonnet Club defeated Yuzi Chahal Academy in Super Over in the Push Academy (u-13) league.

After the teams were tied at 169, Sonnet scored 14 runs in the Super Over before Yuzi Chahal Academy responded with 12.

In another match, Gary Dhingra (42 and 2/23) helped Croire Academy beat Arabin Academy by 59 runs.

The scores: Sonnet 165/9 (Mihir Doi Ganesh 48, Sarthak Chechi 4/23) bt Yuzi Chahal Academy 165 (Gangesh Mishra 32); Croire Academy 228/9 in 40 overs (Parth Singh 66, Gary Dhingra 42, Arnav Purai Arabin 4/43) bt Arabin Academy 169 in 39.1 overs (Aditya Thakur 35, Paarish Dhillon 3/21).

All-round show by Jatin Pasricha

Jatin Pasricha (5/18 and 42) guided P. B. Sports to a four-wicket victory over D. S. Academy in the second D. Force tournament.

The scores: Telefunken Club 367 in 40 overs (Abhimanyu Tanwar 134 laid the foundation of Telefunken Club's 233-run win over Ekdant Academy in the second D. Force tournament.

Abhimanyu Tanwar hits 134

Abhimanyu Tanwar's 134 laid the foundation of Telefunken Club's 233-run win over Ekdant Academy in the second D. Force tournament.

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Deadly spell by Mishra

Shantanu Mishra (4/5) made the decisive difference as D. C. Ragav Academy beat West Delhi by 53 runs in the 1st A. S. memorial tournament.

The scores: D. C. Ragav Academy 285/8 in 40 overs (Subodh Kumar 82, Wasiq Raja 70, Rahul Sood 3/57) bt West Delhi 232 in 39.5 overs (Divij Digari 68, Kush Nagpal 53 n.o., Shantanu Mishra 4/5).

Arpit Rana excels

Delhi u-19 player Arpit Rana (30 and 3/12) excelled in Airliner Academy's 112-run victory over Rajiv Rathore Academy in the 15th Hari Chand memorial (u-17) tournament.

The scores: Airliner Academy 206/8 in 40 overs (Krish Yadav 50, Arpit Rana 30, Raunak Chand 3/48) bt Rajiv Rathore Academy 94 in 30 overs (Ashveer Singh 30, Arjun Singh 4/19, Arpit Rana 3/12).

Indian women lose to Tunisia in friendly

FOOTBALL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

DUBAI

The Indian women's football team lost to lower-ranked Tunisia 1-0 in an international friendly match here on Monday.

The friendly matches are part of preparations for the AFC Asian Cup, which will be hosted by India in January-February.

The win against 100th ranked UAE on Saturday was India's first of the year. The Blue Tigress have been winless in the five previous matches this year.

The result: Tunisia 1 (Heuij 8) bt India 0.

India had beaten UAE 4-1

on Saturday in the team's first overseas friendly since Thomas Dennerby took charge. But the team produced a disappointing show against Tunisia.

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