

Cong prez polls: Top leaders stress on Gandhi family playing key role going forward

NEW DELHI(KCN): With the Congress set to elect its first non-Gandhi president in over 24 years, senior leaders on Monday stressed

the Gandhi family's guidance will be crucial and will play an important role in the party in the days to come.



The polls are significant as the new president would replace Sonia Gandhi, the longest-

serving Congress president who has been at the helm since 1998, barring the two years between 2017 and 2019 when Rahul Gandhi took over. Voting for the Congress presidential polls began on Monday. Senior leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and Shashi Tharoor face-off for the post of the AICC chief. Over 9,000 Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) delegates form the electoral college to pick the party chief in a secret ballot.

Speaking to reporters after casting her vote at the AICC headquarters here, senior leader Ambika Soni asserted that the Gandhi family cannot be ignored and the party workers' attachment with them would remain. **CONTINUED ON: P-7**

Odisha: Vaishnav flags off India's first aluminum freight rake in City

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Union Minister for Railways, Communications and Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnav flagged off India's first aluminium freight rake at Bhubaneswar railway station on Sunday. Addressing the gathering, Vaishnav termed it a significant milestone in the country's modernisation drive in mass transportation. He said switching to aluminium will

significantly shrink the carbon footprint of Indian Railways.

The aluminium wagons, the Minister said, will help to



"The silvery-white metal is the preferred choice for metro trains worldwide. The aluminium rake is lighter, cost-efficient and durable. As a single rake of an aluminium freight train can save over 14,500 tonne of carbon dioxide over its lifetime, this is an ambitious plan to modernise freight transportation and enable large carbon savings," he said.

achieve the target with over 10 per cent (pc) increase in payload while significantly lowering the carbon footprint in line with the Indian Railway's vision to build a green and efficient railway network.

The gleaming rakes are 180 tonne lighter than existing steel rakes and can carry at least 10 pc more payload, consume less

energy with relatively negligible wear and tear to rolling stock and rails. The bottom discharge aluminium freight wagon, specifically designed to carry coal, is tipped to reduce the carbon footprint measurably. For every 100 kg weight reduction of the wagon, the lifetime CO2 saving is around 10 tonne. "This is a dedicated effort for the Make-in-India initiative as it has been fully designed and developed indigenously in collaboration with the Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO) of Indian Railways, Hindalco and Besco Wagon," Vaishnav added.

Vicious campaign of Character assassination and defamation against a Young, Dynamic Railway officer to destroy his bright image & Carrier

Mumbai (Ashok Patra) It's really sickening to see the hysteria in our local electronic media and some sensation-loving individuals with sick minds in the social media, beaming a photograh of DRM, waltair and my close friend for last 30 years, Anup satpathy, with the Chand couple who are accused of running a black mailing racket at Bhubaneswar. I thought, silence on the part of people like me will be akin to siding with the vultures and wolves who feed on others' misery. They are continuously peddling some figments of imagination produced by their ever fertile dirty minds. Therefore, I spoke with the victim of this totally unfair and unnecessary media glare (Anup satpathy) who happens to be an energetic, bright and renowned Railway officer known far and wide for his warmth, simplicity, straightforward approach, love for work, competence, commitment to public service, performance, integrity, dedication, sincerity and courage of conviction. A fighter to the core, he is an officer par excellence with rare achievements in all walks of life and having an enviable personality right from his student days. He has been awarded at all levels for his meritorious service in Railways. As a brave boy, during his college days, he fought off the goondas and molesters from the Bhadrak College campus and was assaulted for having protected the honor of a girl student. This happened more than once. He had become an instant favorite of the legendary CM, late Mr Biju Pattnaik. In his first posting itself, at Sahdol, Madhya

Pradesh, he crushed the mafia elements in the Unions risking his own life and earning accolades. The District Administration provided him body guards for his personal safety. Anup is another name for swift action, determination, courage and humanity! His emotional quotient is extremely high. He is a great orator in many languages. No wonder, his fan following is humongous. One has to see his work to believe. He is always available with a helping hand for anyone who needs help. He had made Sterling contributions to the Jagannath temples and spread of Odia cultural traditions in Jharkhand and Central India. But, do we really bother to find out the truth when falsehood, insinuations and TRP only matter?

The fact is, he agreed to meet *along with his staff* for 2 minutes these thugs (without knowing about their antecedents) on their repeated insistence regarding discussion on purchase of some farm land at Bhubaneswar, as they posed to be dealing with real estate too.

The following points are noteworthy here: Visiting someone in broad daylight and getting photographed with them is not a crime for any public figure. Being aloof, elitist and arrogant is not a virtue either. Even the biggest idiot will agree that a wrong doer will never like to be photographed with his accomplices.

This man met them in broad daylight in the presence of his security and protocol staff and officers for not more than 2 minutes and didn't rudely refuse

Six killed in Russian attacks in Kyiv and Sumy: Ukraine

KYIV (KCN): At least six people were killed by Russian attacks on the capital and the eastern re-

gional governor Dmytro Zhyvvytsky said on social media. Prime Minister Denys Shmygal ear-

jured. 14 killed as Russia unleashes biggest attacks in Ukraine in months; knocks out



gion of Sumy, Ukraine officials said Monday, after dozens of drones were launched at Kyiv. "As of now, the number of people killed as a result of a kamikaze drone attack on

is ongoing," the deputy head of the presidency, Kyrylo Tymoshenko, said on social media. In the eastern region of Sumy the regional governor meanwhile said three people had been killed and several more were in-

power and water "At 5:20 (0220 GMT) in the morning, three Russian rockets hit a facility of civil infrastructure. At least three people died. Nine are injured. There are still people under the rubble," Sumy re-

Religious polarization in India seeping into US diaspora

In Edison, New Jersey, a bulldozer, which has become a symbol of the oppression of India's Muslim minority, rolled down the street during a parade marking that country's Independence Day. At an event in Anaheim, California, a shouting match erupted between people celebrating the holiday and those who showed up to protest violence against Muslims in India.

Indian Americans from diverse faith backgrounds have peacefully co-existed stateside for several decades. But these recent events in the U.S. — and violent



confrontations between some Hindus and Muslims last month in Leicester, England — have heightened concerns that stark political and religious polarization in India is seeping into diaspora communities.

In India, Hindu nationalism has surged under Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bharatiya Janata Party, which rose to power in 2014 and won a landslide election in 2019. The ruling party has faced fierce criticism over rising attacks against Muslims in recent years, from the Muslim community and other

religious minorities as well as some Hindus who say Modi's silence emboldens right-wing groups and threatens national unity.

Hindu nationalism has split the Indian expatriate community just as Donald Trump's presidency polarized the U.S., said Varun Soni, dean of religious life at the University of Southern California. It has about 2,000 students from India, among the highest in the country. **ALSO READ | 'Symbol of hate': Usage of bulldozer in Independence day parade at New Jersey town disappoints residents**

Soni has not seen these tensions surface yet on campus. But he said USC received blowback for being one of more than 50 U.S. universities that co-sponsored an online conference called "Dismantling Global Hindutva."

The 2021 event aimed to spread awareness of Hindutva, Sanskrit for the essence of being Hindu, a political ideology that claims India as a predominantly Hindu nation plus some minority faiths with roots in the country such as Sikhism, **CONTINUED ON: P-7**

ful in our reportings?

Should we hound, insult, defame and traumatize our own self-made people on the basis of half backed knowledge, jealousy, insinuations, rumors and concocted stories?

I think, these so called presstitutes are far worse thugs, cowards and black mailers than the couple in question. *I can see the invisible hands of jealous colleagues of Anup in this whole campaign of vilification and demonization*. These people are no match to his personality, warmth, demeanor and affability. There is certainly no other like him in Indian Railways and few in the country. It's a sure sign of decadence for a community when the brave and the upright can't be protected and supported. Any sensible society would support such embodiments of performance and valour. I am sure, the wish of this man to settle down in odisha post-retirement must have died down completely, though I am doubly sure that he would soon come out of this episode completely clean and unscathed. Meanwhile, I will advise these irresponsible and greedy media fellows to visit his places of work and see the magical things he has done and continues to do for Railways, it's staff and customers every moment. I think, fortunately this wretched breed of presstitutes was not available in the Tretaya or Dwapar Yugas. Otherwise Lord Rama would prefer to continue his Banbaas and Pandavas would have been too demoralised to fight the War in the Kurukshetra.

India Post Launches 'Postman at Doorstep'

Kolkata (KCN): The app during the Na-



India Post West Bengal Circle has launched "Postman at Doorstep" mobile

to access the Postman serving at his locality for sending service requests for withdrawal of cash from his AADHAAR enabled Bank Account (AePS), Child Enrolment Lite Client (CELC), and may update his mobile/email ID in his existing AADHAAR, update Digital Life Certificate (DLC), perform IPPB Account transactions, purchase Accidental insurance (TATAIG GAG) etc. Many more services will also be added later. This app has been launched for Kolkata City and Howrah PIN code area. Customers can download this App from Google play Store.

NYK, South Kolkata Organises Yuva Utsav to Celebrate 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav'

Kolkata (KCN): Nehru Yuva Kendra South Kolkata under the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports organised the Yuva Utsav in a grand man-

among the masses through various contests like Young Artists Camp, Young Writers Camp, Photography Workshop, Declamation Contest,



ner, with the theme - 'Sense of Duty among the Citizens' today at National Library. The major objective of the event was to celebrate the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' in the spirit of Yuva Shakti, spreading the ideals and val-

Cultural Festival and Youth Convention. More than 300 youths took part in the event and was graced by the Member of Parliament, Smt. Locket Chatterjee, former Member



ues of India's Freedom

of Parliament, Rajyasabha, Shri. Swapan Dasgupta, the legendary Indian Magician Shri. P. C. Sorcar Jr., Shri. Barjeet Singh, second in command, Senior Instructor, ITS SSB, Kolkata, Shri. Ravi Shankar, Deputy Commandant, ITS SSB Kolkata, Shri. Mrityunjay Mandal, eminent artist and many other distinguished guests. Cash prizes and certificates were distributed to all the winners of the competition.



Struggle during on attaining 75th anniversary of India's independence and generating appreciation about the diverse spiritual and cultural heritage of country

Eye camp held by RMF in association with LVPL, Hyderabad at Nalda

Barbil (KCN). In a bid to provide free eye care early diagnosis of curable eye diseases in school of Nalda .Manoj S a h u , S a r o j Mohapatra, Sajjad



services to the poor patients who can then Allam along with many youths of Nalda joined



living in remote areas under Barbil Municipality, Regional Media Forum of Barbil in association with L V Prasad Eye institute of Hyderabad organised a free eye camps at Nalda, a boarder area of Odisha state. Being the boarder area ,many hamlets are out of reach from health care and other allied services. Visualising this,RMF thought of an eye check up camp at Nalda. Hundreds of people, including women and children of different near by area of Nalda including people of adjacent Jharkhand state were tested. Patients with complicated issues were referred to the base hospitals at Keonjhar for further management as these measures have been highly helpful in the hands to make this camp successful. School teachers and staffs have also given all support to organise the programme . Prasant Mohanty coordinated the camp.

Wife dragged dead body of husband and buried alone Barbi.(KCN)15th Oct. news has come to the fore that a helpless old woman dug a hole and buried her dead husband in her own yard due to the lack of help from the villagers. According to reports, Kati Munda of Badnai village in Champua sub division in the district of Keonjhar brought her dead husband to Keonjhar Hospital for treatment. But after a few days of treatment, Swami Bhanj Munda died. She borrowed money from the villagers and brought him to her village in an ambulance from Keonjhar Medical . As they had no children of their own, they earn their livelihood through daily wages even after the old age. Having no one of her own, she asked the people of the village to help her to bury her husband's body. But since no one from the village came, she dug a hole in her



yard and buried her husband. As there was no one, she tied the dead body of her husband with a rope and dragged it to the grave and buried it. When this news spread, it became the talk of the region.The exact cause of non cooperation of the villagers are yet to reveal.

Odisha: No decision on multi-modal hub yet

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): The State Government has not yet taken any decision on the much-hyped multi-modal hub project at Station Square here after East Coast Railway (ECOR)'s the exit from it, senior Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) officials said on Sunday. While Bhubaneswar Smart City Limited (BSCL), which has been struggling to make several projects operational under Smart City Mission, has remained silent on the issue. However, a senior BDA official said no official communication from the government has been received to discuss the implementation of the project after ECOR informed about its exit from the MoU signed for its joint implementation. Around 11-acre land vacated by the agency for execution of various components of the project at Station Square, a prime location in the city, is lying unused since 2017."We are waiting for suggestions from BSCL for appropriate use of the land that was acquired after the demoli-

tion of Ashoka Market and two parks near the railway station," the senior official said. The State government in December 2016 had given approval to BDA for implementation of the ambitious project at an investment of Rs 910 crore. The project design was made by Singapore-based firm Surbana Jurong in 2017, while the MoU between BDA and ECOR was signed two years later in September 2019. BSCL was also roped in as one of the implementing agencies of the smart project. However, in June this year, a senior official informed that ECOR exited the MoU signed with the State government owing to an 'inordinate delay' in giving shape to the project. The ECOR, instead, has worked out a 'Bhubaneswar Station Integrated Re-development' plan at an investment of Rs 308 crore in the first phase to turn the station into an 'iconic building.' While officials of the Housing and Urban Development department could not be reached for their comments on the issue.



STUDENTS' DAY IS BEING OBSERVED AT DAY PUBLIC SCHOOL, KALINGA NAGAR TO MARK THE BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF DR. A.P.J ABDUL KALAM

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Amidst excellent reviews, Anurag Kashyap's 'Dobaaraa' has now reached Kolkata

Kolkata(KCN by ANKIT AGARWAL): A per-



fect combination of a thriller film having Taapsee Pannu in it, after 'Pink' and 'Badlaa' is huge excitement in itself. The cherry on the top on its way is 'Dobaaraa', a film directed by none other than Anurag Kashyap. Having caught the attention of the masses with its mind-blowing trailer and songs, Anurag Kashyap's Dobaaraa is constantly spreading its charm all across the nation much before its release. After the film has made its mark at several prestigious film festivals like the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne,



Fantasia International Film Festival, and London film festival, the makers presented the film to its audience in multiple cities including Mumbai, Chennai, and Delhi. Now the team Dobaaraa has reached Kolkata where Prosenjit Chatterjee hosted a special screening of the film.

While Anurag Kashyap's upcoming mystery drama Dobaaraa has been the talk of the town,

it is constantly creating a buzz all around the corners. After India's renowned journalist



Shoma Chaudhury hosted a special screening in Delhi where the film collected a whole lot of praise from the masses, the team reached Kolkata where the most celebrated



actor of modern Bengali cinema Prosenjit Chatterjee hosted a special screening of the film. He also invited a couple of his industry

friends to the screening. Moreover, the team, Taapsee Pannu, Pavail Gulati, and Ektaa R Kapoor interacted with the Kolkata media. While they talked about their views about the film, Taapsee was seen sharing how she came across this topic, and on the other hand, as Pavail was about to debut with this film, he spoke about how this film came after 'Thappad' marking it his sec-



ond project with Taapsee. Moreover, the producer Ektaa also talked about why she chose this topic and how she got on to this project. Starring award-winning actress Taapsee Pannu, the film is directed by the acclaimed director Anurag Kashyap and produced by Shobha Kapoor & Ektaa R Kapoor's Cult Movies, a new wing under Balaji Telefilms and Sunir Khetarpal & Gaurav Bose (Athena). Watch Dobaaraa on 19th August 2022 at the cinemas near you.

Neeraj Bharadwaj is shooting for web series 'Saazish' in Bhopal



Mumbai (KCN, Sanjay Sharma Raj): Film and TV veteran and famous actor Neeraj Bharadwaj is shooting for the web series

the role of city's famous lawyer Abhay Pratap Singh, who gets the brother of villain Shahbaz Khan punished. After that Shahbaz Khan



family and me. I am not able to do

what happens is still a secret. My role in this is different, I hope people will like it, and just like before, I will definitely be able to make a place in the heart of the audience with my performance." By the way, Neeraj Bharadwaj will soon have a webseries named Madgaon ...A Murder Case. Its shooting has been completed.



'Saazish' in Kalua Khurd, Bhopal, Neeraj Bharadwaj says, "I am playing

commits a lot of oppression on my anything. After that conspiracy is hatched and then

The main cast of the web series 'Saazish' are Mugdha Godse, Shahbaz Khan, Raza Murad, Mustakh Khan and Dev Manaria with Neeraj Bharadwaj. Its screenplay and dialogues are by Vinod Vats, Vikas Vashisht and Ajay. Its cameramen are Manish Vyas and Amar Vyas, music is by Manish Bhanushali. It is produced by Col.S S Pattnaik, co-producer Dev Manaria and executive producer is Anu Madrasi. It will be coming soon on Disney Hotstar. Its shooting is going on in Bhopal followed by Vadodara.

G20 summit- UP boosting tourist infrastructure, others must follow

After exactly four decades when Non-Aligned summit was held at New Delhi in 1983, India



is again going to host major international event when G20 summit would be held in national capital on 9-10 September 2023. India will assume the Presidency of the G20 for one year from December 1,

2022, to November 30, 2023. Apart from head of the states of G20 member nations, India is likely to invite several other countries as an observer. In nutshell, it would be a very important world event.

India will position itself as a major tourism destination during its year-long Presidency of G20 with visa reforms and ease of travel. In the backdrop of G20, the Uttar Pradesh government is working overtime to attract head of the states, ministers, delegates, journalists and others attending the G-20 summit. Four cities of Uttar Pradesh, including Lucknow, Varanasi, Greater Noida and Agra, will host events of the G-20 summit. Gujarat's Rann of Kutch, West Bengal's Siliguri, Srinagar in Jammu and Kashmir, Goa and some other cities will also host G20 meetings and seminars.

Meanwhile, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath is himself taking meetings of state government officials in order to make four cities of the state fully prepared to host the G20 delegates. It goes without saying that hosting the mega event in cities of UP will serve as an opportunity to introduce 'Brand UP' to the world.

Of course, Varanasi is the most venerable city

in India for Hindus, Buddhists and Jains.

Every Hindu wish to visit there at least once in his/her life time. And Sarnath is located 10 kilometres north-east of Varanasi. It is here where Gautama Buddha first taught the Dhamma, and where the Buddhist Sangha came into existence. And Parshvanatha, the twenty-third tirthankara of Jains, was born here. According to Jain tradition, it the birth-place of three more tirthankaras, namely Suparshvanatha, Chandraprabha and Shreyansanatha.

Meanwhile, all those who wish to visit India always think of visiting Agra to see architectural marvel Taj Mahal. Agra attracts millions of tourists every year as it has several other places too related to Mughal era, including the mausoleum of great Mughal Emperor Akbar. If Agra and Varanasi have very rich past, Lucknow is the seat of UP and Greater Noida is a bustling modern city with plethora of educational institutions and corporate offices. Hundreds of foreign expats work here. Surely, the choices of these four UP cities are good enough to showcase the life and times of India's most populous state.

As President Xi Jinping of China, France President Emmanuel Macron, Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, Russian President Vladimir Putin, John Biden, President of United States, Liz Truss, Prime Minister of United Kingdom and many more influential leaders would be in India during the G 20 summit, Uttar Pradesh government is leaving no stone unturned to impress the G20 delegates. Of course, the world leaders would visit different places, including UP, to know more about India. It is most likely that some big-ticket foreign heads visit UP. It may be

Vivek Shukla

recalled that the slain Japanese premier Shinzo Abe had a long association with Varanasi. He had visited the city along with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on December 12, 2015 and attended the Ganga Aarti. He loved the people and mood of holy city. In any case, very large number of tourists from Japan and various Buddhist countries visit Varanasi every year. They visit Sarnath without fail.

All the four UP cities would host the G 20 delegates according to the Indian spirit of 'Atithi Devo Bhava'. Accordingly, preparations are going on to make the event grand in these districts. UP had a rich history, and therefore, its ancient art, culture, history, and archaeological features should be compiled and presented at the G-20 platform. Yogi Adityanath has told his officials that "To make the whole world aware of the potential of 'New India's New Uttar Pradesh', we have to systematically present the cultural, spiritual, social, economic and industrial features of the state."

G20 or Group of Twenty is an intergovernmental forum comprising 19 countries and the European Union (EU). The G20 member nations are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, France, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States. Union Tourism Secretary Arvind Singh said India plans to position itself as a "major tourism destination" during its Presidency of G20. "We plan to ensure due rigour, dedication, and showcase our cultural richness while welcoming the world to our nation." "We plan to bring in necessary interventions including

visa reforms, ease of travel, traveller-friendly immigration facilities at airports and openness to international travel."

Not only UP, others Indian states should also work hard so that G20 summit gives them an international recognition. They have to realize the fact such summits don't take place very often. So they must grab this opportunity with both hands. Tourism sector in India has a massive potential to grow thick and fast. It gives foreign exchange and creates massive job opportunities. Foreign tourist arrivals account for the country's third largest share of foreign exchange (forex) earnings. Forex earnings from the tourism sector saw around 9.4 per cent annual growth in the 2011 to 2019 period. A further push to the sector can result in much higher forex reserves in India which are of great significance, especially when the global energy and food prices are northward bound.

Data suggests that G20 member nations account for the highest foreign tourist arrival numbers in India.

Surely, if UP and other states improve their tourist infrastructure, India would reap huge fruits in time come. It is said that Saudi Arabia was predominantly seen as a religious destination, people were visiting it mainly for Mecca and Medina. Post G20, it is open to travellers from Europe and other countries. Hence, it is an opportunity for India to truly utilize G20 in 2023. This is an event that we should look forward to; the Government of India looks forward to, for positioning and projecting India as an important destination for the rest of the world.

The Author is a columnist and former Editor

Need for revising norms including old parents to raise the wage

Since the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 was not complete in all aspects to provide the exact norms for fixing or quantifying



minimum wages statutorily, the 15th session of the Indian Labour Conference (ILC) held in July 1957 constituted the basis for fixing minimum wages in India stating that the minimum wage

should be need-based and ensure the minimum human needs of the industrial worker. Accordingly, it formulated five norms to serve as a guide for all wage-fixing authorities; (i) three Consumption Units (CU) for one wage earner without incorporating the earnings of women, children and adolescents; (ii) a minimum food requirement of 2,700 calories per adult person per day; (iii) clothing requirements at 72 yards per annum for an average working family of four; (iv) a house rent corresponding to the minimum area provided for under the Government's Industrial Housing Scheme; and (v) 20% of total minimum wage for fuel, lighting and other miscellaneous items.

But, considering these norms inadequate taking into account the socio-economic aspect of the wage structure, in 1992, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India (SC), in the historic Workmen v Reptakos Brett & Co. judgment (1992) instructed to add few additional components, namely: children's education, medical requirements, minimum recreation including festivals/ceremonies, and contingencies such as old age and marriage. The SC also directed that these consumption items should constitute 25% of the total minimum wage. In line with the norms set by the 15th ILC (1957) and the SC judgment (1992), the wage-fixing authorities at central and state level have been setting minimum wages for their respective "scheduled" employments under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. As aware, the Government of India has regularly set

up Central Pay Commissions (CPC) to review and make

recommendations on the work and wage structure of public employees. Six of the seven Pay Commissions so far have used the 15th ILC norms to calculate the minimum pay. In fact, the Seventh CPC, in its 2015 report confirmed that the use of the ILC 1957 norms constitute "the best approach to estimating the minimum pay as it is a need-based wage calculation that directly costs the requirements, normatively prescribed to ensure a healthy

and a dignified standard of living". Thus, the above 3 CUs of the wage earner devised by 15th ILC (1957) and subsequently accepted by the SC in 1992 considered the male as 1, female as 0.8 and the two children each as 0.6 CU respectively. It doesn't include the parents of the wage earner. At the time of entry to the job, the wage earner may not have his/her spouse and children but must have the parents. But most surprisingly, while the ILC ignored the parents of the wage earner from the definition of a typical Indian family for computing the minimum need-based wage, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India unfortunately also restricted the additional components like medical requirements and contingencies for old age etc. to the wage earner only.

The people of India belong to different religions and faiths. They are governed by different sets of personal laws in respect of matters relating to family affairs, i.e., marriage, divorce, succession, etc. Historically, irrespective of religion and faith, the traditional, perfect and beloved family in India is the joint family which, in addition to the wage earner, his spouse and children consists of three to four living generations, including uncles, aunts, nieces, nephews and grandparents living together in the same home. The

Bruhaspati Samal

It is highly unfortunate to ignore the old parents from the purview of wage-earner's family while calculating the minimum need-based wage

maintenance of all such family members on the part of the wage earner is not only ethical, but logical and legal also. But while attempting to increase the minimum wages through the above legislative changes, neither the ILC nor the SC did consider the potential consequences on these demographic groups.

It is needless to state that in the present day society, the old parents are frequently witnessed to be seriously ignored and abused by the wage-earners who prefer to

live in a nuclear family with his wife and children only. Hardly any wage-earner is shouldering the burden of the parents during their old age. One of the main reasons for such estrangement and abandoning the old parents by Indian youths is money or finances. A study conducted in June 2020, by the NGO Agewell Foundation, **71 per cent of India's elderly** reported an increase in maltreatment during the first Covid-19 induced lockdown. As a result, now the concept of old-age home is mushrooming in Indian society where the neglected parents are being sheltered which is too piteous. According to the **Report of the Technical Group on Population Projections for India and States 2011-2036**, there are nearly **138 million** elderly persons in India in 2021 and it is further expected to increase by around 56 million elderly persons in 2031. There are **18 million homeless** elderly persons in India based on the **Longitudinal Ageing Survey of India 2020**. Currently, **there are 728 old age homes, both private and public in India** providing different geriatric services. In this context, it is worth mentioning here that Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 casts obligations on children to maintain their parents/grandparents and also

the relative of the senior citizens. Here, children include son, daughter, grandson, grand daughter, son-in-law, daughter-in-law and maintenance includes provision for food, clothing, residence, medical attendance and treatment. Similarly, as per the Act, parent means father or mother whether biological, adoptive or step father or step mother. In addition, Section 125 of the Criminal Procedure Code, 1973 which is secular in nature and applicable to all individuals equally irrespective of their religion, provides maintenance for the wife, children and parents. Above all, the Central Civil Services (Conduct), Rules, 1964 include the dependent parents of the Government employee in the definition of family for the purpose of availing Leave Travel Concession (LTC), Medical Treatment etc. As such, the old dependent parents should not be ignored from the purview of the family while computing the minimum need-based wage and a family for the purpose should be considered for 5 CUs including the parents of the wage-earner as 2 CUs (Father 1CU and Mother 1CU) instead of existing 3 for fair play of justice. The increase in minimum wage determined as such will certainly change the behaviour of the wage-earner towards his/her old dependent parents in a positive way and thereby increase the ability to spend more quality time with them reducing the estrangements. Now, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India may take a *sou motu* cognizance of the issue and give a direction to all the wage-fixing authorities to consider the family as 5 CUs instead of the existing 3 for computation of minimum need-based wage which will be another landmark for protection of the senior citizens of this public welfare country in addition to reducing the frequent agitations made throughout the year by different Trade Unions across the nation in this regard.

General Secretary, Confederation of Central Govt. Employees and Workers Odisha State Coordination Committee Mobile: 9437022669, eMail: bsamalbbsr@gmail.com

Three-day India tour of UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres begins on Tuesday

NEW DELHI: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres will be on a three-day visit to India starting Tuesday, during which he will pay tributes to the victims of the 26/11 terror attacks at the Taj Mahal Palace hotel in Mumbai, besides holding talks with his Indian interlocutors.

tions in India. "Antonio Guterres, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, will be on an official visit to India from October 18-20," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said. It said Guterres will commence his visit to India by paying tributes to the victims of the 26/11 terror at-

deepen India's engagement with the UN, including through the country's upcoming presidency of the G20. It said Guterres will attend the launch of the Mission LiFE booklet, logo and tagline in Kevadiya on October 20. The concept of LiFE was intro-

of the Sustainable Development Goals," the MEA said. "Its central idea reflects India's ethos of respect for mother nature and aims at piloting a focused programme that will mobilise one billion (100 crore) Indians to become pro-planet people (3P), who would



It will be the first visit of Guterres to India since his second term in office commenced in January. He had earlier visited the country in October 2018 during his first term at the top office. The UN secretary general will join Prime Minister Narendra Modi at an event relating to the Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) in Gujarat's Kevadiya on October 20. His visit to the country comes more than a week before the UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee holds two-day delibera-

tacks at the Taj Mahal Palace hotel in Mumbai. He will also deliver a public address at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Mumbai on the subject -- "India @75: UN-India Partnership: Strengthening South-South Cooperation." The Taj Mahal Palace hotel was one of the targets of the horrific 26/11 terror attacks nearly 14 years ago. The MEA said External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar would hold bilateral discussions with Guterres on issues of global concern, steps to

duced by Modi during the COP26 at Glasgow in November last year. The prime minister had then urged the global community of individuals and institutions to drive LiFE as an international mass movement towards "mindful and deliberate utilisation, instead of mindless and destructive consumption" to protect and preserve the environment. "Mission LiFE will be India's signature initiative at the United Nations and other international platforms for showcasing climate action and early achievement

practise simple environment and climate-friendly behaviour and actions in their daily lives to promote a shared commitment to protect our planet," it added. In Kevadiya, Guterres is expected to pay floral tributes at the Statue of Unity, the MEA said, adding that he will also visit the country's first solar-powered village in Modhera (Gujarat) and other development projects in the area. The UN secretary general will also visit the Sun temple in Modhera, before departing for his onward destination, according to the MEA.

Cong Prez polls: Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge vote in Karnataka



Bengaluru/Ballari: Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge-one of the candidates in the party's Presidential polls, cast their votes in the election to the top post, for which voting is underway in Karnataka on Monday. Kharge, a Member of Rajya Sabha from Karnataka is pitted against Thiruvananthapuram MP Shashi Tharoor in this election to the party's highest post. Rahul Gandhi cast his vote in a meeting room container converted into a polling booth at the Bharat Jodo Yatra camp site in Sanganakallu in Ballari district, while Kharge voted at the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee office in Bengaluru.

Congress has shared pictures of Rahul Gandhi standing in a queue along with Bengaluru Rural MP D K Suresh among others and then casting his vote. About 40 other Bharat Yattris, who are PCC delegates, will also be casting their votes at the camp site in Sanganakallu on Monday, which has been declared as "Rest Day" for the Bharat Jodo Yatra. State Congress President D K Shivakumar and Leader of the Opposition in the Karnataka Assembly Siddaramaiah cast their votes at the KPCC office in Bengaluru. Results of the election will be declared on October 19.

Birthday wishes pour in for Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik

BHUBANESWAR(KCN): Wishes poured in from across the country and political parties for Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on his 76th birthday on Sunday. President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi called the Chief Minister to wish him on his birthday. The Prime Minister also wished him on Twitter. "Birthday wishes to Odisha CM Shri Naveen Patnaik Ji. May he lead a long and healthy life in service of the people," the Prime Minister tweeted. Governor Ganeshi Lal also wished the Chief Minister on Twitter. "Hon'ble Governor conveys his heartiest compliments and best wishes to Hon'ble Chief Minister Sri @Naveen_Odisha ji on his

birthday and wishes him a healthy and long life," the Governor's official Twitter handle said. Defence minister Rajnath Singh, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Chief Ministers of several states and leaders cutting across political lines wished the Chief Minister. Naveen thanked the President and Prime Minister for calling him up to wish him on his birthday. He also responded to all the birthday wishes on his Twitter handle separately and thanked them. The Chief Minister had chosen not to celebrate his birthday in 2020 and 2021 due to the Covid situation and in 2018 and 2019 owing to cyclones Titli and Fani. He had also requested people not to visit Naveen Niwas on Sunday to wish him as he is leaving for Hyderabad to attend the third edition of the Make-In-Odisha conclave. BJD leaders and workers also celebrated their party supremo's birthday across the State. The Biju Yuva Janata Dal observed the day as 'Seva Divas'.



PM-KISAN: Modi releases 12th installment of Rs 16,000 cr to eligible farmers

NEW DELHI(KCN): Ahead of Diwali, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday released the 12th installment of financial benefit worth Rs 16,000 crore to eligible farmers under the flagship PM-KISAN scheme. With this, the total amount transferred to around 11 crore beneficiaries is expected to cross Rs 2.16 lakh crore. Under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN), eligible farmers are provided with a financial benefit of Rs 6,000 per year in three equal instalments of Rs 2,000 each every four months. The income support is directly transferred to bank accounts of the beneficiaries. The scheme was launched in February 2019 but is being implemented with effect from December 2018. The prime minister released the 12th installment at two-day event 'PM Kisan Samman Sammelan 2022' being held at the Pusa campus in the national capital. Addressing the event, Modi said benefits

under PM-KISAN reach the accounts of has also been released to crores of farmer



farmers directly without involving any middleman and commission agents. "Another installment of Rs 16,000 crore

families as PM Kisan Samman Nidhi," he said while expressing happiness that this installment is reaching farmers just before Diwali. The money reaching them before rabi sowing begins is necessary, he added. Since the launch of this scheme, more than Rs 2 lakh crore has been transferred directly to beneficiaries under PM-KISAN, Modi said adding that farmers have told him that the scheme has reduced their burden. PM-KISAN is a central sector scheme with 100 per cent funding from the Centre. State governments and UT administrations identify the farmer families that are eligible for support as per scheme guidelines. Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar and Chemicals & Fertilisers Minister Mansukh Mandaviya were also present at the programme. More than 13,500 farmers from across the country and around 1,500 agri-startups are participating in the event. Researchers, policymakers and other stakeholders too are attending the event.

After Hyd incident, DGCA asks SpiceJet to analyse engine oil samples of Q400 fleet



NEW DELHI: Days after a SpiceJet plane had smoke in the cabin, aviation regulator DGCA on Monday directed the airline to analyse engine oil samples from its Q400 fleet to check for presence of metal and carbon seal particles.

The watchdog has also ordered the carrier to carry out inspection of bleed-off valve screen and housing for evidence of oil wetness.

On October 12, SpiceJet plane coming from Goa made an emergency landing at Hyderabad airport following an incident of smoke in the cabin.

In a statement on Monday, DGCA said it is investigating the incident and based on the

preliminary investigation, there was evidence of engine oil in engine bleed-off valve. This led to the oil entering the aircraft air conditioning system that resulted in smoke in the cabin.

The aircraft involved was Q400 and the airline has a fleet of 14 such operational planes. The watchdog said SpiceJet has also been directed not to send any engine to Standard Aero-Singapore till the investigation is complete.

"DGCA is keeping a close watch on the situation and shall take all appropriate action to avert any untoward incident," the statement said.

Mahanga Muslims community celebrate Naveen's birthday with gift of life in Odisha



CUTTACK: The Muslim community of Mahanga celebrated the 76th birthday of Chief Minister and Biju Janata Dal (BJD) president Naveen Patnaik by organising a mega blood donation camp at Sukarpada on Sunday.

Over 1,000 people in the community including 34 women came forward to donate blood at the camp.

Around 256 units of blood were collected at the camp, organised under BJD's 'Jeevan Bindu' initiative. The programme was organised under the guidance of former

Minister and Mahanga MLA Pratap Jena.

"The camp was organised with an aim to fulfil the noble objective of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik to make blood accessible to all free of cost," said Jena.

Earlier, members of the community prayed with the recital of 'ayat' of the Holy Quran by Maulana Mohamad Fayazuddin to seek Naveen's long life. Following the prayer, cakes were cut and the camp was held.

"We are happy to donate blood on Chief Minister Naveen

Patnaik's birthday. Our Chief Minister has always showered his love and affection on us. We pray before Allah to grant him long life and good health," said local Muslim community leader Mirza Abdul Baig.

Presiding over a meeting, Maulana Abdul Wadood Khan hailed Naveen for his unending support to the minority community. The BJD supremo has always held secular beliefs and sought to ensure religious equality in the State. The philanthropic gesture was a reciprocation of the Muslim community's love, support and admira-

tion towards Naveen.

The Chief Minister, in 2020, had sanctioned funds, which are being utilised for the creation of pilgrim amenities and community halls in various mosques across the State. As many as 800 pilgrims go for Haj from Odisha every year under a programme that provides Rs 10,000 as financial assistance to purchase Haj kits. A Haj Bhawan has also been constructed in Bhubaneswar under the leadership of the Chief Minister while multi-city community centres have been built for Muslim pilgrims, said Jena.

NATO begins nuclear exercises amid Russia war tensions



BRUSSELS: NATO on Monday began its long-planned annual nuclear exercises in northwestern Europe as tensions simmer over the war in Ukraine and President Vladimir Putin's threat to use any means to defend Russian territory. Fourteen of NATO's 30 member countries were due to take part in the ex-

ercises, which the military alliance said would involve around 60 aircraft including fighter jets and surveillance and refueling planes. The bulk of the war games will be held at least 1,000 kilometers (625 miles) from Russia's borders.

U.S. long-range B-52 bombers will also take part in the maneuvers, dubbed

Steadfast Noon, which will run until Oct. 30. NATO is not permitting any media access.

NATO said that training flights will take place over Belgium, which is hosting Steadfast Noon this year, as well as over the North Sea and the United Kingdom. The exercises involve fighter jets capable of carrying nuclear war-

heads, but do not involve any live bombs.

The exercises were planned before Putin ordered Russian troops into Ukraine in February. Russia usually holds its own annual maneuvers around the same time, and NATO is expecting Moscow to exercise its nuclear forces sometime this month.



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HRTech firm Workruit raises \$500,000 in Pre-Series A round

HYDERABAD: AI-powered career and recruitment platform Workruit has announced here on Monday that it has raised over \$500,000 in pre-Series A round led by the family office of Kantamaneni from the US.

the infrastructure with Workruit that enables people to advance their careers confidently. Workruit is developing tools to assist people in navigating the future of work, where career agility is more important than ever. In



The company will utilize the funds to scale the product, expand its operations and focus on customer acquisition.

As part of the expansion plans, Workruit also aims to extend its recruitment platform in the US markets by Q1 2023 with the support of the strategic investor.

The company provides a suite of B2B and B2C solutions, including an AI-powered resume builder and a job search & recruitment platform. The platform aims to empower job seekers to achieve their career goals and make their next career move with its flagship product, 'Workruit Resume Builder'.

The career platform has created more than 1M resumes, most created by job seekers in India. Workruit is already trusted by over 2.5M+ job seekers who are registered on their platform to date. It also operates the Digital Employment Exchange of Telangana (DEET) platform in collaboration with Telangana State and is currently in talks with other Governments.

CEO & Founder of Workruit, Manikanth Challa says, "In the future of work, the employee is the enterprise. Companies have HR teams, recruiters, and sophisticated technology to manage their pipelines, but all that most job seekers have is a spreadsheet. We're levelling the playing field by building

addition, our recruitment and career platform champions both the candidate and the enterprise, allowing both to connect easily and network."

"The investment establishes a strong strategic partnership that will propel Workruit into its next growth phase. Having them as partners will enable us to capitalize on the numerous opportunities that we see ahead of us," he adds.

"While many players are solving problems for recruiters, we have yet to come across platforms that are focused on candidates. Workruit is developing a distinctively powerful and personalized career platform that is tech-first and candidate-first, beginning with an automated resume offering. They also have a long list of major employers who use their technology, including Axis Bank, Qess Corp, Big Basket, Swiggy, Colleges, and Governments. We are thrilled to be collaborating with Workruit as they transform the hiring market," said Sreenivasarao Lavu of Kantamaneni Family Office.

Designed on the concept of "swipe right to get matched", Workruit lets employers hire skilled talent instantly. Workruit currently is also training entry-level talent to help employers hire trained professionals.

TCS COO says action for moonlighting can ruin a career, company will show empathy

MUMBAI: Action against moonlighting can ruin a person's career and hence, it is important to show empathy while dealing with the issue, a top official from Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has said.

Nothing prevents the country's biggest IT services exporter from taking action against employees for moonlighting when it has evidence because it is a part of the service agreement, but young kids will have to be dissuaded, the company's chief operating officer N G a n a p a t h y Subramaniam told PTI. "The consequences (of taking action) will be that the person's career will be ruined. Background check for the next future job will fail for him. We have to show some empathy," Subramaniam said.

He said the company looks at an employee like being a part of the family and given the consequences of any action, would rather focus on dissuading the family member from going astray. It can be noted that in the past few months, amid increased demand for talent, moonlighting or side hustles have come to the fore in the over USD 220 billion industry.

Many like TCS have flagged concerns around it, some like Wipro have also suspended 300 staffers, while a few like Tech Mahindra have said they are fine with it.

Subramaniam said that some IT companies work on a model where they are ok with freelancers but companies like TCS, which work with top global corporations, cannot let such an activity like

moonlighting continue because the data of the customer has to be safe.

"At a young age, we don't want to see them penalised, violating the value systems," said the COO of the company which has over 6 lakh employees on its rolls and has hired 1.35 lakh freshers in the last 18 months.

The company has a long-term commitment towards

its employees, Subramaniam said, stressing that it is mutual and reciprocal in nature.

READ HERE | Tech hiring slows down amid recession fears, TCS adds only 9,840 employees When asked about the pay packages for entry-level employees being at the same levels for many years, Subramaniam said the company feels enough to the young joiners and added that there is a possibility for them to double up their earnings within a year by clearing some tests.

He said after hiring an employee, the company invests in training for over six months and eventually places the employee on a project.

In the last few years, about 20-30 per cent of

Religious polarization in India seeping into US diaspora

Continued from page-1

Jainism and Buddhism. Critics say that excludes other minority religious groups such as Muslims and Christians. Hindutva is different from Hinduism, an ancient religion practised by about 1 billion people worldwide that emphasises the oneness and divine nature of all creation.

Soni said it's important that universities remain places where "we are able to talk about issues that are grounded in facts in a civil manner." But, as USC's head chaplain, Soni worries how polarization over Hindu nationalism will affect students' spiritual health.

"If someone is being attacked for their identity, ridiculed or scapegoated because they are Hindu or Muslim, I'm most concerned about their well-being — not about who is right or wrong," he said.

Anantanand Rambachan, a retired college religion professor and a practising Hindu who was born in Trinidad and Tobago to a family of Indian origin, said his opposition to Hindu nationalism and association with groups against the ideology sparked complaints from some at a Minnesota temple where he has taught religion classes. He said opposing Hindu nationalism sometimes results in charges of being "anti-Hindu," or "anti-India," labels that he rejects.

On the other hand, many Hindu Americans feel vilified and targeted for their views, said Samir Kalra, managing director of the Hindu American Foundation in Washington, D.C.

"The space to freely express themselves is shrinking for Hindus," he said, adding that even agreeing with the Indian government's policies unrelated to religion can result in being branded a Hindu nationalist.

Pushpita Prasad, a spokesperson for the Coalition of Hindus of North America, said her group has been counselling young Hindu Americans who have lost friends because they refuse "to take sides on these battles emanating from India."

ALSO READ | South Asian origin women unite to decry 'senseless communal violence' in Leicester "If they don't take sides or don't have an opinion, it's automatically assumed that they are Hindu nationalists," she said. "Their country of origin and their religion is held against them."

Both organizations opposed the Dismantling Global Hindutva conference criticizing it as "Hinduphobic" and failing to present diverse perspectives. Conference supporters say they reject equating calling out Hindutva with being anti-Hindu.

Some Hindu Americans like 25-year-old Sravya Tadepalli, believe it's their duty to speak up. Tadepalli, a Massachusetts resident who is a board member of Hindus for Human Rights, said her activism against Hindu nationalism is informed by her faith.

"If that is the fundamental principle of Hinduism, that God is in everyone, that everyone is divine, then I think we have a moral obligation as Hindus to speak out for the equality of all human beings," she said. "If any human is being treated less than or as having their rights infringed upon, then it is our duty to work to correct that."

Tadepalli said her organization also works to correct

employees have cleared the tests and have been successful in doubling the salaries, he added.

Subramaniam also linked the issue of moonlighting with work from home (WFH), pointing out that once an employee is in the office a lot of concerns are taken care of.

An employee can learn from the mentorship available in an office, and it can also expose her to

higher levels of skill sets being on display which is not possible while working from home, he said.

TCS would like to get the overall number of employees working from offices to a 70 per cent level before sliding towards its long-term target of having only 25 per cent of the workforce in offices by 2025, he said.

READ HERE | Indian IT cos headed for lower attrition in coming

quarters, say analysts When asked if there is resistance from the employees, he said many of the employees are in the 'wait and watch' mode at present and the company is trying to nudge them to get back to offices, while there are some who are used to working from home and do not want a change in it. He said there are regulatory and accounting-related issues, besides the wishes of the client, which are part of the equation of getting staff to offices.

When asked about the government's liberalisation moves recently, Subramaniam said every Special Economic Zone continues to have some discretion on allowing WFH.

misinformation on social media that travels across continents fueling hate and polarization.

Tensions in India hit a high in June after police in the city of Udaipur arrested two Muslim men accused of slitting a Hindu tailor's throat and posting a video of it on social media. The slain man, 48-year-old Kanhaiya Lal, had reportedly shared an online post supporting a governing party official who was suspended for making offensive remarks against the Prophet Muhammad.

Hindu nationalist groups have attacked minority groups, particularly Muslims, over issues related to everything from food or wearing head scarves to interfaith marriage. Muslims' homes have also been demolished using heavy machinery in some states, in what critics call a growing pattern of "bulldozer justice."

Such reports have Muslim Americans afraid of the safety of family members in India. Shakeel Syed, executive director of the South Asian Network, a social justice organization based in Artesia, California, said he regularly hears from his sisters and senses a "pervasive fear, not knowing what tomorrow is going to be like."

Cong prez polls: Top leaders stress on Gandhi family playing key role going forward

Continued from page-1

Hailing Sonia Gandhi's contribution to the party, Soni said she played a key role in the formation of the UPA government and the Congress' win in the 2004 polls, beating the BJP's 'Shining India' campaign.

"This effort to separate them (Gandhis) will never succeed. Talk about issues such as price rise, prices are soaring," the former Union minister told reporters.

On the role leaders like her and Sonia Gandhi would play going forward, Soni said, "I don't have any role. I have served 52 years in the Congress party. I want Sonia-ji's role to be there as our guide, friend, philosopher, as MP, CLP..It will be there."

Congress general secretary Mukul Wasnik said the Gandhi family has a very long history spread over 100 years and its members have played a very important role in the freedom struggle which nobody could disregard.

"After getting independence also, they have contributed immensely in building a modern India. When time demanded, they even made the supreme sacrifice, nobody can forget the sacrifices made by Indira-ji, Rajiv-ji and the contribution of Jawaharlal Nehru in giving a vision for the building of modern India," he said.

"The Gandhi family will continue to play a very important role. Sonia Gandhi will be demitting her office after the new president is elected but there is no doubt that she has been our leader and will continue to be our leader. We will look towards her for inspiration and guidance from time to time," Wasnik said.

Rahul Gandhi also has a set of ideas on how to go forward, and his guidance will also be absolutely invaluable for the party, he added. Congress spokesperson and in-charge for Sikkim, Tripura and Nagaland Ajoy Kumar asserted that it was a historical moment as he slammed the BJP for its criticism of the AICC presidential polls.

"None of us know how J P Nadda got selected, two-and-a-half people decided ? one Modi, one Shah and a half RSS. So such a party commenting on polls is a joke," he said.

"A truly democratic party, we have our challenges, but you will see a huge amount of goodwill for whoever is elected as president," Kumar said.

Noting that Rahul Gandhi is undertaking a 3,500-km Kanyakumari to Kashmir Bharat Jodo Yatra, he said it was such a difficult task and Gandhi was without doubt a crowd-puller. "Who is pulling the crowds for the Yatra? So, why will the person not be important," Kumar asked.

"Whether it is Mrs Sonia Gandhi, Priyanka-ji or other tall leaders, there are a lot of people, Sachin Pilot, Ashok Gehlot, everyone is there. Mr Gandhi is one of the tallest leaders among our group," he added.

Both Kharge and Tharoor have emphasised that the Gandhis hold a special place in the party with Kharge having said that he would seek their "guidance" and "suggestions", and Tharoor having asserted that no Congress president can function keeping a distance from the Gandhi family as their DNA runs in the party's blood.

In the post-Independence era, members of the Gandhi family have been at the helm of the party for around 40 years in total.



Scotland pull off a giant-killing act, shock two-time champs WI; Zimbabwe beat Ireland

HOBART: Scotland dished out a perfect all-round display to stun two-time champions West Indies by 42 runs in a rain-interrupted Group B fixture of the T20 World Cup here on Monday.

Invited to bat, Scotland put on a challenging 160 for five on the back of opener George Munsey's sparkling unbeaten 66 off 53 balls,

brought an end to the fiery start inside the third over.

The other Windies opener Brandon King (17 off 15 balls) also perished inside the power-play exposing the Windies' batting depth early on.

Skipper Pooran then fell to off-spinner Leask's guile as the Windies looked in real



which was studded with nine fours. The Scots then defended the total in style as West Indies, the most successful side in the T20 World Cup, looked like a shadow of their past and folded for 118 in 18.3 overs.

West Indies now must win their next match against Zimbabwe on Wednesday to remain in contention for the Super 12 stage.

The Richie Berrington-led side, on the other hand, needs a win against European rivals Ireland to qualify for the Super 12 stage.

"We haven't had as many T20 games as we would have liked but have played a lot of 50-overs cricket.

It was about transferring those skills to the short form," Berrington said.

Hailing their spinners' effort, he added: "They have done it for us in key moments. Watt started off well and always picks up the key wickets. Leask bowled his fours over well on the trot, too."

Disappointed at the loss, Windies skipper Nicholas Pooran said: "We have to work hard and win two games. We have to take accountability and responsibility."

A 20-minute rain stoppage also aided Scotland's cause as the conditions became slower at the Bellerive Oval.

Dr. Patitapaban Mohanty assumes charge of NILD director

Cuttack(KCN): Dr. Patitapaban Mohanty, Director (Officiating) of Swami Vivekananda National Institute of Rehabilitation Training and Research (SVNIRTAR), Olatpur, Cuttack assumed the charge of Director, National Institute for Locomotor Disabilities (NILD), Kolkata on Thursday last. According to an official order issued by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, Dr. Mohanty will hold the additional charge of the Director, NILD till further order. Dr. Mohanty is having a good reputation in the field of Physiotherapy in national level and his new assignment has been welcomed by different organizations of the State.

Left-arm spinner Mark Watt opened the bowling and returned with match-winning figures of 4-0-12-3, while off-spinner Michael Leask also bowled a tidy 2/15 from his full quota of overs.

Chasing a target of 161 on slow conditions proved to be a tall task for the Pooran-led side which did not have much depth and missed the big-hitting Shimron Hetmyer in the middle.

Opener Kyle Mayers gave the Windies a perfect start -- 20 off 13 balls with three fours and one six. But a superb running catch by Scotland's batting star Munsey at deep midwicket

trouble at 69/5 at the midway stage before all-rounder Jason Holder provided some late sparks (38; 33b, 4x4, 1x6) which proved insufficient.

Earlier, opener Munsey gave Scotland a brisk start in the power-play when they raced to 54 runs without losing a wicket.

But a 20-minute rain stoppage unsettled their rhythm as the Windies returned to reduce them to 86/3 inside 12 overs.

However, Munsey held the fort to unleash his fury at the death and finish on a high as they scored 38 runs from the last four overs.

On Sunday, Namibia pulled off the first giant-killing act in the tournament, shocking former champions Sri Lanka by 55 runs.

Raza's dream run continues as Zimbabwe beat Ireland by 31 runs

In the second Group B match at the Bellerive Oval, Sikandar Raza smashed a 48-ball 82 as Zimbabwe defeated Ireland by 31 runs on their return to the T20 World Cup after 2016. Raza hogged the limelight with his explosive half-century as he lifted his side from 37 for 3 to an imposing 174/7.

Ireland was never in the hunt in their chase and ended at 143 for 9 with the off-spin all-rounder Raza also grabbing one wicket. He finished with figures of 3-0-22-1.

Put in to bat, Zimbabwe skipper Craig Ervine got out for nine, while his opening partner Regis Chakabva (0) lasted just two balls. Zimbabwe's innings looked in disarray after Wesley Madhevere (22) became the third batter to be dismissed inside the powerplay. But thereafter, it was Raza's show as he raced to his first World Cup fifty in 26 balls. He carried the momentum forward before he was bowled off the final ball of Zimbabwe's innings. He also hit five sixes and five boundaries.

That he contributed 82 runs after facing 48 balls, while the rest of his batting colleagues made 80 from 72 deliveries summed up the impact Raza had on Zimbabwe's innings.

For Raza, this was his third successive T20I fifty, and fifth overall, this year. He has scored 598 runs from 16 innings this year at an average of 42.71.

"The goal we brought was to get into the Super 12 and take some of the big teams and see where we go. So to have this victory today is certainly humbling, exciting and happy as well," Raza said.

"But for me, once the team chat is done, I wouldn't be celebrating this victory. It's done, it's in the past.

We have a very tough game against the Caribbean boys in 48 hours' time and that's what I'm looking forward to now," he added.

Top-ranked Iga Swiatek beats Vekic to win San Diego title

SAN DIEGO: Top-ranked Iga Swiatek overcame a challenge from qualifier Donna Vekic on October 16 to win the San Diego Open title with a 6-3, 3-6, 6-0 victory.

Swiatek earned her tour-leading 64th victory of the season heading into the WTA Finals that begin Friday in Fort Worth, Texas. The event features the tour's top eight singles and doubles teams.

The 21-year-old won the French Open and US Open earlier this year.

"I've worked hard with my coach and my psychologist to keep focused on those moments that make it

easier to close the match," Swiatek said. "I just wanted to be proactive in making my shots."

Speaking in her native Polish, Swiatek thanked the vocal Polish contingent that exhorted her with chants of "Iga! Iga!"

"I wanted to be the one who hit the last ball in, uses my patience more and not think too much," said Swiatek, who ascended to world No. 1 some seven months ago following the surprise retirement of Australia's Ash Barty. Swiatek was awarded a winner's check of USD 116,340 along with a yellow surfboard. After Vekic won the second set, Swiatek left no doubt about her dominance in the final set

with her array of topspin cross-court forehands and looping shots that flustered her tiring opponent.

Donna Vekic, of Croatia, speaks to her coach after losing a point to Iga Swiatek, of Poland, during the final match at the San Diego Open tennis tournament on October 16, 2022, in San Diego. (Photo | AP)



"I managed to win the second set, but in the third, I just hit the Iga wall," said Vekic, who came into the first-year WTA event as an unseeded qualifier, winning seven matches in eight

days.

"She played out of this world," the Croatian added. "She showed why she's definitely the best player in the world right now."

An unlikely finalist, Vekic, ranked 77th, reached the finals only a few hours before her match with Swiatek, claiming a 6-4, 4-6, 7-6 (2) semifinal win over unseeded Danielle Collins of the U.S.

Spread over two days due to Saturday night's two lengthy rain delays, the Vekic-Collins match totalled three hours, including Sunday's 32-minute finish. Collins re-started with a 4-2 edge in the third set, but Vekic battled back to earn the finals berth.



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