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- | | |
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(2:30 PM to 5:30 PM) | Economics
by Vibhas Jha Sir
10th Oct, 2022
(3:00 PM to 5:30 PM) |
| Geography
by Alok Ranjan Sir
1st Nov, 2022
(3:00 PM to 5:30 PM) | Sociology
by Raj Rai Sir
1st Nov, 2022
(3:00 PM to 5:30 PM) |



**OPEN SESSION on
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by **Maneesh Singh Sir**
6th Sept, 2022 **4:00 PM** (Offline & Live-Online)



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Sheikh Hasina's visit to India will see her hold talks on water sharing
 page 12



'Shinzo Abe considered Manmohan a mentor, Modi a friend'
 page 12



Ukraine PM Denys Shmyhal lands in Berlin seeking more weapons
 page 16



Rizwan on song as Pakistan pips India in Super 4 contest
 page 17

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IN BRIEF



Yogendra Yadav opts for a sabbatical from SKM

NEW DELHI
 Academic-turned-political activist Yogendra Yadav has decided to opt for a "two year" leave from the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM). Mr. Yadav, who plays a key role in charting the activities of the SKM, will soon join the Bharat Jodo Yatra led by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. He has taken permission from the SKM general body, held here on Sunday, to go on leave.

NEWS PAGE 13

'Former CJI was silent on Assam NRC irregularities'

GUWAHATI
 The exercise to update the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam was an expensive failure and former Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi was silent on the irregularities committed under former State NRC coordinator Prateek Hajela, his successor Hitesh Dev Sarma has said.

NEWS PAGE 13

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EDUCATION PLUS PAGE 2

UPA MLAs return to Ranchi for trust vote

BJP holds meet to devise strategy in Jharkhand Assembly

AMARNATH TEWARY
 PATNA

Amid a deepening political crisis in Jharkhand, Chief Minister Hemant Soren will seek a trust vote in the Assembly on Monday. With hours left for vote, leaders of the ruling United Progressive Alliance (UPA) and the Opposition have been in the thick of action in Ranchi, the State capital.

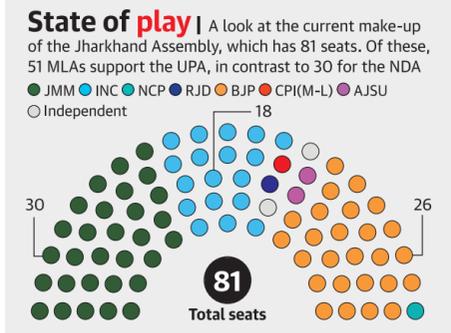
The UPA MLAs, who were camped in a resort in Raipur in the Congress-ruled Chhatisgarh, reached Ranchi on Sunday evening.

The BJP held a meeting with its legislators to chalk out its strategy for the House.

It is said that all ruling front MLAs will be put up in a place in Ranchi till the trust vote.

The political stalemate and suspense have been continuing in the State ever since the Election Commission conveyed its decision in the office-of-profit allegation against the Chief Minister to Governor Ramesh Bais on August 25. Mr. Bais is yet to make the EC decision public.

"A state of confusion is prevailing in Jharkhand. Our delegation met the Governor (on September 1) and he promised to clear the air in a day or two, but nothing has



happened till now. So, we will raise our points in the State Assembly and prove our majority," State Parliamentary Affairs Minister Alamgir Alam told presspersons in Ranchi.

"Mr. Soren's disqualification as a member of the House will not stand in the court and it will be dismissed in hours," a Cabinet Minister said.

Governor's assurance
 On September 1, a few UPA leaders had submitted a memorandum to Governor Ramesh Bais, seeking clarification over reports of disqualification of Mr. Soren as a member of the House.

According to UPA leaders, the Governor had assured them that the prevailing air

of political uncertainty will be cleared in two days and he left for Delhi.

The EC's move was reportedly prompted by a petition to the Governor by State BJP leaders, seeking Mr. Soren's disqualification over his acquisition of a mine.

Amid lingering fear of poaching by BJP, over 31 UPA MLAs were shifted to a luxury resort in Raipur on August 31.

The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) leaders said the BJP might have made a serious attempt to "poach MLAs from UPA in a bid to topple the democratically elected Soren government in a manner similar to that in Maharashtra".

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Cyrus Mistry killed in car accident

Former Tata Sons chairman was travelling to Mumbai when car hit a divider

LALATENDU MISHRA
 MUMBAI

Cyrus P. Mistry, industrialist and former chairman of Tata Sons, was killed in a road accident about 150 km from Mumbai on Sunday when the car he was travelling in hit a road divider.

Mr. Mistry, 54, along with three others, was headed towards Mumbai from Gujarat.

Two dead

According to the Kasa police, Mr. Mistry and another person named Jahangir Pandole were killed on the spot when the car ran into a road divider on the Charoti bridge near Kasa village in Maharashtra.

Kasa, close to the Gujarat-Maharashtra boundary and on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad



Fatal impact: The wreckage of the car in which industrialist Cyrus Mistry was travelling in, near Palghar on Sunday. •PTI

highway, is 43 km from Palghar in Maharashtra and about 150 km from Mumbai. "The car was coming from Gujarat and was headed to-

wards Mumbai. It overtook a vehicle and directly hit a road divider on the bridge. It was not hit by any other vehicle," police constable P.C.

Shinde of the Kasa police station said over phone.

"The car was driven by Anahita Pandole and her husband Darius Pandole was in the front passenger seat. Both were injured and were rushed to the Rainbow Hospital in Vapi," he said.

The accident was reported at 3 p.m., he said.

Dr. Anahita is a gynaecologist attached to Mumbai's Breach Candy Hospital. Mr. Pandole is a businessman and has served as an independent director at Tata Global Beverages.

The Pandoles are from the same family.

The Mistry family is yet to offer any comment.

ANOTHER REPORT PAGE 13

Rahul targets PM ahead of yatra

Narendra Modi spreading hate and fear, says Congress leader

SANDEEP PHUKAN
 NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is weakening the country by spreading hate and fear and that can only help Pakistan and China, former Congress president Rahul Gandhi claimed on Sunday as he set the tone for his upcoming Bharat Jodo Yatra that will be launched on September 7.

Addressing the party's *Mehangai Par Halla Bol* rally

at the Ramlila Maidan here, Mr. Gandhi said that the Congress is left with no option but to be among the people as all institutions including judiciary, media and the election commission are "under pressure".

'Will defeat RSS ideology'
 He asserted that the Congress along with other Opposition parties will defeat the BJP-Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh [RSS] ideology.

Ever since the BJP came to power, the former Congress chief claimed, there is growing hate. "Hate is a form of fear. When we say hate is increasing in the country, to say it in a different way, fear is increasing in the country - fear of the future, fear of inflation, fear of unemployment and because of this, hatred is increasing."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

'BRING BACK RAHUL' PAGE 13

Azad unveils his road map for J&K at rally

PEERZADA ASHIQ
 JAMMU

Ghulam Nabi Azad on Sunday made his road map for J&K public and stressed the restoration of "full statehood and right to land and employment to native domiciles" at his first rally in Jammu since he quit the Congress. Mr. Azad plans to launch a political party.

DETAILS ON PAGE 13

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Entire nation proud of our school principals: Sisodia

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Sunday lauded teachers and principals of Delhi government schools for being "the flag-bearers of change".

Mr. Sisodia, who holds the State Education portfolio, thanked the teachers for "influencing millions of lives" with their work.

"I am proud that our school heads are constantly innovating for the betterment of our schools, teachers and children," Mr. Sisodia said at a meeting with the heads of State-run schools on the eve of Teachers' Day. "Today, not only Delhi but the entire country is proud of the wonderful work of our school principals," he added.

Schoolteacher sent on indefinite leave for not taking COVID-19 shot

Man, suffering from cancer, says he's allergic to certain medicines; appeals in HC

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH
NEW DELHI

A cancer survivor working as a chemistry teacher at Delhi Public School, R.K. Puram, for the past 25 years was sent on indefinite leave in November last year because he refused to take a COVID-19 vaccine, given his medical condition and past experience of suffering allergic reactions to certain medicines.

R.S. Bhargava, who is also a type 2 diabetes patient, says that the school's decision came as a "pure shock" to him. Being away from the school has not only burnt a hole in his pocket, Mr. Bhargava rues that it has also kept him away from his students.

'Feel abandoned'
"At 57 years of age, I have been abandoned by the school. They don't understand that I am a sick person, I cannot take the vaccine. They have isolated me. Academic isolation leads to degradation of mental health," Mr. Bhargava told *The*



They don't understand that I am a sick person, I cannot take the vaccine, says schoolteacher R.S. Bhargava. ■ V.V. KRISHNAN

Hindu. The chemistry teacher moved the Delhi High Court for relief in February this year.

He is hopeful that a recent Supreme Court judgment, upholding an individual's right against forcible vaccination, would have positive implications in his case.

According to court documents, in response to Mr. Bhargava's plea, the school had asked him to seek exemption from the Directorate of Education (DoE). The apex court in its May

2, 2022, landmark verdict acknowledged that a person has the right under Article 21 of the Constitution "to refuse to undergo any medical treatment in the sphere of individual health".

The school told the court that it was bound to follow the directions of the authorities to ensure the safety of students and staff.

Medical history
Mr. Bhargava was diagnosed with Angio Immunoblastic T-cell Lymphoma (involving B-cell) (AITCL) in 2017.

Following the onset of the pandemic, the Delhi government and the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) issued various orders and guidelines, including one specifying that all teachers need to be 100% vaccinated.

However, on October 26, 2021, an exemption was granted by the Delhi government to Mr. Bhargava from taking vaccination, considering his medical history.

The approval was quickly withdrawn by the State government as per an order dated October 29, 2021, on the basis of a circular issued by DDMA.

Mr. Bhargava shared with the court the medical opinion of a Holy Family Hospital doctor, according to whom "the potential risks outweigh the benefits".

The High Court has asked Mr. Bhargava to appear before specialists at AIIMS to get a conclusive medical opinion. The matter has been posted for further hearing on September 13.

Cab driver arrested for masturbating inside car

U.K.-based woman booked ride from IGIA

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A cab driver was arrested by Delhi Police for allegedly masturbating inside his vehicle while he was ferrying two women, including a UK-based lawyer, to their hotel in south-west Delhi's Dhaula Kuan, the police said on Sunday.

DCP (South West) Manoj C. said the cab driver, identified as Maakhan Lal, who hails from Uttar Pradesh's Lalgarh district, was arrested by the police based on suo motu action, after the victim, a 23-year-old London resident, refused to lodge a case against the accused.

The incident took place around 10 a.m. on Friday when the woman booked a cab through a cab-hailing application from the Indira Gandhi International Airport to go to a five-star hotel in Dhaula Kuan.

"While on their way to the destination, the cab driver started masturbating inside the car. The woman and her friend saw him in the act and raised objection to his actions," a senior police officer said. However, the accused went on to misbehave and warned the victim against lodging a police complaint, a source said.

The DCP said the two women had come to India to visit Delhi and Rajasthan. "The women booked a flight within four hours of the incident and flew back to the U.K.," the police said, adding that the accused was arrested based on the woman's oral statement.

The cab driver is said to have been working with the ride-hailing app for the past six months, before which he used to work for another company, the police said.

In June this year, Delhi Police arrested a 40-year-old Gurugram resident for flashing at a 21-year-old woman at the Jor Bagh metro station. The woman had taken to social media to narrate her ordeal, following which the police lodged a case and arrested the accused.

Delhi had come out to be the most unsafe city for women as per the latest NCRB report.

NORTHERN RAILWAY				
Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement Systems.				
Principal Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tenders through e-procurement system for supply of the following items:-				
S. No.	Tender No.	Brief Description	Qty.	Closing Date
01	02221521	BELT TENSIONING DEVICE ASSEMBLY	665 NOS	27-09-22
02	1622003A	BATTERY STORAGE UNIT	123 NOS	30-09-22
03	09222583	22.22 MM DIA LOCK BOLT	198676 NOS	03-10-22
04	08225244	SET OF ASSEMBLY PARTS OF 60 KG. THICK WEB SWITCH	1000 SET	04-10-22
05	07220387	ROOF WATER TANK 30 LITERS	550 NOS	17-10-22

NOTE- 1. Vendors may visit the IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in for details. 2. No Manual offer will be entertained. Tender Notice NO. 40/2022-2023 Dated: 02/09/2022 2282/2022

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
TENDER NOTICE	
Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)	
N.I.T. No.	14(A,B,C)-22-23-W-2 Date 01.09.2022
1. Name of work with its Location	
A)	Annual zone for repair and maintenance of service building and staff quarters in the section of ADEN/MUT for the year 2022-23 PE 30.06.2023.
B)	Annual zone for repair to bridge, parapets toe wall cess repair, desilting of waterway in the section of ADEN/MUT for the year 2022-23. PE 30.06.2023.
C)	Upgradation of water booths and toilets at 12 stations with repairing and replacement of steel doors, windows, wire gauge jali in staff quarters in the section of SSE/W/SMQL under ADEN/SMQL.
2. Approx. Cost of Work	
14 (A,B,C)-22-23-W-2	As per IREPS Notice
3. Earnest Money	
14 (A,B,C)-22-23-W-2	As per IREPS Notice
4. Completion period of Work	
14 (A,B,C)-22-23-W-2	As per IREPS Notice
5. Cost of tender on cash/by post	
14 (A,B,C)-22-23-W-2	As per IREPS Notice
6. Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender	
16.09.2022 to 30.09.2022 upto 15:00 hrs. Opening of tender 30.09.2022 at 15:00 hrs.	
7. Similar Nature of Work	
14 (A,B,C)-22-23-W-2	As per IREPS Notice
8. Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be used etc.	
Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in	
NIT-14(A,B,C)-22-23-W-2 Dated: 01.09.2022. 2264/22	

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

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OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER PMGSY (JKRRDA) KASHMIR		
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As per request of vendors, the bid submission end date and date of opening of tenders online (Technical Bid) is further extended upto the date mentioned below:-		
R.F.P.	Bid submission End date	Time and date of opening tenders online (Technical Bid)
RFP No. CE/PMGSY/KMR/E-tendering /4569-88 Dated 13-08-2022	12-09-2022 upto 04:30 PM	14-09-2022 at 11:00AM
All other terms and conditions of the RFP shall remain unchanged.		
No. CE/PMGSY/DB/5314-46 Dated: 01-09-2022		Sd/- Chief Engineer PMGSY (JKRRDA) Kmr
DIPK- 9242/22		

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
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N.I.T. No.	S.N. 17-A & C-2022-23-W-V
1 Name of work with its location: A) Improvement and standardization of L-Xing No.579 A & B, 568, 576, 571 by repairing road surface, height gauge etc. on NDLS-PWL & Ring railway under Sr.DEN/V/DLI.	
C) Cess repair at different locations on DEE-RE & NDLS-PWL section under Sr.DEN/V. Similar nature of work: Any civil engineering work involving each work in banks/cutting	
2 Approx. Cost of work: A) Rs. 45,19,829.45, C) Rs. 1,46,63,492.78	
3 Earnest Money Deposit: (It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway Only. Note:- FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no. 201025/CE-ICT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016)	
A) Rs. 90,400.00, C) Rs. 2,23,300.00	
4 Completion period of Work [A] 6 Months, [C] 6 Months	
5 Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender: Upto 15.00 hrs. on 27.09.2022. Opening of tender at 15.00 hrs. On 27.09.2022	
6 Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc.: Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in	
No.: 128-W/08/OET/2021-22/W-V/NIT-17-A & C-2022-23-W-V Date: 02.09.2022 2286/2022	

Serving Customers with a Smile

'Crimes by foreigners in city increased by 90% in 2021'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Among the Union Territories, crimes committed by foreigners in the national capital have increased by 91.6% in 2021 in comparison to last year, according to the latest National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) report. A maximum number of these offences were committed by people of African origin and Myanmar nationals besides citizens of other Asian countries, it said. According to the data, in 2020, crimes committed by foreigners stood at 168. In 2021, this number rose to 322. Meanwhile, crimes against foreigners in the city reduced from 62 in 2020 to 27 in 2021, the NCRB data showed.

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■ PAUL WILSON

Former U.S. President Obama once said that the currency for the 21st century will be education and innovation. Dr. R.A. Mashelkar, former DG-CSIR, went further by saying that what we need most now is education in innovation and innovation in education. And, India needs it the most.

Dramatic changes

The two years of the pandemic has led to a drastic change among the student demography, which would have otherwise normally occurred over the span of a decade. In addition, the socio-cultural changes around the world have also augmented the change in the way students think, learn and value things. Consequently, the changes that the academic sectors have to navigate pose a huge challenge. This includes the need for reorientation among the professors in empathising with students and engaging them without judgement but with a clear action plan to normalise the academic climate. The new normal solicits a specific capacity building among the faculty to navigate the normalisation of the academic climate.

According to recent industry reports, India's online education market is poised to grow by \$2.28 billion between 2021-2025, at a CAGR of 20%. Consequently, it suggests that the stakeholders are already on the verge of readily adopting reshaped pedagogy and redesigned curriculum for the new dispensation. Are higher education institutes (HEIs) equipped to handle this change to create engaging online modules to appeal to



Look to the future

On Teachers' Day, an educator examines the changes that have taken place in the field and what we need to do to make teaching-learning purposeful and engaging

this generation?

Outcome-based attendance

We expect students to be confined within four walls and listen to the conventional instructions as part of the teaching and learning. Irrespective of whether the lectures lead to concept progression among the students, their physical presence is marked as attendance. Specifically, the need is to define attendance by liberating it from time and space and considering it in terms of learning outcome

intended for every hour by designing an appropriate formative assessment as metrics. Outcome-based attendance would be meaningful, engaging and liberating since the blended learning or flexible scheduling or hybrid flexible (HyFlex) as modus operandi and culture is emerging to be the new order and Online Distance Learning (ODL) is likely to be legitimised in collegiate education.

The next aspect that bothers institutions is the inability of the present generation of students to handle infor-

mation overload from social media. Among students, the processing of information acquired through the context or content would typically happen through the progressive organic maturity acquired through social learning and life experiences including extracurricular activities in the college or school, friendships made during their education, and leadership skills learnt by being involved in organising cultural and co-curricular activities. If the information processing does not happen through adequate social

learning, it may lead to a cognitive overload among students. Subsequently, this may lead to difficulty in comprehending an issue and making effective decisions. Consequently, the inability to assimilate the information as personality traits would render students to be puffed up with pseudo-cognition thus triggering them to make hasty decisions, ignoring the prerequisite for negotiation and coping skills, social skills including people skills as part of life. Reports have shown that, in the post pandemic, emotional intelligence seems to be missing among students.

Period of transition

On the one hand, we are in a rat race for organisational accreditation or ranking and the operation appears to be successful. It is not clear whether ranking or accrediting agencies are really concerned about these aspects to adjudicate the mental health index of students or offer a clear provision to incentivise such measures administered by the colleges as part of their assessment.

Students, teachers and learning itself have transformed. Learning tools too have evolved accordingly. The ways of thinking and working and tools for working have also undergone a dramatic change. Teachers today have to realise these aspects, as this is a period of transition. Teachers need to liberate themselves from the past and think along with the present generation to render the teaching-learning process pleasurable.

The writer is the Principal and Secretary of Madras Christian College. wilson@mcc.edu.in

Clear your doubts

Uncertain about your career options? Low on self-confidence? This career counselling column may help



OFF THE EDGE
NANDINI RAMAN

Disclaimer: This column is merely a guiding voice and provides advice and suggestions on education and careers.

I am a Class 12 student (Humanities stream without Maths), and wish to pursue a Bachelor's in Design. Will I be eligible? - Meenakshi

Dear Meenakshi,
For B. Des, there is no restriction of streams at 10+2 level. Some of the reputed colleges for this course are NID; NIFT; Amity University; Symbiosis Institute of Design, Pune, IIT-Delhi; IIT-Mumbai, VIT-Vellore, and Manipal University. Each has its own requirements for admission. Shortlist the institutes you are keen on and start preparing accordingly.

I am in Class 12 (Science stream with Biology as optional). I want to pursue my Bachelor's in Forensic Science. Is such a course available? Which institutes offer it? - Gahan

Dear Gahan,
Forensic Science courses are now popular and are available across B.Sc. and B.Tech. (IT Security and Forensics). PCM/B is a prerequisite. Manipal School of Life Sciences, Manipal; Jamia Hamdard University, New Delhi; Institute of Forensic

Science, Mumbai; KJC, Bengaluru; and Amity Noida are some of the better-known institutes. You will have to take the All India Forensic Science Entrance test (AIFSET). Some universities may demand qualifications of the following entrance exams: OUAT, GSAT, NEST, CG PAT, BHU UET and so on..

I am in the second year of BSW, but, I don't like the course, and am pursuing this merely to gain a degree. I don't have any idea of what I want to become. What should I do? - Varsha

Dear Varsha,
That is not a great space to be in but the good news is that you are aware of it. What would you enjoy studying and doing? Get a career profile done to see what can you move to without losing any more time. Post a BSW, you could look at alternate careers in Counselling: Corporate/ EAP/ own practice, paralegal, teaching, outreach coordinator, HR specialist, an educational consultant, and so on. Identify your likes, dis-

likes, hobbies, interests, and core aptitude, and then make an informed choice.

I am attempting the Chartered Accountants Final for the fourth time and am losing motivation and interest. I have no plan B. How do I start afresh? - Arpitha

Dear Arpitha,
It can get discouraging and demotivating. CA Final is among the world's toughest exams. You need to have the confidence, perseverance, self-belief, ability to deal with and accept failure and a never-say-die attitude to crack this paper. Do other professional accounting/finance-related courses interest you? If yes, consider CMA, CFA, ACCA or CS. What about a MBA? If none of this interests you, consult a career counsellor and get an assessment of your aptitude.

The writer is a practising counsellor and a trainer. Send your questions to eduplus.thehindu@gmail.com with the subject line 'Off the edge'.

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Dean (Academic)

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TUESDAY, SEP. 06		
RISE	06:02	SET 18:37
RISE	15:51	SET 01:04
WEDNESDAY, SEP. 07		
RISE	06:02	SET 18:36
RISE	16:45	SET 02:11

Delhi Weather

	max	min
Delhi City	36	27
Safdarjang	36	27
Palam	37	27

Delhi Palam Today
37°C The weather will be mostly dry. Day will be hot and humid with uneasy afternoon. Night will be slight warm.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
36°C A very warm and humid weather to prevail. Night remains comfortable. Spell of rain and thundershower with gusty winds may occur.

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Row between BJP, Shiv Sena's Thackeray faction intensifies

BJP with aid of Shinde camp is determined to take control of the cash-rich BMC

SHOUMJOIT BANERJEE
PUNE

As the battle for the high-stakes Brihanmumbai Corporation (BMC) poll intensifies, a row has erupted between the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Opposition Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena faction, which currently controls the cash-rich civic body.

On Sunday, BJP's Mumbai unit chief Ashish Shelar lashed out at Mr. Thackeray, the former Chief Minister, after the Thackeray camp in its party mouthpiece *Saamana* sardonically dubbed the BJP 'Kamalabai' (because of the BJP's *kamal* (lotus) symbol).

In a riposte to Mr. Thackeray, Mr. Shelar said henceforth the BJP would refer to the Thackeray-led Sena as 'Penguin Sena', alluding to the battered Sena after the revolt and exit of Eknath Shinde and his faction.



Uddhav Thackeray

In a series of tweets and a scathing letter to the Sena chief, Mr. Shelar said: "You go on ridiculing the BJP by calling it 'Kamalabai'. No problem. In *bai* (woman) there is the connotation of mother, sister and goddess Laxmi. So can we term whatever remains of the party under your leadership 'Penguin Sena'?"

On Saturday, a *Saamana* had run an article with the headline "*Kamalabai* is desperate, now Congress is un-

der the BJP's radar," alluding to Congressman and former Chief Minister Ashok Chavan's alleged 'meeting' with Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and rumours of the BJP trying to engineer a split within the Congress.

Mr. Shelar, recently appointed the new Mumbai city president ahead of the BMC poll, further accused Mr. Thackeray of not contributing anything to the progress of Mumbai city when the latter was the Chief Minister.

On the other hand, he remarked that it was the new BJP-Sena (Shinde faction) government, supported by the BJP-led Central government that was on the road to making Mumbai economically strong and keeping its rightful place as India's financial capital.

Meanwhile, on Saturday night, Shiv Sainiks from the

Thackeray faction tore down banners put up by the BJP in Worli, the constituency of Aaditya Thackeray.

While the Sena has held sway over the BMC for over two decades, the BJP, which now has a 'Trojan Horse' in form of Eknath Shinde's rebel Sena faction, is determined to supplant the Thackeray camp from the civic body in the coming election.

Shah in Mumbai
Meanwhile, Union Home Minister Amit Shah is to meet BJP leaders in connection with the BMC poll at Mr. Fadnavis' residence on Monday.

Mr. Shah will be visiting Mumbai's celebrated Ganesha pandal Lalbaugcha Raja followed by a visit to the residences of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Mr. Fadnavis and Mr. Shelar for Ganesha darshan.

Delay in CUET results prompts students to consider plan B

Aspirants eyeing admission in State, private universities

OLIPIRYA ROY
NEW DELHI

Mercy Nag dreamt of securing admission in a top college in Delhi University (DU) and was upbeat about giving the Common University Entrance Test (CUET). However, constant delays in the exam schedule and uncertainty over the declaration of results have prompted her to consider seeking admission in a private university.

"My exam date was first shifted from July 18 to August 4 and then from August 12 to 24. Finally, it was held on August 26. I cannot deal with such uncertainty. I have decided to take admission in a private university in Kolkata," she says.

The CUET was scheduled to be held in two phases, but it ended up being conducted over six phases owing to technical glitches.

A total of 2.86 lakh students appeared for the exam in the final phase compared with the 12.04 lakh in the first

five phases. DU has not yet launched its admission portal, while the National Testing Agency that conducted the exam is yet to announce the date for the declaration of results.

Lakhs of students who appeared for the CUET are now rethinking their admission plans as the academic term has begun in several State and private universities.

"Most of my friends are opting for private colleges. Bengaluru is a popular choice," says Debosmita De, who nursed hopes of entering a Central University but is now planning to gain admission in a private college in Kolkata.

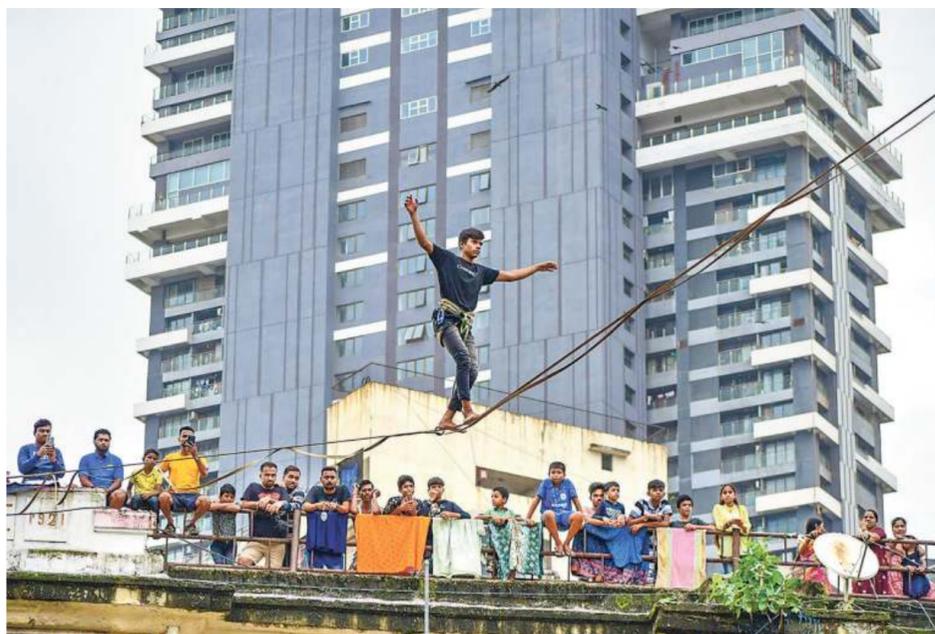
'Expensive affair'
Students say securing admission in private colleges is an expensive affair, but they are safe alternatives to the much sought-after Central Universities. "If I do not secure a good CUET score, then I will end up losing an academic year.

By the time the results are declared, admissions to State and private universities will be over. It is better to take admission now than to wait," says Kaustabh Kumar, another aspirant.

"For someone who wants to live in Delhi and pursue an undergraduate degree in the Arts, DU, Jamia Millia Islamia and Ambedkar University are the desired options. However, they all provide admissions based on CUET scores. So, if you have not yet taken admission elsewhere, you are pinning all your hopes on one score," Mr. Kumar says.

'No other choice'
However, a few students say they have no choice but to wait for the results. "My single parent cannot afford to pay more than ₹20,000 a year for my education," says Raghav, who lost his father earlier this year. "I don't have an option. I've to secure a seat in a good Central University," he says.

Steady there!



An artiste performs a stunt as he balances himself during a tightrope walk in Mumbai on Sunday. •PTI

Cannot question choice of minority educational institution: Delhi HC

Linguistic minority entitled to conserve its language, court notes

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has ruled that once the management of a minority educational institution makes a conscious choice of a qualified person from the "minority community" to lead the institution, either as a vice-principal or principal, then the court cannot go into the merits of the choice.

Justice Chandra Dhari Singh said, "a linguistic minority is entitled to conserve its language and culture by constitutional mandate".

The High Court's observation came while rejecting a petition challenging the minutes of the Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) dated December 19, 2013, appointing Subhshada Bapat as vice-principal of Nutan Marathi Senior Se-



condary School, a government-aided school.

The petitioner, Birpal Singh, a mathematics teacher in the school, submitted that the name of Ms. Bapat has been recommended by the school for the post of vice-principal despite the fact that she was junior to him.

Discriminatory action
Mr. Singh argued that the school took into account that since it is a "Linguistic Minority Institution", Ms.

Bapat would be a better choice as she also belongs to the same "linguistic minority community". Mr. Singh alleged that the school was biased against him. He also contested the minority status of the school.

The Delhi government's Directorate of Education (DoE) submitted that the school is recognised as a linguistic minority aided school receiving 95% grant-in-aid from the Delhi government under the provisions of the Delhi School Education Act and Rules (DSEAR), 1973.

The court rejected Mr. Singh's arguments - that for an institution to be declared "minority", it has to be notified as such by the Central government in an official gazette, and held that Ms. Bapat's selection is not contrary to the settled law.

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Goa Police visits house of Phogat's personal assistant

Probe into her death had led to arrest of Sangwan, 4 others

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHANDIGARH

As part of their investigation into the death of Bharatiya Janata Party leader Sonali Phogat, a Goa police team visited her personal assistant Sudhir Sangwan's house in Haryana's Rohtak.

The Goa police team reached Mr. Sangwan's residence on Sunday and made some enquiries there before leaving for Gurugram to conduct further investigation, sources said.

Phogat had died in Goa in August, hours after her arrival there.

The probe into her death had led to the arrest of Mr. Sangwan, another aide Sukh-

winder Singh and three others by the Goa Police.

In Gurugram, Mr. Sangwan had a rented a flat where the Goa Police will be conducting further investigation.

Phogat's family members have been sticking to their demand for a CBI probe into her death, which is being treated as a case of murder.

Some family members of Phogat, including her nephew Moninder, have said they will file a petition before a court seeking a CBI probe into the case if the Goa government does not recommend investigation by the premier investigating agency.

It is the fifth day when the Goa Police team is conducting investigation in Haryana.

The team had reached Hissar on Wednesday in connection with the probe as part of which they had visited Phogat's farmhouse and house in Sant Nagar. They had also collected bank and property details of Phogat and Mr. Sangwan.

Sources said the Goa Police is also assessing the property, including land, which is in her name and trying to find out if there is any property angle involved in the case. Some relatives had earlier alleged that Phogat's associate Sudhir Sangwan was eyeing her property.

Bengal trekker dies after falling into glacial crevice

Two others seriously injured

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
UTTARAKASHI (UTTARAKHAND)

A trekker from West Bengal died and two others were seriously injured after falling into the crevice on a glacier along Chimloga-Chitkul trek near Uttarkashi-Himachal Pradesh border.

Porters accompanying the trekkers informed authorities about the incident after which a team of ITBP personnel left for the spot Sunday morning to safely rescue the injured trekkers, Uttarkashi Disaster Management officer Devendra Patwal said.

A nine-member team, including three trekkers from West Bengal and six porters, had left Liwadi village in Uttarkashi district for Khimloga-Chitkul trek on September

1. While trekking the three trekkers fell into the crevice of a glacier from a height of 5,600 metres after which Sujoy Dubey, 42, died, while Subrato Vishwas, 49, and Narottam Gyan, 50, were seriously injured, he said.

As Mr. Vishwas was not in a position to move due to his injury, the porters pitched a camp at Khimloga itself and three of them came down to inform officers at an ITBP camp at Chitkul about the incident late Saturday night.

Chitkul is located in Kinnaur district of Himachal Pradesh. The rescue team, which left for Khimloga on Sunday morning, consists of 10 ITBP personnel, 10 police and 10 homeguard jawans, Mr. Patwal said.

Canine squad deployed at Tihar to prevent drug smuggling

Dogs have been trained at paramilitary camps; initiative to be extended to other jails if found successful

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

In a bid to curb smuggling of drugs in Tihar jail, authorities have deployed a dog squad to sniff out narcotics hidden by inmates in their cells and body cavities.

Director-General (Prisons) Sandeep Goel said a four-member dog squad has been deployed in jail premises and plans are afoot to bring in more trained dogs. The canines have been trained in the camps of paramilitary forces.

"There have been several incidents where jail guards have seized narcotics from inside an inmate's cell. In order to prevent such cases, the dog squad has been raised and specially trained to sniff out drugs from inside the cell," a jail officer said. "The dogs were trained for six months at the paramilitary camps, following which they have been deployed at the prison".

Inmates smuggle drugs inside their body cavities such as mouth and anus, and re-



The Tihar jail • FILE PHOTO

trieve the narcotics when they reach their cells.

The jail officer said the drugs are also smuggled by the inmates' kin through

their clothes.

Recently, a junior doctor of Tihar was caught allegedly smuggling drugs inside the prison for an inmate. He allegedly hid the drugs inside his shoes and was caught while being frisked.

Pilot plan

The jail officer said the performance of the canine squad will be monitored and if it is found to be successful in intercepting drugs, such squads will also be deployed in the prisons at Mandoli and

Rohini.

The Tihar jail authorities have also installed several jammers inside the jail premises to block mobile signals as inmates are known to smuggle phones inside the prison.

Prison expert and former jailer Sunil Gupta said, "The move won't serve its purpose as the dogs will not be able to sniff out drugs from inside a cell as the cells usually stink that that odour will camouflage the smell of drugs."

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NOTICE TO THE MEMBERS FOR 19TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Notice is hereby given that 19th Annual General Meeting of the Members of JMK Mercantile Limited will be held on Friday, i.e. 30.09.2022 at 2.30 p.m. through Video Conferencing (VC) Other Audio Visual Means (OAVM) as per circular dated 5th May, 2020, 8th April, 2020, 13th April, 2020, 13th January, 2021, 8th December, 2021, 14th December, 2021 and followed by Circular no. 02/2022 and 03/2022 dated 5th May, 2022 issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, to transact the Ordinary and Special Business as set out in the Notice of AGM. Members attending the AGM through VCO/AVM shall be reckoned for the purpose of quorum under section 103 of the Companies Act, 2013. Further, it is hereby informed that all the members registered with the Company on or before 31.08.2022 are requested to send their 1. Name, 2. Folio No., 3. Mobile No. and 4. Email ID on the Company's Email ID viz.grover@indovax.com or submit these details at the Registered Office of the Company on or before 25.09.2022 so that the link to attend the AGM through VCO/AVM can be communicated to all members at their Registered Email Ids and/or Registered Mobile No. The company is also sending its Annual Report for F.Y.2022 along with Notice to all its members through post.

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2. DESIGN, SUPPLY, FABRICATION AND COMMISSIONING OF FOUR 71000-LTR SS CIRCULAR TANK FOR STORAGE OF IMFL AND FIVE 1000-LTR SS OVERHEAD TANKS FOR THE BOTTLING LINES (Tender ID- 2022_TSC_506243_1 & Last Date of Submission 13.09.2022 at 3 PM)
3. ASPBESTOSE ROOF LEAK PROOFING & SIDE WALL SHEETING WORKS IN MOLASSES STORAGE AREA. (Tender ID-2022_TSC_506261_1 & Last Date of Submission-13.09.2022 at 3 PM)
4. FRP LINING WORK OF TANK NO.11 (Tender ID-2022_TSC_506274_1 & Last Date of Submission-13.09.2022 at 3 PM)
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T.N. reiterates plea for a Bench of Supreme Court in Chennai

CM unveils foundation for a building to house subordinate courts on HC premises

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Sunday yet again reiterated the State's request for establishing a Regional Bench of the Supreme Court in Chennai and allowing Tamil to be used in the Madras High Court as one of its official languages. He also insisted on representation of all sections in the appointment of judges.

He underlined the State's three requests in his speech on the Madras High Court premises where he unveiled the foundation for a multi-storey building to house subordinate courts in Chennai in the presence of Supreme Court Judges Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Indira Banerjee, V. Ramasubramanian and M.M. Sundresh and Madras High Court Chief Justice Munishwar Nath Bhandari.

Madras High Court judge T. Raja, Minister for Public Works E.V. Velu, Law Minister S. Regupathy, Chief Secretary V. Irai Anbu and Advocate-General R. Shunmugasundaram were present.

Justice Kaul launched the



M.K. Stalin laying the foundation for a building to house subordinate courts on the High Court campus. ■ R. RAGU

renovation of the old law college heritage building for the use of the High Court. Mr. Stalin said the court complex in the multi-storey building would benefit members of the public and advocates.

In his speech, Justice Kaul recalled his term as the Chief Justice of the Madras High Court and said judges and advocates were the "software" of the system, while infrastructure was the "hardware". But a mere addition of judges would not help to reduce pendency of

cases, he said, calling for quality judgments. Justice Banerjee recalled her term in Madras High Court as its Chief Justice and called Tamil Nadu her "second home". Justice Ramasubramanian expressed his awe of the iconic buildings of Madras High Court that were standing for over 100 years. Justice Sundresh called for speedy disposal of cases.

Chief Justice Bhandari thanked the State government for its support and hoped that the old building

of the Madras Law College could be used, after renovation, if a Regional Bench of the Supreme Court was established in Chennai. Mr. Velu recalled how the Chief Minister acted on the High Court's request for clearance for the building and ensured that a government order was issued in a few days. Mr. Regupathy listed the steps taken by the DMK government for the benefit of the judiciary and litigants. Mr. Shunmugasundaram spoke.

BJP threatens to pull out of alliance in Meghalaya

Gathering proof of corruption: party

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GUWAHATI

The BJP has threatened to pull out of the Meghalaya Democratic Alliance (MDA) government headed by Conrad K. Sangma within a month over alleged corruption and illegal activities.

Including the BJP's two, the MDA currently has 46 MLAs in the 60-member Meghalaya Assembly. Half of the legislators belong to the National People's Party (NPP), of which Mr. Sangma is the national president.

"We may withdraw support within a month. We have had discussions with our national president [J.P. Nadda] in this regard," BJP national vice-president and Meghalaya in-charge M. Chuba Ao said.

He also said the party was gathering evidence of illegal activities and corruption under the MDA government. "We have received many complaints but we need the evidence. Once we get the documents, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) will be here," he said. He indicated that the NPP was running the government at the BJP's cost.

This is not the first time that the BJP has threatened to withdraw from the NPP-led alliance government. In September 2020, State party president Ernest Mawrie had issued a similar threat, accusing the NPP of large-scale corruption and illegal activities such as rat-hole coal mining.

Charges framed against AAP MP in 2008 case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA SULTANPUR (U.P.)

Charges have been framed against 14 people, including AAP MP Sanjay Singh and former Samajwadi Party MLA Anoop Sanda, by a local court here in connection with a street protest against the Power Department in 2008.

Charges were framed by MP-MLA Court Judge Yogesh Kumar Yadav, Mr. Singh's lawyer Madan Singh said on Sunday.

In 2008, a case was registered against 36 people, including district president Raghuveer Yadav, besides Mr. Singh and Mr. Sanda, for protesting against the Power Department by sitting on the road in front of the Jamal Gate of the city, leading to traffic jam.

Bringing back pre-pandemic shine to Puja

Festival's addition to UNESCO list has added to celebrations

BISHWANATH GHOSH KOLKATA

After two years of restraint, the City of Joy appears to be pulling out all the stops to celebrate Durga Puja that's barely a month away now.

Malls and marketplaces are beginning to get packed with shoppers; tailors are suddenly overburdened with orders; almost every evening is a witness to a pre-Puja sari exhibition in some part of the city; and Puja committees are making it known in their circulars that celebration would revert to the pre-pandemic scale. To help shoppers, Metro Rail has decided to increase its weekend services between September 3 and 25.

What has sweetened this year's festivities is the inclusion of Durga Puja in UNESCO's list of "intangible cultural heritage". The recognition, given last December, was celebrated on Thursday with a carnival, led by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and attended by UNESCO representatives.

Kumartuli, the artisans' colony that supplies idols - Goddess Durga and her four children - to the whole of Kolkata, has regained its verve after a dismal two years. "This year, there's hardly any idol available for sale - everything you see in Kumartuli has already been booked," said idol-maker Indrajit Pal, who is working on 11 sets of big idols this year, up from eight in 2021.

Artisans aren't the only ones busy these days. Hema



Packed with shoppers: People thronging the New Market area in Kolkata weeks before Durga Puja. ■ DEBASISH BHADURI

Dhawan, who runs Aashi Boutique in Golf Green, is often returning home from her tailoring workshop at 2.30 a.m. "I am getting over 500 orders every week. Last year, weekly orders barely crossed 100. I am finding it difficult to cope, but I am not complaining," she said.

All set for splendour
Susmita Das, who recently moved to Kolkata from the U.S., is not among those to worry about timely delivery of blouses by the tailor. She already has everything ready and planned out to the last detail. "Having spent the past two years finishing my PhD and grieving over lost loved ones during the pandemic, I finally feel like living joyously this Puja. I've managed to find five saris from my wardrobe that are the same colour - midnight blue - but different in style, design and fabric. The idea is to create a different look each day with saris of the same colour. I've meticulously

planned all my blouses and accessories accordingly," said Ms. Das, who recently earned a doctorate in communications and media.

"Also, a cousin is visiting from Paris. We've practically never been in the same city during Puja, so we are planning to get decked out and gallivant around the pandals and take tons of photos," she added.

Salt Lake City-resident Koyel Ghosh is pleased with her participation at a recent exhibition, saying the enthusiasm she witnessed at the event indicated that the city was set to enjoy Durga Puja in its "full charm and vigour". "We had a larger than expected participation at the exhibition of saris and accessories organised by Ethnic Haat. It was very satisfying to see women of all ages lost in the midst of sparkling colours, threads, looms and weaves, preparing for a super Puja after two dark years," Ms. Ghosh said.

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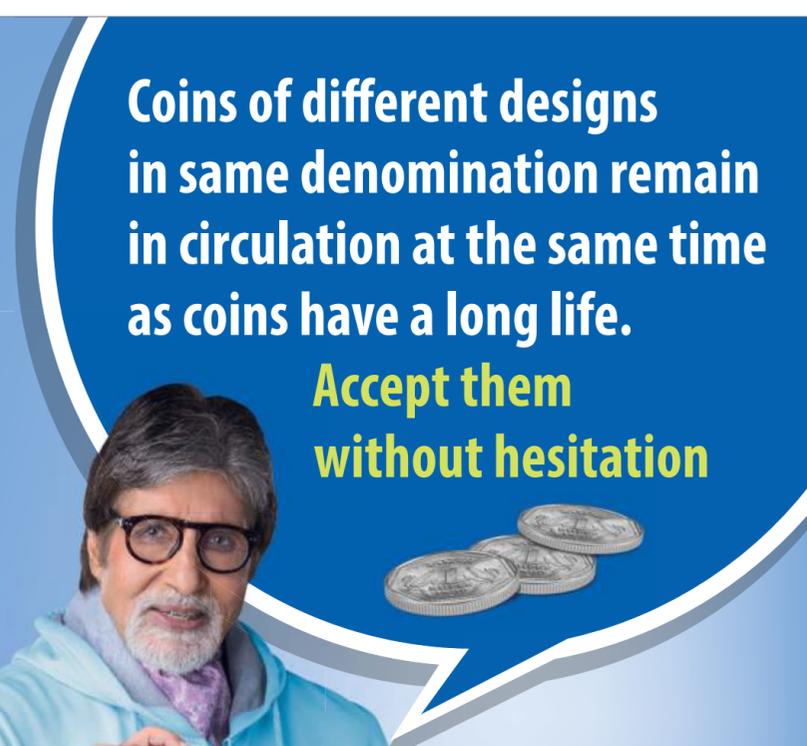
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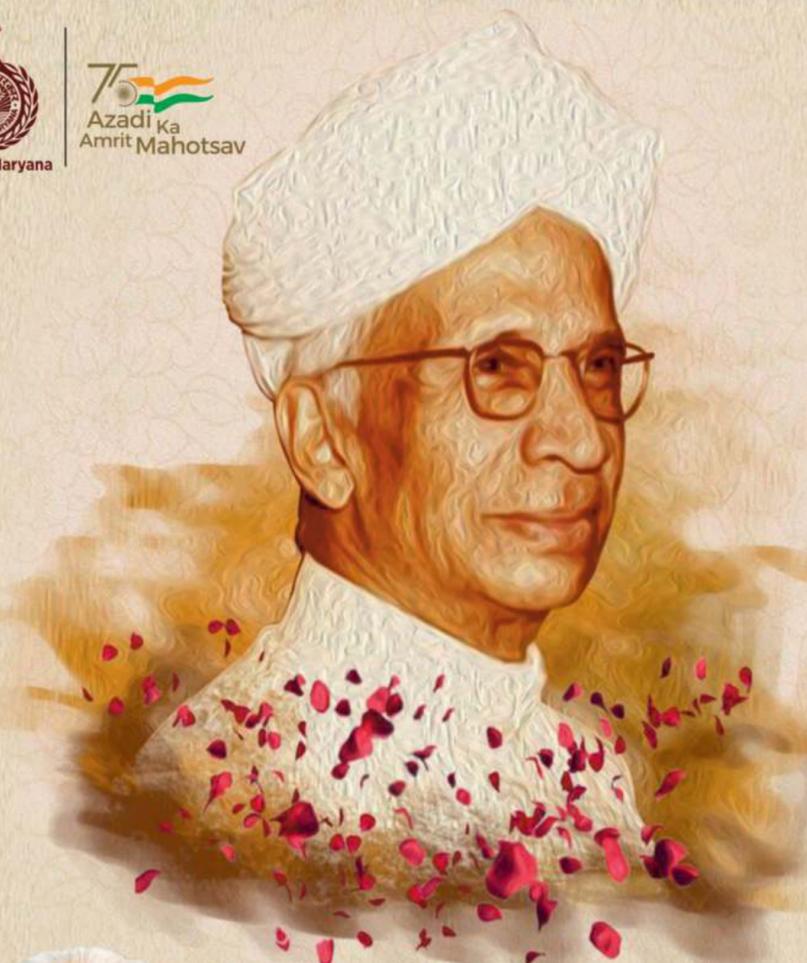
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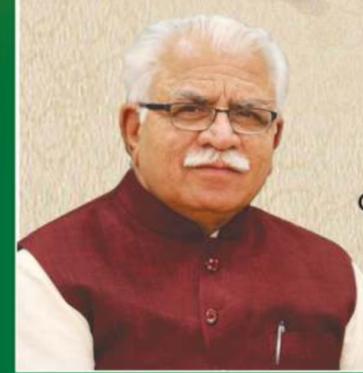
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- Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan

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Monday, 5th September, 2022



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IN BRIEF



Karnataka to scale down hunt for leopard

BELAGAVI
After 30 days of looking for a leopard in the golf course in Belagavi, the Forest Department of Karnataka has decided to abandon the hunt, deducing that the wild animal may have moved out of the city. The leopard is said to have attacked a mason August 5. The department has come to this conclusion after a peasant couple had said that they saw the leopard on a field near Mandaoli Road. Officers have deduced that the leopard has gone away from the city.

YSRCP, TDP obstructing industrial projects: BJP

VIJAYAWADA
BJP State general secretary S. Vishnuvardhan Reddy alleged that the ruling YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) and the TDP were obstructing industrial projects in Andhra Pradesh to achieve their political ends. Hence entrepreneurs were reluctant to invest in the State and many existing industries had either moved to other States or were facing closure. Addressing the media here on Sunday, he cited the case of the bulk drug park in East Godavari district, which had not taken off.

Tribal farmer kills leopard with knife

BODI
A farmer allegedly killed a leopard with a knife when it attacked him while he was working in his farm in a village near the Kerala-Tamil Nadu border in Idukki district on Saturday. According to reports, Gopalan, 42, a tribal, lives in Chikkanankudi village, in Idukki district. A leopard reportedly attacked him from behind. He then took a knife kept in his possession and attacked the animal on its head. The animal died on the spot.

Nehru trophy hat-trick for club

Pallathuruthy Boat Club lift trophy in a nail-biting finish at 68th edition of regatta

**STAFF REPORTER
ALAPPUZZHA**

In an atmosphere filled with fun, cheer and sheer elation, *Mahadevikadu Kattil Thekkethil Chundan* (snakeboat) rowed by members of the Pallathuruthy Boat Club (PBC) won the 68th edition of the Nehru Trophy Boat Race (NTBR) held on the Punnamada lake here on Sunday.

The club, captained by Santhosh Chakko, emerged victorious in a nail-biting finish, clocking 4.30.77 minutes. With this, the club completed a hat-trick of Nehru trophy titles named after the first Prime Minister of India. They lifted the trophy in 2018 and 2019 rowing *Payipadan Chundan* and *Nadubhagom Chundan*, respectively. It is the maiden Nehru trophy for the *Mahadevikadu Kattil Thekkethil Chundan*.

Nadubhagom Chundan rowed by the NCDC Boat Club, Kumarakom finished second. *Veyapuram Chundan* (Punnamada Boat Club) and *Champakulam Chundan* (Police Boat Club, Alap-



Grand victory: The *Mahadevikadu Kattil Thekkethil Chundan* racing to victory at the Nehru Trophy Boat Race on the Punnamada lake in Alappuzha on Sunday. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

puzha) finished third and fourth. This was the first race of the second edition of the Champions Boat League (CBL). Both the regattas are being held after a pandemic-induced gap of two years.

A total of 77 boats, including 20 snakeboats, participated under nine categories in the NTBR. The event com-

menced with a race of smaller boats in the forenoon. The excitement was exemplified by the tens of thousands of people who turned up to witness the event dubbed as 'Olympics on water'. The decibel levels reached a crescendo when the much-anticipated heats of snakeboat competition began in the af-

ternoon. The sight of oarsmen rowing in unison and vessels cleaving through the waters brought around one lakh spectators to their feet. By the time the final was held at 5 p.m., the atmosphere turned electric. Nine top snakeboats have qualified for the 2023 edition of the CBL based on timings.

14-year-long wait ends for A.P. farmers

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NELLORE**

It is a dream come true for farmers of Nellore district in Andhra Pradesh as the twin irrigation projects – Nellore Penna and MGR Sangam barrages across the Penna river – have become a reality after over 14 years.

The projects are slated to be inaugurated by Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Tuesday.

Work on the projects, a brainchild of former Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy, began in 2008-09. But his untimely death dashed the farmers' hopes as work progressed at a snail's pace under successive governments.

The YSRCP government completed the projects against all odds, said Agriculture Minister Kakani Govardhan Reddy. "Farmers can now easily grow two crops in a year," he said.

"The barrages will also act as flood control structures," said Telugu Ganga Project chief engineer K. Harinarayana Reddy.

Nitish takes swipe at BJP over 'poaching of MLAs'

Is this not corruption, asks Bihar CM



Nitish Kumar meeting delegates at the Janata Dal (United)'s national council meeting in Patna on Sunday. ■PTI

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PATNA**

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar took a swipe at the BJP on Sunday, saying the party considers those with it 'sadhari' (people with good conduct) and those who speak against its policies 'bhrashtachari' (corrupt), Janata Dal (United) sources said.

Mr. Kumar, speaking at the party's national council meeting here, wondered if 'poaching' leaders from other parties is not corruption, an apparent reference to the Opposition leaders crossing over to the BJP in many States, sources said.

Mr. Kumar added he will work to unite the Opposition parties across the country to take on the BJP amid the buzz that the JD(U) is eyeing the Opposition leadership role for him in the run-up to the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

He said that only a united Opposition can oust the BJP from the Centre.

During his visit to Delhi, likely between September 5-8, Mr. Kumar will also meet President Droupadi Murmu and Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar.

Party's chief spokesperson K.C. Tyagi said Mr. Kumar will also meet the leaders from around six regional parties besides those from the Congress in Delhi.

He added that the party is not projecting Mr. Kumar as the Prime Ministerial face of the Opposition while describing him as the "rising sun". "The sun rises in the east," he said.

Mr. Tyagi also said that Mr. Kumar's decision to snap ties with the BJP last month has enthused the Opposition camp in the same way V.P. Singh's entry into its fold had done in late 80s. He said some leaders, like Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao, want a non-BJP and a non-Congress front, but the JD(U) does not agree with this. The Congress being in the fold is necessary for a viable alliance against the BJP, he said.

JD(U) president Lalan Singh said Home Minister Amit Shah's proposed visit to Bihar later this month is aimed at disturbing communal harmony in the State. "It will not make any impact," he said, claiming the grand alliance will win all 40 Lok Sabha seats in the State in 2024. Mr. Tyagi said the decision to snap ties with the NDA was also appreciated as the BJP was trying to weaken the JD(U) as a "conspiracy".

"The BJP was trying to repeat the Eknath Shinde plot to sabotage the Nitish government. However, Mr. Kumar recognised it in time and foiled the conspiracy," he said.

Karnataka to appoint legal experts to handle border row

Talks with Advocate-General are on: Bommai

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BELAGAVI**

The Karnataka government would appoint a team of legal experts to argue before the Supreme Court in the Karnataka-Maharashtra border row, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said in Hubballi on Sunday.



Basavaraj Bommai

"We have skilled legal experts who know the subject in detail. They will be appointed as our counsel in the

apex court to argue our case, the CM said. The case is scheduled to come up for hearing on November 23.

Mr. Bommai said he had discussions with the Advocate-General in this regard and instructions had been given. The State government is studying the HC judgment on the CET issue. We will take a decision to appeal against it after discussions with the Advocate-General and legal experts, the Chief Minister said.

Murugha seer taken to math for mahazar

Accused of sexually abusing girls

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BELAGAVI**

Seer of Murugha Rajendra Brihan Math Shivamurthy Murugha Sharanaru, who has been accused of sexually abusing minor girls, was brought to the math in Chitradurga by the police on Sunday for conducting a mahazar.

The seer, who is in police custody after a case under the POCSCO (Protection of Children Against Sexual Of-

fences) Act was registered against him, was accompanied by investigators and local witnesses when the mahazar was conducted. An officer of the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police was present, the police said. They accompanied the seer to his quarters in the math and the girls hostel.

The seer was taken back to the DySP's office for further questioning later.

Rain hits Telangana's cotton growers

However, paddy cultivation is set to reach record levels by this month-end

**B. CHANDRASHEKHAR
HYDERABAD**

Impacted by heavy rain and floods in Telangana, the cropping pattern this Kharif season has dented the plans of the Agriculture Department. While paddy cultivation is poised to touch a record, cotton cultivation has been adversely affected. Abundant availability of ground and surface water is encouraging farmers to go for paddy extensively.

In its kharif-2022 plan, the Agriculture Department has estimated cultivation at 142 lakh acres (1.42 crore acres), with cotton in over 70 lakh acres, paddy in up to 50 lakh acres and redgram in about 15 lakh acres as major crops. The total extent as on September 1 has crossed 128.21 lakh acres with paddy transplanted in 58.29 lakh acres,



For kharif, the Agriculture Department has estimated cotton cultivation in over 70 lakh acres. ■NAGARA GOPAL

cotton in 48.96 lakh acres and redgram in 5.55 lakh acres. Cultivation of paddy is likely to go up further with the transplantation going up till the month-end.

"The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare has asked the farming community to take paddy cultivation on a large scale this

year. But due to various reasons, it has come down by 5.6% till the week ending September 2 in the country. However, in Telangana, it has gone up by 39% during the same period and is likely to go up further", an Agriculture Department official said.

Agriculture officials stated

that only crops such as sunflower, maize, groundnut and few other horticulture crops including chilli and tobacco could be taken up till the month-end as the recommended sowing/transplantation period for all other major crops, including cotton is over by July-end. The extent of cultivation so far this season has crossed that of the last Kharif only in this week, as it has been lesser all along due to continuous rains.

The Telangana's government plans to promote redgram cultivation in 15 lakh acres has fallen flat as it is the lowest (5.55 lakh acres) since formation of the State in 2014. The previous lowest was in 2017 when it was taken up in 6.2 lakh acres and the highest was in 2020 when it was cultivated in 10.85 lakh acres.

Pledge taken to intensify protest against Vizhinjam port

Stir against seaport is being led by the Latin Archdiocese

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM**

A day ahead of the scheduled indefinite fast against the Vizhinjam international seaport by Thomas J. Netto, Archbishop of the Latin Archdiocese of Thiruvananthapuram, and former Bishop Soosa Pakiam M., a circular was read out in the churches under the Latin Archdiocese during the Sunday mass, pledging to intensify the protest against the port project. The protest against the seaport by fishermen was launched 45 days ago and is being spearheaded by the Latin Archdiocese.

Sunday's circular was issued by Fr. Netto, who said the protest would continue until the demands raised



On strike: People belonging to the fishing community and other activists during a protest at Vizhinjam. ■FILE PHOTO

were met. Though several rounds of talks were held between protesters and the Kerala government over the issue of port construction, no firm assurance was provided by the State government.

Meanwhile, Opposition leader V.D. Satheeshan has

appealed to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan to avoid the situation of an archbishop and former archbishop going on hunger strike over the port project from today onwards. The CM should intervene and hold talks with the protesters to resolve the strike, Mr. Satheeshan said.

Culling of wild boars begins in Kerala

**STAFF REPORTER
KOZHIKODE**

Three shooters representing the Hyderabad Wildlife Tranquil Force, Telangana, have been deployed in Kodenchery grama panchayat in Kerala to cull the wild boars that have been destroying crops.

The shooters worked from 9.30 p.m. on Saturday to 4.30 a.m. on Sunday to cull around 10 boars that were scientifically buried in a vacant plot.

Kodenchery panchayat is one of the first in the State to make use of the government order that the panchayats could take initiative to kill wild boars.

Since there was a scarcity of licensed shooters, the panchayat brought in the tranquil force from Telangana.

Mayor and MLA tie the knot in Kerala

Ministers and MLAs attend event

**STAFF REPORTER
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM**

Thiruvananthapuram Mayor Arya Rajendran, who became the youngest Mayor in the country two years ago, got married to Balusery MLA K.M. Sachin Dev, one of the youngest legislators in the Kerala Assembly presently, at a function held at the AKG Centre in the State capital on Sunday. Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, CPI(M) State secretary M.V. Govindan, Ministers, MLAs and other party leaders were present at the function, which was marked by its simplicity.

The couple exchanged red garlands in the presence of family members and CPI (M) leaders. In the wedding invitation posted on their social media pages, they had requested guests not to



CM Pinarayi Vijayan with Sachin Dev and Arya Rajendran on Sunday.

bring any gifts. Those who desired to do so were requested to contribute to the Chief Minister's Distress Relief Fund or the old age home run by the Corporation.

Daughter of an active CPI (M) member, Ms. Rajendran has been part of the party's activities from when she was a 10-year-old.

A golden memory of Rajamahendravaram

Seven gold coins dated to the Eastern Chalukya dynasty belong to the proud city

**T. APPALA NAIDU
RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM**

Built by Eastern Chalukya king Raja Raja Narendra on the banks of the Godavari river, the city of Rajamahendravaram still contains a memory of him.

This past August, Rajamahendravaram also celebrated the completion of one thousand years of the coronation of Raja Raja Narendra, who ruled the city in 1022. His regime came to an end in 1061.

Seven gold coins that date back to the Eastern Chalukya dynasty, including the regime of Raja Raja Narendra, are a proud possession of the city.

"We have seven gold coins belonging to the period of the Eastern Chalukyas. A few of them date back to Raja Raja Narendra's regime, given the evidence of inscriptions traced during archaeological



A gold coin dating back to the Eastern Chalukyas being preserved at R.S.R. Archaeological Museum. ■T. APPALA NAIDU

excavations in Rajamahendravaram in the 1980s," Archaeology and Museums Assistant Director K. Timmaraju told *The Hindu*.

The seven gold coins are now preserved at the Ralla-bandi Subba Rao Archaeological Museum here.

only one is big in size compared to the others. The big coin contains the image of 'varaha' (boar), an official symbol of the Eastern Chalukyas. The big coin also contains some text in early Telugu script. It is believed to be minted marking 'some donation' by the Eastern Chaluk-

kyas," Mr. Timmaraju said.

He admitted there was no evidence of the location of the coins.

RSR Museum

Renowned historian Ralla-bandi Subba Rao had collected the Eastern Chalukya coins and inscriptions from the Godavari region under the banner of the Andhra Historical Research Journal Society.

In the 1960s, Mr. Subba Rao handed over his private museum and collections of artefacts to the State government. Later, the museum was named after him.

Apart from gold coins, the museum is also home to several artefacts, including a Nandi idol that dates back to the time of the Eastern Chalukyas.

The public can have a glimpse of the gold coins at the RSR Museum in the city.

K.K. Shailaja declines Magsaysay offer

'Award does not see collective action'

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM**

Former Kerala Health Minister and Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)] central committee member K.K. Shailaja, MLA, has declined the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation's offer to consider her for the international honour in 2022.

Ms. Shailaja told reporters that the foundation had contacted her. It wanted to honour her for the public service and community leadership during the Nipah outbreak and COVID-19 pandemic in Kerala.

However, Ms. Shailaja felt she could not accept the offer extended to her as an individual since the effort was collective. She contacted the party's State and Central leadership and appraised

them of her position.

"The party discussed the matter and arrived at a consensus. I thanked the foundation, and I politely declined the proposition. Moreover, the award is in the name of former Philippine President Ramon Magsaysay notorious for his suppression of communists in his country," Ms. Shailaja said.

CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury dismissed speculation that the party had discriminated against Ms. Shailaja, partly because she is a woman, and restrained her from accepting the offer.

The collective effort of the Left Democratic Front (LDF) government and the Health department helped Kerala successfully manage the pandemic.

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-Arvind Kejriwal
Chief Minister, Delhi





Coercion as conversion

Sexual orientation and gender identities do not require medical intervention

In a significant and welcome move, another layer of discrimination against the LGBTQIA+ community is being removed with the National Medical Commission (NMC) declaring conversion therapy a “professional misconduct” and empowering State Medical Councils to take disciplinary action if the guideline is breached. Members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual or of any other orientation are often subjected to conversion or ‘reparative’ therapy, particularly when they are young, to change their sexual orientation or gender identity by force. The therapy can mean anything from psychiatric treatment, use of psychosomatic drugs, electroshock therapy, exorcism and violence. This can lead to trauma, manifesting in depression, anxiety, drug use, and even suicide. The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry contends that the interventions offered in conversion therapy are provided under the “false premise that homosexuality and gender diverse identities are pathological”. The “absence of pathology” means there is no need for conversion or any other like intervention. To drive this point home, it is clear that an all-out effort will be required. In his landmark June 2021 judgment, Justice N. Anand Venkatesh of the Madras High Court had said pending adequate legislation, he was issuing guidelines for the police, social welfare ministries of the State and Centre, and the medical council for the protection of the community. The court sought updates from stakeholders every few months.

The NMC’s August 25 letter to State Medical Councils states that the Madras High Court had directed it to issue an official notification listing conversion therapy as a wrong, under the Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations, 2002. If the Supreme Court’s decriminalising of homosexuality in 2018 by striking down Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code was a first step, the NMC’s notice is also a small move towards inclusivity. To make the LGBTQIA+ community feel safer, however, a lot more will have to be done. Taking the cue from countries such as Canada, which has banned conversion therapy, there should be clarity on what action will be taken against quacks, psychiatrists and doctors accused of offering reparative treatment and the punishment they will face. The groundwork has to be laid in education. Medical textbooks prescribed in 2018 still consider lesbianism a “perversion”, an act of “mental degenerates”. The change has to take place at a societal level, and complemented by laws better tuned to the needs of a diverse community than the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, has sought to do. To that effect, Indian institutions and society have a long road ahead. First, they will have to acknowledge the “variability of human beings” and accord equal respect to every one, whatever the sexual orientation or gender identity.

Perils of brinkmanship

India will need to assess the security implications of another Taiwan Strait crisis

The shooting down of a Chinese drone by Taiwan’s military on September 1 has marked a new phase in the already simmering tensions across the Taiwan Strait, highlighting the growing risks of escalation, even if unintended. Over recent weeks, China’s military has carried out unprecedented military drills surrounding Taiwan, following the visit last month of U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. Some manoeuvres crossed the median of the Taiwan Strait and were declared by China’s military to have also taken place in territorial waters claimed by Taiwan. Taiwan soberly chose not to engage the PLA vessels. In the wake of the drills, the Chinese military has subsequently sought to continue asserting Beijing’s territorial claims by sending drones into Taiwan’s airspace. Photographs taken up close of Taiwan military personnel were subsequently shared on social media, apparently to demonstrate Beijing’s capabilities, but in the process raising pressure on Taipei to show a response. Taiwan’s military said it took the decision to shoot down what it called an unidentified civilian drone over its airspace in Shiyu Island after delivering several warnings. Shooting down a military drone may have elicited a different response from China, which has so far played down the incident. While the Chinese military reportedly has been deploying both military and civilian-use drones, so have ordinary residents in Fujian right across the strait, raising the risks of miscalculation triggering a serious incident.

The deployment of drones has added a further layer of unpredictability to an already tense situation. The past month’s developments have certainly served a reminder to the region of the fragility of the current status quo, and particularly of China’s willingness to change it. While most observers expect that a Chinese invasion remains too risky a prospect for the Communist Party leadership in the immediate future, an unintended escalation no longer remains a remote possibility. Most countries, including India, have preferred to stay out of the Taiwan issue, considering the One China Policy and the needs of the complicated relations with China. But sooner rather than later, they will need to assess the implications of their own security interests of a serious crisis. Taiwan’s status as a lynchpin in the global semiconductor industry is a case in point. While India’s recent reference to the “militarisation” of the strait is not a reflection of a major change in its approach, New Delhi has appeared to show greater willingness to do more with Taiwan particularly in the economic realm, such as setting up an alternative base for semi-conductor manufacturing in India. These are, even if long overdue, steps in the right direction.

Justice rendered, but only incompletely

In the Teesta Setalvad case, the lack of clear judicial answers to the top court’s compelling questions are conspicuous



KALEESWARAM RAJ

Last Friday, a Bench of the Supreme Court of India led by the Chief Justice of India, Justice U.U. Lalit, granted interim bail to human rights activist Teesta Setalvad who was arrested in June this year. She has now walked out of jail. The order is, without doubt, a great relief to Ms. Setalvad personally, and to the country’s liberty jurisprudence at large. The Court, in the instant case, has directly confronted a politically vindictive executive and performed its role. Yet, the order calls for critical discourse.

Needed, answers

Rather than the solution of interim bail that the Court has rightly provided to the activist, it is the set of questions that it has posed which requires the attention of all concerned, especially those at the helm of affairs. During the hearing, the judges underlined four “features” of the case that “bothered” the Court. They are: omission in filing the charge sheet even after two months of Ms. Setalvad’s arrest; registration of the First Information Report (FIR) on the very next day of the Supreme Court’s judgment that dismissed Zakia Jafri’s plea against exoneration of Narendra Modi and others in the 2002 Gujarat riots, with strictures against Ms. Setalvad and others; the long adjournment of the bail plea by the High Court (from August 3 to a date after September 19); lack of allegations regarding commission of any offence serious enough to deny bail.

These issues, which the Court

posed, would travel well beyond Ms. Setalvad’s case. The Court’s pointed questions have clearly exposed the malice in the State’s action. More importantly, the same questions remain equally relevant and compelling in hundreds of cases across the country, with an important supplement – that, in many of them, draconian provisions have also been recklessly invoked, to victimise the dissidents.

The sad part of the top court’s order, however, is that the rigour of these questions and the enthusiasm to get clear judicial answers are conspicuously lacking in the final order. The questions on the features of the case were asked by the Court openly on Thursday, September 1, 2022, and after a day’s adjournment, the matter was heard further and the order pronounced on Friday.

Friday’s order, after noting the long custody of the appellant lady and the opportunity availed by the police officers for custodial interrogation, said that the petitioner had made out a case for “the relief of interim bail, till the matter was considered by the High Court”. The Court said: “We are therefore not considering whether the appellant be released on regular bail or not. That issue will be gone into by the High Court.” The Court also made an unwarranted clarification that the present order “shall not be taken to be a reflection on merits and shall not be used by the other accused”.

Lost opportunity

When the fundamental questions which the Court posed on the previous day remained relevant, the Supreme Court, as the guardian of the Constitution, should have and could have done better by answering them and granted regular bail to Ms. Setalvad, by which a useful precedent would have been set for the other accused (who are almost



identically situated) in the case as well. Viewed in this way, the order is disappointing.

The questions by the Court are directed against the Gujarat High Court too. Adjournment of regular bail applications for an indefinite period occurs in many High Courts. This is an issue that should have been taken up seriously by the top court. In the very same context, the Court ought to have also held that when such an indefinite delay happens, that by itself is a reason for an appeal before the Supreme Court under Article 136 of the Constitution.

The Solicitor General had raised a contention on the maintainability of Ms. Setalvad’s appeal based on the doctrine of elections, suggesting thereby that the petitioner having moved the High Court, should have waited for the High Court’s final decision. This could have been easily rejected by the top court on the ground of a gross violation of fundamental rights. In a scenario where the High Courts take several weeks or even months together in deciding a bail plea, the Supreme Court should have deprecated such practice. Ms. Setalvad’s case was a classic one where the delay in taking the decision itself amounted to an adverse decision warranting intervention by the top court. It is curious to note that the Centre relied on the principles of ‘rule of law’ and ‘equality before the law’ at the Su-

preme Court, to detain the activist. This terrible irony required a judicial admonition, which too, unfortunately, did not occur.

On June 24, a Bench led by Justice A.M. Khanwilkar, quite unfairly and without materials, blamed Ms. Setalvad and others for showing “the audacity to question the integrity of every functionary” associated with the investigation. In the context of the long litigation for rendering justice to the Gujarat riot victims, Ms. Setalvad and others were accused of “keeping the pot boiling”. Without any convincing reason, the Bench also said that “all those involved in such abuse of process, need to be in the dock and proceeded with in accordance with law”. This deplorable approach, which was palpably erroneous and unjust, was the basis for the high-handed action against Ms. Setalvad and others. In view of this, the trial court as well as the High Court might have turned reluctant to grant bail to the accused. This is all the more the reason why the Supreme Court, as an institution, should have invoked its introspective jurisdiction to grant regular bail to Ms. Setalvad, which unfortunately did not happen.

A delay that is serious

A long delay in deciding the bail plea is a serious issue. The country’s judiciary has been infected with this pathological condition for quite a long time, because of which hundreds of political prisoners languish in jails even now. The predicament of Father Stan Swamy who died while in judicial custody and many others, from Siddique Kappan to Umar Khalid to Gautam Navlakha, who are repeatedly denied bail and stay in prison, has put the judiciary also under trial. Thus, Ms. Setalvad’s case was an opportunity for the Court to evaluate the state of free-

dom in the country. It offered a litmus test. It was an occasion for a formidable judicial reprimand to the political executive, and to the judiciary itself, that has failed the people during tough times. It is, clearly, an opportunity missed.

Stronger intervention missed

In the celebrated judgment in *Gudikanti Narasimhulu* (1977), Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer wrote: “The issue of ‘Bail or Jail’ - at the pretrial or post-conviction stage - although largely hinging on judicial discretion, is one of liberty, justice, public safety and burden of the public treasury, all of which insist that a developed jurisprudence of bail is integral to a socially sensitised judicial process.” These prophetic words had resonance in *Joginder Kumar vs State of U.P.* (1994), where the Court ordered procedural imperatives for arrest. In *Sanjay Chandra vs CBI* (2011), the Court put the issue in perspective: “The object of bail is neither punitive nor preventative”. It is only to “secure the appearance of the accused”. The judgment in *Aradesh Kumar vs State of Bihar & Anr.* (2014), relying on the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code and the Law Commission reports, warned against arbitrary arrests and detention. Even recently, in *Satender Kumar Antil vs Central Bureau of Investigation* (2022), while urging for a Bail Act in India, the Supreme Court said that the ideas of democracy and the Police state are conceptually opposite to each other.

It is the Court’s own judicial philosophy on bail that makes the order in Ms. Setalvad’s case inadequate. The case deserved a better and stronger intervention. True, justice was rendered. But only incompletely.

Kaleswaram Raj is a lawyer at the Supreme Court of India

India and Australia, from divergence to convergence

The fifth round of the bilateral Track 1.5 dialogue will set the pace for Canberra’s deepening relationship with New Delhi



AMITABH MATTOO & LISA SINGH

In August 1950, one of Australia’s most celebrated jurists, Sir Owen Dixon (who sought to mediate a settlement in Kashmir) wrote to his daughter, Anne, in Melbourne that Delhi was “a place I hope and trust that I shall never again see”. More than 70 years later, as distinguished thought leaders from India and Australia meet in New Delhi (September 6) for the fifth round of the most important bilateral Track 1.5 dialogue, it is widely recognised that Canberra’s relationship with New Delhi is among the most important and critical for the future of the Indo-Pacific. The leaders at the dialogue will reflect on the past, but recommend more concrete steps to foster the relationship and ways to create a more habitable and sustainable planet.

A gradual change

When we started this dialogue we recognised that for most of the 20th century, India and Australia rarely had a meaningful conversation. The long shadow of the Cold War, India’s autarkic economic policies, the White Australia policy, and Canberra’s decision not to transfer uranium to India and oth-

er factors had kept the two countries apart for several decades. We used to celebrate each other’s problems rather than our successes. But that era of mutual schadenfreude is well and truly over.

Today, few countries in the Indo-Pacific region have more in common in both values and interests than India and Australia. Apart from being two English-speaking, multicultural, federal democracies that believe in and respect the rule of law, both have a strategic interest in ensuring a balance in the Indo-Pacific and in ensuring that the region is not dominated by any one hegemonic power. In addition, Indians are today the largest source of skilled migrants in Australia and the economic relationship, already robust, could potentially be transformed if the promise of the new Australia-India Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) is realised.

Setting markers for ties

A dialogue is a conversation between equals who have agreed to work as partners. No one just preaches, no one just listens. Thought leaders have come here, some from long distances, to have a robust conversation about our relationship and ways in which we can carry it forward. We are here also to lead and provide markers for the future of the relationship between our two great countries.

We are living through a period of immense turbulence, disrupt-



tion and even subversion: the world is more uncertain than it ever was in our lifetimes. Even the Cold War, some may say, had a predictability, icy as it may have been.

The Australia-India Leadership Dialogue is critical because ideas matter in a relationship as much transactions and negotiations do. Stable, strong and sustainable relationships are built not just on the possibility of immediate gains, but on the promise of the future. In other words, the relationship is far too important to be left to the two governments alone. Governments matter tremendously, but forums such as these can provide the space and the ambience that can infuse new ideas to generate a new energy into the relationship.

Seeds that will germinate

The Leadership Dialogue is also important because ultimately, people and real connections matter. Technology and the cyberworld can blind us into believing that face-to-face conversations are outdated. We, in this Leadership Dialogue, still believe in the power of

personal communication and collective communication in a shared physical space.

In her definitive account of India-Australia bilateral relations, historian Meg Gurry relates how Arthur Tange, High Commissioner to India and one of Australia’s most formidable diplomats, wrote in 1965 to his Foreign Minister, Paul Hasluck, that there was fertile ground between the two countries, but “no one seems to know what seeds to plant”. Nearly 60 years on, there are not only many seeds waiting to be planted, but much ripe fruit ready to harvest. And that is why we are here.

Some of those seeds will germinate during this important dialogue through discussion, from a broad range of business executives, government officials and scholars, eager to increase their understanding about how each country approaches shared challenges. From cyberthreats and artificial intelligence (AI) governance in a geopolitically turbulent region, to how they will decarbonise their economies and help each other develop trusted supply chains through critical minerals cooperation, to how India’s tech talent can help address Australia’s skills gaps through migration.

As the premier forum for informal diplomacy between Australia and India, backed by Australian-founded tech company Atlassian and its co-founder Mike Cannon-Brookes, outcomes that grow the relationship through emerging

technology are high on the agenda.

Australia wants to find alternative markets to China and diversify supply chains for its critical minerals. As a country with reserves of about 21 out of the 49 minerals identified in India’s critical minerals strategy, Australia is well placed to serve India’s national interests required for India’s carbon reduction programme.

A shared framework

And while this is the first Dialogue since 2019, due to the novel coronavirus pandemic having kept both countries apart, as two nations we have only grown closer together through enhancing our shared framework for regional security, promoting business and commercial opportunities and strengthening our people to people links, bilaterally and multilaterally.

As India marks 75 years of Independence and surpasses the United Kingdom as the fifth largest global economy, the momentum around this fifth Australia-India Leadership Dialogue and the bilateral fruit it may bear should not be underestimated.

Amitabh Mattoo is Professor at Jawaharlal Nehru University, Honorary Professor, University of Melbourne, and founding CEO of the Australia India Institute. Lisa Singh is CEO, Australia India Institute, former Australian Senator and the first woman of Indian heritage to be elected to the Australian Parliament

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.

INS Vikrant

Compliments to Cochin Shipyard Ltd. for having worked right from the year 2009 till the commissioning of the engineering marvel, INS *Vikrant*. Given the maritime security imperatives, the commissioning of the aircraft carrier assumes great significance. It is also exhilarating that the Indian Navy now gets a new ensign.

G. RAMASUBRAMANYAM, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh

■ The induction of India’s first indigenous aircraft carrier is a defining moment. It is a matter of pride that India also joins a select group of nations having the capability to build an aircraft carrier. September 2 is a memorable day and marks

the strengthening of India’s maritime force.

P. VICTOR SELVARAJ, Palayamkottai, Tamil Nadu

■ Governments, more than a particular government, need to be thanked for making INS *Vikrant* become a reality, after much planning and designing. There can be no appropriation of credit here. We should also thank all the engineers, architects, planners and designers – the complete team. Without the incredible assistance and help of the last-level workers, the dream would not have come true.

BIDYUT KUMAR CHATTERJEE, Faridabad, Haryana

■ Even on the occasion such as the commissioning of the country’s first indigenous aircraft carrier, it is

unfortunate that politics has entered the equation.

Casting narrow political considerations aside, there must be gracious acknowledgement of political visionaries and our various defence establishments in making India progressively self-reliant in defence.

S.K. CHOUDHURY, Bengaluru

Nano urea and trials

There is no doubt that the new fertilizer product, ‘nano urea’, is a critical advancement in the area of fertilizers (Page 1, “Nano urea fast-tracked for approval despite incomplete trials”, September 4). But there is no pressing case for releasing it for use by farmers without completing all scientifically mandatory

field trials. When the first two trials revealed that the increase in yields on application of nano urea was insignificant, the fast-tracking of approval without completion of the required field trials is incomprehensible. Who knows what fresh insights agricultural scientists might have gained during the waived third trial?

KOSARAJU CHANDRAMOULI, Hyderabad

Interim bail

When the judiciary has made it very clear that ‘bail is the rule, jail an exception’, it is unfortunate that Gujarat had asked the top court to see to it that Teesta Setalvad was not to be given ‘special treatment’. This best exemplifies what happens in a majority of cases – when

those responsible take the law into their own hands and give a go-by to the principles of fairness and justice.

PRABHU RAJ R., Bengaluru

■ What an irony it is that those who committed grievous crimes either go unpunished or get mild punishment (in this context, the recent remission of 11 rape and murder convicts comes to mind), whereas those who take up cudgels on behalf of victims and seek justice are condemned as conspirators and criminals and made to undergo a lot of suffering. It is the moral obligation of civil society to extend its support to activists who side with the vulnerable.

G. DAVID MILTON, Maruthancode, Tamil Nadu

Sayonara Serena

With a record number of accomplishments to her credit secured by way of convincing and authoritative victories over her opponents, Serena Williams strode the tennis arena like a colossus (‘Sport’ page, September 4). The legend will be long remembered for her stellar and power-packed performances and her unique style of victory celebrations which enthralled and entertained audiences across the world. She was truly a role-model. Her will to succeed and never-say-die attitude need to be emulated by younger players of the game.

B. SURESH KUMAR, Coimbatore

A lot is at stake for India-Bangladesh ties

While they have deepened ties, the Hasina and Modi governments have failed to resolve long-standing issues



SYED MUNIR KHASRU

In August, while addressing devotees gathered to celebrate Janmashtami, Bangladesh Foreign Minister Abdul Momen requested the Indian government to ensure that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina stays in power when Bangladesh goes to the polls next year. He claimed that both India and Bangladesh would gain political stability by ensuring this. These out-of-the-norm comments from the senior cabinet member created a stir on both sides of the border. Senior leaders of the ruling Awami League distanced themselves from these remarks, while India maintained silence. Mr. Momen's comments came before Ms. Hasina's visit to India from September 5 to 8, 2022.

Trade and connectivity

Following the conclusion of the seventh round of the India-Bangladesh Joint Consultative Commission in June, the two neighbours have expanded their partnership to include Artificial Intelligence, Fintech, cybersecurity, startups, and connectivity. Trade will be a focal point during Ms. Hasina's visit as the two countries gear up to sign a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA). The two Prime Ministers are also expected to inaugurate a joint venture power plant soon.

CEPA comes at a time when Bangladesh is set to lose the duty-free and quota-free market-access facility to India after 2026 when it graduates to a developing country. Bangladesh is India's sixth largest trade partner with bilateral trade rising from \$2.4 billion in 2009 to \$10.8 billion in 2020-21. Bangladesh imports critical industrial raw material from India on which its exports are reliant. According to a World Bank working paper, Bangladesh's exports could rise 182% under a free trade agreement. This could become 300% if combined with trade facilitation measures and reduced transaction costs. Bangladesh also could improve several manufacturing industries by leveraging Indian expertise in service sectors.

India and Bangladesh have implemented several projects to boost



eastern India-Bangladesh connectivity. India's connectivity projects with ASEAN and Bangladesh will open up the region to economic growth. Bangladesh has expressed its interest in joining the India-Myanmar-Thailand highway project. India-Bangladesh bilateral waterway trade will get boosted as India can now use the Mongla and Chittagong ports. India is rallying Bangladesh to divert its exports through Indian ports in place of Malaysian or Singaporean ports. Enhancing connectivity through India's Northeast and Bangladesh is important for bilateral cooperation. Currently, three express trains and international bus services operate between Indian and Bangladesh.

The sharing of the waters of the Teesta has remained a thorny issue between the two countries since 1947. For West Bengal, Teesta is important to sustain its impoverished farming districts which comprise 12.77% of its population. For Bangladesh, the Teesta's flood plains cover about 14% of the total cropped area of the country and provide direct livelihood opportunities to approximately 7.3% of the population. The countries are expected to sign at least one major river agreement during the upcoming trip.

In 2015, India and Bangladesh resolved the decades-long border dispute through the Land Swap Agreement. Indian Home Minister Amit Shah recently reviewed the security arrangements in the Assam-Meghalaya-Bangladesh tri-junction, which used to be a smugglers' route. In 2019, India enacted the National Register of Citizens and the Citizenship

(Amendment) Act, which created an uproar within and beyond the borders. Ms. Hasina termed the move as "unnecessary". But her government has mostly kept silent on India's "internal matter" even as political commentators and citizens have feared it could have ripple effects for Bangladesh. The detainees caught at the border that year claimed they were Bangladeshi citizens who were returning to the country on failing to obtain Indian citizenship.

Regional geopolitics

Chinese inroads into the neighbourhood have been a cause of worry for India. China has been actively pursuing bilateral ties with Bangladesh. Bangladesh had successfully approached China for a mega project to enhance Teesta river water flow. Bangladesh also requires China's support in resolving the Rohingya refugee crisis. Bangladesh is the second biggest arms market for China after Pakistan.

Bangladesh has also been warming up to Pakistan. The two shared frosty ties for decades after Pakistani politicians made unwarranted comments on the International Crimes Tribunal set up by Bangladesh. Although memories of 1971 remain, Bangladesh has expressed its interest in establishing peaceful relations with Pakistan.

In its election manifesto for the 2018 Bangladesh general elections, the ruling Awami League emphasised cooperation with India, including in sharing Teesta waters. Teesta remains a concern for the Bangladeshi population which is dependent on the river for their livelihood. Ms.

Hasina has worked on strengthening bilateral ties and has uprooted all anti-India insurgency activities within Bangladesh by leading from the front. But the unresolved Teesta issue does not put her in good standing with the electorate. Many believe that her bold and pragmatic steps in strengthening relations with India have not been adequately reciprocated by Delhi and Kolkata.

India-Bangladesh ties witnessed the lowest ebb during the 2001-2006 tenure of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP). In 2004, a 10-truck arms and ammunition haul took place in Chittagong. Investigators believed that the delivery of the smuggled arms was intended for the United Liberation Front of Asom, a militant group seeking Assam's independence from India. These illicit activities created tensions between the countries. The BNP's short-sighted and unwise handling of relations with India cost it dearly, for Delhi's corridors of power lost confidence in the party. But by openly flouting its warm relations with India as a safeguard for continuity of power, the Awami League is not playing smart with the electorate either.

In Bangladesh, there is a prevailing perception that India's goodwill towards the country is aligned to one particular political ideology or school of thought as opposed to Bangladesh's society at large. For India, the challenge is to earn the trust and confidence of Bangladeshis across the spectrum and strata. Ms. Hasina has deepened ties with the Narendra Modi government, but the two have failed to resolve long-standing issues such as Teesta water-sharing and killings at the border. The question is, how these factors may affect elections in Bangladesh. For India it will take more than cosy relations with one particular government to have long-term stable relations with its most trusted friend in the neighbourhood. Just as Bangladeshis remain grateful to India for the generous support extended by India during the Liberation War of 1971, they are equally sensitive to being treated with respect and fairness, no matter who rules their country.

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Changing the age of consent

Older adolescents engaging in consensual and non-exploitative acts find themselves embroiled in the criminal justice system



SWAGATA RAHA & SHRUTHI RAMAKRISHNAN

In August 2, in *Rama @ Bande Rama v. State of Karnataka*, the Karnataka High Court quashed criminal proceedings of rape and kidnapping under the Indian Penal Code, and penetrative and aggravated penetrative sexual assault under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, which had been initiated based on a complaint of a 17-year-old girl's father against her 20-year-old partner. The girl stated in court that the acts were consensual and she had married the accused after she had turned 18. The marriage was registered and a child was born to the couple. The High Court observed that "if the court would shut its doors to the couple who are married and bringing up the child, the entire proceedings would result in miscarriage of justice."

Normalcy of relationships

With the enactment of POCSO, a number of young couples in consensual and non-exploitative relationships have found themselves embroiled in the criminal justice system. Since consent of a "child" is immaterial, consensual sexual intercourse with or among adolescents is treated on a par with rape. While boys/young men are charged with sexual offences, the girls are treated as victims and institutionalised in children's homes when they refuse to return to their parents or their parents refuse to accept them. Faced with criminal prosecution and incarceration, the only relief available to the couple is to urge the High Court to quash the case by using its inherent power under Section 482 of the Criminal Procedure Code, "to prevent abuse of the process of any Court or otherwise to secure the ends of justice."

Several other High Courts too have recognised the normalcy of these relationships, the futility of prosecuting romantic cases owing to the consensual nature of the relationships and marriage between the parties, as well as the harmful impact of continued prosecution on both parties. While quashing a similar case in *Vijaylakshmi v. State Rep* (2021), the Madras High Court observed that, "[p]unishing an adolescent boy who enters into a relationship with a minor girl by treating him as an offender, was never the objective of the POCSO Act." In *Raj Kumar v. State of Himachal Pradesh* (2021), the Himachal Pradesh High Court allowed a petition filed by the minor girl's father for quashing

the trial against his son-in-law. It observed: "If criminal proceedings are allowed to continue, the same will adversely affect the married life of his daughter..." In *Skhemborlang Suting v. State of Meghalaya* (2021), a couple got entangled under the POCSO Act when the husband took his wife, who was 17, to a hospital for a check-up after she became pregnant. The Meghalaya High Court quashed the case observing that an application of the Act would "result in the breakdown of a happy family relationship and the possible consequence of the wife having to take care of a baby with no support..."

An analysis by Enfold Proactive Health Trust of 1,715 "romantic" cases under the POCSO Act decided between 2016-2020 by Special Courts in Assam, Maharashtra, and West Bengal revealed that such cases constituted 24.3% of the total cases decided by the courts. The parents and relatives of the girls constituted 80.2% of the complainants. They approached the police after the girl went "missing", or eloped with her partner, or a pregnancy was discovered. The victim and the accused were married to each other in only 46.5% of the cases. In 85.5% of the cases, the girls said the relationship was consensual. In 81.5% of the cases, they did not state anything incriminating against the accused during evidence. In 61.7% of the cases, the Special Courts too acknowledged that the relationship was consensual. Moreover, acquittals were recorded in 93.8% of the cases.

Law reform

The high rate of acquittals shows that the law is not in sync with social realities of adolescent relationships. The High Courts have also acknowledged the disruptive impact of the criminal law in such cases. While the marriage between the parties appears to have influenced several High Courts and resulted in the quashing of romantic cases under the POCSO Act, sexual behaviour is normative during adolescence, and not all relationships end in marriage. Blanket criminalisation of such consensual sexual acts involving older adolescents erodes their dignity, best interests, liberty, privacy, evolving autonomy, and development potential. It also impacts the delivery of justice as these cases constitute a large burden on our courts, and divert attention from investigation and prosecution of actual cases of child sexual abuse and exploitation. There is thus a compelling need for law reform to revise the age of consent and prevent the criminalisation of older adolescents engaging in factually consensual and non-exploitative acts.

Swagata Raha and Shruthi Ramakrishnan are with the Research Team at Enfold Proactive Health Trust, Bengaluru

STATE OF PLAY

The problematic Durga Puja push

By promoting religion, the Mamata government is venturing into dangerous territory

SHIV SAHAY SINGH

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's recent decision to increase the honorarium to puja committees organising community Durga Pujas has once again triggered a debate on the relationship between state and religion. Since 2018, when the Trinamool Congress government started giving ₹10,000 to each community Durga Puja club, the honorarium has increased to ₹60,000. The number of clubs receiving the cash benefit has risen from 18,000 in 2018 to 43,000 today. Ms. Banerjee's initiative will cost the State exchequer ₹258 crore. This is besides the 60% subsidy the government hands out to puja pandals on electricity tariff. The controversial decision comes at a time when the State is reeling under a financial crunch, physical infrastructure is crumbling, and the government is unable to pay dearness allowance dues to State government employees.

Durga Puja is a week-long festival organised with unparalleled pomp and splendour in West Bengal. It also provides a great opportunity for political mobilisation. For the last 11 years, Ms. Banerjee has used the opportunity well by inaugurating hundreds of community pujas weeks before the actual festival and instituting State government awards to honour community pujas. The new culture of providing political patronage to big-ticket Durga Pujas has helped the Trinamool to extend its influence.

The pujas contribute significantly to the State's economy. A study by the British Council in 2019 had estimated that the economic worth of the creative industries around Durga Puja in West Bengal is about ₹32,377 crore and the festival contributes 2.58% to the State's GDP. 'Durga Puja in Kolkata' got an important international recognition in December 2021 by making it to UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

The State government is well within its rights to promote Durga Puja, which is a grand spectacle. It has a

duty to provide logistical support, ensure safety and security, and maintain law and order as well as traffic during the festival. But providing cash incentives to community Durga Pujas raises troubling questions.

But first, what led to cash offers to community Durga Pujas? In April 2012, less than a year after being voted to power, Ms. Banerjee announced a monthly honorarium to imams and muezzins. After the Calcutta High Court struck down the decision in 2013, honoraria given to imams and muezzins were routed through the State Wakf Board. Just as no imam approached the State government seeking money for performing religious duties, no community puja organiser sought an honorarium from the State. This was purely a 'balancing act' by the Trinamool government. Like

most State government schemes, the move was populist and drew loud applause. By providing honoraria to puja committees, the Trinamool government was also aiming to counter allegations made by the BJP, of "Muslim appeasement". Over the last few years, the Trinamool has gained politically by giving money to community puja organisers.

However, by promoting religion, the government is venturing into uncharted territory from where there might be no turning back. Despite changes over the last few years in designs, decorations and themes, community Durga Pujas in West Bengal have remained secular affairs as people from all walks of life and communities participate. With these cash incentives, the pujas could become dependent on the State government. The initiative also allows the government to interfere in community affairs. Above all, providing an honorarium could prevent the natural evolution of a religious and cultural practice that has spanned centuries.

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DATA POINT



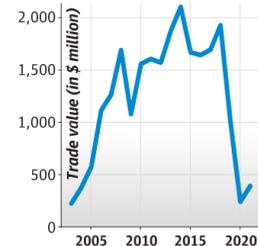
India-Pakistan's trade equations

In 2019, India and Pakistan took severe measures to curb the free flow of goods between them. The terror attack in Pulwama, the cross-border air strikes, and the dilution of Article 370 in J&K were the major reasons for this. However, over the past few days, Pakistan has been reeling from catastrophic floods which have flattened standing crops and led to a fear of food shortage. In this context, Pakistan's Finance Minister said last week that the government could consider importing vegetables and other edible items from India. Data show that before 2019, Pakistan was dependent on India for meat, cotton, and wheat and cereal flour imports. After the curbs, it replaced India's share with imports from China, the U.S. and Brazil.

By Jasmin Nihalani and Vignesh Radhakrishnan

1 Import dependence

The chart shows Pakistan's imports from India (in \$ million). The table shows Pakistan's top trade partners and India, their import share and import ranking. For instance, in 2008, 4% of Pakistan's imports came from India, which ranked 8th among Pakistan's partners. In 2021, only 0.5% of imports were from India, which ranked 36



The figures in bracket are import share in %

Partner	2008	2014	2018	2021
China	2 (11.2)	1 (20.2)	1 (24.2)	1 (28.3)
U.A.E	3 (8.9)	2 (14.9)	2 (14.4)	2 (10.1)
Indonesia		5 (4.4)	5 (4.2)	3 (5.8)
U.S.	5 (4.9)	4 (4.9)	4 (5.3)	
Saudi Arabia	1 (14.1)	3 (9.3)	3 (5.4)	5 (5.2)
Kuwait	4 (8.1)	4 (6.2)		
India	8 (4%)	6 (4.4)	8 (3.2)	36 (0.5)

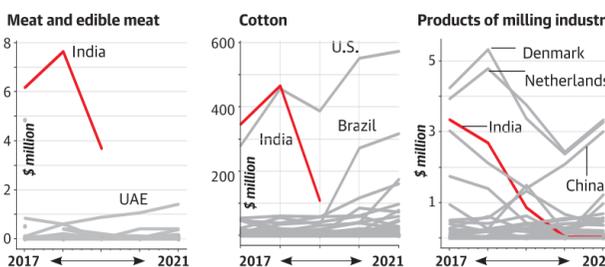
2 Commodity share

The graph shows India's share in Pakistan's total imports for specific products between 2014 and 2018. For instance, 64% of Pakistan's meat imports, 42% of its cotton imports and 15% of products of the milling industry were imported from India in this period



3 Replacements

The charts show Pakistan's imports in \$ million between 2017 and 2021 in three products: meat, cotton, and products of the milling industry (wheat, cereal flour, etc.). Pakistan stopped meat imports from India but since then, no country has been able to match India's pre-2019 share in meat imports. However, India was replaced by the U.S. and Brazil in cotton imports and by China in flour imports



Source: Comtrade

The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 5, 1972

Pak. maps cause delay in delineation

New Delhi, Sept. 4: The Indian and Pakistan military commanders entrusted with the delineation of the line of control in Jammu and Kashmir have not been able to complete their work before the expiry of the revised deadline to-day, as agreed upon during the recent official level talks in Delhi for the implementation of the Simla Agreement. Consequently, there is going to be a further delay in the completion of the military withdrawals across the international border, which will commence only after full agreement has been reached over the delineation of the entire length of the new Jammu and Kashmir line. A Defence Ministry press release issued to-night pointed out that though "substantial progress" was made to-day, the second day of the fourth round of talks at Wagah, the two sides could not complete their work of delineation in time partly because of physical problems created by the different scale maps being used by India and Pakistan. While the Indian maps are one-inch to a mile, Pakistan is using slightly bigger maps which are one-inch to 78 miles. The Indian and Pakistan survey team, which began this time-consuming work only yesterday, have so far cleared only four of the 23 maps dealing with various sectors of the line of control, but they are on the job working overtime to complete the delineation in a thorough fashion without leaving any scope for misunderstanding at a later stage: Once the two Senior Commanders have approved the recommendations of the Sector Commanders and come to an agreement over the prevailing differences in the light of the political directives given to them by their respective governments, the surveyors will not take much time to complete the technicalities of delineation.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPT. 5, 1922

Greek defeat

Paris, Sept. 3: Summing up the results of the big battle in Anatolia, an Angora communique claims that the offensive in Afion Karahissar sector, after having been pressed uninterruptedly for five days, has ended with the defeat of the bulk of the Greek army which has been split in two. The Northern army has been completely destroyed and dispersed. The southern army has suffered severe setbacks in Tulbunar sector and is retreating towards Ushak. War material, including one hundred and fifty guns of all calibres, has been captured. Kedoza and Kutayah have been occupied by the Turks.

Text & Context

NEWS IN NUMBERS



Suicides in India

1.64 In lakh, the number of suicides recorded in India in 2021 – an average of nearly 450 daily or 18 every hour. These are the highest figures ever recorded in India. Of those who died by suicide, there were nearly 1.19 lakh males, 45,026 females and 28 transgenders, the National Crime Records Bureau's 'Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India – 2021' report showed. A sharp rise in such deaths has been noticed in 2020 and 2021 owing to the pandemic. In 2020, the number of suicides stood at 1.53 lakh. PTI

Trade deficit widens

28.68 In \$ billion, the amount by which the trade deficit in India widened owing to increased crude oil imports, while the country's exports contracted by 1.15% to \$3 billion in August, for the first time in over 20 months. According to the preliminary data released by the Commerce Ministry, imports rose by 37% to \$61.68 billion in August this year. The trade deficit in August 2021 stood at \$11.71 billion. The previous decline in exports was recorded in November 2020. PTI

Road crashes

1.55 In lakh, the number of lives lost in road crashes across India in 2021 – an average of 426 daily or 18 every single hour – the highest death figures recorded in a year, according to official data. There were 4.03 lakh road accidents across the country last year in which 3.71 lakh were injured, according to the National Crime Records Bureau's 'Accidental Deaths & Suicides in India – 2021' report. The rate of deaths per thousand vehicles in 2021 (0.53) was higher than that of 2020 (0.45) and 2019 (0.52). PTI

Tax refunds

1.14 In ₹ lakh crore, the refunds issued by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) of the Income Tax department in the first five months of this fiscal. More than 1.97 crore taxpayers were issued refunds between April 1 2022 to August 31 2022. This includes personal and corporate refunds amounting to ₹61,252 crore and ₹53,158 crore respectively. According to officials, about 4.5 crore Income Tax Returns (ITR) were received by the Income Tax Department, by the end of the FY22 filing season on July 31. PTI

Sewage fine

3,500 In ₹ crore, the penalty imposed on the West Bengal government by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) for the huge gap between waste generation and treatment. The panel said that the State does not appear to be prioritising the setting up of sewage and solid waste management facilities. The NGT noted that of 2,758 million litres of sewage generated per day (MLD) in urban areas and a treatment capacity of 1,505 MLD, only 1,268 MLD is being treated. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

CACHE

Deploying 5G in a world built on 4G technology

The switch to a pureplay 5G architecture is no more a question of whether or not, but when and how

THE GIST

■ Since 4G's inception in the early 2010s, the number of smartphone users have grown significantly. According to Statista, the total number of smartphone users in the world has nearly doubled from 3.7 billion in 2016 to 6.6 billion in 2022.

■ A 5G-based connected future is upon us. That means deploying services in a world filled with 4G compatible devices. So, telecom operators have two options. They can either build a non-standalone (NSA) or a standalone architecture.

■ In an NSA framework, the operator can use their existing installed capacities and LTE architecture to deploy 5G services while implementing a new radio access network (RAN). The SA model, on the contrary, is a pureplay 5G architecture that provides operators full range of the fifth-generation capability and lets them slice the network. In this architecture, RAN and the core are completely new.

JOHN XAVIER

Since the dawn of mobile communication in the early 1980s, companies and consumers have been adapting to new ways of sending and receiving information. The first-generation technology of this era let people make and receive phone calls through their mobile handheld devices while the second and third generations added text and multi-media messaging, as well as email services to cell phones. The emergence of 4G in the early part of the past decade changed the mobile-telephone landscape. This paradigmatic shift let users stream and download videos at speeds three times greater than 3G. The Long Term Evolution (LTE) standard-based generation had two important characteristics that set it apart from its predecessors.

4G multiplexing

With 4G-capable cell phones, people could make calls over the Internet instead of via telephone networks. This generation's evolution to 4G+ (LTE advanced), which offered download speeds of 200 to 300 Mbps, made it easier for people to connect and talk over the Internet.

Secondly, 4G's multiplexing capability, technically known as orthogonal frequency division multiplex (OFDM), provided a level of efficiency in achieving high data transfer rates while allowing multiple users to share a common channel. The OFDM modulation scheme divides a channel into several subcarriers. These subcarriers are spaced orthogonally so they don't interfere with one another despite the lack of guard bands between them. "OFDM is a very good choice for a mobile TV air interface. It offers good spectral efficiency, immunity to multi-path, good mobile performance, and it works well in single-frequency networks such as those planned for mobile TV," according to a research paper titled 'Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiplexing and its Applications'. It is this aspect of 4G that lets people use social media, download music in an app, and live-stream videos on mobile devices.

Gadgets galore

Since 4G's inception in the early 2010s, the number of smartphone users have grown significantly. According to data intelligence

firm Statista, the total number of smartphone users in the world has nearly doubled in the last seven years to 6.6 billion in 2022, from 3.7 billion in 2016. This number is estimated to rise by another billion by 2027.

Not just users, the number of mobile devices in use have also skyrocketed. The total number of phones and tablets in use is expected to be over 18.2 billion, according to technology market research firm Radicati. When one adds another few billion wearables and Internet of Things (IoT) devices to this mix, the result is a massive data hungry world of gadgets. As the number of connected devices rises, so does our dependence on them to do daily tasks.

The number of devices and things connected to the internet is not confined to the consumer world. Enterprises are also moving to digital channels and optimising the way tasks get done with the help of Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), predictive maintenance, and other environmental condition monitoring sensors. For these devices to work in sync with several other applications a far superior networking and connectivity is needed and the decade-old LTE-based generation is ill-prepared to handle workloads and real-time data processing of this magnitude.

Deploying 5G

The latest iteration of mobile connectivity offers low latency, greater download speeds coupled with the ability to connect multiple devices and exchange data in real-time. Building on the multiplexing technology of its predecessor, 5G ushers in a new standard called 5G New Radio (NR), which uses the best capabilities of LTE. 5G NR will enable increased energy savings for connected devices and enhance connectivity. Apart from this, the fifth-generation of mobile communication will use high-frequency millimeter wave (mmWave) bands that operate on wavelengths between 30 GHz and 300 GHz. For comparison, 4G's LTE operates on wavelengths under 6 GHz.

While 5G has been around since the late 2010s, it didn't reach the kind of ubiquity its predecessor enjoyed until mid-2020s. That's because there are fewer 5G-compatible devices in the market compared to 4G ones, and a delayed auctioning and rollout of 5G

airwaves is holding people back from using the service.

A 5G-based connected future is upon us. That means deploying services based on the latest generation in a world filled with 4G compatible devices. So, telecom operators and businesses looking to build their services on 5G have two options. They can either build a non-standalone (NSA) or a standalone architecture.

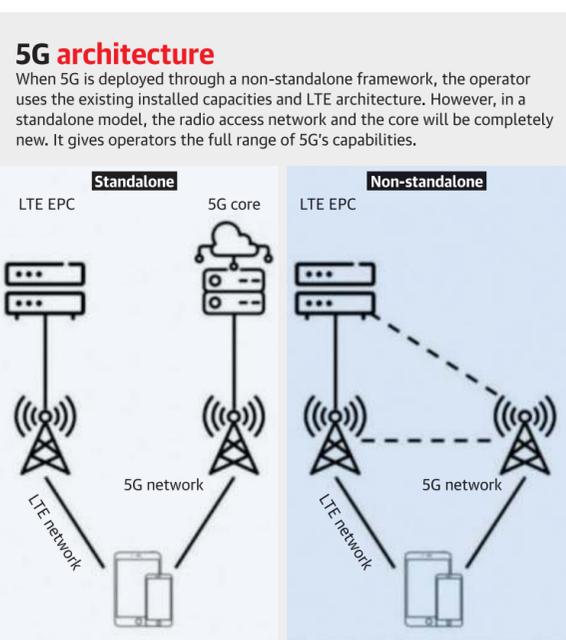
In an NSA framework, the operator can use their existing installed capacities and LTE architecture to deploy 5G services while implementing a new radio access network (RAN). The operations in the core network will be supported by the existing evolved packet core (EPC) from LTE. This short-to-medium term strategy can help operators reduce capital expenditure and lower operating costs that may arise from installing a new core network.

Germany, for example, used the NSA model to roll out 5G services in 2019. Deutsche Telekom leveraged its LTE-based core to deliver service that is not as fast as pure 5G, but which achieved the purpose of providing broad national coverage to a large proportion of the population and that too in a time-bound manner. The national carrier has now started testing 5G SA architecture in select settings.

Standalone model

The SA model, on the contrary, is a pureplay 5G architecture that provides operators full range of the fifth-generation's capability and lets them slice the network. In this architecture, RAN and the core are completely new, and there will be a clear separation of different network functions in line with 3GPP recommendations.

U.S.-based Dish Network Corporation deployed a standalone 5G network in 2021. The cloud-native firm is said to be building an Open RAN-based network from scratch, and is looking to run its service on the public cloud. In India, Chinese handset maker Oppo conducted 5G network trials in July 2021 on one of its premium smartphones under the SA network environment provided by Reliance Jio at its 5G Lab in Hyderabad. Reliance Industries Limited plans to expand its 5G network to "every town" in India by the end of 2023, according to the company's Chairman and Managing



Director Mukesh Ambani. The firm plans to implement 5G SA architecture to provide better performance than an NSA based set up.

Different countries and firms are at various stages of 5G deployment. The switch to a pureplay 5G SA architecture is no more a question of whether or not, but when and how. Telecom operators will drive 5G deployment towards a standalone future in the next few years. This will simplify their network operations and improve user experience. Operators may also look to leverage network slicing opportunities by creating dedicated segments for specific users and use cases. Each slice could present an opportunity for operators to build a revenue stream. And just like how the mobile device-based communication era made people adapt to the new technology four decades ago, 5G could potentially make consumers connect and exchange information in a new way.

EXPLAINER

The International Monetary Fund's staff-level agreement with Sri Lanka

What are the pre-requisites IMF laid down before the Sri Lankan government? How has India reacted to the agreement?

MEERA SRINIVASAN

The story so far: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on September 1 announced a staff-level agreement with Sri Lanka, months after the island nation's economic crisis intensified this year, following a serious Balance of Payments problem.

What is the staff-level agreement?

It is a formal arrangement by which IMF staff and Sri Lankan authorities agree on a \$2.9-billion package that will support Sri Lanka's economic policies with a 48-month arrangement under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF).

However, even though the IMF has agreed to support Sri Lanka, the EFF is conditional on many factors. Sri Lanka must take a series of immediate measures that the Fund has deemed necessary to fix fiscal lapses and structural weaknesses – such as raising fiscal revenue, safeguarding financial stability and reducing corruption vulnerabilities. Apart from making domestic policy changes to strengthen the economy, Sri Lanka must also restructure its debt with its multiple lenders. The IMF has said that it will provide financial support to Sri Lanka only after the country's official

creditors give financing assurances on debt sustainability, and when the government reaches a collaborative agreement with its private creditors. The process could take several months.

What next?

Sri Lanka has already taken some significant policy measures. Beginning this year, the Central Bank has floated the rupee, raised interest rates sharply, increased electricity tariffs and fuel prices and restored tax cuts introduced during President Gotabaya's time in office. While the government embarks on a path of fiscal consolidation, it has the difficult task of negotiating with a diverse group of creditors, including International Sovereign Bond (ISB) holders, to whom the island owes nearly half of its foreign debt, multilateral-lateral agencies, and foreign governments, mainly China, Japan, and India. While talks with the ISB holders are likely to be legal and technical, discussion with bilateral creditors is a more complex exercise, with geopolitical dimensions.

What have the countries said?

China has signalled its willingness to lend more money to the country but has put the onus of restructuring past debt on Sri



Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe meeting with IMF staff on September 1. AFP

Lanka. "We hope Sri Lanka will work actively with China in a similar spirit and work out a feasible solution expeditiously," the Chinese Embassy said after the government firmed up the staff-level agreement with the IMF.

Japan has pledged to work with Sri Lanka and other creditors, but underscored that it is important for Sri Lanka, in collaboration with the IMF and Paris Club, "to work for the betterment of its economic and fiscal situation while securing transparency." India, too, backs the IMF process and will likely cooperate, although New Delhi has said it is still studying the "evolving, unfolding" story of the IMF agreement. Ministry of

External Affairs spokesman Arindam Bagchi said: "India has been advocating for assistance to Sri Lanka but let us see how it progresses. Issues of creditor equitability and transparency are important." This means that India expects Sri Lanka to treat all its creditors equally and fairly. The statement comes amid speculation on whether Colombo might accord preferential treatment to one partner.

The IMF has indicated that creditors also have a role to play in ensuring Sri Lanka's crisis does not deepen.

Is the \$2.9-billion a bailout package?

The \$2.9 billion agreed upon by both sides, is short of Sri Lanka's expectations of support totalling \$3 to \$4 billion. In any case, even if the IMF package arrives swiftly, subject to Sri Lanka's success with the "prior actions" spelt out by the Fund, it cannot "bailout" Sri Lanka.

After a pre-emptive sovereign default in April – the island's foreign debt totals \$51 billion – Sri Lanka is still grappling with its Balance of Payments crisis. The government has resorted to wide import restrictions, while exports remain limited to the country's traditional basket of tea, garments, and spices.

From the ordinary citizen's point of

view, cost of living is soaring. Headline inflation went up to 64.3% in August 2022, and food inflation increased to 93.7%. The World Food Programme estimated that about 30% of Sri Lanka's population, became food insecure, since the crisis worsened this year. Many families, especially those belonging to the working population, are starving.

How then can the IMF package help?

If it comes through, the IMF package will effectively make Sri Lanka credit-worthy again, allowing the government to borrow once again from private creditors, multilateral lenders and bilateral partners. While many see the programme as necessary, few think it will be sufficient for substantive economic recovery. They believe it would push the government to make necessary policy shifts to ensure higher revenue and lesser state spending and address the problem of corruption.

The responsibility of building fiscal strength and resilience is, however, Sri Lanka's. For that, the government must also introspect on its heavy reliance on imports, the status of domestic production, prospects for boosting exports with greater value addition, and ways to address income and wealth inequality.

THE GIST

■ The IMF on September 1 announced a staff-level agreement with Sri Lanka, months after the island nation's economic crisis intensified this year.

■ The IMF's External Fund Facility is conditional on many factors. Sri Lanka must take a series of immediate measures to fix fiscal lapses and structural weaknesses – such as raising fiscal revenue, safeguarding financial stability and reducing corruption vulnerabilities.

■ The IMF package will make Sri Lanka credit-worthy again, allowing the government to borrow once again.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Untangling Kerala's Lokayukta controversy

The State's Lokayukta Act needs to be brought on a par with the Lokpal Act

THE GIST

■ The Lokpal is conceived of as a body which will inquire into allegations of corruption. It is basically an investigative body whose task is to conduct prompt and fair investigation and the prosecution of cases of corruption. The Lokpal and Lokayukta Act delegates the power to States to establish by law the Lokayukta to deal with complaints relating to corruption against public functionaries.

■ Section 14 of the Lokayukta Act which has now been amended said that if the Lokayukta is satisfied on the complaint against the public servant being substantiated that he should not continue to hold the post held by him. However, an investigative body does not have the legal authority to direct the public servant to resign his post on the basis of its findings. Also in cases involving a Chief Minister, the Governor can dismiss him only when he loses his majority in the Assembly and refuses to step down.

■ There are some other provisions which may not stand legal scrutiny. For example, this law includes the office bearers of political parties within its definition of 'public servant'. The Lokayukta law comes under the Prevention of Corruption Act which does not include office-bearers of political parties in its definition clause.

P.D.T. ACHARY

The Kerala Legislative Assembly passed the Kerala Lok Ayukta (Amendment) Bill on August 30, amid a boycott by the Congress-led Opposition. The amendments were related to the competent authority to consider Lok Ayukta recommendations. In the case of any unfavourable decision from the Lok Ayukta against the Chief Minister, the competent authority will now be the Legislative Assembly instead of the Governor as is prescribed in the existing Act. In this article published on February 23, 2022, P.D.T. Achary gives us detailed explainer on the history of the Lok Ayukta and its current troubled legalities. Edited excerpts:

The controversy surrounding the amendment to the Lokayukta Act of Kerala – effected through an ordinance – has raised the political temperature in the State with the Opposition accusing the Government of trying to whittle away at the powers of the Lokpal. The Government, on the other hand, claims that through the amendment, a provision in the Act which is unconstitutional has been excised as it gave power to the Lokpal to give directions to the Governor to remove a Chief Minister or a Minister on being found guilty of corruption. This issue has sparked off a noisy debate in the media in the State which has, in fact, generated more heat than light. The Lokayukta has indirectly expressed its resentment over the attempt to take away some of its powers.

The background

The Lokpal-Lokayukta issue has always generated intense debate in the country. In fact, this term was first used in a report of the Administrative Reforms Commission headed by Morarji Desai as far back as in 1966. Political corruption had become rampant by then and it was thought that a credible system of an ombudsman should be established to redress public grievances against public officials and Ministers of the government. The first Bill on Lokpal was introduced in the Lok Sabha in 1968 which lapsed with the dissolution of the House. The idea of a Lokpal has had a long journey; finally, after 45 years the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Bill was passed by Parliament in 2013. Anna Hazare's movement and the active involvement of civil society generated a lot of moral pressure on the Government which ultimately led to the passing of the Bill.

In order to get a clearer perspective on the Kerala Lokayukta controversy, it is necessary to understand the scheme of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act enacted by Parliament. The long title of the Act says: "An Act to provide for the establishment of a body of Lokpal for the Union and Lokayukta for States to inquire into allegations of corruption against certain public functionaries..." Thus, the Lokpal is conceived of as a body which will inquire into allegations of corruption. It is basically an investigative body whose task is to conduct prompt and fair investigation and the prosecution of cases of corruption.

However, the Lokpal is no ordinary investigative body. It is headed by the incumbent Chief Justice of India or a retired judge. It has

eight members, four of whom are judicial members. Thus the whole system is studied with judges or judicial men. The Lokpal has an inquiry wing and a prosecution wing to deal with investigation and prosecution, respectively. The director of prosecution files the case in the special court based on the findings of the Lokpal.

The Lokpal has jurisdiction to inquire into allegations of corruption against the Prime Minister, Ministers, Members of Parliament, Group A, B, C and D officers and officials of the central government. After the conclusion of the investigation, the Lokpal may file a case in the special court in case the findings disclose the commission of offence under the Prevention of Corruption Act by the Prime Minister, Ministers or Members of Parliament. However, the Lokpal does not have the power to ask the President to remove the Prime Minister or a Minister from office.

The Lokpal and Lokayukta Act delegates the power to States to establish by law the Lokayukta to deal with complaints relating to corruption against public functionaries. Some States already have established Lokayuktas. For example, Maharashtra in 1971, and Kerala in 1999.

In Kerala, the implications

Now, in the background of the Lokpal Act let us examine the Lokayukta controversy in Kerala. Section 14 of the Act which has now been amended said that if the Lokayukta is satisfied on the complaint against the public servant being substantiated that he should not continue to hold the post held by him, he shall make a declaration to that effect in his report to the competent authority who shall accept it and act upon it. In other words, if the public servant is the Chief Minister or a Minister, he shall forthwith resign his office. It may be noted here that such a provision does not exist in any of the State laws or the Lokpal Act of the Centre.

This provision in the State law has serious legal and constitutional implications. Two important points need to be made here. One, an investigative body does not have the legal authority to direct the public servant to resign his post on the basis of its findings. It can only submit its findings to the competent authority or, as is provided in the Lokpal Act, file a case in the special court. The Lokayukta is basically an investigative body with certain powers to carry out an investigation into cases relating to the Prevention of Corruption Act. The only special feature of this body is that it is headed by a retired judge of the Supreme Court or a retired Chief Justice of a High Court. But that does not alter the basic character of the Lokayukta as an investigative body. It does not and cannot enjoy the powers of the higher courts which alone can issue such directions in the nature of writs.

Two, the Chief Minister or a Minister holds office during the pleasure of the Governor (Article 164). The Constitution of India does not contemplate any external pressure on the Governor to withdraw his pleasure. The Sarkaria Commission had suggested that the Governor can dismiss a Chief Minister only when he loses his majority in the Assembly and refuses to step

down. The Supreme Court has accepted this recommendation of the Sarkaria Commission. Another occasion when the Governor could withdraw his pleasure is when the Chief Minister is disqualified from being a member of the House on account of his having been convicted in a criminal case and sentenced to not less than two years of imprisonment. In other words, a Chief Minister cannot be asked to resign when he enjoys a majority in the House. The Governor, being a high constitutional authority, cannot be compelled by a law to act in a particular manner so far as his constitutional duties and functions are concerned. No agency created by a law made by the Assembly, particularly an investigative body, can declare that its decision be carried out by the Governor. It would amount to a violation of the Constitution.

Thus, Section 14 of the Kerala Lokayukta Act, 1999 suffered from serious legal infirmities and it is only proper that the government of the day revisited this provision.

Provisions that are moot

There are some other provisions as well which may not stand legal scrutiny. For example, this law includes the office bearers of political parties within its definition of 'public servant'. The Lokayukta law was enacted to inquire into cases of corruption of public functionaries such as Ministers, legislators, etc. who are covered by the Prevention of Corruption Act. This Act does not include office-bearers of political parties in its definition clause. Basically, the Prevention of Corruption Act deals with corruption in the government and allied agencies, statutory bodies, elected bodies, etc. The functionaries of political parties do not come within the mischief of this law. So, it is difficult to understand how they can be brought within the sweep of the Lokayukta Act. Another problematic provision in this law is the one which deals with the reports of Lokayukta (Section 12). It says that the Lokayukta shall, on the allegation of corruption being substantiated, send the findings along with recommendation of action to the competent authority who is required to take action as recommended by the Lokayukta. It further says that if the Lokayukta is satisfied by the action taken by the competent authority, he shall close the case. The question is how the Lokayukta can close a corruption case which is a criminal case and which invites imprisonment for three to seven years. The Lokpal files the case in the court after the investigation. There is no provision in the central law under which the Lokpal can close the case before it reaches the court. The Lokayukta not being a court does not have the legal capacity to close the corruption case under any circumstances.

In fact the whole controversy could have been avoided if an objective and dispassionate analysis of this law had been made by all the stakeholders. The Kerala Lokayukta Act should be re-examined by a committee of the Assembly and should be brought on a par with the Lokpal Act. A legislation which seeks to punish corrupt functionaries should be placed above controversies.

P.D.T. Achary is former Secretary General, Lok Sabha



KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

Hobson's choice is no choice at all

Don't let your relationship with the language turn sour!

S. UPENDRAN

What is the meaning and origin of 'Hobson's choice'? (K. Indumathi, Trichy)

This expression, which has been part of the English language for well over five hundred years, is seldom heard nowadays. When you say that something is 'Hobson's choice', what you are suggesting is that it is no choice at all. If you do not take what has been offered or given, you do not get anything at all. You either take what has been offered to you or go home empty handed – there is no real alternative.

We didn't want to include Venkatesh in the team. But it was a case of Hobson's choice. Three of our players were injured, and he was the only one who was fit.

If it's a blue car that you'd like to hire, then it's a Hobson's choice, I'm afraid. This is the only one that's available.

Thomas Hobson was a stable owner who lived in England in the late 16th century. He rented horses from his stable to people who needed them – these were mostly students from Cambridge. Hobson took good care of his animals, and to ensure that none of them was overworked, he followed a strict rotation policy. Whenever a rented horse was returned, it was taken to the end of the line. The horse that was to be rented next would be at the front of the line and placed near the stable door. When someone came for a horse, he was instructed to take the horse near the door. If the individual did not like the horse and requested for another animal, Hobson told him to try his luck at some other stable. As far as Hobson was concerned, the customer had a choice – he could either take the horse near the stable door or go home empty handed. In other words, Hobson had a strict 'take it or leave it' policy.

How is the word 'sour' pronounced? (Mukesh Singh, Kanpur)

The easiest way to pronounce the word is to make it rhyme with 'shower', 'power' and 'tower'. Some people in our country make it rhyme with 'sore', 'pore' and 'bore'. It is wrong to do so. We normally associate sour with taste – anything that has a sharp or tangy taste, we label as 'sour'. The fruit that immediately comes to mind when we hear the word 'sour' is the lemon. A mango that is not ripe usually tastes sour. The word can also be used in other contexts as well. It can be used to describe an individual. For example, when you describe someone's face as being 'sour', what you are suggesting is that the individual looks unfriendly or bad tempered.

Why Kamala married that sour-faced Hari is still a mystery.

My boss gave me a sour look when I walked into his room.

'Sour' can also be used to talk about relationships. When you say that the relationship between two people has soured, what you are suggesting is that it is no longer as good as it was earlier – they are no longer as friendly as they used to be. The relationship has become strained, and things have become rather unpleasant.

After the divorce, Vinay's attitude to life changed completely – it soured.

With the passage of time, the relationship between the partners soured.

I am not a teacher, but an awakener.

-Robert Frost
upendrankye@gmail.com

THE DAILY QUIZ

September 5, the birthday of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, is observed as Teachers' Day in India. A quiz on the academician and philosopher, who served as the second President of India

1 A man with impeccable academic credentials, what simple reason is Dr. Radhakrishnan said to have given when asked why he chose philosophy for his Master's degree?

2 Dr. Radhakrishnan held various academic posts in his illustrious career. Aged just 21, in which eminent Chennai college did he get his first academic appointment?

3 Dr. Radhakrishnan's first book was about which eminent polymath and Nobel Laureate?

4 It is said that as Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Dr. Radhakrishnan employed a novel technique to settle

debates if they were getting vocal and were creating chaos. What did he do?

5 Seeing the surprised look on the face of an influential Asian leader after he was patted on the cheek by Dr. Radhakrishnan, the latter said "Mr. Chairman, don't be alarmed, I did the same to Stalin and the Pope!". Name the leader.

6 Dr. Radhakrishnan was nominated for the Nobel Prize 27 times (including multiple nominations in a year) with 16 coming in a single category. Which category?

7 What achievement does Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam share with Dr. Radhakrishnan as far as civilian awards go?



◀ Dr. Radhakrishnan was awarded this coveted prize for having 'contributed to the cross-fertilisation of eastern and western thought'. Name the honour.

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

Questions and Answers to the September 2 edition of the daily quiz: 1. The leader associated with the period of the 'Great Purge'. **Ans: Joseph Stalin; the objective was to solidify his power in the country and remove remaining influences of Trotsky and other political rivals**
2. The reason why 'glasnost' was adopted by Gorbachev as a policy. **Ans: To enable more transparency in government institutions/activities in the Soviet Union**
3. The author of *The Nose*. **Ans: Nikolai Gogol**
4. The liberal political party formed by Gorbachev and business oligarch Alexander Lebedev. **Ans: Independent Democratic Party of Russia**
5. The failed coup of 1991, which was an attempt by hardliners of the Soviet Union's Communist Party to forcibly seize control from Gorbachev. **Ans: August Coup**
6. In 1990, Gorbachev was awarded this prestigious prize. **Ans: Nobel Peace Prize**
7. The political reform movement initiated by Gorbachev to restructure the Soviet political system. **Ans: Perestroika**
Visual: Gorbachev filmed a commercial for this restaurant chain. **Ans: Pizza Hut**

Early Birds: Srijan Patra| Jharna Kamdar| Akash Kumar Rai| Sudhi Agarwal

FROM PAGE ONE

Soren govt. to seek trust vote on September 5

Mr. Alam had returned from Raipur to attend a Cabinet meeting on September 2 in which the decision was taken to seek trust vote in Assembly. Some UPA legislators, on the way to Ranchi from Raipur, said they have received a letter from Assembly Secretariat that said that Mr. Soren has expressed willingness to move a motion of confidence in the House to prove his government's majority.



Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren.

Earlier, it was said that a special session of the House was being called for the trust vote. However, Speaker Rabindra Nath Mahto dismissed the claims, stating, "The one-day Assembly session is being called for the completion of business that was left incomplete in the previous session. It is not a special session as there is no political crisis in Jharkhand".

An MLA of the Congress party, on his part, said, "At best you can say it will be an extension of the previous session of the House."

Ahead of Bharat Jodo Yatra, Rahul targets PM



Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi, K.C. Venugopal, and Mallikarjun Kharge during a rally at Ramlika Maidan.

"This is a battle of ideologies, and the Congress ideology and all other Opposition parties will together defeat the BJP and RSS ideology," Mr. Gandhi added.

Faith in leadership

The mega rally against price rise on Sunday not only set the stage for the 3,500-km-long *padayatra* from Kanyakumari to Kashmir that Mr. Gandhi will lead over the next five months but also proved to be an occasion for leaders to reiterate their faith in the leadership of the Gandhi family after the high profile exit of Ghulam Nabi Azad.

Congress chief Sonia Gandhi, whose ailing mother recently passed away, is still out of the country but Mr. Gandhi returned to address the party's rally against price rise amid banners and posters asking him to take over as the party chief.

Targeting the Prime Minister, the former Congress chief claimed that Mr. Modi was working 24 hours to benefit two big industrialists. Under Prime Minister Modi, he said, two Indias are being created; one which belongs to the poor where no dream could be accomplished, and the other of a few big businessmen where every dream can be achieved.

"Narendra Modi is taking India backwards. Narendra Modi *ji* is spreading hatred, and fear. This will benefit the country's enemies, it will benefit China, it will benefit Pakistan but not India. The more hatred, anger and fear spread in India, the more it will be weakened," he said. "BJP and RSS leaders divide country and deliberately spread fear," he alleged. "The question is whom do they do it for and why. Who is benefited from this fear and hate. Tell me what benefits the poor, labourers and small traders have got from the Modi government? Two industrialists have benefited from this fear and hate," he added.

He claimed that Mr. Modi cannot be the Prime Minister without the support of the two big industrialists who control the media that only show the Prime Minister and the BJP.

Hasina's visit to focus on water sharing

The Bangladesh PM is also expected to aim at energy cooperation and uninterrupted commerce

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's September 5-8 India visit is expected to focus on issues that can help her counter negative factors ahead of the election scheduled next year, *The Hindu* has learnt from sources working on the agenda of the visit. Apart from engaging Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a political dialogue, the visiting leader is likely to focus on water sharing, energy cooperation, uninterrupted commercial flow and greater connectivity.

"We are sensing that there will be an energy supply element in bilateral agreements between the two sides," said a diplomatic source without getting into the specifics. One of the hallmarks of Ms. Hasina's 13-year-old govern-



Cementing ties: Narendra Modi and Sheikh Hasina during the inauguration of various projects in Bangladesh in 2021.

ment has been the stability of energy and power generation in Bangladesh which has drastically reduced load shedding in major cities and industrial areas and ports. However, since last month

Bangladesh has seen more than a 50% hike in energy which has contributed to increased price of essential supplies, creating a challenging situation for her government. A source also hinted

that even in the absence of an energy agreement, there is likely to be a "favourable response" from India if Bangladesh was to seek suggestions from the Indian side about how to address the current energy crisis.

Ahead of her visit, Ms. Hasina reached out to the political leadership praising the assistance that Bangladesh received from India during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ms. Hasina's government has been consistent in expressing concern about disruption in the supplies of certain essential commodities for which Bangladesh depends on India.

Regional friendship

Ms. Hasina's stay is expected to include a visit to the famed Sufi shrine at Nizamuddin here as well as a trip

to Ajmer Sharif in Rajasthan. The discussion between the two sides will provide India a window to assess the political might and legacy of Sheikh Hasina who first became Prime Minister in 1996 and dealt with Prime Ministers Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Inder Kumar Gujral and H.D. Deve Gowda. Her next stint at power began in 2009 and has continued uninterrupted till now.

The dominance of the Awami League in Bangladesh and allegations of human rights violation against her government have drawn negative attention from the western powers. However, the visit to India will provide Ms. Hasina an opportunity to showcase her regional leadership ahead of her expected trips to the western destinations later this year.

Paytm says no links with traders in loan app case

Funds don't belong to us: company

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA
NEW DELHI

Following searches conducted by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) at locations linked to Paytm Payment Services, the company on Sunday said that the merchants under scrutiny are not Paytm entities and the seized funds do not belong to the company.

The ED on Saturday said it carried out searches as part of investigation in the Chinese micro-loan app case on six premises in Bengaluru, including those of Razorpay Pvt, Cashfree Payments and Paytm Payment Services. "As a part of ongoing investigations on a specific set of merchants, the ED has sought information regarding such merchants to whom we provide payment processing solutions. It is hereby clarified that these

merchants are independent entities, and none of them are our group entities," Paytm said in a communication to BSE.

It added that it will continue to fully cooperate with the authorities, and all the directive actions are being duly complied with.

"It may be noted that ED has instructed us to freeze certain amounts from the Merchant IDs of a specific set of merchant entities (as mentioned by the ED in their press release). It may be further noted that none of the funds which have been instructed to be frozen belong to Paytm or any of our group companies," it added. The case relates to alleged extortion and harassment of those who had taken small loans through the mobile apps operated by China-based individuals.

Rajnath to begin 3-day visit to Mongolia today

For first time, Indian Defence Minister is visiting Mongolia

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

In a first, Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is scheduled to visit Mongolia from September 5 to 7.

"The upcoming visit is the first-ever visit by an Indian Defence Minister to Mongolia will further consolidate the defence cooperation and strategic partnership between the two countries," the Defence Ministry said in a statement on Sunday. He is also scheduled to travel to Japan for the 2+2 Ministerial dialogue.

During the visit, Mr. Singh will hold bilateral talks with his Mongolian counterpart Lt Gen. Saikhanbaya and also call on the President of Mongolia, U. Khurelsukh and Chairman of the State



Rajnath Singh

Great Khural of Mongolia, G. Zandanshatar.

"During the bilateral talks, the two Defence Ministers shall review the bilateral defence cooperation between India and Mongolia, and explore new initiatives to further strengthen bilateral engagements. The

two leaders will also exchange views on regional and global issues of shared interest," the Ministry said.

"The two democracies have a common interest in fostering peace and prosperity in the entire region," it added.

India and Mongolia share a strategic partnership with defence being a key pillar.

The bilateral defence engagements with Mongolia have been expanding over a period of time to include wide ranging contacts between the two countries, including Joint Working Group meeting, military to military exchanges, high level visits, capacity building and training programmes and training bilateral exercises, the statement added.

'Abe considered Manmohan a mentor, Modi a friend'

Adviser to Japanese leader says India is an 'ideal partner'

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

Slain Japanese leader Shinzo Abe considered former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh a "mentor", and considered Prime Minister Narendra Modi a "close friend and partner", said the former Japanese Prime Minister's special adviser Tomohiko Taniguchi, and regretted not being able to travel to India in 2019.

Speaking to *The Hindu* during a visit to Delhi last week, Mr. Taniguchi, who as Mr. Abe's speech-writer, had helped draft his famous "confluence of two seas" speech in 2007, also disclosed that Mr. Shinzo Abe had planned to deliver a deeply emotional speech during his scheduled visit to Manipur in 2019, at the memorial to the 1944 Battle of Imphal, one of the biggest battles during the Second World War.

"Over time, Shinzo Abe looked up to Manmohan Singh and he respected Prime Minister Singh... he said Manmohan Singh is one of the few people, [he] could call [his] mentor." Mr. Taniguchi said, adding that the two men met often even after Mr. Abe's first term as PM in 2007, when he had stepped down over a debilitating illness, and again when Mr. Abe returned as Prime Minister (2012-2020).

He said that that Mr. Abe's relationship with Prime Minister Modi was also "unique".

"India a long term bet"

"[Abe] was in favour of those guys go-getting and gung-ho sort of people". One of the prime examples is Bibi [Benjamin] Netanyahu, with whom he developed a very



Tomohiko Taniguchi, Shinzo Abe's Adviser

close bond... he sensed that [Modi] is a man that he could continue to work with as a close friend and partner."

India-Japan relations entered a more intensive era after Mr. Abe's ascent to power in 2006 and 2012, with the launch of the annual summits between them, the creation of the Quad and its revival in 2017, and the launch of the "2+2 ministerial" meetings as well, during his tenure, the longest for any Japanese Prime Minister.

Ahead of the 2+2 Ministerial expected this week, for which External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh are travelling to Tokyo, Mr. Taniguchi said that Japan sees India as a "long term" bet for ties as a "like-minded" nation.

When asked about New Delhi's stand on the Russia-Ukraine war and China's aggressive exercises around Taiwan, where India did not join the other Quad members, as well as the ongoing "Vostok" military exercises with Russia and China would affect the India-Japan relationship, Mr. Taniguchi said that Mr. Abe believed India was an "ideal partner" given its security concerns.

"Japan is surrounded by 3 hostile nuclear powers: Russia, North Korea, China... Japan needs to secure its national security by allying itself with like-minded partner nations. India remains an ideal partner for Japan and will be so in a long time to come," he said adding that India would soon outnumber China in terms of population; is a strong competitor on technology, one of the biggest economies; and "most importantly", a democracy, he added.

Mr. Taniguchi acknowledged however, that many of the India-Japan projects initiated during Mr. Abe's tenure had moved more slowly than he hoped-including the Ahmedabad-Mumbai high-speed rail, which missed its 2022 deadline, the implementation of the civil nuclear deal, and the lack of progress in the talks for India to buy the Japanese US-2 amphibian.

Speaking about Mr. Abe's plans to help develop India's North-Eastern region, Mr. Taniguchi said that his last regret was that his visit to Guwahati and Imphal for the India-Japan annual summit with Mr. Modi in December 2019 was cancelled at the last minute. After violent protests broke out in Assam over the government's decision to bring the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), both New Delhi and Tokyo decided to postpone the visit. However, the visit could never be rescheduled as the COVID pandemic broke out, and then in August 2020, Mr. Abe announced that he was stepping down as his earlier illness, ulcerative colitis, had resurfaced. In July 2022 he was assassinated during a campaign rally.

'Empowering women, tribes is our model'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Sunday said the empowerment of women and tribal communities was at the core of the State's governance model under his government.

He said this at a function where he was conferred the Capital Foundation 'Lifetime Achievement Award' in New Delhi, in recognition of his distinctive and outstanding leadership qualities. The award was conferred to him in the presence of former Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana. Speaking at the event, Mr. Patnaik said that he dedicated "this award to the 4.5 crore people of Odisha who have been continuously blessing me to serve them for the past 22 years."

"After the super cyclone of 1999, who would have thought that Odisha will set global benchmarks in disaster management and get awarded by the United Nations? Odisha, once known for 'poverty', is now known for the fastest 'poverty reduction' in our country," Mr. Patnaik said.

"Our governance model, rooted in the empowerment of women, Mission Shakti, is something which we are truly proud of. Similarly, Empowerment of tribal communities has always been close to my heart and Odisha leads the country in providing land rights under the Forest Dwellers Act. More than half a million tribal girls study in our hostels. Farmers have always been the backbone of our State and their hard work has fetched the State the Krishi Karman Award four times. Odisha is the only State to have doubled farmers' incomes," he said.

'Can't expect judiciary to speak in one voice'

Ex-CJI seeks help for people in slums

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Former Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana on Saturday said the Supreme Court and the judiciary, as an institution, should not be judged on the basis of any one opinion.

"Over seven decades, a variety of opinions have emanated from the Supreme Court. As an institution, the judiciary cannot be judged on the basis of any one opinion... The country cannot expect a constitutional body, consisting of over 30 independent constitutional authorities, to always speak in one voice," the former CJI said.

"An institution speaking in one voice will not be a sign of a healthy democracy. Like every other sphere, diverse views and viewpoints are essential for the judicial institution and democracy," he added.

Though Justice Ramana made no mention, the court had recently been criticised for its judgments in the Prevention of Money Laundering Act and Zakia Jafri cases.

Justice Ramana said the judiciary had been confronted with many challenges over its 72-year history. "The Supreme Court has

IN BRIEF



Shah opens four 'smart schools' in Ahmedabad

AHMEDABAD Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday inaugurated four "smart schools" set up by the civic body while taking a veiled swipe at Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal, who has been critical of poor quality education in Gujarat and has promised to overhaul the education sector in the State if AAP is voted to power in the Assembly polls. He said if at all there was any model of primary education, it's Gujarat Model developed by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi when he was the Chief Minister of the State.

Woman immolates self as police fail to act on plaint

SHAHOL A 26-year-old woman sustained severe burns as she immolated herself on the premises of a police station after the police allegedly failed to register a case on her complaint of rape in Madhya Pradesh's Shahdol, an official said on Sunday. Two policemen have been line-attached for dereliction of duty for the incident that took place in the Amlai police station on Friday. The police station in-charge Mohammed Sameer and sub-inspector Savitri Singh have been line-attached, SP Kumar Pratik said.

Gujarat Youth Congress president quits party

AHMEDABAD A day before Rahul Gandhi's rally in Gujarat, the State Congress youth wing president Vishwanath Vaghela on Sunday resigned from the party and is likely to join the BJP in the coming days. Mr. Vaghela was elected as the youth Congress president through the internal polls. While resigning from the primary membership of the party, Mr. Vaghela said that the party unit in Gujarat was a "divided house" due to infighting among its senior leaders.



Ex-CJI N.V. Ramana with Naveen Patnaik.

distinguished itself by ironing out many wrinkles," he said. As CJI, Justice Ramana said, he had focussed on the "long-standing issues of augmenting judicial infrastructure, filling up of judicial vacancies, and increasing efficiency by adopting technology".

India faces "dual realities", while aiming for space, Moon and Mars, do not forget the "little stars" struggling on the streets and slums of the nation, Justice Ramana said.

He was delivering the annual Capital Foundation Society lecture at the India International Centre here in the presence of Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, who received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the society.

APPEAL

I am Soranam aged 61 years old. Kindly help me to undergo Chemotherapy as I have been diagnosed with Metastatic Carcinoma at Venkateswara Hospitals, Chennai. I come from a very poor family and cannot afford the huge treatment expenditure of Rs.10,00,000/-. The donations sent through Ch/D.NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE are entitled for exemption under 80G IT. Please give your e mail id.

PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/C No.60182010063310, IFSC No. CNRB0016018) favouring WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE are entitled for exemption under 80G IT. Please give your e mail id.

All correspondence is done through WWS, Regd. Public Charitable Trust, Flat No.GF 1, Cordel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No.29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai - 600006. Ph: 044-42137401/28235324/7338978027. E Mail ID: womenswelfareindicate@gmail.com Website: www.womenswelfareindicate.org

Soranam

Rally an effort to 'relaunch' Rahul: BJP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Taking a dig at former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi, the BJP on Sunday said his speech during the *Mehangai Par Halla Bol* rally here was "immature".

The party said the rally was less about price rise and more about yet another relaunch of Mr. Gandhi.

Addressing a press conference at the BJP headquarters, spokesperson Sambit Patra said Mr. Gandhi "doesn't even know whether flour is solid or liquid", yet insisted on "speaking on every subject". Mr. Gandhi had said that flour which was earlier ₹22 per litre, is now ₹40 per litre, but he immediately corrected it to kilograms.

He termed Mr. Gandhi's remarks on the judiciary as "contempt of court." Mr. Gandhi had said that there was pressure on all the institutions, including the judiciary and the media.

Earlier, former Union Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore said the real purpose of the rally was to relaunch Mr. Gandhi. "This rally is meant to save the family... This rally is 'Rahul Gandhi relaunch 4.0', as no one wants to lead the Congress," he said.

Call for Rahul Gandhi to take up Congress mantle grows louder

At party's rally against price rise, senior members heap praises on his leadership

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Amid a huge banner that read "We want Rahul Gandhi as president", several Congress leaders at the *Mehangai Par Halla Bol* rally at the Ramila Maidan here on Sunday reiterated their faith in the leadership abilities of the former party chief.

As soon as Mr. Gandhi came on the stage, the crowd gave him a standing ovation and raised slogans of "Rahul Gandhi Zindabad".

Though none of the senior leaders who spoke from the dais before Mr. Gandhi directly referred to the upcoming presidential election of the party, many stressed that only Mr. Gandhi had been taking on Prime Minister Narendra Modi "fearlessly" for the past eight years.

Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, Congress leader in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, his deputy, Gaurav Gogoi, all spoke about Mr. Gandhi's leadership in highlighting issues pertaining to the common people.

"The government agreed for a debate on inflation after we fought from Parliament



Reiterating faith: Congress supporters during the party's *Mehangai Par Halla Bol* rally on price rise, at the Ramila Maidan in New Delhi on Sunday. ■PTI

to streets under Rahul Gandhi's leadership. Even then, only five hours were allotted and the Congress got 28 minutes," Mr. Kharge recalled.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, who is being considered as a serious contender in the presidential race, led a scathing attack on the BJP and lauded the Gandhis. "The people in the BJP are fascists, they only wear the mask of democracy. The situation of the entire country is very concerning, the Constitution is being destroyed, democracy is in danger. Mr. Modi has forgotten the things he had said during UPA rule," Mr. Gehlot said.

"The credibility of Gandhi is highest and even more than yours (Modi's), as no one in the Gandhi family has held any position in the government, including being the Prime Minister," he added. Mr. Gehlot also said that the agitation led by Anna Hazare and Arvind Kejriwal was a conspiracy against the Congress-led UPA government.

"A strong speech by Rahul Gandhi at Congress' *Mehangai Par Halla Bol* rally roused the huge crowds thronging the Ram Lila Maidan. Now to take the message across the country in the 'Bharat Jodo Yatra!'

tweeted Lok Sabha member Shashi Tharoor, who is also a member of the G-23, or the ginger group pushing for internal reforms. Mr. Tharoor, who is considering contesting the presidential poll, reportedly met Mr. Gehlot.

While G-23 members like Bhupinder Singh Hooda addressed the gathering, others like Manish Tewari and Anand Sharma were not present. Several senior leaders like Sachin Pilot, Leader of the Opposition in the Punjab Assembly Partap Singh Bajwa spoke about Mr. Gandhi's upcoming Bharat Jodo Yatra and the need to strengthen their leader's resolve.

Cyrus Mistry: construction group scion to Tata chairman

He was the second non-Tata ever to head the group

LALATENDU MISHRA MUMBAI

Cyrus P. Mistry, a scion of the Shapoorji Pallonji Group, who went on to head the sprawling Tata Group as chairman of the holding company Tata Sons for four years before his sudden ouster in 2016, died in a car accident on Sunday.

Mr. Mistry, 54, is survived by his wife Rohiqa and two sons.

The youngest son of the late construction tycoon Pallonji Mistry, he was hand-picked by Ratan Tata to succeed him and assumed charge of the Tata Group in 2012, on Mr. Tata's retirement.

Fresh dynamism

A civil engineering graduate from London's Imperial College with a Master of Science in Management from the London Business School, Mr. Mistry was only the second non-Tata ever to head the group. The relatively young and soft-spoken Mr. Mistry soon began to make changes in the group companies' governance structures in an ostensible effort to infuse fresh dynamism.

Among his achievements at the Tata Group's helm, he



Cyrus P. Mistry

Pallonji Group seeking a review of its 2021 verdict, which had upheld the Tata Group's decision to oust Mr. Mistry as the executive chairman of Tata Sons.

More recently, Mr. Mistry oversaw the venture capital firm Mistry Ventures LLP, which he had helped establish in 2018.

A big loss: Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoled Mr. Mistry's death in a Twitter post.

"The untimely demise of Shri Cyrus Mistry is shocking. He was a promising business leader who believed in India's economic progress. His passing away is a big loss to the world of commerce and industry. Condolences to his family and friends. May his soul rest in peace," Mr. Modi said in a tweet.

"I am deeply saddened by the sudden and untimely demise of Mr. Cyrus Mistry," Tata Sons chairman N. Chandrabosekar said in a statement. "He had a passion for life, and it is really tragic that he passed away at such a young age. My deepest condolences and prayers for his family in these difficult times," he said.

is credited with having overseen the turnaround of Tata Motors, which has now emerged as a significant player in the passenger car industry.

A votary for exciting all loss-making ventures, Mr. Mistry formed a group executive council that was tasked with framing strategies for the group. However, some of his decisions appear to have been controversial and irked the Tatas, and barely four years into his term, Mr. Mistry was ousted in an abrupt boardroom move in 2016.

A protracted and see-saw litigation followed that finally culminated in May, when the Supreme Court dismissed a plea of the Shapoorji

Azad unveils his road map for J&K at rally

Ex-Congress leader stresses restoration of full statehood, right to land and employment for natives

PEERZADA ASHIQ JAMMU

Former Chief Minister and ex-Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad on Sunday made his road map for Jammu and Kashmir public and stressed the restoration of "full statehood and right to land and employment to native domiciles", while distancing from demands such as the pre-August 5, 2019 position or the unification of the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir.

"Our agenda is for all. We will fight for the restoration of full statehood and the right to land and employment to native domiciles. We don't want an Assembly with a Lieutenant-Governor but a Governor. We don't want outsiders to apply in J&K for jobs, which equals a drop in the ocean. If they (outsiders) apply, jobs will vanish for locals," Mr. Azad said.

He was addressing his first rally in Jammu since he quit the Congress last month. He plans to launch a political party soon.

Unlike regional parties in the Union Territory, Mr. Azad was cautious to touch on any emotive issues such



New beginning: Former Chief Minister and ex-Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azad addressing a public rally in Jammu on Sunday. ■PTI

as Article 370, seeking restoration of the pre-August 5, 2019 position, mentioning Pakistan or the demand to re-unify the erstwhile State of J&K, which included Ladakh.

In a fleeting reference to J&K's special status, Mr. Azad said it was the Dogra king Maharaja Hari Singh who negotiated a J&K Constitution within the Indian Constitution in 1947. "All the Indian Prime Ministers, including

non-Congress PMs, accepted it (J&K Constitution) in both Houses of Parliament. Who am I to question or criticise it," he said.

Elaborating on his road map for the Union Territory, Mr. Azad said he would work for the "honour, dignity, integrity of the people of J&K". "For that we need confidence-building. Also, we need to exhibit brotherhood and break the sand walls of hatred created between

communities. Hindus, Muslims and Christians are my heart beats," Mr. Azad said.

He said the people of J&K would decide the name and the flag for his party "by taking into consideration the Ganga-Jamuni culture". "Our party's name will neither reflect Moulvi's Urdu nor Pandit's Sanskrit but Hindustani, a popular language across the country," he said.

Mr. Azad said he had plans to work on generating em-

ployment for both educated unemployed and less-educated unemployed.

"I have seen the mountains of J&K closely. Places like Bungas and Tosaimadan will accommodate over one crore tourists. This needs vision. J&K is home to a treasure," Mr. Azad said.

Referring to human rights violations witnessed in J&K in the past, Mr. Azad said that all communities had suffered, including Hindus and Muslims. "I want all those migrant Pandits who intend to return to do that. The killings witnessed recently should stop. I want return and rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits," Mr. Azad said.

Attacking the Congress, Mr. Azad said he had witnessed jail term along with Indira Gandhi in the past and never compromised on his principles.

He said, "The Congress is not made by computers, tweets, SMSes. It's sad that misinformation about me is being created on WhatsApp. I wish the Congress lives in their tweets and I get to live on the ground with ordinary and poor people."

Yogendra Yadav opts for a sabbatical from SKM

He will join the Bharat Jodo Yatra soon

A. M. JIGEESH NEW DELHI

Academic-turned-political activist Yogendra Yadav has decided to opt for a "two-year" leave from the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM), a platform of farmer unions.

Mr. Yadav, who plays a key role in charting the activities of the SKM, will soon join the Bharat Jodo Yatra led by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. He has taken permission from the SKM general body held here on Sunday, to go on leave.

Talking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Yadav said that for the next two years, he would be completely involved in an effort to create a bridge between political parties and people's movements, farmers' and workers' movements, and anti-Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) movements. He said he would coordinate not just with the Congress but all political parties that offer genuine resistance.



Yogendra Yadav

He said he wanted to take the experience he had gained from the farmers' movement to a higher level.

"What is the point of this experience if it stops only at the repeal of three laws. We don't know if after two years we will have this Constitution of the country or that it [the country] will be made a Hindu Rashtra. So right now, every success must be linked to that larger challenge," he added.

He said his work in the immediate future would be connected with anything that contributes to the 2024 Lok Sabha election. "I will continue to function as a volunteer of the SKM," he said.

'Former CJJ was silent on Assam NRC irregularities'

Ex-coordinator flags flaws in exercise

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GUWAHATI

The exercise to update the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam was an expensive failure and former Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi was silent on the irregularities committed under former State NRC Coordinator Prateek Hajela, his successor Hitesh Dev Sharma said.

The Supreme Court, which monitored the NRC exercise, transferred Mr. Ha-jela, an Assam-Meghalaya cadre IAS officer, to his home State Madhya Pradesh soon after the complete draft list of citizens was published on August 31, 2019. About 19.06 lakh out of the 3.3 crore applicants were left out of the list due to lack of proper documents.

40% were ineligible

"The family tree verification part of the exercise was faulty. I had checked the documents of 2,300 people after taking charge and found 900 of them were enlisted erroneously, which suggests

40% of the people included are ineligible," Mr. Sarma, who retired as NRC Coordinator on July 31, said.

Mr. Sarma blamed his predecessor for all the anomalies, including underpayment of data entry operators engaged in the updating exercise, despite striking a hefty deal with system integrator Wipro.

Aabhijeet Sharma of Assam Public Works, the NGO whose petition in the court more than a decade ago led to the updating of NRC, apologised to the people of Assam for facilitating an exercise that "helped foreigners become Indians instead of ejecting them".

Insisting that 100% re-verification was necessary to save the indigenous people of Assam from being pulverised by "illegal migrants", he said his organisation would approach the courts again for an audit of the ₹1,600-crore spent on the NRC updating exercise. The BJP-led Assam government, too, wants the NRC to be re-verified.

TELANGANA STATE MEDICAL SERVICES & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Director of Health Campus, Sultan Bazar, Hyderabad-55, Telangana State
Tender Notice No. 5/2022/Surgical/MW/TSMSIDC, Dt. 03.09.2022
Tenders are invited through e-procurement platform (online) for Procurement and supply of following under Rate contract: 1. General Consumables, 2. Specialty Consumables, 3. Devices, 4. Sutures from Manufacturers, Importers and Authorized Distributors. Managing Director, TMSIDC reserves the right to cancel this tender at any time without assigning any reason. For complete details, please visit Web site <https://tender.telangana.gov.in> from 05.09.2022 onwards.
Set
RO No: 625-PP/LC/AGENCY/ADVT/1/2022-23
MANAGING DIRECTOR

कार्यालय अधिशाषी अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, खण्ड नोखा
क्रमांक - 1431-1438 दिनांक - 30/8/22
Notice Inviting Bid - 09/2022-23
Bids for Various Works related Major Repair Work on various Roads of Municipal Board Nokha are invited from interested bidders upto 01.09.2022 (09:30 AM) to 20.09.2022 (06:00 PM), other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal <http://www.pwd.rajasthan.gov.in>, & <http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in> of the state and departmental website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 390.00 Lakh.
NIB CODE No: PWD2223A1786
UBN - PWD2223WSOB06643
UBN - PWD2223WSOB06644
Executive Engineer
PWD Dn. Nokha
DIPRC/11384

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, संभाग-भरतपुर
क्रमांक: ए.सी.ई.बी.टी.पी.निविदा/2022-23/बी-1406 दिनांक: 29.08.2022
निविदा सूचना संख्या: 13/2022-23
राजस्थान के राज्यपाल माहोदय की ओर से भरतपुर संभाग के अन्तर्गत जिला भरतपुर एवं काली में 01 भरतपुर सौख्य सड़क का निर्माण कार्य व 01 टोडाभीम बाईपास रोड निर्माण कार्य (दोष निवारण अर्थ 5 वर्ष सहित) के लिए उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार/केन्द्रीय सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों/ केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/ डाक एवं दूर संचार विभाग/ रेलवे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के विभिन्न सक्षम श्रेणी के संवेदकों के सम्बन्ध में, से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई-प्रोक्यूरमेंट प्रक्रिया हेतु अनिवार्य निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।
निविदा से संबंधित समस्त विवरण वेबसाइट www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in एवं www.sppp.raj.nic.in पर देखा जा सकता है। इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेबसाइट www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर रजिस्टर करवाना आवश्यक है।
NIB No. - PWD2223A1784
UBN No. - PWD2223WLOB06640, UBN No. - PWD2223WLOB06641
DIPRC/11375/22 अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER UPPER INDRAVATI PROJECT, MUKHGUDA, KALAHANDI : ODISHA : 766026
e-mail ID : cceup1987@gmail.com / louipbbsr@gmail.com
TENDER CANCELLATION NOTICE
It is notified that, the Tender published on Dated-24.11.2018 vide e-Procurement Notice No - CCE, UIIP-06(01)/2018-19 Dated-13.11.2018 is hereby cancelled.
Chief Construction Engineer, Upper Indravati Project, Mukhguda
A-476: OPR-32352/11/00022223

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154
Registered & Corporate Office: Bidyut Unnayan Bhavan Plot No.: 3/C, LA - Block, Sector- III, Bidhannagar, Kol-700106
Notice Inviting E-Tender ICA-T15693(3)/2022
Ref. No.: WBPDDL / Tend-Adv/22-23/Corp/CC-970 Date: 02.09.2022
NIT No.: WBPDDL / CORP/NIT/E1566/22-23 Dated: 25.07.2022
E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at <https://wbenders.gov.in>, by the General Manager(M&C), WBPDDL, from eligible agencies/companies for "Hiring of a Non-A-C four wheeler commercial vehicle for official work at Assanul Area, through e-tendering for 01 (one) year". Tender Document Download Start Date: 05.09.2022 from 17.00 hrs. Bid Submission End Date: 19.09.2022 at 10:00 hrs. Contact Person: Mr. Subhasis Bhattacharya, Manager (Civil)(M&C), Contact No: 9475851451. E-mail: subhattacharya@wbpdcl.co.in For details please visit <https://wbenders.gov.in>

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154
Registered & Corporate Office: Bidyut Unnayan Bhavan Plot No.: 3/C, LA - Block, Sector- III, Bidhannagar, Kol-700106
Notice Inviting E-Tender ICA-T15693(3)/2022
Ref. No.: WBPDDL / Tend-Adv/22-23/Corp/CC-969 Date: 02.09.2022
NIT No.: WBPDDL / CORP/NIT/E1585/22-23 Dated: 02.09.2022
E-Tenders in prescribed format are invited at <https://wbenders.gov.in>, by the General Manager(M&C), WBPDDL, from eligible agencies/companies for "E-tender cum reverse auction for comprehensive Operation & maintenance of 1089 kW Grid Connected Rooftop Solar Photovoltaic Power Plant on different buildings in Sandul Thermal Power Station, Hoojity, West Bengal including warranty obligation for 03 (Three) years". Tender Document Download Start Date: 05.09.2022 from 10:00 hrs. Bid Submission End Date: 13.09.2022 at 17:00 hrs. Contact Person: Smt. Sulagna Das, Manager (PS), M&C, Contact No: 8240042058. E-mail: s.dass@wbpdcl.co.in For details please visit <https://wbenders.gov.in> ICA-T15693(3)/2022

राजस्थान राज्य भारत स्काउट व गाइड राज्य मुख्यालय
जवाहरलाल नेहरू मार्ग, ब्रह्मपुर नगर, खण्ड-1 - 302016 (राज.)
दफ्तरी नं. - 0141-270633, 254198 6-नं - jashourajasthan@bshgajil.org
क्रमांक: ए.क.4(1)/संलग्न/जम्पू/2022-23/4871 दिनांक: 02/09/2022
ई-बोली सूचना - 1 (सितंबर 2022-2023)
भारत स्काउट व गाइड, राष्ट्रीय मुख्यालय, वरिष्ठ दिल्ली एवं राज्य मुख्यालय, जम्पूर के तत्कालीन में आयोजित होने वाली 10वीं राष्ट्रीय स्काउट/गाइड जम्पूर एवं जम्पूर एवं दिल्ली विभिन्न/गतिविधियों में निम्नानुसार सामग्री/सिपिन्य कार्य/सेवाएं हेतु समस्त अनुभव/परीक्षा एवं प्रशिक्षण कार्य करने वाली स्त्रियों से निविदा प्रपत्र में ई-बोली प्रक्रिया के अन्तर्गत निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है :-
क्र.सं. कार्य का नाम अनुमानित लागत UBN नं.
1 टैन्क वास्तव्य (किराये पर) 1,60,00,000/- 85G223SLOB00015
2 प्री कोर्टोटेड सोलार पैनल व सनानार की जम्पूर (क्या करने हेतु) 1,22,80,000/- 85G223SLOB00016
3 जम्पूर कित सामग्री (क्या करने हेतु) 1,20,00,000/- 85G223SLOB00017
निविदा से सम्बंधित विस्तृत जानकारी, रोप नियम एवं वरिष्ठ वेबसाइट www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in एवं www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in तथा इस कार्यालय की वेबसाइट <https://rajscoutandguide.org> पर देखी/ब्राउज़र की जा सकती है।
राज्य स्काउट जम्पूर
DIPRC/11513

'Dark sky reserve' to come up in Ladakh

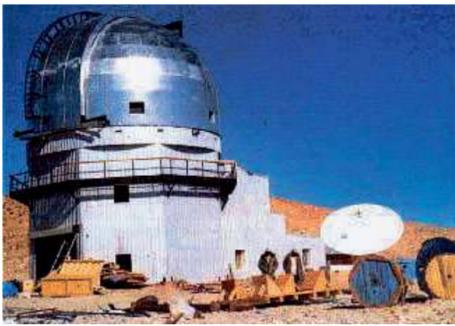
Hanle, situated 4,500 m above sea level, is one of the world's most optimal sites for astronomical studies

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

In a first-of-its-kind initiative, the Department of Science & Technology (DST) has announced the setting up of India's first dark sky reserve at Hanle in Ladakh in the next three months.

Hanle, which is about 4,500 metres above sea level, hosts telescopes and is regarded as one of the world's most optimal sites for astronomical observations. However, ensuring that the site remains well-suited for astronomy implies keeping the night sky pristine, or ensuring minimal interference to the telescopes from artificial light sources such as electric lights and vehicular lights from the ground.

A dark sky reserve is a designation given to a place that has policies in place to ensure that a tract of land or region has minimal artificial



Reaching the stars: The Himalayan Chandra Telescope at Hanle in Ladakh. ■ FILE PHOTO

light interference. The International Dark Sky Association is a U.S.-based non-profit that designates sites as international dark sky places, parks, sanctuaries and reserves, depending on the criteria they meet. Several such reserves exist around the world but none so far in India.

In June, a three-way Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed among the Union Territory administration, the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Leh, and the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), Bengaluru, which uses and maintains the telescopes, for launching

the dark space reserve. Science Minister Jitendra Singh, on Saturday, following a meeting with R.K. Mathur, Lieutenant-Governor, Ladakh, said that the site "will have activities to help in boosting local tourism and economy through interventions of science and technology".

Annapurni Subramaniam, director, Indian Institute of Astrophysics, said that to promote astro-tourism, villages around Hanle would be encouraged to promote homestays equipped with telescopes that visitors can use to view the night sky.

Villagers would also be trained to help visitors with astronomical observations. "There would be some restrictions on vehicles and headlights during the evening. There will be delineators on roads like you do outside observatories. People can come, park, observe the sky

and stay in homestays," she told *The Hindu*.

Ideal conditions

The Indian Astronomical Observatory, the high-altitude station of the IIA, is situated to the north of Western Himalayas, at an altitude of 4,500 metres above mean sea level. Located atop Mt. Saraswati in the Nilamkhul Plain in the Hanle Valley of Changthang, it is a dry, cold desert with sparse human population.

The cloudless skies and low atmospheric water vapour make it one of the best sites in the world for optical, infrared, sub-millimetre, and millimetre wavelengths.

The Himalayan Chandra Telescope, High Energy Gamma Ray Telescope, Major Atmospheric Cherenkov Experiment Telescope and GROWTH-India are the prominent telescopes located at the Hanle observatory.

Captive Assam elephant abused in T.N., says PETA

Assam officials in Chennai to inspect elephant's condition

RAHUL KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), India has submitted a veterinary inspection report to Forest Department officials in Tamil Nadu and Assam, to establish the continued abuse of a captive female elephant, Joymala, in a temple.

A four-member team from Assam, headed by Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Hridayesh Mishra, is currently in Tamil Nadu to inspect the condition of the elephant.

Joymala, renamed Jeymalyatha, was reportedly given on a six-month lease to Tamil Nadu from Assam in 2008 and never returned, making her continued use in the southern State illegal un-



Joymala was given on a six-month lease to Tamil Nadu from Assam in 2008.

der the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

The elephant was kept in the illegal custody of the Srivilliputhur Nachiyar Thirukovil temple for over a decade, PETA India said.

PETA India veterinarian Nithin Krishnegowda on

Sunday said there had been false claims that Joymala, chained to the floor at the Krishna Kovil temple, was in "fine" health despite being "old" and that all the problematic mahouts who tortured her had been dismissed.

"If she has been found to be healthy enough to travel, she must be transported to an elephant rescue centre immediately, where she can receive specialised care," Mr. Krishnegowda said.

On Friday, the team of officers and veterinarians from Assam met Tamil Nadu government officials in Chennai and handed over documents related to the leasing of Joymala and her current status.

"They said they would study the papers and get back," a team member said.

'Assured return plan of PFRDA in final stages'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) is giving final touches to the assured return investment plan under the NPS architecture, while keeping the option to offer a fixed minimum return or benchmark it to a real-time rate open, a top official has said.

It is most likely to give the final shape to the product by the end of this month. However, the launching may take another few months, PFRDA chairperson Supratim Bandyopadhyay said.

As the name suggests, the scheme intends to offer a minimum guaranteed return to investors. However, the regulator has not yet decided on the quantum.

Scientists remain sceptical about how nano urea benefits crops

While the inventor says farmers are benefiting from it, several experts have questioned the science underlying its efficacy

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

Nano urea, a fertilizer patented and sold by the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Ltd. (IFFCO), has been approved by the government for commercial use because of its potential to substantially reduce the import bill, but several experts have questioned the science underlying its efficacy.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while inaugurating a nano urea production plant at Kalol in Gujarat on May 28, said, "... A small bottle (500 ml) of nano urea is equivalent to one 50-kg bag of granular urea currently used by farmers."

IFFCO's nano urea contains nitrogen, an element critical for plant development, in the form of granules

that are a hundred thousand times finer than a sheet of paper. At this nano scale, which is about a billionth of a metre, materials behave differently than in the visible realm.

Ramesh Raliya, 34, who is credited as the inventor of nano urea and is now a consultant with IFFCO, told *The Hindu* that his process used "organic polymers" that kept the nano particles of nitrogen stable and in a form that could be sprayed on plants.

Chemically packaged urea is 46% nitrogen, which means a 45-kg sack contains about 20 kg of nitrogen.

Contrastingly, nano urea sold in 500-ml bottles has only 4% nitrogen (or around 20 g). How this can compensate for the kilograms of nitrogen normally required

puzzles scientists.

Plants need nitrogen to make protein and they source almost all of it from soil bacteria which live in a plant's roots and have the ability to break down atmospheric nitrogen, or that from chemicals such as urea into a form usable by plants.

To produce one tonne of wheat grain, a plant needs 25 kg of nitrogen. For rice, it is 20 kg of nitrogen, and for maize, it is 30 kg of nitrogen. Not all the urea cast on the soil, or sprayed on leaves in the case of nano urea, can be utilised by the plant. If 60% of the available nitrogen was used, it would yield 496 kg of wheat grain. Even if 100% of 20 g of nano urea, which is what is effectively available, is utilised by the plant, it will yield only 368 g of grain, said



Key element: Nano urea contains nitrogen granules that are a hundred thousand times finer than a sheet of paper. ■ VIJAY SONEJI

N.K. Tomar, retired Professor of Soil Science at Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, Hissar, Haryana.

"Therefore, total attempt is futile and causing sheer wastage of money. This claim of IFFCO is unfounded and will be disastrous for farmers," he notes in a letter to the NITI Aayog as well as the National Academy for Agricultural Sciences. Dr. Tomar

told *The Hindu* that they had not yet responded to his letter.

Dr. Tomar's views are seconded by I.P. Abrol, former Deputy Director-General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).

"Urea is highly water soluble and already reaches the lowest form of concentration when absorbed. How nanoparticles can increase the effectiveness of nitrogen up-

'Nod based on existing rules'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers on Sunday said nano urea had been allowed for commercial use on the basis of the existing rules that provisionally allow fertilizers to be used based on data from only two cropping seasons.

"It has been wrongly quoted in the news report that the process has been 'fast tracked'. It is clarified that the established and existing procedure for registration of any fertilizer for notification as per Fertiliser Control Order (FCO), 1985 has been fully accounted for," the Ministry said in a statement.

Agnipath top on Army chief's agenda during Nepal trip

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Army chief General Manoj Pande proceeded on a four-day visit to Nepal on Sunday. His visit comes amid Nepal's concerns over the new Agnipath scheme for recruitment of soldiers into the Indian Army.

"This visit will provide an opportunity to take stock of the existing bilateral defence ties and strengthen cooperation in areas of mutual interest," the Army said in a statement.

The Agnipath scheme is

expected to figure prominently during Gen. Pande's discussions in Nepal. Ten days ago, Nepal postponed a recruitment drive for Gurkha soldiers into the Indian Army in Butwal.

Nepal domicile Gurkhas Then, the Ministry of External Affairs stated that the Indian Army would continue to recruit Nepal Domicile Gurkhas (NDGs) under the Agnipath scheme.

There have been apprehensions on the lack of pension for the Agniveers re-

cruited under the scheme. Continuing a tradition of friendship between both Armies, the Indian Army chief will be conferred with the honorary rank of General of the Nepal Army on Monday in a ceremony at Sital Nivas, the official residence of the President of Nepal, the statement said.

The Army chief is scheduled to visit the Nepal Army headquarters, where he will pay homage to the fallen soldiers and have interactions with the senior leadership of the Nepali Army.

ISRO tests system to recover spent rocket stages

Inflatable Aerodynamic Decelerator successfully test-flown by VSSC on a Rohini-300 sounding rocket

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully tested a technology that could aid cost-effective recovery of spent rocket stages and safely land payloads on other planets.

The Inflatable Aerodynamic Decelerator (IAD) was designed, developed and successfully test-flown by ISRO's Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) on a Rohini-300 (RH300 Mk II) sounding rocket from the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching

Station (TERLS) here on Saturday.

"This demonstration opens a gateway for cost-effective spent stage recovery and this technology can also be used in ISRO's future missions to Venus and Mars," ISRO chairman S. Somanath, who was present during the 12.20 p.m. launch, said.

Describing the IAD as a "game changer" with multiple applications for future missions, the VSSC said this was the first time that an IAD had been designed for spent-stage recovery.



Flight path: The Rohini sounding rocket carrying the IAD lifting off from Thumba in Thiruvananthapuram on Saturday.

As its name suggests, the IAD serves to decelerate an object plunging down through the atmosphere.

For Saturday's demonstration, the IAD, made of Kevlar fabric coated with polychloroprene, was packed into the

payload bay of the rocket. After the nose-cone of the rocket separated, the IAD inflated, balloon-like, at a height of 84 km using compressed nitrogen stored in a gas bottle. The IAD systematically reduced the velocity of the payload through aerodynamic drag, the VSSC said.

Once the IAD fell into the sea, it deflated by firing a deflation pyro valve. The pneumatic system used for inflating the IAD was developed by the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC), Valiyamala.

THE CROSSWORD + 13652
(set by Arden)

To solve this puzzle online, get access to our crossword site @ <https://qrqo.page.link/jjpTn>

SCAN

18 Difficult to carry a lay-by (4,8)
21 Dolly took female into an ancient temple (9)
23 Ferment in Asia, reportedly (5)
24 A gentle movement, so stylish (7)
25 China gets support from the east at the conference (7)
26 Finally get there from bottom to top and tie-up (6)
27 Raised to become a space traveller (8)

Down
1 Share manipulation by the hour - it's the same old story (6)
2 It's transgression to take over mail (4,2)
3 Russian set up, Bill negotiates (9)
4 Intricate organ, perhaps yet to be explored (5,9)
6 Master of ceremony's gone at last, I cover the church (5)
7 Six footer I love finds the remedy (8)
8 Satellite lost edge, had many problems (8)
9 "They're well known family" means something else (9,5)
15 EEC neatly managed to get some fuel (9)
16 Cargo for trendy males stopped mid way (8)
17 Rupert in trouble for being lewd (8)
19 It's local, I could source some material (6)
20 Way mature people put up a show (6)
22 Lug him on the way (5)

ACROSS
1 Ringtones are different (8)
5 Nail biting old woman in Malaysia (6)
10 Relinquish control, take day off in German city (7)
11 A Romance language first cited in criminal action (7)
12 Carol sipping long cocktail (5)
13 American trades done within minutes in the capital (9)
14 Being cruel, began having wild honey (5-7)

SUDOKU

9			1		8		2
			6				1
			2				4
		3	1	9	7		8
4							3
7			3	2	4	1	
	3				2		
	8				1		
2	6		3				8

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to puzzle 13651

A	V	N	P	S									
C	A	T	I	O	L	E	A	N	D	E	R		
A	A	R	E	A	O	P	L						
S	E	N	E	G	A	L	L	E	S	O	T	H	O
T	T	I	C	T	I	O							
O	T	H	E	L	L	O	S	A	R	A	C	E	N
R	U	W	E	T									
S	I	R	L	A	N	C	E	L	O	T			
S	T	R	I	M	E	D	N	O	N	P	L	U	S
U	N	A	D	D	A	I	C						
D	U	K	E	D	O	M	R	I	P	O	S	T	E
Y	P	O	A	O	A	L	M	N					
D	O	N	C	A	S	T	E	L	A	N	D		
T	T	E	S	N									

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

Path of renunciation

In the Bhagavata Purana, the narration about Kardama and Devahuti exemplifies the salient features of Pravritti and Nivritti in the lives of people, said Sri B. Sundarkumar in a discourse. Pravritti is our involvement in worldly matters and is natural to all of us. But at some point of time, in the course of many births, the jivatma also gains spiritual maturity in stages when the strong yearning to get out of this bondage with the material aspects of living, takes root.

After a fulfilling life in samsara, Kardama opts for the path of renunciation, Nivritti, and retires to the forest to practise meditation and bhakti. But Devahuti typifies the efforts of a majority of us who are yet to get into Nivritti. She is fortunate to get instruction from her son Kapila, the Lord incarnate. Her intuition tells her that the tree of samsara can be severed by His grace alone. Though Kapila could have given His mother immediate release, He only gives her clear-cut instruction about how to fight the challenges in the path to renunciation. As long as the senses and the mind are outward bound and attracted to the world, janma is sure for the aspirant. To overcome further births one has to control the mind and keep it detached. The mind, like the lock that is used to open as well as close, is the cause of bondage and release.

But Devahuti tells Kapila that attachment only grows stronger owing to past vasanas and that it is not possible to be free of these. How is one to deal with this standoff reality? Then Kapila shows that bhakti alone has the power to cut the knot of attachment. How is one to attain Bhakti? Is it owing to birth, wealth, or scholarship? Bhakti is developed through association with the way of life of the pious and realised souls who have renounced all.

ASK US



VIDYA BALA

Q. Recently, my wife came across a close contact who is advising investing in an agro-company based out of Chennai. These kinds of companies are asking to invest amounts of ₹1 lakh/₹2 lakh etc. and are giving guarantees of 15% and above, plus investment back in one year. I have advised her against it because quick money is never true and easy. Is there a way for us to verify the genuineness of such schemes in India?

PRABHU

A. It is a good thing that you are being cautious with such solicitations. When you are investing in a company — the first thing you need to know is whether it is a company registered under the Companies Act and has the right to take deposits. If not, they have no business taking public money. Even if they show proof that they are allowed to take deposits, it best to avoid organisations that take deposits are not NBFCs registered with RBI. This is because when a deposit-taking entity is regulated by RBI, you have a ready regulator to approach when in distress. In the case of companies under the Companies Act 2013, such redressal often goes to a court of law. Next, check the credit rating of the company. For a retail investor taking risks in options with a rating of below AA+ can be risky. If the company or LLP is unable to produce these proofs, it is best avoided.

Q. I am 23. I want to earn in the stock market. I am currently unemployed. My parents gave me ₹60,000. Where and how do I invest?

YUVRAJ

A. If you are new to investing, it is good to start at least a small sum in simple and good products like PPF. You can then learn a little more about money-investing by reading. You can consider reading books such as *Let's Talk Money* by Monika Halan and *You can be rich too: With Goal Based Investing* (P.V. Subramanyam and M. Pattabiraman) to know the basics of money and financial planning.

You can go to mutual fund websites to know the basics of mutual funds. Once you understand this a bit, you can then try to read about how stock markets work and how to understand a company's financials and business prospects. This by itself is a journey. If you want to do trading, it is best that you first understand the vagaries of the stock market before doing so.

Importantly, do not get too swayed by the 'easy money' talk that you will hear all around you, once you get into this world. Listen to audios or videos of market tips but know that — like any other journey — the financial journey also takes time to travel. There will be no short cuts that are sustainable.

Q. I am a salaried employee with take-home income of about ₹90,000 a month. I need to invest around ₹4 lakh in my wife's new business. I have invested around ₹8 lakh in mutual funds with a monthly SIP of ₹20,000 (current value ₹12 lakh). I have around ₹22 lakh in PF, where I can get loan against my contribution. I do not have much savings now. My mutual fund goal is long term only and presently, I do not have any short-term requirement from my mutual funds. Please suggest whether it is prudent to use my mutual fund corpus or take a loan from PF or take a loan from some commercial banks to fund my wife's new business.

V. ROHIT

A. This is a decision that you have to make because it is not so much a matter of numbers and more about your risk appetite and stage in life you are at. But we can help with some pointers. Ideally, it is good to use your own savings to fund new ventures than take a loan since it may take time before the business generates cash flows and you will have to pay the EMI until then.

You can even lend to the business as a loan and even get some interest out of it. This may make it more professional, unless you plan to invest as share capital or partner contribution (if it is a partnership firm).

If you decide to dip into your savings, PF (advance) is an option but it is available only for specific purposes such as education, wedding, buying land etc. and only if you have completed a certain number of years in the organisation. Check these first with your employer. There is also a limit (based on your contribution to PF) on how much you can withdraw. So, ensure you don't have a problem with it. Taking a loan can be the last resort. See if there are options specifically available for women-run small enterprises. And, make sure the business is viable enough to repay the loan. Let the loan repayment not come at the cost of stopping SIPs.

Q. I am a 21-year-old student. I am currently doing an internship with a stipend of ₹7,500 a month. I want to multiply the funds through investing. But I am very confused about investing, where to invest and how to start. Can you advise me?

RAMESH

A. Start investing in equity index mutual funds with underlying indices such as Nifty 50, Nifty Midcap 150 and Nifty 500. Start reading business newspapers and understanding companies and their numbers. You can then slowly create your own wish list of stocks and see how they perform. Listen to interviews by fund managers and follow blogs of experts such as Aswath Damodaran to understand how to value companies. This will take time and, please remember, the stock market is not a money-making machine even if social media influencers make you feel like it is. It can help build, as much as destroy, wealth.
(The adviser is Co-founder, Primeinvestor.in)

Readers can e-mail queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. The experts on personal finance will answer select queries. Moneywise will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund scheme, share or fixed deposit.

Bound to the house but still adding value

The insurance market has evolved and now provides term plans for homemakers, independent of breadwinners

SAJJA PRAVEEN CHOWDARY

Providers of the family often relentlessly shoulder the bulk of responsibilities that may even outlive them.

This is a good reason for term life insurance to be considered not only a prudent but also a non-negotiable investment for them. Simply put, when something as crucial as the family's future is at stake, the safety net should ideally be cast as wide as possible. However, until recently, limited options were available to effectively cater to the insurance needs of these breadwinners' non-earning but working partners at home — the homemakers.

Typically, protection products existed for this segment earlier as well in the form of joint life cover but they came with their share of conditions.

The coverage in these traditional plans did not do complete justice to the monumental value added by a homemaker through household work, childcare and more. Not to mention the dependence on the earning spouse meant that they could not independently opt for the plan. Last year, the Supreme Court's landmark judgment also noted that the notion of homemakers not adding any economic value is problematic and must be overcome.

The insurance market evolves as per consumer needs and societal progression, and thus, the recent introduction of

independent term homemaker policies by multiple insurers marked a milestone in this evolution. Here's a deep dive into how these plans work and how they differ from the joint life cover policies.

Ensuring better coverage

Independent term plans have widened the scope of coverage for homemakers. In these plans, the sum assured of ₹50 lakh is exclusively available for homemakers, thereby ensuring sufficient coverage for their dependents. Not just this, one can also opt for additional riders such as accidental death benefit rider to ensure extra protection in these plans. Now, if we compare the coverage with joint life cover policies, the sum assured couldn't suffice to adequately insure both spouses. The homemakers could get coverage of only 50% of the total sum assured in joint life policies.

Further, the income multiplier would be applicable as per the earning husband's yearly income. Let's say the husband's annual income is ₹5 lakh and the multiplier applicable is 15 times the annual income. In this case, the policyholder's eligibility would be for a coverage of ₹75 lakh. Now, if he takes a cover of ₹50 lakh, the homemaker is left with ₹25 lakh coverage. Keeping the policies in

the market as the benchmark, the coverage usually starts from ₹50 lakh cover as anything less than that is not enough to shield the dependents. Assuming further-

er, if the husband ends up using the whole of ₹75 lakh cover, the homemaker would not be eligible for any coverage as per

the rules. The protection is much more robust and dependable in independent homemaker term plans.

Flexible criteria

In joint life cover, the homemaker's eligibility was entirely dependent on the husband's income and his policy. To facilitate greater expansion, the eligibility criteria have been eased in independent term plans for homemakers. The plans can be purchased by buyers within the age bracket of 18-50 years. The conditions have been kept simple to make the plan more accessible and inclusive. Firstly, the policyholder should have an annual household income of ₹5 lakh, and secondly, she should be a graduate.

However, some policies just need a 10th or 12th pass qualification for aspirants to purchase the plan. These criteria have been simplified for non-earning women to easily opt for the plan and make sure their dependents are covered even in their absence.

No dependency
Unfortunately, dependency is a term that has long been associated with homemakers. However, when it comes to financial decisions, even earning women have been known to depend on the men of the family.

Homemakers have been an untapped segment for the insurance industry, and now, these plans aim to empower women consumers by completely eliminating this dependency.

With the introduction of these plans, the industry officially acknowledges the fact that term cover is as necessary for homemakers as it is for breadwinners

The policyholder no longer needs to depend on the husband's decision to buy the policy or on the income that he earns.

While the contribution made by the homemakers often doesn't get its due recognition, the fact is that their absence can severely impact the emotional as well as the financial infrastructure of a family.

With the introduction of these plans, the industry officially acknowledges the fact that term insurance is as necessary for homemakers as it is for breadwinners.

(The author is Head - Term Insurance, Policybazaar.com)



THINK INVESTOR: NEW FUND OFFERS

To invest or not to invest in NFOs

With offers flooding the market, taking the right decision is crucial

VENKATESH BANGARUSWAMY

You could be overwhelmed if you see the number of New Fund Offer (NFO) documents filed now with markets regulator SEBI for its approval. In this article, we discuss how to decide on whether to invest in an NFO.

Experience vs process

It is typical for us to explore new products and services. For instance, in eating out, it is highly likely you would want to visit a new restaurant rather than the one you went to the last time.

Investing is different. You accumulate your savings in mutual funds and fixed deposits so that you can consume new products and experience new services in the future; such as going on a world tour (experience) or buying a cottage by the seaside (material good).

Investing itself is not an experience, but a process to help achieve life goals. You must analyse NFOs in this context. It is typical of an industry to continually introduce new products, as demand for existing products may dip after a while. So, the motivation behind a company unveiling a new product may be to create additional demand, not to necessarily fulfil your existing needs.

The pricing of the product is another factor. New mutual funds are offered at a net



Applying thought: There are several factors which must be considered before going for an NFO. •GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

asset value (NAV) of ₹10 per unit. Suppose an individual must choose between an existing fund with NAV of ₹50 and an NFO priced at ₹10, small wonder that he or she will choose the NFO, as it offers five times more units for the same amount. But that is not how you should make investment choices.

Gauge performance

The first step in the investment decision should be to choose a benchmark. In the portfolio management process, this is called as a policy benchmark. Eg, do you want a fund benchmarked to the Nifty 50 Index? Your choice of the benchmark should be geared towards achieving your goal without taking

high risk. If you are saving to fund your child's college education, choosing a mid-cap fund may be risky, given that mid-caps are vulnerable to momentum crashes.

The second step is to select a fund based on the chosen benchmark. This is when you must decide whether to invest in an NFO. The principle to adopt is as follows: are funds already available on your chosen benchmark? If yes, then you should prefer existing funds.

Here's why: Investing in an active fund is about generating alpha, ie the positive excess return a fund generates over an appropriate benchmark. So, choosing an active fund requires an enquiry into whether a fund

can sustain alpha in the future, given that it has generated alpha in the past. That means analysing its performance. NFOs do not have a track record. Existing funds do. True, the absolute NAV of existing funds will be greater than the NAV of an NFO. But you should be sensitive to the expected returns on investments, not the NAV. Only when existing funds are not available on your chosen benchmark should you consider an NFO. Policy benchmarks don't matter when you invest surplus cash (not intended for any goal) in a mutual fund.

Your choice of a fund should depend on whether it offers attractive return for the associated risk. In such cases, choosing NFOs on new benchmarks could be meaningful, that too when you are uncomfortable trading stocks in the markets.

For goal-based portfolios, however, existing funds on policy benchmarks could be a better choice. This argument is not different from an active trader preferring stocks in the secondary market to initial public offers (IPOs); it is relatively easy to analyse stock trends from price charts than to read financial statements of companies making the IPO.

(The writer offers training programmes for individuals to manage their personal investments)

TECH TRAIL: PRECIOUS METALS

Dollar rally hits gold, silver

B. KRISHNAKUMAR

The weakness in precious metals witnessed in July spilled over to the month of August as well. After a recovery in the early part of the month, precious metals lost sheen in the latter half of August.

The rally in the U.S. dollar and expectations of an aggressive interest rate increase by the U.S. Federal Reserve affected sentiment towards precious metals.

As a result, Comex gold fell 3.1% in August to close at \$1,726.2 an ounce. Comex silver recorded a much steeper cut of 11.5% to settle at \$17.88 an ounce.

In the domestic market, MCX gold futures fell 2.4% to ₹50,414 per 10 gm. MCX silver futures lost 10.6% to settle at ₹53,151 per kg.

In line with expectations, the Comex gold price hit the target of \$1,825-1,835 mentioned last month. After recording a high of \$1,825 on August 10, the price turned weak in the latter half of August.

The short-term outlook for Comex gold remains weak and the price could drop to the \$1,660-1,670 zone.

A break below the crucial support level of \$1,645 will be a major sign of weakness and could push the price to further lows. Below \$1,645, Comex gold could slide to \$1,600-1,610. The price has to close above \$1,775 to invalidate the weak outlook.

Similarly, Comex silver price, too, staged a sharp recovery in the early part of August but the recovery was not strong enough to push the price to the then mentioned target zone of \$21.5-22.

Silver price recorded a high of \$20.87 on August 15 and turned weak thereafter. The short-term outlook is negative, and the price could



slide to the next support at \$16.5-16.60. A move past \$18.7 would invalidate the weak outlook.

In the domestic market, MCX gold price has been consolidating in a broad range of ₹49,900 to ₹52,600 in the past four months. The price now is near the lower end of this range. A break below ₹49,900 will be a sign of weakness and could push the price lower to ₹48,000-48,400. Only a move above ₹51,750 would invalidate the negative outlook for MCX gold.

MCX silver, too, ruled weak last month and has been in a steady downtrend for a while now.

The short-term outlook remains negative and a fall to ₹47,500-48,500 appears likely. Only a close above ₹55,400 would invalidate the negative outlook for MCX silver.

To summarise, the short-term outlook for precious metals is negative. Unless the price moves above the levels mentioned above, expect the recent weakness to persist in precious metals.

(The writer is a Chennai-based analyst/trader. This is not meant to be a trading or investment advice)

Bank fixed deposit rates					Home loan interest rates				
Bank Name	Interest Rates (%)				Bank Name	Interest Rates (%)			
	Highest Slab	1-year tenure	3-year tenure	5-year tenure		Highest Slab	1-year tenure	3-year tenure	5-year tenure
SMALL FINANCE BANKS					PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS				
AU Small Finance Bank	6.90	5.35	6.90	6.90	Bank of Baroda	6.00	5.30	5.50	5.50
Capital Small Finance Bank	6.60	6.20	6.20	6.20	Bank of India	5.50	5.30	5.35	5.35
Equitas Small Finance Bank	7.32	6.82	7.07	6.07	Bank of Maharashtra	5.50	5.40	5.40	5.40
ESAF Small Finance Bank	7.25	5.50	5.75	5.25	Canara Bank	6.00	5.50	5.75	5.75
Fincare Small Finance Bank	7.50	6.75	7.00	7.00	Indian Bank	5.75	5.45	5.75	5.65
Jana Small Finance Bank	7.35	7.00	7.25	7.25	Indian Overseas Bank	5.70	5.45	5.70	5.70
Suryoday Small Finance Bank	7.49	6.50	7.00	6.75	Punjab National Bank	6.10	5.50	5.60	5.75
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	7.50	7.00	6.50	7.20	Punjab & Sind Bank	5.80	5.65	5.75	5.75
Utkarsh Small Finance Bank	7.50	7.15	7.50	7.50	State Bank of India	6.10	5.45	5.60	5.65
					Union Bank of India	5.80	5.35	5.50	5.75
PRIVATE SECTOR BANKS					FOREIGN BANKS				
Axis Bank	6.05	5.45	5.70	5.75	Citibank	3.50	2.75	3.50	3.50
Bandhan Bank	7.00	7.00	7.00	5.60	Deutsche Bank	7.00	5.50	6.50	7.00
CSB Bank	6.00	5.00	5.75	5.75	HSBC Bank	6.00	3.10	4.00	4.00
DBS Bank	6.50	5.75	6.25	6.25					
DCB Bank	6.60	6.10	6.60	6.60					
HDFC Bank	6.10	5.50	5.50	6.10					
ICICI Bank	6.10	5.50	5.60	6.10					
IDFC First Bank	6.90	5.75	6.50	6.50					
IndusInd Bank	6.75	6.25	6.75	6.75					
Jammu & Kashmir Bank	6.25	6.25	5.75	6.00					
Karnataka Bank	6.20	6.20	5.65	5.65					
					PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS				
					Name of Lender				
					Loan Amount (Rs.)				
					Upto 30 lakh				
					Above 30 lakh & upto 75 lakh				
					Above 75 lakh				
					(in %)				
					PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS				
					State Bank of India				
					8.05-9.05				
					8.05-8.95				
					8.05-8.95				
					Bank of Baroda				
					7.95-9.45				
					7.95-9.45				
					7.95-9.70				
					Bank of India				
					7.90-9.65				
					7.90-9.85				
					7.90-9.85				
					Punjab National Bank				
					7.95-9.35				
					7.90-9.05				
					7.90-9.00				
					Bank of India				
					7.80-9.65				
					7.80-9.65				
					7.80-9.65				
					Canara Bank				
					8.05-12.85				
					8.05-12.85				
					8.05-12.85				
					UCO Bank				
					7.90-8.10				
					7.90-8.10				
					7.90-8.10				
					Bank of Maharashtra				
					7.80-9.70				
					7.80-9.85				
					7.80-9.95				
					Punjab and Sind Bank				
					7.90-9.00				
					7.90-9.00				
					7.90-9.00				
					Indian Overseas Bank				
					8.45-8.80				
					8.55-8.80				
					8.70-8.80				
					PRIVATE SECTOR BANKS				
					Kotak Mahindra Bank				
					>=7.99				
					>=7.99				
					>=7.99				
					ICICI Bank				
					8.10-9.00				
					8.10-9.00				
					8.10-9.10				
					Axis Bank				
					8.10-13.00				
					8.10-13.00				
					8.10-8.55				
					HSBC Bank				
					7.35-8.20				
					7.35-8.20				
					7.35-8.20				
					South Indian Bank				
					8.75-11.50				
					8.75-11.50				
					8.75-11.50				
					Karur Vysya Bank				
					8.05-10.25				
					8.05-10.25				
					8.05-10.25				
					Karnataka Bank				
					7.96-9.21				
					7.96-9.21				
					7.96-9.31				
					Federal Bank				
					9.05-9.10				
					9.10-9.15				
					9.15-9.20				
					HOUSING FINANCE COMPANIES (HFCs)				
					Name of Lender				
					Loan Amount (Rs.)				
					Upto 30 lakh				
					Above 30 lakh & upto 75 lakh				
					Above 75 lakh				
					(in %)				
					Dhanlaxmi Bank				
					8.35-9.50				
					8.35-9.50				
					8.35-9.50				

Chile votes on proposed Constitution

If approved, it will replace Pinochet-era charter and shift focus to indigenous rights, gender equality

ASSOCIATED PRESS
SANTIAGO

Chileans voted in a plebiscite on Sunday on whether to adopt a far-reaching new Constitution that would fundamentally change the South American country.

The proposed charter is intended to replace a Constitution imposed by the military dictatorship of General Augusto Pinochet 41 years ago.

For months, opinion polls have shown a clear advantage for the rejection camp, but the difference has been narrowing, giving hope to the charter's supporters that they can pull off a victory.

"We are clearly in a situation in which the result will be close," said Marta Lagos, head of MORI, a local pollster. "The Chilean is a political animal who decides at the last minute."

The outcome will have a



Big leap: A citizen casting a ballot during a referendum on a new Constitution in Santiago on Sunday. ■ REUTERS

resounding impact on President Gabriel Boric, 36, who has been one of the main proponents of the new Constitution. Analysts say voters also likely view the vote as a referendum on Chile's youngest-ever President, whose popularity has plunged since taking office in March.

Voting is mandatory in the plebiscite, which climaxes a three-year process that began when the country exploded in student-led street protests in 2019. The unrest was sparked by a hike in public transportation prices, but it quickly expanded into broader demands for greater

equality and more social protections.

The following year, just under 80% of Chileans voted in favour of changing the Constitution that dates from the country's 1973-1990 military dictatorship led by Augusto Pinochet.

New convention

Then in 2021, they elected delegates to a constitutional convention. Amid the anti-establishment fervour of the time, Chileans largely chose people outside the traditional political establishment to draft the new Constitution. It was the first in the world to be written by a convention split equally between male and female delegates.

After months of work, delegates came up with a 178-page document with 388 Articles that, among other things, puts a focus on social issues and gender parity, en-

shrines rights for the country's Indigenous population and puts the environment and climate change centre stage in a country that is the world's top copper producer. It also introduces rights to free education, health care and housing.

The new Constitution would characterise Chile as a plurinational state, establish autonomous Indigenous territories and recognise a parallel justice system in those areas, although lawmakers would decide how far-reaching that would be.

In contrast, the current Constitution is a market-friendly document that favours the private sector over the state in aspects like education, pensions and health care. It also makes no reference to the country's Indigenous population, which makes up almost 13% of the country's 19 million people.

Hamas executes five Palestinians

REUTERS
GAZA

Gaza's ruling Hamas executed five Palestinians on Sunday, two of them on charges of espionage for Israel that dated back to 2015 and 2009, the Interior Ministry said.

The executions, by hanging or firing squad, were the first in the Palestinian territories since 2017. Past cases of capital punishment being carried out in Gaza have drawn criticism from rights groups.

The Ministry did not provide full names for any of the condemned men. It said three had been convicted of murder. The two convicted spies, aged 44 and 54, had given Israel information that led to the killing of Palestinians, it said. The Israeli Prime Minister's Office declined comment.

U.K. to learn name of new PM today

Queen will invite winner to form govt.



A file photo of Conservative leadership candidates Liz Truss and Rishi Sunak, left, during an event in London. ■ REUTERS

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
LONDON

The U.K. will get a new Prime Minister on Tuesday, with the Conservative Party leadership contest between Foreign Secretary Liz Truss and former Chancellor Rishi Sunak having concluded on Friday. Ms. Truss is expected to win a majority of the votes from over 1,60,000 Conservative members, unless the polls and bookmakers have consistently been off the mark.

The results of the contest will be announced at 12.30 p.m. local time (5 p.m. IST) on Monday. The new Prime Minister will replace Boris Johnson after Queen Elizabeth II invites the winner to form a new government on Tuesday, following Mr. Johnson's resignation.

Speaking to the BBC on Sunday morning, Ms. Truss said there would be an announcement about tackling "eye-watering" energy bills and long-term energy supply within a week of her hypothetical appointment as Prime Minister, but declined to provide details. "Well, I absolutely accept that we face very, very serious challenges, which will require immediate action," she said in response to a question about whether the U.K. was at a crisis point.

Ms. Truss, who reiterated

her commitment to roll back National Insurance (i.e., social security) tax increases by the current Tory government, said that it was fair that people who pay more into the system (i.e., wealthier people) are benefited more from the policy.

"But to look at everything through the lens of redistribution, I believe is wrong. Because what I'm about is about growing the economy and growing the economy benefits everybody," she said, stressing that the roll-back was needed because the government had said it would not raise these taxes, but had done so.

Mr. Sunak also spoke to the BBC on Sunday. While also declining to name the amount Britons would receive to help pay energy bills, Mr. Sunak provided some indication of how he would tackle the situation, pointing to his record as Chancellor – when he introduced a furlough scheme through which employers were supported in keeping employees on their payrolls.

Quizzed on whether he would run again (assuming he lost on Monday), Mr. Sunak did not rule it out, saying he would want to recover from this campaign and support the Conservative government in "whatever capacity".

Trump brands Biden 'enemy of the state'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WILKES BARRE

Donald Trump branded Joe Biden an "enemy of the state" on Saturday as he hit back at the U.S. President's assertion that the Republican and his supporters are undermining American democracy, and slammed last month's FBI raid of his Florida home.

Making his first public appearance since the raid, he told a rally in Pennsylvania that the search was a "travesty of justice" and warned it would produce "a backlash the likes of which nobody has ever seen." "He (Biden) is an enemy of the state... The enemy of the state is him".

Obama wins Emmy for narrating documentary

Boseman wins award posthumously

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LOS ANGELES

Former U.S. President Barack Obama was awarded an Emmy for narrating his Netflix documentary series *Our Great National Parks*, the Television Academy announced on Saturday.

Mr. Obama had already won a pair of Grammy Awards – for audio versions of his memoirs *The Audacity of Hope* and *Dreams from My Father* – so he now only needs an Oscar and a Tony to complete the estimable EGOT (referring to those who have won an Emmy, a Grammy, an Oscar, and a Tony). To date, 17 people have done it.



Barack Obama

The late Chadwick Boseman also won an Emmy for his voice work on Saturday. The *Black Panther* actor won for outstanding character voiceover for the Disney+ and Marvel Studios animated show *What If...?* (With AP inputs)

Ukraine Prime Minister visits Berlin, seeks more weapons

Germany will continue to stand by Kyiv's side: Steinmeier

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BERLIN

Ukraine Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal brought Kyiv's plea for more weapons to Germany on Sunday, saying his country needed additional help in its battle against Russia.

Mr. Shmyhal is the first high-level Ukrainian official to visit Germany in months, in a sign of eased tensions between Kyiv and Berlin after a rocky patch.

The first stop on his trip was a meeting with President Frank-Walter Steinmeier, where Mr. Shmyhal "discussed the military sit-

uation, strengthening sanctions and the need to provide weapons for Ukraine," he said on Twitter.

Mr. Shmyhal, who will meet Chancellor Olaf Scholz later Sunday, also thanked Germany "for solidarity with Ukrainians and support".

Germany will "continue to stand reliably by Ukraine's side," Mr. Steinmeier reassured Mr. Shmyhal, according to the German President's spokeswoman.

The Ukrainian PM's visit marked a sharp change in tone, after a row erupted in April when Kyiv rebuffed Mr.

Steinmeier's offer to travel to Ukraine.

Mr. Steinmeier, a former Foreign Minister from Mr. Scholz's Social Democratic Party (SPD), had been shunned over his years-long detente policy towards Moscow – something which he has admitted was a mistake following the outbreak of war.

The SPD has historically championed close ties with Russia, born out of the "Ostpolitik" policy of rapprochement and dialogue with the then Soviet Union, devised by former SPD Chancellor Willy Brandt in the 1970s.

SPORT



Man of the moment: Substitute Martin netted the all-important goal for Odisha. ■ RITU RAJ KONWAR

Pedro Martin is Odisha's hero

The team will meet BFC in last eight

DURAND CUP

SPORTS BUREAU

Pedro Martin, who came in as a late substitute, netted the all-important goal to help Odisha FC beat Army Green 1-0 in the concluding Group D league match of the 131st Durand Cup football tournament in Guwahati on Sunday.

The win saw Odisha FC top the league table with an all-win record and tally 12 points from four matches.

The ISL side scored 12 goals with none conceded in

the league stage. Kerala Blasters, which garnered seven points, was the group runner-up and also progressed to the knock-out stage (quarterfinals).

According to the quarter-final line-up announced by the organiser, Odisha will meet Group A runner-up Bengaluru FC, while Blasters take on Group A topper Mohammedan Sporting SC.

The final positions of groups B and C will be decided on Monday.

The first half was barren as the Army outfit did not seem to have the requisite

arsenal to overwhelm the well-knit defence of Odisha.

The match lived up to the final quarter after Odisha coach Josep Gombau brought in some substitutions to spruce up the attack.

This set up the Odisha goal as Martin was released unmarked inside the Army box with a defence-splitting pass from substitute Paul Ramfangzaava and the former finished with a powerful grounder.

The result: Army Green 0 lost to Odisha FC 1 (Martin 83).

Services, Delhi and Haryana bag titles

WRESTLING

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

Services, with 144 points, won the team title in the Greco-Roman category at the National u-23 wrestling championship which concluded at the Rajiv Gandhi indoor stadium here on Sunday.

Delhi (192 points) topped the men's freestyle table

while Haryana (225 points) won the honours in the women's section.

The results (finals):
Men: Greco-Roman: 63kg: Kewal (HP) bt Govind (Mah) by technical superiority. **77kg:** Sachin (Chd) bt Deepak (SSCB) by points. **87kg:** Sushant (SSCB) bt Ankit (Chd) by tech sup.

Freestyle: 70kg: Sunny (Del) bt Rahul (Chd) by tech sup. **86kg:** Sandeep (Pun) bt Jojity (UP) by points.

Women: 55kg: Juli (UP) bt

Aarti (Har) by fall.

62kg: Shefali (Har) bt Lovleen (Pun) by points. **76kg:** Priyanka (Har) bt Kartika (HP) by tech sup.

Team championships:
Men: Greco-Roman: 1. SSCB (144 pts), 2. Chandigarh (135), 3. Maharashtra (135).

Freestyle: Men: 1. Delhi (192 pts), 2. Haryana (161), 3. UP (131).

Women: 1. Haryana (225 points), 2. UP (152), 3. Maharashtra (111).

Salento wins Race2win.com Deccan Colts Championship Stakes

HYDERABAD: Trainer Arjun Manglorkar's Salento, ridden by Antony Raj S, won the Race2win.com Deccan Colts Championship Stakes, the main attraction of Sunday's (Sept. 4) races here. The winner is owned by M/s. Arun Alagappan Racing LLP, M/s. Rapar's Galloping Stars LLP, Mr. Joydeep Datta Gupta & Mr. Rajan Aggarwal.

Antony Raj kept Salento calmly in sixth position till the bend and as they came into the straight, he manoeuvred his way to take charge and snatched the verdict from Ashoka.

This son of Speaking Of Which helped Manglorkar complete a hat-trick of Colts Championship. His previous winners were Impavid (2019) and Kensington (2021).

1. HUSSAIN SAGAR CUP (1,400m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): **QUALITY WARRIOR (B.R. Kumar)** 1, The Akhanda (Ashad Asbar) 2, Philanthropist (Kiran Naidu) 3 and 4. Sweet Meloy (Surya Prakash) 4. 3-1/4, 4-3/4 and 1. Im, 27.83s. ₹60 (w), 14, 10 and 13 (p). SHP: 62, THP: 33, SHW: 18 and 10, FP: 180, Q: 29, Tanala: 53. Favourite: The Akhanda. Owners: Mr. L.D'Silva, Mr. Syed Nawaz Hussain, Mr. E. Anoop Kumar Reddy, Mr. Abhinav Vinod Sigitia, Mrs. Nirupama Chodagang. Trainer: L.



Rewarding a champion: Salento's trainer Arjun Manglorkar, right, receiving the winner's trophy from Y. Gopi Rao, MD, Razor Gaming Private Limited. ■ G. RAMAKRISHNA

D'Silva.

NOTE: Royal Pal (Gaurav Singh) upped up awkwardly soon after the start and did not jump out of the gates.

2. MOUNT PLEASANT PLATE (DIV. I) (1,200m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II): **THE THUNDER (Ashad Asbar)** 1, Wind Sprite (Afroz Khan) 2, Sergeant Reckless (Kiran Naidu) 3 and City Cruise

(Nakhat Singh) 4. Not run: Palladium. 1-1/2, 3/4 and 1. Im, 14.93s. ₹13 (w), 10, 17 and 13 (p). SHP: 43, THP: 44, SHW: 11 and 43, FP: 60, Q: 56, Tanala: 145. Favourite: The Thunder. Owner: Mr. B.E. Vasanth Kumar. Trainer: M. Srinivas Reddy.

3. HYDERABAD CITY POLICE COMMISSIONER'S CUP (DIV. II) (1,200m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II):

1. FLAMINGO FAME, 2. GOOD TIDINGS, 3. RED RIVER

7. MANCHERIAL PLATE (1,200m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 5:00:

1. THE SENSATION (I) Ashad Asbar 60, 2. Black Onyx (S) D.S. Deora 58.5, 3. Cosmic (9) B. Nikhil 57.5, 4. Essential (10) Suraj Narredu 57.5, 5. Hot Seat (6) Akshay Kumar 57.5, 6. Salisbury (8) Afroz Khan 55.5, 7. Battle Ready (7) Raheem Sk. 51, 8. Lightning Fairy (2) Khurshad Alam 51, 9. Sweet Talk (4) P. Sai Kumar 51 and 10. Aarya (3) P. Vikram 50.5.

1. THE SENSATION, 2. BLACK ONYX, 3. HOT SEAT

Day's Best: FALCON EDGE Jackpot: 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7 Mini Jackpot: (i) 1, 2, 3 & 4. (ii) 4, 5, 6 & 7. Treble: (i) 2, 3 & 4, (ii) 5, 6 & 7. Tanala: All races.

1. FALCON EDGE, 2. ASHWA RAUDEE

3. MAKALU PLATE (1,600m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 2:40:

1. Southern Art (7) Md. Ismail 60, 2. Best Buddy (3) Nakhat Singh 59.5, 3. Aiza (4) A.A. Vikrant 54, 4. Team Player (2) Gaurav Singh 53, 5. Exponent (6) Surya Prakash 51.5, 6. Glimmer Of Hope (1) P. Vikram 51.5 and 7. Fly To The Stars (5) Afroz Khan 51.

1. TEAM PLAYER, 2. SOUTHERN ART, 3. AIZA

4. ASAF JAH VII MEMORIAL CUP (2,000m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 3:15:

1. Skipton (4) Suraj Narredu 60, 2. Icicle (7) A.A. Vikrant 55.5, 3. Just Incredible (2) Kuldeep Singh 53, 4. Wallop And Gallop (5) Ajeeth Kumar 52, 5. Miss Marvellous (6) B. Nikhil 51.5, 6. Princess Daka (3) Akshay Kumar 51 and 7. Bold Bidding (1) Abhay Singh 50.5.

1. BOLD BIDDING, 2. PRINCESS DAKA, 3. ICICLE

5. TOTARAM'S CUP (1,800m), rated 60 to 85 (Cat. II), 3:50:

1. Falcon Edge (4) Akshay Kumar 60, 2. Kesariya Balam (3) M. Madhu Babu 56, 3. Saifron Art (2) Kiran Naidu 55, 4. Fire Power (1) Ajeeth Kumar 54.5, 5. House Of Diamonds (6) Abhay Singh 53 and 6. Ashwa Raudee (5) D.S. Deora 51.

1. FALCON EDGE, 2. ASHWA RAUDEE

FULL VOLUME (Suraj Narredu) 1, Amyra (Santosh Raj) 2, Top In Class (Kuldeep Singh) 3 and Makhtooob (C.S. Jodha) 4. Im, 13.35s. ₹27 (w), 12, 22 and 19 (p). SHP: 59, THP: 45, SHW: 19 and 35, FP: 157, Q: 114, Tanala: 1,530. Favourite: N R I Touch. Owner: Mr. Teja Gollapudi. Trainer: Laxman Singh.

4. MAHABUBNAGAR PLATE (1,200m), 5-y-o & upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): **BEDFORD (Santosh Raj)** 1, Lineowler (Kiran Naidu) 2, N R I Blue (Koushik) 3 and Theo's Choice (P. Sai Kumar) 4. 5, 2 and 3/4. Im, 13.81s. ₹130 (w), 29, 19 and 97 (p). SHP: 116, THP: 187, SHW: 54 and 27, FP: 1,764, Q: 1,303, Tanala: 25,998. Favourite: Star Racer. Owners: Mr. Teegala Vijender Reddy & Mr. Narendra Vithaldas Shah. Trainer: N. Rawal.

7. MOUNT PLEASANT PLATE (DIV. II) (1,200m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II): **STRAUSS (Suraj Narredu)** 1, Dyanooos (B.R. Kumar) 2, Temptations (Ajeeth Kumar) 3 and Avancia (A.A. Vikrant) 4. Not run: True Marshal. 2-1/4, 2 and 2. Im, 14.13s. ₹14 (w), 12, 16 and 15 (p). SHP: 37, THP: 42, SHW: 11 and 37, FP: 54, Q: 56, Tanala: 108. Favourite: Strauss. Owner: Miss. Ameeta Mehra. Trainer: K.S.V. Prasad Raju.

Jackpot: 70%: ₹2,59,477 (2 tkts.) & 30%: 74, 136 (3 tkts.). Mini Jackpot: (i) 16, 536 (4 tkts.), (ii) 43,607 (2 tkts.). Treble: (i) 887 (80 tkts.), (ii) 3,603 (35 tkts.).

Uphill task for India women

They will strive to remain in Division-A

BASKETBALL

K. KEERTHIVASAN
BENGALURU

There is no hiding the fact that India is the lowest-ranked team, at 52, among the eight countries taking part in Division-A of the FIBA Asian women's under-18 basketball championship to be held at the Sree Kanteerava Indoor Stadium here from September 5 to 11.

While the top four teams from here will qualify for the FIBA under-19 World Cup to be held in Madrid, India will hope against hope to finish in the top eight and remain in Division-A.

"The cream of world basketball and not just Asian basketball is here. It will be a big challenge for India. Six teams are world-class teams. Between Taipei and Indonesia, Taipei is stron-

ger," said Veselin Matic, head coach of the Indian men's team, after watching the Chinese and Korean teams practise on Sunday.

"The only way to remain in Division-A is to beat Indonesia."

According to the Serb, the Indian team has to shrug off the "lack of aggression" mentality if it has to improve.

Arnika Patil, head coach of the Indian women's team here, knows how uphill is the task ahead.

"The players are excited and there is a lot of anxiety as well. We had a camp for 45-60 days here. We didn't have much exposure due to COVID-19, but we will do our best," she said.

The groupings: Division-A: Group-A: India, Australia, New Zealand, Korea. B: China, Japan, Taipei & Indonesia.

Resilient Pakistan aces the chase in final over thriller

The 73-run third-wicket stand between Rizwan and Nawaz tilts the balance in favour of Babar's men; Kohli comes good for India again

ASIA CUP

ASHWIN ACHAL
DUBAI

Pakistan overcame a few tense moments to record a five-wicket win over India in their Asia Cup Super 4 contest at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium here on Sunday.

Chasing 182, Pakistan reached home with one ball to spare. A 73-run third-wicket stand between Mohammad Rizwan (71, 51b, 6x4, 2x6) and Mohammad Nawaz (42, 20b, 6x4, 2x6) put Pakistan on the right track. Southpaw Nawaz, promoted up the order to tackle leg-spinners Ravi Bishnoi and Yuzvendra Chahal, smacked it around.

Pakistan was in cruise control when the duo was in action. It took a clever slower ball from Bhuvneshwar Kumar to remove Nawaz. In the next over, India was back in the contest after Rizwan holed out to long-off.

The 18th over, bowled by Bishnoi, proved to be dramatic. A wide call from the umpire was reviewed by India, and replays showed the faintest of touches. The third umpire stuck to the wide call, allowing Asif Ali to bat on.

The very next ball, Asif lobbed the simplest of catches to short third-man fielder Arshdeep Singh, who inexplicably spilled it.

The drop proved to be costly, as Asif hit a six and a

four in the next over to effectively seal the contest. Arshdeep returned to bowl the last over, with Pakistan needing seven to win. He managed to trap Asif leg-before, but it was too little too late.

Virat Kohli, who was seen clutching his hamstring, left the field after the PowerPlay. After being put in to bat, India reached a good score. Openers K.L. Rahul (28, 20b, 1x4, 2x6) and Rohit Sharma (28, 16b, 3x4, 2x6) gave India a quick start, putting on 54 runs in 5.1 overs.

Kohli (60, 44b, 4x4, 1x6) brought up his second successive fifty. Rahul struggled with his strike rate in the previous outing, but this time around, he took a more aggressive approach. In the third over, Rahul lofted pacer Naseem Shah over cover for a six.

A few deliveries later, Rahul played a remarkable helicopter shot, sending the ball straight and onto the sight-screen. Rahul perished to Shadab Khan, mishitting a googly to long-on.

A front-front pull off fast bowler Haris Rauf over cow corner was the highlight of Rohit's stint.

Rohit then skied a slower ball from Rauf, between cover and point. Fakhar Zaman, at point, nearly made a mess of the chance by colliding with Khushdil Shah, but the latter kept his cool to latch on. It was a forgettable night in the field for Zaman, who



Power Play: Kohli's innings was trumped by Nawaz's all-round display in Sunday's blockbuster. *AP

conceded two fours – including a catch – in the last two deliveries of the Indian innings. Kohli kept the scoreboard ticking by placing his

shots in the gaps and running hard. He reached his fifty in style, whipping an over-pitched ball from Mohammad Hasnain into the



mid-wicket stand. Suryakumar Yadav, the star of the Hong Kong outing, started with a cut shot which raced to the fence. A top

edge, however, ended Suryakumar's innings short on 13. Rishabh Pant (14, 12b, 2x4) did not make much impact with the bat.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA

K.L. Rahul c Nawaz b Shadab 28 (20b, 1x4, 2x6), Rohit Sharma c Khushdil b Rauf 28 (16b, 3x4, 2x6), Virat Kohli run out 60 (44b, 4x4, 1x6), Suryakumar Yadav c Asif b Nawaz 13 (10b, 2x4), Rishabh Pant c Asif b Shadab 14 (12b, 2x4), Hardik Pandya c Nawaz b Hasnain 0 (2b), Deepak Hooda c Nawaz b Naseem 16 (14b, 2x4), Bhuvneshwar Kumar (not out) 0 (0b), Ravi Bishnoi (not out) 8 (2b, 2x4); Extras (b-4, w-10): 14; Total (for seven wickets in 20 overs): 181.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-54 (Rohit, 5.1 overs), 2-62 (Rahul, 6.1), 3-91 (Suryakumar, 9.4), 4-126 (Pant, 13.5), 5-131 (Hardik, 14.4), 6-168 (Hooda, 18.4), 7-173 (Kohli, 19.4)

PAKISTAN BOWLING

Naseem 4-0-45-1, Hasnain 4-0-38-1, Rauf 4-0-38-1, Nawaz 4-0-25-1, Shadab 4-0-31-2.

PAKISTAN

Mohammad Rizwan c Suryakumar b Hardik 71 (51b, 6x4, 2x6), Babar Azam c Rohit b Bishnoi 14 (10b, 2x4), Fakhar Zaman c Kohli b Chahal 15 (18b, 2x4), Mohammad Nawaz c Hooda b Bhuvneshwar 42 (20b, 6x4, 2x6), Khushdil Shah (not out) 14 (11b, 1x4), Asif Ali lbw b Arshdeep 16 (8b, 2x4, 1x6), Iftikhar Ahmed (not out) 2 (1b); Extras (lb-2, w-6): 8; Total (for five wickets in 19.5 overs): 182.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-22 (Babar, 3.4), 2-63 (Zaman, 8.4), 3-136 (Nawaz, 15.3), 4-147 (Rizwan, 16.5), 5-180 (Asif, 19.4).

INDIA BOWLING

Bhuvneshwar 4-0-40-1, Arshdeep 3.5-0-27-1, Bishnoi 4-0-26-1, Hardik 4-0-44-1, Chahal 4-0-43-1.

Toss: Pakistan; MoM: Nawaz.

Rohit lauds Rizwan and Nawaz

SPORTS REPORTER
DUBAI

India captain Rohit Sharma lauded the opposition batters after Pakistan beat India by five wickets in a last-over thriller in a Super 4 match of the Asia Cup on Sunday.

"It's a high-pressure game and you've got to be at it every time. A game like that can take a lot. We were calm even when there was a partnership between Rizwan and Nawaz. But that partnership obviously went a little long and they batted brilliantly," said Rohit at the post-match presentation.

"Games like this can bring the best out of them if they deliver. These are the games that can make them. They've done it in the past. There's class in the other team as well. And we're not surprised by that," said the India skipper.

About Kohli, Rohit said: "Virat's form is brilliant. Every batter, especially Virat, helped us get to that score."

Turning point
Pakistan captain Babar Azam explained the rationale behind Nawaz's promotion.

"The Rizwan-Nawaz partnership was the turning point. I had a hunch Nawaz would be the key against their two leg-spinners," said Babar.

Tilak Varma lights up the day with fluent knock

His century on India-A debut gives hosts a 171-run lead; Kuldeep impresses on a tough track



What a start! Tilak's stroke-filled innings was one of the highlights of the match. *K. MURALI KUMAR

NZ-A IN INDIA

P.K. AJITH KUMAR
BENGALURU

Only one result looked likely when the final day of the first "Test" between India-A and New Zealand-A got underway on an overcast Sunday morning. The match indeed ended in a draw at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, but not before a teenaged batter scored a sparkling, maiden First Class hundred and an experienced wrist-spinner came up with a fine spell that should make him feel better.

The captains agreed to call off the match when 15 overs were remaining. The visitors had made 133 for four in their second innings, after conceding a lead of 171.

Improvement

Two of those wickets were claimed by Kuldeep Yadav, who finished with two for 38 from 22 overs, a significant improvement from one for 119 from 34 overs in the first. The left-arm wrist-spinner bowled well on a track that didn't offer much.

He ended the 51-run partnership for the opening

wicket, making Chad Bowes edge to slip. The other opener, Rachin Ravindra, scored 40 (84b, 6x4) before he was cleaned up by left-arm seamer Yash Dayal. New Zealand-A's first-innings hero Joe Carter didn't last long; he fished outside the off-stump against the other left-arm pacer Arzan Nagwaswalla and was caught behind for 14.

Earlier, the host resumed at 492 for four with both the overnight batters, Rajat Patidar and Tilak Varma, in sight of personal milestones. Patidar, though, failed to convert his hundred on India-A debut into a double. He could add just six more - 176 (256b, 41Imin, 14x4, 4x6) - before seamer Logan van Beek had him caught at deep square-leg. The fifth-wicket partnership was worth 186.

Tilak, also making his debut, completed his hundred, however, with a splendid cut off van Beek. It was in fact his maiden First Class hundred, which came in only his fifth match. The stroke-filled knock (121, 183b, 259m, 9x4, 6x6) from the 19-year-old was, in fact, one of the highlights of the match.

The scores: New Zealand-A - 1st innings: 400.

India-A - 1st innings: Priyanka Panchal c O'Donnell b Ravindra 47, Abhimanyu Easwaran b Rippon 132, Ruturaj Gaikwad st Fletcher b Ravindra 21, Rajat Patidar c Walker b van Beek 176, Sarfaraz Khan c Fletcher b Duffy 36, Tilak Varma c Walker b Solia 121, K.S. Bharat (not out) 23, Kuldeep Yadav (not out) 8; Extras (b-3, lb-3, w-1): 7; Total (for six wickets, decl. in 143 overs): 571.

Fall of wickets: 1-123, 2-157, 3-261, 4-325, 5-511.

New Zealand-A bowling: Duffy 27-6-90-1, van Beek 26-2-102-1, Solia 17-1-73-1, Ravindra 32-3-112-2, Rippon 22-1-101-1, Walker 16-0-81-0, O'Donnell 3-0-6-0.

New Zealand-A - 2nd innings: Chad Bowes c Ruturaj b Kuldeep 24, Rachin Ravindra b Dayal 40, Joe Carter c Bharat b Nagwaswalla 14, Mark Chapman lbw b Kuldeep 23, Cam Fletcher (not out) 14, Sean Solia (not out) 10; Extras (lb-1, nb-7): 8; Total (for four wickets in 61 overs): 133.

Fall of wickets: 1-51, 2-75, 3-100, 4-111.

India-A bowling: Mukesh 10-3-21-0, Nagwaswalla 11-2-26-1, Kuldeep 22-6-38-2, Sarfaraz 6-0-23-0, Dayal 10-4-19-1, Tilak 2-0-5-0.

Reigning supreme



Fantastic finish: Odisha Juggernauts edged out Telugu Yoddhas 46-45 in an exciting final of the inaugural edition of Ultimate Kho Kho in Pune on Sunday. *SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Savaj is here!



Let's roar: Savaj, the mascot for the 36th National Games to be held in Gujarat from Sept. 27, was unveiled by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Ahmedabad on Sunday. *VIJAY SONEJI

Nadal makes it 18-0 against Gasquet

Swiatek overcomes Davis; Alcaraz registers 47th win of the season

U.S. OPEN

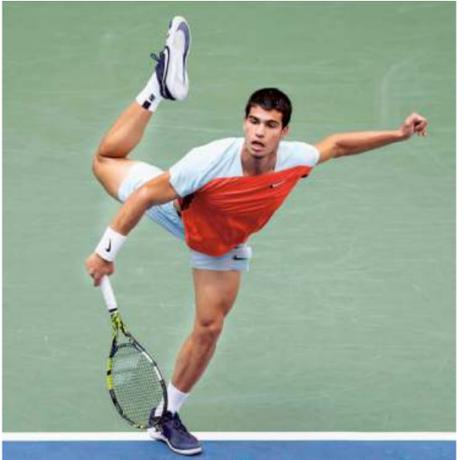
AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
NEW YORK

Rafael Nadal defeated close friend Richard Gasquet for the 18th time to reach the US Open fourth round on Saturday as World No. 1 Iga Swiatek made the last 16 for a second successive year.

Four-time champion Nadal took his record over Gasquet to a perfect 18-0 with a 6-0, 6-1, 7-5 victory to stay on course for a 23rd Grand Slam title.

Nadal has now won 34 straight sets against Frenchman Gasquet who he first played as a junior.

Next up is 22nd seed Frances Tiafoe for a place in the quarterfinals.



In red-hot form: Alcaraz was at his marauding best against Brooksby. *AFP

on the back of 46 winners.

Alcaraz, a quarterfinalist in 2021, managed to break one of his tennis shoes as he slid to reach a ball mid-match.

Alcaraz next faces 2014 champion Marin Cilic, who fired 26 aces and 74 winners in total past Britain's Dan

Evans in a 7-6(11), 6-7(3), 6-2, 7-5 win.

THE RESULTS

Fourth round: Men: 13-Berrettini (Ita) bt Davidovich Fokina (Esp) 3-6, 7-6(2), 6-3, 4-6, 6-2; **Third round: Men:** 11-Sinner (Ita) bt Nakashima (USA) 3-6, 6-4, 6-1, 6-2; 15-Cilic (Cro) bt 20-Evans (GBR) 7-6(11), 6-7(3), 6-2, 7-5; 3-Alcaraz (Esp) bt Brooksby (USA) 6-3, 6-3, 6-3; 7-Norie (GBR) bt 28-Rune (Den) 7-5, 6-4, 6-1; 9-Rublev (Rus) bt 19-Shapovalov (Can) 6-4, 2-6, 6-7(3), 6-4, 7-6 (10-7); 22-Tiafoe (USA) bt 14-Schwartzman (Arg) 7-6(7), 6-4, 6-4; 2-Nadal (Esp) bt Gasquet (Fra) 6-0, 6-1, 7-5.

Women: 1-Swiatek (Pol) bt Davis (USA) 6-3, 6-4; 8-Pegula (USA) bt Yue (Chn) 6-2, 6-7(6), 6-0; 26-Azarenka (Blr) bt Martic (Cro) 6-3, 6-0; 22-Pliskova (Cze) bt 13-Bencic (Sui) 5-7, 6-4, 6-3; 19-Collins (USA) bt Cornet (Fra) 6-4, 6-4; 6-Sabalenka (Blr) bt Burel (Fra) 6-0, 6-2.

World No. 1 Swiatek downed unseeded Lauren Davis 6-3, 6-4, reeling off five successive games in the second set.

EURO LEAGUES

AGENCIES
MANCHESTER

Marcus Rashford scored twice as Manchester United made it four wins in a row and ended Arsenal's perfect start to the Premier League season with a 3-1 victory at Old Trafford on Sunday.

Gabriel Martinelli looked to have given Arsenal a 12th-minute lead after finishing off a swift break but the effort was disallowed following a VAR review.

Martinelli forced two saves out of United keeper David De Gea as the visitors began to dominate but it was the home side which drew first blood through debutant Antony.

Cool finish

The Brazilian winger, signed from Ajax last week, was found on the right by Rashford and coolly drifted a shot into the far bottom corner. Arsenal deservedly drew level when the outstanding



Two goal hero: Rashford, centre, slots in United's second against Arsenal. *AP

Martin Odegaard threaded a ball towards Gabriel Jesus in the box and after a challenge by Raphael Varane the ball fell to Bukayo Saka who slotted home.

Superb through ball

United restored its advantage in the 66th minute, however, when Bruno Fernandes found Rashford with a superb through ball and the England striker beat the advancing Aaron Ramsdale. It was another swift coun-

United outguns Arsenal in exciting clash

Rashford stars with a brace; Barcelona rides its luck before blanking Sevilla



Raphinha headed in the rebound after Lewandowski's dinked effort was cleared off the line, but the Poland star didn't need long to get on the scoresheet himself.

Lewandowski controlled a flighted pass from Jules Kounde on his chest and volleyed past Bono for his fifth league goal in four appearances. Eric Garcia tapped in Barcelona's third five minutes after half-time.

The results: Premier League: Brighton 5 (Thomas 10-og, Caidedo 15, Trossard 64, Mac Allister 71-pen, 90) bt Leicester 2 (Iheanacho 1, Daka 33); Manchester United 3 (Antony 35, Rashford 66, 75) bt Arsenal 1 (Saka 60).

La Liga: Osasuna 2 (Oroz 54, Garcia 90) bt Rayo Vallecano 1 (Lejeune 75); Athletic Bilbao 0 lost to Espanyol 1 (Braithwaite 83). **On Saturday: La Liga:** Sevilla 1 lost to Barcelona 3 (Raphinha 21, Lewandowski 36, Garcia 50).

Serie A: Lazio 1 (Zaccagni 4) lost to Napoli 2 (Kim 38, Kvaratskhelia 61).

LIVE TELECAST

Durand Cup: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Voot Select, 3 & 6 p.m.
US Open: Sony Ten 2, Six (SD & HD) & LIV, 8.30 p.m. onwards
Serie A: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Voot Select, 10 p.m. & 12.15 a.m. (Tuesday)
La Liga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Voot Select, 12.30 a.m. (Tuesday)

IN BRIEF

Fourth straight victory for Bagnaia
MISANO ADRIATICO (ITALY)
Italy's Francesco Bagnaia won the San Marino MotoGP on Sunday to claim his fourth straight premier class triumph. The Ducati rider pipped Enea Bastianini in a thrilling win which moved him to within 30 points of reigning world champion Fabio Quartararo, who was fifth. AFP

Giants sign up Gayle
NEW DELHI
Adani Sportsline owned Gujarat Giants has picked up Chris Gayle on Saturday. He will play alongside Virender Sehwag as the Legends League Cricket kicks off from Sept. 16.

The squad: Virender Sehwag (Capt.), Parthiv Patel, Chris Gayle, Elton Chigumbura, Chris Tremlett, Richard Levi, Graeme Swann, Joginder Sharma, Ashoke Dinda, Daniel Vettori, Kevin O'Brien, Stuart Binny, Mitchell McClenaghan, Lendl Simmons, Manvinder Bisla and Ajantha Mendis.

Anishka triumphs
KUALA LUMPUR
Six-year-old Anishka Biyani won the under-6 Open for girls in the Malaysian age-group rapid chess championship on Sunday. Anishka scored four points out of a possible six. PTI

Nishimoto, Yamaguchi win
OSAKA
Home favourites Kenta Nishimoto and Akane Yamaguchi won the men's and women's singles titles respectively at the Japan Open badminton on Sunday. **The results (finals): Men:** Kenta Nishimoto (Jpn) bt Chou Tien-chen (Tpe) 21-19, 21-23, 21-17; **women:** Akane Yamaguchi (Jpn) bt An Se-young (Kor) 21-9, 21-15.

Aravindh, a worthy champion

Draws with Praggnanandhaa in final round to take the title with 7.5 points

DUBAI OPEN

SPORTS BUREAU

Precisely a week before turning 23, Aravindh Chithambaram emerged the worthy champion of the Dubai Open chess tournament after a final-round draw with sparring partner R. Praggnanandhaa in Dubai on Sunday.

Less than 24 hours after stunning second seed Arjun Erigaisi and taking the sole lead, 13th seed Aravindh signed the peace with fourth seed Praggnanandhaa in 38 moves to take the title with 7.5 points from nine rounds.

The two-time former National champion received



Aravindh. • TWITTER/CHESSCOM.IN

\$13,000 and a trophy after topping a formidable field that saw seven Indians among the top-10 finishers.

Top-seeded Russian Alexandr Predke was runner-up

after a five-way tie for the second spot at seven points. Praggnanandhaa, Abhijeet Gupta, Sammed Shete and S.P. Sethuraman followed in that order.

Arjun, whose ploy of trading his queen for a rook and a bishop by the 17th move backfired against Aravindh eventually resulted in a 45-move defeat on Saturday evening, took the seventh spot following an eight-way tie.

Important results (Indians unless stated):

Ninth round: Aravindh Chithambaram (7.5) bt R. Praggnanandhaa (7); Alexandr Predke (FIDE, 7) drew with Ahmed Adly (Egy, 6.5); Harsha Bharathakoti (6.5) drew with Arjun Eri-

gaisi (6.5); Abhijeet Gupta (7) bt Sandipan Chanda (6); Arghyadip Das (6) lost to S.P. Sethuraman (7); Aram Hakobyan (Arm, 6) lost to Sammed Shete (7).

Eighth round: Praggnanandhaa drew with Predke; Arjun lost to Aravindh; Adly drew with Abhijeet; Sethuraman drew with Hakobyan; Chanda bt Vladimir Akopian (USA); Aghyadip bt Rinat Jumabayev (Kaz); Ortik Nigmatov (Uzb) lost to Harsha.

Final standings (top-14): 1. Aravindh (7.5 points), 2-6. Predke (FIDE), Praggnanandhaa, Abhijeet, Sammed, Sethuraman (7 each); 7-14. Arjun, Alexandar Indjic (Srb), Seyed Kian Poormosavi (Iri), Harsha, Ziaur Rahman (Ban), Adly (Egy), Samvel Ter-Sahakyan (Arm) and Arjun Kalyan (6.5 each).

Verstappen triumphs

DUTCH GP

ASSOCIATED PRESS
ZANDVOORT (NETHERLANDS)

Formula One championship leader Max Verstappen made quick work of a safety car restart to win the Dutch Grand Prix on Sunday in front of 100,000 adoring fans, and make it four straight wins for the first time in his F1 career.

Verstappen's 10th victory matched his tally from last year and the Red Bull driver extended his lead to 109 points.

With seven races left, a second straight title is looking increasingly likely as his challengers – Ferrari's Charles Leclerc and Red Bull teammate Sergio Perez in joint second – continue to fall further back. George Russell finished

second for Mercedes ahead of Leclerc, with Lewis Hamilton fourth.

The results (top-15):

1. Verstappen (Red Bull) 1:36:42.773; 2. Russell (Mercedes) +4.071s; 3. Leclerc (Ferrari) +10.929s; 4. Hamilton (Mercedes) +13.016s; 5. Perez (Red Bull) +18.168s; 6. Alonso (Alpine) +18.754s; 7. Norris (McLaren) +19.306s; 8. Sainz (Ferrari) +20.916s; 9. Ocon (Alpine) +21.117s; 10. Stroll (Aston Martin) +22.459s; 11. Gasly (AlfaTauri) +27.009s; 12. Albon (Williams) +30.390s; 13. Mick Schumacher (Haas) +32.995s; 14. Vettel (Aston Martin) +36.007s; 15. Magnussen (Haas) +36.869s.

Standings (top-5): Drivers: 1. Verstappen 310 points; 2. Leclerc and Perez 201; 4. Russell 188; 5. Sainz 175.

Constructors: 1. Red Bull 511; 2. Ferrari 376; 3. Mercedes 346; 4. Alpine 125; 5. McLaren 101.

Mushfiqur retires from T20Is

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DHAKA

Bangladesh wicketkeeper Mushfiqur Rahim on Sunday announced his retirement from T20Is to focus on the longer formats.

The 35-year-old, however, intends to continue playing franchise cricket "when the opportunity arises". "I would like to announce my retirement from T20 INTERNATIONALS and focus on Test and ODI formats," Mushfiqur wrote on Twitter.

"I will be available to play franchise leagues when the opportunity arrives. Looking forward to represent my nation in the two formats," he added.

Lahiri moves to fourth

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BOLTON (US)

India's Anirban Lahiri compiled another fine round of 5-under 65 and moved into fourth place at the LIV Golf Invitational Series event. Lahiri was 9-under and just three behind the leader, Talor Gooch (63-65), while Joaquin Neumann was second with rounds of 64-65. Dustin Johnson (67-63) was third.

Mastermind Academy does well in international meet

SOFT TENNIS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Mastermind Academy celebrated a clutch of medals won recently by its six-member team in the World Tour International soft tennis championship in Pattaya, Thailand.

The six-member team from the academy won three gold, three silver and six bronze medals, in various sections from under-15 to the over-35 events, in the competition that featured teams from 15 countries including Korea, Japan and China.

The only girl in the Delhi team, Khushi Sachdeva won the under-21 bronze, mixed doubles gold with Aniket Patel, apart from the team bronze.

Mohammad Akhtar won the over-35 doubles gold. Abhimanyu Khokhar won



High point: Tarun Kapoor, Yashwant Yadav, Khushi Sachdeva, Muhammad Akhtar, Abhimanyu Khokhar and Hriday Rawal won 12 medals between them. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

the singles bronze, doubles silver apart from being part of the bronze winning team.

Yashwant Yadav won the singles silver in the under-15 section and the doubles gold in the under-18 event. He al-

so won the doubles bronze in under-15.

Hriday Rawal won the singles and doubles bronze in the under-15 section. Tarun Kapoor won the under-18 doubles silver medal.

Thumping win for OTHL

NEHRU JR. HOCKEY

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Delhi-based NGO One Thousand Hockey Legs (OTHL) registered a huge 18-0 win over Modern School in a Pool D match of the 50th Nehru junior hockey tournament here on Sunday with Aakash Majhi scoring five goals and captain Manmohan Kumar Singh getting four.

It was the biggest margin

on a day where most games saw equal battles.

Damodar Higher Secondary School, Goa drew 2-2 with SN Trust, Kollam in Pool A and Mayo College, Ajmer split points with Punjab Public School, Nabha in Pool B with a 1-1 draw.

The results: Pool A: Damodar HSS, Goa 2 (Bharat Goankar 2) drew with SN Trust, Kollam 2 (Anish Minz 2); **Pool B:** Mayo College, Ajmer 1 (Jaiwant Singh Jhala) drew with Punjab PS, Nabha 1 (Dilraj Singh); **Pool C:**

Govt. HS, Kawnpui 3 (Ricky Lal-humhima, Zothanpuia, Lalruat-sanga) bt Krida Prabodhini, Pune 1 (Kartik Patare).

Pool D: OTHL 18 (Aakash Majhi 5, Manmohan Kumar Singh 4, Priyanshu 2, Ankit Kumar 2, Subhash 2, Sumit Kumar, Lalit Kumar, Bhupender Singh) bt Modern School, Delhi 0.

Pool E: O.P. Jindal School, Raigarh 10 (Piyush Kumar 3, Nee-raj Kumar Singh 3, Mohit Pandey 2, Nikhil Prajapati, Ambikesh Singh) bt Sainik School, Tilaiya 1 (Satyam Kumar Mehta).

DELHI ROUND-UP

Aatrey and Kush shine

Man-of-the-match Aatrey Tirpathi took three for two and Kush scored 81 n.o. as Players Academy beat Lala Ramcharan Aggarwal Club by six wickets in sixth Skillz Youth u-19 tournament.

The scores: LRAC 165 in 35 overs (Yash Chadela 41, Priyanshu Sheryaar 38, AatreyTirpathi 3/2) lost to Players Academy 166/4 in 34

overs (Kush 81 n.o.).

Farman and Akash bat well

Farman Khan's 99 not out and Akash's unbeaten 60 saw Maanvish Club defeat Young Star Club by seven wickets in Friendship tournament.

The scores: YSC 218 in 39 overs (Vansh 63, Tanay Aggarwal 3/37) lost to Maanvish 219/3 in 29 overs (Farman Khan 99 n.o., Akash 60 n.o.).

Asiad, CWG medallist boxer Sah no more

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Asian Games and Commonwealth Games bronze medal winning boxer Birju Sah passed away in Jamshedpur on Saturday night. He was 48 and is survived by his wife, a son and a daughter. Sah bagged bronze me-

dals in the light flyweight category at the 1993 Asian junior championships and 1994 Asian Games and Commonwealth Games. Later, he went through financial crisis and took up an odd job of a security guard with a private firm in Jamshedpur for some time.

BusinessLine



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Time: From 5:30 pm onwards

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