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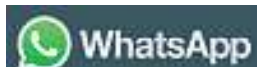
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Government of India**Shri Ajay Prakash Sawhney**
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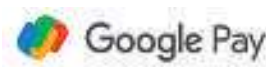
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29th September

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30th September

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By UNNNY



EXPLAINED



**AN EXPERT EXPLAINS
INDIA AND THE
MERKEL YEARS**
PAGE 15

ACTIVE COVID CASES CONTINUE TO FALL

First in 6 months: under 3 lakh cases, but double mid-Feb tally

Kerala slowing, but still 15,000 daily cases; Mizoram big worry

AMITABH SINHA
PUNE, SEPTEMBER 27

WHILE KERALA continues to contribute more than 15,000 Covid-19 cases daily, a steady slowdown in the rest of the country has brought the number of active cases below the 3-lakh mark for the first time in six months.

There has been a gradual decline in Kerala as well, with the daily count of cases below

20,000 for 10 days now. Over the last two weeks, active cases in the state have fallen from over 2 lakh to about 1.63 lakh.

Kerala still accounts for about 55 per cent of all active cases in the country, though.

However, the state that is causing the most concern right now is not Kerala, but Mizoram. The small Northeastern state has been reporting an unusually high number of cases for the past few weeks, consistently figuring in the top five contributors to

fresh infections, alongside the much bigger states of Kerala and Maharashtra.

Over the past 20 days, Mizoram, a state of barely 12 lakh people, has discovered close to 24,000 cases. That means about 30 per cent of the state's entire caseload of 88,000 since the beginning of the pandemic, has come in the last three weeks.

With close to 16,000 active cases, Mizoram has the fourth largest count in the country right

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

EXPLAINED
Far from February situation

IN MID-February, the daily case count had fallen below 15,000; now, Kerala alone is contributing the same number of cases daily and the daily count country-wide is at least 25,000. Also, deaths then were in double digits; now, over 250 are dying daily.

Unique digital ID for citizen health and care facilities

Records will be protected, step to help poor and middle class: PM at launch

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

ALMOST A year after it was implemented on pilot basis in six Union Territories, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission for the entire country Monday. It involves creation of not just a unique health ID for every citizen, but also creation of digital healthcare professionals and facilities registry.

The Prime Minister said the digital initiative has the "potential of bringing a revolutionary change in India's healthcare facilities... Today, we will enter a new phase in our campaign to strengthen health facilities. Today, a mission is being started which has huge power to revolutionise the health facilities of India... This



PM Narendra Modi at the launch of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission Monday. PTI

mission will play a big role in overcoming problems faced by the poor and middle class in the country in accessing treatment".

He underlined that through the initiative — it will enable individuals to discover hospitals, laboratories and pharmacies across the country — the health record of every citizen will be

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

No intention to fulfil statement: HC raps Delhi govt on promise to tenants

SOFIAHSAN
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

WHILE QUESTIONING the Delhi government for making a statement without intending to fulfil it, the Delhi High Court on Monday stayed its earlier order directing the State to frame a policy towards implementation of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's statement of March 2020, in which he had said that the authorities would pay the rent if any tenant was unable to do so.

"If you can say, say boldly that I had no intention but I had spoken the statement," a division bench of Chief Justice D N Patel and Justice Jyoti Singh told the government during the hearing of an appeal filed by the government against a verdict passed by Justice Prathiba M Singh in July.

Justice Singh's order came on a petition filed by five daily-wage workers and a landlord over a statement the CM made last year,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Changes in Gujarat new political philosophy, says Bhupender Yadav



LIZ MATHEW & ESHA ROY
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

CHANGE OF guard in BJP- ruled states was intended to bring up the next generation of leaders, and the complete revamp of the Gujarat government was a collective decision of the state and central leadership, Union Minister and party general secretary Bhupender Yadav said at an Idea Exchange session of *The*



Bhupender Yadav at the Idea Exchange. Gajendra Yadav

Indian Express.

As a fresh set of leaders takes over the government, seniors would work for the party ahead

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Detailed transcript to be published on October 4

EXPRESS NETWORK



BHARAT BANDH: MIXED RESPONSE, HIGHWAYS BLOCKED, TRAINS STOPPED IN SOME AREAS PAGE 8

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

COVID TO CLIMATE: THE Cs OF THE QUAD
BY PRATAP BHANU MEHTA
PAGE 12

MAMATA SEAT: LAST DAY OF CAMPAIGN

BJP says leader beaten up, EC seeks report

SANTANU CHOWDHURY
KOLKATA, SEPTEMBER 27

THE ELECTION Commission has sought a report from the West Bengal government on incidents during the last day of campaigning for the Bhabanipur bypoll on Monday, which Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee needs to win to make her way to the Assembly.

The EC action followed a complaint by the BJP that its national vice-president Dilip Ghosh had been forced to cut short his visit to the seat after he was "kicked and pushed" and that its workers were heckled by the ruling Trinamool, leaving at least two injured.

The BJP lodged a complaint



At a TMC campaign on Monday. Partha Paul

against TMC MLA Madan Mitra and Deputy Commissioner of Police (South Division) Akash Magharia. It asked the EC that Mitra be told to leave Bhabanipur and Magaharia taken off poll duty. Ghosh demanded that the bypoll be suspended.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

India gets first herbicide-tolerant & non-GM rice varieties; launch today

HARISH DAMODARAN
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

THE INDIAN Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) has developed the country's first-ever herbicide-tolerant rice varieties that can be directly seeded and significantly save water and labour compared to conventional transplanting.

The varieties — Pusa Basmati

1979 and Pusa Basmati 1985 — contain a mutated acetolactate synthase (ALS) gene making it possible for farmers to spray Imazethapyr, a broad-spectrum herbicide, to control weeds. This dispenses with the need to prepare nurseries where paddy seeds are first raised into young plants, before being uprooted and replanted 25-35 days later in the main field.

The two new varieties are scheduled to be officially re-

leased by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday.

Paddy transplantation is both labour- and water-intensive. The field where the seedlings are transplanted has to be "puddled" or tilled in standing water. For the first three weeks or so after transplanting, the plants are irrigated almost daily to maintain a water depth of 4-5 cm. Farmers continue giving water every two-three days even for the next

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



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AIR - 09



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AIR - 11



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AIR - 12



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AIR - 13



RIA DABI
AIR - 15



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On the occasion of the birth anniversary of
Amar Shaheed Sardar Bhagat Singh Ji,

‘DESHBHAKTI CURRICULUM’ IN DELHI’S SCHOOLS FROM TODAY

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PATRIOTISM. NOW EVERY CHILD WILL
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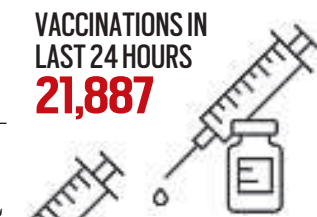
-Arvind Kejriwal
Chief Minister, Delhi



5 THE CITY



VACCINATIONS IN
LAST 24 HOURS
21,887



		Total		Vacant
		HOSPITAL BEDS	16,344	
		ICU BEDS	3,556	3,490
	Cases	Recoveries	Deaths	Tests
Sept 26	29	37	0	62,546
Sept 27	32	37	0	50,367
Total	366*	14,13,295	25,085	2,74,59,389

*Total active cases

EXPERTS CITE ANTIBODIES AFTER SECOND WAVE, VACCINATION RATE Covid cases below 100 for 3 months

MALLICA JOSHI
& ASTHA SAXENA
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

COVID CASES reported daily in Delhi have remained under 100 for three months now, data shows. The last time Delhi saw more than 100 cases was on June 28 this year, when 101 cases were recorded. No Covid deaths have been seen in the past 10 days.

According to officials and experts, the high case count seen in Delhi in April and May, and the resultant antibodies, is among the main reasons for the low case count at present.

Between April 15 and May 31, Delhi saw 6.4 lakh cases — an average of 13,600 per day. The highest number of cases in a day was over 28,000 in April. This was also the highest number of cases seen in any city in the country.

Police chief questions 7 arrested in 'terror plot'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

DELHI POLICE Commissioner Rakesh Asthana visited the Special Cell's office in Lodhi Colony on Monday evening and questioned seven men, including two allegedly trained by Pakistan's ISI, who were arrested in connection with a terror plot earlier this month.

"Around 8.45 pm, Asthana reached the New Delhi Range's office and, after interacting with senior officers, called the arrested men for questioning. Special CP (Special Cell) Neeraj Thakur and DCP (Special Cell) Pramod Kushwaha were present in the room when Asthana questioned them one by one," a senior police officer said.

At the time of the arrests, Thakur had said: "We have arrested Jaan Mohammed Sheikh (47), a resident of Maharashtra; Osama alias Sami (22), a resident of Jamia Nagar; Moolchand alias Saaju (47), a resident of Rae Bareilly; Zeeshan Qamar (28), resident of Allahabad; Mohd Abu Bakar (23), resident of Bahraich; and Mohd Amir Javed (31), a resident of Lucknow."

Osama's uncle Humaidur-Ur-Rehman was arrested later.

PIL not a forum to settle scores: Centre on plea against Asthana pick

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court Monday reserved its judgment on the PIL challenging IPS Officer Rakesh Asthana's appointment as Commissioner of Delhi Police. Opposing the petition, the Centre argued that the Prakash Singh judgment of the Supreme Court does not apply to Delhi.

"The petitioners may have some personal vendetta against (Asthana) but PIL is not the forum for settling scores. PIL is an industry. It is a career by itself," argued Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta. He said Delhi has no State cadre and that the Prakash Singh judgment applies only to appointment of police chiefs of states. ENS

Approved by AICTE and affiliated to Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Technical University, Lucknow

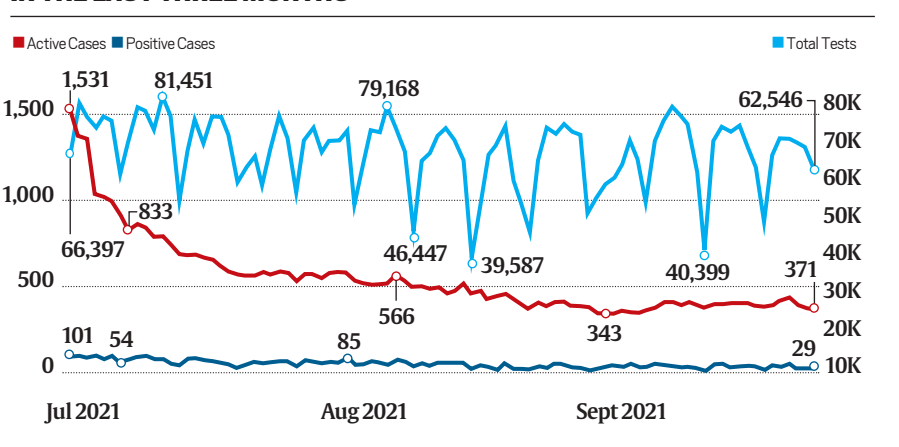
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IN THE LAST THREE MONTHS



In contrast, Delhi has seen only 4,753 cases over the past three months. On Monday, the city recorded 32 cases and no deaths.

Mumbai, which also saw a

large number of cases during the second wave, has meanwhile recorded over 450 cases per day over the past two days.

"During the second wave, which was the city's fourth

wave, there was not a single person who did not have a close family member or friend suffering from Covid. Delhi's daily case count was the highest in the country. This also means Delhi

has a very high population that has developed antibodies. This wave was brought on by the Delta variant, which is ravaging the rest of the world now. In addition to this, the vaccination rate in Delhi has been very high and our experiment of starting vaccination centres in schools worked very well as it gave people the option to get vaccinated in places other than hospitals, which many were hesitating to visit at the time," said a senior government official.

Dr S K Sarin from Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences agreed that the high vaccination rate was a contributing factor: "A high testing and vaccination rate led to the drop. Almost 60-70% of eligible people have got the first shot. Lockdown and imposition of Covid guidelines have also contributed to the drop. But we need to monitor it for another five months."

Schools of Specialised Excellence welcome first batch of 2,200 students

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

THE INDUCTION of 2,200 students of the first batch of the Delhi government's 20 new Schools of Specialised Excellence (SOSE) was conducted Monday.

When asked why they had decided to sign up for a new set of schools, different children had different answers. At the Kalkaji SOSE, which specialises in STEM, some of the responses were "specialised facilities for science like labs", "confidence building", "skill development", "no facilities in my previous school".

At the SOSE in Dwarka Sector 19, which specialises in Performing and Visual Arts, a class IX student, Jahnavi, said, "I have a lot of interest in singing and music, and I want a career in this field, which is why I've joined."

However, she still had some misgivings. "I'm very worried about my future, about what I will do after I complete Class XII? Are there any colleges, universities planned for us by the gov-



Deputy CM Sisodia at the induction ceremony

ernment where we can pursue our careers in this field we will be specialising in," she asked.

This batch will be the first in the 20 schools which have been created by converting existing Rajkiya Pratibha Vikas Vidyalayas and Schools of Excellence. Each of these schools specialise in one particular domain and is meant for students of classes IX to XII. Of these, 8 specialise in STEM, 5 in Humanities, 5 in 'High End 21st Century Skills' and 2 in Performing and Visual Arts.

Addressing students and

their parents, Deputy CM Manish Sisodia referred to the start of these schools as a major step for specialised education.

"Around 70 years ago, the IITs were started. The induction interaction for IIT-Kharagpur was conducted with 224 students. It must have been a big step for the leaders to decide that the country needed specialists... Now, once again, we are talking about specialised education. Today the world has gone forward; it is recognised that not just in higher education, but it is necessary for us to give specialised education in school. It has been believed so far that in schools, kids should be given general education, and that they can specialise after entering higher education," he said.

These schools will be affiliated to the Delhi Board of School Education, and International Baccalaureate curriculum will be taught in them. Some parents and students had questions regarding

this. Gauri, a student at SOSE Surajmal Vihar, asked Sisodia out of curiosity, "We already have so many boards like CBSE and ICSE. Why do we need to create a special board for SOSE schools?"

A parent at the Kalkaji school also wanted to know how the IB curriculum would help his child.

While Sisodia did not respond to queries raised by students and parents during the interaction, he said, "You have not come here just to seek a career. A career will be a by-product. I don't know what you'll be doing when you leave school, but my guarantee is that you will have a lot of self-belief... Parents, don't just look at where your child will go after class XII. Look at what they will become after class XII. We will be looking for only one thing: whether they will believe in themselves. It is our responsibility that the children who leave these schools do so with 'out-of-the-box thinking'."

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(A) Candidate, not be more than 55 years of age as on September 8, 2021 with a Post-graduate University degree preferably in specified subjects/ courses Or a Graduate degree with specified professional qualifications; and having worked for at least 18 years, as on September 8, 2021, in Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs)/ Financial Institution (FIs) / Other Public Sector Organisations in financial sector, including 2 years operational experience preferably in International Finance/ Export Credit Appraisal; and out of the 18 years' experience, at least 2 years of experience should be at the highest level below the Board Level.
(B) All India Service Officers/ Central Services Group 'A' Officers serving at the level of Director/ Director Equivalent or above to/ in Govt. of India with a minimum 15 years of experience of which 2 years' experience as Director/ Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of India is mandatory in the field of Finance/ Industrial Development or International Trade or Export Credit; OR State Govt. Officers serving at an equivalent level with a minimum of 15 years of experience of which 2 years' mandatory experience in the field of Finance/ Industrial Development or International Trade or Export Credit shall be eligible to apply 'On Deputation' basis. The cut-off date for above eligibilities shall be September 08, 2021.
For details of the other eligibility terms and conditions, please see the advertisement on <https://www.banksboardbureau.org.in> under the "Vacancies" tab.
How to apply: Interested candidates can apply online through the link available on <https://www.banksboardbureau.org.in/> under the "vacancies" tab or directly at <https://www.research.net/r/dmdexim2021>.
Last date of application: 5:00 pm on 20-October-2021
Note: Further details including corrigendum, if any, shall be published only on the Bureau's website.

Wait almost over: Delhi Univ's first cut-off out on October 1

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

THE FIRST cut-off list for undergraduate admissions to Delhi University colleges will be released on October 1.

With a surge in the number of students who have scored above 95% in the board exams this year, principals of several

prominent DU colleges have told *The Indian Express* in interviews that the cut-offs this year are going to be higher than past years.

While the first cut-off list will be released on October 1, candidates can begin applying for admission against this list between October 4-6, and colleges have to complete approvals for these admissions before October 7 evening. The admission process

against the first list will be completed on October 8, which will be the last date for candidates to make their payments. The entire process will be conducted online.

The second list will be declared on October 9 and the third list on October 6. The last cut-off date listed by the University so far is the fifth cut-off list, to be released on November 8 if vacant seats are still available.

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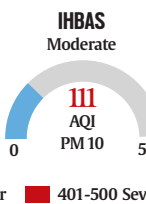
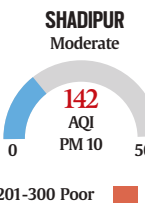
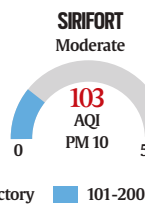
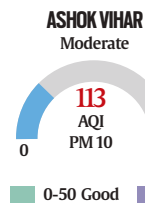
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BRIEFLY

Former taekwondo champ held in snatching, robbery cases

New Delhi: A 28-year-old two-time winner of the National Games in taekwondo who also participated in the reality TV show Indian Idol has been arrested by Delhi Police for allegedly being involved in more than 100 cases of snatching and armed robbery. Police said Suraj Bahadur was allegedly caught with over 2.5 kg of gold, 55 stolen phones, five stolen vehicles and a country-made pistol.

Man shot dead in broad daylight

New Delhi: A 20-year-old man was killed by two unknown assailants in broad daylight in Delhi's Dwarka on Monday afternoon. Police said the deceased, identified as Tinku Khara, was driving when the accused waylaid him and fired bullets at him. SK Meena, DCP Dwarka, said, "We received a PCR call about firing at Khaira Road. Our team rushed to the spot and found Tinku lying dead on the driver's seat."

9k applicants for Covid death relief

New Delhi: The Delhi government has received 9,643 applications for Covid death compensation, an ex-gratia relief of Rs 50,000. Of these, 6,995 applications have been approved and disbursal has been made in 6,019 cases, a statement issued by the government said. Revenue Minister Kailash Gahlot held a review meeting to discuss the scheme.

2 men laying electricity cables die after soil falls on them

Gurgaon: Two labourers died after loose soil caved in on them while they were digging a pit to lay underground electricity cables in Ramgarh village in Sector 67 Monday. The men have been identified as Mohar Singh (34) and Suresh (27) from Delhi. Police said they were employed by a private contractor. The incident was reported around 5 pm, when they were digging a pit. **ENS**



ALONG THE RIVER

A family along the banks of the Yamuna. Some families have moved to tents as water level rose. *Praveen Khanna*

DENIES BAIL TO ACCUSED

Conspiracy to disturb law & order... Delhi riots not spur of moment: HC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

THE DELHI High Court, in a bail order on Monday, said the Northeast Delhi riots "did not take place in a spur of the moment" and that the conduct of protesters as per videos visibly portrays that it was a calculated attempt to "dislocate the functioning" of the government as well as to disrupt the city's normal life.

"The systematic disconnection and destruction of the CCTV cameras also confirms the existence of a pre-planned and pre-meditated conspiracy to disturb law and order in the city. This is also evident from the fact that innumerable rioters ruthlessly descended with sticks, dandas, bats, etc upon a hopelessly outnumbered cohort of police officers," said Justice Subramonium Prasad in the order, while denying bail to an accused who was arrested last year by Delhi Police for allegedly being part of an anti-CAA protest during which Head Constable Ratan Lal sustained fatal injuries.



53 people were killed in the riots last February. *Archive*

The accused, Mohd Ibrahim, was allegedly holding a sword during the protest. His counsel had argued that Lal's death was not caused by the sword as per the report detailing his injuries,

and that the accused carried the sword only to protect himself and his family. The court said that "clinching evidence" tilts towards prolonging the accused's incarceration as the weapon carried by him "is capable of causing grievous injuries and/or death, and is prima facie a dangerous weapon".

"This Court is of the opinion that even though the Petitioner cannot be seen at the scene of crime, he clearly was a part of the mob for the sole reason that the petitioner had consciously travelled 1.6 km away from his neighbourhood with a sword which could only be used to incite violence and inflict damage," said Justice Prasad.

Justice Prasad had on September 8 granted bail to five accused and observed that "the sole act of protesting" cannot be used as "a weapon to justify the incarceration" of those exercising this right.

In the order passed on Monday, the court said, "This Court has previously opined on the importance of personal liberty in a democratic polity, but it is to be categorically noted that individual liberty cannot be misused in a manner that threatens the very fabric of civilised society by attempting to destabilise it and cause hurt to other persons".

In September, the court has denied bail to three accused in the case and ordered the release of eight, including one Mohd Saleem Khan who was granted bail on Monday after 17 months of incarceration. Police have alleged that the accused were among the protesters who had assembled near the Chand Bagh area and 25 Futa Road on February 24, 2020.

High security in NCR amid Bharat Bandh call

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GURGAON, SEPTEMBER 27

DELHI AND its borders saw increased police deployment in view of the Bharat Bandh call by Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) on Monday to mark the first anniversary of three farms laws getting Presidential assent.

While the Bandh did not have any major impact in the city, traffic was affected for a short while in the morning, with barricading and vehicle checks done at the Delhi-Gurgaon border. Traffic at the Apsara border and Signature bridge (Delhi-UP border) was also hit after Delhi Police closed Ghazipur border for some time. "We diverted traffic to alternate routes but checking points at

each border point caused snarls," said a DCP-level officer.

SKM said in a statement that the Bandh was successful, with lakhs of people participating across at least 23 states: "The bandh was marked peacefully, without a single untoward incident reported from anywhere, from more than 23 states.. It witnessed numerous non-farmer associations stand in solidarity with farmers, and also raise their own issues. Lakhs of citizens took part. The response to this Bandh call was more widespread than before... Nearly all opposition political parties had extended unconditional support."

Though congestion was reported on the Delhi-Gurgaon border in the morning after Delhi Police and paramilitary of-



Road to Red Fort was closed due to the bandh. *Praveen Khanna*

officials barricaded several lanes and intensified checking of vehicles entering the capital, it cleared in an hour and a half. By noon, movement of vehicles was smooth.

Traffic remained slow between 9.20 am and 10.50 am as police intermittently blocked lanes to check vehicles. The congestion was cleared by 11 am.

A traffic police official sta-

tioned at Rajokri border said, "Delhi Police was inspecting all vehicles headed to Delhi from Gurgaon. Barring two lanes of the highway, the lanes were closed for an hour due to which there was congestion on the Rajokri side. It was cleared after an hour."

Ahead of the bandh, security had been increased at highways and border areas and two duty magistrates had been appointed at railway stations in Gurgaon to maintain law and order.

DCP (Traffic) Ravinder Tomar said, "We diverted traffic from Bilaspur, Pachgaon and KMP since farmers had blocked traffic movement in Rewari."

A senior police officer from Delhi's Southwest district said checking was intensified at Rajokri due to the protest.

Tempers flare between 2 IPS officers at meeting, enquiry ordered

MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

AN INTERNAL inquiry has been initiated into a verbal spat between two IPS officers during a meeting at the Police Headquarters last month, after a letter was sent by Special CP (Traffic) Muktesh Chander to the Commissioner's Secretariat, it is learnt.

The letter also points to 'misconduct' by one of the senior IPS officers. When contacted, Chander, at whose office the argument took place during a meeting, refused to comment, saying it is a departmental matter.

A senior police officer said a meeting was called on August 10 in a conference hall at the PHQ in connection with traffic arrangements for Independence Day. "It was an agenda-based meeting; several Additional CPs and, DCPs and their subordinates were present. Chander had asked all officers to come with preparations... However, a JCP (traffic) arrived 20 minutes late," said the officer.

Irked, Special CP Chander asked the JCP why he was late, it is learnt. During the meeting, Chander wanted to discuss the traffic unit's budget, but the JCP interrupted him and asked him

to discuss only traffic arrangements. Chander responded that he had already informed everyone of the agenda that they would discuss the budget too.

"During discussions, one of the additional CPs blamed the JCP, claiming they had stopped clearing important files from his office. The JCP denied the allegations and blamed his junior. The two started arguing and entered into a verbal spat in front of Chander," the officer said.

The Special CP and others present in the meeting tried to intervene, but they refused to listen. "After 15 minutes, Chander got up and left the conference hall, saying he had to attend the police commissioner's meeting. Some officers left along with him, leaving the two arguing officers in the conference hall."

After August 15, Chander sent a letter to Delhi Police Commissioner Rakesh Asthana informing him about the incident and recommending disciplinary action. "Asthana asked Special CP (Delhi Armed Police) Robin Hibbu to conduct an inquiry and submit a report. Hibbu called all officers present in the meeting to record their statements and submitted his report to the Commissioner's Secretariat," the officer said.

Hibbu did not respond to calls and messages seeking a comment.

‘Dekho Meri Dilli’: App to boost tourism

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

AT NOON Monday, which is celebrated as World Tourism Day, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal launched the Delhi Tourism application at the Delhi Secretariat. Called 'Dekho Meri Dilli Mobile App', it will not only help facilitate tourism in the city, but also impact food, entertainment, hospitality sectors and create jobs, said the CM.

He said Delhi is a historic city: "The city has everything... Delhi boasts of amazing food, the most indulging entertainment and the most revered monuments. But, we lacked information about them, this app will plug that information gap. All information about tourism in Delhi will be available on this app in an organised, user-friendly, and effective manner."

He said that all information that a tourist needs is on the application. It will show places that they can visit in a 5-km radius, including restaurants, monuments and places for entertainment, he said. He added that it is not only going to benefit tourists but will also help the people of Delhi, to discover places that they could not earlier.

After his speech, he launched the app and showed it to the audience on a phone. On the app, one can plan a tour, buy tickets,



The CM said all information a tourist needs is available on the app. *Amit Mehra*

find eating joints, information about historic places, and entertainment places. Public and paid toilets are listed for convenience.

At the launch, Deputy CM Manish Sisodia said the app is an invitation to the world to visit Delhi. He said the average time a tourist spends in the city is 1.5 days and they plan to convert this into 2.5 days. This would help people spend more in the business of Delhi.

He added, "Second, those who come to travel to see Delhi, the government must provide authentic support and guidance, with all possible options to travel. Thirdly, locals in Delhi, who want to spend weekends in and around the city. We wish to give them options and make their experience travelling and enjoying Delhi better."

Master Plan modified to get people to use public parking

ABHINAV RAJPUT
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

PARKING REQUIREMENTS of properties, such as commercial centres and group housing societies, within walking distance from a Metro station have been reduced by a prescribed percentage, as per modifications made to the 2021 Delhi Master Plan by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

The move is an attempt to nudge people towards utilising parking spaces and public transport, said MCD officials.

As per the changes, for properties located up to 500 metres from a Metro station, the deduction in parking space within the plot shall be 30% of the parking norm. Similarly, for properties located more than 500 m and less than 800 m from a metro station, the deduction shall be 15%.

For properties within a 1 km radius of multi-level parking facilities, the parking requirement shall be reduced by 10%.

The DDA had earlier proposed that all new buildings, except residential projects, coming up near Metro stations and multi-level car parking lots have 10%-30% less parking space. This was suggested to end congestion by preventing parking on roads and encouraging use of public transport.

Currently, parking norms are based on the designated use of premises. For instance, hotels and guest houses, which need to presently have parking space of two equivalent car spaces for a 100 sqm area, would have to keep .5 car space. For commercial centres such as Connaught Place, the current limit of 3 car spaces is unchanged but deductions for proximity to Metro and parking lots will apply.

A senior official of the South

MCD, which is the executing agency for parking projects in the city, said: "However, this can backfire if fewer parking spaces are available and people end up parking on the road."

The four municipal bodies, including the New Delhi Municipal Council, have space for 94,000 vehicles across 434 surface, stack, and multi-level parking lots, besides space for a few thousand at 103 Delhi Metro stations. The city, however, has 31.6 lakh four-wheelers alone among 75 lakh registered and active vehicles, as per MCD estimates from 2019. Meanwhile, the South MCD is set to open a multi-level stack parking at Adchini village by October to address parking and traffic problems in the area. The parking facility can accommodate 86 cars. "Construction is almost complete and it will be ready for use in two-three weeks," said an SDMC official.

‘Transfer complaints against Dasna Devi priest, Karni Sena chief’

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

THE DELHI Police has said the complaints against Dasna Devi temple priest Yati Narsinghanand Saraswati and Karni Sena chief Suraj Pal Amu over their alleged communally provocative remarks should be transferred to police stations concerned in UP and Haryana.

Police, in their action taken report filed in connection with an application seeking registration of FIRs against the duo, stated that as the "incident of passing communally provocative and divisive remarks against Muslims" happened in an area under the jurisdiction of police stations in Aligarh and Nuh, the complaints should be transferred there.

The report was submitted to the court of Metropolitan

Magistrate Rajat Goyal Monday, as directed by it. The court will now hear arguments on the matter on October 8.

The court had in its order asked the SHO to specify "whether any investigation or inquiry has been conducted and, if yes, then what is the status of the investigation/inquiry", and also "if any cognizable offence is made out, whether any FIR has been registered or not".

The complainant had approached the court through advocates Sarim Naved, Kamran Javed, and Anshu Davar, seeking a directive to the SHO of Jamia Nagar police station to register FIRs against the duo for allegedly making statements with the intention of outraging religious feelings of the Muslim community and promoting enmity, hatred and ill-will between Hindu and Muslim communities.

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

OBSERVING THAT the management of Shri Kalkaji Mandir is unable to exercise effective control to administer the religious place, the Delhi High Court Monday appointed Justice (retired) J R Midha as its administrator. It said there is a "grave and imminent need" to preserve the spiritual sanctity of the temple and not allow the same to be misused "by unwanted elements who may convert it into a commercial enterprise".

The court said the mandate of the administrator shall be to take necessary steps in the interest of devotees, pilgrims and *baridaars* to ensure safety and security and preserve "integrity and sanctity of the deity and the Mandir, which is of utmost historical importance to the people of Delhi".



The court passed a slew of directions to various authorities. *Archive*

It passed a slew of directions to various authorities in an order on a bunch of petitions related to disputes among those running the temple. "The disputes are of various hues and primarily relate to collection of offerings/donations, their division and distribu-

tion among *baridaars*. Thus, there is a need to streamline the manner in which offerings and donations are made..." said Justice Prathiba M Singh in the order.

Midha will be assisted by advocate Manmeet Arora.

Transferring all civil cases pending before district courts to itself, the court said enormous judicial time is being spent in adjudication of applications and proceedings in some of these suits.

It also asked architect Goonmeet Singh Chauhan to submit a redevelopment plan for the Kalkaji Mandir and the entire surrounding complex.

"Once the unauthorised occupants, unauthorised constructions and encroachments are removed, within the next one week, steps shall be initiated towards re-development of the entire Mandir and the complex," said the court.

8 GOVT & POLITICS

DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



TRIBUTE TO WORKERS

AFTER A visit to the Central Vista project site, Prime Minister Narendra Modi – in a tribute to the efforts of the workers at the construction site – said when the new Parliament is ready, a digital archive must be set up, reflecting their personal details, including their names, the places they belong to and pictures. “All workers would also be given a certificate about their role and participation in this historic endeavour,” the PMO tweeted, quoting the Prime Minister.

THE ABSENTEE

BJP MP Lockett Chatterjee’s absence from the campaign in Bhabanipur bypoll has not just left the Opposition camp but also the BJP circles taking about it. When the TMC taunted Chatterjee on social media about it, the Hooghly MP shot back saying the ruling party should instead focus on the bypoll to ensure that Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is not defeated. She added that she is “focusing on Uttarakhand as BJP’s election in-charge”. While her party men from Bengal are asking why she would stay away from the key bypoll in her state, the MP apparently cited health reasons initially. Another reason being cited is that Chatterjee did not like the BJP’s decision to field Priyanka Tibrewal from the seat.

DARK CORRIDORS

AHEAD OF important meetings on the selection of new directors for IIT Delhi, Indore and Mandi, Shastri Bhawan, where the Ministry of Education is located, plunged into darkness due to a power cut Monday morning. The corridors turned pitch dark as the interiors of the building, which houses several ministries, do not receive any natural light, halting many officials in their tracks. However, electricity was restored within minutes, and the building came back to life.

Uttarakhand studying UP’s draft Bill to make own population law

LALMANI VERMA
DEHRADUN, SEPTEMBER 27

THE UTTARAKHAND government has started examining Uttar Pradesh’s draft population control Bill as the first step to draft its own Bill according to its local demographic and social conditions, officials have told *The Indian Express*. This comes almost two months after functionaries from 35 RSS affiliates during a meeting with the ruling BJP suggested that the Pushkar Singh Dhami government should come up with a population control policy in Uttarakhand similar to those in Assam and Uttar Pradesh to ensure “demographic balance” in the hill state.

A few days after the meeting in Dehradun, Chief Minister Dhami in his Independence Day speech had announced a committee that would help implement an effective law on population control in the state.

“That committee has not been constituted yet. But we are examining the population control Bill drafted by Uttar Pradesh. The draft Bill has been sent to the Law Department to study it and give an opinion considering Uttarakhand’s social and demographic conditions,” a Home

Department official told *The Indian Express*. “Since we are examining Uttar Pradesh’s Bill, Uttarakhand too may have such a Bill in near future.”

State Law Department officials, declined to comment on the matter.

The UP Law Commission last month submitted the Uttar Pradesh Population (Control, Stabilization and Welfare) Draft Bill to the Chief Minister’s Office for consideration and further action. That draft Bill aims to bring down the gross fertility rate by de-incentivising more than two children per couple, and by offering a range of benefits to those who choose not to have more than two children.

Last Friday, the Dhami government in an official release had said there were instances of “migration” due to a “demographic change” in specific areas and directed the administration and police authorities to prevent sale of properties under pressure and threats. A “demographic imbalance” has taken place due to a rise in population in certain areas and the government apprehends communal disturbance, the government had said.

It had directed the DGP, all District Magistrates and SSPs to take precautionary measures.

Bandh disrupts life in farm stir centres, gets mixed response in other states

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

THE 10-HOUR Bharat Bandh called by the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) against three contentious farm laws hit normal life in Punjab and Haryana Monday as protesters blocked highways and link roads, squatted on railway tracks, while shops, educational institutions, commercial establishments and ‘mandis’ remained shut.

The bandh was almost complete in Punjab where protesters blocked rail and roads at 550 places and markets remained shut in state, barring in Mohali district bordering joint capital Chandigarh. Protester strength was, however, thin. In Punjab, the bandh call was supported by the ruling Congress apart from the Aam Admi Party, Shiromani Akali Dal and the Bahujan Samaj Party.

The SKM said the Bharat Bandh call received an “unprecedented and historic” response from more than 23 states and not a single untoward incident was reported from anywhere.

Around 50 trains in the North were affected by the bandh. Dharnas, on national and state highways and link roads, started at 6 am and continued till 4 pm.

The farmers who have been protesting at Tikri border, squatted on the tracks at Bahadurgarh railway station in Haryana while others staged protests on railway lines at Jagraon, Barnala, Mansa, and Sangrur in Punjab.

In Haryana, the bandh had an impact in 17 out of 22 districts.

A Haryana Police spokesperson said: “The impact was largely seen in the form of road and rail blockades and hampered the inter-city road and rail movement, but did not have much impact on the activities within towns and cities.” In Karnal, the home town of Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, a large number of shops were closed since morning.

The impact in other states was varied. A look at some of them:



Partha Paul



Gurmeet Singh

Farmers block NH-95 in Ludhiana; and (left) protesters block a train at Jadavpur station in West Bengal.

KERALA

The ruling LDF and opposition Congress-led UDF supported hartal in Kerala disrupted daily life in the state due to closure of shops and non-operation of public transportation, but it was generally peaceful, as private means of travel was unaffected, with one solitary incident of violence being reported from Kozhikode district.

WEST BENGAL

Left Front workers blocked roads and railway tracks. Life in the

state remained largely unaffected by the all-India strike. Markets and shops were open as usual while public transport operated almost normally, except for a few impediments. Government and private offices registered usual attendance. The ruling TMC stayed away from the strike but expressed support for the protesters’ demands.

RAJASTHAN

The effect of bandh was visible in many districts of Rajasthan, including agriculture-dominated

Ganganagar and Hanumangarh where the major mandis and markets remained closed. Farmers took out rallies on the major roads and held meetings.

The effect was visible in many districts including Ganganagar, Hanumangarh, Bikaner, Sikar and Nagaur. Mandis and markets were partially closed. The bandh also affected train services in the border districts.

MAHARASHTRA

The Bharat Bandh call did not evoke a response strong enough to shut down Maharashtra or Mumbai. Small protests by farmers’ organisations and non-BJP parties were held across the state. The Congress and the NCP, who are part of the ruling coalition in the state, took out protest marches and bike rallies in some districts and cities. The Shiv Sena

stayed away.

GUJARAT

Except isolated incidents in Saurashtra and south Gujarat, the farmers’ call for a general strike had no significant impact on normal life on rainy Monday as police took dozens of farmers and leaders into preventive custody.

TAMIL NADU

Farmer bodies, trade unions, including those backed by the ruling DMK and Left parties on Monday staged protests across Tamil Nadu. Normal life was, however, not affected with public and private transport functioning as usual. Retail outlets, commercial establishments, banks and government offices also were open.

WITH ENS CHANDIGARH, KOLKATA, AHMEDABAD, AND PTI

Goa ex-CM quits Cong, to back ‘Mamata Cong’

MAYURA JANWALKAR
PANAJI, SEPTEMBER 27

FORMER GOA chief minister and seven-time MLA Luizinho Faleiro on Monday resigned as MLA of Navelim constituency in South Goa and severed his 40-year-old association with the Congress.

Faleiro was expected to join TMC. Hours after he submitted his resignation to Assembly Speaker, he said he will soon announce when he will join the party. “It won’t be too long,” he said.

“I will support Mamata Congress because she has fought, and succeeded. She symbolises women’s empowerment, which can bring the country back on the rails of development,” he said.

In his resignation letter to Congress president Sonia Gandhi, Faleiro wrote that Goa unit of the Congress had become a “cruel parody of what the Congress stands for”. He wrote, “Led by a coterie of leaders who prioritise personal gains over the responsibility we owe to our people, we have utterly failed to be an effective opposition.... I see absolutely no



Faleiro at a press meet in Panaji, Monday. *Express*

hope or even the will to prevent the collapse of the party and change for the better.”

Sources said he is expected to fly to Kolkata soon.

Faleiro told the media: “My resignation is a call for unification. The Congress has been a movement... but today the Congress family is fragmented. We have on one side Mamata Congress, YSR Congress, Sharad Pawar Congress...”

Congress’s Goa in-charge Dinesh Gundu Rao said although the party had not expected a leader of Faleiro’s stature to act “petty and selfish”, his departure from the party was, in fact, “a blessing in disguise”.

Politician-police nexus new trend, says SC

New Delhi: Terming alleged nexus between politicians in power and police officers as a “new trend” in the country, the Supreme Court on Monday orally questioned why it should protect such officers in criminal cases after the regime change.

The observations of the bench headed by CJI NV Ramana came on an appeal of Gurjinder Pal Singh, suspended director of Chhattisgarh Police Academy, who sought protection from coercive action after the state government lodged a third FIR against him for a 2016 incident.

The bench, which sought response of the state government and protected him from any coercive action concerning the third FIR for three weeks, said: “This is what happens when you are so close to the government and do these things... you have to payback one day with the interest... why should we grant protection to such officers. This is a new trend in the country. He should go to jail, why should the court protect these kinds of officers.”

PTI

Yogi allots portfolios: Technical education for Jitin Prasada

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 27

A DAY after Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath expanded his Cabinet by inducting seven ministers, he allocated the portfolio of Technical Education to Jitin Prasada, who had recently quit the Congress to join the ruling BJP.

The charge of this department was with the CM since the death of Kamal Rani Varun, who died of Covid-19 last year August.

Prasada, 47, the lone Brahmin face and the only Cabinet-rank minister in the latest expansion, was nominated as Member of Legislative Council on Sunday itself after the swearing-in.

Among the six Ministers of State, Paltu Ram (45) has been given the charge of Sainik Kalyan, Homeguards, Prantiya Raksha Dal and Nagrik Suraksha Department. The BJP MLA from Balrampur Sadar (Reserved) seat, is one of the

Don’t treat young docs as football in power game: SC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

SUPREME COURT on Monday pulled up the National Medical Commission (NMC) and National Board of Examination (NBE) for making “last-minute changes” to the syllabus of the 2021 National Eligibility cum Entrance Test-Super Specialty (NEET-SS) and cautioned them not to treat young doctors as footballs.

“Please speak to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to look at this. Don’t treat these young doctors as football in this game of power,” a bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and B V Nagarathna said as the petition filed by PG doctors challenging the changes came up before it.

The bench questioned the authorities why the changes were introduced midway and could not have waited till next year.

Senior Advocate Maninder Singh, appearing for the NBE, submitted that it was a “well-considered” decision. But the court was not convinced and said, “We are dissatisfied with the authorities.”

“We are now dealing with young doctors who will appear for super specialty exams... This is so important for their career. Now you cannot introduce changes last minute,” said Justice Chandrachud.

Justice Nagarathna pointed out that the pattern of study is according to pattern of exams and asked, “If you change it suddenly then what will happen.”

“Hold a meeting... and set your house in order. We cannot let the young doctors be at the mercy of the insensitive bureaucrats,” said the bench. “We are putting you on notice that if we are not satisfied, we will pass strictures. If you can put your house in order and enforce the change from next year then it’s fine.” Justice Chandrachud asked them to take a decision by October 4.

Army scouts mounted artillery guns for better mobility in high-altitude terrain

KRISHNKAUSHIK
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

THE NEARLY 17-month standoff with China in eastern Ladakh has prompted the Army to look more intently for mounted artillery systems, which will be easier to manoeuvre in high-terrain areas.

Director-General of Artillery Lt Gen TK Chawla Monday said: “We are looking at mounted gun systems. Especially in mountain terrain, it will give advantage in getting in and out of action.”

In the case of towed guns, he said, “the train” to carry them “becomes very long”.

The Army had issued a Request for Information for more than 800 such guns earlier this year.

India had also ordered 145 ultra-light M777 howitzer towed guns for nearly \$750 million in 2016. Chawla told reporters that these guns would be part of seven regiments, and three of them are operational. The 155-mm artillery piece is being deployed along the Line of Actual Control.

“They give that extra advantage of mobility due to their weight,” Chawla said. He also added that “the training is going on in moving guns from one sector to another with the Chinook helicopters”.

On the .45 caliber Dhanush howitzer, being manufactured by the Ordnance Factory Board, Chawla said the Army has “already given an indent for 114

guns” in 2019. He said: “There are few teething issues which they need to iron out. But it is good work in progress.”

He said they recently had discussions with OFB and that “we as the user are looking forward to it fruitifying sooner than later”.

Chawla said that the made Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System had firing trials in July and August in Pokhran. While “some parameters were achieved, some needed further improvement”. “They (DRDO) have agreed to work on it. We are looking at a robust gun, reliable gun which can fire accurately, consistently and reliably,” Chawla said that in case of the artillery “a lot of handholding has been done by the Army, both for ATAGS and Dhanush”.

AVISHEK G DASTIDAR
SONMARG, SEPTEMBER 27

UNION ROAD Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari will be the first person to travel in the all-weather escape tunnel of Z-Morh main tunnel, connecting Srinagar and Sonmarg, during an inspection here Tuesday.

The 6.5-km escape tunnel is ready to be partially opened for controlled traffic around November, giving tourist destination Sonmarg connectivity to Srinagar, as also maintaining supplies through the winter for the first time.

At 8,960 feet, Sonmarg is covered in snow in the winter



Union Minister Nitin Gadkari

months, forcing local residents to shift to Srinagar side. All commercial activity comes to a halt during winter, and due to avalanches, connectivity on Srinagar-Leh highway gets blocked.

The strategically important Z-Morh tunnel will ensure that Sonmarg remains connected and supplies are maintained all year round, according to officials.

“We will complete the tunnel by early next year, well ahead

of the scheduled target of December 2023. There are concrete work, etc, remaining,” G S Kambo, executive director of the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, told reporters here on Monday. “For the first time, there will be connectivity this winter, thanks to the escape tunnel being opened.”

The main tube’s connectivity was achieved last week, while the escape tunnel, built as a safeguard against calamities along the main tunnel, was cleared during summer this year.

For Kashmir Valley, the permanent connectivity to Sonmarg

is a first. The tunnel is being built at a cost of Rs 2,300 crore.

Beyond Sonmarg, the 13.5-km Zojila tunnel, which will provide all-weather connectivity between Srinagar and Ladakh, making for a strategic asset for the Army, may also be completed ahead of its scheduled target of 2026, officials said.

“There are vertical shafts in the tunnel which enable opening of many fronts, so work can take place at multiple place simultaneously,” Kambo said. “Besides, we are achieving very good progress — like 30-40 metre excavation and a couple of blasts and tunnelling every day. Work is going on at all locations.

We are hopeful of completing it before schedule.”

The Rs 4,600 crore Zojila tunnel is being executed by Megha Engineering and Infra Limited, while the Z-Morh tunnel is under execution of engineering major Apco. Gadkari will also inspect the progress of the Zojila tunnel on Tuesday.

The Zojila tunnel is an all-weather alternative to Zojila pass, which closes down in winter, halting all transport, including troop movement and critical Army supplies between Kashmir and Ladakh. The tunnel will solve that problem. At more than 11,000 feet, the bi-directional tunnel is the longest in Asia.



New Delhi



UP Dalit man killed weeks after he filed molestation case

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, SEPTEMBER 27

A 30-YEAR-OLD Dalit labourer was beaten to death in a village in Kanpur Dehat district on Saturday night, nearly two weeks after he got a case registered against four persons for allegedly molesting his wife.

Police said that a group of 11 people, including the four named in the molestation case, attacked the Dalit man with sticks on Saturday night when he was sitting outside his house. He was rushed to the hospital where he succumbed to his injuries on Sunday, police added.

All the 11 accused are residents of the same village and one of them is the former pradhan of the village.

Circle Officer (Akbarpur) Arun Kumar Singh said no one has been arrested so far.

According to the CO, police received information that a group of people have attacked a Dalit man with sticks and firearms outside his house. Earlier, on September 14, the Dalit man had got a case lodged against four persons for allegedly molesting his wife when she had gone to the field.

Cyclone Gulab landfall: 2 killed as heavy rain lashes Andhra, alert in Telangana

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
HYDERABAD, SEPTEMBER 27

TWO PEOPLE died in Andhra Pradesh amid heavy rainfall in the state after cyclone 'Gulab' made landfall at Kalिंगapatnam in Srikakulam district Sunday evening. Neighbouring Telangana also received heavy rainfall as a fallout of the landfall.

In Andhra Pradesh, record levels of rainfall were reported in Visakhapatnam, Srikakulam and

Odisha: BJP joins protests, says CM should order probe into Dalit man's 'death in custody'

AISHWARYA MOHANTY
BHUBANESWAR, SEPT 27

OPPOSITION BJP on Monday joined protests by members of the Scheduled Caste community in Odisha's Bargarh district following the death of a man from the community in what the family alleges is due to custodial violence.

Gobinda Kumbhar, 35, was allegedly picked up by police late Friday night in a case of rioting and was declared dead on Saturday.

While police are awaiting a postmortem report to confirm the cause of death, the family has alleged that Kumbhar died due to police excesses while in custody

at Bhatli police station.

The matter took a political turn when opposition BJP protested against the incident on Monday and demanded a thorough investigation into the case. Calling it a grave incident, BJP MP from Bargarh, Suresh Pujari, urged Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to intervene.

Calling the incident "Talibanisation of the police force", Pujari, in a letter to the CM, wrote, "The circumstances leading to death of Gobinda Kumbhar and the apparent signs of injury on his body suggests criminal assaults bringing the instant case under Section 304 of IPC."

He wrote: "May I request your



Protest at Bargarh, Odisha, on Monday following Kumbhar's death. Screenshot

good office being in charge of the home department to kindly take serious note of the inhumane incident and direct the police to get a case registered, get the relevant document of the case, including

Top court pulls up petitioner for filing PIL without adequate research

New Delhi: The Supreme Court Monday rebuked a petitioner for filing a PIL without adequate research, saying he cannot use the argument of public interest to dump burden of culling out essential arguments on the court.

The petitioner was seeking "implementation of the National Health Policy 2017 formulated by the Union government".

"You can't just annex a report and expect the Court to just take charge. You can't just say 'implement the budget of 2021'. You have to specify the shortfall, you have to indicate how there has been a failure in compliance. You are not bereft of the burden of pleadings just because this is a PIL", Justice D Y Chandrachud, heading a bench, told the petitioner's counsel.

"You have to do your homework... You have to bear the burden, you can't leave it on the court or the State. Don't move petitions otherwise if you don't want to take any burden", the CJI said.

CCTV footage at the relevant time, videography of the PM [post-mortem] extracted and preserved safely from fabrication."

Kumbhar's father, Radheshyam, said, "My son was picked up by police in a purported case of rioting but we do not know details of the case. They said it [picking him up] was for basic questioning and that he would return in a few hours. When he did not return the next morning, we went to the police station. They informed us that he was unwell and taken to the hospital."

At the hospital, Radheshyam said, "I was informed that my son was no more" after waiting for an hour or so.

'HARASSMENT OF J&K JOURNALISTS' Mehbooba writes to PCI, asks it to send fact-finding team to verify claims

BASHAARAT MASOOD
SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 27

ALLEGING HARASSMENT of journalists in the Valley, former chief minister and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti has written a letter to Press Council of India (PCI), asking it to send an independent fact-finding team to Jammu and Kashmir.

"We have witnessed the manner in which fundamental rights such as freedom of speech & expression enshrined in the Indian Constitution have increasingly come under attack, especially in the last two years by a hostile and insecure dispensation," Mufti wrote to the media watchdog.

"Unwarranted harassment of journalists has become a norm and this policy has been implemented by raiding their homes, summoning and interrogating them on frivolous grounds such as innocuous tweets; conduct-

ing background checks of journalists and their family members by CID, withdrawal of benefits including accommodation of some senior journalists, seizure of mobile phones, laptops, confiscating passports, ATM cards etc," she wrote.

In her letter, Mufti said at least 23 Valley-based journalists have been put on the Exit Control List by the government while scholars studying outside India are also not allowed to travel abroad.

"One had hoped that the Press Council of India would take a suo motu note of these widely reported incidents but it seems that no established watchdog forum, including the courts, has taken any interest in the painful circumstances created in J&K, not to speak of any interventions," she wrote.

"It therefore becomes incumbent upon me to urge you to send a fact-finding team to J&K, to independently verify these claims and take remedial action."

KERALA 'Antiques' dealer who boasted of high-profile links held for cheating

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, SEPTEMBER 27

A SELF-STYLED antiques dealer, who would boast of high-profile connections in Kerala, including politicians, senior police officers and celebrities, has been arrested on charges of cheating and forgery.

Monson Mavunkal, 52, was arrested by Crime Branch Police on Sunday based on a complaint from six people that he had pocketed Rs 10 crore from them over a period starting 2017.

Several photographs showing Monson with ministers Roshni Augustine, Ahamed Devarkovil, KPCC president K Sudhakaran, former DGP Loknath Behera, ADGP Manoj Abraham, IG Lakshman Guguloth and former DIG S Surendran have come upon social media after his arrest.

Police said Monson, who claimed to have been in antique business for past 25 years, tricked investors into believing that he got Rs 2.62 crore from selling antiques to royal families in the Middle East. He said he needed money to clear legal hurdles to get the amount transferred from HSBC bank to his bank account in Kerala.

His home in Kochi, where the fake antiques and artifacts were kept, used to be allegedly frequented by senior police officers. One of the pictures doing the rounds is of former DGP Behera and ADGP Abraham during one such visit. Behera is seen sitting on a throne from Monson's collection, which was claimed to be of antique value. He is flanked by the ADGP holding a sword.



Monson Mavunkal

Behera, who is now MD of Kochi Metro, and Abraham did not respond to queries from *The Indian Express*.

One of the complainants, K T Shameer, said Monson took Rs 60 lakh from him claiming to make him a partner in a proposed antique museum. "I and other investors got in touch with Monson through a friend, who made us give money to him. We saw senior police officials visiting his house along with families. He boasted of high-profile connections," he said.

Yakoob Purayil, another complainant, claimed he had handed over Rs 25 lakh to Monson in former DIG S Surendran's presence.

Surendran denied the allegation, saying he had good friendship with Monson, but no transactions took place in his presence.

KPCC president K Sudhakaran also denied the allegation that one of the complainants handed over money to Monson in his presence. "I know Monson as a cosmetologist and consulted him for treatment. He had told me that the antiques in his house were precious and worth crores. If he is a fraudster, what were the police officers doing at his house...," he said.

Crime Branch sources said Monson would drop names of senior officers when the complainants earlier approached local police. "He was arrested after they filed a complaint with the CM in July this year," a source said.

FIFTH EDITION: IMPROVING LIVELIHOODS OF MIGRANTS

'We need power to flow from the bottom to the top'

The latest edition of IE Thinc Migration, moderated by Deputy Associate Editor Udit Misra, explored structural causes of poor livelihoods among migrants and discussed policy solutions to improve conditions in both home and destination states

On the impact of Covid on livelihood opportunities of migrants

RAJIV KHANDELWAL: Last year's Covid started a crisis that already existed... There is no employment crisis (but) there is a wage, quality of work and work condition crisis. So everybody has a job, but everybody has a really poor job... Firstly, wages are down by 20 to 30 per cent. The number of days of work are down. In that, one very powerful kind of change that is underway is that a number of markets that were hosting wage workers have moved to being piece rated work, which means that people are no longer in a formal or informal kind of a job relationship, they are actually being paid for the quantum of work that they do. This is a very significant shift because it totally changes your relationship with the employer and with what you can demand by entitlement or claim by way of services and provisions.

We recently did a survey of almost 6,000 migrant workers and found that 40 to 50 per cent of that entire earning is going to retire debt. It is debt that has basically been used to finance survival level consumption. It's not for any capital creation or formation or investing in enterprises, it's just a massive amount of debt that workers have piled up and that needs to be addressed if they have to come back fully rehabilitated into the economy.

But if there was better public provisioning, then at least you could argue that wages can be used for consumption and for financing household needs, whereas workers' needs in the cities can be met by public provisioning. What does that mean? It means housing, health care, access to food, all of those together are exorbitantly priced, which are currently being paid out of very low wages by workers and therefore the need to keep coming back to their rural homes.

On what is holding back employment opportunities

RADHICKA KAPOOR: The fact that we have not gone through that phase of manufacturing, that growth, particularly labour intensive manufacturing, has meant that our cities have not become those engines of productive job creation and have not seen the kind of agglomeration economies that we

are expected to witness in the normal course of development of a country... The share of manufacturing, be it in our GDP or our employment, has basically been flat in the last three decades. The manufacturing sector wasn't creating enough productive employment opportunities, so these people were either ending up in the construction sector or informal services sector. (This has) meant that much of this migration was circular and reverse in nature and not permanent. If you look at these circular migrants, they are basically largely employed in the



informal sector either as casual workers or they are self employed. Even if they are employed in the formal sector, they are largely employed as informal workers. So not only are they getting low paid work, but they also have little or no benefits, little or no social security, little or no savings, their accommodation arrangements are adverse. Unless we think of how we accelerate that process of structural transformation, perhaps through an industrial policy, we are not going to be able to solve this crisis in the long term.

On what can policy do

MANISH SABHARWAL: Governments only have three tools. We have fiscal policy, we have monetary policy. If fiscal deficits could make countries rich, no country would be poor. Monetary policy, I'm not even going to humour that. I don't know whether monetary policy is a painkiller or a placebo or a steroid, whatever it is, it doesn't work for reducing poverty. So what is the tool we have, and that is really the structural

productivity of our regions, our sectors, our firms and our individuals.

If you talk about sectors, IT only has 0.4 per cent of India's labour force but it generates 8 per cent of GDP; agriculture has 42 per cent labour force, but it generates 15 per cent. New York and Russia have the same GDP. New York City with 6 per cent of the population and 0.000005 per cent of land.

So I would just say that the only thing we can do is technology... Urbanisation is an unstoppable and actually a very powerful technology for prosperity. But urbanisation isn't shoving more people into Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, it's creating more cities with more than a million people. We only have 52 cities with more than a million people. China has 300 of them... We need power to flow from the bottom to the top rather than top to the bottom. Twenty nine Chief Ministers matter more than one Prime Minister, 100 mayors matter more than 29 Chief Ministers, we need resources for cities.

On how can we improve livelihood opportunities for migrant workers

DEEPAK MISHRA: If we are serious about that, we need to look at three aspects — the origin area, in particular the opportunities in the origin areas; the migration process; and, finally, what can be done at the destination. The initial point is to address structural vulnerabilities in origin areas. This is not to reduce or stop migration. Rather, we have evidence to argue that minimal targeted interventions, like increasing agricultural productivity through the provision of irrigation, like investment in rural health, education and infrastructure — all these improve the bargaining power of migrant workers and at least give them enough options to move away from the worst forms of migrant labour contracts, debt bondage etc.

Coming to destination areas, it has to be a mix of both — employment creation through direct intervention by the governments, particularly in terms of an urban employment guarantee scheme in the small and medium sized urban towns, but also facilitating growth of employment by the private sector. The other thing is the creation of a robust security system mechanism.

A responsible business is a successful business: Meher Pudumjee

WE THOUGHT that before we point a finger elsewhere, why don't we, as corporates, do something concrete. We have made a modest beginning by partnering with the NGO Dasra. We joined hands with other like-minded corporates across Mumbai, Pune and Ahmedabad.

Dasra brought together various partners and in a rare setting, corporates are working with the likes of Aajeevika Bureau and Centre for Social Justice, NGOs who have provided services and support to vulnerable workers for decades to find innovative solutions for informal workers engaged with industry.

We have commenced an initiative and called it Social Compact or SoCo to ensure greater dignity and equity for industry-employed informal workers in India, and mainstream the aspiration that a responsible business is equal to a successful business.

We kick-started this SoCo initiative in September last year by identifying six outcome areas that underpin the vulnerability of industry-engaged informal workers, including living wages for all, safety at the workplace and sites, health and social security cover, grievance redressal mechanism, gender parity in women's work and compensation, linkages of all with entitlements like Aadhaar card, medical insurance, PF, PSIC. SoCo also resolves to enable workers through upskilling and growth opportunities.

The compact can only be successful if more organisations adopt it and we have more champions like Pradeep Bhargava in Pune or dedicated people like Farhad Forbes, who are trying to mainstream the aspiration among businesses in partnership with industry bodies like CII and Family Business Network. Leaders like Mitali Nag are helping the SoCo vision reach the CII youth wing, which is YI, influencing those who can redefine the future of business for India.

Extract from Pudumjee's address



RADHICKA KAPOOR
FELLOW AT INDIAN COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS (ICRIER)

The Interstate Migrant Worker Act, and having four new labour codes last year, don't seem to address any of these challenges.



MANISH SABHARWAL
CHAIRMAN, TEAMLEASE

Last year's migration rush may have been a surprise to many people, but it was a comorbidity and a pre-existing condition of India.



DEEPAK MISHRA
PROFESSOR, JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY

It's not just about jobs. It's about the right to the city, affordable housing, health infrastructure and education. These are the determiners that create vulnerabilities, so policy has to address that.

PUBLIC NOTICE

We, on behalf of our clients being Stakeholders and Directors of and Professionals for the companies detailed hereinbelow in the Schedule (“**Scheduled Companies**”), call upon and caution the general public and others to **take notice** as below:
Our clients have neither commenced any business and nor involved in any manner in the operation of the said Scheduled companies nor allowed, appointed or solicited any representatives, agencies, agents or nominated any persons on their behalf in any manner;
Our clients recently have got knowledge and notice, that some miscreants are impersonating as directors / representatives in some of the said scheduled companies and are trying to mislead the general public in the name of our clients in connection with some businesses in online business, applications, mobile applications having downloadable application on Google play store, IOS (Apple Inc) play store, apk etc. (online tools). The said miscreants may / have opened fictitious online accounts with online payment gateways and may / have been soliciting business or economic activities, online gaming & betting activities, investments and such other financial indulgences by misrepresenting, impersonating, forging and manipulating KYC documents of our clients with intention to lure general public to business promising high returns and with malafide intentions to cheat. Our clients or the Scheduled Companies don't have/ had or own, run, instructed anybody to either own or run any apps or online businesses or portals, accounts in payment gateways, mobile applications, or carry any transactions with intermediary platforms such as google play store, app stores, private websites or with any payment gateways, such as but not limited to RAZORPAY, PAYTM, CASHFREE, PAYU or any similar institutions or gateways, financial intermediaries.
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TAKE NOTICE that our Clients shall not be responsible for any claims or acts which are/ may have been acted upon in the name of the Scheduled companies or its directors / representatives and our clients are not liable for any claims, investments or whatsoever business dealings done online or through mobile applications, portals or apps and sites, etc. and our clients are in the process of filing applications for striking off (closing) of the Scheduled Companies.

Any person(s), banks, financial institutions, payment gateways, corporates, companies that come to know or having knowledge of such miscreants using or dealing or in possession with any information or data which are used or in use pertaining to our clients or the said Scheduled companies may write / send to us on the below mentioned address / e-mail any document or details (**Any personal visits or calls shall be strictly prohibited and not solicited**)

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HRAQ/CONT-EX-B/21-12 dated 28/09/2021

Oil India Limited intends to engage 03 (Three) nos. of Chemist on contract for Drilling Operations in Rajasthan Field. The applications for engagement of Chemist on contract for Drilling Operations in Rajasthan Field will be received online. Interested candidates shall apply only through email to con_app@oilindia.in on or before **12-10-2021**. Please visit our website www.oil-india.com for details.



न्यूक्लियर पावर कॉर्पोरेशन ऑफ इंडिया लिमिटेड
Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited
(भारत सरकार का उद्यम) (A Government of India Enterprise)
सीआईएन/ CIN: U40104MH1987GOI149458



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Interested candidates should possess valid GATE Score for the year 2020/2021/2022 in any of the disciplines mentioned above at the time of applying online in NPCIL. Shortlisting of candidates for interview will be done based on the GATE Score. The detailed advertisement will be available on NPCIL website www.npcilcareers.co.in & www.npcil.nic.in tentatively within 10 days from the date of announcement of GATE-2022 results. Last date of receipt of application is 10th April 2022 (tentatively).

Candidates may visit <https://gate.iitkgp.ac.in> or any of the GATE zonal websites of IISc and IITs for detailed information on GATE 2022.


Any further information/corrigendum/addendum would be uploaded only on the NPCIL websites mentioned above.

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Form DPT-1

Circular or Circular in the Form of Advertisement Inviting Deposits

[Pursuant to section 73(2)(a) and section 76 and rule 4(1) and 4(2) of the Companies (Acceptance of Deposits) Rules, 2014]

Sl. No.	PARTICULARS	INFORMATION
1.	GENERAL INFORMATION	
a.	Name, address, website and other contact details of the Company;	Reliance Retail Limited, 3 rd Floor, Court House, Lokmanya Tilak Marg, Dhobi Talao, Mumbai- 400002, www.relianceretail.com Phone: +91 22 3555 3800
b.	Date of incorporation of the Company;	29-06-1999
c.	Business carried on by the Company and its subsidiaries with the details of branches or units, if any;	Reliance Retail Limited serves customers across the country for their needs on Grocery, Consumer Electronics and Fashion & Lifestyle, through a wide network of convenience stores, supermarkets, hypermarkets, wholesale cash & carry stores, specialty stores and digital commerce platforms. The Company has 12,256 retail stores spread across all major cities and towns in India as on June 30, 2021 Business carried on by the Subsidiaries of the Company: Reliance Clothing India Private Limited: Retailing of foot wear products under 'Payless Shoes' brand. Reliance-Grand Optical Private Limited: Presently no business carried-on. Reliance Petro Marketing Limited: Selling and distribution of petroleum and related products.
d.	Brief particulars of the management of the Company;	The Company is managed by the Whole-time Director and a team of professional managers, subject to the superintendence, control and direction of the Board of Directors.

e. Names, Addresses, DIN and occupation of the Directors:			
Name	Address	DIN	Occupation
Shri V. Subramaniam (Whole-time Director)	Aasharan, Plot No. 95, Sector No. 21, Near Central Park, Kharghar, Raigarh - 410210	00009621	Company Executive
Shri Pankaj Pawar	302, Archana Saurabh CHS, Plot No. 20, Sector-7, Koparkhairne, Navi Mumbai - 400709	00085077	Service
Shri Sanjay Jog	B-702, Rushi Towers, Lokhandwala Complex, Swami Samarth Nagar, Azad Nagar, Andheri (West), Mumbai - 400053	01727602	Service
Shri Ranjit V. Pandit	Darbhanga Mansion, Flat No. 01, 12 Carmichael Road, Opp. BMC Commissioner Bungalow, Pedder Road, Mumbai - 400026	00782296	Management Consultant
Shri K. Sudarshan	1102, Sahani Ashville, Plot No.-P-1, CTS No. 452A, N.M. Patil Marg, Ghatlia Village, Chembur, Mumbai - 400071	01029826	Management Consultant
Prof. Dipak C. Jain	915, Hamlin Street, Evanston, Illinois, Chicago - 60201, United States of America	00228513	Professor
Ms. Geeta Fulwadya	E -51, Jharokha -II, Kalpataru Vatika, Akurli Road, Opp. E.S.I.S Hospital, Kandivli (East), Mumbai - 400101	03341926	Service

f.	Management's perception of risk factors: Reliance Retail Limited is the subsidiary of Reliance Retail Ventures Limited and Reliance Industries Limited. Reliance Retail Limited is engaged in organized retail business catering to consumers in India for their needs on Grocery, Consumer Electronics and Fashion & Lifestyle, through a wide network of convenience stores, supermarkets, hypermarkets, wholesale cash & carry stores, specialty stores and digital commerce platforms. The monies raised under the deposit schemes are essentially advances from its customers towards jewellery purchases and unlikely to pose any financial risk except price, market risk, competition, regulatory environment changes and other normal business risks generally associated with the business.
g.	Details of default, including the amount involved, duration of default and present status, in repayment of:- i) Statutory dues: Nil ii) Debentures and interest thereon: Nil iii) Loan from any bank or financial institution and interest thereon: Nil

2.	PARTICULARS OF THE DEPOSIT SCHEME	
a)	Date of passing of Board resolution	July 23, 2021
b)	Date of passing of resolution in the general meeting authorizing the invitation of such deposits	May 20, 2015
c)	Type of deposits i.e., whether Secured or Unsecured	UNSECURED
d.	Details of deposit amounts: i) Amount which the Company can raise by way of deposits as per the Act and the rules made thereunder ii) Aggregate of deposits actually held on the last day of the immediately preceding financial year iii) Aggregate of deposits actually held on the date of issue of the Circular or advertisement (July 22, 2021) iv) Amount of deposits proposed to be raised v) Amount of deposits repayable within the next twelve months	Rs. 4339.83 crore Rs. 163.50 crore Rs. 183.04 crore Upto Rs. 500 crore Rs. 120.60 crore

e.	Terms of raising of deposits	
Particulars	Terms	
Period of Scheme	6 months Jewellery purchase scheme. The customer has to pay 6 monthly installments and receive benefits under the scheme in the form of discount of 20% of one month installment.	
	11 months Jewellery purchase scheme; The customer has to pay 11 monthly installments and receive benefits under the scheme in the form of discount up to 85% of one month installment.	
	18 months Jewellery purchase scheme; The customer has to pay 18 monthly installments and receive benefits under the scheme in the form of discount up to 210% of one month installment.	
	24 months Jewellery purchase scheme; The customer has to pay 24 monthly installments and receive benefits under the scheme in the form of discount up to 350% of one month installment.	
General Conditions	To join the scheme, the customer has to fill-in the pre-printed Application Form and submit the documents stated therein. Under the each scheme, the customer to pay 6,11,18 and 24 fixed monthly installments of minimum of Rs. 1,000/- or above/multiples of Rs.500/- respectively. First installment should be paid either by cash or debit/ credit card or cheque at the Reliance Jewels showroom. Subsequent installments to be paid through cash/credit card/debit card/post dated cheques/ECS. In respect of cheques, only local cheques or cheques payable at par will be accepted and must be drawn in favour of 'Reliance Retail Limited'. A single payment instrument towards multiple scheme accounts will not be accepted. Date of payment of first installment by the customer shall be considered as the scheme/account opening date. Scheme closure date for Scheme of 6 months shall be the end of 6 months from scheme opening date. Scheme closure date for Scheme of 11 months shall be the end of 13 months from scheme opening date. Scheme closure date for Scheme of 18 months shall be the end of 20 months from scheme opening date. Scheme closure date for the Scheme of 24 months shall be the end of 26 months from scheme opening date. Customer has to pay monthly installments within due dates. For payments made by customer through cheque or ECS, the payment instrument must be received before the due date. In case of 2 consecutive instances of instruments returned on account of insufficient funds etc, then the Company shall not deposit the balance instruments. Customer under any of the schemes is eligible to avail any on-going common scheme/product promotions/ gifts etc. depending upon festival season or other events, along with discount earned under the scheme. Customers may nominate any person to whom his deposited amounts shall vest in the event of his death. Discrepancies, if any, found by the customer in the payment receipts should be brought to the notice of the Company for rectification within 7 days from the date of issuance of receipt. Since it is a jewellery purchase scheme, return is offered in the form of discount at the time of purchase of jewellery by customer as below: (Upon completion of the scheme, discount as % of one month installment):	
	Scheme of 6 months; a) After 6 months - 20%	Scheme of 11 months; a) After 11 months - 65% b) After 12 months - 75% c) After 13 months - 85%
	Scheme of 18 months; a) After 18 months - 175% b) After 19 months - 190% c) After 20 months - 210%	Scheme of 24 months : a) After 24 months - 300% b) After 25 months - 330% c) After 26 months - 350%
Mode of Payment	If the customer wishes to purchase jewellery before completing the scheme (but not before 6 months of payment of first installment), the customer will still get benefit but the eligible discount shall stand reduced as per applicable rules. Delay in payment of monthly installment will result in proportionate reduced benefits.	
	Cash/Credit Card/Debit Card/Cheque/DD/ECS, by way of monthly advances. Deposit of Rs. 2 Lakhs and above shall be accepted by way of cheque, bankers cheque or by way of electronic fund transfer to the designated account of the Company.	
Redemption / Repayment	Since it is a jewellery purchase scheme, redemption will be by way of purchase of jewellery and cash refund will generally not be available and in any event not before 6 months of payment of first installment. Customer may be allowed to purchase jewellery or coin from any of the Reliance Jewels showroom for an amount equal to installments paid plus discount under the scheme (purchase eligibility amount). The final product invoice value should be equal to or in excess, of purchase eligibility amount. Partial redemption of scheme is not allowed. Only the customer or his authorized nominee (as per the Application Form) shall be eligible to purchase jewellery under the scheme. For the purpose of redemption, customer is required to submit original installment receipts along with signed photo identity proof of the Showroom.	

f)	Proposed time schedule mentioning the date of opening of the Scheme and the time period for which the circular or advertisement is valid;	The Fixed Deposit Scheme (Jewellery Purchase Schemes) are in operation with effect from 28th June, 2015 and this circular/ advertisement issued shall be valid till 30th September, 2022 or the date of the Company's Annual General Meeting to be held in 2022, whichever is earlier.
g)	Reasons or objects of raising the deposits;	Reliance Retail Limited has been operating jewellery purchase schemes as part of customer acquisition programmes for its jewellery retail business. Jewellery Purchase Scheme enables customers of the Company to plan and purchase jewellery in easy and convenient monthly installments for festivals, special occasions or other purposes. As per the Companies Act, 2013 and the Companies (Acceptance of Deposits) Rules, 2014, advances collected from customers under these schemes are treated as deposits.
h)	Credit rating obtained: i) Name of Credit Rating Agency ii) Rating obtained iii) Meaning of the rating obtained iv) Date on which rating was obtained	CARE Ratings Limited (CARE) CARE AAA (Triple A) Highest degree of safety regarding timely servicing of financial obligations and carries lowest credit risk. CARE AAA is the highest credit rating assigned by CARE. September 02, 2020 and March 17, 2021 A fresh rating shall be obtained before the expiry of validity of this rating.
i)	Short particulars of the charge created or to be created for securing such deposits, if any;	Unsecured and therefore not applicable
j)	Any financial or other material interest of the directors, promoters or key managerial personnel in such deposits and the effect of such interest in so far as it is different from the interests of other persons	Nil

3.	DETAILS OF ANY OUTSTANDING DEPOSITS	
a.	Amount Outstanding ("represents advances collected from customers under jewellery purchase schemes which are treated as deposits.")	Rs. 163.50 crore*
b.	Date of acceptance	Various dates
c.	Total amount accepted	Rs. 144.37 crore (During the F.Y. 2020-21 with different maturity date)
d.	Rate of interest	No return as interest is offered since it is jewellery purchase scheme. But discount is offered on purchase of jewellery as per the terms and conditions of the scheme(s).
e.	Total number of depositors (outstanding as on July 22, 2021)	1,01,737
f.	Default, if any, in repayment of deposits and payment of interest thereon, if any, including number of depositors, amount and duration of default involved.	Nil
g.	Any waiver by the depositors, of interest accrued on deposits	Nil

4.	FINANCIAL POSITION OF THE COMPANY	
a.	Profits of the Company, before and after making provision for tax, for the three financial years immediately preceding the date of issue of Circular or advertisement	(Rs. Crore)
Financial year	Profit before tax	Profit after tax
2020-21	6,181.56	4,586.86
2019-20	7,423.42	5,539.79
2018-19	4,818.78	3,138.26

b.	Dividends declared by the Company in respect of the said three financial years	Nil
Interest coverage ratio for last three year (cash profit after tax plus interest paid)		
Financial year	Interest Coverage Ratio	
2020-21	9.72	
2019-20	9.69	
2018-19	8.17	

c.	A summary of the financial position of the Company as in the three audited balance sheets immediately preceding the date of issue of circular or advertisement (figures of previous years were regrouped wherever necessary)
(Rs. Crore)	

Particulars	As at 31-03-2021	As at 31-03-2020	As at 31-03-2019
ASSETS			
Non-Current Assets			
Property, Plant and Equipment	8,263.15	7,185.34	6,067.50
Capital Work-in-Progress	6,991.55	6,068.34	2,533.09
Goodwill	2.80	-	-
Intangible Assets	3,164.70	981.80	1,091.03
Intangible Assets under Development	3,612.13	2,752.74	1,788.99
Financial Assets			
Investments	586.24	578.24	573.24
Loans	-	2,436.10	1,122.14
Deferred Tax Assets (net)	-	-	-
Other Non-Current Assets	58.72	222.91	145.29
Total Non-Current Assets	22,679.39	20,225.47	13,321.28
Current Assets			
Inventories	12,321.60	9,348.16	11,291.83
Financial Assets			
Investments	-	-	3,002.89
Trade Receivables	6,091.47	2,489.10	4,330.17
Cash and Cash Equivalents	352.96	334.50	329.69
Other Financial Assets	2,586.28	1,506.67	381.30
Other Current Assets	6,220.59	1,680.01	1,720.39
Total Current Assets	27,500.90	15,340.44	21,056.27
Total Assets	50,180.29	35,565.91	34,377.55
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
Equity			
Equity Share Capital	4,990.42	4,990.40	4,989.54
Other Equity	20,331.79	13,124.78	7,597.87
Total Equity	25,322.21	18,115.18	12,587.41
Liabilities			
Non-Current Liabilities			
Financial Liabilities	-	-	-
Provisions	48.20	38.10	26.68
Deferred tax liabilities (net)	917.75	908.20	22.85
Total Non-Current Liabilities	965.95	946.30	49.53
Current Liabilities			
Financial Liabilities	-	-	-
Borrowings	14,745.88	4,665.74	12,800.56
Trade Payables due to:	-	-	-
Micro and Small Enterprise	401.39	33.97	13.03
Other than Micro and Small Enterprise	6,281.51	5,642.87	4,109.07
Other Financial Liabilities	1,377.21	5,109.43	4,142.12
Other Current Liabilities	1,082.56	1,049.33	673.84
Provisions	3.58	3.09	1.99
Total Current Liabilities	23,892.13	16,504.43	21,740.61
Total Liabilities	24,858.08	17,450.73	21,790.14
Total Equity and Liabilities	50,180.29	35,565.91	34,377.55

d.	Audited Cash Flow Statement for the three years immediately preceding the date of issue of circular or advertisement (figures of previous years were regrouped wherever necessary)
(Rs. crore)	

Particulars	2020-21	2019-20	2018-19
A. CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Profit/loss before tax as per Statement of Profit and Loss	6,181.56	7,423.42	4,818.78
Adjusted for:			
(Profit)/ loss on sale/ discarding of Property, Plant and Equipment (net)	2.78	44.04	28.97
Loss on Sale of Business	23.94	-	-
Depreciation and amortisation expense	1,447.58	1,108.85	601.69
Effect of exchange rate change	(11.00)	8.20	34.75
Net Gain on Financial Assets	(14.65)	(66.53)	(23.26)
Dividend income	-	-	(4.79)
Interest income	(224.42)	(193.82)	(82.54)
Finance costs	693.03	867.03	611.70
Operating profit before working capital changes	8,098.82	9,191.19	5,985.30
Adjusted for:			
Trade and other receivables	(5,070.61)	785.73	(2,053.94)
Inventories	(2,973.44)	1,943.67	(826.55)
Trade and other payables	1,961.53	5,640.68	(439.99)
Cash generated from operations	2,016.30	17,561.27	2,664.82
Taxes Paid (Net)	(1,424.10)	(1,087.35)	(950.31)
Net Cash Flow from Operating Activities	592.20	16,473.92	1,714.51
B. CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Purchase of Property, Plant and Equipment and Intangible Assets	(8,216.61)	(7,185.24)	(4,783.88)
Proceeds from disposal of Property, Plant and Equipment and Intangible Assets	11.87	492.13	49.38
Sale of Business to Holding Company	42.46	-	-
Investment in Subsidiaries/Joint Ventures	(8.00)	(2.50)	(2.50)
Purchase of Other Investments	(12,323.50)	(55,931.01)	(16,795.04)
Proceeds from Sale of Financial Assets	12,338.15	59,000.43	16,781.97
Share application money paid	-	-	(2.50)
Net Cash Flow From Other Financial Assets	2,436.10	(1,313.96)	(659.67)
Movement in Advances	(4,237.19)	-	-
Interest income	285.02	179.90	37.30
Dividend Income	-	-	4.79
Net Cash Flow used in Investing Activities	(9,671.70)	(4,760.25)	(5,370.15)
C. CASH FLOW FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Proceeds from issue of Preference Share	2,618.78	0.02	381.20
Proceeds from issue of Equity Shares	0.02	0.86	-
Repayment of borrowings - Non Current	-	-	(0.22)
Borrowings - Current (Net)	11,785.14	(8,134.82)	9,352.76
Interest Paid	(605.98)	(854.81)	(609.20)
Movement in deposits	(4,700.00)	(2,720.11)	(2,202.44)
Net Cash Flow from / (Used in) Financing Activities	9,087.96	(11,780.86)	6,832.19
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash and Cash Equivalents	18.46	4.81	3,176.46
Opening Balance of Cash and Cash Equivalents	334.50	329.69	156.12
Closing Balance of Cash and Cash Equivalents	352.96	334.50	3,332.58
Cash and Cash Equivalents:			
Cash and Cash Equivalents as above	352.96	334.50	3,332.58
Less:			
Investment in Liquid Mutual Funds	-	-	(3,002.89)
Cash and Cash Equivalents	352.96	334.50	329.69

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THE INDIAN EXPRESS, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2021

THE EDITORIAL PAGE

WORDLY WISE

THE TRUTH IS THAT ALL MEN HAVING POWER OUGHT
TO BE MISTRUSTED — JAMES MADISON

The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

THE LATE LATE SHOW

Revamped cabinets in UP and Punjab showcase a last-minute scramble ahead of polls, reek of tokenism

MINISTRIES IN UTTAR Pradesh and Punjab, where assembly elections are due early next year, have been rearranged and rejigged, ostensibly for accountability and greater social and regional balance. The exercises in the two states follow the radical revamp the BJP undertook in Gujarat earlier this month, when the entire cabinet, including the chief minister, had to resign. The BJP — in UP and Gujarat — and the Congress — in Punjab — apparently believe that these belated makeovers will help them tide over anti-incumbency and win another term. This speaks of a cynical assumption — that the voters can be fooled through last-minute window-dressing choreographed from Delhi. It also points to a lack of imagination and ideas in the two national parties, and consequently their recourse to political band-aid to paper over the perceived cracks in their governments.

In Punjab, the Congress has tried to buy peace among warring factions with a selection of legislators from different camps and regions for the new cabinet — 15 MLAs took oath on Sunday, eight of them ministers in the previous government. Evidently, the party also hopes that appointment of a Scheduled Caste Chief Minister, a first for the state, would influence the community — the single largest caste group in Punjab — to consolidate behind it, and blunt the challenge put up by Captain Amarinder Singh and the Opposition. That may or may not happen but one thing is certain: Tokenism is unlikely to make a dent in the pressing issues in Punjab at this critical juncture. The crisis in agriculture, stasis in industry, lack of employment opportunities, and the persisting drug problem deserve political will, resolute attention and follow-through. With hardly three months left for polls, the Charanjit Singh Channi cabinet is unlikely to be able to do that. In UP, Chief Minister Adityanath appears to have fallen back on the tested strategy of caste and communal patronage and management. His term so far has been marked by the government's brutal crackdown on all forms of dissent and a polarising approach to social issues. Even welfare distribution has been framed in communal terms — the CM's recent *abbaijaan* remark was a dog whistle that painted it as a brutish zero-sum game, in which "they" take away benefits meant for "us".

Even in the past, political parties have replaced legislators to ward off or to blunt anti-incumbency in elections. But the large-scale changes in government by the BJP and Congress in UP and Punjab, directed by their respective high commands ahead of polls, reek of a different kind of calculation, or cynicism. Voters may still continue to back these governments in the absence of better choices, but that would be more a statement on the limited political menu on offer, and less a success of tokenism.

A HOLLOW ROAR

Tripura CM's bravado is a symptom of executive overreach. He must stay within his constitutional lane

IN A DEMOCRACY, power flows from the people and elected governments act as custodians of the mandate. The political class, however, often thinks it can justify its own worst habits — from undermining constitutional norms to gagging dissent — in the name of the people. Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb's speech to a gathering of civil servants on Saturday is an example of this kind of hubris. The BJP Chief Minister reportedly assured bureaucrats that they do not need to fear being hauled up for "contempt of court" — as the head of the executive, Deb claimed he stood between the bureaucracy and any penal action ordered by the judiciary. The threat of "contempt of court" was no "tiger" to be afraid of, he said; "I am the tiger".

The bravado does not hide the sheer hollowness of this argument in a constitutional democracy. The executive is only one part of the government, it is accountable to the legislature, subject to the checks of the judiciary — and bound by the rules of the game enshrined in the Constitution. Of course, in Tripura, too, as in many other states, power is increasingly being centralised in the office of the chief minister, who holds multiple portfolios, and runs the state through a coterie of bureaucrats. Moreover, Deb has shown a maverick persona, often recklessly about political niceties, even as he is seen to be a popular leader. But neither popularity nor his office must allow him to believe, or to project, that a check on executive powers is a curb on democratic authority. His office does not place him above the law. Deb is not alone in such excess and overreach, of course. The cult of the strong leader means that successes in the electoral fray are often sought to be weaponised by governments, to curb dissent and diminish countervailing institutions. The mandate is seen not just to legitimise rule by the majority — but as a licence for majoritarianism. In such a political model, the winner takes all, and leaves diminishing space for discussion and deliberation through the legislature, the imperative to build consensus on controversial laws, respect for minority rights and civil liberties.

When the executive seeks to appropriate excessive power, it is the judiciary's duty and responsibility to raise the red flags, hold it to account and enforce constitutional principles and morality. By appearing to question the judiciary's remit, the Tripura chief minister draws unflattering attention to himself and also does grave disservice to the high office he holds.

HOLDING THE CENTRE

Angela Merkel did it as the far-right rose, in her country and elsewhere. She also compromised

IN THE RUN-UP to the elections in Germany, a video from 1997 of outgoing Chancellor Angela Merkel surfaced on social media. Then, as the country's environment minister, Merkel outlined the impending climate crisis, the effects it was bound to have on the economy, displacement of populations and many of the myriad effects of global warming we see today. As the leader of Germany for 16 years — and the symbol of liberal centrism (even status quo-ism) and European unity — that video highlighted for many both Merkel's best qualities and where she fell short.

It is easy to forget, 16 years on, how significant it was for a woman to lead a traditionally male-dominated polity. Or, now that Donald Trump has been voted out of office and Brexit is done and dusted, what it meant to stand up for liberal values even as the far-right in her country and elsewhere gained ground. Under Merkel, the beleaguered centre held its own. On the other hand, Merkel's tenure has also been marked by strategic silences and compromises, domestically and internationally. For example, on the rights of Muslims and LGBTQI+ identity matters — the latter has become an election issue — Merkel avoided wading into controversy. Or, put another way, perhaps due to political exigencies, the Chancellor has not stood up at times for those who needed her to. The same centrism has marked her attitude to both Russia and China, integral as they were to German energy and trading needs. But perhaps Merkel's most important quality was that she projected reason and stability. Her popularity soared again during the pandemic, as she listened to the scientists and communicated with the people clearly.

The 1997 video has brought home to many how prescient the Chancellor had been about climate change, arguably the greatest existential threat humankind faces, and how, in office, she could have done much more. Perhaps, that is the burden of all centrists, especially those managing coalition governments.



PRATAP BHANU MEHTA

THE CONSOLIDATION OF the Quad is an important political pivot in reconfiguring the Asian order. For the United States, it signals a commitment to remain engaged with the Indo-Pacific and lead a more coordinated effort to contain China. For India, the big political signal is that it is willing to be part of a group that will deny China the opportunity to upend what this group thinks is a world order based on principles of democracy, and a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific. For Australia, it is a clear signal that the die has been cast. China's assertiveness has left these countries with no other option. The Quad is part of a churning of the security architecture in Asia. It will be more confrontational, with all the attendant risks.

The Quad's innovative form is also supposed to reflect that churning. The value of most groupings is often not specific policies, but the socialisation it produces. The Quad is not an alliance. It aims to secure an open order in the Indo-Pacific, but it is not a full-fledged security pact. It is supposed to pursue broad goals: Humanitarian relief, climate change, vaccines, coordination on technology, securing supply chains, trade, and a general outlook on a democratic and inclusive world order.

But the euphoria over political signals of this new experiment should not blind us to some important trends. The Quad is born against the backdrop of colossal failure and contradiction, as much as against the backdrop of a rising China. It will have to overcome the shadow of these failures.

First, the group has staked its claim on shared values. But it has to acknowledge the deep crisis of democracy in the constituent members challenged by plutocracy, ethnic division and dysfunction. The US has, at least nominally, acknowledged that its own democracy is not out of the woods. Indian democracy is struggling. Australia's virtual abandonment of its own stranded citizens during Covid hardly burnished its credentials for a democratic humanitarianism. If being part of such a club can induce a deeper self-consciousness that the credibility of their democracies is the biggest asset of these countries to be preserved in law and deeds, it will be for the good.

Second, the Quad is aimed at the Indo-

It is an important political signal. It will be tested on
Climate, Covid and Critical Technologies

Take Covid. In a way, these countries are coming to the table after having flunked the test once. Had India got its act together even six months earlier, it would have creamed the global vaccine assistance space. Now it will play catch up. But the stark truth of advanced countries hoarding vaccines and being tepid about ramping up production in the face of global shortages, often signalling, "we come first, the rest of the world be damned," left a bad taste. If you are an Indonesia or an Africa or a Nepal you would be right to worry whether the Quad is any more credible on this than China. Perhaps the Quad will learn from its mistakes. But it has already lost an opportunity to burnish its humanitarian credentials.

Pacific and is not a security alliance. Fair enough. But there needs to be more evidence that these countries are willing to listen or are attuned to each other's security needs where it really matters. Australia may be the biggest beneficiary of the Quad. Japan has always been under the umbrella. But India's biggest challenges are going to be its neighbourhood: Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran and China. Biden's decision to withdraw may have been the right one. But the manner signalled one abiding trait of US power: Its unwillingness to listen deeply to concerns and points of view that are not its own. It is to India's credit that it has mostly stood its ground. But we should not be under any illusion that socialisation into the Indo-Pacific translates into more leverage in places where we need it most: In our neighbourhood or dealings with other powers like Russia, which is where the fate of the global order will be decided as much as in the Indo-Pacific.

Third, take critical technologies, supply chains and infrastructure. This group has the heft to do great research collaboration. It can help in further development of critical technologies, and can presumably coordinate some setting of global standards. In areas like cyber security, there is room for a great deal of cooperation, but whether the US will actually share its most advanced capabilities is an open question. But we have to be mindful of two caveats. First, this collaboration is happening just at the moment where both India and the US are turning more protectionist, are sceptical of global trade deals, and have some contradictory interests when it comes to shaping India's development policies. Surely an open, inclusive and fair global order, one that also simultaneously reconfigures supply chains to reduce dependence on China, needs more engagement with a global trading order that includes more countries than another exclusive grouping. These countries also have the ambition to create an alternative to One Belt One Road by providing investment and loans.

But the blunt truth is that the US has long been gutting all the vehicles for doing this. Covid could have been a great opportunity for these countries to provide alternative devel-

opment finance. Just to take one example, the World Bank has been systematically damaged and there is no big US push towards infrastructure investment or development financing. So there will be a lot more sound and fury in this area with few incremental gains.

Take Covid. In a way, these countries are coming to the table after having flunked the test once. Had India got its act together even six months earlier, it would have creamed the global vaccine assistance space. Now it will play catch up. But the stark truth of advanced countries hoarding vaccines and being tepid about ramping up production in the face of global shortages, often signalling, "we come first, the rest of the world be damned," left a bad taste. If you are an Indonesia or an Africa or a Nepal, you would be right to worry whether the Quad is any more credible on this than China. Perhaps the Quad will learn from its mistakes. But it has already lost an opportunity to burnish its humanitarian credentials.

And finally there is climate change. This is where there is a lot of churning. Publics of more countries are paying attention to this; the technological options the world has have increased, and innovation is being harnessed. But it is an open question whether any of this will add up to enough to limit global warming to 2 or 1.5 degrees centigrade. But climate change is an issue on which there will need to be the greatest engagement with China, and Europe will be a big player. Arguably, the US and India will have sharper contradictions in this area, given the past record of broken commitments and lack of commitment to financing. The incremental gains from the Quad on the climate change issue will be marginal.

So the political pivot that the Quad represents may be welcome. But the Quad is consolidating at a moment when its grade on the three "Cs", Climate, Covid and Critical Technologies is, from the point of view of the rest of the world, already a "C". The Quad is an important political signal, whose effectiveness can be derailed by its material tepidity and institutional contradictions.

The writer is contributing editor,
The Indian Express

A HEALTH WARNING

Recommendations to restrict Vitamin A supplement programme are hasty



SHEILA C VIR

IN A study published in June in the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, researchers from leading nutrition institutes in the country argued that the government's National Vitamin A Supplement (VAS) programme should be discontinued in all except seven states — Bihar, Jharkhand, Mizoram, Telangana, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. Such a move will be ill-advised. It would deprive children between six months and five years of the supplement and it may adversely impact optimum immune responses against diseases, lead to re-emergence of eye damage and blindness caused by nutritional deficiencies as well as adversely impact the ongoing anaemia control measures.

The VAS programme, introduced in 1970 and modified in 1991, is based on the rationale that the daily diet of children in the country is deficient in this essential nutrient. The human diet has two forms of this vitamin: A precursor of vitamin A, or B-carotene, present in yellow and green vegetables and fruits and an active form of vitamin A found in food items sourced from animals such as milk, butter, eggs and meat products. Surveys undertaken over the years by the National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau (NNMB) have confirmed that over 70 per cent children consumed less than 70 per cent of the recommended level of this vitamin. They have also revealed that over 80 per cent of children in the age group of 1-3 years consumed less than 50 per cent the recommended

The haste to shift to a 'targeted' approach is based on a fear of hypervitaminosis — abnormally high levels of vitamins that can cause toxicity. Neither the CNNS or NIN survey has reported hypervitaminosis cases. A scientifically sound state/UT survey of biochemical parameters of VAD along with data on peoples' diets is required and there is a need to build consensus amongst experts.

amount of milk as well as oils and other types of fats. The findings of the Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey (CNNS), 2016-19, re-confirmed the low dietary intake of vitamin A-rich foods. Among children aged 2 to 4 years, only 5 per cent consumed vitamin A-rich fruits and vegetables. Eggs and meat products were the least commonly consumed food groups. A predominantly vegetarian diet combined with frequent intestinal infections, and/or chronic inflammation reduces absorption or increases catabolism that contributes to vitamin A depletion.

The policy, "Management of Vitamin A Deficiency", introduced in 1991, was guided by the findings of the National Institute of Nutrition, ICMR, that reported the seroconversion of measles vaccine in field conditions was significantly higher in children who had taken a vitamin A supplement as compared to those who did not. With the introduction of the biannual strategy for administering six-monthly vitamin A dose in early 2000, VAS coverage increased from 20.3 per cent in 2005-6 to 62 per cent in 2015-16 in children in the age group of two to three.

The recommendation to limit the national VAS programme to the "targeted" seven states — the debate was amplified during Poshan Maah observed this month by the government — is based on one study, the CNNS 2019, that has several limitations. First, the survey is based on a limited sample. In 20 states, the number of children surveyed was

less than 50 per cent of the recommended sample size. In Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, the sample size was as low as 35 and 134 as against the recommended minimum 500. Second, as per CNNS, vitamin A deficiency is a severe public health problem in not seven but 12 states. Moreover, wide intra-state variations cannot be overlooked when dropping an entire state from the VAS programme. The recommendation that all the six UTs, not surveyed under CNNS, be dropped from VAS based on the status of "neighbouring" states is an unscientific approach. Dropping Chandigarh, sandwiched between Haryana (vitamin A-deficient state) and Punjab (not a vitamin A-deficient state) is based on an add-on criterion — Chandigarh is an "economically well-off" UT.

With high priority being accorded to building optimum immunity in young children who are yet to be vaccinated against Covid-19, the implications of discontinuing VAS could be devastating.

The haste to shift to a "targeted" approach is based on a fear of hypervitaminosis — abnormally high levels of vitamins that can cause toxicity. Neither the CNNS or the NIN survey has reported hypervitaminosis cases. A scientifically sound state/UT survey of biochemical parameters of VAD along with data on peoples' diets is required and there is a need to build consensus amongst experts.

The writer is director, Public Health Nutrition and Development Centre

SEPTEMBER 28, 1981, FORTY YEARS AGO

CLASHES IN TEHRAN

SEVERAL ARMED DEMONSTRATIONS against the regime of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini erupted in Tehran, leaving at least seven people dead and more than 40 injured, and forcing a strict security clampdown in the Iranian capital. The security measures, which originally affected only three areas impacted by the chaos, quickly spread around government offices, parliament and the presidency in Tehran. People's Mujahideen members distributed leaflets and torched seven buses. Intense exchanges of gunfire followed as a huge contingent of revolutionary guards arrived. The official Pars News Agency blamed the clashes on

"three groups of up to 10-20 people belonging to the People's Mujahideen and other pro-American groups".

BORDER TENSIONS

TENSION ALONG THE Indo-Bangla border in South Tripura increased as more tribal refugees poured in with tales of depredations in tribal areas and renewed clashes between the Bangladesh security forces, and Shanti Bahini, the armed insurgent group of the Buddhist Chakma rebels in the Chittagong hills. The number of refugees who crossed the border on September 27 crossed the 10,000 mark according to officials of the Border Security Force.

FIGHTS IN CONGRESS

FIST FIGHTS MARKED a meeting of the Bihar Congress (!) at its Patna headquarters in Sadaquat Ashram. The meeting was addressed, among others by Rajendra Kumari Bajpai, an AICC-I general secretary, Chief Minister Jagannath Mishra and Railway Minister Kedar Pandey. Bajpai had to leave the meeting before it ended. A couple of people were injured in the meeting. Different groups alleged that *goondas* had been brought by the other group. Before the meeting started, Vidyakar Ravi, former minister and dissident leader, wanted to know who all were eligible to attend the meeting. This resulted in shouts and counter-shouts.



New Delhi



13 THE IDEAS PAGE

The new outer space order

As space becomes critical in shaping the military balance of power on earth, there is growing competition among states. China's emergence as a major space power is reshaping astropolitics



RAJA MANDALA

By C Raja Mohan

IN OPENING NEW pathways for outer space cooperation with the US and Quad partners—Australia and Japan — in Washington last week, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has positioned India to engage more productively with a rapidly evolving domain that is seeing more commerce and contestation. Delhi's new strategic interest in outer space is based on a recognition of two important trends. One is the centrality of emerging technologies in shaping the 21st-century global order. The other is about the urgency of writing new rules for the road to peace and stability in outer space.

The new emphasis on space cooperation is part of a much larger technology agenda outlined by India and its Quad partners. In the statement issued after bilateral talks, Modi and President Joe Biden called on India and the US to "continue and expand their partnership in new domains and many areas of critical and emerging technology—space, cyber, health security, semiconductors, AI, 5G, 6G and future generation telecommunications technology, and blockchain, that will define innovation processes, and the economic and security landscape of the next century".

Technology cooperation has always been an important part of India-US relations. But it has been a boutique discourse between the relevant agencies of the two governments. As emerging technologies overhaul global economic and security structures, Delhi and Washington now have to widen the interface of technology. To be sure, official Delhi and Washington will have a critical role in facilitating technological cooperation in these advanced areas. But it is the commercial sector that must set the pace for progress within India. And cross-border collaboration among the Quad corporates will be critical in implementing the ambitious technological agenda outlined in Washington last week.

Technological progress in the last two decades has also "produced" new domains for human activity. One is "cyberspace" that drives so much of modern life and occupies so much policy and political attention around the world. But the emergence of "outer space" as a strategic domain is yet to get the attention it deserves in Delhi.

Although human forays into space began in the middle of the 20th century, the intensity of that activity as well as its commercial and security implications have dramatically increased in recent decades. As outer space becomes a location for lucrative business as well as a site of military competition between states, the salience of space cooperation between the Quad members is likely to increase in the coming years.

Until now, the maritime domain has dominated the strategic cooperation bilaterally between Delhi and Washington as well as within the Quad. The annual Malabar naval exercise, for example, began nearly three decades ago as a bilateral venture in 1992 and became a quadrilateral one in 2020 with the participation of Australia.

The idea of the Quad itself goes back to spontaneous cooperation between the navies



C R Sasikumar

of India, US, Australia and Japan in responding to the massive humanitarian crisis triggered by the Boxer Day Tsunami in the eastern Indian Ocean at the end of 2004.

The rise, fall and resurrection of the Quad is also intimately linked to the construction of a new maritime geography—the Indo-Pacific. The rise of China, the projection of its maritime power into the Pacific and the Indian Ocean encouraged the reimagination of the two oceans as a geopolitical continuum.

Last week's talks in Washington present outer space as a new arena for space cooperation. At the bilateral level, Delhi and Washington have agreed to intensify space cooperation; and the Quad has set up a new working group to discuss space-related issues.

Until recently, outer space has been the sole preserve of states. But private entities are now major players in space commerce. At the same time, as space becomes a critical factor in shaping the military balance of power on the earth, there is growing competition among states.

The US has traditionally dominated outer space in the commercial domain. Its military competition with Russia set the norms in the security field. China's emergence as a major space power—in both civilian and military—is reshaping astropolitics.

The dramatic expansion of Chinese space capabilities and Beijing's ambition to dominate outer space have lent a new urgency for democratic powers to come together to secure their national interests as well as promote sustainable order in the skies above.

India, which has developed significant space capabilities over the decades, is a deeply invested party. The US recognises that it can't unilaterally define the space order anymore and is looking for partners. The India-US joint statement issued in Washington highlighted plans to finalise, "a Space Situational Awareness Memorandum of Understanding that will help in sharing of data and services towards ensuring the long-term sustainability of outer space activities by the end of the year".

International cooperation on space situational awareness is similar to the agreements on maritime domain awareness—that facilitate sharing of information on a range of ocean metrics. India has been strengthening its maritime domain awareness through bilateral agreements as well as the Information Fusion Centre for the Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR)

Space situational awareness (SSA) involves monitoring the movement of all objects—natural (meteors) and man-made (satellites)—and tracking space weather. If you think this is stuff for video games, you are very wrong. Today, space is integral to our lives and disruption of space-based communications and earth observation will have serious consequences. When signed, the agreement with the US on SSA will be the first of its kind for India.

at Gurugram.

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When signed, the agreement with the US on SSA will be the first of its kind for India. Washington has agreements with more than two dozen countries on SSA. The US and Indian delegations have also discussed a US initiative called the Artemis Accords—that seek to develop norms for activity in the Moon and other planetary objects. As commercial and military activity in outer space grows, the 20th-century agreements like Outer Space Treaty and the Moon Treaty (1979) need reinforcement and renewal.

Beyond the bilateral, the new space working group set up by the Quad "will identify new collaboration opportunities and share satellite data for peaceful purposes such as monitoring climate change, disaster response and preparedness, sustainable uses of oceans and marine resources, and on responding to challenges in shared domains". The Quad leaders also promised to "consult on rules, norms, guidelines and principles for ensuring the sustainable use of outer space."

The growing strategic salience of outer space demands substantive national policy action in India. Delhi has undertaken some reforms in recent years like letting the private sector participate in space activity. It has also taken tentative steps to cope with the unfolding military challenges in outer space. It has also initiated space security dialogue with close partners like the US, Japan, and France.

The scale of the challenges and opportunities in outer space, however, demand more urgent and sweeping reform. That can only be mandated by the highest political level. Back in 2015, PM Modi's speech on the Indian Ocean focused national attention on maritime affairs. India could do with a similar intervention on outer space today.

The writer is director, Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore and contributing editor on international affairs for The Indian Express

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"It is not just the food supply chain that Brexit is affecting; there is also a growing crisis in the care sector, with a shortage of care workers both as a result of the pandemic and of post-Brexit immigration rules." —THE GUARDIAN

The doctrine of hate

It will injure not only the 'Other'. Assam shows how it touches, and savagely damages, us all



HARSH MANDER

I AM HAUNTED by the lament of two young researchers from Assam, Suraj Gogoi and Nazimuddin Siddique. "We are shaken and frozen", they say. "Is this the last sky?" The majority of the Indian people have become so inured to brutal public displays of hate violence that when we consume video images of lynching, gangrape and killing of Dalit women, and the flaunting of bigotry by our leaders, we just turn our faces away. What was it then about the recent images from Darrang in Assam—of a man with a lathi shot in his chest trying to defend his home against hundreds of armed security men, and of a young civilian jumping on and kicking the man's body even as his last breaths cease—that has stirred public outrage?

A local activist likened the scene of the Assam village to one "from a war". There were at least 1,500 armed police and paramilitary soldiers, he said. Eight hundred homes were rapidly razed. A 28-year-old man in a lungi with a stick in his hand ran towards the soldiers in anguish about being rendered landless and homeless. He could easily have been overpowered without firing even a shot. And even if compelled to shoot, the forces are trained to shoot below the waist, so as to temporarily disable but not kill the protester. Instead, they choose to shoot him in the chest.

The village, Dholpur, is one amongst hundreds of riverine islands and riverbanks, vulnerable to erosion every year. On one side is the mighty Brahmaputra and on the other its tributary Nono. Landless peasants, mostly of Bengali Muslim origin, have settled here for decades. These are families displaced both by riverine erosion and periodic targeted violence—the most violent incidents took place during the Assam agitation.

Sabita Goswami in *Along the Red River* describes how in 1983, along with the forgotten massacre of Nellie—the largest post-Independence communal massacre for which not a single person has even been tried, let alone punished—an uncounted number of people were slaughtered in Chaolkhowa Chapori, close to Dholpur.

In the intensely flood-vulnerable riverine islands and banks, large numbers of landless peasants cultivate, under conditions of immense hardship and insecurity, tracts of land for which they have not been issued papers by the state administration. These lands get washed away by floods every few years, and the peasants shift to a new island or river bank each time. In Dholpur, they cultivated three crops every year—corn, jute and peanut—and vegetables like cabbage, brinjal and cauliflower. To call them encroachers is dangerous official fiction.

Almost immediately after assuming office, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa

Sarma announced the resolve of his government to remove these "encroachments". He has not explained why only the settlements populated largely by Muslims of Bengali origin were chosen for demolition. At the Dholpur site, Sarma announced that the land reclaimed from these encroachers would be used to settle "indigenous" Assamese for collective farming. It may seem mystifying why the state chose to replace one set of landless peasants with another. But when it's about replacing "Bangladeshis" (read Assamese Muslims of Bengali origin) with "indigenous" people (read Assamese Hindus), the unashamedly communal political character of the project becomes evident.

Sarma has announced, after criticism, that the landless people displaced would be resettled elsewhere. The humane administrative response would then have been to resettle the displaced people before displacing them. Instead, local people told me that they got notices one night, and early the next morning, the forces began demolishing their homes. They asked for time to at least collect their housing materials and belongings, but instead, these were wrecked and often set on fire by the police forces.

Finally stands the question of this man who vented his hate with such malevolence on the man shot by police bullets. We know now that he was a photographer often engaged by the district administration, charged with filming the police action against the "encroachers". To understand the photographer's actions, we need first to see the dark hole into which we—the people in Assam and rest of India—have fallen. The perversity of hate of the photographer, indeed of lynch mobs in many parts of the country, cannot be dismissed as individual social anomalies. These public displays of violent hate targeting India's Muslims and sometimes Dalits have increasingly become normalised, and public resistance to it is increasingly rare.

I speak from the experience of 30 journeys of solidarity and atonement of the Karwan e Mohabbat to families of those felled by hate violence. Families would tell us, "We wish they had just shot him or stabbed him to death. Why did they torture him so much?"

Do we need to ask ourselves where this hate comes from? There is no doubt today that we are being tutored into hate from above, from those in positions of power. It is they who have valorised hate against the "termites", the "infiltrators", the "cow-killers", the "temple-breakers", the "love jihadis".

To people from dominant communities, I ask: Is it that you don't care because you think this hate will only damage the hated "other"? Look at the photographer in Darrang, look at the faces of young men in innumerable videos of lynch mobs or gang-rapists. Don't imagine that hate would leave you untouched. Do you want your children also to grow so savagely damaged by hate?

Mander is a Richard von Weizsacker Fellow and a peace and human rights worker and writer

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FOOD POLITICS

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Grain diplomacy' (IE, September 27). Drawing a parallel equivalence from US diplomacy termed the 'Food for Peace' programme post World War II, India with its overflowing wheat and rice stockpile of 90.41 million tonnes and more coming, could play a similar role in South Asia. The suggestion of donating to or bartering with countries in the neighbourhood who are suffering from food crisis, like Afghanistan and Sri Lanka, is laudable. However, paradoxically, in its 2020 report, the Global Hunger Index—which measures and tracks hunger globally based on the four indicators of undernourishment, child wasting, stunting, mortality amongst children under five years of age—has ranked India 94 among 107 countries under "serious" hunger category. This exposes the inherent problem of the failure to redistribute the fruits of economic growth to the masses.

L R Murmu, Delhi

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Grain diplomacy' (IE, September 27). Ancient Indian wisdom had always rated giving food to the hungry as the best form of charity. It also enjoined that charity is meritorious only if there are no strings attached to it. Politically, American donation of grain did not yield the required results as it had the stain of diplomacy attached to it. India should not repeat this mistake. Any help to our neighbours should be done on a solely humanitarian basis.

H N Bhagwat, Chiplun

NOT JUST JOBS

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'The strategic public sector' (IE, September 25). The

importance of the public sector is often misconstrued as only being an employer and a means to further affirmative action policies. While there is a case to address the inefficiencies and red-tapism that plague both public and bigger private enterprises, any attempt at disinvestment or corporatisation of PSEs must be guided by the long-term objective of value preservation and strategic ownership of critical technologies.

Tarvi Soni, Jalandhar

PINCH OF SALT

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'In step with US' (IE, September 27). In real terms, both in international fora as well as in terms of strategic-military sales, France has been a good partner to India. The AUKUS has made it clear that the US wants pliant, former allies as partners in the Great Game in the Indo-Pacific, not middle powers with independent foreign policies. Moreover, the AUKUS takes the shine off the Quad as a strategic counterbalance to China-Russia-Pakistan. And, given that it is China that is our neighbour and given the US's penchant for leaving countries and allies in the lurch, perhaps New Delhi needs to consider a more balanced foreign policy.

Shantanu Ray, via email

ONLINE LESSONS

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Learning without barriers' (IE, September 27). It is a hard fact that not all students, including disabled children, have access to the gadgets necessary for receiving online education. Moreover, internet connectivity is also scarce and erratic in many areas, especially in rural India.

Ravi Mathur, Noida



D RAJA

Celebrating aandolan jeevis

Gandhi, Bhagat Singh's dissent would have earned them sedition charges today

THE BIRTH ANNIVERSARY celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi on October 2 and those of Bhagat Singh on September 28 constitute the commemoration of the values of the freedom struggle, which every Indian should uphold as part of the fundamental duties enshrined in the Constitution. Both Gandhi and Bhagat Singh have left behind an extraordinary legacy of defending freedom and independence by employing dissent against the powers that be and both faced sedition charges for doing so. It is a paradox that when the 75th year of India's independence is being celebrated, the core ideals of both Gandhi and Bhagat Singh are being negated by the Narendra Modi regime and those who uphold the culture of dissent are facing sedition charges, which are being slapped on with greater frequency and vigour. Had Gandhi and Bhagat Singh been alive today, the ruling dispensation would have called them *aandolan jeevis* and put them behind bars.

On September 7, 1924, Gandhi wrote in *Navjivan*, "...criticism of the government was considered sedition and hardly anyone dared to speak the truth." Ninety-seven years later, these words resonate as section 124A of the Indian Penal Code (sedition) is frequently applied against students, journalists, human rights activists, and peaceful protesters.

In fact, while serving as the home minister, Rajnath Singh had said that the sedition provision would be strengthened if the BJP were to win the general elections to form the

government for a second time in 2019. Such statements coming from the top leadership of the BJP remind us of the colonial era when figures like Gandhi and Bhagat Singh were put behind bars for fighting for India's freedom.

It is relevant to note that both wrote about the significance of the culture of criticism, which is now seen by the Modi regime as a threat to its rule. This regime has, since 2014, made India a partially-free country and even secured the unenviable status of an "electoral autocracy".

Gandhi defined *swaraj* from multiple perspectives and one of the most instructive perspectives was that *swaraj* should empower people to resist authority when it is abused. On January 29, 1925, Gandhi wrote in *Young India*, "Real *swaraj* will come not by the acquisition of authority by a few but by the acquisition of the capacity by all to resist authority when it is abused. In other words, *swaraj* is to be obtained by empowering the masses to a sense of their capacity to regulate and control authority."

As a 23-year-old revolutionary, Bhagat Singh wrote in his classic piece "Why I am an atheist"—"Merciless criticism and independent thinking are the two necessary traits of revolutionary thinking." He added, "It is necessary for every person who stands for progress to criticise every tenet of old beliefs".

The *swaraj* of Gandhi's vision wished to make the masses aware of the sense of their

capacity to regulate and control authority, and Bhagat Singh's imagined India, where every person standing for progress should criticise every tenet of old beliefs, is assaulted severely by criminalising dissent and mercilessly applying draconian laws against protesters.

Gandhi and Bhagat Singh attained martyrdom for the cause of India. Bhagat Singh's method of struggle for India's freedom was not acceptable to Gandhi, but he hailed him as a great patriot and a brave Indian.

It is fascinating to note that Bhagat Singh, along with Batukeshwar Dutt, wrote on June 6, 1928, "...labourers and producers, despite being part of the mainstream, are victims of exploitation and have been denied basic human rights... Farmers who produce die of hunger. The weaver who weaves clothes for others cannot do so for his own family and children... Masons, carpenters, ironsmiths who build huge palaces die living in huts and slums. On the other side, capitalist exploiters, anti-social elements, spend crores of rupees on their fashion and enjoyment..."

Today, the farmers' agitation against the three farm laws is an unprecedented popular movement in independent India, challenging the dictatorial rule of the BJP-RSS combine.

Gopalkrishna Gandhi once wrote that Bhagat Singh's spirit was all pervasive in the Karachi session of the Indian National Congress when a resolution drafted by Gandhi was adopted. It talked about the rights of

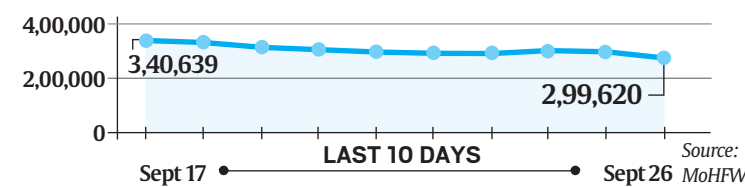
workers and peasants and underlined the point that the means of production should be vested with the masses and not the capitalists and landlords.

Today, in the name of monetising national assets, the Modi regime is handing over these assets to capitalists and corporates in complete disregard of the interests of workers and peasants.

While drafting the constitution, B R Ambedkar had rightly emphasised that the Indian state should be a welfare state which ensures that one, citizens, men and women, equally have the right to earn an adequate livelihood; two, that the ownership and control of the material resources of the community are so distributed as to best subserve the common good; and three, that the operation of the economic system does not result in the concentration of wealth and the means of production to the common detriment.

While we mark the birth anniversaries of Bhagat Singh and Gandhi, it is necessary to recapture the spirit of their commitment. It is also necessary to emphasise Ambedkar's definition of the Indian state as secular and welfare, which is being subverted by the current ruling dispensation. This situation demands a confluence of all the secular, democratic and progressive forces in the battle against the corporate-communal fascist onslaught.

The writer is general secretary, CPI



EXPLAINED GLOBAL

The Merkel era and India

As Chancellor Angela Merkel prepares to hand over power to a new coalition leader, an era ends in Germany and Europe. How did India's relations with Germany evolve in the Merkel years, and what comes next?

EXPERT EXPLAINS

UMMU SALMA BAVA

From The Indian Express panel of specialists, exclusive insight

GERMANY HAS voted for a change, but with a mandate that requires a lot of negotiations before the next government is formed.

After a slow campaign start, the centre-left Social Democrats (SPD) and their candidate for Chancellor Olaf Scholz, who were part of outgoing Chancellor Angela Merkel's governing coalition, have managed to transform the initial perception of German voters, and climb to the top of the chart. The conservative Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and its leader Armin Laschet have slumped to an all-time low, and may be forced to take a seat in the opposition.

The Greens, with their candidate for Chancellor Annalena Baerbock, have emerged as the third largest party, clearly showing the response among voters to the climate crisis. The traditional kingmaker of the past, the liberal party (FDP), is in fourth position, and remains crucial to forming the government. The populist right wing Alternative für Deutschland (AfD) has moved down the ladder but will still be present in Parliament, which shows that they are entrenched in Germany's political landscape.

Once the final results are declared, the long process of forming the government will be tried by both the SPD and CDU.

Angela Merkel was Chancellor for 16 years — from 2005 to 2021. What did she do right to be able to serve for so long?

Merkel is the third leader from the CDU to have had an extraordinarily long tenure as Chancellor. The other two leaders were Dr Konrad Adenauer (1949-63), who laid the foundation of West Germany, and Dr Helmut Kohl (1982-98), who was called the Chancellor of Unification.

Merkel broke the glass ceiling to become the first woman Chancellor from the conservative party, and was kept in the post by a combination of political, economic, and social factors. Her middle-of-the-road approach made her appear a safe bet when things were not stable politically, and won her support at the domestic and European levels.

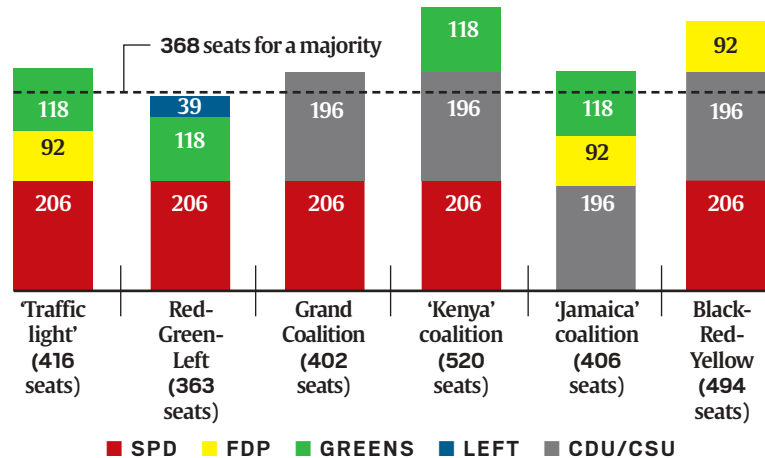
While many in Europe saw her as the only strong leader on the continent, to others she appeared as being risk-averse in a typically German way — which brought the assurance that she would lead without rocking the boat. With the CDU being the largest party in the last four elections, and Merkel facing no significant challenge to her leadership from within, she could drive the negotiations for coalition governments, but she did not always get the optimal outcome. Thrice she formed a government with the Social Democrats, termed the "Grand Coalition".

How are the economy, society, and politics of Germany different today from what they were when Merkel became Chancellor?

A number of political, economic, and social developments in Europe and the world had their impact on Germany. Merkel benefited from economic reforms initiated by her predecessor Gerhard Schröder — including a reduction in taxes, merging of unemployment and welfare benefits, and increasing the flexibility of the labour market. As a strong export-based economy, Germany under Merkel out-

PATHS TO GOVERNMENT

Seats in the Bundestag (Provisional)



THROUGH TRAFFIC, OR PERHAPS VIA JAMAICA

TRAFFIC LIGHT coalition will need the Greens and FDP to join hands with SPD. The SPD and Greens ruled together from 1998 to 2005, but the liberal FDP have said they don't agree with them on much except on legalising cannabis.

JAMAICA is a possibility — a coalition of the CDU/CSU, Greens, and FDP, making up the colours of the Jamaican flag — but that would keep the biggest party out, and perhaps would not be stable.



DRIVING OUT: Merkel arrives for a CDU meeting in Berlin Monday, the day after elections. *Reuters*

GRAND COALITION of the SPD-CDU/CSU could return, with or without the Greens or FDP. They have said they can't work together, but they said that in 2017 as well.

performed France, the UK, Spain, and Italy in Europe, and posted robust exports behind only China and the US.

During her tenure, unemployment in Germany came down by an order of 3 million, and 5 million more people got jobs. The innovative "kurzarbeit" short-time work scheme saved thousands of jobs, and prevented layoffs by giving firms subsidies to keep workers on the rolls during the financial crisis and the pandemic.

However, Germany has been slow to adapt to digitalisation — and OECD data show it ranks 34th out of 38 industrialised countries in Internet speeds.

As Germany has seen demographic change, Merkel remains popular among the baby boomers, the generation born from the time World War II ended to the mid-1960s. Thirty years after reunification in 1990, the memories of World War II are receding — but the East-West divide continues despite the pumping of money into the erstwhile East by successive German governments. Unemployment figures are still higher in the new states as compared to the rest of Germany. And a significant percentage of the population (about 10%) thinks that the country should leave the European Union.

All these developments have had an impact on the political landscape. The traditional two-and-a-half-party system of the Christian Democratic Union/Christian Socialist Union (CDU/CSU), SPD, and FDP has changed. The

Greens have risen as a major force, and more recently, the AfD has sought to offer radical solutions, creating a fractured political field. Some analysts link the strengthening of the AfD — which became the third largest party in the German Parliament in 2017 — to the influx of large numbers of refugees in 2015 following Merkel's decision to open the country's doors to them. The AfD's rise is also in line with the trend seen elsewhere in Europe, and the emergence of right wing governments in Poland and Hungary.

What impact has Germany under Merkel had on Europe and the world?

The financial crisis of 2008 was followed by the Eurozone crisis. Germany paid the largest amount in the EU's first bailout of Greece in 2010. Merkel's push for an austerity-based approach to the crisis made her very unpopular in Greece and other European countries struggling with balancing budgets and pushing a growth agenda.

In 2015, the refugee crisis swamped Europe, and Merkel pushed to take in the swelling numbers who landed on European shores. Her famous line "Wir schaffen das" — "We can manage this" — drew criticism from far right groups in Germany, as well as from her European allies who complained they were not consulted. Poland, Hungary, and Austria refused to admit refugees as per the quotas decided by the European Union, while Germany took in a million of those who arrived in Europe.

POSITION OF MONSOON TROUGH:

With no low-pressure systems forming, the monsoon trough remained to the north of its normal position for most days in August. As a result, rainfall was largely restricted to parts of Uttarakhand, Himachal, UP, and Bihar.

WESTERN PACIFIC TYPHOONS: These usually bring good rain during August as they cross Myanmar. Their remnants then re-enter the Bay of Bengal, become fresh weather systems and approach the Indian mainland along the east coast. "This August, typhoon activity was far less, and hardly any of their remnants reached the Bay of Bengal. The typhoons that developed recurved north-eastward instead of advancing north-westward towards the Bay of Bengal. The absence of low-pressure systems brought less rain over Central India," said D Sivanand Pai, head, Climate Research and Services, Pune.

NEGATIVE INDIAN OCEAN DIPOLE: Since the start of the monsoon, the IOD has remained in its negative phase. Studies have linked the negative phase of IOD to below normal rainfall.

OFF-SHORE TROUGH: An off-shore trough that generally runs between Gujarat and Kerala, attracts moist winds from the

Merkel has been seen as the crisis manager of the EU — a role that was evident in Europe's Brexit negotiations with the United Kingdom. She has also been called the "climate chancellor" for her role in pushing a low-carbon future for Germany and Europe. Although Germany adopted the "Energiewende" transition to a more renewable and sustainable economy, the reinvention of its large industrial economy in a competitive environment has not been easy — three-fourths of Germany's energy requirements still come from oil, coal, and gas.

At the political level, neither she nor the EU could come up with stronger action against Russia after its annexation of Crimea in 2014 — and Germany subsequently chose to go ahead with the controversial Nord Stream 2 pipeline to supply gas to Europe.

After the 2016 US elections that put Donald Trump in the White House, Merkel came to be seen as the new "leader of the free world". Following the outbreak of Covid-19, Germany led the European effort to address the impact of the pandemic in a timely manner with solidarity.

In what areas and directions did India's bilateral relationship with Germany evolve under Merkel?

Since the inauguration of the India-Germany strategic partnership in 2001, relations have grown in a robust manner. India is one of the few countries with which Germany holds Cabinet-level Inter-Governmental Consultations (IGC). Five IGC meetings have been held so far; they signal growing political engagement and economic partnership that has led to strong institutionalised arrangements to discuss bilateral and global issues.

At the fifth IGC held in 2019, for which Merkel visited India, the focus was on sustainable growth and a reliable international order. Although trade and investment have been at the heart of the bilateral engagement, the IGC has expanded its scope to artificial intelligence and digital transformation, and pushed forward the 'Make in India Mittelstand' programme. The other areas of cooperation include science and technology, sustainable energy, smart cities, and circular economies.

At the political level, India and Germany have been at the forefront of the push for UN Security Council reform. At the cultural level, there has been joint investment in higher education to enable greater people-to-people contact and collaboration in education.

What are the unfinished tasks that India must now take up with Merkel's successor?

It will be a while before a stable ruling coalition comes into being and a new government takes office in Germany. What assumes priority on the political agenda will be decided in part by the nature of the coalition. Broadly, however, there will be continuity in the previously agreed agenda, and a focus on bilateral trade will dominate the economic side of the partnership.

Germany has put out its own strategy for the Indo-Pacific, which has to be read with the EU's approach. New Delhi has to engage Berlin on enhancing this aspect of the equation.

There is scope to scale up defence cooperation. A focus on high-end technology transfers and sustained research and development hubs being created in India, will provide a boost to infrastructure creation and scientific cooperation.

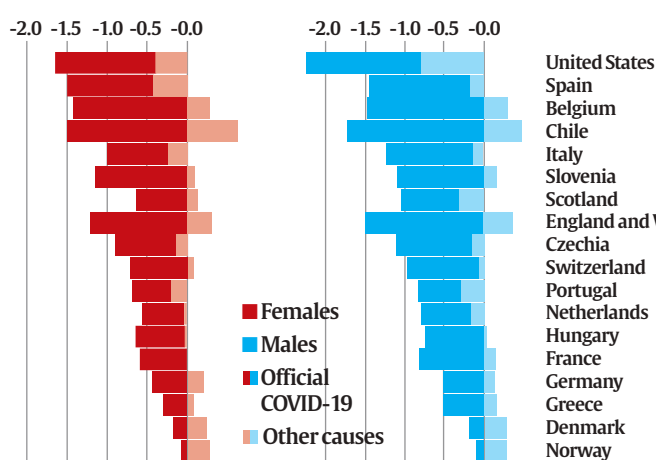
A major area of cooperation relates to climate change and building more sustainable energy solutions in India, and offering it to third countries with co-branding.

Another would be investment in higher education and fast-tracking high-skilled Indian employment in Germany.

TELLING NUMBERS

Covid-19 caused highest reduction in life expectancy since WWII: study

LOSSES | GAINS IN LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH, YEARS



Changes in life expectancy, 2019 to 2020. *International Journal of Epidemiology*

IN A new study in the *International Journal of Epidemiology*, researchers from the University of Oxford and the University of Denmark have found that the Covid-19 pandemic has led to the highest reduction in life expectancy since World War II. Life expectancy reduced from 2019 to 2020 in 27 of 29 countries, and females from 15 countries and males from 10 countries ended up with lower life expectancy at birth in 2020 compared to 2015.

Men in the US and Lithuania experienced the largest losses in life expectancy at birth at 2.2 and 1.7 years,

respectively. The study says the reductions were mostly attributable to increased mortality above the age of 60 and official Covid-19 deaths.

Between 2015 and 2019, all countries reported increased life expectancy at birth. But between 2019 and 2020, life expectancy declined in almost all countries for both sexes. The exceptions were females in Finland and both males and females in Denmark and Norway. Further, with the exception of Spain, Slovenia, Estonia and Northern Ireland, life expectancy losses were larger for males in 2020.

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This year, a four-point monsoon story with a storm at each end

ANJALIMARAR
PUNE, SEPTEMBER 27

THREE DAYS remain before the curtain falls on this year's rains — the official end of the four-month southwest monsoon season. As of Monday, the country had received 850.3 mm of rain, 2% short of the season's normal.

Wet, dry, very wet

Rainfall was below normal from July through September 21; the all-India cumulative rainfall touched the normal mark just last week. This was mainly due to deficient rain in Northwest (deficient from July 3 till date), and East and Northeast India (from July 7 till date). Rainfall over Central India turned normal last week after being deficient from July through September 15. Cumulative rainfall from June 1 to September 27 was -4% in the Northwest, and -13% in East and Northeast India. In contrast, rainfall remained on the positive side in South peninsular India all through, and is 10% above normal currently. Central India has a surplus of 1%.

Rain in June was brought by the remnants of Cyclone Yaas, and by a near on-time onset

of the monsoon over Kerala. It started to rain early across the Southern peninsula, and the East, Northeast and Central parts of India, and June closed with +9.6% for the country.

A dry spell of about 23 days followed, and the monsoon could cover the entire country only on July 13, five days behind schedule. Cumulative rainfall for July was -6.8%.

Belying IMD predictions, rainfall was poor in August, but there were extreme rain events in parts of Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, and Jharkhand.

The monsoon revived significantly in September, and so far, four low-pressure systems have brought rain over the highly deficient Central and Northwest regions. The first deep depression of the season dumped more than 400 mm of rain in 24 hours over Odisha, and another low-pressure system led to an almost equal amount of rainfall over Gujarat around September 13. Another low pressure system intensified to form Cyclone Gulab, which made its landfall on the coast of Andhra Pradesh and southern Odisha on Sunday.

Topsy-turvy patterns

Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, among India's wettest regions, recorded de-

ficient rainfall for 17 consecutive weeks — the entire season — from June 2. Arunachal Pradesh saw a 14-week deficit, and Assam and Meghalaya, six weeks.

Kerala had 12 weeks of rainfall deficit, including 11 straight weeks from June 23 to September 1. Lakshadweep recorded 15 continuous weeks of deficient rain.

Odisha saw below normal rain for 10 straight weeks from July 7 to September 8. Gujarat and Saurashtra-Kutch had deficient rain for 12 and 11 straight weeks respectively.

The experience in Kerala confirmed the conclusions of studies that reported a declining trend over the Northeast and Kerala.

On the other hand, cumulative rainfall remained normal, in excess, or large excess for all 17 weeks over the meteorological subdivisions of Maharashtra, Bihar, East UP, Sikkim, Gangetic West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, Rayalaseema, and Karnataka.

Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, coastal Andhra, Haryana, Delhi, and Chandigarh saw some deficiency during one or two of the 16 weeks.

A very dry August

With rainfall in 24% deficit of the Long Period Average (LPA), this August was the

DRIEST EVER AUGUSTS

YEAR	DEFICIT RAINFALL (% of LPA)
1920	32.5
2005	28.4
2009	26.5
1913	25.6
1930, 1993	25.2
2021	24.0

Source: IMD

sixth driest since 1901. Since 2009, only one other August has been drier.

Two dry spells lasted 18 days, and monsoon activity remained weak for three consecutive weeks from August 11-25. Several factors were responsible, the IMD said.

FEWER LOW-PRESSURE SYSTEMS: They are the main source of monsoon rainfall, and only two of these systems — instead of the normal four — developed over the Bay of Bengal this August. At least two of these systems normally intensify into depressions.

TOP OF THE WORLD



Mohammad Ali Jinnah

PAKISTAN

Jinnah's statue destroyed in Balochistan blast

A STATUE of Pakistan's founder Mohammad Ali Jinnah has been destroyed in a bomb attack by the Baloch militants disguised as tourists in the coastal city of Gwadar in the troubled Balochistan province. The statue, which was installed in June at Marine Drive was blown up by explosives placed beneath the statue on Sunday morning, *Dawn* newspaper reported Monday. The statue was fully destroyed in the blast, it added. Babgar Baloch, a spokesman for the banned militant organisation Baloch Republican Army, claimed responsibility for the blast on Twitter, BBC Urdu reported. The matter was being investigated at the highest level, Gwadar Deputy Commissioner Major (ret'd) Abdul Kadir Khan was quoted as saying by the BBC Urdu. **PTI**

USA

Man who shot at Reagan to be freed from oversight

A US federal judge said John Hinckley Jr, who tried to assassinate President Ronald Reagan four decades ago, can be freed from all remaining restrictions next year if he continues to follow those rules and remains mentally stable. Since Hinckley moved out of a hospital in 2016, court-imposed restrictions have required doctors and therapists to oversee his psychiatric medication. Hinckley has been barred from having a gun. And he can't contact Reagan's children, or actress Jodie Foster, who he was obsessed with at the time of the 1981 shooting. **AP**

EUROPE

Google in court to appeal 2018 antitrust case

GOOGLE HEADED to a top European Union court Monday to appeal a record EU antitrust penalty imposed for stifling competition through the dominance of its Android operating system. The company is fighting a 2018 decision from the EU's executive Commission, the bloc's top antitrust enforcer, that resulted in the 4.34 billion-euro (\$5 billion) fine — still the biggest ever fine Brussels has imposed for anticompetitive behaviour. **AP**

After close vote, Germany embarks on tricky path to form government

Social Democrats, who narrowly beat Merkel's conservatives, seek quick agreement on coalition

GEIR MOULSON

BERLIN, SEPTEMBER 27

THE PARTY that narrowly beat outgoing German Chancellor Angela Merkel's bloc pushed Monday for a quick agreement on a coalition government amid concerns that Europe's biggest economy could be in for weeks of uncertainty after an election that failed to set a clear direction.

Olaf Scholz, the candidate of the centre-left Social Democrats, called for Merkel's centre-right Union bloc to go into opposition after it saw its worst-ever result in a national election. Both finished with well under 30% of the vote, and that appeared to put the keys to power in the hands of two opposition parties — raising questions over the stability of a future government.

During her 16 years in office, Merkel was seen abroad not just as Germany's leader but in many ways as the leader of Europe, helping steer the European Union through a series of finan-



(From left) Franziska Giffey, SPD candidate for Berlin mayor, Olaf Scholz, SPD's chancellor candidate, and Manuela Schwesig, governor of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania state at the party's headquarters in Berlin on Monday. **AP**

cial and political crises.

The unclear result combined with an upcoming French presidential election in April creates uncertainty — at least for now — in the two economic and political powers at the center of the EU, just as the bloc faces a resurgent Russia and increasing questions about its future from pop-

ulist leaders in eastern countries.

Both outgoing finance minister and Vice Chancellor Scholz and Armin Laschet, the Union's candidate and governor of North Rhine-Westphalia state, staked a claim to leading the new government on Sunday night. Scholz, who pulled his party out of a long poll slump, sounded

confident on Monday.

But the kingmakers are likely to be two prospective junior partners in any coalition, the environmentalist Greens and the business-friendly Free Democrats. The Greens traditionally lean toward the Social Democrats and the Free Democrats toward the Union, but neither ruled out going the other way on Sunday night.

"Voters have spoken very clearly," Scholz said Monday. "They strengthened three parties — the Social Democrats, the Greens and the Free Democrats — so this is the visible mandate the citizens of this country have given: These three parties should lead the next government."

The only other option that would have a parliamentary majority is a repeat of the outgoing "grand coalition" of the Union and Social Democrats. That is the combination that has run Germany for 12 years of Merkel's 16-year tenure, though this time it would be under Scholz's leadership with Merkel's bloc as junior partner. **AP**

In a first, two transgender women elected to parliament

Berlin: Two German politicians from the Greens have made history by becoming the first transgender women to win parliamentary seats in Sunday's national election.

Tessa Ganserer and Nyke Slawik stood for the Greens party, which came third in the election, increasing its share of the vote to 14.8% from 8.9% in 2017 and is set to play a pivotal role in the building of a new three-way coalition government.

"It is a historic victory for the Greens, but also for the trans-empowerment movement and for the entire queer community," Ganserer, 44, said.

Slawik, 27, said the results were unbelievable. "Madness! I still can't quite believe it..." she posted on Instagram. **REUTERS**

US warns Iran after IAEA says it was denied access to centrifuge workshop

FRANCOIS MURPHY

VIENNA, SEPTEMBER 27

IRAN MUST stop denying the UN nuclear watchdog access to a workshop making centrifuge parts as agreed two weeks ago or face diplomatic retaliation at the agency's Board of Governors within days, the United States said on Monday.

The workshop at the TESA Karaj complex makes components for centrifuges, machines that enrich uranium, and was hit by apparent sabotage in June in which one of four International Atomic Energy Agency cameras there was destroyed. Iran removed them and the destroyed camera's footage is missing.

TESA Karaj was one of several sites to which Iran agreed to grant IAEA inspectors access to service IAEA monitoring equipment and replace memory cards just as they were due to fill up with data such as camera footage. The Sept 12 accord helped avoid a diplomatic escalation between Iran and the West.

"We are deeply troubled by Iran's refusal to provide the IAEA with the needed access to service its monitoring equipment, as was agreed in the September 12 Joint Statement between the IAEA and Iran," a US statement to the IAEA's 35-nation Board of Governors on Monday said.

It was responding to an IAEA report to member states on Sunday that said Iran had granted access to sites as agreed on Sept. 12 but not to the workshop, where IAEA inspectors



The Iranian flag in front of the IAEA headquarters in Vienna. Iran had agreed to grant IAEA inspectors access to service monitoring equipment at its nuclear facilities. **Reuters**

were denied access on Sunday. They had planned to check if the workshop was ready to operate and re-install cameras if it was.

Iran's envoy to the IAEA, Kazem Charibabadi, said overnight on Twitter that before the deal with the IAEA, Iran indicated that monitoring equipment at Karaj was "not included for servicing" because of ongoing investigations and Sunday's report "goes beyond the agreed terms of the JS (Joint Statement)".

The European Union told the IAEA board that Iran's failure to grant the IAEA access to the workshop was "a worrying development, contrary to the Joint Statement reached on 12 September 2021".

A resolution criticising Iran at the Board of Governors could kill hopes of resuming indirect talks between Iran and the United States to bring both sides back into compliance with the 2015 Iran nuclear deal. **REUTERS**

US plans projects in S America countering China's Belt and Road

TREVOR HUNNICUTT

WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 27

US OFFICIALS are set to tour Latin America this week to scout infrastructure projects as they prepare a counter to Chinese President Xi Jinping's multi-trillion-dollar Belt and Road Initiative.

A delegation of diplomatic and development officials led by US President Joe Biden's Deputy National Security Adviser Daleep Singh is in Colombia, where they plan to meet President Ivan Duque, before stops later in the week to Ecuador and Panama, US officials said.

The group is tasked with turning Build Back Better World (B3W), the international infrastructure investment initiative announced by the Group of Seven richest democracies in June, into reality. It's the first of several planned "listening tours".

In addition to meeting with Duque, Ecuadorean President Guillermo Lasso, and Panamanian officials, the trip will allow US officials to speak with the private sector, civil society and "traditionally marginalised groups," officials said.

The programme is focused on areas including climate, health, digital technology and gender equality, officials have said.

China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which Xi launched

EXPLAINED **E** The G7's plan to counter BRI

SPEARHEADED BY the US, the G7 countries in June announced 'Build Back Better World' (B3W) — their plan for infrastructure development in poorer countries. This is seen as a direct response to China's BRI push, which has seen the country acquire influence around the world through aid and developmental programmes in Asia, Africa, South America and even Europe. With there being the need for an estimated \$40 trillion worth of spending on infrastructure in poorer countries, and China's BRI projects penetrating regions where Western powers traditionally have greater influence, the G7 decided to pool resources for the B3W initiative, which it hopes will help in reducing China's growing clout.

in 2013, involves development and investment initiatives stretching worldwide. More than 100 countries have signed agreements with China to cooperate in BRI projects like railways, ports and highways. **REUTERS**



STRONG QUAKE HITS GREEK ISLAND

Firefighters look for people in the rubble of a church in Arkalochori on the island of Crete, Greece, on Monday. A strong earthquake measuring 5.8 shook Greece's largest island Crete on Monday and one person was killed when a church dome collapsed, authorities said. The quake sent people out of their homes and public buildings and caused considerable damage. **Reuters**

Facebook puts Instagram for kids on hold after pushback

MICHELLE CHAPMAN

SEPTEMBER 27

FACEBOOK IS putting a hold on the development of a kids' version of Instagram, geared toward children under 13, to address concerns that have been raised about the vulnerability of younger users.

"I still firmly believe that it's a good thing to build a version of Instagram that's designed to be safe for tweens, but we want to take the time to talk to parents and researchers and safety experts and get to more consensus about how to move forward," said Adam Mosseri, the head of Instagram, in an interview Monday on NBC's "Today" show.

The announcement follows a investigative series by *The Wall Street Journal* which reported that Facebook was aware that the use of Instagram by some



Facebook announced the development of an Instagram Kids app in March

teenage girls led to mental health issues and anxiety.

Yet the development of Instagram for a younger audience was met with broader opposition almost immediately.

Facebook announced the development of an Instagram Kids app in March, saying at the time that it was "exploring a parent-controlled experience". Two months later, a bipartisan group of 44 attorneys general wrote to

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg, urging him to abandon the project, citing children's well being.

They cited increased cyberbullying, possible vulnerability to online predators, and what they called Facebook's "checked record" in protecting children on its platforms. Facebook faced similar criticism in 2017 when it launched the Messenger Kids app, touted as a way for children to chat with family members and friends approved by parents.

Josh Golin, executive director of children's digital advocacy group Fairplay, urged the company Monday to permanently pull the plug on the app.

"We urge Facebook to use this 'pause' to actually engage with the independent child development experts who understand how Instagram will undermine young children's wellbeing," he said in a prepared statement. **AP**

GLOBAL SHOPPERS FACE POSSIBLE SHORTAGES OF SMARTPHONES AND OTHER GOODS

China's factories and households grapple with power cuts

JOE MCDONALD

& ZEN SOO

BEIJING, SEPTEMBER 27

GLOBAL SHOPPERS face possible shortages of smartphones and other goods ahead of Christmas after power cuts to meet official energy use targets forced Chinese factories to shut down and left some households in the dark.

In the northeastern city of Liaoyang, 23 people were hospitalised with gas poisoning after ventilation in a metal casting factory was shut off following a power outage, according to state broadcaster CCTV. No deaths were reported.

Factories were idled to avoid exceeding limits on energy use imposed by Beijing to promote efficiency. Economists and an environmental group say manufacturers used up this year's quota faster than planned as export demand rebounded from the coronavirus pandemic.

A components supplier for iPhones said it suspended production at a factory near Shanghai under orders from local authorities.

The disruption to China's vast manufacturing industries during one of their busiest seasons reflects the ruling Communist Party's struggle to balance economic growth with efforts to rein in pollution and emissions

of climate-changing gases.

"Beijing's unprecedented resolve in enforcing energy consumption limits could result in long-term benefits, but the short-term economic costs are substantial," Nomura economists Ting Lu, Lisheng Wang and Jing Wang said in a report Monday.

They said the impact might be so severe that they cut their economic growth forecast for China to 4.7% from 5.1% over a year earlier in the current quarter. They cut their outlook for annual growth to 7.7% from 8.2%.

Global financial markets already were on edge about the possible collapse of one of China's biggest real estate devel-



A coal-fired power station in Nanjing in east China's Jiangsu province on Monday. **AP**

opers, Evergrande Group, which is struggling to avoid a default on billions of dollars of debt.

Manufacturers already face shortages of processor chips, disruptions in shipping and other

lingering effects of the global shutdown of travel and trade to fight the coronavirus pandemic.

Residents of China's northeast, where autumn temperatures are falling, report power cuts and appealed on social media for the government to restore supplies.

The crunch comes as global leaders prepare to attend a UN environmental conference by video link on Oct 12-13 in the southwestern city of Kunming. That increases pressure on President Xi Jinping's government, as the meeting's host, to show it is sticking to emissions and energy efficiency targets.

China is one of the world's biggest emitters of climate-change-

ing industrial gases and consumes more energy per unit of economic output than developed countries.

The ruling party also is preparing for the Winter Olympics in the Chinese capital, Beijing, and the nearby city of Shijiazhuang in February, a period when it will want clear blue skies.

Scores of companies have announced power rationing could force them to delay filling orders and might hurt them financially.

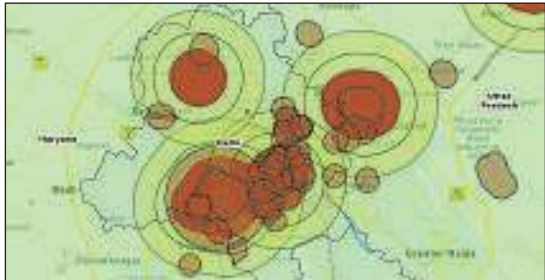
Apple components supplier Eson Precision Engineering Co. Ltd. said Sunday it would halt production at its factory in Kunshan, west of Shanghai, through Thursday "in line with the local government's power

restriction policy."

Eson said the suspension shouldn't have a "significant impact" on operations.

Apple didn't immediately respond to a question about the possible impact on iPhone supplies.

China's energy consumption and industrial emissions have surged as manufacturers rush to fill foreign demand at a time when competitors elsewhere still are hampered by anti-coronavirus controls. China's economy is "more driven by exports than any time in the past decade," but official energy use targets fail to take that into account, economists Larry Hu and Xinyu Ji of Macquarie Group said in a report. **AP**

SECTOR WATCH
AVIATIONAirspace map:
How can drone
operators check
the flying zones?The airspace maps of Delhi (top) and Mumbai showing red, yellow and green zones. The map is dynamic. *Digital Sky Platform*PRANAV MUKUL
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

THE MINISTRY of Civil Aviation has launched an airspace map of India for drone operations — allowing civilian drone operators to check the demarcated no-fly zones where they are not allowed to operate their drones or the zones where they need to undergo certain formalities before flying. This map has been developed by MapMyIndia and IT services firm Happiest Minds with the Civil Aviation Ministry and is put up on the Directorate General of Civil Aviation's (DGCA) digital sky platform.

What does this map show?

The interactive map shows the red, yellow and green zones across the country. Green zone is the airspace up to 400 feet that has not been designated as a red or yellow zone; and up to 200 feet above the area located between 8-12 km from the perimeter of an operational airport. Yellow zone is the airspace above 400 feet in a designated green zone; above 200 feet in the area located between 8-12 km from the perimeter of an operational airport and above ground in the area located between 5-8 km from the

perimeter of an operational airport. The Yellow zone has been reduced from 45 km earlier to 12 km from the airport perimeter. Red zone is the 'no-drone zone' within which drones can be operated only after a permission from the Central government.

What are the rules for each of these zones?

In green zones, no permission whatsoever is required for operating drones with an all-up weight of up to 500 kg, while drone operations in yellow zone require permission from the concerned air traffic control authority — which could

be either the Airports Authority of India, the Indian Air Force, the Indian Navy, Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd, etc as the case may be.

How to check the airspace map?

The map is available on DGCA's digital sky platform at <https://digitalsky.dgca.gov.in/home> and the government said that it may be updated and modified by authorised entities from time to time. "Anyone planning to operate a drone should mandatorily check the latest airspace map for any changes in zone boundaries," the government has said.

APRIL-JULY EXPENDITURE BELOW BUDGET OUTLINE

Spends lagging, FinMin asks
ministries to step up capex

SUNNY VERMA

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

THE FINANCE Ministry has suggested other Ministries and departments to push up capital expenditure in the remaining two quarters of the current fiscal, as government capex in April-July period lagged the expansion outlined in Budget 2021-22. As against a Budget Estimate of Rs 5.54 lakh crore of capex for the entire year, growth of around 35 per cent over previous year, actual capex in April-July was Rs 1.28 lakh crore, growth of about 15 per cent. The Finance Ministry held a meeting with key officials of other Ministries and departments last week and discussed the need to step up spending on infrastructure projects. Last Friday, the government removed spending curbs on all Ministries/departments as revenue position improved. "Spending on infrastructure is key to sustain recovery and to push growth.

H2FY22 govt
borrowing

New Delhi: The government will borrow Rs 5.03 lakh crore in the second half of the current fiscal, the Finance Ministry said on Monday. **PTI**

The government has been conscious of long-term investments. Even till July, capex has risen vis-a-vis last year but certainly we want projects under the National Infrastructure Pipeline to be given priority," a government official said. The Finance Ministry has reviewed the capex progress and discussed plans to speed up infra spends in meetings with Ministries, the official said. In the current fiscal year till July, for which latest data is available with the Controller General of Accounts (CGA), government capital expenditure was at Rs 1,28,428 crore or 23.2 per cent of the 2021-

22 Budget Estimates, lower than 27.1 per cent during the same period last year. For the full year, the Centre will be providing another Rs 2 lakh crore to states and autonomous bodies for their capital expenditure, as per Budget documents. "For 2021-22, I propose a sharp increase in capital expenditure and thus have provided Rs 5.54 lakh crore which is 34.5 per cent more than the BE of 2020-21. Of this, I have kept a sum of more than Rs 44,000 crore in the Budget head of the Department of Economic Affairs to be provided for projects/programmes/departments that show good progress on Capital Expenditure and are in need of further funds," Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had said while presenting the Budget. With government revenues picking up, alongside the economic recovery, the Ministry on Friday removed expenditure curbs that were imposed on various Ministries for the July-September quarter. Restrictions imposed on

bulk expenditure items of Rs 200 crore and above have also been removed for Budgeted capital expenditure for remaining part of the year. As a cash management exercise, the government had asked various ministries and departments (in category B) to "restrict the overall expenditure within 20 per cent of BE 2020-21 in Quarter 2 (July to September, 2021)". "Among the big infra focussed departments, roads, railways, housing and urban affairs have done well in terms of capex outlay so far, while telecommunications and Jal Shakti, among others, have lagged. A collective focus is required for infrastructure creation across sectors," the official said. As against the annual capital expenditure estimate of Rs 1.08 lakh crore, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has achieved capex of 45 per cent at Rs 48,403 crore in April-July. During the same period, Railways have spent Rs 28,381 crore or 26 per cent of BE of Rs 1.07 lakh crore.

QUARTERLY EMPLOYMENT SURVEY APRIL-JUNE 2021

Employment in 9 sectors at 3.08 cr;
Covid job cuts in 27% establishmentsENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

ORGANISED SECTOR employment in nine key sectors — construction, manufacturing, IT/BPO, trade, transport, education, health, accommodation & restaurant and financial services — increased to 3.08 crore in April-June this year from 2.37 crore in 2013-14, the base year chosen based on the sixth economic census.

As per the newly launched Quarterly Employment Survey, which replaced the earlier suspended QES, this translates into a growth of 29 per cent from 2013-14 or roughly an annual growth of 4 per cent per annum. While some sectors saw rise in employment rates since 2013-14, such as IT/BPO (152 per cent), health (77 per cent), education (39 per cent), manufacturing (22 per cent), transport (68 per cent) and construction (42 per cent), employment was affected by the Covid-19 pandemic in trade, where it came down by 25 per cent and in accommodation & restaurant by 13 per cent.

Labour and Employment Minister Bhupender Yadav, while releasing the report of QES (April to June 2021), of the All-India Quarterly Establishment-based Employment Survey (AQEES), said such surveys will help in data-based policymaking. "The government is committed to two things: evidence-based policy and statis-

Labour Minister Bhupender Yadav at the release of the report of QES (April to June 2021). *via Twitter @byadvbjp*

tics-based execution ... these two things will help in developing policymaking based on every survey and data. The data integrity and purity is of utmost importance so much so that it can even be cross examined," he said. Assessing the impact of Covid-19 on employment in the organised non-farm segment, the report said employment decreased in 27 per cent of the establishments due to the pandemic. During the lockdown period (March 25-June 30, 2020), 81 per cent of workers received full wages, 16 per cent received reduced wages and only 3 per cent were denied any wages, it said. In the health and financial services sectors, however, more than 90 per cent workers received full wages, while 27 per cent had to accept reduced wages in the construction sector and 7 per cent were left with none.

Overall participation of female workers was at 29 per cent, lower

than 31 per cent reported in the 6th economic census in 2013-14.

Regular workers constituted 88 per cent of the estimated workforce in the nine selected sectors, with only 2 per cent being casual workers. However, 18 per cent of workers in the construction sector are contractual employees and 13 per cent are casual workers. Nine per cent of the establishments (with at least 10 workers) were not registered with any authority or under any act, while 26 per cent of all the establishments were registered under the Companies Act — with 71 per cent registration in IT/BPO, 58 per cent in construction, 46 per cent in manufacturing, 42 per cent in transport, 35 per cent in trade and 28 per cent in financial services. Around 18 per cent of the establishments have provision of on-job skill training programmes.

Nearly 90 per cent of the establishments have been estimated to work with less than 100 workers, as against 95 per cent corresponding figure during the economic census. Prof SP Mukherjee, chairman, Expert Group on All India Surveys, said it's not just any haphazard sampling design. "I know quite a few reports coming from different unofficial organisations where I can claim the sampling design fails to focus on the domains which are sectors of the Indian economy and fails to represent different size classes."

Full report on
www.indianexpress.com

'Jaipur, Goa most booked leisure
destinations among Indians'

Jaipur and Goa have emerged as top booked leisure destinations among domestic travellers, an OYO report said

TOP DESTINATIONS: Jaipur, Goa, Manali, Ooty and Mysore are the top-ranked leisure destinations in India among domestic travellers

FESTIVE SPIKE IN BOOKINGS: Most preferred long weekends, as there was a

spike in bookings during Janmashtami and Ganesh Chaturthi. For Dussehra and Guru Nanak Jayanti, travellers are opting for holidays across the top leisure destinations

Survey details: OYO's Unlocking Travel Report 2021 is based on actual bookings on OYO platform during August-September 2021 and advance bookings from October 2021-January 2022, across different geographies *Source: OYO/PTI*

In FY21, the industry's
net profit rose
to ₹3,868 crore

losses/profit, combined ratio, gross claims, number of employees, FDI and investment in infrastructure and social sectors since March 2020, it witnessed significant improvement in FY21.

With a gross premium of over Rs 2 lakh crore, posting a 9 per cent growth, of the total 31 players, 17 — including two specialised insurers AIC (along with underwriting profit) and ECGC — posted healthy net profits, including in FY21.

Insurers saw a significant rise in health claims in the year. While FY21 results of the industry point to a turnaround in fortunes, a deeper analysis shows the same was driven by some few one-off factors: motor claims were low amid a prolonged lockdown, agriculture had a good year and property insurance prices were stable.

Full report on
www.indianexpress.com

₹10K-cr textiles
PLI notified

New Delhi: The Central government on Monday notified the Rs 10,683-crore Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for textiles, which is aimed at boosting production of technical textiles, manmade fibre (MMF) and MMF apparel. The scheme incentivises the production of technical textiles including protective, defence, medical and smart textiles embedded with active devices.

The scheme is expected to attract investments of Rs 19,000 crore to the textiles sector over five years generating additional turnover of Rs 3 lakh crore. The scheme incentivises the production of 14 categories of MMF fabric and 10 categories of technical textiles and MMF apparel. **ENS**

BRIEFLY
Oil nears \$80

New York: Brent crude rose 1.8% to \$79.47 a barrel. Goldman Sachs raised year-end forecast to \$90. **REUTERS**

Icra forecast

Mumbai: Icra revised up its FY22 real GDP growth estimate for India to 9%.

Trade policy

New Delhi: Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said existing foreign trade policy will be extended till March 31.

Finolex AGM

Mumbai: Proxy advisory firms advised to vote down three directors' appointments at Finolex Cables AGM. **PTI**

TNco contract

New Delhi: Aerospace Engineers Pvt Ltd, a MSME unit in Salem, TN, won a long term contract from Boeing for critical aviation components.

LIC pact

New Delhi: Life Insurance Corporation and Department of Posts inked a pact for Print to Post solutions. **ENS**

IMPORT-EXPORT CODES

IEC clean up seeks
to remove front cos

KARUNJITSINGH

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 27

THE GOVERNMENT'S decision to deactivate Import-Export Codes (IECs) for firms that have not furnished updated information is partly aimed at cleaning up IECs of entities such as the importer linked to the seizure of 2,988 kg of heroin by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) at the Mundra port earlier this month.

Six persons have been arrested over possible links to the shipment, estimated to be worth over Rs 21,000 crore, allegedly found in a consignment officially declared as "semi-processed talc stones" and imported by Aashi Trading Company, as per details issued by DRI. The firm had previously imported a consignment declared "semi-

processed talc stones" in June.

Removing IECs of such companies was one of the goals of the recent move, a government official said. An IEC is a business identification number that is mandatory for export from India or import. "We don't have their emails or phone numbers, there are people who got IECs 20 years back," said the official. The Directorate General of Foreign Trade last week notified it would deactivate all IECs not updated since the beginning of 2005.

In the case of Aashi Trading Company, the website of the Registrar of Companies does not show any company registered under its name with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. The firm may, however, be registered as a sole proprietorship firm with the MCA. The Ministry does not publish details of sole proprietorship firms.

'Travel, leisure frauds jump'

Mumbai: Fraudsters in India are now focussing their efforts on the travel and leisure frauds mostly relating to credit cards, communities (online forums like dating services) and logistics industries relating to shipping frauds.

For transactions originating in India, frauds jumped 269.72 per

cent for travel and leisure during the April-June period of 2021, said TransUnion Cibil. In addition to leveraging credit card fraud — the top type of digital fraud reported to TransUnion by its travel and leisure customers — fraudsters are also quickly adapting to target desperate travellers, it said. **ENS**

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LIMITED
CIN- U40102RJ2000SGC016484 (A Govt. of Rajasthan Undertaking)
O/o C.E (Civil), 601, Dreamax Plaza, Sahakar Marg, Jaipur-302005

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

Online e-tenders are invited for the work of TN-07(RVU2122W/LO800981) Construction of residential units of Multi-storied blocks of 100 Nos. R-3 type quarters including development works on EPC basis in existing township and TN-08(RVU2122W/LO800982) Construction of residential units of Multi-storied blocks of 100 Nos. R-4 type quarters including development works on EPC basis in existing township for CSCPTP, Chhabra. Tender details are available on websites <http://eproc.rajjasthan.gov.in> (for e-tender), www.energy.rajjasthan.gov.in/rvuni & www.sppp.rajjasthan.gov.in.

Raj Samwad/62/21/6630 RVUN/PR-3571 Chief Engineer (Civil)

MAHARASHTRA RAJYA SAHAKARI DUDH MAHASANGH MARYADIT, MUMBAI
MAHANAID DAIRY
Western Express Highway, Goregaon (East), Mumbai - 400 065
Tel.: 26856936 / E Mail ID : mdmahanaid.18@gmail.com

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tender are invited from reputed & experienced manufacturers/authorized suppliers to participate in the competitive bidding process for the supply of following Materials. Online bid forms along with details are available on website: <https://mahatenders.gov.in>

Sr. No.	ITEM NAME	APPROXIMATE QTY. (NOS./M.T.)
1	Indonesian Coal 6000 MT & Indigenous Coal 2000 MT	8000 MT
2	Opaque Polyfilm (Milk Pouch Film)	364 MT
3	Caustic Soda Lye	126 MT
4	Caustic Soda Flakes	68 MT
5	HDPE 25 KG KRAFT PAPER LAMINATED SMP BAG	100000 NOS.
6	25 KG LDPE POLYLINER BAG	110000 NOS
7	Glass Bottle (200 ML Milk Packaging)	31,50,000 NOS.

Managing Director, MRSDMM

भारतीय कंटेनर निगम लिमिटेड
CONTAINER CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD.
(भारत सरकार का उपक्रम) (A Govt. of India Undertaking)
NSIC New MDP Building, 2nd Floor, Okhla Indl. Estate (Opp. NSIC Okhla Metro Station), New Delhi-110023

TENDER NOTICE (E-Tender cum Reverse Auction Mode Only)

CONCOR invites Online tender in two bid system for "Providing professional services for Handling of cargo at Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh" only through e-tender cum reverse auction mode. The bid document can only be downloaded after paying ₹ 1,000/- through online from the website www.tenderwizd.com/CCIL.

Tender No.	CON/Area-1/TC/Cargo Handling/MB/2021
Name of Work	Providing professional services for Handling of cargo at ICD/Moradabad
Estimated Cost	₹ 2,85,02,343/- (including GST) for 4 years
Period of the contract	Four (4) years
Earnest Money Deposit	NIL, exempted for all bidders (Bid security declaration to be submitted)
Cost of Document	₹ 1,000/- inclusive of all taxes and duties through e-payment.
Tender Processing Fee	₹ 4,720/- inclusive of all taxes and duties (Non-refundable) through e-payment.
Date and time of Sale (Online)	From 28.09.2021 at 15:00 hrs. to 11.10.2021 (upto 16:00 hrs.)
Date and time of Submission of tender	Upto 12.10.2021 at 15:00 hrs.
Date & Time of opening of tender	On 13.10.2021 at 15:30 hrs.

*Exemption to MSSEs
For eligibility criteria and other details please log onto www.concorindia.com or eprocure.gov.in or www.tenderwizd.com/CCIL. Bidders are requested to visit the websites regularly. CONCOR reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons therefor.
Sr. General Manager/CAO/Area-1

NMDC Limited
(A Government of India Enterprise)
Balladila Iron Ore Mine, Kirandul Complex, Kirandul-494556, Distt.-South Bastar Dantewada, Chhattisgarh
Gram : IRONORE, Fax : 07857-255226, 255227, 255225 CIN : L13100TG1958GO001674

Press Notification Dated: 26-09-2021

BIOM, Kirandul Complex, Kirandul, invites SEALED TENDERS in TWO BID SYSTEM for the following work(s), from competent, experienced and financially sound contractors bearing Registration with CPWD, State PWD, Central Government Undertakings, Railways or M.E.S. However tender documents can be downloaded from the Website mentioned below.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (Rs. in Lakhs)	Earnest Money Deposit	Completion Period (in months)	Period of Down-load the Tender Documents from NMDC Website	Due-date of Submission of Tender	Date & Time of Tender Opening
1.	Construction of Bituminous Approach road from Y-Junction to Hydrant point at Dep-11B.	Rs. 48.81 Lakh (Including GST)	The Bidder shall submit Bid security declaration (BSD) in place of Bid security/EMD as per 'Form-C' of TPF	09 (Nine) Months (including Monsoon period i.e. July to September)	01-10-2021 to 31-10-2021 upto 16.00 Hrs.	01-11-2021 upto 15.00 Hrs.	01-11-2021 at 15.30 Hrs.
2.	Construction of Store, Dining and Model rooms at second floor of Training Institute, Kirandul.	Rs. 46.72 Lakh (Including GST)	The Bidder shall submit Bid security declaration (BSD) in place of Bid security/EMD as per 'Form-C' of TPF	09 (Nine) Months (Excluding Monsoon period)	01-10-2021 to 31-10-2021 upto 16.00 Hrs.	01-11-2021 upto 15.00 Hrs.	01-11-2021 at 15.30 Hrs.
3.	Construction of RCC Culvert at Dumpster Plant and Retaining Wall for Slope Protection works between turn 8 & 6 of Dep-11B.	Rs. 71.08 Lakh (Including GST)	The Bidder shall submit Bid security declaration (BSD) in place of Bid security/EMD as per 'Form-C' of TPF	09 (Nine) Months (Excluding Monsoon period)	01-10-2021 to 31-10-2021 upto 16.00 Hrs.	02-11-2021 upto 15.00 Hrs.	02-11-2021 at 15.30 Hrs.
4.	Construction of Workshop at Loading Plant, Kirandul.	Rs. 33.04 Lakh (Including GST)	The Bidder shall submit Bid security declaration (BSD) in place of Bid security/EMD as per 'Form-C' of TPF	09 (Nine) Months (Excluding Monsoon period i.e. July to September)	01-10-2021 to 31-10-2021 upto 16.00 Hrs.	02-11-2021 upto 15.00 Hrs.	02-11-2021 at 15.30 Hrs.
5.	Replacement of Roof Sheetting and Structural Painting of Auto Shop at Dep-14 Service Center.	Rs. 74.04 Lakh (Including GST)	The Bidder shall submit Bid security declaration (BSD) in place of Bid security/EMD as per 'Form-C' of TPF	09 (Nine) Months (Excluding Monsoon period)	01-10-2021 to 31-10-2021 upto 16.00 Hrs.	05-11-2021 upto 15.00 Hrs.	05-11-2021 at 15.30 Hrs.
6.	Renovation of Utakal Samaj and Maharashtra Mandal Building at Kirandul.	Rs. 49.55 Lakh (Including GST)	The Bidder shall submit Bid security declaration (BSD) in place of Bid security/EMD as per 'Form-C' of TPF	09 (Nine) Months (Excluding Monsoon period)	01-10-2021 to 31-10-2021 upto 16.00 Hrs.	05-11-2021 upto 15.00 Hrs.	05-11-2021 at 15.30 Hrs.
7.	Construction of 32 Nos Car Parking shed for Type-III / DS Quarters near Type-IV / TS Quarters (Phase-I).	Rs. 61.89 Lakh (Including GST)	The Bidder shall submit Bid security declaration (BSD) in place of Bid security/EMD as per 'Form-C' of TPF	12 (Twelve) Months (including Monsoon period)	01-10-2021 to 31-10-2021 upto 16.00 Hrs.	06-11-2021 upto 15.00 Hrs.	06-11-2021 at 15.30 Hrs.
8.	Construction of 04 (Four) Nos. Driver Rooms & Kitchen at back side of Guest House, Kirandul.	Rs. 63.12 Lakh (Including GST)	The Bidder shall submit Bid security declaration (BSD) in place of Bid security/EMD as per 'Form-C' of TPF	12 (Twelve) Months (including Monsoon period)	01-10-2021 to 31-10-2021 upto 16.00 Hrs.	06-11-2021 upto 15.00 Hrs.	06-11-2021 at 15.30 Hrs.
9.	Construction of Open Hall at Ambedkar Bhavan, Kirandul.	Rs. 32.88 Lakh (Including GST)	The Bidder shall submit Bid security declaration (BSD) in place of Bid security/EMD as per 'Form-C' of TPF	09 (Nine) Months (Excluding Monsoon period)	01-10-2021 to 31-10-2021 upto 16.00 Hrs.	07-11-2021 upto 15.00 Hrs.	07-11-2021 at 15.30 Hrs.
10.	Construction of Retaining Wall along Kirandul Nallah.	Rs. 50.82 Lakh (Including GST)	The Bidder shall submit Bid security declaration (BSD) in place of Bid security/EMD as per 'Form-C' of TPF	06 (Six) Months (Excluding Monsoon period)	01-10-2021 to 31-10-2021 upto 16.00 Hrs.	07-11-2021 upto 15.00 Hrs.	07-11-2021 at 15.30 Hrs.
11.	Construction of Dozer Cross Over near 525 Roller of 614 Conveyor, Kirandul.	Rs. 67.60 Lakh (Including GST)	The Bidder shall submit Bid security declaration (BSD) in place of Bid security/EMD as per 'Form-C' of TPF	09 (Nine) Months (Excluding Monsoon period i.e. 15th June to 15 Oct i.e. 04 Months)	01-10-2021 to 31-10-2021 upto 16.00 Hrs.	07-11-2021 upto 15.00 Hrs.	07-11-2021 at 15.30 Hrs.

For NOTICE INVITING TENDER, Pre qualifying conditions, other tender conditions and for Complete Address and Details, etc intending Bidders are requested to visit on our Website www.nmdc.co.in. Corrigendum and Addenda if any will be posted on our NMDC website only. The prospective bidder should visit our NMDC website from time to time to note the Corrigendum and Addenda if any.

For and on behalf of NMDC Ltd.
Executive Director
B.I.O.M., Kirandul Complex

Federer calls for evolution in player-media relationship

REUTERS
SEPTEMBER 27

THE RELATIONSHIP between tennis players and the media needs to evolve and the sport must also do more to help the younger generation deal with negative comments on social media, Roger Federer said.

The issue of players' mental health came into the spotlight after Japan's Naomi Osaka withdrew from the French Open in a row with tournament officials over media duties.

Osaka said she had been suffering from depression and anxiety and that interacting with the media had sometimes had a negative impact on her. Federer, who shares the men's record of 20 major titles with Rafa Nadal and Novak Djokovic, said the situation needed a rethink. I think players, the tournaments, journalists, we need to sit down together in a room and go, "OK, what would work for you and what works for us ..."

Federer told the British GQ magazine on Monday. "We need a revolution. Or at least an evolution of where we are today.

"Even when I am feeling down I know I need to act a certain way in front of the world's press. We need to remember that tennis players are athletes and professionals, but we are also human too."

The 40-year-old Swiss, who is recovering from recent knee surgery, also praised Briton Emma Raducanu's journey to the top in the wake of the 18-year-old's U.S. Open triumph. Raducanu had previously come in for criticism from pundits and the media when she pulled out of her Wimbledon last-16 match due to breathing difficulties, with some saying she had failed to handle the pressure.

"I was following Emma Raducanu's incredible run in Wimbledon and also Naomi Osaka these last few years – it's been amazing, both of their stories," he said. "But it hurts when you see what happens and when they don't feel well.

"I think we do need to help, coach and mentor the younger generation more. I can't imagine going through the beginning of my career with social media," he added.

Even when I am feeling down I know I need to act a certain way in front of the world's press. We need to remember that tennis players are athletes and professionals, but we are also human too."

ROGER FEDERER

CROSSWORD 4546

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ACROSS

1 Part of a religious faction I get on with (7)

4 A weapon useless by itself (5)

7 Excellent yet not well done (4)

8 Deceives a girl about to go in front (8)

10 Come to a mean conclusion (7,3)

12 He's mastered the art of eating out (6)

13 Association distributing claret (6)

15 Though concerned, possibly resented it (10)

18 Agitated prude and kind of statue that agitates him (8)

19 Little colour in soft drink (4)

20 I'd follow Tim being shy (5)

21 Even this dog will have his day, someday perhaps (7)

DOWN

1 Ray is out in the country (5)

2 Prevalence of money (8)

3 Fixed form of denial (6)

4 Nearly everyone it seems makes a lawful bet (3,3,1,3)

5 Genuine old Spanish coin (4)

6 Spendthrift Walter's reformed (7)

9 Assume responsibility for, but dupe the employee (4,2,4)

11 Solid achievements by people good at figures? (8)

12 Drain a pipe (7)

14 Holiday retreat (6)

16 Be afraid of disturbing an adder (5)

17 Male and female parent (4)

Solutions Crossword 4545: Across: 1 Magisterial, 9 Goggles, 10 Sepia, 11 Note, 12 Guarding, 14 Clover, 16 Bitter, 18 Litigante, 19 Zero, 22 Mamba, 23 Eyesore, 24 Empty street. Down: 2 Angst, 3 Idle, 4 Toss-up, 5 Restrain, 6 Appoint, 7 Agency column, 8 Danger money, 13 Sergeant, 15 Optimum, 17 Stress, 20 Elope, 21 Tear.

JUMBLD WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

A true lover always _____ to the one he loves - Ralph W. Sockman (5,2,4)

IREEE

FOODLN

TWITS

AILUBF

SOLUTION: EERIE, TWIST, NOODLE, TRIBUL



Golfers thrashed, brace for tough Ryder Cup challenge in coming years

REUTERS
LONDON, SEPTEMBER 27

FOLLOWING EUROPE'S Ryder Cup thrashing by the United States at Whistling Straits former captain Colin Montgomerie summed up neatly the challenge facing the next incumbent in the job.

"I don't envy whoever is in charge in Rome," the Scot, whose team won a thriller at Celtic Manor in 2010, told Britain's talkSPORT radio station on Monday.

Padraig Harrington's European team were simply overwhelmed by a high-powered American dozen on the shores of Lake Michigan, sinking without trace in a 19-9 defeat that is likely to mark the end for several of Europe's stalwarts.

Most worrying, according to Montgomerie, is that the American team, whose oldest player was 37-year-old Dustin Johnson, will most likely look pretty similar in Rome in 2023.

"Sometimes in sport it's blissfully simple, if a stronger team, which they were, and they're playing at home, performs to its capabilities, which they did, it's going to win," Montgomerie said. "And that's what happened.

"Their world rankings averaged eight and ours was 30. It was a better team and it was frightening how good they were. It's a little bit worrying for the next couple of Ryder Cups as well as I reckon 10 or 11 of them will be in Italy in two years time.

"It's a worry and I don't envy the next European captain at all."

Harrington's captaincy is coming under scrutiny. Questions were rightly asked as to why he split the partnership of Jon Rahm and Sergio Garcia on Friday afternoon after they had won their opening foursomes match.

Little flexibility

His decision to use only three captain's picks, rather than the four Thomas Bjorn had in 2018, also left him with little flexibility to select the players in the best form, although his decision not to choose reliable Ryder Cup points scorer Justin Rose was questionable.

Of Harrington's three picks, only European points record holder Garcia justified the faith while both Shane Lowry and Ian Poulter struggled.

The points qualification system also meant that the likes of 48-year-old Lee



Team Europe's Jon Rahm is consoled by wife Kelley Cahill after the defeat. Reuters

It's a transition period which has coincided with them being very good so the gap has widened. The U.S. team is probably the best team ever assembled."

COLIN MONTGOMERIE
FORMER EUROPE CAPTAIN

Westwood were in the team despite lacking form. Westwood, playing in his 11th Ryder Cup, struggled on the opening two days alongside fellow Englishman Matt Fitzpatrick who has failed to earn a point in two Ryder Cup appearances.

Austrian Bernd Wiesberger, another merit qualifier, tried his best but ended pointless while fellow rookie Viktor Hovland played in all five sessions, earning just one point.

Aged 24, Norwegian Hovland showed enough to suggest that he will be back in a European team that is clearly in a transitional phase at just the time the Americans are flush with major champions approaching their prime.

"It's scary how good they are," said Montgomerie. "Dustin Johnson is their oldest player and won five points, Bryson (DeChambeau) is getting better and they have the likes of (Collin) Morikawa who was rookie but the Open champion."

"We are in a transition period. We were in 1999 when we lost our top guys Faldo, Langer, Seve, Woosnam, Lyle. This is another one where the old school has probably played their last one, the Poulters, Westwoods, Caseys, they may not play again.

"It's a transition period which has coincided with them being very good so the gap has widened. The U.S. team is probably the best team ever assembled."

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



SUDOKU 4608

Difficulty Level 5s
Instructions
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

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SOLUTION SUDOKU 4607

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Laver Cup: Big Three's absence not felt as Rest of World put to sword again

CHRISTOPHER CLAREY
BOSTON, SEPTEMBER 27

AFTER THREE down-to-the-wire editions, the Laver Cup finally came up short of drama.

It happens, and considering European players' long-running dominance of men's tennis, it is frankly more surprising that the first three Laver Cups were suspense magnets than that this year's edition was a disappointing blowout.

Even without the stars who make up the Big Three in men's tennis — Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic — Team Europe had nothing but top 10 players in its six-man squad in Boston. Its opponent, Team World, did not have any, and it showed in the final score, 14-1, which was by far the most lopsided in the event's brief history.

Despite all the careful planning and big investment in this team competition, the bottom line is that Team Europe and Bjorn Borg, its captain, have won every Laver Cup. They have an excellent chance of remaining undefeated in London next year and beyond considering the youth and talent of rising stars like the 2021 U.S. Open champion Daniil Medvedev, his Russian countryman Andrey Rublev, Stefanos Tsitsipas of Greece and Alexander Zverev of Germany.

That competitive imbalance is potentially a big problem for the Laver Cup, the international team event created by Federer and his management company Team8 in 2017.

"I think a Team World win would be good for everyone," said John McEnroe, Team World's captain. "I think the event needs it. I was wondering why Russia was part of Europe. I don't think it's, but that's just me."

One cannot blame McEnroe for thinking creatively, even desperately, at this stage. Unfortunately for McEnroe, much of Russia is indeed in continental Europe, and the country traditionally takes part in European sporting competitions. Even if eastern Russia is in Asia, Medvedev and the Russians will remain part of Team Europe, according to Tony Godsick, the Laver Cup's chief executive.

"We won't make the change," Godsick said Sunday night. "We're not going to adjust this thing. It will be cyclical. I promise you, the world team will win at some point."

The Laver Cup, with its three-day format and blue and red color scheme for team uniforms, was modeled after golf's venerable



Team Europe's Matteo Berrettini with the Laver Cup. USA TODAY Sports

and successful Ryder Cup, and certainly took the modeling too far this time by being played in the same country on the same weekend.

That was not to the upstart tennis competition's benefit, even though the crowds and the atmosphere were terrific in Boston. A search of "Cup" on Google news on Sunday night produced a top-10 that was all Ryder Cup results from Whistling Straits.

Godsick said the scheduling overlap was not intentional. Both events were postponed in 2020, and he said that the Laver Cup has a designated week on the tennis schedule that could not be changed.

The Ryder Cup, which was first contested in 1927 in Worcester, Mass., had to evolve to become a major event and commercial juggernaut. Originally a competition between the United States and Britain, it only became a runaway success after players from other European nations joined the British team in 1979.

But if the Russians are remaining part of Team Europe in the Laver Cup, not much other tinkering can be done in the geography department. Team World already is open to every non-European nation and had players this year from Argentina (Diego Schwartzman), Australia (Nick Kyrgios), Canada (Denis Shapovalov and Felix Auger-Aliassime) and the United States (Reilly Opelka and John Isner).

DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

Saturn's extremely helpful relationship with Venus is one of those thoroughly down-to-earth alignments which will help you make the right choices, and get on with other people in the process. It's a no-frills day, a time to get on and do whatever is necessary.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

There's an element of mystery in the air. It may be no more than a lost possession, but you will probably also labour under the impression that there's a lot going on that just can't be explained. Sometimes it's nice to think that the future is open, so make the most of it.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

The most important single factor is Mars' energetic motion through your chart. Your best strategy now is to reduce the pace slightly, and to be extremely consistent and thorough. Don't take chances, especially not where a loved one's feelings are concerned.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

You're still in a relatively ambitious mood, but the best thing you can do is look after your money. There's no harm in giving your possessions away, but you won't be so happy if others feel free to help themselves. Can you distinguish a deserving cause from one you should avoid? I hope so.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

You may take the moral high ground today. Don't preach or pass judgment on others, but make sure that your own behaviour is beyond reproach. In other words, set an example that others are happy to follow. If foreign parts beckon, it's an indication that you may be travelling in search of love.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sept 23)

Although you may be understandably impatient, you can afford to delay important matters for a little while longer. This is an ideal moment to make plans and lay the groundwork, getting ready for future successes. You never really know what's around the next corner.

LIBRA (Sept 24 - Oct 23)

Your much-vaunted skills in partnership and teamwork will now be tested once again. It's not good enough to pay lip-service to co-operation, for it now looks as if you'll have to put the theory into practice! That's much more difficult than many people imagine.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22)

At work it's both who you know and what you know that matters, which means that you have a full-hand of trump cards. What is most important now is that you have confidence in your ideas. You should never fear rejection for, if you do, you will never take a risk.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 22)

Turning to legal and bureaucratic matters, it looks as if you may now appeal against a past injustice. The overwhelming emphasis in your chart is on travel and the lure of the exotic, so stimulation may be found far from home. But, then, perhaps a stranger will soon come knocking at your door.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

You are in the middle of a potentially extremely prosperous phase. Liaisons and partnerships formed now could do wonders for your long-term security and peace of mind. Don't be unnecessarily competitive, though, for you might fail to notice a valuable offer of help.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

You must understand that you're at a significant phase in a seven-year cycle, so please be aware that even apparently minor promises you make now could turn into major long-term commitments before you know it. Family members and people you live with may keep you to your word.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

You still seem to be working hard, perhaps too hard. Take some time out for romantic experiences, or for indulging a favourite fantasy, exploiting the very rare alignment of Venus and Jupiter to give all your partnerships a boost and a new friendship a chance to blossom.



Sun rises late

Roy, Williamson shine as bottom-placed SRH register second win of the season, beat RR by seven wickets



English opener Jason Roy scored a 42-ball 60 on his debut for Sunrisers Hyderabad. [iplt20.com](#)

SYNOPSIS: Roy races on Sunrisers debut. Samson gets Orange Cap, but Royals fizzle

SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY
SEPTEMBER 27

IN THE end, it was a facile win for Sunrisers Hyderabad that took them to four points from 10 matches. But it was a win after all, something they had been desperately searching for. Jason Roy's 60 off 42 balls set up the seven-wicket victory with nine balls remaining. Kane Williamson put the finishing touches, scoring a classy 51 not out off 41 balls. As the gloom was partially lifted in the SRH camp, Rajasthan Royals slipped into uncertainty.

Roy races on debut

He was stepping into big shoes. Dropping David Warner despite his recent string of low scores hinted at shake-up. The Australian opener had started the season as SRH captain. A mid-tournament captaincy snub later, he was out of the playing XI even.

Roy was under pressure at the outset. But his England experience and quality saw him through. Anything in the hitting zone, he attacked. Three fours in a Chris Morris over helped him up the ante. His ability to maximise the width was first-class. His clobbering of leg-spinner Rahul Tewatia – a six and three fours in an over – was even more exciting. All the while, Royals bowlers bowled boundary balls aplenty.

When the opener got out, SRH needed 51 off 48 balls. Priyam Garg returned on his heels and given the team's propensity to back-end implosions, it could have been alarm bells. But Williamson played a lovely innings and was aided by a young Abhishek Sharma.

POINTS TABLE					
	M	W	L	NRR	Pts
CSK	10	8	2	+1.069	16
DC	10	8	2	+0.711	16
RCB	10	6	4	-0.359	12
KKR	10	4	6	+0.322	8
PBKS	10	4	6	-0.271	8
RR	10	4	6	-0.369	8
MI	10	4	6	-0.551	8
SRH	10	2	8	-0.501	4

For the first one hour in this game, SRH looked poor, at times bordering on the abject. Their bowlers bowled on both sides of the wicket to start with. The way Jason Holder back-pedalled and dropped Yashasvi Jaiswal, a catch that should have been taken, reeked of casualness. It felt like SRH were going through the motions until they upped their game towards the latter half of the Royals innings. Fine death-overs bowling from Bhuvneshwar Kumar contributed to the improvement.

Samson gets Orange Cap

During his 57-ball 82, the Royals captain played nice shots, the best being a six over long-off against Rashid Khan. He stepped down the track, made room, but the ball turned a wee-bit. Samson, though, made adjustments, opened his shoulders and launched it over the fence. Samson is easy on the eye, when he bats in full flow. Reading googlies has been a weak area in his batting, but through his nimble footwork, Samson today didn't allow Khan to settle into a groove.

A tally of 433 runs from 10 matches took Samson on top of the run-scoring charts to claim the Orange Cap from Shikhar Dhawan.



Sunrisers Hyderabad captain Kane Williamson anchored the chase with an unbeaten 51. [iplt20.com](#)

Personally, this would be satisfying for the 'keeper-batsman in his first season as Royals captain. But his team proved to be a letdown. Lack of proper planning took the momentum out of Royals' batting and they ended up being at least 20 runs short. A win in this game would have taken them to the top four. They had an apparently dispirited SRH to take care of. But Royals remain also-rans.

Royals fizzle

After 10 overs, Royals were 77/2. Liam Livingstone was new to the crease, carrying the reputation of his electric performance in The Hundred. Asian conditions, however, are a little different. Some circumspection to

start with would have done Livingstone no harm. But he went for a pull against a Khan top-spinner and was out caught.

Livingstone is such a fantastic hitter with a big range that a few overs from him could have taken his team well past 180. In the second phase of the IPL in UAE, top teams like Chennai Super Kings and Delhi Capitals have been thriving on a clear batting plan. After Powerplay, they are attacking from one end, while a batsman at the other end is trying to go deep.

Royals has Samson to bat through the innings. Some calculated aggression was needed around him. They tried to attack from both ends and a 20-run over against Siddarth Kaul notwithstanding, they allowed SRH to claw their way back.

After Livingstone's dismissal, Samson had to play a mixed, anchor-cum-aggressor, role. It made Royals' progress chequered. And when in the last over they lost two wickets inside three balls, they ended up posting a very chasable total.

While bowling also, why Mustafizur Rahman and Chetan Sakariya weren't given the new ball was anybody's guess. Roy was playing his first game and should have faced the two best seamers in the opposition ranks upfront. Jaydev Unadkat looked undercooked and Morris' pace worked to the SRH openers' advantage.

Fielding was poor as well. A ball went through Samson's legs. Jaiswal dropped Roy off Tewatia at extra-cover. This game demanded precision from Royals. They fell prey to their mediocrity instead.

BRIEF SCORES: Sunrisers Hyderabad: 167 for 3 in 18.3 overs (Roy 60, Williamson 51 not out; Rahman 1/26, Sakariya 1/32) beat Rajasthan Royals: 164 for 5 in 20 overs (Samson 82, Jaiswal 36; Kaul 2/36, Bhuvneshwar 1/28) by seven wickets

TODAY'S MATCHES

- KKR vs DC, 3:30 pm
- MI vs PBKS, 7:30 pm

EMOTIONAL ROLLERCOASTER



Hot heads, calm minds and everything in between at the game

End of a WarnEra?



David Warner has scored 5,449 runs over 12 IPL seasons. [iplt20.com](#)

And quiet flowed the cap, Jason Roy was all smiles to get his Sunrisers Hyderabad cap, at the expense of the team's erstwhile talisman and captain David Warner. After losing captaincy mid-tournament to Kane Williamson, Warner was out of the team, nowhere near the SRH huddle even. The rumour mill went full throttle about a dressing-room discord, when the Australian opener was relieved of his captaincy duty. And after the axe today, Graeme Swann mentioned on air that he didn't see a way back for the 34-year-old. If

that is the case, then it's the end of an era at the Deccan. Over 12 seasons in the IPL and 5,449 runs, the left-hander has had been a titan. He led SRH to their only IPL title yet. But this season has been average, just 195 runs from eight matches and in the ruthless world of franchise cricket, that was that for the wooden-spooners. Spare a thought for Roy though. He didn't get a game in the first phase. But a T20 career strike-rate of 143 holds the explosive English opener in good stead and he proved it with a match-winning innings.

Deadpan Bayliss

"The plan was not to give them width," Trevor Bayliss, the Sunrisers Hyderabad coach, said at the end of the 7th over. Before adding, "Unfortunately, we gave them some". Full marks for the deadpan delivery, Bayliss. Much like him, the captain Kane Williamson showed immense poise not to stand on the middle of the pitch and tear his hair out.

It was such a low-quality performance that they were lucky to have given away just 49 runs in the six overs of power play. Probably, a more confident batting unit could have gone at 10 per over.

Nearly every bowler from Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Sandeep Sharma, and Siddarth Kaul were guilty of bowling on both sides of the wicket. And generous with their lengths too. Luckily, for them Jason Holder held his nerves and bowled a parsimonious fifth, giving just four runs. And the seamers bounced back in the end to restrict Rajasthan Royals to a gettable score.

Waiting, Williamson style

Mahipal Lomror perhaps thought he had cracked the code to pick wickets. Go slow, like Ramesh Powar. The left arm spinner got rid of a rampaging Wriddhiman Saha with one such delivery. Saha had charged down like a runaway express but the ball hadn't yet arrived. He tried a desperate across-the-line swipe hoping for some leather on the ball but instead was stumped. Lomror repeated it next ball to the new batsman Kane Williamson. It almost worked, too. Williamson was on the front-foot stretch, shaping for a drive but ball wasn't there. He adjusted and waited, somehow managing to hold his balance, and then carved it through cover point for a four. A touch of class. Lomror again tried it next over, and this time Kane knew it was better not to lunge too

Shaking in anger



Rahul Tewatia thought he had Jason Roy when he looped one outside off and there were cries of 'catch it' too when Roy's drive had the ball flying straight to Yashasvi Jaiswal at extra cover. Unfortunately, Jaiswal couldn't hold on. Tewatia took a couple of steps towards him, shrieked in agony, and his limbs started to shake in unison. An emoji of anger, more a gif. We have seen it before from Tewatia. Last year when a catch was dropped off his bowling, the limb-shaker Tewatia had reacted similarly. To add salt to the wound, Roy unfurled a reverse-swept four next ball.



BRIEFLY

'Content' Ali announces retirement from Tests

London: England's spin bowling all-rounder Moeen Ali on Monday announced retirement from Test cricket to prolong his career in white-ball formats. The 34-year-old leaves the Test arena with 2,914 runs in 64 matches at an average of 28.29. Besides his five centuries, Ali has taken 195 wickets with his off-spin bowling at an average of 36.66 since his Test debut in 2014. "I've enjoyed Test cricket but that intensity can be too much sometimes and I feel like I've done enough of it and I'm happy and content with how I've done," Ali said.

Sudirman Cup: India out of QF race

Vantaa: The Indian badminton team's chances to qualify for the knockout stage of the Sudirman Cup ended after suffering a 0-5 defeat against China on Monday. It was India's second defeat after losing the Group A opener to Thailand and now the final match against Finland on Wednesday has

been rendered inconsequential. Men's doubles pair of MIR Arjun and Dhruv Kapil lost to Liu Cheng and Zhou Hao Dong 20-22, 17-21 and Aditi Bhatt lost to Olympic champion Chen Yu Fei 9-21, 8-21. World No. 15 Sai Praneeth lost to former All England Champion Shi Yuqi 10-21, 10-21. Ashwini Ponnappa and N Sikki Reddy lost 16-21, 13-21 to Zheng Yu and Li Wen Mei, while Du Yue and Feng Yan Zhe beat Kidambi Srikanth and Rutupama Panda 9-21, 9-21 in the mixed doubles match.

Mohammedan enter Durand Cup final

Kolkata: Mohammedan Sporting struck twice in the extra time for a 4-2 win over FC Bengaluru United to enter the Durand Cup final on Monday. Following a 2-2 stalemate in regulation time that saw the Bengaluru outfit go down to 10 men, substitute Brandon Vanlalremdika (103rd min) put the team through. Seven minutes later, it was their Serbian captain Nikola Stojanovic who put an end to the 120-minute thriller, guiding Mohammedan Sporting to their fifth final appearance. **PTI**

Daniel Maldini: Like grandfather, like father, like son

THE MALDINI name has been synonymous with AC Milan and a new chapter was scripted in the rich history of the family with the Italian giants. Daniel Maldini, son of Paolo Maldini, scored on his first start for his father and grandfather's club.

THE MALDINI LINE CONTINUES

The 19-year-old, fresh from the club's youth academy is Paolo's second son and plays as an attacking midfielder. "The coach told me yesterday (Friday) that I was starting, he showed me what we were doing at set-pieces so I realised that I would be in the starting XI," said Daniel to DAZN. The set piece training would work as Maldini opened the scoring with a powerful header against Spezia two minutes into the second half. Cameras caught his father celebrating after the goal. "He's demanding, rightly so, but he helps me out," said Maldini junior. "He's my dad." Paolo is currently the technical director at Milan and Daniel joined the club's youth setup right after his father had retired. He has been with the club since 2010, has two appearances each for Italy's U18 and U19 teams. Before this game,

Daniel was being slowly introduced through substitutions into the game until his first start on Friday.

TROPHY HISTORY

Maldini-Milan has been a partnership since 1954. Cesare Maldini started his career with Italian club Triestina before making the switch. Once at Milan, he led the team to four Serie A titles and one European Cup in 12 years at the club. International, Cesare earned 14 caps for Italy and was part of the team in the 1962 World Cup. He captained both club and country. After retiring in 1967, Cesare then went on to coach Milan twice, and Foggia and Parma as well. But he found more success as a manager on the international level. Cesare was the three-time winner of the European U-21 championship as coach of the Italy U-21 team. He then coached the senior men's team at the 1998 World Cup and then the Paraguay WWC team during the 2002 event. Until then, it felt like senior Maldini's record was untouchable...

THE GREATEST MALDINI
25 years at one club. One of the greatest



Daniel Maldini, 19, is Paolo's second son and plays as an attacking midfielder. **AP**

defenders and players of all time. Part of great Milan teams to have dominated Europe. Il Capitano's resume built on the work put by his father onto the club and alleviated their family's claim to dizzying heights. Paolo started his Milan career as a 17-year-old right back but quickly switched onto the left flank because his left foot was considered to be better. His first real breakthrough came in the 1987-88 season where he was part of AC Milan's iconic

defensive display through the season, where they conceded a mere 14 goals throughout. The consistent league performance earned him a spot in the Italian team and he was a regular for them until his international retirement in 2003. Maldini was part of three iconic Milan teams. The Immortals, under Arrigo Sacchi were famous for seven consecutive league titles and the Dutch trio of Marco Van Basten, Frank Rijkaard and Ruud Gullit. Maldini was then part of the Invincibles Milan squad. Under Fabio Capello, this Milan side went unbeaten for 58 games at one point and won three consecutive titles under the former England manager.

The last great squad that Maldini was part of was when Carlo Ancelotti, who was part of the Immortals, began to coach Milan. In the 2003-04 season, Milan went on to lift yet another Champions League. The victory was even sweeter for Paolo because it came exactly 40 years after his father had won the European Cup. Both Cesare and Paolo's European glories were ratified in England as well. They became only the third father-son duo to win Europe's top club honours. **ENS**