



WINDOW TO THE PAST

Hyderabad's long & rocky affair with cheetahs

The spotted cats were kept as pets by the historic city's nobility as showpieces of royalty

NEWS » PAGE 11



26 killed in Kanpur as tractor trolley ferrying pilgrims falls into pond

NEWS » PAGE 11

First among equals: Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan

PROFILE » PAGE 15

Rohit's men take on South Africa in second T20I today

SPORT » PAGE 17



Travel time: New attractions such as Mata Ki Chauki and Ramlila shows, and special tourist packages to places across Jammu and Kashmir are being planned. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Religious tourism gets a push in J&K

The Union Territory administration is offering special packages for the ongoing Navaratri festival to extend the stay of Hindu pilgrims

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

Nearly 43% of tourists to the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir are pilgrims to two Hindu shrines – Vaishno Devi in Jammu and Amarnath in Kashmir. Their trips are usually short – an average pilgrim spends three or four days, arriving mostly by flight in Srinagar or Jammu, and then travelling by road to the base camps for Amarnath or at Katra, respectively.

Now, in the ongoing period of Navaratri, during which there's a significant surge in pilgrims to Vaishno Devi, the administration is trying to encourage visitors to stay longer and see more within J&K.

The new attractions include Mata Ki Chauki (singing of devotional songs in praise of the mother goddess), daily Ramlila shows, prabhat pheris (in Katra, morning

religious processions featuring artistes from different States), decorated 'Shiva-Parvati' tableaux with folk dances from different States, laser shows, garba dancing nights, devotional song competitions, and special tourist packages to sites across the Jammu and Kashmir divisions.

"We have tied up with tour operators and other stakeholders to offer special short packages," Amarjeet Singh, Special Secretary, J&K Tourism, told *The Hindu*. "As we have good air connectivity between Jammu and Srinagar, a number of flights are operating on a daily basis."

"We had a target of providing 70,000 beds for tourists. We are offering more homestays as they not only help people mingle with the local populace but also help reduce the carbon footprint," Mr. Singh said.

CONTINUED ON
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+

PUC certificate must to buy fuel in Delhi from October 25

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Motorists will not be able to buy fuel in Delhi without a valid Pollution Under Control (PUC) certificate from October 25, Environment Minister Gopal Rai announced on Saturday.

He said the government had released a public notice for suggestions on the move on March 3 and received responses from all the stakeholders.

"I chaired a meeting with officials of the Transport Department, Traffic Police, Food Supplies Department among others on September 29 where this decision was taken. The Transport Department will issue a notice on October 3 and people will have time till October 25 to get the PUC certificates of their vehicles," he said.

The Minister said all government departments

The Transport Department will issue a notice on October 3, said Minister Gopal Rai

have also been advised to get PUC certificates of their vehicles checked.

Every winter, air pollution spikes in the national capital and adjoining areas and vehicular emission is one of the key contributors to this problem.

The level of PM2.5 – a chief air pollutant – in Delhi has been recorded at the highest in over a month, according to Central Pollution Control Board data.

Also, Anand Vihar monitoring station has been recording "severe" air quality for the last four days. On Saturday evening, five other stations, including ITO and Jahangirpuri, recorded "poor" air quality.

In terms of experience, former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram and former Madhya Pradesh Chief Mi-

nister Digvijaya Singh are the two most serious contenders for the post. But given that Mr. Kharge, considered a favourite to be the party chief, is from South India, Mr. Singh may have an edge. The Congress may not want to have both the party president and the LoP from South India.

On Saturday, the race for the Congress president's post narrowed down to Mr. Kharge and Shashi Tharoor, with the nomination form of the third contender, K.N. Tripathi from Congress' Jharkhand unit, rejected because of discrepancies.

The Minister said all government departments

September GST revenues rise 26% amid imports surge

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections in September rose 26% year-on-year to ₹1,47,686 crore, with revenue from goods imports jumping 39% and that from domestic transactions and services imports yielding 22% more than in September 2021.

This is the seventh successive month that revenues from the indirect tax have remained above ₹1.4 lakh crore and marks the eighth such occasion since the GST regime was implemented in July 2017.

CONTINUED ON
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PM launches 5G, calls it start of a new era

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

Mobile phone users in the country will soon be able to experience ultra high-speed Internet using 5G wireless technology, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi launching the next-generation mobile network on Saturday.

"Today, on behalf of the country, and the country's telecom industry, 130 crore Indians are getting a wonderful gift in the form of 5G. 5G is a knock on the doors of a new era in the country. It is the beginning of an infinite sky of opportunities," Mr. Modi said while launching the service at the India Mobile Congress.

Mukesh Ambani, CMD,



Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the India Mobile Congress in New Delhi on Saturday. PTI

Reliance Industries Ltd.; Sunil Bharti Mittal, chairman, Bharti Enterprises; and Kumar Mangalam Birla, chairman, Aditya Birla Group, shared the stage with Mr. Modi and committed to a speedy roll-out of "affordable" 5G services in the country.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 9

IN BRIEF



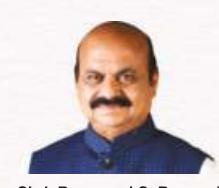
Indore adjudged cleanest city sixth year in a row

NEW DELHI
Indore has been adjudged the cleanest city of India for the sixth year in a row, while Madhya Pradesh is the cleanest State in the country. Surat is the second cleanest city and Navi Mumbai ranks a close third in the category of cities with a population more than a lakh.

NEWS
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Shri Anand Singh, Hon. Minister for Tourism, Environment & Ecology, participating in a Yoga session.

Kharge urges Sonia to pick new Leader of Opposition in RS

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

Hours after filing his nomination form for the Congress presidential election on Friday, Mallikarjun Kharge had sent in his resignation from the post of the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha to party chief Sonia Gandhi.

Though Mr. Kharge did so in keeping with the "one man, one post" principle, a senior person in his office said he wanted Ms. Gandhi to choose the party's leader in the Rajya Sabha.

"He [Mr. Kharge] doesn't want to choose his own successor when he becomes the party president. So, he wants Ms. Gandhi to choose the next leader as soon as possible," the source said.

In terms of experience, former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram and former Madhya Pradesh Chief Mi-



Mallikarjun Kharge

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

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CORRIGENDUM -02							
PR Ref. No.	277327						
NIT No.	JUIDCO/NIT/KCTOKTC/RNC-500						
Tender ID	2022_UDD_61344_1						
Name of the work	"Widening of existing road to 4 lane road with median from Kutchery Chowk to Kantatoli Chowk via Circular Road in Ranchi Jharkhand Length 2.772 Kms"						
Sl. No.	Clause No./Reference No.	As per uploaded SBD					
		As per Corrigendum -02					
1.	Page no. 3 of SBD (Notice Inviting Tender)	Last Date & Time for Submission of Online Bids	06.10.2022- Time 17.00 hours	Last Date & Time for Submission of Online Bids	10.10.2022- Time 17.00 hours		
		Last Date & Time of Submission of EMD and Tender fee (HardCopies)	07.10.2022-Time 17.00 hours	Last Date & Time of Submission of EMD and Tender fee (HardCopies)	11.10.2022-Time 17.00 hours		
		Date & Time of technical bid opening	07.10.2022- Time 17.30 hours	Date & Time of technical bid opening	11.10.2022- Time 17.30 hours		

Sd/-
Project Director (Technical)
JUIDCO LTD

PR 279170 Urban Development (22-23)_D

HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT e-Procurement Notice INVITATION FOR BID (IFB)

The Executive Engineer, Shimla, Division No.1, HPPWD, Shimla-3, H.P on behalf of Governor of H.P invites the item rate bids, in electronic tendering system from appropriate class of HPPWD/H.P Jal Shakti Vibhag , the contractors registered with any other State/Central Govt., Departments/Corporations/PSUs and Principal manufacturer of pothole repair machine and having executed similar work, the eligible class of contractors registered with HPPWD for the works as detailed in the table.

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost	Starting Date for downloading of Bid	Earnest Money	Deadline for submission of the Bid.	Time Allowed	Pre-bid meeting date
1.	Repairing of pot holes work with auto mechanized machine using Cold mix Spray/ technology on various roads under HPPWD 4 th Circle Shimla (Shimla division No.1, Rural Division Dhami and Theog).	129040739/-	07-10-2022	2580900/-	21-10-2022	730 days	D & C

The bidders are advised to note other details of tender such as scope of services , eligibility criteria and additional condition of contact from the department website www.hptender.gov.in
The intending bidder are also advised to send queries/ clarification (if any) on email hp-shi3@nic.in and ee-smi1-hp@nic.in by on 14-10-2022 at 10:00 AM.
The Executive Engineer reserves the right to accept/reject any tender/application or all tenders without assigning any reason.

Executive Engineer,
Shimla Division No. 1, HP PWD, Shimla-3 H.P.
On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh.

HP / 4642/22-23

Boy sodomised by friends dies in hospital

Two accused apprehended, investigated by IJB; third accused absconding; they should not be spared, says victim's father

The Hindu Bureau NEW DELHI

Days after a 10-year-old boy was sexually assaulted by three of his friends in north-east Delhi's Seelam-

pur area, he succumbed to his injuries on Saturday, the police said.

The victim and the accused were neighbours and were of the same age group, the police said.

The mother said that her son had initially lied to her about his injuries out of fear, but had later revealed

about the incident that happened on September 18. He was admitted to Lok Nayak Hospital on September 22.

The victim's mother had recorded a video of him narrating his ordeal, in which he says the accused sexually assaulted him, hit him with a brick and an iron rod, threw him off the terrace of a house. "The accused need to be behind bars. They should not be spared due to their age," the victim's father said.

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- NOIDA, Nirula's Sec-2, Near Metro Station, Sec-15, Noida, UP
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CIN : L93090TN1956G01003507 Website : www.nlcindia.in

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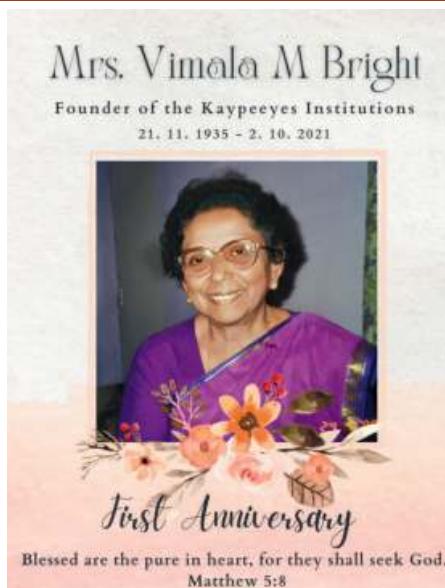
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OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES



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Kumaraguru College of Liberal Arts and Science | Vanavarayar Institute of Agriculture
NIA Schools | Sakthi Institute of Information and Management Studies
Nachimuthu Gounder Rukmiammal Higher Secondary School

Veteran CPI(M) leader Kodiyeri Balakrishnan succumbs to cancer

G. Anand
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)] Polit Bureau member Kodiyeri Balakrishnan, the 70-year-old veteran communist leader from Kannur who steered the party in Kerala for three consecutive terms as State secretary, died on Saturday. Doctors who treated him at Apollo Hospital in Chennai attributed the cause to complications arising from pancreatic cancer. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and his Cabinet colleagues have cancelled their European tour to mourn the leader.

In December 2021, at a meeting of the Trivandrum Oncology Club, Balakrishnan had revealed that he was diagnosed with cancer in 2019 during a routine diabetes check. Later, the CPI(M) sent him to MD Anderson Cancer Centre in Houston, U.S., for advanced treatment.

Balakrishnan rarely let the ravages of the disease obstruct his work. Gruelling chemotherapy sessions and a bleak prognosis



Kodiyeri Balakrishnan

failed to dampen his spirit. He executed his political duties even when steeped in chronic physical discomfort. Later, the party elected M.V. Govindan State secretary in his stead.

Balakrishnan's tenure as State party chief saw the CPI(M) winning two successive terms. Left supporters had hailed the achievement as a watershed in Kerala politics.

They had credited Balakrishnan and Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan for authoring the victory against heavy odds.

He was elected to the Kerala Assembly five times in 1982, 1987, 2001, 2006, and 2011 from the Thalassery constituency.



THE BINGE PINCH: WHY EATING TAKES A BEATING



CPI leader in Kerala calls for Left unity

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

influence of the BJP and the RSS in the country.

He also urged the Congress to undertake a course correction and revise its policies in order to resolve its internal turmoil.

Mr. Raja accused the RSS of attempting to impose a monolithic and illiberal socio-political order on the citizens of the country.

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SUNDAY, OCT. 02
RISE 06:15 SET 18:07
RISE 12:42 SET 22:56
MONDAY, OCT. 03
RISE 06:15 SET 18:05
RISE 13:45 SET 00:00
TUESDAY, OCT. 04
RISE 06:16 SET 18:04
RISE 14:40 SET 00:00

Delhi Weather max min
Delhi City 35 24
Safdarjung 35 24
Palam 34 25

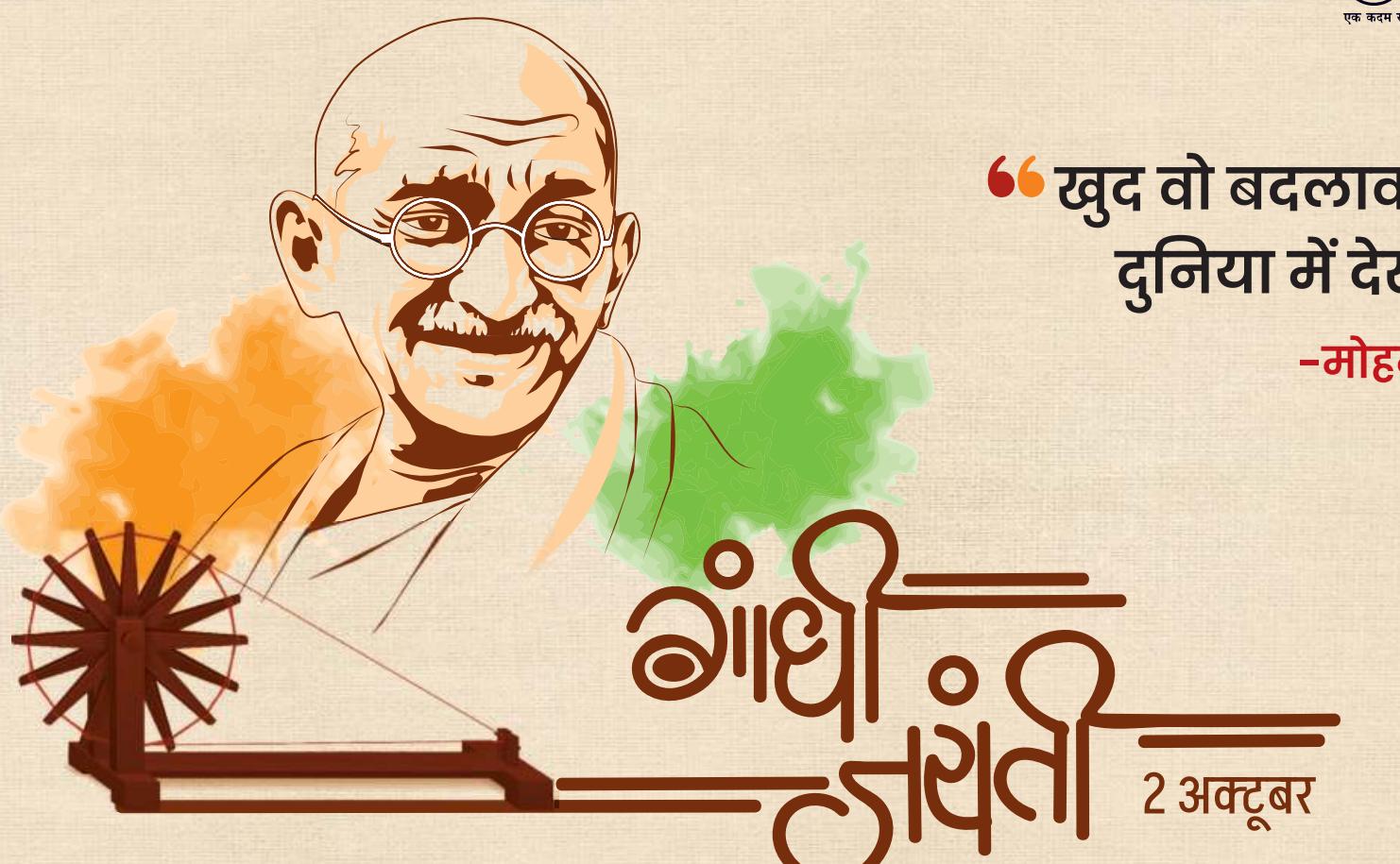
Delhi Palam Today 35°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be pleasant and misty. Day will be warm and humid. Night also will be pleasant with mist.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow 35°C A dry weather to continue. A pleasant and misty morning turns warm and uneasy day. Night will be pleasant and misty.

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—मोहनदास करमचंद गांधी



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AGAMUDAYAR 27/160 Fair Sadhayam Raghu Kethu CTS 8 L PA Seeks Suitable Bride Groom from Mudaliar/Vellarai. Ct: 8639158928/ 994231785

VANNIYAR 28 PhD, minagaseriam midhunam meenam lagnam, seeks appropriate groom. Contact: 979185205

THULUVALLALA, Pooradam- 187, BA., BL(Home) M.L., employed at MNC Chennai seeks Educated Good looking Groom. Ct. 9381048662

HINDU NADAR 25/154 Swathi Fair BDS Doctor, Coimbatore Seeks Suitable MBBS, BDS, BE Groom Age 25-27years. Ct: 9944691730, 9159036165. Email: rajashanthi15@gmail.com

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TAMIL

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Hindu SC Adidravida, BDS, 23, 158 cm Kadangan, Poosam, preferred MBBS/Group 1 officer from Adidravida Community. Send details to Email: arajagopal.mmtc196@gmail.com

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CHRISTIAN PROTESTANT 27/180cm, BE, M.B.A, Technology Analyst, Chennai. Seeks Employed/ BDS, Ph: 9962533637. Mail: manukishor156@gmail.com

AGAMUDAIA MUDALIAR, divorce, 40, Mirugasiridam, 170cm, Slim, Ph.D, Govt. Job. 1.10 lakh rom, 790455083.

VANNIYAR SEEKS Bride: 29 Yrs/ 175 CM BE Working Chennai & Sister married & slightly having little bent in hand Contact: 9486515022 & 63030967708

VANNIARI, 43/177 MA, MBA, 1 Lakh P.M., Unmarried, CNB. Seeks Good Looking Educated Bride. 73586 98406

Agamudaya Mudaliyar, 36, Pichavaram, 165, BE, SWE, Chennai 16.5 LPA seeks Employed SWE Bride Contact: 9487624807.

Gokul 20 BE Mech Valluvan Sathyam Kumar working at Jindal Steel Works Salem both Parents are Govt Staff Single Son Coimbatore Contact: 9442294411- Evening 7-9.

TAMIL

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BRIDES & GROOMS WANTED

COSMOPOLITAN

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SUNNI MUSLIM Boy(27yrs) BE MS working in USA seeks fair bride BE MS(UA) or BE Ct. 91765 00652

DIVORCEE, MUSLIM, 39 Professor

No Parents, Kids, Wanted Never Married bride Call: 9342585072

BRIDES & GROOMS WANTED

COSMOPOLITAN

Alliance require for Sunni Muslim girl, extremely Beautiful, 23yrs, 163 cm, Pursuing MBBS (Final Year). Send complete details newrudelobp@gmail.com

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PRINCIPAL: 303, TAN

“ I will strive for an India in which even the poorest of the poor shall feel that this is their country- a country where their voice matters. ”

– Mahatma Gandhi

Gandhi Jayanti 2nd October



"Gandhi Ji envisioned a country where every child receives a good quality education, every sick person receives proper treatment, and all people irrespective of caste and religious beliefs, live in harmony. We are all fully committed to making Gandhiji's dreams a reality."

– Arvind Kejriwal
Chief Minister, Delhi





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ASHOK GEHLOT
Chief Minister, Rajasthan

“

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Rajasthan now an
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for first 3 years

New MSME policy aims to generate employment for
1 lakh people



invest.rajasthan.gov.in

Department of Industries & Commerce,
Government of Rajasthan



Confederation of Indian Industry

Rajasthan Samvad



e-Procurement Cell JHARKHAND STATE BUILDING CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION LTD., RANCHI					
Short Term e-Procurement Notice					
Date : 30/09/2022					
Sl. No	Tender Reference No.	Work Name	Amount in (Rs)	Completion Time	Call No.
1	JSBCL/11 2/2022-23	Construction of 500 Capacity Multipurpose Auditorium at Eklavaya Model Residential School under Pakur, Dumka, Godda, and Sahibganj District	Rs. 9,44,51,118/-	11 Months	2nd 275390
2	JSBCL/11 3/2022-23	Construction of 500 Capacity Multipurpose Auditorium at Eklavaya Model Residential School under Saraikele, East Singhbhum and West Singhbhum District	Rs. 7,08,38,339/-	10 Months	2nd 275390
3	JSBCL/11 4/2022-23	Construction of 500 Capacity Multipurpose Auditorium at Eklavaya Model Residential School under Giridih and Chatra District	Rs. 4,72,25,559/-	09 Months	2nd 275390
4	JSBCL/11 5/2022-23	Construction of 250 Capacity Multipurpose Auditorium at Ashram Model Residential School under Ramgarh, Bokaro and Hazaribagh District	Rs. 4,95,86,172/-	09 Months	2nd 275587
5	JSBCL/11 6/2022-23	Construction of 250 Capacity Multipurpose Auditorium at Ashram Model Residential School under Garhwa, Palamu and Latehar District	Rs. 4,95,86,172/-	09 Months	2nd 275587
6	Date of Publication of Tender on Website	07.10.2022 at 11:00 AM			
7	Start Date of Submission of Bids	07.10.2022 at 11:00 AM			
8	Last Date/Time of Submission of Bids	31.10.2022 at 05:00 PM			
9	Last Date/Time of Submission of Bid Security Money and Tender Fee	02.11.2022 upto 11:30 AM			
10	Date/Time of opening of Bid	02.11.2022 at 12:00 PM			
11	Name & Address of office Inviting tender	e-Procurement Cell, Jharkhand State Building Construction Corporation Ltd., Ranchi.			
12	Helpline Number of e-procurement Cell	0651-2446259			
13	e-mail ID	jsbcc@jharkhand@gmail.com			

Any change can be seen on Website <http://Jharkhandtenders.gov.in>.
Any other information can be seen on <http://Jharkhandtenders.gov.in>.
PR 279222 Jharkhand State Building
Construction Corp. Ltd. (22-23)_D

Government of Himachal Pradesh Jal Shakti Vibhag Office of the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division Dharampur Bharari District Mandi (HP) Invitation for Bids

NIT No. HPSHIVA-E-tender-CWJ/IRG/MND-01/2022-23
Date: 30 September 2022

Loan Title: Himachal Pradesh Subtropical Horticulture, Irrigation and Value Addition Project (HPSHIVA)

Contract Package No: HPSHIVA/OCB-CWJ/IRG/MND-01/2022-23

Deadline for Submission of Bids: 29-10-2022

- The Government of India has applied for financing from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of **Himachal Pradesh Subtropical Horticulture, Irrigation and Value Addition Project (HP-SHIVA Project)**. Part of this financing will be used for payments under the Contract named above. Bidding is open to Bidders from eligible source countries of ADB.
- Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Vibhag, Division Dharampur Bharari, Govt. of Himachal Pradesh** ("the Employer") invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for the construction and completion of **"Providing Irrigation Facility under HP SHIVA Project for Chauntra, Gopalpur and Dharampur Blocks, District Mandi (Himachal Pradesh)** ("the Works").

Contract Title	Completion Time (Months)	Bid Security (INR)	Date of Issue of Bid Document
Providing Irrigation Facility under HP SHIVA Project for Chauntra, Gopalpur and Dharampur Blocks, District Mandi (Himachal Pradesh)	Execution = 18	Rs. 85,50,000	30-09-2022
3. Open competitive bidding will be conducted in accordance with ADB's Single-Stage: Two-Envelope bidding procedure and is open to all Bidders from eligible countries as described in the Bidding Document.			
4. Only eligible Bidders with the following key qualifications defined in the Bidding Document may participate in this bidding:			
Qualifying Criteria	Minimum Value (INR)		
1. Average Annual Construction Turnover(AACT) for the last Five (5) Financial Years [Fy's 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21]	Equal to or more than INR 56,99,79,000		
2. Must demonstrate availability of Financial Resources (less its financial obligations for current contract commitments), meets or exceeds the total requirement for the subject contract, as detailed below;			
Sole Bidder	INR 7,12,48,000		
i) For JV: One Partner must meet or exceed its required share of 40%	INR 2,84,99,200		
ii) For JV: Each Partner must meet or exceed its required share of 25%	INR 1,78,12,000		
iii) The combined financial resources of the Joint Venture must	INR 7,12,48,000		
3. Contracts of Similar Size and Nature: Have participated in /executed at-least one contract that has been successfully or substantially completed within last 7 years, as detailed below;			

The bidder must have completed one similar work costing not less than the amount equal to **INR 34,19,88,000** of the estimated cost.
OR
The bidder must have completed two similar works costing each not less than the amount equal to **INR 21,37,42,000** of the estimated cost.

Definition of similar work means "Water Related Project" which includes:
1.Pumping system including all electrical and mechanical components.
2.Piping work or water conveyance system
3.Desilting System/ Water Treatment Plant/ Water storage/ Retaining structure.
4.Head work/River intake/ Percolation well/ Jack Well / tube-well/ infiltration gallery.
5. Pump Houses/ Building works

4. Construction Experience in Key activities (2.4.2 A & B)

- Providing, laying and jointing of MS pipeline for water supply or irrigation projects of diameter 100mm or above for minimum pipe length of **35km** in a single contract.
- Experience of construction, installation and commissioning of atleast one Reinforced Cement Concrete Water Storage Tank/OHT/ Water Reservoir in water supply or irrigation projects having a minimum capacity of **100,000 Liters**, in a single contract.
- Experience of construction, installation and commissioning of check dam/ head weir/ Intake well in water supply or irrigation projects
- Experience of commissioning SCADA system including all mechanical and electrical works in single contract of a water supply or irrigation project, should include water distribution pipeline and water reservoir/OHT/Water Storage.
- To obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents, Bidders should contact: on working days (from 10.00 to 17.00 hours -IST);
Sh. Rakesh Prasher
Executive Engineer Cum Project Manager,
Jal Shakti Vibhag, Division Dharampur Bharari, Himachal Pradesh
Tel.: 1905-251032, Email: eeiphdpr@gmail.com, ZIP code: 173209
- To download the bidding documents in English, eligible Bidders should

- The bid document for the work of **"Providing Irrigation Facility under HP SHIVA Project for Chauntra, Gopalpur and Dharampur Blocks, District Mandi (Himachal Pradesh)"** shall be available online on the e-Government Procurement System (e-GPS) portal <https://htenders.gov.in> from 30-09-2022 (from 04:00 PM onwards), till **29-10-2022**, (up to 11:00 AM). The bidding document will appear under the 'Latest Active Tenders' tab, in the portal. The Bidder can download the bid document only during the date & time mentioned above, after which the same will be removed from the list of Latest Active Tenders. The bidders would be responsible for ensuring that any addenda available on the website is also downloaded and incorporated.
- The bidders will pay a nonrefundable "Bid Document" fee of **INR 10,00/-** (Indian Rupees Ten Thousand Only), as given in point 7(e) below.
- Submission your bid

- For submission of the bid, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the Certifying Authorities authorised by Government of India for issuing DSC. Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-procurement in this Project, may obtain the same from the website: <https://htenders.gov.in>. Any bidder not having the DSC may obtain the same from NIC on payment of requisite fees, before the bid submission deadline.
- Bids must be submitted online on <https://htenders.gov.in> on or before **29-10-2022**, up to **11:00AM**and the 'Technical Part' of the bids will be opened publicly online on the same day at **11:30 AM (IST)**. The 'Financial Part' shall remain unopened in the e-procurement system until the public Bid opening for the financial part. Any bid or modifications to bid (including discount) received outside e-procurement system will not be considered.
- All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security as specified in paragraph 2 and shall have to be valid for **28 days** beyond the validity of the bid. Procedure for submission of bid security is described in 7(d).
- The Bidder shall furnish a bid security for the amount as mentioned in the table above, using the instruments specified in ITB 19.3 and submit it online, on or before the bid submission deadline given in point 7(b) above.
- The cost of bid document fee as shown above shall be submitted through online mode (e-payment) through gateway.
- Technical Bids will be opened immediately after the deadline for bid submission in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
- The Employer will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of bids.
- Pre-bid meeting will be held at **Office of the Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti Vibhag, Zone Hamirpur, Govt. of Himachal Pradesh**, at **01:00 PM (IST)** on **12-10-2022**.The interested bidders may mail their request for "Invitation" to participate in the meeting at E-mail Id: ce_hamirpur@gmail.com and may join the meeting using the invite.
- Any "Corrigendum" and / or "Addendum", Clarification/s, if issued, will only be uploaded in the Employers' website: <https://htenders.gov.in>

The tender forms and other detailed conditions can be obtained from the website www.htenders.gov.in

Executive Engineer cum Project Manager,
Jal Shakti Vibhag, Division Dharampur Bharari,
Government of Himachal Pradesh

HP /4649/22-23

THE HINDU
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THE COMMISSIONERATE OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE SERVICES

5th Floor, Arogya Soudha, Magadi Road, Bengaluru - 560023.
Phone No: 9449843438, E-mail: deputydirector104@gmail.com

No: SNO/104/A S/01/Covid Helpline/2022-23 Date: 26-09-2022
E-TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement)

Commissionerate of Health and Family Welfare Services invites tender from service provider with necessary documents for **Operation and Maintenance of 100 -Seaters Covid Helpline**.

The detailed notification regarding eligibility and other details can be obtained by logging on to www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in. The tender document can be downloaded through e-Procurement Portal from **01-10-2022 onwards** and Last Date for Receipt of Tenders is **03-11-2022 on or before 5.30 PM**.

Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned during the office hours **from 10.00 AM to 5.30 PM**.

Sd/- Director
Health and Family Welfare Services,
Bengaluru.
DIPR/CP/2491/Advert/2022-23

Ropeways and Rapid Transport System
Development Corporation HP Limited
(A State Government Undertaking)
US Club, Shimla - 1
Phone No. 0177-2811001, 2811004



NOTICE INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The Deputy General Manager, RTDC on behalf of Governor of H.P invites the online bids on PPP mode for the under mentioned work from the eligible bidders.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (in Rs.)	Bid Security (in Rs.)	Tender Fee (in Rs.)	Concession Period
1.	Development of Commercial complex & Car Parking on HRTC land at Una, Distt. Una H.P. On PPP mode (DBBOT) in Pre Engineered Technology	47.00 Cr	47.00 Lakh	+18% GST	30 Years including two years of Construction Period.

Availability of bid document and mode of submission: The Bid document shall be available on website <https://htenders.gov.in> & per key dates schedule provided as under. The interested bidders may download the Tender document and other instruction can be downloaded from HP Tender website <https://htenders.gov.in>. The tender document will also be uploaded on www.rtdchp.org/ & www.tsmsdasm@gmail.com

Key Dates:-	
1.	Date of online Publication
2.	Downloading of e-tender start date & Time
3.	Last date for receiving queries
4.	Pre-Bid Meeting (online)
5.	Authority response to queries latest by
6.	Last Date of Downloading of e-tender
7.	Physical Submission of tender document including cost of tender fee & Bid Security
8.	Date of Opening of Technical Bids

Download Bid Document should not be tampered and if any such tampering is detected before or after the opening of bids, his tender will be rejected/ cancelled. Detailed drawings/specification, terms and conditions can be seen in the bid document.

Deputy General Manager,
Ropeway & Rapid Transport System
Development Corporation, H.P. Ltd., US Club, Shimla-1
E-Mail: dgmrtdchp@gmail.com

Sealed item rate tenders on PWD form No. 6 & 8 are invited/re-invited by the **Executive Engineer, Electrical Division, HP PWD Una** on behalf of the Governor of H.P. for the following works from approved and eligible Contractors enlisted with HPPWD (Electrical) in appropriate class/authorized dealers so as to reach in the office of undersigned on **12.10.2022 up to 10.30 AM** and will be opened on the same day at **11.00 A.M.** in the presence of the intending contractors or their authorized representatives. The tender forms can be had from the office of the **Executive Engineer, Electrical Division, HP PWD, Una** cash payment (**Non Refundable**) on dated **10.10.2022** during office hours i.e. **1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.**. The applications for obtaining the tender forms will be received on **10.10.2022 up to 1:00 P.M.** The earnest money in the shape of fresh **FDRNSC**, duly pledged in favour of the undersigned must be submitted with the application for issue of tender form. The **earnest money should be submitted separately for each work**. The copy of Valid entitlement and renew certificate alongwith GST No., Pan No., and EPF No. shall be attached with application form. The offer of the tender shall remain open **75 days** from the date of opening of the tenders. The undersigned reserves the right to reject/cancel the tenders without assigning any reason:-

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost. (In Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Time limit	Cost of form (In Rs.)	Eligible class of contractor

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From Page One**Religious tourism gets a push in J&K**

The J&K Tourism Department has also lined up an all-India devotional song competition, cultural programmes, and multimedia exhibitions.

Free horse rides and battery car services are provided for people who are unable to walk all the way up to the Vaishno Devi cave shrine. RFID tags ensure pilgrims' safety. Priority *darshans* are arranged for the physically challenged. The Amarnath Yatra has also seen arrangements on a grand scale. The number of tents *en route* to the shrine were increased from 29,000 in 2018 to 70,000 this year. Six base hospitals have also been established for the first time, and COVID hospitals with ICUs were set up at Pahalgam, Batalal and Sonamarg. Patnitop, Sansasar and Bhaderwah in the Jammu division could become the go-to places that feed off the Vaishno Devi circuit. Pilgrims who complete their yatra can consider whistle-stop tours of Srinagar, Gulmarg and Pahalgam in Kashmir. "A majority of pilgrims who undertake pilgrimages to Amarnath and Vaishno Devi are 30 years or older in age," Anwar Shirpurwala, secretary general, Confederation of Hospitality, Technology and Tourism Industry, said.

Sources in the J&K Tourism Department said the highest-ever footfall to date was 1.6 crore, and the administration expects by the end of the year, the number will cross 2 crore. Around 3.65 lakh pilgrims visited the Amarnath shrine and till September 27, Vaishno Devi has had 65 lakh visitors.

PM launches 5G, calls it beginning of a new era

Mr. Mittal announced the launch of Bharti Airtel's 5G services in eight cities, and said it planned to cover the entire country by March 2024.

Mr. Ambani said Reliance Jio would begin the roll-out this Deepavali and committed to "deliver 5G to every town, every taluka, and every tehsil of our country" by December 2023. Mr. Birla added that Vodafone Idea would begin the journey to roll out 5G services soon.

Mr. Modi said while India was dependent on other countries for 2G, 3G and 4G technologies, with 5G, India had created a new history and was setting a global standard in telecom technology for the first time.

"2G ki niyat and 5G ki niyat mein yehi farak hai (this is the difference between the intentions during 2G era and 5G era now)," he said.

GST revenues rise 26% amid imports surge

"The growth in GST revenue till September 2022 over the same period last year is 27%, continuing to display very high buoyancy," the Union Finance Ministry said. On a month-on-month basis, September's revenues were 2.84% higher than the gross GST collected in August.

While Central GST collections accounted for just ₹25,271 crore in September, State GST inflows contributed ₹31,813 crore, and Integrated GST brought in ₹80,464 crore, over half of which came from import. GST Compensation Cess collections were ₹10,137 crore.

Revenues from domestic transactions grew 22%, but there were significant variations in the trend seen across States. Revenues jumped 67% in Bihar, 35% in Goa, 33% in Haryana, 32% in Delhi and 29% in Maharashtra. Kerala and West Bengal (27%), Karnataka (25%) and U.P. (23%) also grew faster than the national average, but Andhra with 21% growth, followed by 16% in Gujarat, 13% in Odisha and 10% in Tamil Nadu, lagged behind. September 20 marked the second highest single-day GST collection of ₹49,453 crore, the Ministry said.

CBI files case against 16 in Bengal teacher hiring scam

The Hindu Bureau

KOLKATA

The CBI has filed a chargesheet against 16 persons, including former Minister Partha Chatterjee, in the West Bengal School Service Commission recruitment scam.

Santi Prasad Sinha, adviser at the panel; Samarjit Acharya, then programme officer; Saumitra Sarkar, Chairman; and Ashok Kumar Saha, then assistant secretary; and Kalyanmoy Ganguly, then president of the adhoc committee of the State Board of Secondary Education, have been named in the chargesheet filed before the special CBI court. Mr. Sinha, Mr. Saha, Mr. Ganguly and Mr. Chatterjee have been in judicial custody.

BJP depriving all State govts. of their power, rights: Stalin**The Hindu Bureau**

CHENNAI

to make it "truly federal from the current status of quasi-federal" and said, "We shall not stop until it is achieved..." He reiterated that India is not a single government but a union of States. "Calling India a union is not wrong. Even the Constitution defines India as a union. After I started using the term some viewed it as anti-national. They cannot even digest a term in the Constitution," he said. He also made it clear that India could be saved only by protecting the States. "Protecting a State means protecting the language of the State; protecting the sub-national groups that live in a large number; protecting the culture and its rights. Uniformity is not unity."

Addressing a conference on 'Federalism and Centre-State Relations' organised in Thiruvananthapuram, in connection with the conference of the Kerala unit of the CPI, he said, "We are speaking not only for the States where the DMK and the CPI(M) are in power. We speak for the BJP-ruled States too. They are also in danger." He made a case for amending the Constitution

trees felled in the illegally cleared area based on expertise and technology available with the organisation. The Forest Survey Institute was also tasked to scan the area in and around the Pakhru Tiger Safari for illegal felling and to analyse any area within the Kalagarh Tiger Reserve.

The FSI was asked by the Uttarakhand Forest Department to access the status of illegal felling in and around the Pakhru Tiger Safari. They were asked to estimate the number of

trees felled in the illegally cleared area based on expertise and technology available with the organisation. The Forest Survey Institute was also tasked to scan the area in and around the Pakhru Tiger Safari for illegal felling and to analyse any area within the Kalagarh Tiger Reserve.

Talking to *The Hindu*, Vinod Singh, Principal Chief Conservator of Forest and Head of the Forest Force, accepted that the FSI found that 6,421 trees were illegally cut. He said the report has not been accepted so far. "After a preliminary examination of this report, there are several technical issues which need to be resolved before this report to be accepted. There are several serious and important questions on the tabula-

Over 6,000 trees illegally cut for tiger safari project in Corbett Reserve, says FSI report**Ishita Mishra**

NEW DELHI

The much-awaited tiger safari project of the Uttarakhand government is under scanner after a Forest Survey of India (FSI) report stated that over 6,000 trees were illegally cut in the Corbett Tiger Reserve (CTR) against the permission for 163 for the Pakhru Tiger Safari. The State Forest Department, however, denied the FSI's claims, and said that there were some technical issues which needed to be resolved before finally accepting the report.

The FSI was asked by the Uttarakhand Forest Department to access the status of illegal felling in and around the Pakhru Tiger Safari for illegal felling and to analyse any area within the Kalagarh Tiger Reserve.

CTR is estimated as 16.21 hectares. The trees estimated on the cleared area are 6,093 in number with the lower bound of 5,765 and the upper bound of 6,421 with 95% confidence interval and 2.72% standard error," said a senior official from the department.

Talking to *The Hindu*, Vinod Singh, Principal Chief Conservator of Forest and Head of the Forest Force, accepted that the FSI found that 6,421 trees were illegally cut. He said the report has not been accepted so far. "After a preliminary examination of this report, there are several technical issues which need to be resolved before this report to be accepted. There are several serious and important questions on the tabula-

tion of the number of trees allegedly felled and the sampling technique used to arrive at this number," added Mr. Singh.

In no hurry to become Bihar CM, says Tejashwi

The Hindu Bureau

PATNA

A day after State Rashtriya Janata Dal president Jagdamband Singh said that Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav would become Chief Minister of Bihar as soon as in 2023, Mr. Yadav said that he was neither in a hurry, nor having the desire to become Chief Minister.

Mr. Yadav also suggested party leaders to refrain from making such statements. "There is nothing like making me the Chief Minister. I have no such desire nor I am in a hurry for this," Mr. Yadav said on Friday.

"Our main target was to remove BJP-RSS from the seat of power and we've done this in Bihar," he added.

"Now we should strive to unite the Opposition parties. Nitish Kumar ji is already the Chief Minister of Bihar and the government under him is working well in the State," Mr. Yadav said in a video message. He also suggested party leaders and workers to refrain from making such comments in public. "But, they love us and sometimes make such comments in enthusiasm," he added.



United stance: Representatives of 200 madrasas participated in the September meet in New Delhi. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Jamiat washed its hands of the affair entirely with the spokesman limiting himself to saying, "We are neither with them nor against them. Let the law take its own course."

Even more stark was the Jamiat support to the madrasa survey launched by the Yogi Adityanath government. In a case of a

quick somersault, Jamiat president Arshad Madani not only lent the survey support but also promised that from the next year, only those students who have completed matriculation from the CBSE will be admitted to Darul Uloom, Deoband. "So far the picture of the survey that has come out, there is nothing to fear

or apprehensive about," Mr. Madani stated. His statement in favour of the survey came days after Jamiat had held a meeting in New Delhi where over 200 representatives of various madrasas in Uttar Pradesh participated. At the meeting, the organisation pledged "to safeguard madrasas at any cost" and dismissed the survey as smacking of "evil intention".

The quick turnaround of Jamiat on the issue reminded one of the stand taken by its general secretary Mahmood Madani immediately after the Citizenship Amendment Bill was passed in Parliament in December 2019. Mahmood Madani extended support to the Bill, reiterating the words of the Home Minister, Amit Shah, that the Bill had nothing to do with Indian Muslims.

However, within a week of the Bill being passed by Parliament, the Shaheen Bagh protest started, ac-

companied with great agitations in Jamia Millia Islamia and Aligarh Muslim University. The community was outraged, and Mahmood Madani was quick to read the writing on the wall. He did a quick turnaround to join the intellectuals who raised their voice against the CAA. Among them, incidentally, were two of the intellectuals who met RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat recently.

Earlier, Arshad Madani had come in for flak for meeting Mr. Bhagwat at the RSS office.

The meeting bore fruit with Mr. Arshad stating, "Those who are affected by the NRC include both Hindus and Muslims." The new political tone of the Jamiat comes as a surprise, considering the body has been softly but consistently aligned with the Congress since Independence though in recent years in U.P. at least, it has never been too far from extending support to the Samajwadi Party.

Satyapal Malik gets no extension, Brig. Mishra to take charge**The Hindu Bureau**

NEW DELHI



Satyapal Malik

Meghalaya Governor Satyapal Malik, whose tenure will be completed on October 3, has not been given an extension as President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday gave Arunachal Governor Brigadier B.D. Mishra (retd) additional charge of the State when Mr. Malik demits office.

Mr. Malik was in the news for his statements against the Narendra Modi government, especially during the farmers' agitation against the now-repealed three farm laws, despite being in the Governor's office.

"The President of India has been pleased to appoint Brig. (Dr.) B.D. B.D. Mishra (retd), Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, to discharge the functions of the Governor of Meghalaya, in addition to his own duties from the date he assumes

charge of the office of the Governor of Meghalaya, until regular arrangements are made," a Rashtrapati Bhavan communiqué said.

Mr. Malik was first appointed the Governor of Bihar in September 2017. Thereafter, he was sent to Jammu and Kashmir in August 2018, and was the Governor there when the Centre revoked the special status to J&K under Article 370 on August 5, 2019.

He was later moved to Meghalaya in 2020.



Shot in the arm: The Indian Army is inducting the M777 Ultra Light Howitzer on the northern borders. PTI

on the Bofors guns, has been inducted and operationalised in a high-altitude area along the northern borders after extensive validation. By March 2023, the Army should receive 18 guns to form the second Dhanush regiment," the source said.

On the Sharang guns, the 130mm artillery guns up-gunned to 155mm, 45 calibre guns, three regiments have been operationalised so far with the fourth regiment in process.

The order for up-gunning 300 guns is being executed by three difference DPSUs.

"Three Sharang regiments are expected to be delivered per year and 15 artillery regiments are to be equipped with Sharang. So, it should be done in five years," the source explained.

The Army received the first Sharang gun in February 2020.

On this note, the source stressed the need to upscale the capacities and capabilities of the domes-

tic industry and the need to evolve a "conglomerate or consortium culture".

On the ATAGS system which has completed validation trials in May, officials said they are fast-tracking the remaining process for quicker induction.

Following this, Electromagnetic Interference/Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMI/EMC) trials were completed, followed by maintainability trials by the Corps of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers, the source said.

Currently, the Director General Quality Assurance evaluation is under way which includes environmental tests. They are being held concurrently to shorten the evaluation and should be completed in another two months, the source said after which the preliminary requirements would be converted to General Staff Quality Requirements and commercial bids will be sought.

On this note, the source stressed the need to upscale the capacities and capabilities of the domes-

tic industry and the need to evolve a "conglomerate or consortium culture".

He confirmed that the department had the permission to cut 163 trees in the safari area, and in the primary investigation, it was found that 97 extra trees were illegally cut.

The matter of thousands of trees being felled illegally was highlighted by Gaurav Bansal, an environment-activist and lawyer based in Delhi.

Anoop Singh, Director-General, FSI, could not be contacted even after repeated attempts. Prakash Lakhchaura, Deputy DG, FSI, said that he cannot comment on the reservations of the Forest Department on FSI report as he is not aware of the matter.



Destroying environment: Trees being felled for the Pakhru Tiger Safari in the Jim Corbett National Park. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

trees felled in the illegally cleared area based on expertise and technology available with the organisation. The Forest Survey Institute was also tasked to scan the area in and around the Pakhru Tiger Reserve for illegal felling and to analyse any area within the Kalagarh Tiger Reserve.

Talking to *The Hindu*, Vinod Singh, Principal Chief Conservator of Forest and Head of the Forest Force, accepted that the FSI found that 6,421 trees were illegally cut. He said the report has not been accepted so far. "After a preliminary examination of this report, there are several technical issues which need to be resolved before this report to be accepted. There are several serious and important questions on the tabula-

tion of the number of trees allegedly felled and the sampling technique used to arrive at this number," added Mr. Singh.

Tharoor: the president Congress needs but won't get

He knows enough about the party but is not caught in its intrigues; and he knows better than most others how to represent it before the expanding Indian middle class

NEWS ANALYSIS

Varghese K. George

NEW DELHI

The credit goes to Rahul Gandhi for forcing the Congress to have a contest for the top post, now between Mallikarjun Kharge and Shashi Tharoor.

A few days earlier, it had looked like the contest would be between Ashok Gehlot and Mr. Tharoor. This rare event is being watched keenly by the friends and foes of the

Congress. The trouble with the Congress is the in-breeding that only produces stunted and disfigured shoots. Congress workers deify the Gandhi family, but they detest the stranglehold of a few dozen families that chokes all their avenues of upward mobility. As Mr. Gandhi has said, the Congress needs to have many people who are in to go out, and get many who are out to come in.

A Tharoor versus Gehlot contest would have done the Congress a world of good. Mr. Gehlot is affable and ruthless at the same

time. He understands the average worker, a trait few have in the Congress.

A Backward Caste face, and a quintessential organisational man, Mr. Gehlot would have infused new energy and momentum for the party, particularly in the Hindi heartland where it continues to sink. What he lacks in terms of charisma is more than compensated for by hard work, perseverance and sheer native intelligence.

Mr. Gehlot, as president would have energised the cadre and attracted newer people into it from the BJP.



Shashi Tharoor

For Mr. Gehlot, being an insider would have been an advantage.

Mr. Kharge is an insider too – with all its baggage but none of its benefits. He's soft and polite, but at 80, he is past his prime. He

is a Dalit, but he himself would not be expecting a surge of Dalit support for the party because of him. The Congress tried to sell its accidental Chief Minister in Punjab Charanjit Singh Channi's Dalit identity in the election early this year, but few bought it. While the BJP is retiring leaders at 75 to promote younger, dynamic faces, the Congress is held captive by the tired and the tiring. Mr. Kharge does not move the needle for the Congress. As president, he is unlikely to move or move anything. It's Mr. Tharoor

who speaks to a constituency that is not with the Congress now. The Indian middle class is upset with the BJP but it does not look at the Congress as a viable alternative.

Ambition, dynamism

Mr. Tharoor is not a native in the Congress – as some of his critics now point out. Far from being a disadvantage, the party could turn this to its advantage. He represents merit, which the Congress is accused of overlooking. He represents ambition, aspiration, and dynamism, which the mid-

dle class thinks the party lacks. His lateral entry into politics was not through the Rajya Sabha. Mr. Tharoor has been tested thrice in Thiruvananthapuram, which is by no means an easy Lok Sabha constituency for the Congress. He came out with flying colours.

More than anything else, the Congress needs to tell and sell a story to the Indian voters. Mr. Tharoor does that well, and he echoes Mr. Gandhi's views on social, economic and political issues. Back in 2009, during his first elec-

tion, Mr. Tharoor was teased for his weak Malayalam by his opponents. "I know enough Malayalam to understand what you tell me. And I know better English and Hindi than my critics to raise those issues in Parliament," he told voters.

Mr. Tharoor knows enough about the Congress but is not caught in its intrigues; and he knows better than most others how to represent the Congress before the expanding Indian middle class. He's what the Congress needs but alas, won't get.

India abstains on UNSC resolution condemning Russia's 'referenda'

Sriram Lakshman

WASHINGTON DC

India was among four countries that abstained on a draft resolution at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) condemning the so-called referenda organised by Russia across four regions of Ukraine. Hours before Friday afternoon's voting in New York, Russian President Vladimir Putin "annexed" four regions inside Ukraine's internationally recognised borders – Kherson, Zaporiyzhia, Luhansk and Donetsk – based on the results of Russian-organised referenda in these regions.

The UNSC resolution, sponsored by the United States and Albania, failed to pass the 15-member Council on Friday afternoon, despite winning 10 supporting votes, after Russia used a veto to block it. A similar resolution is likely to be introduced in the U.N. General Assembly.



A similar resolution is likely to be introduced in the U.N. General Assembly.

Brazil and Gabon, India abstained on the resolution "keeping in view the totality of the evolving situation", its Permanent Representative to the United Nations (UNPR), Ruchira Khamboj, said.

India was "deeply disturbed" by the recent events in Ukraine, Ms. Khamboj said, as she explained India's abstention vote and called for an immediate cessation of violence. "We've always advocated that no solution can ever be arrived at the cost of human lives," she said.

Push for dialogue
The path to peace involved dialogue and keeping open diplomatic channels, Ms. Khamboj said.

She said the global order was based on the U.N. Charter, international law and the respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity.

"We therefore sincerely hope for an early resumption

of peace talks to bring about an immediate ceasefire and resolution of the conflict," she said.

The U.S., one of the sponsors of the resolution, had earlier in the week said it would seek action against Russia at the General Assembly, if Russia vetoed the resolution in the Council.

"Do you seriously expect Russia to consider and support such a draft?" Russia's UNPR Vasily Nebenzya said after the vote on Friday, accusing the proposers of the draft resolution of intentionally pushing Russia to exercise its veto.

He said the Security Council forum was being used as a "dress rehearsal for the main performance" in the U.N. General Assembly. He accused Washington of double standards over Taiwan, making a reference to its readiness to use force to protect Taiwan.

Ukraine, represented by its UNPR, Sergiy Kyslytsya, called the Security Council a "broken" pillar of the United Nations. He devoted a large part of his remarks to questioning the legitimacy of Russia as the Soviet Union's successor state on the Security Council.

"Allowing Russia to avail itself of the right of the Soviet Union to veto decisions of the Security Council effectively prevents this body from exercising its primary responsibility under the UN Charter: maintenance of international peace and security," he said.

Speaking to the Council, the U.S.' Permanent Representative to the U.N. Linda Thomas-Greenfield said the referenda were held "behind the barrel of Russian guns".

Countries recognise the implications for their own borders and economies when the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity was set aside, she said, adding that now was not the time to "stand on the sidelines".

China's UNPR, Zhang Jun, stressed that the "legitimate security concerns" of all parties should be taken seriously and urged a diplomatic solution and political settlement to the conflict. Significantly, China, which itself has been and continues to be the subject of U.S. and European sanctions (for human rights abuses in Xinjiang and Hong Kong for example), said that "political isolation", "pressurisation", "block confrontation" and "sanctions" are not conducive to peace but make the situation worse.

Officials say India has remained consistent in its push for dialogue

NEWS ANALYSIS

Suhasini Haider

NEW DELHI

While there was little doubt over the outcome of the U.S.-Albania-sponsored UN Security Council draft resolution on Friday criticising Russian referenda in four Ukrainian regions, given Russia's veto power, many Western diplomats had held out hope that India's vote would have shifted from past "abstentions" to a "yes vote" on this occasion.

One of the reasons was Prime Minister Narendra Modi's comments to Russian President Vladimir Putin in Samarkand in mid-September on the "era of war" having ended, that were interpreted as a snub to Mr. Putin. Another was India's decision to vote in favour of allowing Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky to address the UNSC and UNGA in the same month.



International agenda: UN Security Council members at the meeting in New York on Friday. AP

In addition, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's speech at the UNGA where he spoke of India being "on the side of the UN charter", and his statement at a press conference in Washington to "wait and see" what India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ruchira Khamboj would say in response to the Russian referenda had sparked speculation that India would change its previous policy.

However, experts say that U.S. and European diplomats, had misread New Delhi's statements and taken Mr. Modi's phrase on the "era of war" ending out

of context from his entire statement. "It is necessary to study everything the PM said [in Samarkand] and to realise he has said this in the past as well. In fact, all elements of India's position (need for a ceasefire, ending the war, concerns about impact on food and energy security) have been consistently articulated by the government," said Chairman of the National Security Advisory Board P.S. Raghavan.

In New Delhi, some say India's position on Russia is becoming more difficult. "I lend zero credibility to the sham referenda organised by Russia. My sense is

Shinde appoints Yuva Sena committee

The Hindu Bureau

MUMBAI

Amid the controversy over which faction controls and heads the 'real' Shiv Sena, the faction led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Saturday announced the appointment of executive committee members of the Yuva Sena, the party's youth wing.

Currently, former State Minister Aaditya Thackeray, son of Uddhav Thackeray who heads the other faction of the party, is the chief of the Yuva Sena.

Interestingly, most of the new post-holders are relatives of rebel MLAs in the Shinde camp.

Samadhan Sarvankar, Raj Kulkarni, Raj Surve and Prayag Lande were appointed in charge of the youth wing's Mumbai unit. Kiran Sali and Sachin Bangar were appointed in charge of western Maharashtra.

Mr. Shinde's close aide Gopal Lande's son Nitin Lande was appointed in charge for Thane.



Office of the Project Director (Housing)
Rajasthan Urban Drinking Water Sewerage & Infrastructure Corporation Limited
4-Sa-24, Jawahar Nagar, Jaipur-302004 (RAJ.)
Tel/Fax : 0141-4001187, Email: rudsico.housing@rajasthan.gov.in
No. RUDSICO/PD (H)/Jpr/2022-23/1912 Date:29.09.2022
Notice Inviting Bid
Bids for Various works at Diet, Barmer, Kota, Tonk, Chittorgarh, and Jaipur are invited from interested bidders up to 18:00hrs, 10.10.2022 for Item no. 1 to 5 under Two bid system & for item no. 6 to 7 under single bid system on E-procurement. Other particulars of the Bid may be visited on the procurement portal (<http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://ppp.raj.nic.in>) of the state; and <http://urban.rajasthan.gov.in/rudsico> departmental website. The total approximate value of procurement is Rs. 20,66,64.66 Lacs.

NIT No. 23/2022-23
UBN- RDP223WSOB00118, 119, 121, 123 & 124
RDP223WLOB00120 & RDP223GLOB00122
Raj.Samwad/C/22/8609 General Manager

Further corrigendum & addendum will be published only on website Tender documents can be downloaded from www.kochimetro.org/tenders

E-TENDER

EPC Contract for Design, Supply, Fabrication, Erection and Commissioning of Institutional Building including all Architectural, Civil and MEP works for IIM Kozhikode

Tender ID: 2022_KMLR_499884_1

Bid Submission Date: 07/10/2022, 17:00 hrs

For download tender documents, last date of submission of above tenders and other details, kindly visit our website www.brnmpml.mysuru.gov.in. Further corrigendum/ amendment to above tenders, if issued in future, will be notified on the Company website only.

Mr. Shinde's close aide Gopal Lande's son Nitin Lande was appointed in charge for Thane.

Deputy Chief Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/ Construction /Tambaram, Chennai-600 045

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Request for Proposal of following Equipments for Forensic Science Laboratory/Regional Forensic Science Laboratory in State. Tender is invited in E-Procurement Portal on Date: 28-09-2022. The suppliers who are interested to participate in the E-Tender should register in the E-portal of the E-procurement of Karnataka State, Bengaluru. A training program is also organised by the E-procurement cell. The EMD shall be paid at the E-procurement portal. The last date for the submission of E-tenders is 07.10.2022 at 5:00 p.m.

Remarks: Department has the right to accept/reject any or all tenders without assigning any reasons.

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INBRIEF



Gujarat will not fall for AAP leader's lies, says Smriti Irani

On the day Delhi Chief Minister and AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal promised to build a modern school and provide Narmada water in every village as pre-poll sop in Gujarat, Union Minister of Women and Child Development Smriti Irani hit out at him, saying his "lies and dreams" will not succeed in Gujarat. In Ahmedabad, Ms. Irani slammed the AAP leader for the liquor scam in the national capital and widespread corruption in his government. She said that people of Gujarat would never give a chance to such people, whose only aim is to grab power by peddling "lies and selling dreams."

Congress appoints former MP Brijal Khabri as U.P. president

The Congress on Saturday appointed Brijal Khabri, a former Lok Sabha member, as the president of its Uttar Pradesh State unit. Mr. Khabri will replace Ajay Kumar Lallu, who had resigned in March 2022 after the party's disastrous performance in the State Assembly election. Mr. Khabri, a Dalit, who was elected to the Lok Sabha from Jalaun in Bundelkhand region in the 1999 polls on BSP ticket, joined the Congress in 2016 alleging sale of BSP ticket. The party has also appointed six regional presidents under a new formula to keep caste and regional balance in the politically crucial State, where it has been out of power for 33 years.



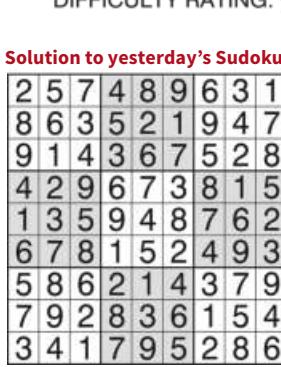
Shah to visit Jayaprakash Narayan's village in Bihar

Union Home Minister and senior BJP leader Amit Shah is scheduled to visit Bihar on October 11, in what would be his second visit to the State in three weeks. In August this year, the JD(U) had snapped its ties with the BJP to form government in the State with the *Mahagatbandhan* (grand alliance) parties. Mr. Shah will visit the late veteran socialist leader Jayaprakash Narayan's ancestral village Sitab Diara in Saran district on Narayan's birth anniversary on October 11. He is also likely to address a farmers' meeting at Amour in the district. Amour is the ancestral village of BJP MP from Saran, Rajiv Pratap Rudy.

Woman's bid to smuggle cocaine worth ₹4.9 cr. foiled

A woman passenger who tried to smuggle in 490 grams of cocaine worth ₹4.9 crore was arrested by the Customs officials at Chatrapathi Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, Mumbai. The contraband was concealed in the special cavity of her sandal, officials said on Saturday. According to Customs officials, the accused passenger was intercepted on Thursday on the basis of suspicion.

SUDOKU



Indore bags cleanest city award for sixth year, M.P. ranks first among States

President Droupadi Murmu presents awards as part of Azadi@75 Swachh Survekshan 2022; she invites citizens to join in the source segregation campaign and commit to the cause of cleanliness

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Indore has been adjudged the cleanest city of India for the sixth year in a row, while Madhya Pradesh is the cleanest State in the country.

Surat is the second cleanest city and Navi Mumbai ranks a close third in the category of cities with a population more than a lakh.

In the population category of less than one lakh, Panchgani and Karad from Maharashtra bagged the first and third positions respectively, while Patan from Chhattisgarh bagged the second position.

Tirupati received the best city award in Safai Mitra Suraksha category, while Haridwar in Uttarakhand received the award for the best Ganga town in more than one lakh population cities. Shivamogga in Karnataka received the fast mover city award.

Ranking cleanliness

The tables list the top six urban local bodies (ULBs) and the best performing States according to Swachh Survekshan, 2022. Indore retained the tag of India's cleanest city for the sixth consecutive time, while Madhya Pradesh is ranked first among States

Ranking of urban local bodies (with more than 1 lakh population)

City	State	Rank
Indore	Madhya Pradesh	1
Surat	Gujarat	2
Navi Mumbai	Maharashtra	3
Visakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh	4
Vijayawada	Andhra Pradesh	5
Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh	6

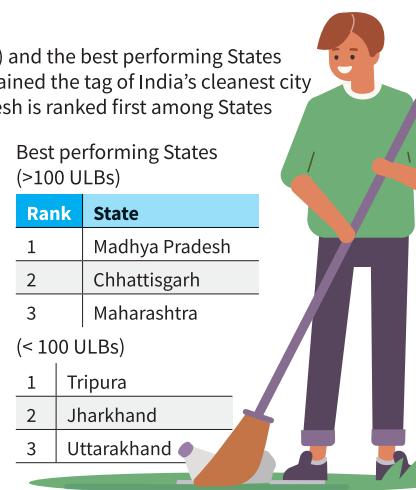
Source: Swachh Survekshan 2022

Best performing States (>100 ULBs)

Rank	State
1	Madhya Pradesh
2	Chhattisgarh
3	Maharashtra

(< 100 ULBs)

Rank	State
1	Tripura
2	Jharkhand
3	Uttarakhand



The State awards saw Madhya Pradesh emerge as the Cleanest State in the category of "more than 100 Urban Local Bodies", relegating Chhattisgarh, the cleanest State of the previous three years, to second place. Maharashtra emerged as third cleanest State.

Similarly, Tripura got the cleanest state award in

the "less than 100 urban local bodies category", dislodging Jharkhand, which had won in the last two consecutive years. Jharkhand and Uttarakhand received the second and third spots respectively.

The awards were given away by President Droupadi Murmu as part of the Azadi@75 Swachh Survekshan 2022 hosted as

part of the Swachh Bharat Mission. She also released the Swachh Survekshan 2022 dashboard.

Ms. Murmu said: "I congratulate all the awardee cities for their commitment to the cause of *Swachhata* (cleanliness)". She exhorted the citizens to join in the three-week source segregation campaign set to begin today.

26 dead, 16 injured in Kanpur as tractor trolley ferrying pilgrims falls into pond

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

At least 26 people were killed and 16 seriously injured in an accident in Kanpur district of Uttar Pradesh on Saturday. The victims were travelling home on a tractor trolley from the Chandrika Devi temple when the vehicle fell into a pond in the Ghatampur area.

On March 6, 2014, Mr. Gandhi made a speech in Bhiwandi, holding the RSS responsible for the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi. Soon thereafter, Rajesh Kunte, secretary of the Bhiwandi unit of RSS, filed a complaint against him.

District Magistrate, Kanpur, Vishak G. told *The Hindu* that 22 bodies had been taken out from the pond. Four others were re-



ported dead later. There were 45 people in the tractor trolley, all from Kortha village.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed grief over the tragedy, and announced an ex gratia of ₹2 lakh each from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund to the families of the dead. The injured will be given ₹50,000, the Prime Minister's Office said.

"Distressed by the tractor-trolley mishap that

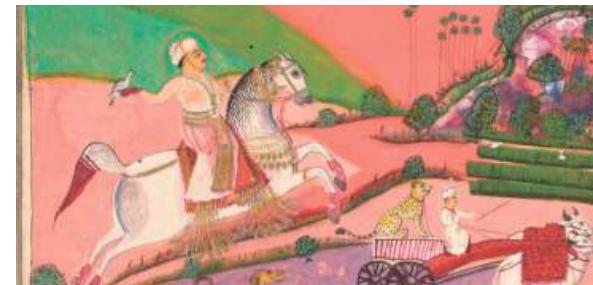
took place in Kanpur. My thoughts are with all those who have lost their near and dear ones and prayers with the injured. The local administration is providing all possible assistance to the affected," Mr. Modi said on Twitter.

"The road accident in Kanpur district is very heart-wrenching. The District Magistrate and other senior officers have been directed to reach the spot immediately and conduct relief and rescue operations on a war footing and make arrangements for proper treatment of the injured. Wishing speedy recovery to the injured," Mr. Adityanath said.

The cheetah that loved Hyderabadi biryani

SPECIAL

Serish Nanisetti
HYDERABAD



Into the wild: A miniature painting showing Raja Rao Rambha, an Asaf Jahi nobleman, during a hunt with a cheetah on a cart.

Hyderabad has a long and rocky relationship with cheetahs. The spotted cats were kept as pets by the historic city's nobility as showpieces of royalty, and for the British colonialists, they defined India's exotic wildlife. The last sighting of a cheetah in India was in Hyderabad in 1957, when the unfortunate animal fell into a well and could not be saved.

In 2007, the Indian government set up a spanking new Laboratory for Conservation of Endangered Species (LACONES) on the outskirts of Hyderabad. The laboratory had the mandate of resurrecting extinct animals, including cheetahs. While setting up the laboratory, Lalji Singh and S. Shivaiah had cited success in artificial insemination in some animals. However, the laboratory's effort to secure germplasm from Iranian cheetahs, considered the closest genetic match

to Indian cheetahs, for their breeding programme, did not succeed. But before that, Hyderabad nobility showed off their pet cheetahs and posed for photographs before and after hunts.

Prized trophy

"Almost all the nobility in Hyderabad had cheetahs as pets. They were as common as the horses which numbered in the dozens. They were used for hunting black buck and deer on the plains of Andhra Pradesh in Kurnool, Anantapur, and Bangalore," says Shafat Ali Khan, whose grandfather Sultan Ali Khan had cheetahs as pets at their Moula Ali home in the 1930s-40s.

Major Afsur Jung, who was Commander-in-Chief of the Hyderabad Army, and accompanied the Nizam Mahbub Ali Khan everywhere, writes about an abandoned pet cheetah developing a fondness for Hyderabadi biryani in 1893. "It was next sighted at Koh-e-Moula... Here, the Nizam was camping, and maunds of biryani were being cooked for the poor. The bones were piled up behind the kitchen and this provided a feast for the cheetah. When someone sighted the animal and informed the king, His Highness ordered the animal to be trapped, caged and was to be fed the choicest meat till it could eat no more," he wrote in his memoirs.

With Durga Puja looking bleak for the two residents of Premashraya, the people behind the temporary home in Kolkata's New Town area for a community of about 500 cancer patients and their caregivers developed a fondness for Hyderabadi biryani in 1893. "It was next sighted at Koh-e-Moula... Here, the Nizam was camping, and maunds of biryani were being cooked for the poor. The bones were piled up behind the kitchen and this provided a feast for the cheetah. When someone sighted the animal and informed the king, His Highness ordered the animal to be trapped, caged and was to be fed the choicest meat till it could eat no more," he wrote in his memoirs.

The local police station

Shiv Sahay Singh

KOLKATA

Ten-year-old Sondip Ghosh has been undergoing treatment at Kolkata's Tata Medical Centre since July 2022 for leukaemia. Given his low immunity, visits to Puja pandals this festival season had not been on the cards for the boy.

Similarly, 68-year-old Gopal Chandra Pal, who has come from Bangladesh for throat cancer at the Tata Medical Centre, was upset that he could not return home on account of his upcoming chemotherapy.

With Durga Puja looking bleak for the two residents of Premashraya, the people behind the temporary home in Kolkata's New Town area for a community of about 500 cancer patients and their caregivers developed a fondness for Hyderabadi biryani in 1893. "It was next sighted at Koh-e-Moula... Here, the Nizam was camping, and maunds of biryani were being cooked for the poor. The bones were piled up behind the kitchen and this provided a feast for the cheetah. When someone sighted the animal and informed the king, His Highness ordered the animal to be trapped, caged and was to be fed the choicest meat till it could eat no more," he wrote in his memoirs.

The local police station

provided pilot cars, vehicles for medical emergencies were on hand, and Puja organisers were informed well in advance to facilitate smooth entry for the visitors.

"Two air-conditioned buses in which 60 patients and their caregivers started at around 10 a.m. and they returned by 1 p.m. The idea behind the morning trip was to avoid crowds and protect patients from infections," Sudeshna Dutta, head of operations of Premashraya unit and Tata Medical Centre, said. Built by Coal India limited in 2015, Premashraya has been run by

the Tata Medical Centre. Ms. Dutta said that Premashraya is trying to keep the spirit of Durga Puja alive with many special events, including new clothes for residents. "Cancer is a marathon and it's very important to have a positive spirit while battling the disease," she said.

Other efforts too have gone into making this a more inclusive Puja. Earlier this week, Kolkata Police organised a *Puja Parikrama* for 150 children with special needs, and about 400 elderly members of Pranam, a community policing initiative to serve senior citizens.



Festive spirit: Premashraya plans to keep the spirit of Durga Puja alive with events till second week of October. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Cardiologist body to start education drive on resuscitation skills

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

CPR awareness initiative and school health education project will be held across the States

Cardiologists warn of a sharp increase in sudden cardiac deaths (SCD) in India, with young adults the most vulnerable to the condition. The Cardiological Society of India (CSI), an organisation with over 5,000 registered cardiologists from across India, is set to launch a mega educational drive in basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) skills.

"Patients collapsing from SCD give us two-and-a-half minutes to be revived. If we come across anyone collapsing and know the basic symptoms, we can help by providing CPR immediately. Instead, we often start crowding the place and try waking [the patient] up with a splash of water. The main agenda of this programme is to ensure that people are aware of SCD's symptoms and can implement CPR immediately. No life should be lost due to ignorance. Any form of CPR is better than no CPR," Debabrata Roy, honorary general secretary, CSI, said.

According to the World Health Organization, cardiovascular diseases (CVD)



To watch a video
'Heart attack survival rate can be improved with better awareness'
bit.ly/3RwnDxQ

SEOUL

North Korea fires ballistic missiles, for the fourth time this week



A TV screen showing a news programme reporting North Korea's missile launch in Seoul on Saturday. North Korea fired two short-range ballistic missiles toward its eastern waters making it the fourth round of weapons launches this week that are seen as a response to military drills among its rivals. AP

SOFIA

Greece-Bulgaria pipeline opens; start of a new era, says EU chief



European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and Bulgarian President Rumen Radev attending a ceremony to mark the start of operations of the gas interconnector link between Greece and Bulgaria on Saturday. The EU chief hailed a new era amid the EU's efforts to wean itself off Russian energy. REUTERS

AFGHANISTAN

Kabul classroom bombing toll rises to 35, says UN mission



A 19-year-old Hazara Afghan girl sitting and crying on the bench she was sitting on, during Friday's suicide bomb attack on a Hazara education centre in Kabul in Afghanistan on Saturday. "The latest casualty figures from the attack number at least 35 fatalities, with an additional 82 wounded," the UN mission in Afghanistan said. AP

BEIJING

73rd anniversary of founding of People's Republic of China held



A member of the Chinese honour guard unfurls the Chinese national flag during a flag raising ceremony to mark the 73rd anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China at the Tiananmen Square in Beijing on Saturday. The day marks the founding of the PRC by Mao Zedong following a civil war. AP

Russia withdraws troops after Ukraine encircles key city

Kyiv recaptures more territories in eastern counteroffensive; Russian forces blindfold and detain the head of Europe's largest nuclear plant

Associated Press

KYIV

After being encircled by Ukrainian forces, Russia pulled troops out on Saturday from an eastern Ukrainian city that it had been using as a front-line hub. It was the latest victory for the Ukrainian counteroffensive that has humiliated and angered the Kremlin.

Russia's withdrawal from Lyman complicates its internationally vilified move to annex four regions of Ukraine and paves the way for Ukrainian troops to potentially push further into land that Moscow now illegally claims as its own.

The fighting comes at a pivotal moment in Russian President Vladimir Putin's war.

Russia's Defence Ministry claimed to have inflicted damage on Ukrainian forces in battling to hold



Mounting toll: A civilian convoy that was hit by a shelling from Russian troops in Kharkiv in Ukraine on Saturday. REUTERS

onto Lyman, but said outnumbered Russian troops were withdrawn to more favourable positions. The Russian announcement came soon after Ukraine's air force said it had moved into Lyman and the Ukrainian President's chief of staff posted photos of a Ukrainian flag being hoisted on the town's outskirts.

Lyman, a key transport hub, had been an important node in the Russian

front line for both ground communications and logistics.

In the northeast, Ukrainian officials accused Russian forces of attacking a civilian evacuation convoy, killing 20 persons including children. In the south, Ukraine's nuclear power provider said on Saturday that Russian forces blindfolded and detained the head of Europe's largest nuclear plant.

Burkina Faso witnesses second coup of the year

Agence France-Presse
OUAGADOUGOU

Soldiers blocked main roads and gunfire was heard in the capital of Burkina Faso on Saturday, as world powers condemned the second coup this year in the deeply poor and restive West African country.

Junior officers toppled a junta leader on Friday, saying he had failed to fight jihadist attacks in the country.

On Saturday, several witnesses said they heard gunfire in the centre of the capital Ouagadougou, after which troops once again blocked the main roads in the city, including around the presidency.

The European Union and the African Union added their voices to a chorus of global condemnation to the change in power.

"The chairperson calls upon the military to refrain from any acts of violence," the AU said in a statement.

The European Union warned that the coup put in danger efforts undertaken to restore constitutional order by July 1, 2024.

Attack on Iran police station kills 19 persons, including four elite Guard members

Associated Press
DUBAI

An attack by armed separatists on a police station in a southeastern city killed 19 persons, including four members of Iran's elite Islamic Revolutionary Guard, Iran's state-run IRNA news agency reported on Saturday.

The assailants hid among worshippers near a mosque in the city of Zahedan and attacked the nearby police station, according to the report.

32 guards wounded

IRNA quoted Hossein Modaresi, the provincial governor, as saying 19 persons were killed. The outlet said 32 Guard mem-

Assailants hid among worshippers near a mosque in Zahedan and attacked the nearby police station

bers, including volunteer Basiji forces, were also wounded in the clashes.

It was not immediately clear if the attack was related to nationwide anti-government protests gripping Iran after the death in police custody of a young Iranian woman.

Sistan and Baluchestan province borders Afghanistan and Pakistan and has seen previous attacks on security forces by ethnic Baluchi separatists, although Saturday's *Tasnim* report did not identify a separatist group allegedly

Erdogan asks Sweden and Finland to keep promise

Agence France-Presse
ISTANBUL

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Saturday warned Turkey would not ratify the NATO membership bids of Sweden and Finland until the two Nordic countries "kept" promises they had made to Ankara.

"Until the promises made to our country are kept, we will maintain our principled position," Mr. Erdogan said in a speech to parliament in Ankara.

Mr. Erdogan has accused both countries of being havens for Kurdish militants and for promoting "terrorism".

In an apparently significant concession to Ankara, Sweden on Friday announced they had re-authorized exports of war materials to Turkey.

Being a refugee in Sri Lanka amid a biting economic downturn

Meera Srinivasan

NEGOMBO



Riffat Fareedun and Fareedun Saeed in their home in Negombo. MEERA SRINIVASAN

about 600 are refugees while some 160 are asylum seekers awaiting refugee status that makes them eligible for nominal monthly assistance from the agency. Following the island's painful economic crash, the UN refugee agency recognised the need to double this monthly allowance to little over LKR 40,000 (roughly ₹9,000), refugee families said.

"It should be clearly understood that asylum-seekers and refugees do not have the right to work and are without the usual safety nets and social networks that nationals of a country have. They are therefore more vulnerable," an official from the UNHCR told *The Hindu*, explaining the rationale for the assistance.

Once persecuted persons arrive in Sri Lanka – the island nation has a relatively easier visa regime in the region – they must go through different stages from being asylum seekers, to being recognised as refugees, before finally qualifying for resettlement elsewhere. This is because Sri Lanka is not a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention and can, at best, host them only temporarily.

Refugee status
According to the UNHCR, Sri Lanka currently has a little over 800 persons in total, mostly from Pakistan and Afghanistan, seeking resettlement. Of them,

tests recently and the expense has badly hit our family's monthly budget. I am also trying to cope with depression," said the 27-year-old, looking worn out.

Processing application
Activists working with refugees note that there is more Sri Lanka can do. Ruki Fernando, a human rights defender working with refugee communities urged the UNHCR to expedite the processing of asylum seekers' applications. In the short term, the Sri Lankan government must include the children of refugees and asylum seekers in its free education policy and subsidy programmes, and in the long term, offer permanent resettlement through domestic mechanisms, he said.

Meanwhile, refugee families have only their hope and resilience to count on. "Jaunu (my life), bring that file," Riffat Fareedun told her husband in Urdu. Turning its laminated slots one after the other, she shows her daughters' school certificates with evident pride. Now 11 and 13, the girls have topped their class in studies, won prizes in story telling competitions and chess tournaments. Between the slots is one slightly faded certificate, from 1995. It's her own, for completing her beautician course in Karachi.

WATCH THE SUPERSTARS OF SPORTS INDULGE IN SOME ILLUMINATING CONVERSATIONS

The Hindu Sportstar North Conclave presented a series of carefully curated conversations with top sportspersons and sport industry experts on revolutionising the sports ecosystem in Uttar Pradesh. The dialogues offered a rare insight into the lives of the sports stars and helped find ways to ignite the nation's Olympic dream.

Watch the telecast on NewsX at 12.15 pm on Sunday, 2nd October 2022

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SPEAKERS AT THE CONCLAVE



Special Address by
Girish Chandra Yadav (Sports Minister, Uttar Pradesh).

Role of Sports Industry in Uttar Pradesh's run to become a trillion-dollar economy
Navneet Sehgal (Additional Chief Secretary, Sports, Government of Uttar Pradesh).

What athletes need for success

Suresh Raina (Cricket World Cup winner), Lalit Upadhyay (Olympic hockey medalist), Commander R. Rajappan (Former head, TOPS), Sanjeewa Singh (High-Performance Director, Indian Archery), Vijay Yadav (Commonwealth Games medalist), Moderated by Vijay Lokapal

Making sport a part of the school curriculum

Sandeep Singh (Minister of State (Independent Charge), Primary Education), Tahsin Zaidi (CEO, SPEFL - NSDC), Sudharshna Fadnis (CEO, Sportseed), Moderated by Virgheese George

Sports for development and employment

Manjusha Kanwar (DGM-Sports Coordination, IndianOil), Nidhi Pandhir (Head CSR, HCL Foundation), Federation of India, Moderated by Rakesh Rao

The world of eSports and education

Tirth Mehta (Asian Games eSport medalist), Lokesha Suj (Director, ESFI), Daniel Pinto Costa (CEO, ITTB), Boban Tolovski (General Secretary, IESF), Moderated by Sudhanush Padnis

Safety and women's sports

Vandana Kataria (Commonwealth Games medalist), Priyanka Goswami (Commonwealth Games medalist), Rachana Govil (Former ED, SAN Lucknow), Ekta Bhyan (Asian Para Games medalist), Moderated by Taruka Srivastava

Uttar Pradesh's One District, One Product: Sports as an economic driver

Navneet Sehgal (Additional Chief Secretary, Sports, Government of Uttar Pradesh)

Rakesh Mehta (Owner, BDM), Vivek Kohli (Co-chairman, Stag International), Moderated by LV Navaneeth

Social Cause Partner



Sports Management Academic Partner



Life Insurance Partner



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SCIENCE

Medicinal fungi may be suitable for identifying novel drugs

Shubashree Desikan

An analytical study of medicinal fungi carried out by researchers from the Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai (IMSc), shows that some chemicals they secrete may find use as novel drugs. They used a database, MeFSAT (Medicinal Fungi Secondary Metabolites And Therapeutics), which compiles information on 184 medicinal fungi, including mushrooms.

The researchers ana-

lysed the structure of 1,830 secondary metabolites of medicinal fungi.

Fitness booster

Secondary metabolites are chemical compounds that fungi produce when they are stressed. They enhance the fungi's ability to survive. The work has been published in the preprint server *BioRxiv*.

Cordycepin, a secondary metabolite produced by *Cordyceps* species of fungus, is known to have

anti-tumour properties. "Not only cordycepin, in general, several secondary metabolites are known to be beneficial for humans in terms of both therapy and health," says R.P. Vivek Ananth, a PhD student from IMSc, who has contributed to this research.

Diverse structures

In their analysis, the researchers, guided by Areejit Samal from IMSc, found that the secondary metabolites were structurally

distant from existing drugs. Also, their 'scaffolding' was different from known drugs. About 94% of the chemical scaffolds identified in secondary metabolites of medicinal fungi were not present in approved drugs. As for the complete chemical structure, the secondary metabolites were quite dissimilar to the approved drugs.

This alone cannot tell that there are metabolites in fungi that can be used as drugs. However, the sec-

ondary metabolites of medicinal fungi have molecular properties, which are important for drug likeness, similar to approved drugs. "This makes the secondary metabolites of the medicinal fungi suitable for identifying novel drugs with hitherto unknown chemical scaffolds," explains Dr. Samal.

Used in medicine

Medicinal fungi belongs to two taxonomic divisions namely, *basidiomycota* and

SNAPSHOTS



Japan set to invest \$2 billion for future pandemics

After recognising that Japan was slow to develop vaccines for COVID-19, its government has pledged to invest \$2 billion in a vaccine-research initiative to ensure that the country can respond promptly to future epidemics. The Strategic Centre of Biomedical Advanced Vaccine Research and Development for Preparedness and Response (SCARDA) will invest in vaccine research for eight pathogens, including Zika virus coronavirus, and monkeypox using a range of vaccine-delivery options such as mRNA technology and recombinant proteins.

Does scrapping of awards signal misplaced priorities?

The government order shuts down all awards instituted through private endowments for which the government was not spending anything

Aniket Sule

Each year, September 26 is celebrated by the Indian Scientific Community as the birthday of Prof. Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar, a stalwart of Indian science in the 1940s and 1950s and the founding head of CSIR. This is also a day when the government announces the yearly Bhatnagar Awards aimed at honouring the most outstanding researchers (under the age of 45) working in India. But this year was an exception. There was no announcement of award winners.

Instead, the government released a copy of minutes of a high-level meeting held the previous week. The minutes reveal that the government has resolved to scrap most of the existing awards, including those instituted through private endowment, and introduce a 'select few high-stature' awards instead.

Unfair means

The decision raises more questions than it answers. It remains unclear what the rationale was for the sudden scrapping of most awards. One reason could be that the government is of the impression that the current awards are handed out in an unfair manner.

While bias and prejudice cannot be ruled out, there is a strong notion that winning an award becomes easier when the potential awardee is a favourite of one or more members of the selection committee.

Very few awards to motivate scientists

The government has resolved to scrap most of the existing awards given annually to scientists

- As per the minutes of the meeting, the government intends to introduce a select few high-stature awards instead
- While bias and prejudice cannot be ruled out, the supposedly bad choices have been only a few till date
- It still remains unclear what the rationale has been for the sudden decision to scrap most of the awards
- It is very unlikely that the economic downturn is the reason for scrapping of awards as the total annual budget of all the awards is small
- Most of the time, the current system of selection has undoubtedly rewarded excellence
- The government plans to replace all the awards with a few high-stature awards tentatively called Vigyan Ratna



There is no official communication that Bhatnagar Awards would be continued.

But these supposedly bad choices have been only a few and most of the time, the current system of selection has undoubtedly rewarded excellence.

Since the minutes have not listed out the reasons, speculations about the government's motive are rife. It was thought that this cut is part of the overall austerity measure, in light of the economic downturn. But that seems unlikely as the total annual budget of all these cancelled awards is so small that it is less than rounding error in the Union Budget. Secondly, this order also shuts down all awards instituted through private endowments, for which the government was not spending anything.

Strangely, the order does not clarify what would happen to the said endowment if it is not used for giving those respective awards. Another oddity about this order is that all the ministries have been

told to stop all 'non-core-domain' awards.

It is no secret that only a small fraction of the Indian scientific community align themselves with the questionable scientific agenda of the current government. Centralising all the awards is seen as one way of giving the government a greater control over the selection committees and reward scientists who are seen favourably by the government. This will help in raising the profile of such scientists, paving the way for their eventual elevation to the leadership positions in different research institutes and universities.

Delayed fellowship

There is apprehension that social media activity of prominent scientists is being monitored and that the government has not taken kindly to the critical comments made about its scientific policies. Even before the pandemic, there

were occasional instances of fellowships of young researchers getting delayed by 2-3 months. But since the last three years, an astonishingly large fraction of researchers have been experiencing delays. These delayed fellowships and grants not only means that skilled researchers are just sitting in their labs without being able to procure necessary samples, chemicals or equipment but it also leads to a large number of PhD students quitting mid-way as they are unable to support their families.

Recently, the government issued another order asking researchers to open a new bank account for each new project and meeting all expenses of that project only through that specific account. This would not just lead to more unnecessary paperwork but would create comical situations such as placing multiple orders of the same chemical for the

same lab, because it must be billed to multiple projects. Thankfully, after backlash, the government promised reconsideration. Few months back, the government raised the GST on purchase of scientific equipment from 5% to 18%, which has been playing havoc on the research budget of many institutions.

Mandating permissions

International collaborations have been made almost impossible by mandating multiple permissions just to invite a foreign researcher to an institute or to sign an MoU with a foreign university. Anything which involves foreigners or foreign currency is viewed dimly and has to clear multiple hurdles, which hampers research. The whole procedure has become needlessly cumbersome.

It has been said that the government plans to replace all these awards with a 'few high-stature' awards, tentatively called Vigyan Ratna. Only time will tell if these new awards adequately cover the diversity in not just research disciplines but also in researchers themselves. More importantly, the scientific community would be keenly watching if the new awards are decided on quality of research or they become a vehicle to promote scientists who are favoured by the government.

(Aniket Sule is Associate Professor at Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education (HBCSE), TIFR, Mumbai.)



Heatwave in China highlights climate change impact

Many parts of China are just emerging from an extreme heatwave that was followed by a severe drought and out-of-season wildfires. Some 360 million people experienced temperatures above 40°C at some point during the two-month-long heatwave. The Yangtze River basin, which is home to nearly one-third of China's population, received up to 80% less rain than the 30-year average for that period. The severity of these events shows how important it is becoming to study several extreme weather events together.



Mars rover finds sedimentary rocks under planet's surface

China's Zhurong rover has peered under the surface of Mars and has found evidence of two huge floods that shaped the landscape. Since May last year, Zhurong has been exploring Utopia Planitia, in Mars's northern hemisphere. Images from the rover's ground-penetrating radar found layered patterns under the surface, which are made of sedimentary rocks carried in by two major floods around 1.6 billion years ago.

How can India reduce its impact on global warming



SPEAKING OF SCIENCE

D. Balasubramanian

ple in 1800, which has risen to 1.4 billion people today. And industrial revolution started only after India's Independence 75 years ago. While it has helped in reduction of poverty, it has also led to rise in atmospheric carbon dioxide and greenhouse gases.

The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) site points out that we have a rural population that constitutes 70% of the country, and their main occupation is agriculture. This gives us total foodgrain production of 275 million tonne. India is the second largest producer of rice, wheat, sugarcane, cotton and groundnuts. It, thus, becomes important that India reduce its carbon footprint, more in its farming sector.

Farmers have come up with some admirable methods, with the help of agricultural professionals, by using solar panels in their fields, so that they can avoid diesel for groundwater pumps.

Sibi Arasu, an independent journalist from Bengaluru,



Carbon footprint: India is the second largest producer of rice, wheat, sugarcane, cotton and groundnuts. GETTY IMAGES

writes, "Climate-friendly agriculture offers new income sources and is more sustainable" in the journal *Carbon Management* that India's carbon emissions could drop by 45-62 million tonnes annually. The government and professional groups have helped rural farmers put in solar panels to save money and gain greater income.

Indian farmers not only grow rice and wheat but pro-

duce other foodgrains as well. They grew about 121.5 million tonnes of rice and 109 million tonnes of wheat during the year 2020-2021. They also produce other foodgrains such as millets (*bajra*), cassava and more. They grow about 12 million tonnes of millets annually. Likewise, the amount of maize produced per year is about 28.6 million tonnes. It may also be added that millets have more proteins (7.3 m per

100 g), fat (1.7 g per 100 g) and fibre content (4.22g per 100g) than rice (protein content 2.7 g per 100 g; fat content 0.3 g per 100 g; and fibre content 0.4 g per 100 g).

It is, thus, healthier for us to add more millets in our diet, besides rice and wheat. And wheat is superior to rice as it has more proteins (13.2 g per 100 g), fat (2.5 g per 100 g), and fibre (10.7 g per 100 g).

A common goal

India has about 20-39% vegetarians and 70% of the population eat meat – mainly chicken, mutton and fish (*Devi et al.*). India, with its many rivers, has a vast coastline which is rich in fishes. And fishes have high nutritional value and help in reducing carbon footprint (*Nature*, Jude Colman, September 13, 2022 issue).

Thus, with farmers, meat sellers and fishermen, each contributing to India in reducing our carbon footprint, we can hope to be an exemplary nation for the EPA. *dbala@lpeei.org*



Question Corner

Reaction to smell

Do foetuses react to smell and taste while still in the womb?

Scientists have recorded the first direct evidence that babies react differently to various smells and tastes while in the womb by looking at their facial expressions. A study led by Durham University's Fetal and Neonatal Research Lab, U.K., took 4D ultrasound scans of 100 pregnant women to see how their unborn babies responded after being exposed to flavours from foods eaten by their mothers. Researchers looked at how the fetuses reacted to either carrot or kale flavours just a short time

after the flavours had been ingested by the mothers. Foetuses exposed to carrot showed more "laughing-face" responses while those exposed to kale showed more "crying-face" responses, says a release. Their findings could further our understanding of the development of human taste and smell receptors. The researchers also believe that what pregnant women eat might influence babies' taste preferences after birth and have implications for establishing healthy eating habits.

Readers may send their questions / answers to *questioncorner@thehindu.co.in*

FAQ

How has the SC expanded abortion rights?

What has the judiciary said about reproductive autonomy? What has it remarked on marital rape?

Sudipta Datta

The story so far:

In September 29, the Supreme Court ruled that single and unmarried women with pregnancies between 20 and 24 weeks are entitled to access the same safe and legal abortion care as married women. Interpreting the Rules framed under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act, 1971, a Bench led by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud said "the rights of reproductive autonomy, dignity and privacy give an unmarried woman the right of choice as to whether or not to bear a child on a similar footing as that of a married woman." In another judicial recognition of marital rape, which is not recognised as an offence under the Indian Penal Code, the Court also said sexual assault by a man on his wife can take the form of rape.

Do women in India now have equal abortion rights?

Under the current legal framework, and as the Court too noted, the MTP Act lays out exceptions to the provisions criminalising abortion in Sections 312-318 of the Indian Penal Code. The Court was hearing a case of a 25-year-old unmarried woman, whose plea to terminate a pregnancy before the completion of 24 weeks was rejected by the Delhi High Court pointing out that the Medical Termination of

Pregnancy Rules, 2003, did not extend to unmarried women in a relationship. Taking a "purposive" view of a "beneficial legislation" like the MTP Act, the Court declared that unmarried women be included within the ambit of Rule

3B of the MTP Rules. The MTP (Amendment) Act, 2021, had introduced a key change in Section 3 by extending the upper limit for termination of pregnancy from 20 to 24 weeks. Specifically, Explanation II replaced this point – anguish caused by a pregnancy resulting from a failure of any device or method used by any "married woman or her husband" in the unamended Act – to "any woman or her partner", thus bringing pregnancies which happen outside the institution of marriage within the "protective umbrella of the law".

What did the Supreme Court lean on to make its decision?

The Bench said "constitutional values, such as the right to reproductive autonomy, the right to live a dignified life, the right to equality, and the right to privacy" led it to reinterpret the contours of the MTP Act and the MTP Rules. "In the context of abortion, the right to dignity entails recognising the competence and authority of every woman to take reproductive decisions, including the decision to terminate the pregnancy," it said.

What is the situation on the ground?

Women's rights activists say a lot more needs to be done so that all women feel safe to take a decision on their bodies. India's abortion laws are moving in a progressive manner, they say, especially in the light of what has happened in countries like the U.S. where the constitutional right to abortion was overturned by the Supreme Court in June. In India, besides patriarchal mindsets and social stigma, unmarried and single women face greater hurdles in exercising a right over their bodies, thus leading to higher risks and complications. Many women are forced to go to quacks when there are unwanted pregnancies, an activist said. As the Court noted, unsafe abortions are a leading cause of maternal mortality. The National Family Health Survey 5 (2019) pegs spousal violence (physical and sexual) faced by women in the age group 18-49 years at 29.3%.

What has the court remarked on marital rape?

The Court said that the meaning of the words "sexual assault" or "rape" in Rule 3B(a) includes a husband's act of sexual assault or rape committed on his wife. "The meaning of rape must therefore be understood as including marital rape, solely for the purposes of the MTP Act and any rules and regulations framed thereunder. Any other interpretation would have the effect of compelling a woman to give birth to and raise a child with a partner who inflicts mental and physical harm upon her." Human rights experts point out that if a person is guaranteed equality, autonomy and dignity under Articles 14 and 21, then marital rape must be termed a criminal offence. Though left out of the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act of 2013, the Justice Verma Committee had recommended that the law should specify that a marital relationship cannot be a defence against sexual violation. "A rapist remains a rapist regardless of his relationship with the victim," Justice Verma had concluded.

Did the ban spare PFI's political wing?

Could the Election Commission of India have had a role in the Social Democratic Party of India escaping a crackdown? What is the mandate of this party often associated with the Popular Front of India? Does the ECI have the power to de-register a political party?

S. Anandan

The story so far:

A definitive crackdown on the Popular Front of India (PFI) and eight of its affiliates by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) along with the police last week was capped by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) declaring them as 'unlawful associations' under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and outlawing them for five years. The Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI), widely thought to be the political wing of the PFI, escaped the ban, with its national president M.K. Faizy ascribing the action against the PFI to 'an undeclared Emergency' prevailing in the country.

What would have saved the SDPI for now?

There's no official word on what worked in favour of the SDPI, a political party that was formed in June, 2009, "for the advancement and uniform development of all citizenry including Muslims, Dalits, Backward Classes and Adivasis" and registered with the Election Commission of India (ECI) a year later. However, it is being surmised that the fact of it being a political dispensation with people's representatives in close to a dozen States and the lack of any tangible evidence of its involvement in 'planned unlawful' activities saved it.

While some top leaders of the SDPI also figured in the senior leadership of the banned PFI, the party was quick to distance itself from the latter, claiming to be an 'independent' entity featuring cadres, members and leaders from all communities and faiths.

"The MHA, if it so willed, could've acted against the SDPI as well, as the UAPA provides for overriding powers to act against any entity found to be involved in acts prejudicial to India's interests. But that wasn't done probably because there would not have been anything suggesting planned illegal activities on the part of the political party," was how Gopal Krishna Pillai, former Union Home Secretary, explained the MHA's action.

Could the ECI have acted against it?

The ECI is largely powerless to deregister active political parties, leave alone recommending a ban on them. "Over the last two decades, the ECI has gone to the Government of India several times over with a bouquet of proposals which include amendments to Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act of 1951, but there has been no progress in this regard," said N. Gopalaswami, former Chief Election Commissioner of India.



Shut down: A sealed lock on the door of the Popular Front of India's office in New Delhi. REUTERS

According to Supreme Court lawyer Kaleswaram Raj, even the limited power of the ECI to deregister a party is not provided by statute, as the Representation of the People Act only empowers the ECI to register a party. "However, in a case between the Indian National Congress and the Institute of Social Welfare in 2002, the Supreme Court held that the ECI can deregister a party (i) if the registration is obtained fraudulently (ii) if there is alteration in the original name or other material particulars of the party or (iii) where a de-registration without even an enquiry is an imperative. For example, if the registration of the political party cannot be continued for the very party becoming unlawful by a declaration by the competent authority to that effect," he explained.

But the SC itself, in the context of hate speech, gave indulgence to the Law Commission to examine whether the ECI should be given the powers to deregister a political party and the grounds for deciding so. Mr. Raj added that the

The SDPI distanced itself from the PFI, claiming to be an 'independent' entity with members from all communities and faiths

ECI, at the moment, has almost insignificant powers to deregister a party for non-furnishing of details of accounts or donations.

"If the system of electoral bond continues, even the Representation of the People Act or the provisions in the Model Code of Conduct will remain inconsequential to a considerable extent on the issue of fiscal transparency in the dealings of a political party. The Supreme Court has decided to hear the electoral bond issue soon. Unless the malpractice of electoral bond in the present form is totally abolished, our democracy cannot be rescued. Any change in law relating to political parties should begin with abolition of the electoral bond system in India," he said.

How does the SDPI view the development?

Much as it has been ruffled by the ban on the PFI, the SDPI harps on its independence and insists that it's steadfastly focused on social democracy and equal representation for all backward sections at all levels of government. "We have close to 800 seats in local bodies across States such as Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Maharashtra. An internal survey is being conducted right now to identify at least 60 constituencies – where a Muslim-Dalit alignment could work – from where to contest the Lok Sabha elections of 2024," says Elyas Mohammed Thumbe, SDPI national general secretary.

Ashraf Moulavi, the party's Kerala president, vouches for its financial, ideological and functional transparency and accountability, stressing that the party worked for "India's pluralism, Constitutional guarantees and cultural ethos".

Any Indian citizen regardless of caste or faith who abides by these besides meeting the criteria such as being averse to corruption, social evils like alcoholism or substance abuse and not being a member of any other political formulation, could become a member of the party by paying a fee of ₹5, Mr. Thumbe maintains. Cadres are selected based on their commitment to the party ideology and activism and given two sessions – on social democracy and on the tenets of a cadre. "Even rationalists are party members. Only, the believers and the atheists should respect each other's belief systems," says Mr. Moulavi, adding that the party doesn't condone violence on the part of its members.

What is in the works now?

Two weeks ago, the Kerala State committee of the party decided to carry out an extensive campaign on October 2 against drug abuse and addiction. "A three-month national campaign, 'Ghulami Na-Manzoor' (Slavery isn't acceptable) had been planned from September, but that has been put off to a later date in view of the uneasy political developments," says Mr. Thumbe.

What the Party Congress means for China

What are the three broad objectives on the agenda? Will there be any changes in policy and leadership? Will Xi Jinping further consolidate power? Will the Congress lead to a lift of the stringent 'zero-COVID' policy and begin to finally consider an exit strategy?

Ananth Krishnan

The story so far:

In October 16, the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC) will convene in Beijing for a week-long gathering. The 20th National Congress of the CPC, a once-in-five-year event, will mark sweeping changes in the leadership of China's ruling party, amend the party's constitution, and set the policy direction for the next five years, which will impact both China's domestic and international policies.

What happens at a Party Congress?

The CPC convenes a national congress every five years. On September 25, the party announced it had chosen 2,296 delegates to attend this year's event, representing various provinces, the military, different ministries, branches of government, and society. Choosing new leadership, amending the party constitution, and setting the main policy direction are the three broad objectives of a congress. The delegates "vote" on various resolutions, including amendments to the CPC's constitution, and in theory, choose a new Central Committee, which in turn is supposed to "elect" a new Politburo and Politburo Standing

Committee (PBSC). In practice, however, the amendments and personnel appointments are decided in advance by the party leadership, and not by the delegates who merely rubber stamp the decisions. The party briefly considered the idea of "straw polls" to elect the Politburo and PBSC, which was introduced in 2012. It was, however, discarded by current General Secretary Xi Jinping at the 19th Congress in 2017, with the party later saying the process had been "corrupted". Former security czar Zhou Yongkang and former Chongqing party chief Sun Zhengcai, who was once seen as a likely successor to Mr. Xi, were both purged and jailed for corruption by Mr. Xi. They were accused of "taking advantage of" the straw-poll system with "votes-soliciting corruption" activities. At the last congress in 2017, Mr. Xi abandoned the voting system and, according to the party, held "direct consultations" with 57 serving and retired party leaders to decide on personnel appointments. Mr. Xi is thought to have similarly done so ahead of this year's congress.

What are the likely changes in leadership in the offing?

Perhaps the most significant outcome of any congress is the selection of the next PBSC, the party's highest ruling body. Since 1992, congresses every 10 years, have also selected a new party General Secretary, with Jiang Zemin taking the reins in 1992, Hu Jintao in 2002, and Xi Jinping in 2012. The 20th congress this year will mark a break in the 30-year precedent, with Mr. Xi, in 2018, ending term limits and the 10-year norm that had enabled smooth transitions of power, throwing into uncertainty how future successions in leadership will take place. There will, however, still be sweeping changes in the rest of the top leadership, including the 25-member Politburo and the 7-member PBSC, with leaders aged 68 and higher set to retire. Mr. Xi (69) is the lone exception to the "seven up, eight down" age rule. While at least two of the current PBSC will retire, four others, including second-ranked leader and Premier Li Keqiang, are under 68, so could continue. Mr. Li will, however, step down as Premier having served two terms. The



Red flags galore: A woman takes a photo of a baby in front of an installation celebrating the 20th Party Congress in Beijing on September 29. AFP

composition of the next PBSC and the selection of the next Premier will serve as key indicators of the extent of Mr. Xi's influence, reflected in how many of his appointees will assume top positions in the next leadership, or whether Mr. Xi will have to compromise with other power-centres in the party and accommodate their preferred appointees instead, such as officials close to the former leaders, Mr. Jiang and Mr. Hu. The Chinese military will also see a sweeping change in its top leadership, with the Central Military Commission, which Mr. Xi will continue to lead for another five years, set to choose new members.

What are the implications?

Besides the changes in personnel, the congress will pass amendments to the party constitution, and indicate the broad directions in policy for the next five years, which will be outlined by Mr. Xi in a speech to the congress. At the previous 19th Congress, Xi Jinping's ideology, officially called "Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era", was written to the constitution, elevating him on a par with Mao Zedong and Deng Xiaoping as the only leaders with eponymous ideologies in the constitution. New amendments may formalise Mr. Xi's status as a "core" of the party leadership. Recent pronouncements have called on the party to uphold what it calls "two establishes" – enshrining Mr. Xi's "core status" and his ideology as a leading priority for the party. This will likely indicate even more centralisation of power in the coming term.

On the policy front, continuity, rather than change, is expected. The current Central Committee's annual plenum in 2020 approved the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) and Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035, which emphasised some of Mr. Xi's campaigns, including "common prosperity" to reduce inequality as well as address monopolies, particularly with regard to private firms in the tech sector, which has seen a crackdown; "dual circulation" to give more primacy to the domestic market as a driver of growth to complement external trade; and self-reliance in key strategic sectors. The immediate concern for many in China, however, is whether Mr. Xi will decide to continue with his "zero-COVID" policy or begin to finally consider an exit strategy, after the conclusion of the congress which is expected to hail the success of China's pandemic response as one of Mr. Xi's biggest legacies.

PROFILES

The democratic leftist

Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva

The former two-time President, who has promised a new form of welfarism with ecological and infrastructure spending, is taking on the Latin American country's far-right incumbent Jair Bolsonaro in today's elections

Srinivasan Ramani

LOn Sunday, Brazil will vote in the first round of presidential elections to determine the fate of incumbent Jair Bolsonaro who is expected to face a massive challenge from former President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, mononymously called Lula. Polling has shown that the former President is ahead of Mr. Bolsonaro with some polls suggesting that the gap is more than 14% points, enough for Lula to win in the first round itself.

On first glance, this should not be a surprise – Mr. Bolsonaro, a far-right politician, presided over a disastrous COVID-19 pandemic response in the country with nearly 700,000 registered deaths and an economy that is slowly bouncing back but is still ravaged by high inflation (as high as 11% recently). The Bolsonaro regime consistently downplayed the threat of the virus and was lax in implementing vaccination and lockdown strategies to combat the pandemic. To shore up his sagging popularity, the regime resuscitated a cash transfer scheme to the poor to tamp down the effects of high inflation, but has also increased the government's gross debt to GDP ratio to a high 90%. Mr. Bolsonaro clearly does not enjoy the benefits of being an outsider to the establishment as he did in the 2018 elections. He has also got to reckon with the candidacy of Brazil's most well known politician, Lula.

A former union leader who has come from humble origins, Lula served two terms as the head of State between 2003 and 2010, before demitting office to his successor Dilma Rousseff of the Workers' Party (PT) that he helped found in 1980. As President, Lula led his country through a period of economic growth and utilised a period of high commodity prices in the international market to subsidise programmes such as Bolsa Família that instituted conditional cash transfers for the poor and lifted an estimated 20 million people out of extreme poverty. Lula's two-terms coincided with the pink tide

– the rise of left-wing regimes in Latin America – and he served as one of the key leaders of initiatives for intra-continental cooperation besides a promoter of multilateral international organisations such as BRICS. By the time he demitted power, Lula's personal popularity and that of his regime's philosophy, Lulismo, remained high in Brazil.

Lula's rule, however, was qualitatively different from the more radical socialist-oriented regimes in Venezuela, Ecuador and Bolivia. While his working class origins and leadership of a strong trade union in the late 1970s during the military dictatorship in Brazil firmly put him in the Left, his government utilised policies of conciliation and negotiation to advance welfare, and did not quite disturb the hold of the traditional Brazilian elite over institutions of power.

Talk with the elite

The 2000s saw the participation of more Brazilians in the polity and a greater democratisation but the PT's strategy of negotiating with the elite in Brazil's Congress and other institutions ensured that the corruption in the highest circles in the country remained intact, affecting even Lula's party.

The controversial Car Wash scandal, which revealed systematic corruption in the way contracts were awarded by executives of the state-owned petroleum company Petrobras and implicated several politicians, administrators and businessmen, led to the fall of the Dilma Rousseff presidency by impeachment in 2014. Even if Ms. Rousseff was not directly implicated in the scandal, it resulted in the decline in popularity for the PT. Lula himself was arrested, convicted and was barred from participating in the 2018 presidential elections, but was released in 2019 after documents leaked by journalist Glenn Greenwald pointed to collusion by Judge Sergio Moro with the prosecution. Brazil's Supreme Court ruled in March 2021 that justice was biased against him, resulting in the cases against him being annulled and allowing him to run for



ILLUSTRATION: RAVIESH

President again.

Tackling authoritarianism is not new to Lula, though. In a book that came out in 2020, author John D. French writes about how Lula rose from humble origins to become a machinist in the fast industrialising São Paulo region and later, a popular working class leader by mobilising industrial workers in massive strikes during the dictatorship in the late 1970s. Lula's style has always been to utilise dialogue with political

opponents without giving up on an ability to "stand up and fight, when needed .. [through] an additive and transformative politics of cunning executed by creating spaces of convergence through difference". Lula emerged as one of the key politicians in the newly democratic Brazil of the late 1980s after having cut his teeth as a working class leader and a leader of a national trade union confederation. His style of leadership and an ability to speak to Brazil's poor through a

unique "vernacular discourse" was intact both as a trade unionist and a popular politician and the leader of the PT.

Once in power, he continued to use the strategy of dialogue but moderated the ideological impulses of the PT even as he embarked upon welfare programmes that benefited the party's core base. Yet, the PT and Lula's critics in the left spectrum in Brazil argue that the party's strategy to utilise a policy of conciliation and negotiation with the traditional elite allowed it to pursue reforms without blowback but it also helped the fortunes of the richer sections in Brazil – particularly those in the agro-economy sector. They argue that this also paved the way for the parliamentary "coup" from the Right that led to the impeachment of Ms. Rousseff besides the corruption cases giving a fillip to the rise of the far-right led by Mr. Bolsonaro.

Mr. Bolsonaro has never hidden his support for the erstwhile military dictatorship and has also suggested, in Donald Trump-like fashion – to whom his personality and politics are likened to – that a loss in the elections would only mean electoral fraud, suggesting to his supporters that he will not accept defeat. There is now fear among some Brazilians that Mr. Bolsonaro and his supporters might stage an insurrection in the likelihood of an electoral defeat.

Social liberalism

If Lula triumphs against Mr. Bolsonaro as polls seem to suggest (they could go wrong, in 2018, Mr. Bolsonaro won 46% of the vote in the first round while polls indicated that he may win 40%), it would be a victory for political decency and social liberalism over far-right populism and crass political discourse in Latin America's largest country. Lula has promised that if he comes to power, he would implement new welfare, ecological and infrastructure spending schemes based on Keynesianism. But it would be a struggle for him to negotiate with a truculent and more powerful Brazilian Congress than during the 2000s.

THE GIST

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▼ As President, Lula's welfare programmes such as Bolsa Família, coupled with high economic growth, lifted an estimated 20 million people out of extreme poverty

▼ But the Workers' Party's strategy of negotiating with Brazil's elite ensured that the corruption in the highest circles in the country remained intact, affecting even Lula's party

God, family and homeland

Giorgia Meloni

The Brothers of Italy, which campaigned on an anti-immigrant and pro-Christian values platform, is set to form the first far-right government in the country since Mussolini

G. Sampath

Less than a month after Sweden elected to power a right-wing coalition that included a party with a neo-Nazi past, Italy has followed suit. In the general elections held on September 25, the Brothers of Italy, a party with neo-fascist roots headed by Giorgia Meloni, 45, emerged the largest with 26% of the vote. Ms. Meloni's coalition, which also comprises the right-wing populist Lega Party headed by Matteo Salvini, and Silvio Berlusconi's centre-right Forza Italia, garnered 44% of the vote to secure a clear majority. Their main opponent, the centre-left Democratic Party, could muster only 19%.

The electoral outcome is a historic one. For one, Italy will get its first ever woman Prime Minister in Ms. Meloni. And it is the first time since the Second World War that the Italians have handed the reins of power to a party whose lineage goes back directly to Benito Mussolini. Ms. Meloni, on her part, has worked hard to shed the fascist baggage and recast her party in the conservative mould. She has insisted that her party has "handed fascism over to history" and "unambiguously condemns the suppression of democracy and the ignominious anti-Jew-



ish laws". Yet she is not averse to extracting political mileage from fascist symbolism, and has laid bare the nature of her political inspiration in her memoir, *I am Giorgia, My Roots, My Ideas* (2021)

As she details in her memoir, Ms. Meloni grew up in a working class neighbourhood of Rome and her political awakening occurred at the age of 15 when she joined the youth wing of the Movimento Sociale Italiano (MSI), a party founded by former members of Mussolini's fascist dictatorship. In the 1990s, when the MSI rebranded itself as the National Alliance (AN), Ms. Meloni became the president of its youth wing, and by the age of 29, she was a member of Parliament. In 2008, when the AN was in an alliance with Forza Italia, Mr. Berlusconi appointed her the Minister of Youth, making her Italy's youngest ever Minister.

Her boldest political move came in 2012, when

Italy was grappling with a severe recession in the aftermath of the global financial crisis. Ms. Meloni chose this moment to strike out on her own by co-founding the Brothers of Italy. Although she insists it is a conservative party and has no truck with fascism, she chose to retain the tri-colour burning flame of the MSI in her party flag.

Political slogan

She campaigned in this general election on a platform that was openly anti-immigrant and anti-LGBTQI. Her political slogan of "God, family and homeland" was predicated on an aggressive valorisation of Christian identity, "family values", and Italian ultra-nationalism that was hostile to Muslim/Arab/African cultures and identities. Despite her aggressive anti-liberal political posturing, Italy's famously Byzantine system of checks and balances suggests that

it won't be easy for Ms. Meloni to translate her far-right agenda into law or policy. For instance, her proposal to amend the Constitution to introduce a directly elected President in place of the current Parliamentary system will likely remain a non-starter. Moreover, Italy has been allocated the largest chunk of the EU recovery fund, worth €200 billion, and any move that falls afoul of the EU's human rights norms may jeopardise it.

Ms. Meloni knows that too. Although the Brothers of Italy was launched as a vehicle opposed to EU integration and bats for national sovereignty over kowtowing to the EU bureaucracy, she has toned down the anti-EU rhetoric. Also, notwithstanding the fact that both her coalition partners, Mr. Salvini and Mr. Berlusconi, are known to be close to Russia's Vladimir Putin, she has been steadfast in condemning Russia over the Ukraine attack, supports NATO and endorses sending military aid to Ukraine. Not surprisingly, some liberal observers consider her a "disciplined" or "smarter" version of Donald Trump – and therefore dangerous – for she is an example far-right politicians in other countries might want to emulate to broaden their appeal and quicken their ascent to power.

Dinakar Peri

Both hail from Pauri Garhwal district of Uttarakhand and were commissioned into 11 Gorkha Rifles of the Indian Army three years apart – 1978 and 1981. They are India's first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) late Gen. Bipin Rawat and the second CDS Gen. Anil Chauhan, who took over the top military post on September 30.

However, they are contrasting in their demeanour. Gen. Rawat was outspoken, including while speaking at public forums or interactions with the media. Gen. Chauhan is calm and measured, but firm in putting across his views, said a serving officer who had worked with him closely on several occasions. "He likes to keep a low-profile," the officer said, requesting anonymity.

It is unprecedented in India's military history that a retired three-star officer is brought back to Service, 16 months after he "hung up the uniform", elevated as a full General and appointed first among equals, before the three Service Chiefs. As CDS, Gen. Chauhan will also function as the Principal Military Adviser to the Defence Minister on all tri-service matters as well as head the Department of Military Affairs as Secretary. He will also be the

First among equals

Gen. Anil Chauhan

Among the tasks awaiting the new Chief of Defence Staff is the roll-out of theatres, the reorganisation of the armed forces into theatre commands

ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R. KUMAR



Permanent Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee. Post-retirement, Gen. Chauhan took charge as the Military Adviser to the National Security Council Secretariat, where he was working closely with National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, till the appointment. Gen. Chauhan was the Director-General of Military Operations (DGMO) at the Army Headquarters from January 30, 2018 till August 31, 2019 when Gen. Rawat was the Army Chief. During this time, he was closely involved in India's response to the Pulwama terror attack, which resulted in the death of 40 personnel.

'Operation Sunrise'
As the DGMO, Gen. Chauhan oversaw 'Operation Sunrise', the coordinated operations undertaken by Indian and Myanmar armies on insurgent groups taking shelter across the border, which in a way broke the backbone of

northeast insurgencies, said the officer cited above.

Gen. Chauhan commanded an Infantry Division in Baramulla sector in Jammu and Kashmir as a Major General and the Dimapur-based 3 Corps as the Corps Commander. He has a very good understanding of counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism (CI/CT) situation on both sides, the officer stated. As Eastern Army Commander, he ensured that the Army's focus was shifted from CI to the conventional task along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) as Op Snow Leopard was underway in Eastern Ladakh, he said, referring to the May 2020 stand-off. He took over as the Eastern Army Commander in September 2019.

This period also saw significant scaling up of infrastructure development along the LAC and as the Army Commander, he pushed it, the officer added. A highly decorated of

ficer, Gen. Chauhan has authored two books – *Aftermath of a Nuclear Attack* and *Military Geography of India's Northern Borders*.

While the institution of the CDS is still evolving, the groundwork for it and the tasks ahead had been laid down by Gen. Rawat, before his untimely death in a chopper crash last December. With that, Gen. Chauhan has his tasks cut out and has to pick up the threads from where they were left. Among the several tasks lined up, the top priority would be the roll-out of the process of theatres, the reorganisation of the armed forces into theatre commands meant to bring in synergy and optimise resources.

Gen. Chauhan has a good understanding of theatres and made positive contributions during the earlier deliberations, said another officer.

With the maximum age limit for the CDS set at 65, Gen. Chauhan, 61, has a tenure of nearly four years and will likely outlast the next batch of Service Chiefs. The Defence Ministry statement on his appointment had only said "with effect from the date of his assumption of charge and until further orders." This gives him enough time to build consensus, ensure a smooth roll-out of theatres and see their stabilisation as well.

IN BRIEF



Unemployment rate dipped to 6.43% in September: CMIE

India's unemployment rate dropped to 6.43% in September due to an increase in labour participation in the rural and urban areas, data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) showed. In August, unemployment had surged to a one-year high of 8.3% as employment sequentially fell by 2 million to 394.6 million. The almost-8 million increase in labour participation is a sign that the economy is doing well, said CMIE managing director Mahesh Vyas. PTI

Govt. defers plan to impose excise duty on unblended fuel

The Centre has put off by one month the levy of additional ₹2 per litre excise duty on petrol unblended with ethanol, and by six months for diesel that is not blended with bio-diesel. The relaxation is likely to give industry more time to implement oil import-cutting measures. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had introduced the levy, to be applicable from October 1, in Budget FY23. The duty is now deferred to November 1 for petrol and April 1, 2023, for diesel. PTI

ATF price cut 4.5%, LPG rates slashed by ₹25.5 per cylinder

The price of jet fuel (ATF) was on Saturday slashed by 4.5% and that of commercial LPG used in hotels and restaurants was cut by ₹25.5 per 19-kg cylinder. Jet fuel price was cut by ₹5,521.17 to ₹115,520.27 per kl in Delhi. The price of a 19-kg commercial LPG cylinder was cut to ₹1,859.50 from ₹1,885, according to a price notification from state-owned fuel retailers. This is the sixth reduction in the price of commercial LPG since June, in step with softening international energy prices. PTI

Sept. auto wholesales surge on festival cheer, chip supply



Press Trust of India

NEW DELHI

Robust festival demand, coupled with better production due to easing of semiconductor supplies, helped the domestic passenger vehicle industry post its best-ever monthly sales performance in September. Industry volumes in September rose 91% to 3,55,946 units.

Maruti Suzuki India said its total domestic passenger vehicle (PV) wholesales stood at 1,48,380 units last month compared with 63,111 units a year earlier.

MSI senior ED (Marketing & Sales) Shashank Srivastava said the industry had crossed the 10-lakh sales mark in a quarter for the first time ever in the July-September period.

Hyundai Motor India reported 50% growth in

domestic wholesales to 49,700 units. Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles MD Shailesh Chandra said the firm achieved its highest monthly sales of 47,654 led by record sales of Nexon and Punch.

Kia India also reported best-ever sales last month with dispatches of 25,857 units to dealers.

In the two-wheeler segment, Hero MotoCorp said its domestic sales stood at 50,690 units compared with 50,546 units. TVS Motor Co. said its domestic two-wheeler sales rose 16% to 2,83,878 units.

Arsenal guns down Tottenham; Liverpool lucky to escape with draw



Easy finish: Jesus bundles in Arsenal's second into an empty Tottenham goal. AP

draw with Liverpool.

The results: Premier League: Arsenal 3 (Partey 20, Jesus 49, Xhaka 67) bt Tottenham 1 (Kane 31-pen); Burnemouth 0 drew with Brentford 0; Crystal Palace 1 (Edouard 7) lost to Chelsea 2

Southampton 1 (Arizo 49) lost to Everton 2 (Coady 52, McNeil 54).

LaLiga: Sevilla 0 lost to Atletico Madrid 2 (Llorente 29, Morata 57).

Serie A: Napoli 3 (Anguissa 6, 12, Kvaratskhelia 37) bt Torino 1 (Sanabria 44); Inter Milan 1 (Dimarco 30) lost to Roma 2 (Dybala 39, Smalling 75).

Bundesliga: RB Leipzig 4 (Werner 15, 53, Nkunku 23-pen, 85) bt Bochum 0; Freiburg 2 (Gregoritsch 3, Kyerem 37) bt Mainz 05 (Martin 52); Cologne 3 (Kainz 53, Tsigges 56, Ljubicic 71) bt Borussia Dortmund 2 (Brandt 31, Schmitz 78-og);

On Friday: Bundesliga: Bayern Munich 4 (Sane 3, Musiala 17, Mane 39, Muller 84) bt Bayer Leverkusen 0.

La Liga: Athletic Bilbao 4 (Inaki Williams 10, Sanchez 17, Nico Williams 62, Vesga 84-pen) bt Almeria 0.

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SNOOKER

Advani, Rawat in knockout stage of World 6-Red championship



Pankaj Advani and defending champion Laxman Rawat were among the Indians to qualify for the knockout stage of the World 6-Red snooker championship at Kuala Lumpur. Besides Advani and Laxman, Dhvaj Haria, Kamal Chawla and S. Shrikrishna also made it to the last-32.

BASKETBALL

U.S. crushes China to win women's World Cup for 11th time



Aja Wilson poured in 19 points as the United States crushed China 83-61 to win its fourth straight women's basketball World Cup and 11th overall in Sydney on Saturday. Kelsey Plum added 17 points and Jewell Loyd 11 as the Americans stretched their WC unbeaten streak to 30 games.

GENERAL

Unmukt Chand suffers eye injury in the United States



Former India Under-19 captain Unmukt Chand has suffered an eye injury while playing for Silicon Valley Strikers in the Minor League Cricket in the United States. The 29-year-old retired from Indian cricket to be able to play in the USA. "It's never a smooth ride for an athlete," tweeted Chand.

CRICKET

Brett Lee glad to play alongside Gayle, Harbhajan in LLC



Former Australian fast bowling great Brett Lee is happy that he will have Chris Gayle and Harbhajan Singh for company in the ongoing Legends League Cricket (LLC). Lee, who will represent Manipal Tigers, had also played the inaugural edition in Oman's capital city of Muscat.

India's depleted pace attack comes under the scanner

In the absence of the injured Bumrah, good performances in the remaining matches could earn Siraj a ticket to the World Cup; Chahar will look to impress again, while Umesh hopes for a chance

S. AFRICA IN INDIA**Ashwin Achal**

GUWAHATI

India's depleted pace attack will come under scrutiny in the second Twenty20 International against South Africa here on Sunday.

A back injury to Jasprit Bumrah has ruled him out of the series. More worryingly, Bumrah may not be able to recover in time for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup which commences later this month.

World Cup carrot

Bumrah's absence opens the door for his replacement, Mohammed Siraj, to make an impact. Siraj, who joined the team at training here, last played a T20I in February. Good shows in the second and third T20Is could earn Siraj a ticket to the World Cup, if indeed Bumrah is unable to make the trip.

The World Cup carrot dangles in front of Deepak Chahar and Umesh Yadav as well. While Chahar scalped two wickets in India's victory in the first T20I at Thiruvananthapuram, Umesh sat out. There



Men in form: Arshdeep was in full swing at Thiruvananthapuram, even as Rahul came up with a useful, albeit subdued, contribution. K.R. DEEPAK

is a worry that Umesh can be wayward in the shortest format, so the team management is unlikely to pick him in the eleven here.

Shami misses out

Mohammed Shami, on the standby list for the World Cup, misses out on vital game time as he is recuper-

ating from COVID-19. Left-arm fast bowler Arshdeep Singh did his reputation a world of good with a stellar show in the first T20I.

Arshdeep swung the ball prodigiously both ways to bamboozle the South Africans, and earned the Man-of-the-

Match award for his three for 32 performance.

As the lone left-arm pacer in the World Cup squad, Arshdeep is all but guaranteed to feature extensively in Australia.

On the batting front, K.L. Rahul found some runs at Thiruvananthapuram, even if he was less

than convincing. Rahul was scratchy in his unbeaten 56-ball 51, and was helped by Suryakumar Yadav's free-flowing approach at the other end.

Suryakumar's delightful unbeaten 33-ball 50 made the 107-run target wholly inadequate.

No way but up

Having been bowled out for a paltry score on Wednesday, South Africa must believe that there is no way but up. The top-order crumbled in the face of fine seam bowling, leaving India in cruise control for most of the encounter. The visitors are bound to put up a better fight.

The squads (from):

India: Rohit Sharma (Capt.), K.L. Rahul (Vice-Capt.), Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant, Dinesh Karthik, R. Ashwin, Yuzvendra Chahal, Axar Patel, Arshdeep Singh, Harshal Patel, Deepak Chahar, Umesh Yadav, Shreyas Iyer, Shahbaz Ahmed and Mohammed Siraj.

South Africa: Temba Bavuma (Capt.), Quinton de Kock, Reeza Hendricks, Heinrich Klaasen, Keshav Maharaj, Aiden Markram, David Miller, Lungi Ngidi, Anrich Nortje, Wayne Parnell, Dwayne Pretorius, Kagiso Rabada, Rilee Rossouw, Tabraiz Shamsi and Tristan Stubbs.

Match starts at 7 p.m.

Dravid hopes Bumrah will recover in time for World Cup

Ashwin Achal
GUWAHATI

India head coach Rahul Dravid is "hopeful" that Jasprit Bumrah will recover from his injury quickly. Dravid has, however, not ruled Bumrah out of the T20 World Cup, even if the pacer is in a tough race against time.

"I haven't gone deeply into Bumrah's medical reports. I rely on the experts to tell me what it is. Bumrah is being assessed.

"We will know in due course what happens in the future. Until I get official confirmation that he is ruled out, we will always be hopeful. We will hope for the best, not just for the team, but for Jasprit as an individual," Dravid said at a press meet here on Saturday. "As of now, Bumrah is officially ruled out of the T20 series against South Africa. He has gone to the NCA (in Bengaluru). We have to see what happens over the next few days," Dravid said.

He added, "We've been very clear about the kind of combinations we want. You can't pick an eleven several months in advance; you don't know about the wicket and conditions. We're clear about the skills we want in the squad for the World Cup."

Jemimah powers India to facile win over Sri Lanka

WOMEN'S ASIA CUP**Press Trust of India**
SYLHET

Jemimah Rodrigues played the role of 'enforcer' to perfection with a career-best 76 in T20Is before the bowlers produced a clinical display to power India to a 41-run win against Sri Lanka in the women's Asia Cup here on Saturday.

Jemimah put on a boundary-hitting exhibition, whacking 11 fours and a maximum in her counter-attacking 53-ball innings to help India post 150 for six.



Player-of-the-match Jemimah.

FILE PHOTO: VIJAY SONEJI

c Renuka b Deepith 5 (1lb, 1x4), Malsha Shehani run out 9 (6b, 1x4), Hasini Perera c Radha b Deepith 30 (32b, 3x4), Nilakshi de Silva lbw b Pooja 3 (5b), Kavisha Dilhari c Renuka b Pooja 1 (8b), Anushka Sanjeevani lbw b Radha 5 (9b), Oshadi Ranasinghe c Sneha b Hemalatha 11 (10b, 1x4), Sugandika Kumari c Smriti b Hemalatha 4 (3b), Inoka Ranaweera (not out) 1 (3b), Deepthi Vastrakar run out 1 (2b), Deepthi Sharma (not out) 1 (1b); Extras (b-1): 1; Total (for six wkts, in 20 overs): 150.

Fall of wickets:

1-25 (Smriti, 2.2 overs), 2-39 (Shafali, 3.6), 3-115 (Harmanpreet, 15.5), 4-134 (Jemimah, 17.4), 5-145 (Richa, 18.6), 6-149 (Pooja, 19.5).

Sri Lanka bowling:

Sugandika 4-0-26-1, Oshadi 4-0-32-3, Achini 3-0-17-0, Malsha 2-0-18-0, Inoka 4-0-34-0, Kavisha 2-0-14-0, Chamari 1-0-8-1.

Sri Lanka:

Harshitha Samarawickrama run out 26 (20b, 5x4), Chamari Athapaththu Oct. 3.

India bowling: Renuka 2-0-20-0, Deepthi 4-0-15-2, Sneha 4-0-28-0, Radha 3-0-15-1, Pooja 3-0-12-2, Hemalatha 2.2-0-15-3.

Next match: vs Malaysia, Sylhet, Oct. 3.



Gritty: Amlan, right, Elakkayadasan, centre, and Shivakumar, left, the top three in the 100m. Right: Rosy, winner of the pole vault gold. V.V. KRISHNAN

Amlan, Jyothi emerge the fastest; Rosy sets new record

NATIONAL GAMES**Y.B. Sarangi**
GANDHINAGAR

Amlan Borgohain and Jyothi Yarraji won exciting races to emerge as the fastest man and woman of the National Games here on Saturday.

Undistracted by a false start, a gritty Amlan clocked 10.38 seconds to take the gold.

Jyothi beat a star-studded field, including Hima Das, Dutee Chand and Sarabani Nanda, to take the women's crown in 11.51 seconds.

Both Amlan and Jyothi will compete in their primary events – 200m and 100m respectively – later.

Rosy Meena Paulraj took the pole vault gold with a new national record of 4.20m.

Commonwealth Games medalist M. Sreeshankar took the silver behind Jeswin Aldrin, who leaped 8.26m to win the gold with a new Games record, with a jump of 7.93m.

The results (finals, winners only): **Men: 100m:** Amlan

Borgohain (Assm) 10.38; **400m:** Muhammed Ajmal (SSCB) 46.29;

500m: Abhishek Pal (UP) 14:07.25; **long**

jump: Jeswin Aldrin (TN) 8.26m (GR, Old: 8.04, Ankit Sharma, Thiruvananthapuram, 2015);

shot put: Tajinderpal Singh (SSCB) 20.75m (GR, Old: 20.14, Inderjeet Singh, Thiruvananthapuram, 2015);

4x100m relay: Tamil Nadu (Karthiavan, V.K. Elakkayadasan, S. Jayakumar and B. Siva Kumar) 40.01.

Women: 100m: Jyothi Yarraji (AP) 11.51; **400m:** Aishwarya Mishra (Mah) 52.62; **500m:** Parul Chaudhary (UP) 16:34.68; **pole vault:** Rosy Meena Paulraj (TN) 4.20m (NR, Old: 4.15, V.S. Surekha, New Delhi, 2014. Old GR: 4.00, Surekha, Thiruvananthapuram, 2015); discus: Nidhi Rani (Har) 51.65m; **4x100m relay:** Kerala (V.S. Bhavika, P.D. Anjali, A.P. Shilbi and A.P. Sheldha) 45.52.

Ajith rewrites Achinta's clean and jerk record

Y.B. Sarangi
GANDHINAGAR

N. Ajith broke Achinta Sheuli's clean and jerk national record and upset the Commonwealth Games champion to win the men's 73kg crown at the weightlifting arena of the National Games here on Saturday.

Ajith improved upon his National title-winning performance of 297kg in March to total 315kg and beat an off-colour Achinta by 20kg.

As Achinta faltered in his first two snatch attempts and managed 130kg, Ajith hoisted 141kg to establish a handsome lead.

Ajith achieved 174kg in

his second clean and jerk effort to break Achinta's National mark by one kg and ensure his gold.

Achinta, who totaled 313kg in the CWG, did 165kg in clean and jerk to take the silver with an aggregate of 295kg.

The results: **Men: 67kg:** 1. Subhash Lahre (SSCB) snatch 121kg, clean and jerk 154kg, total 275kg; 2. K. Neelam Raju (AP) 124kg, 146kg, 270kg; 3. Susant Sahu (Odi) 119kg, 151kg, 270kg; **73kg:** 1. N. Ajith (TN) 141kg, 174kg, 315kg; 2. Achinta Sheuli (SSCB) 130kg, 165kg, 295kg; 3. Devapreethan B. (Ker) 125kg, 156kg, 281kg.

Women: 59kg: 1. Bindyaranee Devi (Man) 83kg, 111kg, 194kg; 2. Popy Hazarika (Assm) 85kg, 108kg, 193kg; 3. Davinder Kaur (Pun)

85kg, 107kg, 192kg.

Esha in sports pistol, Arshdeep-Ramita duo in air rifle on target

Santadeep Dey
AHMEDABAD

Telangana's Esha Singh on Saturday pulled a rabbit out of the hat to win her maiden National Games gold medal in women's 25m sports pistol at the Ahmedabad Military and Rifle Training Association in Khanpur.

Fighting to stay alive in the contest at one point in time during the ranking round, there wouldn't have been many in the audience who would have given her a chance. Her father-cum-mentor Sachin, however, never gave up hope. After she made the medal match, courtesy a solitary extra hit in a shoot-off against Haryana's Vibhuti Bhatia, Sachin smiled and said, "Just made it... somehow!"

In the medal match, she found herself precariously placed over the edge of a crevice again, only a point ahead of bottom-placed Manu Bhaker until the end of the third five-shot series.

With a perfect series (5/5) just before the elimination, she marked herself safe and even proceeded to get nine successful hits in the next 10 shots to move



Triumphant pair: Ramita and Arshdeep who took the honours in 10m air rifle mixed team event. VIJAY SONEJI

to the top. After that, there was no looking back as the 17-year-old finished with 26 points.

Sachin, beaming with pride, as his daughter climbed onto the podium, said, "She has always been like this... She wins it out of nowhere." Haryana's Rhythm Sangwan (25) won silver, while Abhidnya Ashok Patil (19) of Maharashtra won bronze.

Haryana topples MP
Haryana toppled favourite Madhya Pradesh 17-9 to take the 10m air rifle mixed team honours home. Tamil Nadu and Rajas-

than were adjudged the winners of the two bronze medals.



Large arena: A Kachhi Rabari with his herd at the Bhed Mata camel fair near Bhuj in Kutch in September.

Camel fair

The annual market is steeped in tradition and devotion of Kachhi Rabaris for the goddess Bhed Mata



Vijay Soneji
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The dark monsoon clouds keep shutting out the sun on the eve of the annual Bhed Mata Mela, the camel fair that plays out on the hills of Sanosara, a small village some 35 km off Bhuj in Kutch in September. There is excitement in the air and two young Rabari girls, Hetal and Rajal, climb the tallest hill in the village willing the sun to set so that the next day welcomes the mela, just two km from their village.

While there are plenty of livestock fairs in the country, the camel fair here is different as it closely linked to the worship of Bhed Mata. The Rabaris partake in the mega "Kheer" prasad made of camel milk and take blessings of the goddess for a bountiful year and good health of humans and camels, says Lakhman Rabari, 18, who

owns a camel and works as a health worker in a private hospital in Bhuj.

Rabaris are nomads that follow the rain in search for good pasture for cattle, travelling east from Gujarat to Rajasthan and go well into Uttar Pradesh.

It has rained well this year. The smiles on the faces of the Kachhi Rabaris are a giveaway that the year has been good. Normally, the Kutch region of Gujarat receives very less rain, making it highly likely for people, including the Rabaris, to migrate with their camel. In Sanosara, the population is mostly of the Kachhi Rabaris. The village has 500 houses, not one of them with a concrete ceiling. They depend on camels for a living. During drought years, many of them are forced to switch over to other business.



Musical days: Women sing bhajans during the fair.



Full of devotion: Kachhi Rabari women return from the Bhed Mata temple during the fair.



Slaking the thirst: Camels brought to the fair take a swig from a channel.



Invoking the divine: A Kachhi Rabari woman prays for the good health of her camel herd.



Welcome scene: Renewing friendships at the fair.



Traders' tips: Camel traders in deep discussion.



Over tea:
Camel traders have a word with each other.



Shared destination: Camels and Rabari women on their way to the fair.