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Ex-SBI chief denied bail, sent to judicial custody in Rajasthan loan scam
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IN BRIEF



Capital sees five more dengue deaths

NEW DELHI
The Capital reported 531 dengue cases over the past week (till October 30), and five deaths, a civic report said on Monday. While the death toll for the season has reached six, the caseload for October stands at 1,196 – the highest for the month since 2017. This season's total cases have touched 1,537, which is the highest since 2018.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3



ON LATEST PATTERN
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India will achieve net zero emissions by 2070, says PM

Renewable energy will be tapped in a big way, Modi tells COP26 summit

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India will achieve net zero emissions latest by 2070, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said at the COP26 summit in Glasgow on Monday. Until Monday, India was the only major emitter that had not committed to a timeline to achieve net zero, or a year by which it would ensure its net carbon dioxide emissions would be zero.

By 2030, India will ensure 50% of its energy will be sourced from renewable sources. India also committed to reduce its carbon emissions until 2030 by a billion tonnes. India will also reduce its emissions intensity per unit of GDP by less than 45%. India would also



Green push: Prime Minister Narendra Modi arriving for the COP26 summit in Glasgow, Scotland, on Monday. AP

install systems to generate 500 gigawatt of renewable energy by 2030, a 50 GW increase from its existing target, the Prime Minister said.

He added that in the spirit of climate justice, rich deve-

loped countries ought to be providing at least \$1 trillion in climate finance to assist developing countries and those most vulnerable.

Mr. Gutierrez urged countries to keep the Paris deal goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius alive.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

UN: countries must act to save humanity

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
GLASGOW

The COP26 climate summit must act to "save humanity" and protect the planet, UN chief Antonio Guterres said on Monday, warning that currently "we are digging our own graves".

Mr. Gutierrez urged countries to keep the Paris deal goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius alive.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

Cannot impose blanket ban on all firecrackers, says SC

Court reiterates restrictions on use of toxic chemicals

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday said a blanket ban on firecrackers may not be possible, but measures ought to be in place to prevent the use of toxic chemicals in firecrackers.



This is the second time in the past few days that the court had accepted the improbability of imposing a total ban on firecrackers. On October 29, the court had made it clear that there was no total ban on use of firecrackers.

"Only those firecrackers are banned which are found to be injurious to health and

affecting the health of citizens," the court had noted in an order.

On Monday, a Special Bench of Justices A.M. Khanwilkar and Ajay Rastogi orally said there could not be a complete ban of firecrackers.

The firecracker industry had moved the top court after the Calcutta High Court "prohibited the sale, purchase, use, display or bursting of firecrackers of any type at all during the upcoming Kali Puja, Diwali celebration as well as the following Chatt Puja, Jagadhatri Puja, Guru Nanak's Birthday and/or Christmas/New Year's Eve this year in the State of West Bengal".

"Strengthen the mechanism to stop misuse," the apex court reiterated its advice, with a reference to its October 29 order.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

Priyanka-Jayant meeting creates a flutter in U.P.

RLD chief terms it mere 'speculation'

ANUJ KUMAR
GHAZIABAD

The meeting between Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Rashtriya Lok Dal president Jayant Singh in the lounge of Lucknow's Chaudhary Charan Singh Airport on Sunday created a flutter in political circles about a possible tie-up for the coming Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls.

Curiously, photos of the

hour-long meeting went viral on a day when Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav told a news agency that the alliance with the RLD had been finalised.

While the RLD president termed it a mere "speculation", sources in the State Congress said the party did see the RLD as a "potential partner" in the state.

POSITIVE TALKS ON ▶ PAGE 11

Festive season fires up Oct. GST revenues

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The country's gross GST (Goods and Services Tax) revenues crossed the ₹1.3 lakh crore mark in October, the second highest collection since the tax regime was implemented in July 2017, driven largely by 'pre-festive season stocking and improved compliance'.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

Modi discusses Afghanistan with Boris Johnson

Glasgow talks also cover climate change and post-COVID scenario

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his British counterpart Boris Johnson on Monday discussed the evolving situation in Afghanistan on the sidelines of the COP26 summit in Glasgow. The Mi-

nistry of External Affairs (MEA), in a statement, said the leaders discussed bilateral partnership in the context of climate change, Indo-Pacific strategy and post-COVID global economic recovery.

"The two Prime Ministers reviewed the implementa-

tion of the Roadmap 2030 priorities, particularly in trade and economy, people to people [ties], health, defence and security areas," said the MEA.

The MEA said both the leaders reviewed progress in the trade talks for Enhanced Trade Partnership, and also discussed bilateral cooperation in green hydrogen, renewable energy and clean

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10



Boris Johnson



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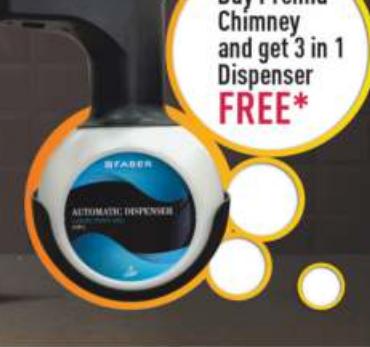
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THURSDAY, NOV. 04	
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RISE 05:41 SET 17:20	

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	31	14
Safdarjung	31	14
Palam	31	16

Delhi Palam Today
30°C Pollution level will be moderate. A dry weather to prevail. Day will be slight warm with mainly clear sky.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
31°C The weather will be dry. A slight cool and hazy morning turns slight warm day with mainly clear sky. Night remains slight cool.

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THE HINDU
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IN BRIEF

Capital's air quality to remain 'poor' today

NEW DELHI
Delhi's air quality stayed on the higher end of the "poor" category on Monday, official data showed. The effect of stubble burning has come down and the air quality is expected to remain "poor" on Tuesday.

City adds 18 COVID-19 cases, no deaths

NEW DELHI
The Capital reported no new COVID-19 deaths in 24 hours for the 10th consecutive day and the total number of deaths stood at 25,091. Eighteen new cases were reported, taking the total cases to 14,39,888, as per the Delhi Government bulletin on Monday.

City sees five more dengue deaths

As many as 531 cases reported last week; season's total reaches 1,537, the highest since 2018

MUNEEF KHAN
NEW DELHI

The city reported 531 dengue cases over the past week (till October 30), and five deaths, a civic report said on Monday. While the fatality toll for the season has reached six, the caseload for October stands at 1,196 – the highest for the month since 2017. This season's total cases have touched 1,537, which is the highest since 2018.

"Three of the five deaths occurred in areas under the North civic body. All the three patients were admitted to private hospitals and they succumbed in mid-October," a North Delhi Municipal Corporation official, who did not wish to be named, said.

However, details about the remaining two deaths were not provided by civic body officials.

Highest cases in North Delhi
North Delhi recorded the highest dengue cases last week at 134, followed by South Delhi with 127 cases. In the previous week, South Delhi had reported 98 cases, followed by North Delhi with 71 cases.

Till October 23, the city had recorded 665 cases of dengue for the month and the season's total stood at 1,006, the highest since 2018. In September, the city had reported 217 cases, which was also the highest for the month since 2018.

Delhi had recorded 1,072 cases and one death in 2020,

2,036 cases and two deaths in 2019, and 2,798 cases and four deaths in 2018.

South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) Mayor Mukesh Suryan said "no cases or deaths were recorded at SDMC hospitals" and that the civic body was taking adequate measures.

"About 60-70 dengue patients are admitted to our hospital and the number of people coming to the OPD every day is on the rise. I feel the situation will improve by the end of November when the temperature further drops. Till then, people have to be extremely careful," said Dr. S.P. Bhatia, HoD of Internal Medicine, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital.

Poor people not being diagnosed properly: Centre

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Monday chaired a high-level meeting with Delhi officials to review the measures against dengue. "Many poor people are not diagnosed properly and their death goes unreported," he said, stressing on the need to ramp up dengue testing in the city. He added that primary healthcare centres may prescribe drugs to suppress the symptoms without addressing the root cause.



Visitors at the exhibition titled 'India is not Lost' at Jawahar Bhawan. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Expo by SAHMAT to mark 75 years of Independence

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

To celebrate 75 years of India's Independence, Safdar Hashmi Memorial Trust (SAHMAT) has organised an exhibition of its publications and commissioned artworks over the past 30 years, commemorating major landmarks in the freedom struggle.

Titled "India is not Lost", the exhibition at Jawahar

Bhawan has a curation of works marking Mahatma Gandhi's 125th birth anniversary and the 75th anniversary of Bhagat Singh's martyrdom among others.

SAHMAT says the purpose of the exhibition is to show how citizens of all vocations stand as compatriots in the quest to remember and reform India's legacy of communal amity and creative freedom.

HC: sale of crackers not permitted

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday said that the sale of firecrackers is not permitted in the Capital as per the orders passed by the National Green Tribunal and the Supreme Court.

"Please go to the Supreme Court. The SC is already looking into the issue today. Seek a clarification. Inform NGT. They are a specialised body," the High Court told a group of traders, who had moved the court against the complete ban on the storage and sale of all kinds of firecrackers.

It also said that the pandemic was not over and it was time to be careful.

The traders who were seeking permission to sell their stock here for use outside the city withdrew their petition.



A student coming out with her guardian after attending school in west Delhi on Monday. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Allow private buses to ferry students, operators tell CM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Private bus owners on Monday urged Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal to allow their vehicles to ferry school students.

The Delhi Taxi, Tourist Transporters & Tour Operators Association, which represents private bus owners, alleged that not allowing private buses to ply was affecting the operators

from middle-class households.

"On the one hand, the Government is demanding that we pay road tax on vehicles which have been gathering dust over the last year and a half due to COVID-19 and on the other, it is yet to allow private buses to start operating despite schools having been opened from Monday," the association's president, Sanjay Samrat, said.

dustrial plots" were discussed.

Vishal Ohri, general secretary, LSC Federation of Delhi, said he was not "given ample time" to make his suggestions, a concern which he had raised during the previous online hearings as well.

Rajiv Kakria, another participant and the convenor of the Save Our City campaign, said he was given a different date by the officials to put his points forward.

Responding to the complaints, a DDA spokesperson said "ample time" was given to the participants and that they "have already submitted written suggestions". "We are following due process. If required, we will review the situation after the hearings are completed," he added.

'Rushed' charge dogs Delhi master plan hearings again

We are following due process, says DDA

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Participants were unhappy with the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) at its fifth online public hearing on the 'Draft Master Plan for Delhi – 2041 (MPD-2041)' on Monday, with most complaining that the hearing continued to be held in a "hasty manner".

Similar concerns were voiced during the previous online hearings on October 25 and 27.

Over 1,400 participants were invited to submit their suggestions and objections to the board. Issues regarding development control norms of 'redevelopment of Convenient Shopping Centre and Local Shopping Centre (LSC)', mixed-use provisions, other activities allowed in residential areas, and redevelopment of in-

CELEBRATION CAN'T BE AT THE COST OF LIFE

Life-Threatening Barium Salt Firecrackers are Prohibited



Use of barium salt in firecrackers, manufacturing, and joint selling is banned as per the Hon'ble Supreme Court's Direction.

- Toxic chemicals, barium salts firecrackers are life-threatening and can cause serious injury.
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Delhi Police Wishes Citizens to Celebrate a Clean & Pollution-free Diwali

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Punjab reduces power rates, Oppn. parties term it 'political stunt'

Cabinet clears 11% DA increase for government staff

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

With an eye on the upcoming Assembly elections in the State, due early next year, the Punjab Cabinet on Monday decided to reduce power tariff for domestic consumers by ₹3 per unit.

An official statement said the annual financial burden on the State government would be approximately ₹3,316 crore due to the tariff rationalisation.

The government will reduce the power procurement cost and it will be passed on to the consumers, it said.

The decision, taken at a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi, would benefit 69 lakh domestic consumers.

The Cabinet also announced increase in the Dearness Allowance of government employees by 11%, from the existing 17% to 28%, effective from July 1, 2021.

"The State government would have to bear an addi-



Punjab CM Charanjit Singh Channi in Chandigarh on Monday. ■ PTI

tional monthly burden of ₹440 crore on account of enhanced DA. We have resolved most of employees' issues and hence they have called off their strike and resumed work with immediate effect," he said, adding that the employees who were recruited after January 1, 2016, would also be given the benefit of minimum 15% increase in the revised pay at par with other employees.

The Opposition was quick to hit out at the ruling Congress, accusing it of being foolish the people of State. Shiromani Akali Dal leader Daljit Singh Cheema said Mr. Channi was resorting to 'election stunt'.

BJP's Punjab State secretary Subhash Sharma termed the tariff decision as a 'political stunt'.

Court notice to Kejriwal, others in CS assault case

Revision plea says trial court 'erroneously discharged' accused

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A special court on Monday issued notices to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, and other Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) members in a case of assault on former Delhi Chief Secretary Anshu Prakash in 2018.

Special Judge Geetanjali Goel issued the notices after a revision petition was filed in the court challenging an August 11 order by a trial court discharging Mr. Kejriwal and 10 other accused in the case, calling it "erroneous".

The revision plea, filed through advocate Kumar Vaibhav, stated that the trial



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal ■ FILE PHOTO

court had erroneously discharged the 11 accused and that Metropolitan Magistrate Sachin Gupta had carried out a "miscarriage of justice" by not looking into the statements in the case.

On August 11, the court

had discharged the CM and 10 other accused in the case where Mr. Prakash, who was then the Chief Secretary, was allegedly manhandled by AAP legislators at a meet-

ing. The prosecution had told the court that the alleged assault occurred at Mr. Kejriwal's residence where the 11 MLAs were having a meeting with Mr. Prakash. The court had, however, ordered framing of charges against AAP MLAs Amanullah Khan and Prakash Jarwal in the matter.

Next hearing on Nov. 23
The matter has now been posted for further hearing on November 23.

Rahul rally in Mumbai on Dec. 28

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

Ahead of the crucial Mumbai civic polls, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi will address a rally in the metropolis on December 28, party Maharashtra in-charge H.K. Patil said on Monday.

Speaking at the launch of membership drive in the State, he said by December 28, the party's foundation

day, the city unit will enrol 10 lakh members.

"Mr. Gandhi has agreed to address party workers at a rally at Shivaji Park on December 28," Mr. Patil said.

His address to the party workers will be ahead of the crucial polls to the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, the country's richest civic body which the Congress once controlled.

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

Hemant Kumar

General Public is hereby informed that a person namely **Hemant Kumar**, S/o-Chatter Pal, R/o H. No. A-9, Camp No. 4, Jawala Puri, Delhi. Age : 44 years, Height : 5'8" Feet, Complexion-Sallow, Face-Oval, ID Mark-Mentally weak and Six finger in both foot, Wearing-Orange Shirt and Grey Pant and plastics Chapelle in feet has been reported missing/kidnapped from the area of P.S. Paschim Vihar, West, Delhi since 20.09.2021. In this regard DD No. 60-A dated 09.10.2021, has been registered at P.S. Paschim Vihar, West, Delhi

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped person but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about this person please inform undersigned.

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3.	14/CGM/Sr.M.(E/M)-III/2021-22	M/A Authority Building (AMC of different type AC's Installed different office in Main Administrative Office Sector-6), Noida.	58.56

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Chennai civic body pulls up school for attendance registers with caste names

Headmistress denies segregating students on caste basis

DENNIS S. JESUDASAN
CHENNAI

A primary school had been maintaining attendance registers organising the student rolls on the basis of caste before it was pulled up by Greater Chennai Corporation on Monday.

The GCC has directed the school to discontinue the practice at once. Since the school had also divided its students into three batches on the basis of their attendance roster owing to COVID-19, it turned out that students were bunched together on the basis of their community alone.

'Alphabetical order'

The GCC directed the school to drop the existing practise and asked it to prepare fresh batches based on the alphabetical order of the name of students.

When this correspondent visited the school on Monday evening, the headmistress said: "This is not new and we have been following this attendance registers even before. We are not segregating students on caste basis. It so happened that most students of a caste are in one batch. It is unintentional."

Maharashtra reports lowest single-day cases in 17 months

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

Despite the State rapidly easing restrictions and the festive season round the corner, Maharashtra's rapidly declining trend in cases continued with the State reporting its lowest single-day surge in 17 months with just 809 new COVID-19 cases on Monday as against 1,901 new recoveries.

The active case tally has now dropped to 15,552. An equally low fatality rate of ten deaths were reported, with no deaths being reported in 30 of the 36 districts. Pune, Satara, Mumbai, Ahmednagar, Beed and Sindhudurg were the only places where fatalities were recorded, said authorities. Thirteen districts in the State did not report a single case today.

Maharashtra's cumulative fatalities now stand at 14,226. The case fatality rate remains constant at 2.12%.

The total cases now stand at 66,03,850 while the State's cumulative recoveries have risen to 64,52,486 with the recovery rate at 97.59%.

Electoral roll revision exercise begins in Delhi

Draft roll, Special Summary Revision, sees a dip in voters

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Ranbir Singh said all claims and objections regarding the electoral roll for November 1 to November 30.

'Voter utsav'

Calling this month-long process "voter utsav", Mr. Singh said that the SSR was aimed at including "newly eligible and left out voters who have completed or will be completing the age of 18" on or before January 1, 2022. The final roll will be published on January 5, 2022.

Mr. Singh said the draft electoral roll has been published at all polling stations of Delhi and on the

"website of CEO Delhi" on Monday.

Gender-wise count

According to the draft roll, total 80,88,031 voters are male, whereas 67,06,570 are female; on January 15, 2021, their count stood at 81,58,180 and 67,38,976 respectively. An increase in third gender voters was observed with 948 in the latest draft - compared to 913 in the previous roll. The SSR for the draft roll for November 1, 2021, was carried out across Delhi's 70 Assembly

DIVINE DESTINATION

HOLY PILGRIMAGE IN UTTARAKHAND

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Under the guidance of respected Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, for the first time in modern history, reconstruction and development work is being done on such a level in Shri Kedarnath Dham. This is a great occasion for the revival of the Indian culture and the tradition of Sanatan Dharma, for which we extend a hearty congratulations and best wishes to all the devotees.

Pushkar Singh Dhami
Chief Minister, Uttarakhand

A BETTER, SAFER KEDARNATH AS PER PM MODI'S VISION

After Adiguru Shri Shankaracharya ji, the picture of Kedarnath Dham has completely changed under the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. On November 5, 2021, the PM will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone for the reconstruction works in New Kedarpuri. This includes reconstruction of Adiguru Shri Shankaracharya Samadhi, flood control measures on the banks of Saraswati river, as well as construction of ghats. The government has spent Rs 70 crore on these projects. Construction of 60-meter

bridge over Mandakini river for Garudchatti is also complete, while retention walls have also been created on the banks of the river to control the floods at a cost of Rs 60 crore. These projects will also be inaugurated by the PM Modi. The PM will also lay the foundation stone of schemes worth Rs 108.88 crore. These include redevelopment of Sangam Ghat in Shri Kedarnath Dham, First Aid and Tourism Facility Centre, Row Management in Mandakini Astha Path, Rain Shelter, retention walls and stairs, administrative office and hospital building construction work and civil works. The foundation stone of the museum complex will also be laid at Kedarnath Dham.

RS 708 CRORE RELEASED SO FAR FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF CHARDHAM

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said that Rs 708 crore has been released by the state government for various construction works in Chardham.

Under this, Rs 409 crore has been released for the works in Kedarnath. Rs 245 crore has been approved for the construction work of the first phase in Badrinath. Meanwhile Rs 55 crore has been sanctioned for various

works at Gangotri and Yamunotri shrines. The work of Adiguru Shri Shankaracharya's Samadhi Sthal in Kedarnath is nearing completion.

The work of reconstruction of Char Dham is going on in full swing, CM Dhami said. The work of the first phase has been completed in Kedarnath, while tenders worth Rs 70 crore have also been floated for the second phase of the reconstruction work. Funds have also been approved for Badrinath Dham, and work will soon start on the same.



>> Platform constructed at Sangam Ghat



KEDARNATH REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

- Construction of Adiguru Shri Shankaracharya's Samadhi Sthal
- Redevelopment of Sangam Ghat
- First Aid and Tourism Facility Centre
- Row Management in Mandakini Astha Path
- Rain Shelter, retention walls and stairs
- Administrative office and hospital building
- Construction of museum complex
- Construction of houses for teerth purohits in Kedarpuri

The construction of the samadhi of Adiguru Shri Shankaracharya ji in Shri Kedarnath is to honour him and to combine his knowledge and qualities as an ideal forever. One can understand this through the work being done in Kedarnath, which would be an ideal pilgrimage site, whether it's a matter of convenience for the devotees or the welfare of the priest. The projects completed in Kedarnath are of high quality. They are modern and have preserved the traditional values, while also ensuring that the environment is not harmed.

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister



PICS: DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION, UTTARAKHAND

Kedarpuri attracting devotees from far and wide

Kedarpuri is being built as a new, safe and convenient religious and spiritual city, under the guidance of the Prime Minister

Shri Kedarnath Dham is one of the greatest centres of Hinduism. Seated in the snow-capped peaks of Himalaya in Rudraprayag district of Uttarakhand, Shri Kedarnath Dham has the power to make you feel divine. The Mandakini river originates from here. The Chardham Yatra is incomplete without a visit to Kedarnath. After the disaster in Kedarnath in 2013, its reconstruction was

started when the Narendra Modi government came to power in 2014. PM Modi had given the message of "Safe Uttarakhand, Safe Yatra" after meditating in Kedarnath's meditation cave.

Being very close to the PM's heart, the reconstruction of one of the holiest shrines of Hinduism is happening on a war footing, and he wants its form to be grand and divine

The reconstruction of Kedarnath shrine was included in the Prime Minister's dream project. Given his attachment to the shrine, PM Modi has been monitoring the project himself all along.

The reconstruction works are being done considering the future requirements, and the religious and spiritual aspects will be maintained at all costs. In 2021, Kedarpuri would be reopened in its grand form, to attract devotees of the country and those from across the world. It's truly said that, before traveling across the world, one must visit Kedarnath — a unique confluence of faith and nature.

Development of Badrishpuri to be done on the lines of Kedarnath



>> The Badrishpuri model as proposed in the Badrinath masterplan

Badrish Lake, waterfront development, one-way loop road construction, expansion of the hospital and construction of multi-purpose building. Meanwhile, under the second phase, site development work will be done around the Badrinath Temple. And in the third phase construction of Astha Path from the lake to the temple will be completed.

The district administration has given instructions to concerned departments to coordinate with each other and to start the proposed works in a time-bound manner. Instruction have been given to start the works of the first phase that do not face any impediments. The administration has reviewed the works at Shesh Netra, Badrishi Lake, Tapkund, Brahma Kapal, Narad Kund, Sugriva Shila, Alaknanda river banks, Saket Tiraha, hospital, bus station and Devdarshini, and given appropriate directions to the implementing authorities.

CM DHAMI TAKES STOCK OF RECONSTRUCTION WORK

Chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami worshipped Kedarnath Baba and wished Bhole Baba for the prosperity of the country and the state. The CM also inspected the reconstruction work and Adiguru Shri Shankaracharya Samadhi Sthal and directed the implementing agencies to complete the project on time. He also spoke to the pilgrims at the shrine and took stock of the facilities.

The CM reached Kedarnath Dham by helicopter. From here he reached the Kedarnath temple for darshan. The chief priest performed the Rudradharmik. After this, the CM inspected the Samadhi site of Adiguru Shri Shankaracharya, which is under construction, just behind the temple. The idol of Adiguru Shri Shankaracharya had been carried to the shrine by Chinook, an Indian Air Force helicopter, just a few days before.

The CM also spoke to the officers, engineers and laborers engaged in the reconstruction work being done under the second phase.

MONITORING PROGRESS

CM Pushkar Singh Dhami, through drone imagery, is keeping a close and vigilant eye on all development initiatives of the Kedarnath project



>> CM Pushkar Singh Dhami reviewing the reconstruction work of Kedarnath

Under the CM's direct supervision, of the six major key projects under the redevelopment programme, four have been completed. This includes the construction of retaining walls along Alaknanda and Mandakini rivers, meditation caves, and electrification for proper illumination. The CM has instructed his team to focus on timely completion of the Adi Shankaracharya Samadhi and suspension bridge at 60-meter height over Mandakini river. In the next phase, nearly 13 projects will be focused upon and finished at an estimated cost of Rs 116 crores.

These 13 projects include:

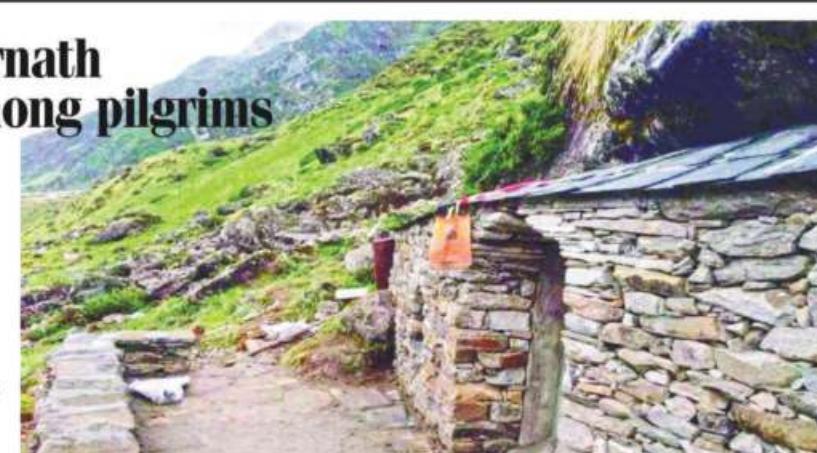
- Sangam Ghat's redevelopment at an estimated cost of Rs 15.48 crore
- Structural work at the heart of Mandakini bank and Kedarnath Temple at a cost of Rs 11.45 crore
- Construction of primary healthcare facility at an estimated cost of Rs 4.82 crore
- Development of Water ATM near Mandakini at a value of Rs 1.02 crore
- Foundation work of Mandakini river at an estimated cost Rs 6.66 crore
- Rs 19.99 crore worth development of administration

Meditation Cave at Kedarnath a centre of attraction among pilgrims

The Meditation Cave, in which Prime Minister Narendra Modi spent 17 hours in solitude, has become a centre of attraction for devotees. The government has prepared this ancient cave under the reconstruction project for meditation in front of Bhairav Nath Temple. It was after the PM's meditation session that

the cave became popular among Indian and international pilgrims.

Three more caves are also being constructed in Kedarnath Dham by the local administration. These three caves are being built at an altitude of around 12,500 feet near Kedarnath so that devotees can meditate in solitude and peace.



>> Meditation Cave at Kedarnath



>> Murals on the pedestrian walkway



>> Astha Path



>> Newly-built residences for priests

office and hospital building

- At an estimated cost of Rs 68 lakh, construction of security door at Gauri Kund
- Construction of stairs and other minor projects at Mandakini for Rs 21.08 crore
- Kedarnath Temple road and Mandakini structural foundation work at Rs 5.95 crore
- Development of Citizen Centre for Rs 19.14 crore
- Rs 1.24 crore worth rain shelter at Sonprayag
- Structural and foundation work at the Saraswati bank at an estimated value of Rs 5.55 crore
- Water ATM near Saraswati river for Rs 86 lakh
- Astha Path along the Saraswati river

Work on eight of the 13 projects has already begun.

Both the PM and the state CM are keenly focused on the redevelopment initiatives of Kedarnath and Badrinath Dham. Through regular video conferencing both leaders are keeping a vigilant update on the progress of the project.

PM Modi envisions the development to last 100 years, even under adverse conditions. The work related to the redevelopment project is projected to be completed by 2022.

CM K

AD-NDE

Malik, Fadnavis war of words heats up

NCP Minister tweets pic of 'drug peddler' with ex-CM's wife; BJP leader alleges former has 'links' with underworld

STAFF REPORTER
MUMBAI

Kick-starting yet another controversy and taking former Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis head-on, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader and State Minister Nawab Malik on Monday tweeted a photograph of alleged drug peddler Jaideep Rana with Mr. Fadnavis' wife, Amruta, saying "Come, let's talk about the relations between BJP and drug peddlers today". In return, Mr. Fadnavis alleged that Mr. Malik had connections with the underworld.

On Twitter

Mr. Malik said, "I have released a photograph of a person named Jaideep Rana who is presently in Sabarmati jail. He has been arrested in a case of drug trafficking. He was the financial head of the song 'River Anthem' released by Amruta Fadnavis in which Devendra Fadnavis too was featured. The drug business grew under his te-

nure."

He also tweeted a screenshot of the description of the 'River Anthem', where Mr. Rana has been mentioned as the Finance Head.

According to sources, the mention has been removed since the allegations.

Replying to Mr. Malik, Mr. Fadnavis said, "I will be exposing his underworld connections post-Deepavali and will give all the evidence to NCP president Sharad Pawar."

Those who live in glass house should not throw stones at others, he added.

'Pressurising NCB'

"He is doing all this to pressurise the NCB, which is probing the drug case against his son-in-law. The said photograph is an old one, taken during the shooting of the song and the company which made the video has clarified that they had hired his services for the song. The person under question has no relation



Yet another controversy: Nawab Malik and Devendra Fadnavis ■ FILE PHOTOS

whatsoever with me or my wife," Mr. Fadnavis said.

He added that Mr. Malik has lit a sparkler before Deepavali, and he would burst a bomb post-Deepavali.

In his reply, Mr. Malik was in Hindi. "Hai tayar hum [We are ready]". Earlier, Mr. Malik mentioned Neeraj Gunde, one of close aides of Mr. Fadnavis during the latter's tenure as chief minister, demanding a CBI probe. "Neeraj Gunde used to frequent the CMO, from where he used to handle police transfers. Even Sameer

Wankhede was brought in by Fadnavis who is controlling drug operations. The Centre must conduct a judicial probe and even a CBI investigation," he said.

The NCP leader alleged that the BJP had been posting officers in Central services to target Bollywood and Maharashtra.

Baseless charges: Patil
Meanwhile, the BJP's Maharashtra unit president Chandralekha Patil said Mr. Malik should not make "baseless allegations" against the

former chief minister.

"Apparently the ruling MVA Government has nothing to say on serious issues facing Maharashtra such as distressed farmers, rising atrocities against women and the agitations of desperate State transport department drivers. Twenty-nine drivers have committed suicide thus far, but the State Government has no answer. So, this Government asks somebody [Mr. Malik] to raise some issues to divert the public's attention," Mr. Patil said.

Exhorting the NCP leader to stop his "baseless allegations", Mr. Patil said Mr. Fadnavis had always shown "remarkable restraint" while directing any criticism towards a ruling party leader and had certainly never commented on anyone's wife or family. Mr. Patil also claimed that Neeraj Gunde, whom Mr. Malik accused of having shadowy connections, was in fact a "clean and good social worker".

Bihar Congress launches mega membership drive

State unit chief had earlier hinted at parting ways with RJD

AMARNATH TEWARY
PATNA

The Bihar Pradesh Congress Committee (BPCC) on Monday launched a mega membership drive in the State apparently to regain its lost ground among voters.

Earlier, the State in-charge of the party Bhakti Charan Das had announced that Congress party would contest the upcoming 2024 Parliamentary elections in Bihar on its own.

"The mega membership drive is likely to continue till 31 March 2022. We're now moving towards our commitment to contest the upcoming Lok Sabha poll in 2024 on our own", Congress Legislature Party leader (CLP) Ajit Sharma said. During our mega membership drive, added Mr. Sharma, "the party will make connection with our old party cadres and voters and will also raise issues of price hike, unemployment and corruption in the State".

Earlier in 2020, BPCC had launched a digital membership drive which, party leaders said, "was not very successful as there were some technical issues not addressed properly".

The State party president Madan Mohan Jha flagged off the mega membership drive at Sadquat Ashram, State party headquarters. Other senior State party leaders like Prem Chandra Mishra, Chandan Bagchi, Kaukab Quadri, Brajesh Kumar Munjan, Rajesh Rathore too were present on the occasion.

"The party has set the target of making 80 lakh people to be members of the party during the drive. The membership form has 10 guidelines for the new members to follow", said State party leader and spokesperson Asit Nath Tiwari.

Recently, ahead of the by-poll on two seats in Bihar, Taranpur and Kusheshwarthan State party in-charge Mr. Das

had declared to snap ties with the alliance partner Rashtriya Janata Dal in Bihar. The Congress party, later, also fielded candidates on two seats against RJD and JD(U) nominees.

Claim refuted

However, RJD president Lalu Prasad kept reiterating that alliance with Congress party was still intact as he had spoken to Congress president Sonia Gandhi. But, State Congress leaders strongly refuted Mr. Prasad's claim and said there was "no talk between Ms. Gandhi and Mr. Prasad".

Earlier in 2000, 2005, 2009 and 2010 too both the parties had parted ways and contested poll separately. "Our electoral dependence on RJD has made us weaker, but this time we'll do our best to rejuvenate our party workers and voters to gear up for the 2024 Parliamentary poll", said a senior State party leader.

ED attaches Punjab resort worth ₹32.57 crore

Its owner is accused of cheating

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate has attached a resort worth ₹32.57 crore, located on National Highway-1 in Punjab's Phagwara, in connection with a money laundering case registered on the request of The Netherlands Government.

The Cabbana Resort & Spa belongs to Shivlal Pabbi and his associates.

He is accused of committing cheating and forgery in The Netherlands in connivance with his Indian associates.

tani nationals, who transferred the funds to him and his family members' Non-Resident External accounts in Phagwara.

Renowned venue

The money was said to have been invested in the construction and development of Cabbana Resort & Spa that is spread over several acres and is a renowned venue for luxurious weddings and corporate and other events.

The resort is being managed by Mr. Pabbi's cousins, Anil Kumar Chodha and Manoj Kumar Chodha.

The agency had arrested Mr. Pabbi in July while he was allegedly trying to flee the country.

Subsequently, in September, a chargesheet was filed against him and the other accused persons.

Tripura BJP MLA served disqualification notice

SYED SAJJAD ALI
AGARTALA

The Tripura Assembly Speaker served a disqualification notice to BJP MLA Ashis Das who joined the Trinamool Congress at a rally addressed by party's national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee here on Sunday.

In June, IPFT MLA Brisshaketu Debbarma resigned from the party and 10 days later joined the TIPRA (Tipraha Indigenous Progressive Regional Party) floated by State's royal scion Pradyot Kishore Debbarman.

Speaker Ratan Chakraborty said he gave Mr. Das a week's time to explain in writing why his membership should not be disqualified.

The notice was issued under The Representation of the People Act 1951.

The BJP earlier in a letter to the Speaker sought the disqualification of Mr. Das who was elected from the Surma Assembly constituency in Dhalai district in 2018.

The victory of 36 candidates of the BJP and eight of its alliance partner IPFT saw the rout of the CPI(M)-led Left Front. The Assembly has 60 members.

When contacted, Mr. Das said he was yet to receive the notice from the Speaker. "If necessary, I will challenge it in the High Court."

Mr. Das also ruled out the possibility of resigning from the Assembly.

Gang involved in leaking exam papers busted

10 people, including three retired Army officers, held in Noida; ₹9 lakh recovered

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NOIDA

With the arrest of 10 people, including three retired Army officers, the Noida Police on Monday claimed to have busted an inter-State syndi-

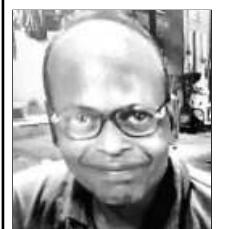
cate involved in leaking question papers of government job exams.

Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (Noida) Ranvir Singh said, "The gang was involved in leaking

papers and also provided people who would sit in place of the actual candidates in exchange for money. Ten people, including three retired Army officers, have been arrested. They are part of a big

ger syndicate working in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Bihar and West Bengal, among others." The police have recovered over ₹9 lakh cash and two cheques of ₹2 lakh each from them.

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that this male namely **Deb Kumar Mondal**, S/o Sh. Ranjit Kumar Mondal R/o H. No. 19/3762, Regarpura, Karol Bagh, Delhi, Age : 46 years, Height : 5'4", Complexion : Wheatish, Face : Round, Built : Medium, wearing White & Yellow colour Check Shirt, Black colour Pant and Black colour Sandal in his feet has been missing from the jurisdiction of P.S. Karol Bagh, Delhi since 18.10.2021. In this regard a DD No. 85A, dated 26.10.2021 has been lodged at P.S. Karol Bagh Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the male but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about him please inform to the following.

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

SHO
Fax No. 011-24368639
Phone: 011-24368638, 24368641
Ph. No. 011-28726870, 9971550794
DP/1066/CD/2021

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED GIRL



General Public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo) namely Kashish D/o Rampal R/o H.No.125, Old Tejab Mill, Shahdara, Delhi Aged-17 Years has been reported missing/kidnapped since 03.10.2021 at about 2 PM from her residence vide FIR No.701/21 Dated 19.10.2021 u/s 363 IPC registered at Police Station Farsh Bazar, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

Complexion: Fair, Height: 5'5", Face: Round, Built: Thin, Clothing: Sky blue coloured Kurta, Orange coloured plazo and red coloured slipper in feet.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing/kidnapped girl, may inform SHO, Farsh Bazar, Delhi at E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in or website : <http://cbi.nic.in>

SD/-
SHO, Farsh Bazar, Delhi
Tel.: 011-24368639
DP/615/SHD/2021

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, SERAIKELA

e-Procurement Tender Notice

Seraikela / Dated: - 29.10.2021

E-Tender Reference No. WRD/MID/SERAIKELA/F2-06/2021-22

1.	Name of the work	Renovation of Tirla Medium Irrigation Scheme under Gamharia Block of Seraikella-Kharsawan District.
2.	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Rs. 42,86,700.00
3.	Time of Completion	335 days
4.	Last date/Time for receipt of bids online	29.11.2021 upto 5.00 PM
5.	Date of Publication of Tender on website	23.11.2021 upto 2.00 PM
6.	Date of opening Tender	02.12.2021 At 2.00 P.M. in the Office of the Chief Engineer, Minor Irrigation Department Ranchi.
7.	Name & address of office Inviting tender	Executive Engineer, M.I. Division, Seraikela
8(a)	Contact no. of e- Procurement officer (b) E-mail of e-procurement Officer	- 9471742940 - gemsidarai-cemr-lhr@nic.in
9.	Helpline number of e-Procurement cell	- 0651-2214784
10.	Last Date for Receipt of Bids Fee, Security and other Documents	30.11.2021 at 5.00 P.M

Note :- Only e-Tenders will be accepted.

Further details can be seen on website <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>

PR 256147 Water Resource(21-22).D

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय

ब्राज एवं स्वच्छता प्रमण्डल संख्या-2, दुमका

शुद्धि पत्र, PR 255835

इस कार्यालय का नियिका आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या DWSD/DUMKA-2/21/2021-22 दिनांक 28.10.2021 जो PR 255835 Drinking Water and Sanitation (21-22) D में प्रकाशित है, जिसमें निम्नलिखित शुद्धियों की जाती है :-

कार्य की तालिका पूर्व में निर्धारित तिथि एवं समय शुद्धिकरण के उपरान्त तिथि एवं समय

1 प्री-बीड मिटिंग हेतु 09.11.2021 on 11:30 AM 16.11.2021 on 11:30 AM

कार्य की तालिका

शुद्धि पत्र

पूर्व में निर्धारित तिथि एवं समय

शुद्धिकरण के उपरान्त तिथि एवं समय

शेष यथावत् रहेगा।

कार्यपालक अभियंता, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमण्डल संख्या-2, दुमका

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय

IN BRIEF



Nehru Trophy Boat Race to restart this year

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
The Kerala Tourism Department is planning to restart the annual Nehru Trophy Boat Race and other major races this year by following all COVID-19 protocols. Tourism Minister P.A. Mohamed Riyas said on Monday. The races were not held in the past two years owing to the pandemic.

Two-year-old sexually assaulted, one held

MANGALURU
A two-year-old girl was sexually assaulted allegedly by a labourer at Hoigebazar here. The accused, Chandan, hailing from Bihar, was arrested on Monday. The child's parents, also from Bihar, stay in a shed in Hoigebazar. On October 31, they left the child with their other daughter and left for work when the accused took her away from the house.

TPCC to provide life insurance to members

HYDERABAD
The Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) has decided to offer life insurance cover of ₹2 lakh to registered members of the party. A digital drive for this began on Monday. It will go on till January 26. A membership drive was also launched by the party on Monday.

Miss Kerala 2019, runner-up die in accident

KOCHI
Ancy Kabeer, winner of the Miss Kerala 2019 title, and Anjana Shajan, runner-up, died in a car accident on the Vyttila-Palarivattom NH Bypass here on Sunday night. The car driver reportedly lost control of the vehicle after it hit a motorcycle and rammed a tree. Two others who were in the car are stated to be in a critical condition.

Will tweak policy to ensure 75% jobs for Kannadigas: Bommai

Present incentive-driven scheme for industries will be reviewed, says CM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Urging the people to make Karnataka Rajyotsava a "Janostava" (people's festival), Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Monday said the State Government would tweak the existing employment policy to ensure that Kannadigas got 75% of skilled and semi-skilled jobs.

Participating in the 66th Rajyotsava function at Sree Kanteerava Stadium here, the Chief Minister said the Government would take a decision to ensure maximum jobs for Kannadigas in both public and private sectors.

"It's not important how much money entrepreneurs invest in Karnataka, but how many jobs they are providing Kannadigas," he said.

The Chief Minister said Kannada would always get priority in the State adminis-



Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai speaking at the Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Monday. ■ K. MURALI KUMAR

The existing incentive-driven policy for industries would be reviewed to ensure more jobs for local people in small and medium sectors, Mr. Bommai said.

The Chief Minister said Kannada would always get priority in the State adminis-

tration, policies and programmes. "Our language has a rich history of thousands of years. We are blessed with a rich diversity and natural resources, and also the resources and skill to safeguard them," he said.

Despite many cultural and

Charges framed against 18 accused in Gauri case

Trial set to begin 4 years after murder

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

A city court framed charges against the 18 accused in the Gauri Lankesh murder case on October 30, nearly three years after the police filed a chargesheet against them.

The accused, presently lodged in prisons in Bengaluru, Mumbai, and Pune, were presented before court through video conferencing. All accused pleaded not guilty and claimed to be tried.

This clears the decks for the trial in the case to begin, four years after Ms. Lankesh was killed. The court adjourned the case to December.



Gauri Lankesh was shot dead in Bengaluru in 2017.

ber 8, when the modalities of the trial would likely begin, sources said. "The defence employed several delaying tactics in the case till now. We hope this doesn't repeat again and we will be able to fast-track the trial," said a senior SIT official.

Pinarayi govt. meekly gave in to T.N. demand

UDF walks out on Mullaperiyar issue

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) Opposition walked out of the Kerala Assembly on Monday, accusing the Government of jeopardising the State's interest in the Mullaperiyar dispute with Tamil Nadu.

Seeking leave of the House to move an adjournment motion to debate the issue, Congress leader Ramesh Chennithala said the 126-year-old dam had outlived its lifespan by at least 76 years. Experts doubted the structural integrity of the dam built to irrigate Tamil Nadu. An estimated 30

lakh people in five districts downstream of the Mullaperiyar dam lived in fear. However, the Government was dismissive of the danger. It had meekly agreed to Tamil Nadu's insistence to maintain the Mullaperiyar water level at a dangerously high 139.5 feet during the recent flood, Mr. Chennithala said.

Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan said Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's "thoughtless" statement that apprehensions about Mullaperiyar's safety were misplaced had bolstered Tamil Nadu's argument in the Supreme Court that Kerala was exaggerating matters.

Derecognise YSR Congress, Telugu Desam MPs urge EC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A delegation of Telugu Desam Party MPs has submitted a memorandum to the Election Commission urging it to de-recognise the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) alleging that the party had violated the Representation of the People Act by encouraging "state-sponsored terror."

Meanwhile, the YSRCP will be meeting President Ram Nath Kovind on Tuesday to complain to him about the "false propaganda" by the Opposition TDP which, the ruling party claims, is hurting the image of Andhra Pradesh.

The latest allegation comes against the backdrop of a war of words between the two opponents.

Last week, YSRCP leader Vijayash Reddy had called the TDP a 'terrorist organisation.'

16-page memorandum
TDP MP Kesineni Srinivas (Nani), Rajya Sabha member Kanakamedala Ravindrakumar and former MP Nimmala Kistappa met the Election Commission and submitted a 16-page memorandum.

The TDP alleged that the YSRCP Government has been carrying out an all-round assault on constitutional institutions in Andhra Pradesh, including the media and Opposition.

The government had not considered the caste-wise population, and there was no data available with the government to invoke the provision in the Constitution to provide internal reservation.

There was nothing on record to establish that the government had held deliberations with all stakeholders, especially the communities that would be affected by the Act, the court said.

Vanniar quota law unconstitutional: HC

'The Act went against the Constitution'

B. TILAK CHANDR
MADRASI

The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court on Monday declared as unconstitutional the law providing 10.5% internal reservation to the Vanniaikula Kshatriya community within the 20% reservation for the Most Backward Classes (MBCs) in education and public employment.

The court held that it was *ultra vires* the Constitution.

A Division Bench of Justices M. Duraiswamy and K. Murali Shankar gave its judgment on a batch of petitions that challenged the validity of the Act, which was passed hours before the model code of conduct came into force in February for the Assembly election.

No supporting material

It said the State had not collected any material to prove that the Vanniar caste – that is, the Vanniaikula Kshatriya, comprising Vanniar, Vannia, Gounder, Gounder or Kander, Padayachi, Palli and Agnikula Kshatriya – was unable to compete with the other extremely marginalised communities. When the entire Most Backward Classes were enjoying 20% reservation, this caste alone was given 10.5%. This would affect the prospects of the others, it said.

The government had not considered the caste-wise population, and there was no data available with the government to invoke the provision in the Constitution to provide internal reservation. There was nothing on record to establish that the government had held deliberations with all stakeholders, especially the communities that would be affected by the Act, the court said.

The court observed that by virtue of the 102nd constitutional amendment, the powers of the Assembly to include and exclude the Backward Classes was bestowed on Parliament. But the 105th constitutional amendment restored the power of the States to identify and notify the Backward Classes. The 102nd amendment came into existence on August 11, 2018, and the 105th amendment was enacted on August 19, 2021. The court held that on the date of its enactment, February 26, 2021, the State legislature had no power to pass such legislation.

The Tamil Nadu Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Reservation of Seats in Educational Institutions and of Appointments or Posts in the Services under the State) Act, 1993, was brought in to protect the 69% quota.

Unacceptable, says PMK
Meanwhile, PMK founder S. Ramadasan on Monday urged the Tamil Nadu Government to appeal in the Supreme Court against the Madras High Court's verdict declaring the 10.5% internal reservation for the Vanniyars unconstitutional.

In a statement, he termed the verdict "unacceptable" because such questions were not raised by the Madras High Court or the Supreme Court against the internal reservation provided to the Muslims or the Arundhatiyars in T.N.

He said Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, "who has understood the need for such a quota despite the fact that the law was passed by the previous [AIADMK] government", has the "duty and responsibility" to reinstate it through legal and political steps.

Case filed against bishop for speech

STAFF REPORTER
KOTTAYAM

The controversy over the comments on 'narcotic jihad' made by Pala Bishop Mar Joseph Kallarakkatt took a new turn on Monday with the police booking a case against the prelate on charge of attempting to promote enmity between different groups on the basis of religion.

Officials said a case under Indian Penal Code Sections 153(a) and 153(b) had been registered against the bishop at the Kuravilangadu police station for his speech on September 8.

The court directive followed a petition filed by Abdul Assees Moulavi, district president of the All India Imams Council. In his speech, the bishop had accused a section of Muslims of targeting Christians through 'love jihad' and 'narcotic jihad.'

Farmers begin 'court to temple' march

They have been demanding that Amaravati be retained as sole capital of A.P.



Long fight: Farmers from Amaravati taking out a maha padayatra against the three-capital move, from Thullur in Guntur district to Tirumala on Monday. ■ V. RAJU

have separate seats of governance at Amaravati (legislative capital), Visakhapatnam (executive or administrative) and Kurnool (judicial) was aimed at balanced development of all regions.

The farmers, who report-

edly parted with over 33,000 acres of their fertile land for the construction of

Andhra Pradesh's new capital, have now undertaken the padayatra to Tirumala, the abode of Lord Venkateswara, to press their demand

for retaining Amaravati as the sole capital of the State.

The foot march will tra-

verse through over 70 villages in Guntur, Prakasam, SPS Nellore and Chittoor districts before reaching Tirupati on December 17.

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for retaining Amarav



Time for action

The G20 meeting has come at a critical moment for the global political economy

At their first in-person meeting in two years, leaders of the G20 did not shy away from re-engaging with the biggest issues facing the global community today, including the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, a major tax agreement, and steps to address concerns regarding global economic growth and stability. On coordinated efforts to mitigate the pandemic, the focus was on vaccine production and distribution, with assurances of support to WHO's target of inoculating 40% or more of the global population against COVID-19 by 2021, and at least 70% by mid-2022. The implicit assumption in this commitment by G20 leaders is that initiatives to boost the supply of vaccines in developing countries will succeed, and cooperation will help the world overcome supply and financing constraints. On climate change, the Group leaders committed their nations to providing \$100 billion a year toward adaptation, mitigation, and green technologies, focusing on the needs of developing countries. However, in this sphere, a divergence of views still exists across developing and developed nations: ahead of this summit and the 2021 climate conference in Glasgow, India had rejected the call to announce a target of zero emissions. Prime Minister Narendra Modi appears to have scored a victory in this regard as the post-summit communiqué commits the G20 to limiting global warming to 1.5°C and identified sustainable and responsible consumption and production as "critical enablers".

The world community is on shakier footing regarding the fragile post-COVID economic recovery underway after paralysing lockdowns. Unsurprisingly, given the rising inflation, spiking energy prices, and alarming supply chain bottlenecks, G20 leaders were quick to affirm that national stimulus policies would not be removed prematurely. Even so, it would remain a challenge to walk the tightrope between preserving financial stability and fiscal sustainability. Perhaps in a bid to avoid potentially debilitating wobbles in global finance, the G20 leadership agreed to slap multinationals with a minimum 15% tax to create "a more stable and fairer international tax system". This would impact the tech titans of Silicon Valley, as this initiative would make it harder for such companies to benefit from locating themselves in relatively lower-tax jurisdictions. This OECD-led reform enjoys the support of 136 countries, which account for more than 90% of global GDP, and is likely to enter into force in 2023 or after. Nations such as the U.S. are divided on whether to approve this proposal domestically, and unless there is unanimity amongst the discussants, the initiative risks facing implementation delays. The G20 meeting has come at a critical moment for the global political economy. If it results in timely, effective, coordinated action across major nations, hope for recovery will remain afloat.

A vote for stability

The vote for Fumio Kishida underlines the dominance of the LDP in Japan's politics

Defying expectations, Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) stormed to an outright majority in the country's parliamentary elections on Sunday. The elections were the first major test for the new Prime Minister, Fumio Kishida, who took over last month amid enormous challenges. He followed the short-lived tenure of Yoshihide Suga, who succeeded Shinzo Abe, Japan's longest serving Prime Minister. Mr. Abe stepped down in 2020 citing health reasons. Mr. Suga's year-long term was marred by his government's poor handling of COVID-19 and economic woes. Facing the lowest approval ratings of any Japanese leader in years, he resigned. Entering the election in these circumstances, the LDP, which held 276 seats in the 465-seat House of Representatives before the polls, was bracing for a poor show, with wide expectations that it would need to rely on its coalition with the Komeito party to cross the halfway mark. But it coasted to victory unencumbered by coalition considerations.

Mr. Kishida now has to deliver on a range of pressing challenges, including the pandemic, the economy and on the security front, relations with China. He has committed to bolstering support to hospitals to ensure a far better response should Japan face another wave. On the economy front, he has put forward a "new capitalism" aimed at an economic revival keeping the interests of the middle class as a priority. He has pledged to come up with an ambitious stimulus package this month. On foreign policy, he will have to keep in mind the wishes of his party's conservative bloc which is calling for significant increases in defence spending. Those are voices he cannot ignore considering that the new leader - Mr. Kishida was also a Foreign Minister - has no real popular support to call upon and will be beholden to what his party wants. In the election campaign, the LDP said it would double defence spending to 2% of the GDP. China's recent air incursions into Taiwan were cited as one major reason, as also North Korea's missile tests. Mr. Kishida has said he will focus on shoring up relations with Washington, and in his early days, has already reached out to the leaders of the Quad. He has also spoken with China's President Xi Jinping, with positive noises about getting relations on track. Ultimately, matters at home will decide which of his two predecessors Mr. Kishida ends up emulating. Given the flagging reputation of the LDP towards the end of Mr. Abe's term and through Mr. Suga's turbulent time in office, the vote appears to be as much an endorsement for stability as it is for his government. It also reaffirms the LDP's unchallenged position in domestic politics regardless of the troubles it has faced in recent years, underlining there is no serious challenger to its continued dominance.

Kashmir's fragility has more complex reasons

To limit what is happening in J&K solely to the impetus created by a Talibanised Afghanistan could cost India dear



M.K. NARAYANAN

Fear is the prevailing sentiment across many parts of Kashmir today. It has, in turn, led to comparisons with the situation that existed during the 1990s and the early years of the 21st century. In the past few weeks, several civilians as well as security and armed forces personnel, have been killed by terrorists, some of the latter being labelled as hybrid terrorists, though it is not clear what this phrase signifies.

Ground realities

A predictable reaction to the situation has been the exodus of Hindus, especially of the Kashmiri Pandits, and of migrant labour, fearing for their lives and their future. Side by side with this, an impression has been created of increasing support to militancy, though it is unclear whether this is indeed the case. However, as in all situations of this kind, it is apparent that impressions often appear more real than actual ground realities.

Latterly, Kashmir had managed to stay away from the headlines despite concerns expressed in different quarters about the 'disciplined democracy' being practised ever since the dilution of Article 370 and the restructuring of the erstwhile State of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) into two Union Territories. In the absence of an agile press, it has not been possible to fathom the intensity of protests against the existing order, and whether they constitute a rejection of the changes effected.

Incidents of violence have, however, continued. Notwithstanding this, given the hullabaloo in the immediate aftermath of the changes effected in August 2019, a degree of surface calm seemed to prevail, not very different from that which existed previously. Whether this was peace brought

about through controlled conditions, or otherwise, has been difficult to discern.

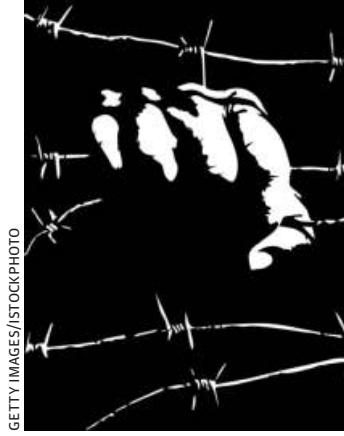
Given the recent recrudescence of violence, it is, nevertheless, evident that the situation remains fragile. Whether this means that the changes effected since August 2019 were merely a 'triumph of wishfulness over prudence', an overestimation of belief on what was possible ignoring the history of several decades past, and the failure of many previous attempts to change the *status quo*, is hence worth examining.

Pakistan apart

More important is what could possibly be the reasons for the revival of aggravated violence in Kashmir. While assessing the ground situation in Kashmir, Pakistan has always tended to be a factor. It is, however, again possible that the lessons of the past on what needed to be done – to effectively checkmate insurgency from across the border or inflame Kashmiri opinion – might have gone unheeded in the euphoria of having succeeded in altering the character of J&K and Delhi establishing a degree of direct control. Promises made and an unwillingness to use the time and opportunity to create fresh opportunities for dialogue with communities in Kashmir, allied with reputational interest in not accepting that many steps taken, were inadequate to defeat the machinations from across the border, could also, perhaps, be additional reasons.

By this reckoning, Kashmir might well seem, in some remote way, to reveal the same attitude as many post-conflict, pre-modern, hybrid societies with mixed populations. It would imply that in the case of Kashmir, making a transformation to a more stable society will always prove difficult. In addition, Kashmir has difficult neighbours such as Afghanistan, Pakistan and China, which leaves little scope for experimentation – a true test for decision-making of any kind.

As violence escalated in J&K, it became commonplace to link it with the Taliban takeover of Af-



GETTY IMAGES/STOCKPHOTO

ghanistan. This could, however, be a highly simplistic answer to a more complex situation. In the current context, geopolitics is something that cannot and must not be ignored. The sudden surge in violence in Kashmir needs a more careful evaluation of the facts rather than simplistic answers. It is a fact, for instance, that India's world view has steadily expanded, especially in the Asia-Pacific region, and several, including some relatively unknown, tension points have emerged. All these will need to be carefully assessed before coming up with an answer – more so since India is wedged between two known antagonists (Pakistan and China), has a Talibanised Afghanistan as its neighbour, and there has been a resurgence of international terror groups, notably the Islamic State and al-Qaeda.

The China factor
Of particular consequence in this context is China's continuing cooperation with Pakistan in many matters, its growing assertiveness in regard to its territorial claims, *vis-à-vis* India, its opposition to the prominence given to India by the West in both Asian and global forums, etc. All these have further helped cement the nexus between China and Pakistan. Intertwined with this is again the battle raging for spheres of influence between China and India, which has intensified under China's President Xi Jinping. The latter is intent on establishing an Asian system in which China sits at the summit of a hierarchical re-

gional order. All this is altering the ground realities and it is worth considering whether Kashmir is emerging as a pressure point in this context.

Intelligence is critical

What it all boils down to is the need for hard and better intelligence. Hard intelligence is critical to avoid misperceptions and miscalculations. The (recent) history of the world is replete with stories of intelligence failures, misperceptions and miscalculations, which had led to grave situations, and which might well have been avoided had there been better intelligence. The serious miscalculation about Iraqi President Saddam Hussein possessing nuclear weapons based on wrong intelligence led to unnecessary involvement by the United States and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in Iraq, followed by an unfortunate train of events that continues to haunt the world to this day. As tensions between India and China, and between India and Pakistan, intensify, the need for hard intelligence is thus vital to be able to control the train of events and avoid any serious miscalculations.

What is common to most, perhaps all, intelligence agencies – irrespective of their degrees of competence – is their limited capacity for imagination, *viz.*, to imagine future events and possibilities. Intelligence agencies, by and large, are adept at providing insights about yesterday's threats rather than future ones, especially those that exist just beyond the horizon. Moreover, as intelligence agencies become more wedded to technology, they need to realise that advances in technology tend to be a double-edged sword insofar as intelligence is concerned. It should not negate the need for improved analysis and also how important it is to provide decision-makers with information on what is taking place in the minds of their opposite numbers.

In the extant situation, Indian intelligence agencies must avoid the kind of lapses of both imagination and analysis displayed by western intelligence agencies

some years ago, who misread, misunderstood and failed to anticipate the role of Sayyid Qutb and his preachings which later set the stage for the 9/11 attacks on the Twin Towers in New York and other targets in the U.S. Had they understood what Sayyid Qutb preached, *viz.*, that martyrdom was a necessary part of 20th century jihad, they would not have underestimated the influence exerted by Islamist theology on the terrorist mindset.

It is, thus, important that the 'missing dimensions' of intelligence in most cases, *viz.*, thinking imaginatively and improved analytical capabilities, receive the close attention of India's intelligence agencies. Only then will it be possible to understand the nature of current events as a precursor of future threats. This is important to ensure that they do not ignore signals that may not be all too obvious at this time, and keep chasing more obvious and current aspects. Too narrowly focussed intelligence requirements, limited to current events such as, for example, tensions with China on the border, or Pakistan's attempts to push in 'irregulars' and aid the Lashkar and Jaish elements to cross over into India, may prove self-defeating. The arc of intelligence needs to be much wider and Indian intelligence agencies such as the Intelligence Bureau, the Research & Analysis Wing as also the National Security Council Secretariat should ensure that they have the necessary capabilities.

Linked to this is also the danger of 'intelligence adjustment', *viz.*, avoiding challenging conventional assumptions, which could undermine their ability to provide a more accurate picture of the larger threat. Today, when India faces problems all around it, to limit what is happening in Kashmir solely to the impetus created by a Talibanised Afghanistan without fully analysing all the facts could cost the country dear.

M.K. Narayanan is a former Director, Intelligence Bureau, a former National Security Adviser and a former Governor of West Bengal

Finding a way out of India's deepening water stress

In any new National Water Policy, the aim should also be to encourage conserving water resources and efficient usage



THOMAS VARGHESE

The complexity and scale of the water crisis in India calls for a locus specific response, that can galvanise and integrate the ongoing work of different Ministries and Departments through new configurations. Such an integrated approach must necessarily cut across sectoral boundaries and not stop at the merger achieved between the two Ministries of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation and the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, which led to the formation of the Ministry of Jal Shakti in 2019.

Understanding sources used
Seeing India's looming water crisis through the lens of 'urban' and 'rural' not only allows a better grasp of the causative factors but also enables a stronger grip on the strategies to be deployed to reverse the water crisis. Fundamental to this is a preliminary understanding of the sources from which the country draws water to meet its varying needs. In the rural areas, 80%-90% of the drinking water and 75% of the water used for agriculture is drawn from groundwater sources. In urban areas, 50%-60% of the water supply is drawn from groundwater sources, whereas the remaining is sourced from surface water resources such as rivers, often located afar, in addition to lakes, tanks and reservoirs.

According to the composite wa-

ter management index released by the think tank NITI Aayog in 2019, 21 major cities (including Delhi, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad) were on the brink of exhausting groundwater resources, affecting about 100 million people. The study also points out that by 2030, the demand for water is projected to be twice the available supply.

The Chennai example

A significant, and by no means less worrying, example of the water crisis that unfolded before our eyes was in Chennai in 2019, where life came to a standstill and parts of the city went without piped water for months. Though this may well have been forgotten, Chennai remains a spectacle of the impending tragedies brought about by the city's inability to meet the basic needs of citizens, *vis-à-vis* drinking water, cooking and sanitation.

A closer look at the factors that brought about the water crisis in Chennai is inescapable, should we gain a better grasp of the underlying problems, especially as this was a city which among others like Mumbai had suffered from floods previously. Many have cited the poor rainfall received in Chennai in the previous year as one of the main reasons for the water crisis.

Though it is true that rainfall was low, which was 50% less than normal, focusing on this factor alone would absolve responsibility by blaming the vagaries of the rainfall patterns to a fast-changing climate, without understanding the ground-level steps (or missteps) which have been equally responsible factors.

Chef among these is that the ci-

ty has been built by incrementally encroaching floodplains and paving over lakes and wetlands that



GETTY IMAGES/STOCKPHOTO

would have otherwise helped the process of recharging groundwater. The lack of space for water to percolate underground prevented rainwater from recharging the aquifers.

This was further exacerbated by the loss of green cover (which would have otherwise helped water retention) to make way for infrastructure projects. Such a situation, on the one hand, leads to flooding during normal rainfall due to stagnation, and on the other hand leads to drought-like conditions due to the prevention of underground water storage. It is only that this situation was more magnified in Chennai, but other cities in India would echo these manifestations in varying degrees owing to a lack of sustainable urban planning.

There is also the example, in Mumbai, in 2019, when 2,141 trees were felled at the Aarey colony, amid massive protests, to make space for a shed for the Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation Limited.

Need for synergy

If the Government is serious about addressing the water crisis in urban areas, the Ministry of Water Resources must reconfigure its relationship with other Ministries and Departments (Urban Development, Local Self-Government and Environment). This would be for enhanced integration and coordi-

nation through effective land and water zoning regulations that protect urban water bodies, groundwater sources, wetlands and green cover while simultaneously working to enhance waste water recycling and water recharge activities targeting aquifers and wells through rainwater harvesting.

Lessons from rural Punjab

In rural areas, the situation is no different, as the acute water crisis in Punjab shows. The draft report of the Central Ground Water Board concluded that Punjab would be reduced to a desert in 25 years if the extraction of its groundwater resources continues unabated; 82% of Punjab's land area has seen a huge decline in groundwater levels, wherein 109 out of 138 administrative blocks have been placed in the 'over exploited' category. Groundwater extraction which was at 35% in the 1960s and 1970s, rose to 70% post the Green Revolution – a period which saw governments subsidising power for irrigation that left turbines running for hours.

Concomitantly, cultivation of water intensive crops such as paddy have further aggravated water depletion, even turning water saline. Immediate measures need to be taken to manage and replenish groundwater, especially through participatory groundwater management approaches with its combination of water budgeting, aquifer recharging and community involvement.

Such an approach to water conservation again beckons new configurations between sectors and disciplines. At the sectoral level, the Ministries and Departments of water resources must coordinate efforts with their counterparts in agriculture, the environment and

rural development for greater convergence to achieve water and food security. At the disciplinary level, governance and management should increasingly interact and draw from the expertise of fields such as hydrology (watershed sustainability), hydrogeology (aquifer mapping and recharge) and agriculture sciences (water-sensitive crop choices and soil health). Again, the importance given to groundwater conservation should not ignore surface water conservation including the many rivers and lakes which are in a critical and dying state due to encroachment, pollution, over-abstraction and obstruction of water flow by dams.

Protecting resources

The Ministry of Jal Shakti, last year, had announced an ambitious plan to provide water connections to every household in India by 2024. In view of the ongoing erosion of water resources and an ever-increasing demand for water, the thrust should not be on promising water supply. Instead the aim should be towards protecting and conserving water resources on the one hand and minimising and enhancing efficiency of water usage on the other. As the expert committee constituted under the Union Water Resources Ministry drafts a new National Water Policy, one hopes it would be rooted in locus specific realities and allows greater flexibility for integrating the insights and work of multiple departments and disciplines making way for new configurations to sustainably manage the country's water resources.

Thomas Varghese is a researcher and consultant working on sustainable development in Kochi, Kerala

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Briefing the Governor
Any new Governor of a State in India is entitled to be briefed about the important activities and schemes in the State. All this information is already available in the office of the Chief Minister and Chief Secretary since continuous review takes place. In this

case, the Tamil Nadu Governor could have been quietly briefed by the Chief Secretary and the Finance Secretary. There was no need for the Chief Secretary to write to the Secretaries to make a presentation to the Governor. This was a mistake that could have been avoided (OpEd page).

"The DMK's gubernatorial test", November 1).

M.G. DEVASAHAYAM,
Chennai

On ECE
As far as early childhood education (ECE) is concerned, and children of low-income families, the anganwadi system can play

an effective role. A proper ECE can be ensured by appointing an exclusive and trained anganwadi worker/teacher to devote their full time to ECE in anganwadis. This will also ensure that class dropouts are nil or minimal.

KOSARAJU CHANDRAMOULI,
Hyderabad

New Zealand match
Losing is very much a part of cricket which every team, however strong, experiences at times. However, what is baffling is skipper Virat Kohli's reported post match statement about the team. Nothing could be more demotivating for any team

than the leader speaking in defeatist language especially considering that the tournament is not over yet for India. There are pertinent questions about the team's composition too.

A. MOHAN,
Chennai

Why counting caste matters

Caste data will help us understand the contours of inequality and craft reasoned and inclusive policies



TRINA VITHAYATHIL &
KALAIYARASAN A.



BHAGYA RAKASH K

The debate about whether the decennial Census should collect data on caste from individuals who fall into the administrative categories of 'General' and 'Other Backward Classes' (OBCs) has been argued by public intellectuals, politicians, and government administrators for decades. As the Census currently only collects data on 'Scheduled Castes' (SCs) and 'Scheduled Tribes' (STs), it fails to provide comprehensive data on India's graded caste hierarchy. In the run-up to the 2011 Census, the political leadership agreed to include a full caste count in the Census. It later prevented a caste-wise enumeration in the Census. The suppression of caste-wise data took place then because of two interconnected dynamics which are likely to reoccur unless they are collectively challenged.

The importance of caste data

First, caste elites generally believe that caste no longer matters in shaping opportunities and outcomes in the 21st century. This caste blindness, or castelessness, obscures caste privileges and conceals sources of multi-generational structural advantage. Many caste elites view the collection of caste data about anyone but the most disadvantaged as unnecessary and a misuse of public resources. This perspective both serves their own interests and ignores the relational nature of caste – that is, the same societal institutions, systems, and cultural norms that have led to historic and ongoing subjugation of oppressed castes have simultaneously empowered others. To understand the full scope of disadvantage, we must also examine the full scope of privilege and advantage.

The suppression also occurred as a result of the machinery of government. Organisations tasked with designing Census questions and overseeing data collection, similar to every other key institution in society, have caste-based inequalities entrenched within them. The bureaucracy

racy blocked the inclusion of a full caste count in the Census 2011 on methodological grounds. It argued that a caste count would be "administratively difficult and cumbersome," "jeopardise the whole exercise," and "compromise the basic integrity of the Census". The official language used by the Congress-led government in 2011 was identical to the language used in the affidavit filed in the Supreme Court on September 23, 2021 by the present BJP-led government. The presentation of (supposedly) insurmountable methodological and logistical challenges is particularly effective as an excuse because it silences non-experts. Caste elites have a numerical and cultural stranglehold over the upper bureaucracy, despite more than 70 years of Central government reservations. In 2019, out of the 82 Secretaries to the Government of India, only four were SCs or STs. Following the suppression of the caste count in Census 2011, the executive bureaucracy reconfigured the Below Poverty Line survey and renamed it the 2011 Socio-Economic Caste Census, which had little resemblance to the original demands by caste census advocates and produced unusable caste data.

The purpose for collecting caste-wise data in the decennial Census is to understand the contours of inequality. These data are crucial to understand how caste intersects with class, gender, and regionality to structure access to resources. The collected caste data should be publicly available for use. In this regard, the caste data would continue the existing practice of the Office of the Registrar General of India to make Census data publicly available. The Census has the legal standing, public trust, operational expertise, and resources to collect, analyse, and make

Addressing concerns

Yet, important concerns remain. Some progressive and anti-caste scholars fear that a full-caste count will further entrench caste identities. A caste census will require all households to think about, acknowledge, and speak about caste identities. Yet, historically outcast groups have already had to provide caste data in all postcolonial Censuses to implement reservations. A full caste-wise enumeration will help to make visible privileges and resources that have become over time disassociated with caste, despite historical, sociological, and economic evidence to the contrary. Updated data on the entire caste system, including its intersections with other identities, will prospect a more complete picture of exclusion and inequality in India.

Another concern is that groups will misuse the caste data. But mis-

use of caste data already takes place. Private groups with access to money and power regularly collect caste data for their needs. Political parties map the caste and religious composition of neighborhoods, cities, and villages to mobilise votes. Collecting caste data in the decennial Census removes this private power by making caste data publicly available to all.

While methodological and logistical challenges are real, they are surmountable. Demographers in government agencies and universities have extensive experience working through these challenges. Sample surveys such as the India Human Development Survey have collected caste-wise data. In addition, research on the failed caste count suggests the importance of careful planning to prevent groups from being made invisible in the data, such as Dalit Muslims, Dalit Christians, inter-caste and inter-religious households (particularly those that cut across the line of 'untouchability' or communal divide), and LGBTQ+ individuals. Related to the discussion of castelessness, if a 'no caste' option is included in the Census, the caste count will likely undercut well-to-do caste elites. Given the purpose of the caste count, omissions of marginalised groups and elites require specific attention while designing the survey instrument, training enumerators, educating the public, and analysing collected caste-wise data. Hence, the entire process requires external oversight if the data are to be usable and to minimise potential harm. As the process unfolds, a public oversight group should work to ensure that major operational and methodological decisions align with the data collection's purpose: to understand the scope of caste-based inequities and address structural inequalities. Anti-caste organisations and public intellectuals, who have devoted their life's work to challenging caste hierarchy, must provide oversight and input. Their perspectives and lived experiences of fighting caste oppression are the best safeguards to ensure that the collected data will be used for liberatory purposes.

Trina Vithayathil is Chair and Associate Professor, Global Studies, Providence College, and Kalaiyarasan A. is a Fulbright-Nehru postdoctoral fellow at the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, Brown University. Views are personal

The crypto conundrum

Cryptocurrencies possess no significant use value or exchange value to sustain their current high prices



PRASHANTH PERUMAL

goods and services. In short, cryptocurrencies possess no significant fundamental value to sustain their current high prices.

Yet, many believe that the rising prices of cryptocurrencies reflect their likely future value as a currency. It is possible that investors are bidding up the price of bitcoin because they foresee a future in which private currency is widely accepted as money. After all, all investments are forward-looking. One may also grant that the extreme volatility seen in the price of cryptocurrencies, which seems unrelated to any similar fluctuations in their fundamentals, may be due to the nascent, illiquid nature of the cryptocurrency market. However, the more cryptocurrencies are accepted in exchange for goods and services, the greater the chances of governments cracking down on them.

Issuance of money

The monopoly that governments (and central banks) possess over the issuance of money is at the root of their power and influence. This allows governments to fund their budget deficits, particularly during times of crises such as the current pandemic when tax revenues have taken an unprecedented hit. It also allows central banks to tinker with the money supply under the mandate of managing aggregate demand in the economy. In essence, monopoly control over money allows governments to indirectly tax citizens by increasing the supply of currencies, thus devaluing them. If cryptocurrencies like bitcoin are going to challenge fiat currencies like the U.S. dollar as a medium of exchange, they would essentially be challenging the authority of the government to print and spend. This is not an assault that governments will tolerate for long. They will allow cryptocurrencies to exist only as long as these currencies remain a speculative asset and not a medium of exchange.

This is not to say that governments are justified in their crackdown against cryptocurrencies. China recently imposed a complete ban on all cryptocurrencies and plans to issue its own central bank-issued digital currency. Private alternatives to fiat currencies offer people greater choice in what currencies they choose to use as a medium of exchange. The benefits of free market competition in money were elaborated by economist Friedrich Hayek in *The Denationalization of Money*. Most notably, competition between currencies to cater to the demands of customers would ensure that fiat currencies that are printed indiscriminately simply go out of use. This is the outcome that governments fear and would fight to avoid at any cost.

prashanthperumal.j@thehindu.co.in

STATE OF PLAY

The TDP's search for a friend

The TDP seems keen to revive its old friendship with the BJP which deems it untrustworthy

APPALI REDDEM

There are no permanent friends and permanent enemies in politics. Telugu Desam Party (TDP) chief N. Chandrababu Naidu is clearly on a mission to revive his old friendship with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) at the Centre. In the hope of bringing back glory to the ailing TDP and to protect it from the ruling YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) back home, Mr. Naidu is making every effort he can to join hands with an old friend which his party has ignored at the cost of repeated setbacks in the last few years.

Looking for an ally

The TDP's growing desperation for a strong ally has been quite obvious in Mr. Naidu's words and deeds. Recently, in an interview to this newspaper, when asked whether he was open to exploring a return to the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), Mr. Naidu said: "We must explore it, otherwise others will exploit us." This is an indication that he is worried about the BJP-YSRCP friendship. The BJP, in fact, had wanted the YSRCP in the Union Cabinet but the regional party has always been averse to it, being content, instead, with extending issue-based support to the BJP. Two weeks ago, after the TDP's offices were attacked by miscreants, Mr. Naidu alleged that party persons were being targeted by YSRCP-backed mobs and requested Union Home Minister Amit Shah to deploy Central forces to ensure adequate security to the party's offices.

The TDP's tie-up with the BJP in 2014 had been successful. The TDP had gained from the anti-Congress sentiment following the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh as well as the 'Modi wave'. The alliance was strongly supported by the popular actor, Pawan Kalyan. But trouble started brewing between the partners in 2018 over the issue of central funding to the State. Mr. Naidu was also upset that the Centre was not granting special category status to Andhra Pradesh and finally snapped ties with



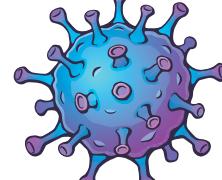
DATA POINT

Pace picks up slightly

The average rate of daily COVID-19 vaccinations in India increased between October 21 and 31 compared to the previous 10-day period of the month. From October 21 to 31, 5.9 million doses were administered on average daily in the country compared to the 4.7 million administered between October 11 and 20. However, to vaccinate all adults by the end of the year, 13.3 million doses have been administered daily on average in the last two months of 2021. Between October 21 and 31, the average daily doses administered increased in major States such as Tamil Nadu and Bihar. On the other hand, they fell in Maharashtra and Rajasthan. By **The Hindu Data Team**

SLIGHT UPTICK

From October 21 to 31, 5.9 million doses were administered daily on average. The vaccination rate picked up after falling to 4.7 million in the October 11-20 period. To inoculate all adults by the end of the year, 13.3 million doses need to be administered on average daily starting November 1.



SEVEN-DAY AVERAGE | The seven-day rolling average of daily doses administered stood at 5.8 million on October 31 after peaking at 6.4 million on October 24 in the October 21-31 period

SHARE OF POPULATION |

Till October 31, 35% of the country's adult population was fully vaccinated, while 77% had received at least one dose. In five States/UTs, fewer than 30% of adults were fully vaccinated

THE MAP SHOWS THE % OF ADULTS VACCINATED WITH AT LEAST ONE DOSE

The map shows the % of adults vaccinated with at least one dose

>80% 60-80% <60%

>45% 30-45% <30%

Source: covid19india.org

Phases	Doses / day (mn)	Cumulative doses by Dec. 31 (mn)
Phase 4 pace (June 1 - June 10)	3	861.9
Phase 4 pace (June 11 - June 20)	3.4	942.1
Phase 5 pace (June 21 - June 30)	5.6	1365.8
Phase 5 pace (July 1 - July 10)	4	1081.3
Phase 5 pace (July 11 - July 20)	3.9	1065.6
Phase 5 pace (July 21 - July 31)	5	1237.2
Phase 5 pace (Aug 1 - Aug 10)	4.9	1118.2
Phase 5 pace (Aug 11 - Aug 20)	5.7	1139.9
Phase 5 pace (Aug 21 - Aug 31)	6.2	1419.2
Phase 5 pace (Sep 1 - Sep 10)	7.6	1589.4
Phase 5 pace (Sep 11 - Sep 20)	8.8	1724.9
Phase 5 pace (Sep 21 - Sep 30)	7.2	1556.1
Phase 5 pace (Oct 1 - Oct 10)	6.2	1466.6
Phase 5 pace (Oct 11 - Oct 20)	4.7	1341.1
Phase 5 pace (Oct 21 - Oct 31)	5.9	1428.8
Target pace (Nov 1 - Dec 31)	13.3	1889.4

Average daily doses (in million)

Sept. 26 Oct. 3 Oct. 10 Oct. 17 Oct. 24 Oct. 31

4 6 8 10

Oct. 24

Oct. 31

Oct. 21

Oct. 11

Oct. 1

Oct. 21

Oct. 31

Oct. 21

FROM PAGE ONE

India will achieve net zero emissions by 2070'

Mr. Modi's statements were in contrast to India's run-up to the COP where it had strongly resisted demands by developed countries to take on net zero targets.

Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav had on Sunday said that principles of Equity and Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC) and, recognition of the very different national circumstances of countries be respected. Taking on net zero targets, requires a sharp shift to clean energy sources that several experts have opined, will impose a steep cost.

Earlier speaking at a side-event at the COP, Mr. Modi

said there had not been as much focus on climate adaptation as much as mitigation and that is an injustice against developing nations.

There are changes in cropping patterns, there are floods and a great need to make agriculture resilient to these shocks, he added.

Mr. Modi said sustainable modes of living being practised in certain traditional communities ought to be made part of school curricula and the lessons from India's efforts at adaptation in programmes such as Jal Jeevan mission, Swach Bharat mission and mission ujwala ought to be popularized globally.

UN: countries must act to save humanity

"It's time to say: enough," Secretary-General António Guterres told world leaders gathered in the Scottish city of Glasgow for the conference.

"Enough of brutalising biodiversity. Enough of killing ourselves with carbon. Enough of treating nature like a toilet. Enough of burning and drilling and mining

our way deeper. We are digging our own graves."

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson opened the summit by urging world leaders to that they faced a damning verdict from future generations unless they acted decisively. If the leaders "fluff our lines or miss our cue", generations as-yet unborn "will not forgive us", he said.

Cannot impose blanket ban on all crackers: SC

The Special Bench was setting aside a Calcutta High Court order which had ordered a complete ban on firecrackers on October 29, coincidentally the very same day on which the top court had said such a measure was not advisable.

The Bench said the High Court order was "extreme". The HC should have heard the industry, which employs

thousands of workers, before passing any such order.

On October 29, in a different case, a Supreme Court Bench led by Justice M.R. Shah had declared that Chief Secretaries, top administrative and police officials would be held personally liable if banned varieties of firecrackers were found to be used in any of the States.

In the National Museum, the gallery dedicated to the northeastern lifestyle is rooted through a plethora of exhibits in textiles, jewellery, utility tools and personal adornments, which stands as an inclusive symbol of indigenous identity. The gallery showcases the agency and voice of the diverse communities from the Northeast.

Modi, Boris Johnson discuss Afghanistan

This was the first time the two leaders met in-person since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The discussion on Afghanistan between the two figures is significant as India and the U.K. have been working together in the UN Security Council to ensure "unimpeded" humanitarian support for the people of Afghanistan who are fac-

ing a serious crisis because of breakdown in law and order and a famine.

The mention of Asia-Pacific is also a significant addition to the list of items on the agenda of the two top leaders.

The Hindu has learnt that the U.K. will deploy two warships permanently in the Indo-Pacific region in the near future.

Festive season fires up October GST revenues

The Union Finance Ministry said this reflected the recovery of economic activity and would have 'still been higher if the sales of cars and other products had not been affected on account of disruption in supply of semi-conductors'.

October's GST kitty was 24% higher than the corresponding month a year ago and 36% over the pre-pandemic levels of 2019.

This was driven largely by a 39% year-on-year surge in collections from import of goods, while domestic transactions and import of services were 19% higher than October 2020.

ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar attributed October's healthy growth in revenues to 'pre-festive season stocking and improved compliance', she said.

The highest-ever GST collections of ₹1.4 lakh crore was recorded in April this year, which the Ministry stressed were related to 'year-end revenues', seeking to distinguish last month's inflows as a more robust sign of recovery.

An increase in compliance levels in recent months have also bolstered

the GST kitty, the Ministry said. "In addition to action against individual tax evaders, this has been a result of the multi-pronged approach followed by the GST Council," the Ministry noted in a statement.

This included measures to ease compliance, combined with steps to "discourage non-compliant behaviour like blocking of e-way bills for non-filing of returns, system-based suspension of registration of taxpayers who have failed to file six returns in a row and blocking of credit for return defaulters".

The gross GST revenue of ₹1,30,127 crore comprises ₹23,861 crore as Central GST, State GST of ₹30,421 crore and Integrated GST of ₹67,361 crore (including ₹32,998 crore collected on import of goods).

Among the more industrial States, Gujarat and Maharashtra recorded a revenue growth of 25% and 23%, respectively. Karnataka saw an 18% growth, while Tamil Nadu and Haryana, with a large auto industry presence, reported a more subdued growth of 11% and 3%, respectively.

CM YK

Sign off on Paris Rulebook, says BASIC

Bhupender Yadav articulates view of Brazil, South Africa, India and China at Glasgow conference

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

On the opening day of the 26th United Nations Conference of Parties (COP), Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav delivered a statement on behalf of the BASIC group of countries – Brazil, South Africa, India and China – at the U.N. Climate Change Conference underway in Glasgow.

These major developing economies are significant polluters but bear diminished responsibility for the carbon dioxide that has been pumped into the atmosphere since 1850 and also have low per capita emissions because of their significant populations.

These countries have therefore for many years sought to rebuff pressure from developed countries to take on firmer emission reductions.

Mr. Yadav said a key demand of the BASIC was that the Paris Agreement Rule-



Protest flag: The Red Rebel Brigade, an 'activist' troupe, at the Glasgow Central station. •AFP

book be concluded at COP26.

While the Paris Agreement laid out the framework for international action, the Rulebook will set this Agreement in motion by laying out the tools and processes to enable its implementation fairly and properly.

Countries had agreed to develop and finalise the Pa-

ris Rulebook at COP24 in Poland in 2018.

"In doing so, full effect must be given to implementation of the principles of Equity and Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC) and, recognition of the very different national circumstances of Parties," Mr. Yadav said in his written

statement.

Mr. Yadav reiterated BASIC demands that he has also spelt out in India that COP26 must aim for higher global ambition on climate finance and adaptation as well, along with recognition of the Parties' differing historical responsibilities and the developmental challenges faced by developing countries,

Tokism at the cost of local laws: Jairam Ramesh

NEW DELHI

Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address at the 26th Conference of Parties (COP26) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at Glasgow, former Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh on Monday said Mr. Modi made global headlines while diluting environment and forest laws at home.

compounded by the pandemic.

The latest available science makes it clear that all Parties need to immediately contribute their fair share and achieving this would require developed countries to rapidly reduce their emissions and dramatically scale-up their financial support to developing countries.

IN BRIEF



Sachin Vaze sent to Crime Branch custody

MUMBAI
The Crime Branch, Mumbai, on Monday took custody of the dismissed assistant police inspector Sachin Vaze in connection with an extortion case registered against him in a suburban area. A magistrate court had allowed the police to take him into custody. He is lodged at the Taloch jail after an SUV with 20 gelatin sticks was found on February 25 near Mukesh Ambani's residence.

Anil Deshmukh appears before ED officials

MUMBAI
Former Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh on Monday appeared before the Enforcement Directorate for questioning in an alleged money laundering and extortion case, even as he slammed the alleged "witch hunt campaign launched" against him. He said that he was keen to appear before the unbiased authorities and expose the falsity of the accusations against him.

Case against activist over his tweets on Tripura

SRINAGAR
The Ladakh police have lodged a case against activist Sajjad Kargili over his tweets on the alleged rioting against Muslims and their religious places in Tripura. The case was filed on October 29. "Kargili has no history of causing any harm to any outsider or people of any faith. The case seems a police overreach and intimidation against those who highlight any unjust event," Mr. Kargili stated.

Archit Kumar granted bail by Special Court

MUMBAI
The Special Court constituted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act granted bail to Archit Kumar, 22, shown as a peddler by the Narcotics Control Bureau and said, "Merely on the basis of WhatsApp chats, it cannot be gathered that he used to supply contraband to Aryan Khan and Arbaaz Merchant". 2.6gms of ganja and ₹93,000 in cash were recovered from Mr. Kumar's house.

Release MGNREGS funds, says Odisha CM

CM demands labour budget to 25 crore person days

SATYASUNDAR BARIK
BHUBANESWAR

Close on the heels of reports of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) running out of funds halfway through the financial year, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Monday demanded that the Centre release the outstanding of ₹1,088.72 crore.

Mr. Patnaik also demanded enhancement of the labour budget of Odisha under the MGNREGS to 25 crore person days for the year 2021-22.

He shot off a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi drawing his attention to pending liabilities of ₹1,088.72 crore (₹377.91 crore as wage component and ₹710.81 crore as material component) under the



Women engaged in labour under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Scheme. •FILE PHOTO

MGNREGS for Odisha.

"Timely payment of wages to poor jobseekers is the fundamental guarantee under the MGNREGA Act. Similarly, timely release of payment for material is critical for creation of tangible and durable assets under the MGNREGS", Mr. Patnaik mentioned in the letter.

The Chief Minister sought the Prime Minister's direction to the Ministry of Rural Development for timely release of funds.

Mr. Patnaik pointed out that significant number of returnee migrants stayed back due to the reduced level of economic activities during the pandemic.

Ex-SBI chief arrested in loan scam

Pratip Chaudhuri in judicial custody; case pertains to two hotel properties

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR



Pratip Chaudhuri

The Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer city on Monday sent former Chairman of the State Bank of India (SBI) Pratip Chaudhuri, who was arrested from his Delhi residence for an alleged loan scam involving a hotel, to judicial custody for 14 days after rejecting his bail application.

Mr. Chaudhuri was arrested on the warrants issued by the court.

The case against Mr. Chaudhuri, who retired from the SBI in 2013, pertains to two hotel properties worth ₹200 crore in Jaisalmer having been sold at a much lower price of ₹25 crore after de-

claring them non-performing assets (NPA). The Godawan Group had taken a loan of ₹24 crore from the SBI for its hotel project in 2007. The project remained incomplete for over three years, while another hotel of the group was functioning.

The key promoter died in April 2010, after which the account slipped into NPA in June 2010.

The SBI moved to seize both the hotels when Mr. Chaudhuri was the chairman and later sold them to an asset reconstruction company (ARC), Alchemist, at ₹25 crore as part of its recovery efforts.

Mr. Chaudhuri joined Alchemist as a director after his retirement from SBI.

The borrower, who had initially lodged a first information report (FIR) with the police against the sale of assets to Alchemist ARC, filed a protest petition in the CJM's Court on being aggrieved by the closure report filed by the police authorities. In a

clarification on the matter, the SBI said on Monday that the sale to the ARC was carried out through "a laid down process as per the policy of the bank".

The SBI said the borrower was subjected to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) process by the ARC and the assets had been acquired by a non-banking financial company in December 2017, again through due process under the orders of the National Company Law Tribunal, New Delhi.

The SBI said it was not made a party to the case, while all the directors of the ARC, including Mr. Chaudhuri who joined its board in October 2014, had been named in the case.

Earlier, a chargesheet was filed by the Tripura Police in January 2018. The CBI registered the case on October 18, 2019. They alleged that the group set up the

Fertilizer supply is set to increase, says Minister

'Production will surpass demand'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Production of fertilizers will surpass demand, Chemicals and Fertilizers Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said on Monday.

In a statement, he denounced rumours of shortage and urged farmers not to hoard fertilizers.

In the run-up to the sowing season for the rabi crop, farmers in many States have complained of difficulties in sourcing di-ammonium phosphate or DAP, the most popular fertilizer after urea. There have been reports of farmers travelling long dis-

tances and waiting in queues to buy DAP, as well as allegations of price increases per bag being increased in some areas despite subsidies to fertilizer companies.

Mr. Mandaviya reviewed production targets for November with the officials.

"While the demand of urea is 41 lakh tonnes, 76 lakh tonnes of urea will be produced. Similarly, 18 lakh tonnes of DAP will be produced against a projected demand of 17 lakh tonnes. Supply of 30 lakh tonnes of NPK will surpass the demand of 15 lakh tonnes," the statement said.

NCSC to probe Wankhede's complaint

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) will examine the complaint of Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) officer Sameer Wankhede that he was being implicated in a false case, NCSC chairman Vijay Sampal said on Monday.

Mr. Wankhede, the NCB's Mumbai Zonal director, has been in the limelight in connection with the Aryan Khan case and was recently accused by Maharashtra Minister Nana Patil of faking his caste certificate.

Five awarded sentences varying from life term to 7 years

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PATNA

for lack of evidence.

Six people were killed and 80 injured in the blasts at a *Hunkar* rally of the National Democratic Alliance in Patna in October 2013. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who was then Gujarat Chief Minister, was among the leaders who attended the rally.

SIMI, IM members

All the accused were said to be members of the Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) and Indian Mujahideen (IM). One person was acquitted

One Tariq Ansari had died while planting a bomb inside a toilet at Patna junction. Out of the nine convicts, six were from Ranchi in Jharkhand, two from Mirzapur in neighbouring Uttar Pradesh and one from Raipur in Chhattisgarh. All the accused are currently lodged in the Beur central jail in Patna.

The NIA took up the case on November 6, 2013.

In all, 250 prosecution witnesses deposed before the trial court for cross examination.</p

Pain pervades
J&K, says
Sajad Lone

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

Peoples Conference president Sajad Lone on Monday said Jammu and Kashmir was witnessing disempowerment as a continuous process and it was achieved incrementally with unfailing frequency.

He blamed the "alien administration" for this.

"The situation in J&K is unambiguously extraordinary. People are in pain and there is helplessness all around," Mr. Lone, who quit the Gupkar alliance earlier this year, stated. "The process of disempowerment that started on August 5 refuses to abate. Disempowerment has become a continuous process and is achieved incrementally with unfailing frequency," he added.

Mr. Lone had convened a meeting of the party's central working committee "to discuss contemporary political situation".

Panel to talk to farmers: Haryana CM

Manohar Lal says efforts are on under the Home Secretary to clear the blockade on the borders

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH



Unyielding stand: Farmers sitting in protest against the new farm laws at the Singhu border, in New Delhi on October 15. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Plea for dialogue

Mr. Khattar, who was addressing a press conference here on the occasion of the 56th Haryana Divas, said the State Government has constituted a committee under the chairmanship of the Home Secretary to hold talks with the protesting farmers for clearing the blockade on

the Kundli-Singhu and Tikri borders.

"Discussions are underway. Along with this, the Supreme Court has also taken cognisance in this matter. Due to the closure of the border, the people travelling along with the local residents and traders are facing inconvenience. The people blocking the highway should

understand the problem and come forward for dialogue," he said.

Mr. Khattar said that in the coming days, he would visit all the 90 Assembly constituencies of the State and interact with the people. "Due to the pandemic, the tours could not be conducted for some time. Now the programmes for the next two

months have been prepared," he said.

The Chief Minister's remarks come even as leaders of the BJP and its coalition partner, the Dushyant Chautala-led Janayak Janta Party (JJP), have been facing a backlash from farmers over the Centre's farm laws during the past few months. Farmer outfits have an-

understanding that all legislators who have backed the Centre's farm laws will be boycotted and not be allowed entry into villages across the State.

Mr. Khattar said transparency in recruitments was one of the focuses of his government and complete transparency was being adopted in the recruitment by the Haryana Staff Selection Commission and Haryana Public Service Commission.

However, senior Congress leader from Haryana and party's national general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala said the BJP-JP government and Haryana Staff Selection Commission had once again made a mockery of the competence, ability and potential of the youth. He accused them of destroying the entire examination system, the manner of preparing the paper and the method of taking the exam.

Akhilesh Yadav says he won't contest U.P. polls

SP chief announces tie-up with RLD



Akhilesh Yadav

heldev Bhartiya Samaj Party (SPSP).

Mr. Yadav, who is an SP MP from Azamgarh and regarded as the CM face of his party, said, "I will not be contesting the Assembly election myself."

The SP supremo, who was an MLC when he served as Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh from 2012 to 2017, did not give any reason for the decision. However, later Mr. Yadav said a final decision will be taken by the party.

Centre driving a wedge in J&K: PDP

Mehbooba Mufti says New Delhi is resorting to 'naked communalism' in the UT.

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) on Monday accused the Central Government of "creating and fostering new fault lines between the people of Jammu and Kashmir".

Immediately after chairing a meeting of the Political Affairs Committee (PAC) of the party, PDP president Mehbooba Mufti observed that New Delhi was resorting to 'naked communalism' and pitting people against each other on the basis of religion, cast, sect and ethnicity. They were the only tools of the BJP to cover up its failure in governance. Hence divisive policies were gaining fresh ground and promoted unabashedly.

A PDP spokesman said the PAC meeting noted that New Delhi was further dividing J&K people "to accomplish the agenda of complete disempowerment of people." The party wanted people to collectively rise in unison to



Act of resistance: PDP workers protesting on Saturday against the alleged harassment of Kashmiri youth. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

defeat such plans.

The meeting also highlighted that apart from being robbed of their constitutional and democratic rights, people were slowly witnessing the catastrophic ramifications of the BJP-RSS plans in sectors such as business, employment, right to natural resources etc., the spokesman alleged.

"The abject failure of the BJP government has given J&K the dubious distinction of having the highest unem-

ployment rate in the country," the PDP claimed.

Party chief spokesperson Suhail Bakhri asserted that the PAC would redouble its efforts to fight the designs of dividing and disempowering the J&K people and would give voice to the concerns and aspirations of all the people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh.

He sought the immediate release of all political prisoners and speedy and impartial investigation into cases of re-

cent civilian killings.

Earlier in the day, Ms. Mufti alleged that she was disallowed to meet the family of a civilian, who was killed in a "crossfire" on October 25 in south Kashmir.

Mehbooba's charge

"When anyone is being killed by the militants, they (politicians) are being allowed to meet the slain family. It's unfortunate that whenever anyone is being killed in the forces' action, no one is being allowed to meet the bereaved family," she remarked.

The former Chief Minister had desired to meet the family of Anantnag's Shahid Ajaz, who was killed in a firing incident at Babapora area of Shopian near a CRPF camp.

According to the police, he died in the crossfire between militants and security personnel.

However, his family contested the police version.

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IN BRIEF



Manmohan Singh's wife thanks doctors, nurses

NEW DELHI
A day after former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh was discharged from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), his wife Gursharan Kaur expressed her gratitude to doctors, nurses and well-wishers for their support. Dr. Singh was admitted to the AIIMS on October 13 where he was diagnosed with dengue fever. "We would like to convey our special thanks to all the doctors, nurses and support staff of AIIMS and numerous well-wishers for their whole-hearted support and hard work for his speedy recovery," she said.

Ganga Mission in Guinness records

NEW DELHI
The National Mission for Clean Ganga set a Guinness World Record on the first day of the Ganga Utsav for the highest number of photos of handwritten notes uploaded on Facebook in an hour. Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat posted his message on Facebook, after which the activity was opened for the public at large. An official said the event was held to raise awareness on Ganga rejuvenation and to expand the reach of the festival. People posted poems or articles on 'Maa Ganga' on the Namami Gange Facebook page. PTI

Orissa HC allows use of green fireworks

Bhubaneswar
The Orissa High Court on Monday granted permission for sale and use of only green crackers that are approved by the Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO). The All Odisha Fireworks Dealers Association had moved the High Court seeking permission for sale of green crackers for Deepavali. A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice S. Muralidhar and Justice B.P. Routray said the sale and use of fireworks should be limited to only green fireworks that conform to the formulation proposed by the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute.

Parachute unit practises combat manoeuvres

Army conducts airborne exercise in eastern Ladakh

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

As the Army prepares to remain deployed in large numbers in the high-altitude areas of eastern Ladakh with the stand-off with China still unresolved, the 50th Parachute Brigade is conducting an airborne exercise and combat manoeuvres along the northern borders in the region to validate its rapid response capabilities.

"On Monday, airborne troops were inserted to a drop zone at an altitude of more than 14,000 feet," an Army source said on Monday. "Pre-acclimatised troops, along with specialist vehicles and missile detachments, were transported via C-130 and AN-32 aircraft from five different mounting bases to validate inter-theatre moves, precision stand-off drops, rapid



High on the hills: The 50th Parachute Brigade during an exercise in eastern Ladakh. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

grouping and capture of designated objectives with speed and surprise."

The drop was particularly challenging due to the low temperatures of up to minus-20 degrees and rarefied atmosphere in super high-altitude terrain, the source said.

The exercise involves use of oxygen systems during

free fall jumps and integrated battle drills by airborne forces, mechanised columns and attack helicopters for seamless integration. The parachute brigade is known as the Shatrujeet Brigade.

With winter approaching, the Army has mostly completed its stocking to support the troops for the next few months.

Australia recognises Covaxin

The move allows those who have got both doses to travel to the country

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

The Government of Australia has recognised Bharat Biotech's Covaxin.

This recognition from the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) of the Department of Health will enable travellers fully vaccinated with Covaxin to travel to the country.

With Monday's announcement, Australia has become the first major economy to grant recognition to both the Indian-manufactured vaccines — Covishield and Covaxin.



Shot in the arm: Covaxin is a two-dose vaccine manufactured by Bharat Biotech. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

An announcement from the TGA said the recognition was for travellers aged 12 and over.

"I thank my dear friend PM Scott Morrison for Australia's recognition of India's Covaxin. It is an important step forward in the post-COVID partnership between India and Australia," he said in a social media message.

or become acutely unwell due to COVID-19," declared the announcement.

It stated that the relevant information regarding the vaccine was provided by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the vaccine sponsors. The announcement noted that anyone who had received two doses of a TGA-recognised vaccine "at least 14 days apart is regard-

Novavax's COVID-19 jab approved in Indonesia

NEW DELHI
Biotechnology firm Novavax Inc and its partner Serum Institute of India (SII) on Monday said they have received the first emergency use authorisation (EUA) for Novavax's COVID-19 vaccine in Indonesia. The SII will manufacture the vaccine in India and market it in Indonesia under the brand name Covax, Novavax Inc said in a statement. Initial shipments are expected to begin soon. PTI

ed as fully vaccinated from 7 days after the second dose". Travellers with two doses of the same vaccine or two doses of two different vaccines (heterologous) too would be considered fully vaccinated seven days after the second dose.

The move will help many Indian students return to Australia to continue their studies.

Rescue guide launched for Ganges river dolphin

The mammals often get stranded in irrigation canals

SHIV SAHAY SINGH
KOLKATA

The Jal Shakti Ministry on Monday released a guide for the safe rescue and release of stranded Ganges river dolphins. The document has been prepared by the Turtle Survival Alliance and the Environment, Forest and Climate Change Department (EFCCD) of the Uttarakhand Government. The guide has been drawn from years of experience of rescuing 25 Ganges river dolphins stranded in irrigation canals.

The Ganges river dolphin is the national aquatic animal of India and is listed as 'endangered' under the IUCN Red List Assessments, Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act (1972), Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade



Ganges river dolphins are listed as 'endangered' on the IUCN Red list.

in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

The species, whose global population is estimated at 4,000, is mostly found in the Indian subcontinent. The dolphins often accidentally enter canals in northern India and are unable to swim up against the gradient. They are also vulnerable to harm by people.

The manual is endorsed

by the IUCN Cetacean Specialist Group.

Best practices on crowd control, dolphin capture from canals and handling, transfer, transport and release are part of the guide.

"Found throughout the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna and Karnaphuli-Sangu river systems of Nepal, India and Bangladesh, the Ganges river dolphin [Platanista gangetica gangetica] is a global priority and is also an indicator of healthy aquatic systems," said Shailendra Singh, director of Turtle Survival Alliance, India.

The guide was also simultaneously released via local fishermen at the Ghaghra river, a prime habitat where most of the rescued dolphins were released in the past few years.

CBI takes over investigation into the 'Bike Bot' swindle

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The CBI has taken over the probe into the 'Bike Bot' scam in which more than two lakh people were allegedly cheated of about ₹15,000 crore on the false promise of lucrative returns on investments in a bike taxi service scheme by a company registered as the Garvit Innovative Promoters Limited (GIPL). Under the

scheme, an investor had to pay ₹62,100 per bike with an assurance of ₹5,175 in monthly returns and other benefits.

The agency has named 15 people, including the company's chairman-cum-managing director Sanjay Bhati, in the First Information Report (FIR). The Dadri police in Uttar Pradesh had earlier registered 11 cases and made several arrests in the matter.

According to the CBI case, complaints had earlier been submitted and the Noida district authority and the police were aware of the fraudulent activities of the company but did not take any action. The complainants alleged that the then Senior Superintendent of Police and the Superintendent of Police in Crime Branch pressured them to withdraw their complaints.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

A Special Judge, dealing with the Prevention of Corruption Act cases, in Bharatpur city of Rajasthan has been suspended after a first information report was registered against him and two others on the charge of sexually assaulting a minor boy. An Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) officer was also suspended for allegedly threatening the 14-year-old.

The Rajasthan High Court issued orders late on Sunday

night placing Jitendra Singh, who is of the District Judge cadre, under suspension with immediate effect pending preliminary enquiry and the contemplated departmental inquiry.

In a complaint lodged with the police, the boy's mother alleged that Mr. Singh and two other persons had been sexually assaulting her son for the last one month after intoxicating him with a narcotic substance. The judge and the two other accused had threatened the

boy with implicating his family in false cases if he spoke about the assault to anyone, according to the complaint.

Mr. Singh allegedly befriended the boy at the District Club in Bharatpur, where he used to play tennis. He allegedly took the boy to his residence and had sex with him several times. The matter came to light when the minor told about this to his mother last week.

The other accused were identified as Anshul Soni, the judge's stenographer,

and Rahul Katara, another staff member of the court. The FIR has been registered at the Mathura Gate police station.

The victim's family also alleged that ACB Circle Officer Parmeshwar Lal Yadav had threatened to kill the boy.

The Home Department has placed Mr. Yadav under suspension as per the Rajasthan Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1958.

A video of Mr. Singh apologising to the boy and his

mother has gone viral on social media in Bharatpur. The police will verify the video during the investigation.

The judge has lodged a counter-complaint against the boy's family, accusing them of blackmail and extortion.

Rajasthan State Commission for Protection of Child Rights chairperson Sangeeta Beniwal has sought a report from the Bharatpur Superintendent of Police and asked the authorities to carry out an impartial probe.

Judge suspended on charges of sexual assault

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

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SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 13391

D	I	S	A	S	T	E	R	
A	M	P	X	H	U	R	E	
B	R	U	T	E	L	O	N	
G	G	L	A	R	O	I	T	
E	L	I	S	O	E	O	T	
F	I	N	C	A	S	C	I	
C	N	G	E	F	M	E		
R	E	G	M	S	C	H	O	
A	T	L	A	S	O	T	R	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

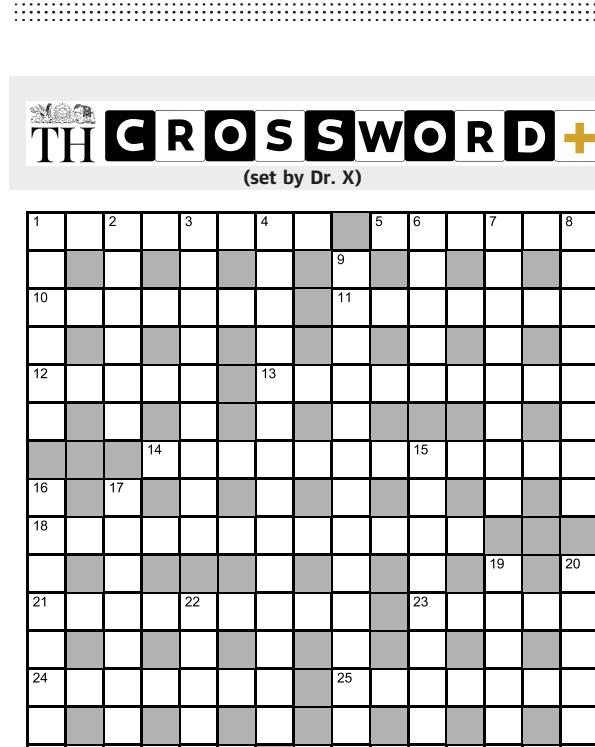
FAITH

Shun self-praise

It is a natural human tendency to derive satisfaction from one's achievements. But to boast about one's abilities is a despicable trait, elaborated Malayama in a discourse, citing examples from Tamil literature. A parent boasting about his children's achievements is just as bad, for it is also in a way nothing but self-praise. But if others praise one's child, then the parent secretly delights in this public recognition for her child. There can be no greater joy for a parent than to hear her child praised by others.

When a mother hears people praising her son as a virtuous person, she is happier than she was when she gave birth to him, says Thiruvalluvar. Thiruvalluvar says that humility lifts a man to the status of a celestial. But pride leads him down a dark and evil path. Kumaraguruparar, in his Neethi Neri Vilakkam, says that if one keeps talking about how he has controlled his senses, and is not prone to temptation, then even his merits will turn to sins. A person truly deserving praise never speaks highly of himself. But a person who has no claim to fame is forever singing his own praises, says Thiruvalluvar.

Bharatha Venba says that when a man praises himself, his acts of charity lose their merit. Needhi Nool says that self-praise is akin to a man who wants to clean himself through a bath, but rubs himself all over with mud. It is like pouring water over a flame when the intention is to make the lamp shine brightly, says Needhi Nool. A person who keeps talking about his talents, his attributes, his actions, and his achievements, will be mocked by everyone. He will lose everyone's respect. Naaladiyaar says that he will be shunned. Pride is a disease, and one must conquer it before it becomes impossible to do so.



- ACROSS
 - 1 Affectionate feeling shown by drunkards consuming strong cannabis (4,4)
 - 5 Woman with flair captures man's heart and love (6)
 - 10 Kamala is elected, curbing unease (7)
 - 11 Centre of Ophthalmology in Bosnia analysed pink-eyed rabbits (7)
 - 12 Decline to wear gold for so long (5)

Pentagon rattled by China's military push

They are expanding rapidly in space, in cyberspace and then in land, sea and air, says Gen. Mark Milley

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON

China's growing military muscle and its drive to end American predominance in the Asia-Pacific is rattling the U.S. defence establishment. American officials see trouble quickly accumulating on multiple fronts – Beijing's expanding nuclear arsenal, its advances in space, cyber and missile technologies, and threats to Taiwan.

"The pace at which China is moving is stunning," says Gen. John Hyten, the second-highest ranking officer in the U.S. military, who previously commanded the U.S. nuclear forces and oversaw the Air Force space operations.

At stake is a potential shift in the global balance of power that has favoured the U.S. for decades.

A realignment more favourable to China does not pose a direct threat to the U.S. but could complicate



Power point: A model of LY-70 air defence missile weapon system displayed at an airshow in Zhuhai. ■ REUTERS

U.S. alliances in Asia. New signs of how the Pentagon intends to deal with the China challenge may emerge in the coming weeks from Biden administration policy reviews on nuclear weapons, global troop basing and overall defense strategy.

For now, officials marvel at how Beijing is marshalling

the resources, technology and political will to make rapid gains – so rapid that the Biden administration is attempting to reorient all aspects of U.S. foreign and defense policy.

The latest example of surprising speed was China's test of a hypersonic weapon capable of partially orbiting

Earth before re-entering the atmosphere and gliding on a manoeuvrable path to its target. The weapon system's design is meant to evade U.S.

NEWS ANALYSIS

missile defences, and although Beijing insisted it was testing a reusable space vehicle, not a missile, the test appeared to have startled U.S. officials.

Sputnik moment

Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the test was "very close" to being a Sputnik moment, akin to the 1957 launching by the Soviet Union of the world's first space satellite, which caught the world by surprise.

Gen. Milley and other U.S. officials have declined to discuss details of the Chinese test, saying they are secret. He called it "very concern-

ing" for the U.S. but added that problems posed by China's military modernisation run far deeper.

"That's just one weapon system," he said in a Bloomberg Television interview. "The Chinese military capabilities are much greater than that. They're expanding rapidly in space, in cyber and then in the traditional domains of land, sea and air." On the nuclear front, private satellite imagery in recent months has revealed large additions of launch silos that suggest the possibility that China plans to increase its fleet of land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles, or ICBMs.

Pentagon officials and defense hawks on Capitol Hill point to China's modernisation as a key justification for rebuilding the U.S. nuclear arsenal, a project expected to cost more than \$1 billion over 30 years.

U.K. vows action if France does not back down in fishing row

The French have made completely unreasonable threats'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Britain on Monday warned France it will take action if Paris does not withdraw "unreasonable" threats to impose trade measures in an increasingly acrimonious row over post-Brexit fishing rights.

President Emmanuel Macron said on Sunday that Britain must give ground in the dispute or France will trigger trade reprisals on Tues-

day, saying: "The ball is in Britain's court."

Channel Islands and to our

fishing industry, and they

need to withdraw those

threats," she said.

"If somebody behaves un-

fairly in a trade deal you're

entitled to take action

against them and seek some

compensatory measures.

And that is what we will do if

the French don't back

down."

Angry Paris

France is angry that Britain

and the Channel Islands of

Jersey and Guernsey have

not issued some French

boats with licences to fish in

their waters since Brexit

took full effect at the start of

2021.

Paris has vowed that, un-

less licences are approved, it

will ban U.K. boats from un-

loading their catches at

French ports from Tuesday

and impose checks on all

products brought to France

from Britain.

Jersey's Minister for External Relations Ian Gorst said on Monday that his officials had followed the terms of the Brexit deal, which stipulates that boats should only be granted licences if evidence is presented that they fished in the waters before 2016. "We've really tumbled over ourselves to be as engaging and as reasonable as possible," he told Sky News.

Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson complained to EU chief Ursula von der Leyen on Saturday that French threats over fishing were "completely unjustified" as he held out the option of invoking the Brexit dispute tool for the first time, drawing the EU itself into the row.

Islamists call off rally after talks with Pakistan Govt.

They are demanding release of leader

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ISLAMABAD

A banned Pakistani Islamist party on Monday called off a march to the capital and ended its occupation of a major highway after reaching a deal with the government, following more than a week of clashes that left seven policemen dead.

The Tehreek-e-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) was protesting over the detention of its leader, arrested in April when the group was outlawed by authorities, and was demanding the expulsion of the French Ambassador from Pakistan over pu-

blication of blasphemous caricatures.

Several thousand supporters had begun a stop-start march from the eastern city of Lahore to the capital Islamabad, reaching about one third of the way. "We have called off our march to Islamabad after reaching an agreement with the government," Sajjad Saifi, a spokesman for the TLP, said.

"Our supporters have moved to the nearby park and until 50% of terms are fulfilled we will stay here," he added. The government has refused to comment on the details of the talks.

Japan's PM Fumio Kishida calls victory after 'tough' election

He vows to take leading role in climate action

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TOKYO

Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida declared victory on Monday after his ruling coalition won a strong majority in national elections, vowing to boost the virus-hit economy and "take a leading role" in Asia's push towards carbon neutrality.

Mr. Kishida, a soft-spoken centrist who has been in office for a month, said he would set out plans for a pandemic spending package



this month in a bid to revive the world's third-largest economy. Before heading to the COP26 summit, Mr. Kishida said he was committed to climate targets set by his predecessor Yoshihide Suga.

"We will not only stand firm on our 2050 carbon-

neutral goal but also take a leading role in working towards zero emissions in Asia," he said.

The long-ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and its junior coalition partner Komeito won 293 of the 465 seats in Parliament's Lower House, local media reported while the official result was finalised. The coalition had previously held 305 seats.

"It was a very tough election, but the people's will – that they want us to create this country's future under the stable LDP-Komeito government and the Kishida administration – was shown," Mr. Kishida said.

Abiy defiant as rival Tigray forces make advance

Federal troops are fighting: Ethiopia PM

ASSOCIATED PRESS
NAIROBI

Ethiopia's Prime Minister has called on citizens to redouble efforts to combat the rival Tigray forces who claim to have seized key cities on a major highway leading to the capital, while a new wave of detentions of ethnic Tigrayans has begun.

A move on Addis Ababa is a new phase in the war that has killed thousands of people since fighting broke out a year ago between Ethiopian and allied forces and Tigray ones who long dominated the national government before Prime Minister

Abiy Ahmed took office in 2018. His spokeswoman, Bilenne Seyoum, said on Monday that Mr. Abiy "is where he's meant to be, leading the country's front and centre".

Mr. Abiy, in a statement on Sunday, said federal troops are fighting on four fronts against the Tigray forces and "we should know that our enemy's main strength is our weakness and unpreparedness". Amid calls for attacks against ethnic Tigrayans, he said "we should closely follow those who work for the enemy and live amongst us".

Four killed in Lagos high-rise collapse

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LAGOS

A high-rise building under construction collapsed in Nigeria's commercial capital Lagos on Monday, killing at least four people with dozens more feared trapped inside the rubble.

Rescue officials said many workers were caught inside the 21-floor building in Lagos's wealthy Ikoyi residential and business district when it crumbled.

Ibrahim Farinloye of the National Emergency Management Agency said four people had been rescued and four bodies recovered from the site.

+ Sri Lanka fisher leaders meet Indian envoy

They convey concern over 'delay in India's response' to bottom trawling issue

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

The Indian High Commissioner in Colombo on Monday assured Sri Lanka's northern fishermen that he would convey their concerns over bottom trawling by Indian fishermen in the Palk Strait to both New Delhi and Tamil Nadu and look at some immediate measures to address the problem.

A delegation of fisher leaders from Sri Lanka's northern districts, along with Jaffna legislator M.A. Sumanthiran, met Indian High Commissioner Gopal Baglay in Colombo on Monday, and voiced concern over the "delay in India's response" to the issue of bottom trawling in the Palk Strait. The meeting was consequent to a recent discus-



Seeking solution: Fisher leaders with Indian High Commissioner Gopal Baglay on Monday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

sion, held when High Commissioner Baglay called on Tamil National Alliance (TNA) leader R. Sampanthan last week, according to TNA spokesman Mr. Sumanthiran, who was also at the meeting.

A fortnight ago, northern Sri Lankan fishermen held a sea rally, demanding that Sri Lanka implement its laws against bottom trawling, a destructive fishing method that erodes the seabed, endangering marine organ-

isms. Dozens of boats with black flags travelled 100 km from the north-eastern Mullaitivu town to Point Pedro in Jaffna, with some TNA MPs joining the protest. Fishermen from Tamil Nadu crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) and fishing in Sri Lankan waters, using the harmful bottom trawling fishing method, has been a recurring flashpoint in India-Sri Lanka ties.

"The High Commissioner listened to the fisher leaders' grievances and told them that he would convey their sentiments to both New Delhi and Tamil Nadu. He agreed that while long term solutions are taking time, it is important to come up with some short-term measures meanwhile," Mr. Sumanthiran said.

In Afghan hospital, unpaid doctors and Taliban clash

ASSOCIATED PRESS
KABUL

The Taliban-appointed supervisor of a small district hospital outside the Afghan capital has big plans for the place – to the dismay of the doctors who work there.

Mohammed Javid Ahmadi, 22, was asked by his superiors, fresh off the fields of battle from a war that has spanned most of his life, what kind of jobs he could do.

It was Ahmadi's dream to be a doctor; poverty had kept him from gaining admission to medical school, he said.

He chose the health sector. Soon after, the Mirbacha Kot District Hospital just outside of Kabul became his responsibility.

Different priorities
It's a job Ahmadi takes very seriously, but he and the other health workers in the 20-bed hospital rarely see eye-to-eye. Doctors are de-

manding overdue salary payments amid critical shortages of medicine, fuel and food.

Ahmadi's first priority is to build a mosque inside the hospital quarters, segregate staff by gender and encourage them to pray. The rest will follow according to the will of God, he tells them.

The drama in Mirbacha Kot is playing out across Afghanistan's health sector since the Taliban takeover. With power changing hands overnight, health workers have had to contend with a difficult adjustment. The host of problems that preceded the Taliban's rise were exacerbated.

In Mirbacha Kot, doctors have not been paid in five months.

"What can we do? If we don't want to come here there's no other job for us. If there was another job, nobody can pay us. It's better to stay here," said Dr. Gul Nazar.

Bid Documents along with Bidding Programme will be available on the website mahatenders.gov.in from 03/11/2021 at 17.01 Hrs.

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STEP

MARKET WATCH

	01-11-2021	% CHANGE
Sensex	60,138	1.40
US Dollar	74.87	0.00
Gold	46,673	-0.46
Brent oil	84.62	---

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	704.40	11.40
Asian Paints	3121.80	21.70
Axist Bank	752.35	10.35
Bajaj Auto	3726.15	18.90
Bajaj Finserv	17565.70	-255.45
Bajaj Finance	7412.95	12.75
Bharti Airtel	712.50	27.15
BPCL	421.65	3.95
Britannia Ind	3678.15	2.40
Cipla	909.25	4.20
Coal India	170.75	6.30
Divis Lab	5228.20	78.05
Dr Reddys Lab	4801.45	142.25
Eicher Motors	2560.00	75.20
Grasim Ind	1789.00	67.90
HCL Tech	1189.20	45.45
HDFC	2887.95	43.25
HDFC Bank	1605.30	22.45
HDFC Life	689.80	9.35
Hero MotoCorp	2680.70	23.60
Hindustan	478.15	18.35
Hind Unilever	2407.10	13.95
ICICI Bank	803.90	1.85
IndusInd Bank	1229.10	88.90
Infosys	1700.05	32.30
Indian Oil Corp	131.65	3.70
ITC	226.85	3.65
JSW Steel	688.95	19.80
Kotak Bank	2076.50	45.35
L&T	1795.35	28.70
M&M	870.35	-13.90
Maruti Suzuki	7615.55	133.15
Nestle India Ltd.	18939.60	-60.55
NTPC	134.30	1.65
ONGC	153.15	4.10
PowerGrid Corp	187.75	2.70
Reliance Ind	2537.80	1.55
SBI Life	1163.35	17.80
State Bank	515.70	13.55
Shree Cement	29145.75	510.50
Sun Pharma	811.80	16.80
Tata Consumer Products Ltd.	824.90	15.40
Tata Motors	485.70	2.00
Tata Steel	1364.90	48.95
TCS	3476.40	78.65
Tech Mahindra	1522.15	44.30
Titan	2406.30	22.75
UltraTech Cement	7775.10	139.05
UPL	720.05	-20.15
Wipro	655.45	8.70

EXCHANGE RATES

Indirect direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on November 01		
CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	74.68	75.00
Euro	86.98	87.36
British Pound	103.01	103.45
Japanese Yen (100)	65.59	65.87
Chinese Yuan	11.67	11.73
Swiss Franc	81.88	82.24
Singapore Dollar	55.47	55.72
Canadian Dollar	60.48	60.74
Malaysian Ringgit	18.03	18.12

Source: Indian Bank

TVS Motor unveils 125cc Raider in Nepal

CHENNAI

TVS Motor Company has announced the roll-out of the 125cc TVS Raider motorcycle for 'inspirational young customers' in Nepal.

October manufacturing activity quickens, job losses persist: PMI

'Producers recorded strongest improvement in operating conditions since Feb.'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The country's manufacturing activity expanded for the fourth month in a row in October, as reflected by the IHS Markit Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI). The survey-based PMI rose to 55.9 from 53.7 in September.

Manufacturing jobs continued to slidethough producers recorded the strongest improvement in overall operating conditions since February, and business optimism hit a six-month high. A PMI reading of 50 indicates no change in output levels.

Overall new orders grew at the fastest pace in seven months, while factory output also increased at the strongest pace since March.



Tale of agony: Global demand for raw materials has spurred input cost inflation to a near eight-year high. ■ M. PERIASAMY

Electricity demand rose 4.8% in Oct.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

India's power consumption grew 4.8% in October to 114.37 billion units (BU), indicating a good recovery amid coal shortages at electricity generation plants, according to power minis-

Goods exports climb 42%, imports surge 63%

Inward shipments of coal, gold double

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India's merchandise exports stood at \$35.47 billion in October, or 35.2% higher than the pre-pandemic level of 2019 and 42.3% above the number in October 2020.

However, imports grew

from a year earlier. Imports of vegetable oil also jumped by almost 60%.

The trade deficit for October more than doubled from a year earlier to \$19.9 billion but was lower than the record deficit of \$22.6 billion in September 2021.

"Encouragingly, non-oil exports rose to a seven-month high of \$30.3 billion in October, 30% higher from a year ago," said ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar.

"A sustenance of healthy export growth will be crucial to contain the current account deficit in light of the recovery and commodity price-led surge in merchandise imports," she said, adding oil imports also dipped after a spike in September.

Last year in October, power consumption stood at 109.17 BU and in the same period in 2019, it was at 97.84 BU.

During October, the peak power demand met or the highest supply in a day stood at 174.60 GW, higher than the 169.89 GW seen a year earlier. The data clearly shows that there is recovery in power consumption as well as demand in the country.

Coal and gold imports more than doubled during October, rising by almost 119% and 104%, respectively,

SPORT

TV PICKS

Men's T20 World Cup: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 3.30 p.m. & 7.30 p.m.

Champions League: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 11.15 p.m.; Sony Ten 1, 2, 3 & Sony Six (SD & HD), 1.30 a.m. (Wednesday)

IN BRIEF

Indians shine in Asian Youth chess

CHENNAI

India won the overall championship in the girls' event of the Asian Youth chess championship (online) that concluded recently with two gold, three silver and two bronze medals. The gold medals were secured through Susmita Bhowmick (U-18) and R. Pooja Shree (U-8). In the open category also India picked up two golds through H. Bharath Subramanyam (u-14) and Pranav Anand (u-16).

Tsuneyama and Yamaguchi triumph

Japan's Kanta Tsuneyama and Akane Yamaguchi claimed the men's and women's singles title at the French Open, a BWF World Tour Super 750 badminton event, here on Sunday. While the unseeded Tsuneyama upset fourth-seeded Chou Tien Chen of Chinese Taipei 15-21, 21-8, 21-17, top seed Yamaguchi beat compatriot Sayaka Takahashi 21-16, 21-12 in the final.

Delhi beats Kerala

DEHRADUN
Despite a fine all-round show by Keerthy K. James (3/28 and 41), Kerala went down to Delhi by eight runs in the senior women's one-day tournament here on Monday. The scores: Delhi 193 for eight in 50 overs (Priya Puniya 46, Ayushi Soni 50, Simran Dil Bahadur 70, Minnu Mani 4/38, Keerthy K. James 3/28) bt Kerala 185 in 49.3 overs (A. Akshaya 49, L.V. Drishya 33, Keerthy K. James 41, Parunika Sisodia 3/35).

Niki Poonacha looks to step it up on the international circuit

Says winning the nationals has given him confidence and he is now focusing on building fitness

TENNIS

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI

When he plays his best tennis, Niki Poonacha looks top class. He can hit the big serves, and whip the forehand where he likes. At his fluent best, he is a delight to watch.

After being crowned the national tennis champion for the second time on Saturday in Delhi, the 26-year-old resolved to take his form and confidence into the forthcoming international circuit.

"I came for the National championship looking to win it. I am happy that I was able to pull it off. After I won the ITF title, the second COVID wave," said SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

and pains through the national championship, visiting physio Anand Dubey to get suitable treatment.

Aches and pains
"I was playing with multiple pains and aches during this week, taking pain killers before the matches. Treatment from the physio, stretching, icing helped me a lot. I just have to play with the pain – mentally block it, and focus on the match. No pain, no gain," he said.

Poonacha is quite confident about his game, but feels the need to work on the fitness, so as to capitalise on the forthcoming three ITF tournaments in Indore, Delhi and Gurugram. "I am well prepared. In fact, playing the nationals was to prepare for the international events. Winning the nationals has given me the confidence and motivation. I am focusing on recovery now and building my fitness," Poonacha said.

Poonacha trains at the Rohan Bopanna Academy at the Sports School in Bengaluru. "I am grateful to the whole team. The support is truly amazing," he said, raving about the support from coaches M. Balachandran, Sujith Sachidanand, physios Dhruv Balaraman and Chelston Pinto.

To top it all, Poonacha regularly gets "tips and ideas on how to play and improve" from Bopanna.

SPORTS DIGEST

Ganesan nominated ATTU's co-chairman

NEW DELHI

Ganesan Neelakanta Iyer has been nominated as the co-chairman of the Asian Table Tennis Union's 14-member technical and umpires' committee.

Ganesan, 60, becomes the first Indian to hold the coveted post. Since 2019, he is a permanent member of the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) Umpires and Referees Committee. An international referee and



A big one: The National title gave Poonacha some much-needed momentum and confidence after the second COVID wave. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

RACING

Cosmic Ray takes the honours in Rajyotsava Trophy

BENGALURU: S. Attaollahi-trained Cosmic Ray (Sandesh, up), won the Rajyotsava Trophy, the main event of the races held here on Monday (Nov 1). The winner is owned by United Racing & Bloodstock Breeders Ltd.

1. GANGA PLATE (DIV. II),

(1,600m), rated 00 to 25: AMALI

SUNRISE (Arshad) 1, Handsome

Rocky (Rajesh) 2, Capital Gain

(Nazerul) 3 and Skiathtos (Rayan)

4, 2-1/2, 1 and 1. Im, 40.87s

229 (w), 17, 19 and 65 (p), SHP:

50, TPH: 141, FP: 308, Q: 118, Trinella:

3,271 and 1,121, Exacta: 19,366 and

1,383, Favotite: Amali Sunrise.

Owners: Manjiri Horse Breed

Farm Pvt Ltd, M/S. DT Racing &

Breeding LLP & Mr. Mukul A. Sonawala.

Trainer: Rajesh Narredu.

Buttler serves up yet another feast

His maiden T20I hundred sets up a 26-run win over Sri Lanka; England makes it four in four

ICC T20 WC

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SHARJAH

Jos Buttler hit the first century of the ICC T20 World Cup as England effectively booked its semifinal spot with a 26-run victory over Sri Lanka on Monday.

Buttler's unbeaten 101 – his maiden century in 86 T20Is – steered England to 163 for four after being invited to bat first.

The bowlers, led by Adil Rashid, then combined to bowl out Sri Lanka for 137 in 19 overs and helped England win its fourth match on the trot in Group 1. Sri Lanka slipped to its third loss in four matches.

Only South Africa and Australia can match its eight points, but England already has the cushion of a far superior run rate.

Buttler smashed six fours and six sixes in his 67-ball knock and put on 112 with skipper Eoin Morgan, who made 40, to lift England after it was in trouble at 35 for three.

The England opener, who hit an unbeaten 71 in the win over Australia, surpassed his previous T20 best of 83 and leads the batting chart with 214.

"I felt like I used a lot of my experience. I remember saying a while ago, if I can put both parts of my game together then I think I'll be getting into a really good place with my T20 batting," said Buttler.

Sri Lanka had England on the backfoot but Buttler took the attack to the opposition as he reached his hundred off the final ball of the innings with a six.



Shifting gears: After a quiet start, Buttler exploded at the death. ■ GETTY IMAGES

Leg-spinner Wanindu Hasaranga got two early wickets, that of Jason Roy and Jonny Bairstow, who was trapped lbw for nought off the first ball. The right-left combination of Buttler and Morgan stood firm to grind down the Sri Lankan attack with some sensible batting.

Buttler reached his fifty off 45 balls and shifted gears with some powerful hits that unsettled the Sri Lankan bowlers. Morgan joined the charge with one four and three sixes

in his 36-ball knock before being bowled by Hasaranga, who returned figures of three for 21.

In reply, Sri Lanka lost early wickets and was never in the chase till Shanaka (26) and Hasaranga got together.

Relay catch

The two put on a threatening stand of 53 for the sixth wicket before a relay catch between Roy and substitute Sam Billings sent back Hasaranga. The Lankans never recovered from that blow.

Next assignment

Sri Lanka: Nov. 4 vs West Indies, Abu Dhabi, 7.30 p.m. IST

England: Nov. 6 vs South Africa, Sharjah, 7.30 p.m. IST

Innings scan

England	Sri Lanka
47	Dots 47
9	Fours 12
9	Sixes 5
36/3	PP 40/3
8.15	RR 7.21

SCOREBOARD

ENGLAND

Jason Roy b Hasaranga 9 (6b, 1x4), Jos Buttler (not out) 101 (67b, 6x4, 6x6), David Malan b Chameera 6 (8b, 1x4), Jonny Bairstow lbw b Hasaranga 0 (1b), Eoin Morgan b Hasaranga 40 (36b, 1x4, 3x6), Moeen Ali (not out) 1 (2b); Extras (lb-1, w-5); Total (for four wkts. in 20 overs): 163.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-13 (Roy, 1.2 overs), 2-34 (Malan, 4.6), 3-35 (Bairstow, 5.2), 4-147 (Morgan, 18.2).

SRI LANKA BOWLING

Chameera 4-0-43-1, Hasaranga 4-0-21-3, Kumaras 4-0-44-0, Theekshana 4-0-13-0, Karunaratne 2-0-17-0, Shanaka 2-0-24-0.

SRI LANKA

Pathum Nissanka run out 1 (1b), Kusal Perera c Morgan b Adil Rashid 7 (9b), Charith Asalanka c Moeen b Adil Rashid 21 (16b, 3x4, 1x6), Avishka Fernando lbw b Jordan 13 (14b, 1x4), Bhawani Rajapaksa c Roy b Woakes 26 (18b, 2x4, 2x6), Dasun Shanaka run out 26 (25b, 2x4, 1x6), Wanindu Hasaranga c sub (Billings) b Livingstone 34 (21b, 3x4, 1x6), Chamika Karunaratne c Roy b Moeen 0 (2b), Dushmantha Chameera c Malan b Jordan 4 (4b, 1x4), Maheesh Theekshana c Jordan b Moeen 2 (2b), Lahiri Kumar (not out) 1 (2b); Extras (lb-1, w-1); Total (in 19 overs): 137.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-1 (Nissanka, 0.3), 2-24 (Asalanka, 3.3), 3-34 (Kusal, 5.1), 4-57 (Avishka, 8.3), 5-76 (Bhanuka, 10.5), 6-129 (Hasaranga, 16.5), 7-130 (Shanaka, 17.2), 8-134 (Chameera, 17.6), 9-134 (Karunaratne, 18.2).

ENGLAND BOWLING

Moeen 3-0-15-2, Woakes 2-3-0-25-1, Adil Rashid 4-0-19-2, Jordan 4-0-24-2, Livingstone 4-0-34-1, Mills 1.3-0-19-0.

Toss: Sri Lanka; **MoM:** Buttler. **England won by 26 runs.**

Pakistan — a complete package

AYAN ACHARYA

ABU DHABI

Pakistan's hat-trick of wins in the ongoing ICC T20 World Cup means it is close to sealing its spot in the semifinals when it takes on Namibia on Tuesday.

Babar Azam's men began by ending their India hoodoo at World Cups with a record 10-wicket win in Dubai. It has set the tone for a tournament where Pakistan's uncharacteristic consistency and enviable chutzpah have become the hallmarks.

The world's No. 2 T20I team has a highlights reel of mesmerising bowling spells and whirling moments of brilliance with the bat, including Shaheen Afridi's fiery new-ball assault against India in which he claimed both openers and Asif Ali's unbeaten 25 off seven during which he hit four sixes in an over to down Afghanistan.

Pakistan has played 14 T20Is in the UAE since 2016, winning each of them. But one has to sacrifice the cold objectivity of stats to better understand what the team has achieved at this World Cup so far.

It isn't the emergence of a special sporting talent; it is a team working as one. Any fan of cricket will tell you that Pakistan has always been good before finding a way to collapse.

But implosion is one thing it has steered clear of this time – there were moments against New Zealand and Afghanistan when things could have gone awry, but they commanded the chase.

There is a steeliness to this Pakistan side, but more importantly, there is a well-executed plan.

In 2021, Babar and Mohammad Rizwan have put



Catching the attention: The Pakistan players have sent the shutterbugs into a frenzy at the T20 World Cup. ■ AFP

on 713 runs as a T20I opening pair, at an average of 59.41. Both have an understanding that if one gets out early, the other will look to bat through. After the India win, Rizwan had revealed as much.

Then there's the merciful finisher Asif, who has proved he has the temperament, power and above all, the self-belief to shine under pressure. Against Afghanistan, he sent Shadab Khan back to stay on strike for the 19th over and backed himself to seal the chase, and he did. That, coupled with Mohammad Hafeez and Shoaib Malik's experience, makes this a formidable batting line-up.

It isn't the emergence of a special sporting talent; it is a team working as one. Any fan of cricket will tell you that Pakistan has always been good before finding a way to collapse.

But implosion is one thing it has steered clear of this time – there were moments against New Zealand and Afghanistan when things could have gone awry, but they commanded the chase. There is a steeliness to this Pakistan side, but more importantly, there is a well-executed plan.

In 2021, Babar and Mohammad Rizwan have put

England and New Zealand's last-minute pullouts – Pakistan is ready to dream and conquer.

"Don't get overexcited, it's our habit. We need to change it," was Babar's address to his teammates after beating India. His troops have answered the war cry emphatically.

TODAY'S MATCHES



ABU DHABI, 3.30 P.M. IST

H2H IN T20Is

Played: 6

South Africa | Bangladesh



ABU DHABI, 7.30 P.M. IST

H2H IN T20Is

FIRST MEETING

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD)

Fans asked for the dream of 2007, getting the nightmare instead

Overriding concern is the manner in which India, especially the batters, threw in the towel

AMOL KARHADKAR

DUBAI

At the beginning of the T20 World Cup – when the euphoria of the Yellow Brigade regaining the IPL was still strong – loyal worshippers of the Men in Blue were anticipating a repeat of 2007 come November 14.

No doubt the fans are experiencing 2007, but not the one they had hoped for.

Humiliation

Instead of reliving the dream of the inaugural World Twenty in September 2007, they are going through the nightmare of March 2007, when India crashed out of the

league stage of the ODI World Cup in the West Indies.

Back then, Rahul Dravid's boys were knocked out after losing to Sri Lanka in the last game of a pool of four. Cut to 2021, India seems to be virtually out of contention for the semifinals following two humiliating defeats.

As a result, India's campaign is in danger of ending with the league stage on November 8.

Remote chances

There still is a remote possibility – winning the remaining games by big margins and other results going its

way – of making the semifinals, but it appears to be rather far-fetched or merely something to keep statisticians interested.

No doubt Pakistan and New Zealand deserve all credit for the way they devised plans and, more importantly, executed them.

But the manner in which India – especially the batters – threw in the towel raises multiple questions.

Wider discussions about workload management, bubble fatigue, thrust on all-format specialists and administrators' approach, etc are bound to happen.

But let's keep them aside

for another week.

India still has to complete the tournament, and hopefully win the remaining three games to give fans some reason to cheer.

Exposed

The two games exposed the fears of many about the squad composition and choice of the XI.

India's preferred top three

– Rohit Sharma, K.L. Rahul and Virat Kohli – like to give themselves a few balls before unleashing their strokes.

But batting yourself in has become a luxury in T20 cricket. In a format that has been evolving with every

passing year, India seems to be stuck in a time warp.

Despite tweaking the opening combination, India appeared to be indecisive in its approach after being asked to bat.

None of the top four tried to unsettle the bowlers. Neither could they get off to a flier nor set the foundation for a late flourish.

Recipe for disaster

The top four on Sunday scored a combined 45 runs off 55 balls. It turned out to be a recipe made for disaster, one that will haunt the team – and the fans – for years.



The script so far: Huge expectations and big disappointment... that's been the Indian fans' story in the UAE. ■ REUTERS

Zlatan rolls back the years

Norrie eases past Delbonis Djokovic returns with a win in doubles

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

MILAN

Zlatan Ibrahimovic scored his 150th Serie A goal as AC Milan beat Jose Mourinho's Roma 2-1 on Sunday to remain second on goal difference behind Napoli.

The Sweden striker, who turned 40 earlier this month, also thought he had scored his 400th goal in domestic leagues but was denied a second of the encounter with VAR finding offside in the second half.

Stefano Pioli's side finished the game down a man as left-back Theo Hernandez was shown a red card for a shoulder challenge. Real Sociedad returned to the top of La Liga on Sunday but its joy was tempered by having to share the points after an injury-time strike for Basque rival Athletic Bilbao in a 1-1 draw.

The results:

LaLiga: Getafe 2 (Unal 31, 56) bt Espanyol 1 (Gomez 38); Real Sociedad 1 (Isak 58-pen) drew with Athletic Bilbao 1 (Muniain 90+1).

Bundesliga: Borussia Monchengladbach 2 (Plewa 12, Hofmann 40) bt VfL Bochum 1 (Blum 86).

Serie A: Salernitana 0 lost to Napoli 1 (Zielinski 61); Roma 1 (El Shaarawy) lost to AC Milan 2 (Ibrahimovic 26, Kessie 56).



On a roll: Norrie lost just three games in the opening round. ■ AFP



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