



As you flip through this e-Paper,
here is a question for you...

Did someone forward this to you?

YES

The sender is in violation
of the Copyright Law.

NO

Thank you for being
a champion of
authentic
journalism!

Have a great read!

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

Ask the person who
STEP 1: sent this to you to
stop doing so.

STEP 2: Get your
subscription at
epaper.thehindu.com

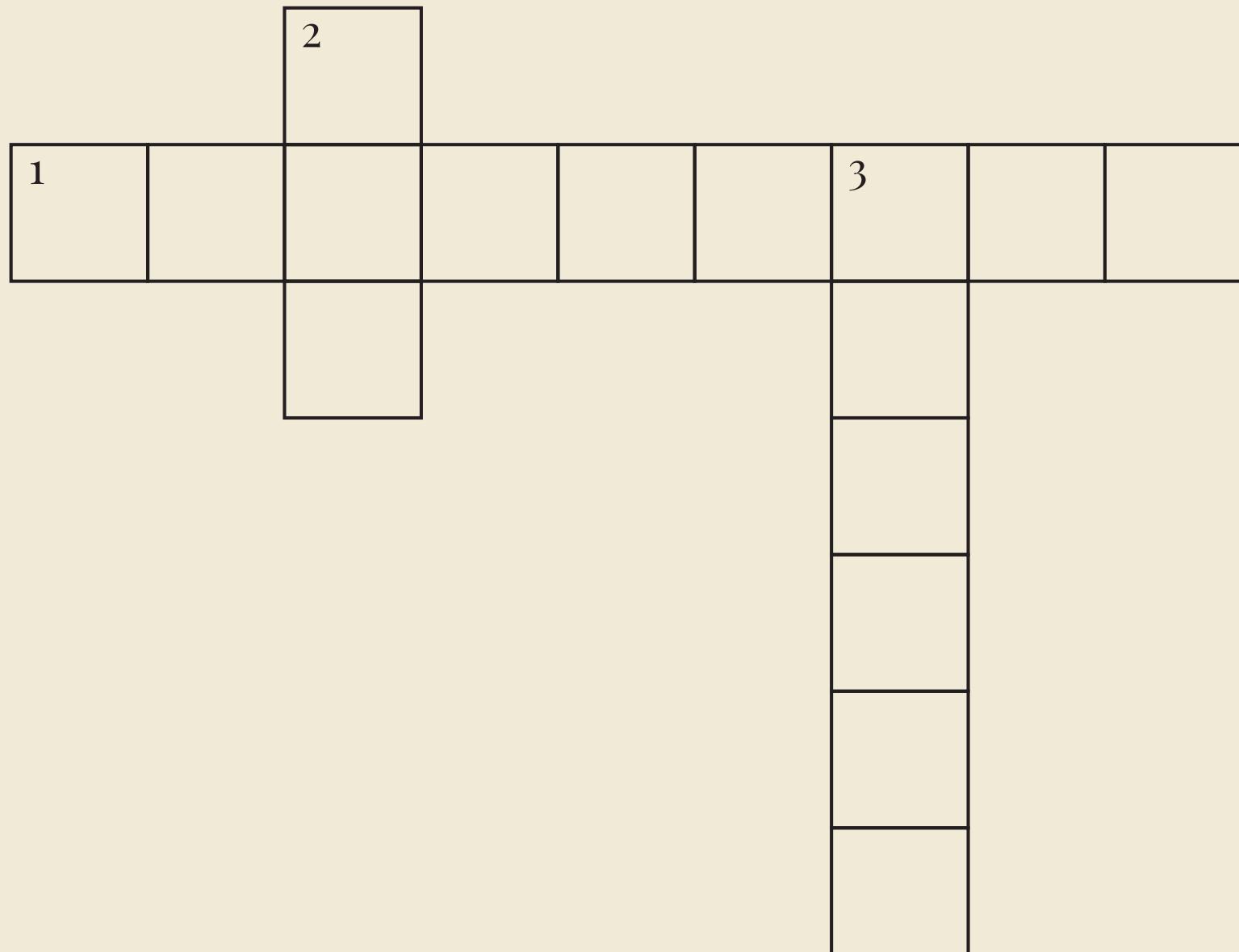
Show your support to responsible journalism
and be a champion of the cause!

Across

1. A word puzzle made of numbered squares with corresponding clues (9)

Down

2. At the present time or moment (3)
3. *Watch this space tomorrow for the hint.*

**UPSC Prelims Exam 2020 Date - 04 Oct 2020****Hindi Medium****English Medium****Download Top Coaching Test Series****Click Here**



We will accept tribunal ruling in Italian marines case, Centre tells SC
page 8



CRPF jawan, militant killed in shootout in Srinagar
page 10



Celebrated Bollywood choreographer Saroj Khan passes away at 71
page 14

PRINTED AT • CHENNAI • COIMBATORE • BENGALURU • HYDERABAD • MADURAI • NOIDA • VISAKHAPATNAM • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • KOCHI • VIJAYAWADA • MANGALURU • TIRUCHIRAPPALLI • KOLKATA • HUBBALLI • MOHALI • MALAPPURAM • MUMBAI • TIRUPATI • LUCKNOW • CUTTACK • PATNA

NEARBY



Virus death toll inches towards 3,000 mark

NEW DELHI
The Capital reported 2,520 new COVID-19 cases in the past 24 hours, taking the total to 94,695. The death toll has risen to 2,923 with 59 new deaths in a single day. Of the total cases, 65,624 people have recovered and there are 26,148 active cases.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

Police link riots to 'anger' over Article 370, Ayodhya

NEW DELHI
In a chargesheet regarding stone-pelting in Khureji Khas on February 26, Delhi police have linked "anger" over Article 370 and 35A, and the Babri Masjid verdict, with the north-east Delhi riots. Seven persons, including Khalid Saifi and Ihsrat Jahan, have been charged.

CITY ▶ PAGE 2

Punjab nod for rapid antigen testing project

CHANDIGARH
The Punjab government on Friday gave the go-ahead for launching a pilot project for COVID-19 rapid antigen testing from the coming week, as well as e-registration for persons entering the State through Shambhu border in Patiala, to ensure strict monitoring of people coming from the high-risk National Capital Region.

NORTH & EAST ▶ PAGE 4

Age of expansionism is over, PM says in Ladakh

India's resolve to protect its territory is as high as the Himalayas'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Without referring to China directly, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in Ladakh on Friday that the "age of expansionism" was over and countries across the world were now witnessing the era of development.

In a surprise visit to Ladakh, 17 days after Chinese troops killed 20 jawans in Galwan Valley, the Prime Minister said India's determination to protect its territory was "as high as the Himalayas".

Mr. Modi's visit came after three round of talks between Indian and Chinese military commanders to end contentious and violent face-offs between their troops. There are also reports of both countries building up troop levels along the boundary even as the talks continue.

"Friends, the age of expansionism is over, this is the era of development... Whenever we have seen expansionist tendencies, these have spelt danger for world peace," he said, addressing troops in Nimu, a short distance from Leh town.

The Prime Minister, accompanied by Chief of the Defence Staff Gen. Bipin Rawat and Army chief Gen. M.M. Naravane, told the troops that their services to



Morale boost: PM Narendra Modi with Chief of Defence Staff Gen. Bipin Rawat arriving in Leh on Friday. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

Don't complicate situation'

Beijing on Friday warned India against making "a strategic miscalculation with regard to China". It also described Mr. Modi's comments on "expansionism" as being

'Mother India' were unmatched.

"Again, I pay my respects to the soldiers who were martyred in Galwan Valley," he said, stressing that the territory of Ladakh was symbolic of the self-respect of 130 crore Indians. "Every citizen is proud of your bravery."

"Friends, everyone

"exaggerated and fabricated". The Chinese Foreign Ministry reacted to Mr. Modi's visit by saying India should not "complicate" the situation along the border. ■ PAGE 9

knows that the country, the world and humanity can only progress on the basis of peace and friendship," he said in his Hindi address.

"But we also know that peace cannot be ushered in by the weak. Only the brave can bring peace," he noted.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8
ECONOMIC MEASURES ▶ PAGE 12

+ India won't import power equipment from China'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Union Power Minister R.K. Singh on Friday said India will not import power equipment from China, saying the sector, being strategic and essential, was vulnerable to cyberattacks.

At a virtual conference with the States, the Minister said equipment imports from China and Pakistan would not be permitted.

The State power distribution companies should not place orders with Chinese firms for equipment.

Highlighting the need for self-reliance in the sector, Mr. Singh said the country's power equipment import bill was about ₹71,000 crore during 2018-19, including purchases worth over ₹20,000 crore from China, even when the country had manufacturing facilities.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Monsoon fury



Warning signal: A man holds on to an 'open manhole' sign as a bus moves through a waterlogged street at Parel in central Mumbai following heavy rain on Friday morning. The weather bureau has predicted more showers for Saturday. ■ VIVEK BENDRE

Plasma donation can't be made mandatory: HC

Court says treatment cannot be denied if patient refuses to give undertaking

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Friday observed that plasma donation cannot be made mandatory and it cannot be made a precondition for accessing COVID-19 treatment.

A Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice Prateek Jalan underscored the "voluntariness" involved in the donation exercise by recovered patients while hearing a petition.

The plea filed by advocate and social worker Piyush Gupta sought to make it mandatory for all hospitals to obtain plasma from recovered patients – both those admitted in hospitals as well as others in home quarantine – by framing proper guidelines.

While declining to enter-

contented that blood banks ordinarily proceeded on the voluntary concept.

"But we must accept today the ground realities. There is social stigma attached to COVID-19. Hence, the level of voluntariness that we are looking for will be uncertain," Mr. Tiku argued. "By the time the bank gets its [plasma], it might be too late," he stressed.

Reacting to the submission, the Bench asked, "Can it be mandated that the person must donate it? I am surprised with the suggestion that we can force people, however good the cause."

"If the person does not give the undertaking, should he be denied treatment? Treatment cannot be made conditional on a person. What kind of

world are you imagining?" the Bench remarked. "We should encourage voluntary donations. Those messages are coming every day," it added.

The petition had sought necessary directions to the Centre and the Delhi government to constitute an "overseeing body which shall regulate the availability of plasma". It also asked for making it obligatory on the part of every recovered patient to donate plasma at first instance.

The plea contended that the three lakh recovered patients in the country could be potential donors. While the Delhi government inaugurated its first plasma bank on Thursday, Mr. Tiku argued that the bank cannot await voluntary donation.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8



Plasma donors at ILBS Hospital in Delhi. ■ PTI

Tain the petition, the Bench asked the government to treat it as representation and decide on suggestions made in it in accordance with the law.

Senior advocate Rakesh Tiku, appearing for the petitioner, argued that "about 60% COVID-19 patients have recovered. After 14 days of having recovered, these individuals can be potential plasma donors". The senior advocate

He added that the decision in this regard was taken by the Cabinet headed by Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio.

The announcement followed an appeal by the Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations (FIAPO), an apex body of animal rights groups, to the Nagaland government to ban the sale of dog meat, both cooked and uncooked," Nagaland's Chief Secretary Temjen Toy said on Friday.

He added that the decision in this regard was taken by the Cabinet headed by Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio.

The announcement followed an appeal by the Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations (FIAPO), an apex body of animal rights groups, to the Nagaland government to ban the sale of dog meat, both cooked and uncooked," FIAPO executive director Varda Mehrotra said on Friday.

Protection Organisations (FIAPO), an apex body of animal rights groups, to the Nagaland government to ban the sale of dog meat, both cooked and uncooked," FIAPO executive director Varda Mehrotra said on Friday.

He added that the decision in this regard was taken by the Cabinet headed by Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio.

The announcement followed an appeal by the Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations (FIAPO), an apex body of animal rights groups, to the Nagaland government to ban the sale of dog meat, both cooked and uncooked," FIAPO executive director Varda Mehrotra said on Friday.

The announcement followed an appeal by the Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations (FIAPO), an apex body of animal rights groups, to the Nagaland government to ban the sale of dog meat, both cooked and uncooked," FIAPO executive director Varda Mehrotra said on Friday.

The announcement followed an appeal by the Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations (FIAPO), an apex body of animal rights groups, to the Nagaland government to ban the sale of dog meat, both cooked and uncooked," FIAPO executive director Varda Mehrotra said on Friday.

The announcement followed an appeal by the Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations (FIAPO), an apex body of animal rights groups, to the Nagaland government to ban the sale of dog meat, both cooked and uncooked," FIAPO executive director Varda Mehrotra said on Friday.

The announcement followed an appeal by the Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations (FIAPO), an apex body of animal rights groups, to the Nagaland government to ban the sale of dog meat, both cooked and uncooked," FIAPO executive director Varda Mehrotra said on Friday.

The announcement followed an appeal by the Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations (FIAPO), an apex body of animal rights groups, to the Nagaland government to ban the sale of dog meat, both cooked and uncooked," FIAPO executive director Varda Mehrotra said on Friday.

The announcement followed an appeal by the Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations (FIAPO), an apex body of animal rights groups, to the Nagaland government to ban the sale of dog meat, both cooked and uncooked," FIAPO executive director Varda Mehrotra said on Friday.

The announcement followed an appeal by the Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations (FIAPO), an apex body of animal rights groups, to the Nagaland government to ban the sale of dog meat, both cooked and uncooked," FIAPO executive director Varda Mehrotra said on Friday.

The announcement followed an appeal by the Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations (FIAPO), an apex body of animal rights groups, to the Nagaland government to ban the sale of dog meat, both cooked and uncooked," FIAPO executive director Varda Mehrotra said on Friday.

The announcement followed an appeal by the Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations (FIAPO), an apex body of animal rights groups, to the Nagaland government to ban the sale of dog meat, both cooked and uncooked," FIAPO executive director Varda Mehrotra said on Friday.

The announcement followed an appeal by the Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations (FIAPO), an apex body of animal rights groups, to the Nagaland government to ban the sale of dog meat, both cooked and uncooked," FIAPO executive director Varda Mehrotra said on Friday.

The announcement followed an appeal by the Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations (FIAPO), an apex body of animal rights groups, to the Nagaland government to ban the sale of dog meat, both cooked and uncooked," FIAPO executive director Varda Mehrotra said on Friday.

The announcement followed an appeal by the Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations (FIAPO), an apex body of animal rights groups, to the Nagaland government to ban the sale of dog meat, both cooked and uncooked," FIAPO executive director Varda Mehrotra said on Friday.

The announcement followed an appeal by the Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations (FIAPO), an apex body of animal rights groups, to the Nagaland government to ban the sale of dog meat, both cooked and uncooked," FIAPO executive director Varda Mehrotra said on Friday.

The announcement followed an appeal by the Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations (FIAPO), an apex body of animal rights groups, to the Nagaland government to ban the sale of dog meat, both cooked and uncooked," FIAPO executive director Varda Mehrotra said on Friday.

The announcement followed an appeal by the Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations (FIAPO), an apex body of animal rights groups, to the Nagaland government to ban the sale of dog meat, both cooked and uncooked," FIAPO executive director Varda Mehrotra said on Friday.

The announcement followed an appeal by the Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations (FIAPO), an apex body of animal rights groups, to the Nagaland government to ban the sale of dog meat, both cooked and uncooked," FIAPO executive director Varda Mehrotra said on Friday.

The announcement followed an appeal by the Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations (FIAPO), an apex body of animal rights groups, to the Nagaland government to ban the sale of dog meat, both cooked and uncooked," FIAPO executive director Varda Mehrotra said on Friday.

The announcement followed an appeal by the Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations (FIAPO), an apex body of animal rights groups, to the Nagaland government to ban the sale of dog meat, both cooked and uncooked," FIAPO executive director Varda Mehrotra said on Friday.

The announcement followed an appeal by the Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations (FIAPO), an apex body of animal rights groups, to the Nagaland government to ban the sale of dog meat, both cooked and uncooked," FIAPO executive director Varda Mehrotra said on Friday.

The announcement followed an appeal by the Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations (FIAPO), an apex body of animal rights groups, to the Nagaland government to ban the sale of dog meat, both cooked and uncooked," FIAPO executive director Varda Mehrotra said on Friday.

The announcement followed an appeal by the Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations (FIAPO), an apex body of animal rights groups, to the Nagaland government to ban the sale of dog meat, both cooked and uncooked," FIAPO executive director Varda Mehrotra said on Friday.

The announcement followed an appeal by the Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations (FIAPO), an apex body of animal rights groups, to the Nagaland government to ban the sale of dog meat, both cooked and uncooked," FIAPO executive director Varda Mehrotra said on Friday.

The announcement followed an appeal by the Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations (FIAPO), an apex body of animal rights groups, to the Nagaland government to ban the sale of dog meat, both cooked and uncooked," FIAPO executive director Varda Mehrotra said on Friday.

The announcement followed an appeal by the Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations (FIAPO), an apex body of animal rights groups, to the Nagaland government to ban the sale of dog meat, both cooked and uncooked," FIAPO executive director Varda Mehrotra said on Friday.

The announcement followed an appeal by the Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations (FIAPO), an apex body of animal rights groups, to the Nagaland government to ban the sale of dog meat, both cooked and uncooked," FIAPO executive director Varda Mehrotra said on Friday.

The announcement followed an appeal by the Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations (FIAPO), an apex body of animal rights groups, to the Nagaland government to ban the sale of dog meat, both cooked and uncooked," FIAPO executive director Varda Mehrotra said on Friday.

The announcement followed an appeal by the Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations (FIAPO), an apex body of animal rights groups, to the Nagaland government to ban the sale of dog meat, both cooked and uncooked," FIAPO executive director Varda Mehrotra said on Friday.

The announcement followed an appeal by the Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations (FIAPO), an apex body of animal rights groups, to the Nagaland government to ban the sale of dog meat, both cooked and uncooked," FIAPO executive director Varda Mehrotra said on Friday.

The announcement followed an appeal by the Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations (FIAPO), an apex body of animal rights groups, to the Nagaland government to ban the sale of dog meat, both cooked and uncooked," FIAPO executive director Varda Mehrotra said on Friday.

The announcement followed an appeal by the Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations (FIAPO), an apex body of animal rights groups, to the Nagaland government to ban the sale of dog meat, both cooked and uncooked," FIAPO executive director Varda Mehrotra said on Friday.

The announcement followed an appeal by the Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations (FIAPO), an apex body of animal rights groups, to the Nagaland government to ban the sale of dog meat, both cooked and uncooked," FIAPO executive director Varda Mehrotra said on Friday.

The announcement followed an appeal by the Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations (FIAPO), an apex body of animal rights groups, to the Nagaland government to ban the sale of dog meat, both cooked and uncooked," FIAPO executive director Varda Mehrotra said on Friday.

The announcement followed an appeal by the Federation of Indian Animal Protection Organisations (FIAPO), an apex body of animal rights groups, to the Nagaland government to ban

IN BRIEF

DU launches new school under IoE

NEW DELHI The Delhi University on Thursday launched the Delhi School of Skill Enhancement and Entrepreneurship Development (DSSEED) under the institution of Eminence (IoE). The new body will have faculties from Science (Biological, Chemical, Physical, Mathematical Sciences and Informatics), Humanities, Social Science, Commerce and Economics, Finance and Management to address and meet "the immediate and ever-evolving future challenges in an integrated fashion and contribute to the national development", the university said.

Air quality of Delhi-NCR			
Delhi	156	Gurugram	204
Ghaziabad	162	Faridabad	190
Noida	160	Greater Noida	154
Good 0-50	Satisfactory 51-100	Moderate 101-200	
Poor 201-300	Very poor 301-400	Severe >401	
AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M. YESTERDAY (AVERAGE OF PAST 24 HOURS) SOURCE: CPCB			

Telemedicine hub launched in Daryaganj

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI A district surveillance and telemedicine hub was launched at the office of the District Magistrate of the central district at Daryaganj on Friday.

"The district has been one of the most highly affected in the country by COVID-19," a statement from the DM's office read. Among facilities available at the hub, counsellors will check on the real time status of patients, would be available for any kind of COVID-19 related assistance such as medical help, sanitisation, removal of biomedical waste, provision of essential commodities and others.

Counsellors at the centre will also be engaged in contact-tracing, besides a team of doctors heading the hub, the statement read.

Khureji Khas planners tapped into Ayodhya, Article 370 anger'

Seven persons, including Khalid Saifi and Ishrat Jahan, chargesheeted in Feb. 26 case

HEMANI BHANDARI
NEW DELHI

Delhi police, in the chargesheet submitted into the February 26 stone-pelting in Khureji Khas, Jagatpuri, has linked "anger" over the blunting of Article 370 and 35A and the Babri Masjid verdict with the north-east Delhi riots.

Police stated that they questioned Khalid Saifi, co-founder of a rights group United Against Hate, and former Congress councillor Ishrat Jahan in Mandoli jail. During questioning, Khalid stated that the plan to foment clashes in Khureji Khas was hatched because of the conviction that the current government at the Centre is "anti-Muslim".

Planned incident The chargesheet states that during investigation, it was revealed that Khalid and Ishrat, along with Jamia Coordination Committee member Amanullah and other students of Jamia Millia Islamia, planned and "committed the incident".

Khalid said that he was helped by JCC member Amanullah, locals and students of Jamia because they believed that the present government is anti-Muslim.



EDMC workers clean roads filled with stones after riots in north-east Delhi. ■ FILE PHOTO

And after abrogation [sic] of articles 370 and 35A from Kashmir, their belief was strengthened. And their anger after Babri Masjid verdict increased and after that CAA was implemented following which there were talks of NRC and NPR... they thought that this is the opportune moment to incite people and aggravate the issue in order to bend the government before us," the document reads. The document further claimed that in view of this 'plan', they got CAA, NPR, NRC-related pamphlets distributed on January 11. On January 12, a meeting was held in a ma-

drasa in which local women and children were "incited" for a sit-in following which a demonstration was carried out by forming a human chain. On January 13, they began a sit-in near a petrol pump in Khureji where "inflammatory speeches were delivered to turn people against the government".

The chargesheet also states that they planned to turn protests into riots during U.S. President Donald Trump's visit to tarnish the image of India. "Jiske liye inkko PFI se paisa bhi mil raha tha (For which they were getting money from Popular Front of India)".

Both Khalid and Ishrat have sections of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act slapped against them. Ishrat was also granted bail in the last week of May to get married but the court refused to extend her interim bail in the third week of June.

Police said that while Khalid signed the confession statement in jail, Ishrat didn't.

Thrashed in custody

Khalid was arrested on February 26. His wife, who met him in jail in February-end, had alleged that he was thrashed in police custody. However, the chargesheet attributes the injuries to a melee: "As it was a stampede-like situation, he slipped on bricks and people trampled over him, which led to injuries in his hand and legs." Khalid was then taken for medical examination.

The chargesheet has been filed against seven persons including a minor on charges of rioting, attempt to murder, criminal conspiracy among others and under the Arms Act. Those charged include Saleem alias Sameer Pradhan, Sameer Ansari, Vikram Pratap, Ishrat, Khalid and Sabu Ansari.

Both Khalid and Ishrat have sections of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act

slapped against them. Ishrat

was also granted bail in the

last week of May to get mar-

ried but the court refused to

extend her interim bail in

the third week of June.

VC urged to rethink on scrapping of ECA quota

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Academic and Executive council members of Delhi University wrote to the Vice Chancellor on Friday calling for a rethink on the scrapping of extra curricular activities quota.

The university's decision to scrap the quota has disappointed a large number of students, who had been honing their skills in particular fields, the teachers wrote. Students admitted

under this quota, contribute significantly towards the cultural life of colleges, they argued. The teachers quoted a letter written by 'gurus and artists' to President Ram Nath Kovind, where they wrote that it was regrettable that "in this year, when the constituency of the arts is already reeling under unprecedented stresses, its relevance has been further eroded with the decision of not opening the ECA quota to the arts..." .

Ex-ASI's son shot dead by unidentified assailants

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A man was shot dead allegedly by some unidentified assailants in Rohini, the police said on Friday.

The deceased has been identified as Nitin Dalal, they said, adding that he was the son of a retired ASI of Delhi Police. "We are probing the case from all possible angles, including mistaken identity and personal disputes. Neeraj, the victim's brother, has been

denying his association with Tillu or his gang. The possibility of the murder could be the fallout of the ongoing gang rivalry," said DCP (Rohini) Pramod Kumar Mishra.

He said at 9.30 p.m., Nitin was going to his family's farmhouse when his car was intercepted by another. The assailants then suddenly opened fire at Nitin's car, critically injuring him. Nitin died during treatment, the police said.

NIKHIL M BABU
NEW DELHI

"I was a little guarded when the first four suspected cases of COVID-19 were admitted to the hospital in the early hours of March 17. But there were two nurses to look after the four patients who had travel history to countries with COVID-19 cases at that time," said Anna (name changed), a nurse in her fifties working at Lok Nayak Hospital. To her relief, all four patients tested negative for the virus and were discharged within 14 days.

Three and a half months later, Anna is recuperating from fever and weakness at her home. She tested positive for COVID-19 in the second week of June.

"Initially, there were a lot of administrative issues and everyone was scared about the spread of the virus. Things stabilised with time and facilities for workers improved. But the workload increased too," Ms. Anna said.

Workers and officials of Delhi government-run Lok Nayak Hospital, the largest COVID-19 facility in the city, and Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital told *The Hindu* that compared to the initial phase of COVID-19 outbreak many facilities have improved and the system to fight the disease has stabilised. But the number of severe cases being brought to the hospital has increased considerably, and wearing PPE and providing health care has become more difficult.

"In the first batch, there were two nurses for four patients. But now, there are two nurses for 18-20 patients. The patients who came early on were not in a complicated condition and we just had to give them HCQ tablets or paracetamol. But now they need more care as they have breathing problems and we need to keep a closer watch and help the patients with every little problem as attendants are not allowed," Ms. Anna said.

She said the workers are getting exhausted with excessive workload, an issue highlighted by Medical Director, Lok Nayak Hospital, Suresh Kumar.

"The number of patients has gone up and also more sick patients are coming in.

At least 13 healthcare

workers, including doctors, have died after testing positive for the virus in city hospitals. A Delhi government spokesperson did not respond to calls and messages inquiring the actual death toll of health workers due to COVID-19.

When it began

Mr. Suresh said initially the challenge was to go through the policies of World Health Organization and other agencies and prepare standard operating procedures

for the staff on how to treat patients, put on and remove PPE suits and create a system to fight the disease.

"Two weeks before the first COVID-19 patient was admitted, we conducted one-hour training sessions for the workers. There was a strong fear in the minds of doctors and nurses and we tried to address them," the MD said.

He said that in the first few weeks of the outbreak conducting the test was a problem. "Initially, our lab could test only 50 samples in a day and there was a delay in getting results from other labs. Now we have revamped our microbiology lab at Maulana Azad Medical College and we can test up to 400 samples per day."

He also said Lok Nayak Hospital has been treating people from outside Delhi. "About 20%-25% of COVID patients

Creator of WhatsApp group used in riots still absconding

Ritik Gupta created group with 125 members on Feb. 25

SAURABH TRIVEDI
NEW DELHI

The man who created a WhatsApp group – Kattar Hindut Ekta – to "take revenge on Muslims" during the riots that broke out in Delhi earlier this year is still absconding. The WhatsApp group allegedly led to the killing of nine men from the minority community on February 25 and 26.

A senior police officer said 12 mobile phones have been seized from the persons who were arrested after being identified with the help of technical surveillance during the investigation. Some of the accused had deleted their chats but it was recovered with the help of a forensic laboratory.

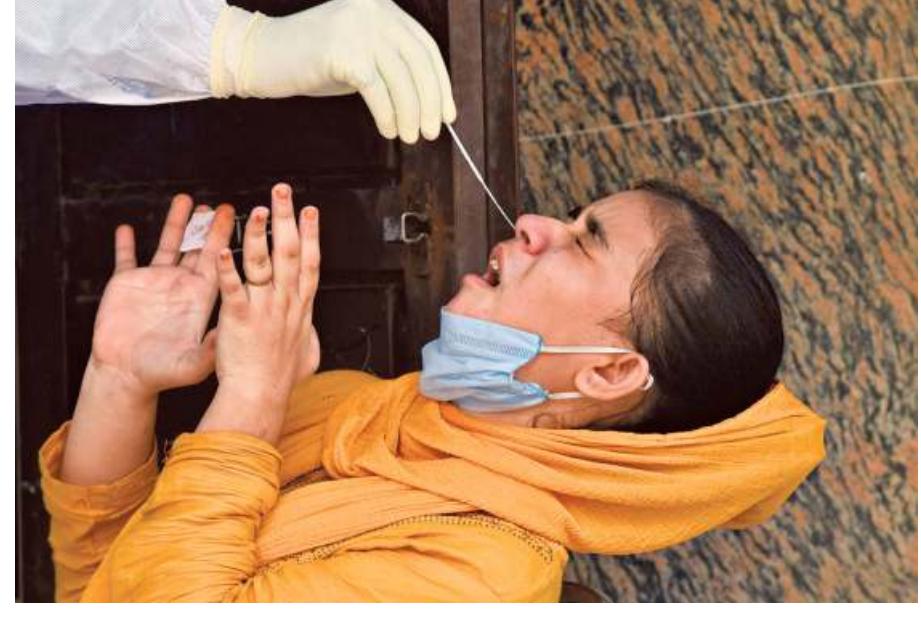
The chargesheet reads: "On the analysis of their WhatsApp messages, it is revealed that Mohit Sharma and Shivam Bhardwaj are the members of the WhatsApp group – Kattar Hindut Ekta –, which was created on February 25 at 12.49 p.m. Initially, there were 125 mem-

bers in this group, said an officer, adding that 47 people had exited the group by March 8.

The chargesheet states that the WhatsApp chat in the *Kattar Hindut Ekta* group clearly falls in the category of extra-judicial confession. It says that these confessions have been done voluntarily by a few of the accused and further the attention of the court is also drawn towards the timings of these confessions, which are exactly at the time when the offenses were being committed.

The extra-judicial confessions are further fortified by eyewitnesses' accounts, which fully establish the culpability of the accused persons. The circumstantial evidence so collected during the investigation form a chain of events. It is to further emphasise that these extra-judicial confessions were not extracted by the police officer but are fully voluntary.

Test of our times



A girl getting tested for COVID-19 at a government school in the city on Friday.

■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Medical and cleaning staff at Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality Hospital in the Capital. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

have their homes outside Delhi. For instance, they may be working as a driver or a security guard in Delhi but the addresses they give to us are of their home towns in Bihar or Uttar Pradesh," he said. "Patients coming from other States for treatment maybe around 10%, but it is difficult to give an exact figure," said Mr. Suresh.

He said they have tried to do their best and have even conducted 1,140 dialysis sessions since March 17, which is the highest by any hospital in Delhi.

Current condition

Dr. Sunil Kumar, Director-Professor of GTB Hospital, who was the medical director of the hospital till June 27, said communication was one of the biggest challenges.

"Everybody wants highly personalised care, but not every COVID case needs such personalised care and people need to understand that. When someone is in ICU, that person needs more care and we do give them personalised care," he said.

"Healthcare workers are feeling burned out and motivating them is also important. Right now we have enough personnel, but if the patient load increases, we would need more staff," Mr. Sunil said.

A member of the nurses' association of GTB Hospital said the pressure is increasing and they need more workers as the number of patients is going up. The MD said the hospital has enough staff at this point. As of July 2, only 274 of 1,500 beds at the hospital were occupied.

The MD of Lok Nayak Hospital said hiring more

staff is not easy amid COVID-19 pandemic. "Earlier in June, there were 14 vacant posts of senior resident doctors in the medicine department and we advertised for a walk-in interview. Only two candidates came for it and we hired them. People are not applying as they are reluctant to work in a COVID hospital," said Mr. Suresh.

He said the hospital will need 25% more healthcare workers when the total number of patients crosses 1,000, and even more if it crosses 1,500. As of July 2, 709 beds were occupied in the 2,000-bed facility.

Ms. Anna said there should be a rotation of workers to reduce their workload. "People working in non-COVID hospitals and COVID hospitals with lesser cases are getting the same salary as us, but their workload is less. This is not fair to us. There should be rotation of staff between different Delhi government hospitals, so that the staff of one hospital is not overburdened with COVID duty. Many are leaving behind their young children at home and coming to duty and staying at hotels," she said.

"We have fewer nurses than actually required and extra nurses have not been hired since the pandemic broke out. In fact, the number of nurses has gone down. If the number of patients increases, we won't be able to manage with the current strength of healthcare workers. We had highlighted this issue when the Chief Minister [Arvind Kejriwal] visited the hospital last week," said Shoukat Ali, vice-president of the nurses' association at Lok Nayak Hospital.

The HC Bench said the court of competent jurisdiction to take up the issue was in Karnataka.

Dilli Haat to reopen today

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Delhi Tourism on Friday announced that it would reopen all three Dilli Haat centres (INA, Janakpuri & Pitampura), Nature Bazaar, Garden of Five Senses, Azad Hind Gram and GTB Memorial on July 4 to help artisans and craftsmen earn a living again. For the first 15 days, entry will be free for all to encourage footfall, Delhi Tourism said.

Visitors to these curated market spaces will have to adhere to measures like wearing mask and maintain social distancing, and all efforts will be made to keep the area sanitised to avoid the spread of the virus, Delhi Tourism said.

Sanjay Goel, MD and CEO of Delhi Tourism, said that he hoped visitors would relish what the ecological spaces and markets offered and urged them to strictly adhere to the safety measures and protocols the government has set.

HC refuses to entertain plea on quota

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Friday refused to entertain a petition challenging the Karnataka government's decision to impose 25% domicile reservation in the National Law School of India University (NLSUI) in Bengaluru.

The HC Bench said the court of competent jurisdiction to take up the issue was in Karnataka.

COVID care gets more hectic

Such patients need extra care, which is taking a toll on nurses and doctors," Mr. Suresh said. Lok Nayak, which has 2,000 beds, has admitted 5,777 patients till June 23 and 4,169 of them have been discharged, said Ms. Anna.

Mr. Suresh said controlling the spread of the infection among the workers is another challenge. "About 80 hospital workers have contracted the infection so far," he said.

"The number of patients has gone up and also more sick patients are coming in.

At least 13 healthcare workers, including doctors, have died after testing positive for the virus in city hospitals. A Delhi government spokesperson did not respond to calls and messages inquiring the actual death toll of health workers due to COVID-19.

Mr. Suresh said initially the challenge was to go through the policies of World Health Organization and other agencies and prepare standard operating procedures

Timings
DELHI

SATURDAY, JULY 04	
RISE 05:29	SET 19:23
RISE 18:47	SET 04:22
SUNDAY, JULY 05	
RISE 05:29	SET 19:23
RISE 19:45	SET 05:19
MONDAY, JULY 06	
RISE 05:30	SET 19:23
RISE 20:37	SET 06:17

Delhi Weather max min
Delhi City 42 30
Safdarjung 42 30
Palam 43 32

Delhi Palam Today
39°C A partly cloudy sky with uneasy humid condition. A spell of thunderstorm and light rain likely at few places.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2019
All rights reserved.

IN BRIEF

BJP launches COVID-19 helpline numbers

NEW DELHI
The Delhi BJP on Friday launched COVID-19 helpline numbers which will provide free consultation and counselling to those in need. The party's State chief Adesh Gupta launched the helpline numbers: 730221617, 730414917, 9958837228 and 9717247796. Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly, Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, wrote to CM Arvind Kejriwal requesting that the Delhi government reconsider its decision to discontinue free food and free ration coupons to the poor.

Govt. launches e-portal for schoolchildren

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI**
Education Minister Manish Sisodia on Friday launched an e-learning portal – LEAD (Learning through E-Resources Made Accessible for Delhi) – developed by the Delhi government that contains 10,000 instructional materials and course content for Classes I to XII.

The portals, the government said, will give students access to textbooks, study material and course content as per the syllabus of the CBSE, NCERT and Delhi government's curriculum online. It will include digital QR coded textbooks, explanatory videos, practice questions and evaluation.

Inaugurating the e-resource, the Minister said that in addition to regularly upgrading textbooks, the teachers of government schools are also preparing fresh support material every year.

Mr. Sisodia said that via LEAD the government will be sharing its teaching-learning material on the digital platform- DIKSHA. "It is a way for us to connect and share our programmes and experiences with the entire country. The online portal will also enable us to learn from the teaching-learning experiments and experiences of other States," he said.

He added that during the pandemic students and their parents have shown interest in online learning, which has raised the team's confidence that children will utilise e-learning resources on LEAD portal.

At 1,178, Gurugram witnesses a dip in active COVID-19 cases

77% of total patients have recovered so far

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM**

While the number of people testing positive for COVID-19 per day has gone down in Gurugram over the past few days, the number of those being discharged has increased, bringing down the number of active patients.

Of the total 5,699 patients having tested positive for the

'Centre's intervention in pandemic management created chaos in city'

BJP government failed to fulfil promise, alleges Delhi govt; MHA refutes claims

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI**

The 'intrusion' by the BJP-led Centre in administrative matters related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic over the last 15 days had "created chaos" in the city, Delhi government sources alleged.

While the Centre's stepping in did bring "some benefits" in terms of equipment such as oxygen cylinders and rapid testing kits, the "damage done" was "much greater" and the promises made to the Delhi government by the Centre were "never fulfilled," the sources argued. However, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) sources countered the allegations.

The Delhi government sources argued that the Centre promised 2,000 beds out of which 1,000 were to be made available by June 21. "Except 500-odd beds in

DRDO would be operational soon and would have 250-odd ICU beds.

Besides, MHA sources stated that 500 beds had been made available in AIIMS, Jhajjar; 350 in ESI hospital, Okhla; 50 in All India Institute of Ayurveda, Sarita Vihar; 150 additional beds in Base Hospital of the Army; 180 isolation beds in the NCC camp near Base hospital and 120 beds at Bawana, Chawla and Jharoda Kalan.

"A total of 2,300 beds with sufficient ICU capacity has been made available. It has been conveyed to the Delhi government by the Health Ministry on June 17," MHA sources said.

All the same, Delhi government sources alleged that the Centre had promised 8,000 beds in train coaches. However, less than 200 beds, not coaches, has been provided so far. MHA

sources retorted that the Railways had made arrangements for 503 coaches with a capacity of around 8,000 beds. "Since only 24 patients have been referred to these coaches, the remaining are waiting to be deployed. Besides, a 10,000-bed COVID care centre has been operationalised in Chhatarpur by the Central Armed Police Forces led by ITBP," they said.

Delhi government sources also alleged that only 10,000 testing kits were provided, which got over in two days. But MHA sources refuted, saying that RT-PCR testing was ramped up to a level of nearly 10,000 per day after June 14 from 4000-5,000 per day, which was a three-fold increase. "There is no shortage of testing kits and they will be supplied as per need and demand," they said.

Counter claim
MHA sources countered this allegation stating that as on July 1, the total COVID-19 dedicated beds available in Delhi were 15,243, of only 5,747 were occupied. Moreover, the 1,000-bed COV-19 hospital developed by

Chief Minister hands over ₹1 crore to late doctor's family

Kejriwal says supporting the family is the government's duty

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI**

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday personally offered condolences and handed over a cheque of ₹1 crore to the family of Aseem Gupta, the doctor who succumbed to COVID-19 over the weekend.

Dr. Gupta was a senior anaesthesiologist at Lok Nayak Hospital and had contracted the virus in the process of discharging his duties in the ICU on June 3. Mr. Kejriwal said that the amount was "very small" but was a symbol of Delhi's respect and honour towards Dr. Gupta, whom he termed a "people's doctor", adding that supporting his family was the government's duty.

Mr. Kejriwal reached Dr. Gupta's residence at Dilshad Garden around 12 noon and paid floral tributes before assuring his family of full support from the Delhi government. The cheque was handed over to Dr. Gupta's wife, Nirupama, following his interaction with family members.

Dr. Gupta's spouse, who is also a doctor in Noida, Mr. Kejriwal said, wanted a transfer in Delhi. "She works



Arvind Kejriwal at the doctor's residence in Delhi on Friday. ■ TWITTER

patients. This is a very big loss for us. The biggest support for Delhi is the way its doctors, nurses and all the paramedic staff are working and saving lives," Mr. Kejriwal said.

"I spoke to some colleagues of Dr. Gupta. Dr. Suresh, who is the head of Lok Nayak Hospital, told me that Dr. Gupta never cared about getting infected. He served the patients with all his strength. Even his neighbours told me that he was the first to come forward and help as soon as anybody said he was the government's duty.

Mr. Kejriwal said that Dr. Gupta never cared about getting infected. He served the patients with all his strength. Even his neighbours told me that he was the first to come forward and help as soon as anybody said he was the government's duty.

Mr. Kejriwal said that Dr. Gupta never cared about getting infected. He served the patients with all his strength. Even his neighbours told me that he was the first to come forward and help as soon as anybody said he was the government's duty.

Mr. Kejriwal said that Dr. Gupta never cared about getting infected. He served the patients with all his strength. Even his neighbours told me that he was the first to come forward and help as soon as anybody said he was the government's duty.

Mr. Kejriwal said that Dr. Gupta never cared about getting infected. He served the patients with all his strength. Even his neighbours told me that he was the first to come forward and help as soon as anybody said he was the government's duty.

Mr. Kejriwal said that Dr. Gupta never cared about getting infected. He served the patients with all his strength. Even his neighbours told me that he was the first to come forward and help as soon as anybody said he was the government's duty.

Mr. Kejriwal said that Dr. Gupta never cared about getting infected. He served the patients with all his strength. Even his neighbours told me that he was the first to come forward and help as soon as anybody said he was the government's duty.

Mr. Kejriwal said that Dr. Gupta never cared about getting infected. He served the patients with all his strength. Even his neighbours told me that he was the first to come forward and help as soon as anybody said he was the government's duty.

Mr. Kejriwal said that Dr. Gupta never cared about getting infected. He served the patients with all his strength. Even his neighbours told me that he was the first to come forward and help as soon as anybody said he was the government's duty.

Mr. Kejriwal said that Dr. Gupta never cared about getting infected. He served the patients with all his strength. Even his neighbours told me that he was the first to come forward and help as soon as anybody said he was the government's duty.

Mr. Kejriwal said that Dr. Gupta never cared about getting infected. He served the patients with all his strength. Even his neighbours told me that he was the first to come forward and help as soon as anybody said he was the government's duty.

Mr. Kejriwal said that Dr. Gupta never cared about getting infected. He served the patients with all his strength. Even his neighbours told me that he was the first to come forward and help as soon as anybody said he was the government's duty.

Mr. Kejriwal said that Dr. Gupta never cared about getting infected. He served the patients with all his strength. Even his neighbours told me that he was the first to come forward and help as soon as anybody said he was the government's duty.

Mr. Kejriwal said that Dr. Gupta never cared about getting infected. He served the patients with all his strength. Even his neighbours told me that he was the first to come forward and help as soon as anybody said he was the government's duty.

Mr. Kejriwal said that Dr. Gupta never cared about getting infected. He served the patients with all his strength. Even his neighbours told me that he was the first to come forward and help as soon as anybody said he was the government's duty.

Mr. Kejriwal said that Dr. Gupta never cared about getting infected. He served the patients with all his strength. Even his neighbours told me that he was the first to come forward and help as soon as anybody said he was the government's duty.

Mr. Kejriwal said that Dr. Gupta never cared about getting infected. He served the patients with all his strength. Even his neighbours told me that he was the first to come forward and help as soon as anybody said he was the government's duty.

Mr. Kejriwal said that Dr. Gupta never cared about getting infected. He served the patients with all his strength. Even his neighbours told me that he was the first to come forward and help as soon as anybody said he was the government's duty.

Mr. Kejriwal said that Dr. Gupta never cared about getting infected. He served the patients with all his strength. Even his neighbours told me that he was the first to come forward and help as soon as anybody said he was the government's duty.

Mr. Kejriwal said that Dr. Gupta never cared about getting infected. He served the patients with all his strength. Even his neighbours told me that he was the first to come forward and help as soon as anybody said he was the government's duty.

Mr. Kejriwal said that Dr. Gupta never cared about getting infected. He served the patients with all his strength. Even his neighbours told me that he was the first to come forward and help as soon as anybody said he was the government's duty.

Mr. Kejriwal said that Dr. Gupta never cared about getting infected. He served the patients with all his strength. Even his neighbours told me that he was the first to come forward and help as soon as anybody said he was the government's duty.

Mr. Kejriwal said that Dr. Gupta never cared about getting infected. He served the patients with all his strength. Even his neighbours told me that he was the first to come forward and help as soon as anybody said he was the government's duty.

Mr. Kejriwal said that Dr. Gupta never cared about getting infected. He served the patients with all his strength. Even his neighbours told me that he was the first to come forward and help as soon as anybody said he was the government's duty.

Mr. Kejriwal said that Dr. Gupta never cared about getting infected. He served the patients with all his strength. Even his neighbours told me that he was the first to come forward and help as soon as anybody said he was the government's duty.

Mr. Kejriwal said that Dr. Gupta never cared about getting infected. He served the patients with all his strength. Even his neighbours told me that he was the first to come forward and help as soon as anybody said he was the government's duty.

Mr. Kejriwal said that Dr. Gupta never cared about getting infected. He served the patients with all his strength. Even his neighbours told me that he was the first to come forward and help as soon as anybody said he was the government's duty.

Mr. Kejriwal said that Dr. Gupta never cared about getting infected. He served the patients with all his strength. Even his neighbours told me that he was the first to come forward and help as soon as anybody said he was the government's duty.

Mr. Kejriwal said that Dr. Gupta never cared about getting infected. He served the patients with all his strength. Even his neighbours told me that he was the first to come forward and help as soon as anybody said he was the government's duty.

Mr. Kejriwal said that Dr. Gupta never cared about getting infected. He served the patients with all his strength. Even his neighbours told me that he was the first to come forward and help as soon as anybody said he was the government's duty.

Mr. Kejriwal said that Dr. Gupta never cared about getting infected. He served the patients with all his strength. Even his neighbours told me that he was the first to come forward and help as soon as anybody said he was the government's duty.

Mr. Kejriwal said that Dr. Gupta never cared about getting infected. He served the patients with all his strength. Even his neighbours told me that he was the first to come forward and help as soon as anybody said he was the government's duty.

Mr. Kejriwal said that Dr. Gupta never cared about getting infected. He served the patients with all his strength. Even his neighbours told me that he was the first to come forward and help as soon as anybody said he was the government's duty.

Mr. Kejriwal said that Dr. Gupta never cared about getting infected. He served the patients with all his strength. Even his neighbours told me that he was the first to come forward and help as soon as anybody said he was the government's duty.

Mr. Kejriwal said that Dr. Gupta never cared about getting infected. He served the patients with all his strength. Even his neighbours told me that he was the first to come forward and help as soon as anybody said he was the government's duty.

Mr. Kejriwal said that Dr. Gupta never cared about getting infected. He served the patients with all his strength. Even his neighbours told me that he was the first to come forward and help as soon as anybody said he was the government's duty.

Mr. Kejriwal said that Dr. Gupta never cared about getting infected. He served the patients with all his strength. Even his neighbours told me that he was the first to come forward and help as soon as anybody said he was the government's duty.

Mr. Kejriwal said that Dr. Gupta never cared about getting infected. He served the patients with all his strength. Even his neighbours told me that he was the first to come forward and help as soon as anybody said he was the government's duty.

Mr. Kejriwal said that Dr. Gupta never cared about getting infected. He served the patients with all his strength. Even his neighbours told me that he was the first to come forward and help as soon as anybody said he was the government's duty.

Mr. Kejriwal said that Dr. Gupta never cared about getting infected. He served the patients with all his strength. Even his neighbours told me that he was the first to come forward and help as soon as anybody said he was the government's duty.

Mr. Kejriwal said that Dr. Gupta never cared about getting infected. He served the patients with all his strength. Even his neighbours told me that he was the first to come forward and help as soon as anybody said he was the government's duty.

Mr. Kejriwal said that Dr. Gupta never cared about getting infected. He served the patients with all his strength. Even his neighbours told me that he was the first to come forward and help as soon as anybody said he was the government's duty.

Mr. Kejriwal said that Dr. Gupta never cared about getting infected. He served the patients with all his strength. Even his neighbours told me that he was the first to come forward and help as soon as anybody said he was the government's duty.

Mr. Kejriwal said that Dr. Gupta never cared about getting infected. He served the patients with all his strength. Even his neighbours told me that he was the first to come forward and help as soon as anybody said he was the government's duty.

Mr. Kejriwal said that Dr. Gupta never cared about getting infected. He served the patients with all his strength. Even his neighbours told me that he was the first to come forward and help as soon as anybody said he was the government's duty.

Mr. Kejriwal said that Dr. Gupta never cared about getting infected. He served the patients with all his strength. Even his neighbours told me that he was the first to come forward and help as soon as anybody said he was the government's duty.

Mr. Kejriwal said that Dr. Gupta never cared about getting infected. He served the patients with all his strength. Even his neighbours told me that he was the first to come forward and help as soon as anybody said he was the government's duty.

Mr. Kejriwal said

Amarinder accuses Sukhbir, Harsimrat of misleading people

SAD president had alleged ration embezzlement by Congressmen in Punjab

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Friday hit out at Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) president Sukhbir Badal and Union Minister Harsimrat Badal, accusing them of misleading the people of the State to promote their petty political agenda in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis.

Playfully Mr. Badal over his allegations of ration embezzlement by Congressmen in Punjab, the Chief Minister asserted that the MLAs were supporting his government's efforts to ensure that nobody goes hungry. The MLAs are close to the people and well placed to help out those in immediate or urgent need, which is what they have been doing, said Captain

CIf the Badals are sincere in opposing the fuel price hike by the Centre, as they claim to be, why don't they quit the NDA coalition at the Centre?

AMARINDER SINGH
Punjab CM

Amarinder.

He dismissed Mr. Badal's allegations that the food-grains received by the State government had not been distributed among the people, pointing out that even the figures cited by the SAD president were totally incorrect, showing how pathetically removed he was from reality.



Amarinder Singh. ■ FILE PHOTO

the uncontrolled hike in prices of diesel and petrol.

Fuel prices

"Ms. Harsimrat seemed to have had no problem with the Central government earning more than ₹2 lakh crore from the fuel price hike but when it came to her own State, which was reeling under an unprecedented fiscal crisis and was struggling to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic, she found it anti-peopple," said Captain Amarinder.

"If the Badals are sincere in opposing the fuel price hike by the Centre, as they claim to be, why don't they quit the NDA coalition at the Centre? Why is Ms. Harsimrat still in the Union Cabinet?" he asked.

Taking on Ms. Harsimrat Badal on the issue of fuel VAT, the Chief Minister said if she was so concerned about the impact of the escalating fuel prices on the common man, why did she not pressurise the Union government, in which she is a Cabinet Minister, to put a stop on

the uncontrolled hike in prices of diesel and petrol.

The Punjab government on Friday gave the go-ahead for launching a pilot project for COVID-19 rapid antigen testing from the coming week, as well as e-registration for persons entering the State through Shambhu border in Patiala, to ensure strict monitoring of people coming from the high-risk National Capital Region.

On successful completion of the pilot rapid antigen project, which will cover a minimum of 1,000 tests, it would be done on the migrants coming back to the State in the wake of reopening of industries and for work in the paddy fields.

The State government will procure rapid antigen testing kits to scale up its COVID testing capacity, which is

Punjab nod for rapid antigen testing project

State to e-register visitors from NCR

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

The Punjab government on Friday gave the go-ahead for launching a pilot project for COVID-19 rapid antigen testing from the coming week, as well as e-registration for persons entering the State through Shambhu border in Patiala, to ensure strict monitoring of people coming from the high-risk National Capital Region.

"With positivity rate of just 2%, Punjab is already conducting 242 tests per million per day as part of its comprehensive strategy to check further spread of the pandemic," it added.

On successful completion of the pilot rapid antigen project, which will cover a minimum of 1,000 tests, it would be done on the migrants coming back to the State in the wake of reopening of industries and for work in the paddy fields.

The State government will procure rapid antigen testing kits to scale up its COVID testing capacity, which is

even now higher than the Union government's mandate of 140 tests per million per day in regions with positivity factor of less than 10%, an official statement said.

"With positivity rate of just 2%, Punjab is already conducting 242 tests per million per day as part of its comprehensive strategy to check further spread of the pandemic," it added.

Home quarantine

Notwithstanding the Centre's revised guidelines replacing home quarantine for domestic travellers with self-monitoring, Chief Minister Amarinder Singh ruled out any such move in Punjab in view of the large number of people coming to the State every day from Delhi-NCR, where cases were currently spiralling.

Patient 'beaten to death' for non-payment of bill

Awaiting post-mortem report: police

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GHAZIABAD

An Aligarh resident was allegedly beaten to death by the staff of a city's private hospital over non-payment of bill on Thursday, police said.

The deceased has been identified as Sultan Khan, 44, a resident of Igla tehsil of Aligarh.

"There was an issue over payment which led to the scuffle, resulting in the death of Sultan," he said.

The family members have alleged that the hospital billed them ₹4,000 without carrying out ultrasound.

Chaman, the nephew of the deceased, said his uncle was brought to the hospital because he was unable to urinate properly for three-four days.

Sultan as a possible case of COVID 19, the police officer said they would wait for the report before the post-mortem was done.

According to Mr. Abhishek, as per the family's complaint, the deceased along with family members had gone to the hospital for treatment.

"The police have recovered CCTV footage which shows a scuffle near the said hospital," Abhishek, Superintendent of Police (City) said. The SHO of Quarsi police station has been asked to register an FIR and ascertain the facts. "We are waiting for the post-mortem report to understand the nature of injuries," he added.

As doctors have found

Teacher arrested for obscene video

Assam police said he has confessed to shooting it 3 years ago

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

The police in eastern Assam's Dibrugarh district have arrested a university teacher for posting an obscene video that went viral on social media.

The video features him in a "compromising position" with a woman, police said.

The district's Superintendent of Police Sreejith T. told journalists that Dhrubajit Choudhury, an assistant professor in Dibrugarh University's Department of Mathematics, was arrested after the varsity authorities lodged an FIR against him. He was produced in a local court on July 3 and sent to judicial custody.

EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY

Tender Notice

OPEN TENDER NOTICE NO. RS-Trolley-Transportation, Dt: 30.06.2020
The Divisional Railway Manager, E.C.Railway, Danapur is inviting online open tender under two packet system (on IREPS Portal) for and on behalf of the President of India from reputed contractors with experience, financial capability including those registered/ working with Railway/ Irrigation / CPWD / MES or any other public sector undertaking for under mentioned works:

1. Name of work with its location: Road Transportation of BG ICF/LHB Trolley / Bogie complete and wheel set from Rajendra Nagar Coaching complex to any workshop and vice versa of Indian Railway for 02 years. Location : Rajendra Nagar Coaching depot. 2. Approx cost of the work: Rs. 4,32,69,396.61/- (Rs. Four crore thirty lakh sixty nine thousand three hundred ninety six and paise sixty one only.) 3. Earnest Money to be deposited: Rs. 3,66,400/- (Rs. Three lakh sixty six thousand four hundred only). 4. Date & Time for submission of tender and opening of tender: Date & Time for submission of tender - 30.07.2020 up to 12:00 hrs. on www.ireps.gov.in Date & Time of opening of tender - at 12:30 hrs. on 30.07.2020 5. Website particulars & Notice Board location where complete details of tender can be seen etc.: The tender eligibility criteria and tender notice is available on CRIS website www.ireps.gov.in

Divnl. Railway Manager (Mech.), E.C.Rly., Danapur
PR/390/DNR/MECH/T/20-21/52

उत्तराखण्ड पावर कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड
कार्यालय विद्युत विभाग मार्केट, विद्युत भवन बाजार रोड, कार्यालय
दृष्टि: 05947-276520 कार्यालय आई.टी.सी. संख्या: U40109JR2001SGC025867
Email: se_ksp@rediffmail.com Website: www.upcl.org
पत्रांक: 991/प्रियोगः(ज्ञान) / निविदा संख्या: 02/2020-21 जिले क्रमांक: 1.7.2020
इस कार्यालय से प्रकाशित निविदा संख्या 02/2020-21 जिले क्रमांक: 1.7.2020
01/07/2020 एवं खाले जाने की तिथि 02/07/2020 थी अपरिहार्य कारणों से विसर्जित किया जाता है। निविदा संख्या 02/2020-21 के क्रमांक योग्य जाने की तिथि 28/07/2020 खाले जाने की तिथि 29/07/2020 की जाती है। उक्त निविदा की अन्य शर्त यथावत रहेंगी।
अधिकारी विद्युत विभाग मार्केट कार्यालय
राज्यविद्युत विभाग विद्युत सम्पर्क विभाग
Toll Free No. 1800-419-0405 From www.upcl.org वा विद्युत विभाग
फ़ॉर 24x7 अनलाइन भुलाने के लिए 1800-419-0405
*Pay Electricity Bill Online 24x7 From www.upcl.org वा विद्युत विभाग
फ़ॉर 24x7 अनलाइन भुलाने के लिए 1800-419-0405

The tender document for these work are available only in website http://www.nprocure.com / www.statetenders.com Other Details can be seen on Notice board of R. & B. (Panchayat) Division Office Vadodara (INF-VAD-297-2020-21)

Main accused in Meerut double murder case held

He was nabbed after an encounter

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GHZIABAD

The main accused in the twin murder case of a Dalit girl and her father which shocked Meerut on June 27 was arrested on Thursday night after a brief encounter with the police.

The incident happened two days before the 19-year-old Aanchal was scheduled to get married. A video of the incident that went viral on Wednesday showed the assailants entering the residence of Raj Kumar in Transport Nagar area when a pre-wedding music function was going on and Aanchal was dancing. The accused, who was not visible in the video, allegedly first shot at her father and then fired at Aanchal.

Chakrapani Tripathi, Circle Officer, Brahmputra, who investigated the case told *The Hindu* that the main accused Sagar Thakur was nabbed from the Kankar

'Victim stalked'
Mr Tripathi described it as a case of one-sided love. "The girl had spurned the advances of Sagar, her neighbour, but he continued to stalk her."

The FIR filed by Aman, Aanchal's brother said on the day of the function, Sagar and his friends allegedly abused the girl's family and he and his mother tried to build pressure on the family to reconsider their decision and when they refused, he fired. Aanchal died on the spot while her father passed away during treatment.

"We collected his sample and him infected on June 13.

90 infected in Odisha village

A family which migrated from T.N. is said to be the source

SATYASUNDAR BARIK
BHUBANESWAR

A small hamlet in Odisha's Rayagada district may find a prominent place in COVID-19 map with close to 40% of its population infected by coronavirus.

The Rayagada district administration sealed the border of Vijaypur village on the outskirts of Gurnupur town as 90 of the 230 people living in that village were found infected with the virus.

The source of infection is said to be a family which had migrated from Coimbatore of Tamil Nadu on May 20. The family comprising a couple and a four-year-old child was kept in an institutional quarantine for a week and asked to undergo home quarantine on May 27.

On June 6, the person developed symptom of COVID-19 that forced Rayagada district administration to review the situation.

Meanwhile, the State government announced a 45-day door-to-door survey in

villages and urban areas. ASHA workers will collect information about COVID-19 symptoms and other ailments. "We urge people not to hide their symptoms," Subroto Bagchi, State chief COVID-19 spokesperson, said, adding that the government would emphasise on trace, test and treat.

The State government has also decided to begin plasma therapy for treatment of COVID-19 patients. A technical committee will be constituted for its implementation. This will be started in four major health institutions of the State.

Bhubaneswar-based Institute of Medical Sciences and SUM Hospital has been chosen by the Indian Council for Medical Research for undertaking human clinical trials of India's first COVID-19 vaccine. IMS and SUM Hospital is also among four such institutions in the State which will undertake convalescent plasma therapy.

COVID-19

From contact-tracing, it was found that the family had not stepped outside their village during the past one and half month, said Dr. Nayak. Administration has declared Vijaypur as a containment zone. It is keeping a close watch on movement of villagers. When the family arrived from Coimbatore on May 20, Rayagada district did not have a single case.

Meanwhile, the State government announced a 45-day door-to-door survey in

CLASSIFIEDS M

TO ADVERTISE:
www.thehinduads.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE All are hereby notified that our client has acquired sole and exclusive Hindi remake and other rights of and to the cinematographic film titled "Naam Siyagai Manthan" starring Vishal Krishna, Laxmi Menon and others in Telugu language ("Original Picture") from Vishal Film Factory. These rights include remaking the Original Picture in the Hindi Language ("New Film") for territory of entire universe and term in perpetuity. The remake right further includes all intellectual property rights, copyrights, rights for exploitation of the New Film and all underlying works of the New Film on all existing and new modes, media and formats including but not limited to theatrical, non-theatrical, satellite, digital, etc, subtitling and dubbing rights in any and all languages, derivative rights and all other allied and ancillary rights in respect of the New Film (hereinafter collectively referred to as "the said Rights"). All are hereby cautioned not to enter into any transaction and/or dealing with any other third party, entity claiming to be the licensee / assignee / repository of any of the said Rights, and if they do so, they will be doing so at their own cost and peril. Any understanding / contractual engagement entered into without the prior written consent of our client shall be illegal, unauthorised and void and shall not bind on our client and/or its partners and/or affiliates. The same would constitute an infringement of our client's rights and the Original Picture and our client reserves rights to initiate appropriate legal action against such entities. Any claim or rights of whatsoever nature, in relation to the said Rights in the Original Picture either by way of assignment, pledge, gift, charge, mortgage, litigation, license, lien, transfer or reservation, or any nature may please inform us in writing in English along with documentary proof of evidence of claim at the address mentioned below within 15 (Fifteen) days of this notice. Failing this, our client will proceed on the basis that no such rights or claims exists and any such claims received beyond the stipulated period mentioned hereinabove shall not be entertained and shall be deemed invalid and/or summarily and unconditionally renounced/waived by such claimants and our client shall not be responsible in any manner whatsoever for any such claims and relying on which the acquisition shall be mainly exercised at substantial cost without any obligation or reservation/reference to anyone whatsoever. From Naik Nails and Company, 116-1, Mittal Bazaar, W-B Wing, 11th Floor, Norman Mumbai, 400 021. Date: 4th July, 2020.

EDUCATIONAL

ANTHROPOLOGY
BATCH STARTS: 9TH JULY
ONLINE LIVE CLASSES
Duration 3 months
IN DEPTH: 100% COVERAGE OF THE SYLLABUS
With Case Studies & Linkages to P-1 & 2
Weekly Tests on all units of syllabus
CSE 2021 : (FLEXI TEST SERIES)
YEAR Long TEST SERIES

L2A 9821805141
986560857
98 G.F. Old Railenda Nagar, Market, Delhi-60
WEB: www.l2a.in / EMAIL : l2adelhi@gmail.com / info@l2a.in

SITUATION VACANT **PERSONAL**

MEDICAL **CHANGE OF NAME**

WANTED A General/Consultant Physician having MBBS/MD for a reputed Clinic near CP. Dedicated Physician may contact 9313006222/ 9958229904.

PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE

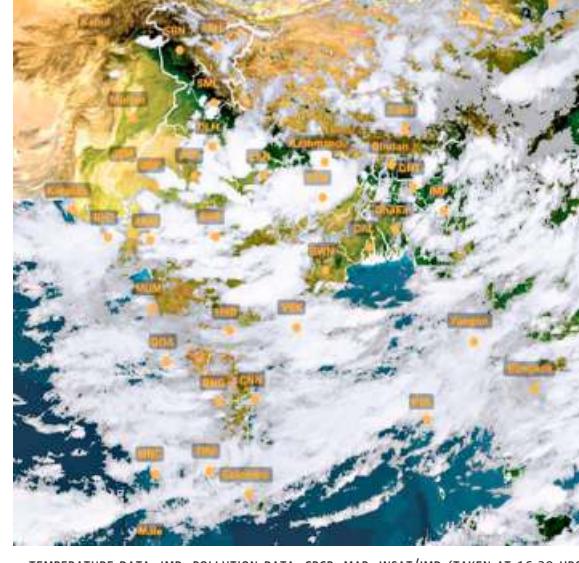
This is for notice of the general public that a political party is proposed to be registered by the name of "FREEDOM PARTY". The office of the party is located at F-2/260, TOP FLOOR, SUNDER NAGRI, NAND NAGRI, SHAHDARA, DELHI-110020. The party has submitted application to the Election Commission of India, New Delhi for its registration as Political Party under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1950. The application is for the election of the Member of Parliament from the constituency of Jhajjar, Haryana-124507. If any person/party has any claim towards the said property, the same should be lodged with the intending party and also with the above stated branch of State Bank Of India, within 15 days from publication of this notice.

PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE

</

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 16.30 HRS)

Forecast for Saturday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Sikkim, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura, Uttarakhand, east Uttar Pradesh, east Madhya Pradesh, Saurashtra & Kutch, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, coastal Karnataka and Kerala

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	... 36.5	27.2	18.3	Kozhikode	62.8	28.0	24.0
Ahmedabad	... 39.6	29.4	21.1	Kurnool	4.5	34.0	25.1
Aizawl	8	26.1	20.1	Lucknow	... 36.2	29.0	20.1
Allahabad	... 35.4	28.4	20.1	Madurai	0.5	38.2	26.1
Bengaluru	11.3	28.4	20.8	Mangaluru	149.3	28.7	22.6
Bhopal	... 33.7	25.9	18.1	Mumbai	11.4	27.5	26.0
Bhubaneswar	0.1	35.8	27.5	Mysuru	8	28.8	20.1
Chandigarh	... 40.1	31.0	21.1	New Delhi	... 41.6	30.4	20.1
Chennai	2.1	36.7	26.5	Patna	1.1	34.4	24.8
Coimbatore	0.5	30.8	22.4	Port Blair	14	28.9	24.2
Dehradun	37.8	34.4	26.8	Puducherry	14.3	33.7	23.4
Gangtok	77.6	21.7	18.1	Pune	... 29.2	23.1	18.1
Goa	88.5	26.7	22.5	Raipur	35.8	27.0	20.1
Guwahati	... 32.5	25.6	20.1	Ranchi	... 33.4	25.6	20.1
Hubballi	... 25.0	22.0	18.1	Shillong	3.2	25.1	19.0
Hyderabad	11.1	31.5	22.5	Shimla	... 28.5	22.6	18.1
Impal	... 31.8	22.7	18.1	Srinagar	... 32.9	16.4	18.1
Jaipur	... 42.8	32.0	20.1	Thiruvananthapuram	0.2	30.2	25.3
Kochi	19.6	27.2	24.0	Tiruchi	... 36.8	26.5	20.1
Kohima	2.8	24.2	17.3	Vijayawada	... 35.0	27.0	20.1
Kolkata	... 35.7	28.5	20.1	Visakhapatnam	3	33.0	26.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO ₂	NO _x	CO	PM _{2.5}	PM ₁₀	CODE
Ahmedabad	18	31	27	30	85	■■■■■
Bengaluru	8	13	32	90	—	■■■■■
Chennai	5	32	107	45	—	■■■■■
Delhi	6	40	113	240	125	■■■■■
Hyderabad	7	48	12	17	28	■■■■■
Kolkata	19	10	60	23	—	■■■■■
Lucknow	4	3	44	167	—	■■■■■
Mumbai	60	11	10	8	14	■■■■■
Pune	16	6	67	15	18	■■■■■
Visakhapatnam	9	48	35	38	69	■■■■■

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI score) SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_x: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM_{2.5} & PM₁₀: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

'No probe conducted against 4 accused in Khwaja Yunus case'

High Court asks State government to file affidavit, adjourns matter for two weeks

SONAM SAIGAL
MUMBAI

The Maharashtra government told the Bombay High Court on Friday that despite its order, no departmental or disciplinary inquiry was conducted against the four police officers accused in the custodial death of Khwaja Yunus in 2003.

The State's response came after a Division Bench of Justices A.A. Sayed and N.R. Borkar asked the government counsel if any departmental inquiry was carried out against the four officers as per the previous order of the HC. The Bench then directed the State to file

a detailed affidavit in reply, and adjourned the matter for two weeks.

Yunus (27) was arrested by the Powai CID on December 25, 2002, following the Ghatkopar bomb blast. Two days later, his brother, who visited him in Mumbai, found him weak and unable to stand. On January 6, 2003, Yunus had either died in custody today at the Powai unit or thereafter, while being taken to a prison in Aurangabad.

Assistant police inspector Sachin Hindurao Vaze and police constables Rajendra Rajmani Tiwari, Sunil Vasant Desai and Raja Ram Kisan Nikam were charged with Sec-

tions 302 (punishment for murder) and 201 (causing disappearance of evidence of offence, or giving false information to screen offender) of the Indian Penal Code. They were suspended in 2004, and Mr. Vaze resigned in 2007.

However, on June 6, 2020, all the four officers were reinstated. On June 12 this year, Yunus's mother 72-year-old Asiya Begum sent a contempt notice to Param Bir Singh, Commissioner of Police, who is also the chairman of the review committee set up for review of the suspension orders of various officers of the Mumbai Police, to withdraw the revoca-

tion of their suspension.

Soon after, Ms. Asiya filed a petition through advocate Chetan Mali. The petition said that on April 7, 2004, the HC had said, "Till date, no disciplinary action has been taken against Mr. Vaze and the three absconding police constables. We find from the record that the investigation conducted by the State has been totally shoddy and improper. Hence, we direct the State government to suspend all the three constables and Mr. Vaze immediately, and start a disciplinary inquiry against them as they have been prima facie found to be involved in the offence."

State warns Ramdev's firm against advertising 'Coronil'

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

The Maharashtra government on Friday warned Baba Ramdev's company, Patanjali, to not advertise its product 'Coronil' as a cure for COVID-19 and to be ready to face action if it did.

State Food and Drug Administration Minister Rajendra Shingane said that 'Coronil' was nothing but a tablet

made up of aswagandha, tulsi and giloy (gulvel). "It has been observed that 'Coronil' is being advertised as a cure for COVID-19. It is not true."

The minister said the Centre's Ayush Ministry had recommended medicines with such ingredients only to increase immunity. "The name 'Coronil' and the publicity campaign to promote it had created doubts

in the minds of the people. We want to inform the public that this tablet is not a cure for the novel coronavirus."

Mr. Shingane said his department had been given clear directions to keep a watch on publicity campaigns and advertisements for 'Coronil'. "We have also requested the Home Department to keep a watch. Failing to adhere to the guidelines

will result in action under the relevant sections of the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954," he said.

The State, meanwhile, has asked zilla parishads to distribute homeopathic medicines such as Arsenicum Album 30 and a few Ayurvedic medicines suggested by the Ayush Ministry to five crore citizens free of cost.

IAS officer to monitor testing in Pune

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

Deputy Chief Minister and Pune Guardian Minister Ajit Pawar on Friday recommended that an IAS officer be appointed as a 'testing in-charge' to monitor the COVID-19 sample testing processes in Pune city and Pimpri-Chinchwad.

Mr. Pawar further said preventive measures must be rigorously implemented across the 'containment zones', while people found roaming about without face masks must be penalised.

"It is indeed worrying to see the drastic spike in COVID-19 cases in Pune city, Pimpri-Chinchwad, and the

Pune rural region. I have accordingly directed that an IAS-level officer be appointed to monitor the sample testing process in the district," Mr. Pawar said.

Meanwhile, the district saw another staggering surge of 788 new cases till Friday evening, as the total cases shot to 25,732.

Delay in rainfall: Pune's dams have enough stock to last till end of July

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

While Mumbai and parts of Konkan received rain on Friday, Pune is yet to witness its first proper bout of monsoon showers.

However, despite the delay, State Irrigation Department officials said the four dams — Khadakwasla, Panshot, Varasgaon and Temghar — which supply water to Pune city, have adequate stock to last till the end of July. The collective water stock in the four dams is around 5.3 TMC (thousand million cubic feet) — about 20% of the total cumulative capacity of the dams, which is 29.15 TMC.

50% more stock
Officials said the present collective stock is nearly 50% more than the last year's col-

lective stock (of 2.5 TMC) for the same period, and that there are adequate reserves to cater to the city's potable water needs till the month-end.

City's 'lifeline'
Khadakwasla dam, which is considered the city's potable water 'lifeline', presently is filled to 56% of the total capacity of 55,910 million litres, as compared to 31% at the same time last year.

The Pune Municipal Corporation draws around 1,350 million litres from the reservoir each day and supplies it to the city.

The catchment areas under Temghar dam have received 500 mm rainfall, while Varasgaon and Panshot have received 350 mm rainfall during the whole of June. In contrast, Khadak-

wasla has received only 204 mm. Yet, authorities do not see any cause for alarm. Panshot presently is filled to 21% of its capacity (as compared to 13% at the same time last year), while Varasgaon has a water stock of 13.84% of its total capacity, as compared to the 9% in the same period last year, officials said.

Cyclone effect
They further said the dams had added more than 1 TMC, thanks to the heavy showers received across the district in the wake of Cyclone Nisarga in June.

The excess rainfall re-

ceived during the last monsoon season, too, had ensured that the cumulative capacity of the four dams was maintained at the level of 5 TMC.

The excess rainfall received during the last monsoon season, too, had ensured that the cumulative capacity of the four dams was maintained at the level of 5 TMC.

The catchment areas under Temghar dam have received 500 mm rainfall, while Varasgaon and Panshot have received 350 mm rainfall during the whole of June. In contrast, Khadak-

Plant 115 more saplings before axing 23 trees for freeway: HC

PIL challenges permissions granted by Thane Tree Authority

SONAM SAIGAL
MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Friday directed the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) to plant 115 more saplings on a plot in Uttarshiv village in Thane before cutting 23 trees for the proposed freeway from Airoli to Katai Naka.

A Division Bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice N.J. Jamadar was hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by Thane resident Rohit Joshi through advocate Ankit Kulkarni.

The PIL challenged the permissions granted by the Thane Tree Authority (TTA) during a meeting on May 22 last year. It was proposed in the meeting that the MMRDA could cut 23 trees to construct the freeway and transplant 69 trees.

proposal and the site for compensatory plantation was not yet identified. The court then directed TTA to identify a site to plant 115 saplings within a week.

On June 25, TTA and MMRDA officials conducted a site visit in the presence of Mr. Joshi and identified Survey No. 38, Uttarshiv village, Botheghar, Kalyan-Shilphata Road. On June 26, the TTA filed a report informing the court that it was satisfied with the site and MMRDA would be going ahead with transplanting trees and planting saplings.

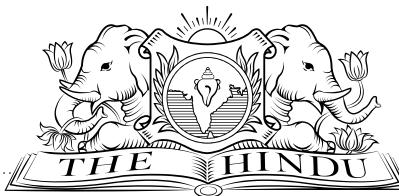
On Friday, MMRDA informed the court that it has already carried out compensatory plantation, but the Bench said it would have to plant another 115 saplings on the site before being granted permission to axe 23 trees.

On September 30 last year, another Bench stayed the proposal and MMRDA filed an application to vacate the stay order. On June 12 this year, the court allowed MMRDA to transplant 69 trees and directed the TTA to supervise the process. On June 19, Mr. Kulkarni in a plea said there were discrepancies in MMRDA's

Banks delaying cyclone relief work: Raigad MP

'Low attendance hit disbursal of funds'

RAINA ASSAINAR
NAVI MUMBAI



Lessons for India

The Italian marines' case meets with a disappointing end, as India loses right to trial

The long quest for justice for the two Kerala fishermen shot dead by Italian marines from the *Enrica Lexie* about 20.5 nautical miles off India's coast in February 2012 has ended in disappointment. An international arbitration court has ruled that India does not have jurisdiction to try the marines, who, it held, were entitled to immunity as they were acting on behalf of a state. The Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) in The Hague admitted that both India and Italy had concurrent jurisdiction in the matter but concluded that the marines' immunity precluded India's jurisdiction. In India's favour, the PCA found that the Italian vessel had violated the right and freedom of navigation of the Indian fishing vessel under UNCLOS, and that the action, which caused loss of lives, property and harm, merited compensation. It asked the parties to consult each other on the compensation due to India as a result. More significantly, the PCA rejected a key argument by Italy that India, by leading the Italian vessel into its territory and arresting the marines, violated its obligation to cooperate with measures to suppress piracy under Article 100 of UNCLOS. This may mean that the arbitration court did not view the incident as one related to piracy at all. The incident had caused national outrage as the public saw these as wanton killings, inasmuch as the circumstances indicated no attempt by the fishing vessel at piracy. The fishing vessel was within the country's Contiguous Zone and it was quite clear that the offence warranted arrest and prosecution under domestic law.

With the piracy angle ruled out, a regular trial was in order. The Union government should have taken over the prosecution and ensured a quick trial. However, as legal tangles were being sorted out, and India was dealing with the diplomatic fallout, the marines managed to obtain orders to leave the country. The Supreme Court ruled that only the Centre, and not Kerala, can prosecute the marines. A bigger legal issue, which caused more delay, came later. The National Investigation Agency invoked the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against Safety of Maritime Navigation and Fixed Platforms on Continental Shelf Act, 2002. This caused a diplomatic furore as it provides for the death penalty. The EU threatened to impose trade sanctions. Ultimately, it took time for these charges to be dropped. The PCA's award, which is final and has been accepted by India, is a huge setback for the expectation that the two marines would face a criminal trial in India. In the end, Italy succeeded in taking the matter out of India's hands. It should now make good on its commitment to have the marines tried under its domestic laws. The takeaway for India should be the lessons, in the legal and diplomatic domains, that can be drawn from the experience.

Bend it like Italy

India needs a comprehensive approach to the virus centred around wider testing

Five months after WHO declared COVID-19 as a public health emergency of international concern and three-and-a-half months after it called the disease a pandemic, its spread does not seem to be slowing down globally. Instead, infections and the death toll continue to rise alarmingly. After a sharp increase in March, the fresh cases reported have steadily increased, breaching the 10 million mark on June 29; the death toll too touched a grim milestone of 0.5 million. With the addition of each million new cases taking fewer days than the previous one, the pandemic is truly accelerating. As if the summer heat has invigorated the virus, June alone accounted for 60% of all cases reported so far. The second half of June has been particularly bad with over 1,50,000 cases reported almost daily. On June 26, 0.19 million new cases were recorded, the highest reported on a single day since the outbreak in China; U.S. (2.7 million), Brazil (nearly 1.5 million) and India (0.6 million) have been driving the spike. On July 1, the U.S. witnessed the single largest spike of nearly 50,000 cases, which is more than the total number of cases reported by Singapore, South Korea and other countries.

As on July 3, India has reported over 0.6 million cases and 18,662 deaths. The acceleration of fresh cases began in the first week of May and increased sharply in June. While Maharashtra has the most cases, infections in Tamil Nadu and Delhi have been steadily increasing. With over 92,000 cases, Delhi has surpassed China (nearly 85,000) while Mumbai (just over 82,000) and Chennai (64,689) are close behind. After months of low testing, Delhi increased the number done per day to close to 20,000 with a concomitant increase in cases to reach a peak of over 3,900 before falling by nearly 40% in the last few days. Though belated, Tamil Nadu began aggressively testing in hotspot areas in Chennai a fortnight ago. Moving from a smaller number of targeted tests to increased community testing about two weeks ago has led to the test positivity rate reducing from 35% to about 20% in certain areas in Chennai. A test positivity rate of about 20% is highly suggestive of community spread in these areas. Equally important is tracing and isolating contacts. Tamil Nadu, however, has the lowest case fatality rate of 1.3% compared with 4.4% in Maharashtra, 3.1% in Delhi, and 5.6% in Gujarat. It is important for every State to take a leaf out of Maharashtra's book and test large numbers daily unmindful of the rise in fresh cases each day. Dithering on testing, tracing, isolating and treating will inevitably lead to uncontrolled spread and increased deaths, undermining efforts to contain the pandemic. After all, China, Italy, and Spain have demonstrated that it is possible to bend the curve through a comprehensive approach that is centred around testing.

Reset rural job policies, recognise women's work

As India emerges from the lockdown, labour market policy has to reverse the pandemic's gender-differentiated impact



MADHURA SWAMINATHAN

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a huge impact on women's work, but as official statistics do not capture women's work adequately and accurately, little attention has been paid to the consequences of the pandemic for women workers and to the design of specific policies and programmes to assist them.

A survey by the Azim Premji University, of 5,000 workers across 12 States – of whom 52% were women workers – found that women workers were worse off than men during the lockdown. Among rural casual workers, for example, 71% of women lost their jobs after the lockdown; the figure was 59% for men. Data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) also suggest that job losses in April 2020, as compared to April 2019, were larger for rural women than men.

The pre-COVID-19 situation
To comprehend the effects of COVID-19 on women workers, we need to begin with the situation before the pandemic. I draw here on the experience of the last 10 years with village studies conducted in collaboration with the Foundation for Agrarian Studies (FAS).

According to national labour force surveys, a quarter of adult rural women were in the labour force (or counted as "workers" in official data) in 2017-18. If we examine data from time-use surveys, that is, surveys that collect information on all activities undertaken during a fixed time period (usually 24 hours), the picture changes radically. There are no official time-use survey data: the National Statistical Office did conduct a time-use survey in 2019 but the results are not available (a previous pilot survey was conducted 20 years

ago). I use detailed, village-level time-use surveys from Karnataka, with data for 24 hours a day for seven days consecutively over two agricultural seasons in 2017-18, to illustrate the ground-level situation. Taking time spent in economic activity (or what falls within the production boundary in the System of National Accounts or SNA) and using the standard definition of a worker as one who spent "major time" during the reference week in economic activity, time-use data show that, although there were seasonal variations in work participation, almost all women came within the definition of "worker" in the harvest season.

Crisis of regular employment
These data suggest – and this finding is echoed in observations by women activists – that rural women face a crisis of regular employment. In other words, when women are not reported as workers, it is because of the lack of employment opportunities rather than it being on account of any "withdrawal" from the labour force. This crisis of regular employment will have intensified during the pandemic and the lockdown.

A second feature of rural women's work, brought to light by gender-disaggregated data at the household level in villages across India surveyed by FAS, is that women from all sections of the peasantry, with some regional exceptions, participate in paid work outside the home. In thinking of the potential workforce, thus, we need to include women from almost all sections of rural households and not just women from rural labour or manual worker households.

A third feature of our village-level findings is that younger and more educated women are often not seeking work because they aspire to skilled non-agricultural work, whereas older women are more willing to engage in manual labour.

A fourth feature of rural India is that women's wages are rarely



equal to men's wages, with a few exceptions. The gap between female and male wages is highest for non-agricultural tasks – the new and growing source of employment.

Finally, an important feature of rural India pertains to the woman's work day. Counting all forms of work – economic activity and care work or work in cooking, cleaning, child care, elderly care – a woman's work day is exceedingly long and full of drudgery. In the FAS time-use survey, the total hours worked by women (in economic activity and care) ranged from 61 hours to 88 hours in the lean season, with a maximum of 91 hours (or 13 hours a day) in the peak season. No woman puts in less than a 60-hour work-week.

Lockdown and jobs

How did the lockdown affect employment for rural women? A rapid rural survey conducted by FAS showed that in large parts of the country where rain-fed agriculture is prevalent, there was no agricultural activity during the lean months of March to May. In areas of irrigated agriculture, there were harvest operations (such as for rabi wheat in northern India) but these were largely mechanised. In other harvest operations, such as for vegetables, there was a growing tendency to use more family labour and less hired labour on account of fears of infection. Put together, while agricultural activity continued, employment available to women during the lockdown was limited.

Employment and income in activities allied to agriculture, such

as animal rearing, fisheries and floriculture were also adversely affected by the lockdown. Our village studies show that when households own animals, be it milk cattle or chickens or goats, women are inevitably part of the labour process. During the lockdown, the demand for milk fell by at least 25% (as hotels and restaurants closed), and this was reflected in either lower quantities sold or in lower prices or both. For women across the country, incomes from the sale of milk to dairy cooperatives shrank. Among fishers, men could not go to sea, and women could not process or sell fish and fish products.

Non-agricultural jobs came to a sudden halt as construction sites, brick kilns, petty stores and eateries, local factories and other enterprises shut down completely. In recent years, women have accounted for more than one-half of workers in public works, but no employment was available through the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) till late in April. The first month of lockdown thus saw a total collapse of non-agricultural employment for women. In May, there was a big increase in demand for NREGS employment.

One of the new sources of women's employment in the last few decades has been government schemes, especially in the health and education sectors, where, for example, women work as Anganwadi workers or mid-day meal cooks. During the pandemic, Accredited Social Health Activists or ASHAs, 90% of whom are women, have become frontline health workers, although they are not recognised as "workers" or paid a regular wage.

Effect on health and nutrition
While the lockdown reduced employment in agriculture and allied activities and brought almost all non-agricultural employment to a standstill, the burden of care work mounted. With all members of the family at home, and children out of school, the tasks of cooking,

cleaning, child care and elderly care became more onerous. There is no doubt that managing household tasks and provisioning in a situation of reduced incomes and tightening budgets will have long-term effects on women's physical and mental health. The already high levels of malnutrition among rural women is likely to be exacerbated as households cope with reduced food intake.

A new road map

As we emerge from the lockdown, it is very important to begin, first, by redrawing our picture of the rural labour market by including the contribution of women. While the immediate or short-run provision of employment of women can be through an imaginative expansion of the NREGS, a medium and longer term plan needs to generate women-specific employment in skilled occupations and in businesses and new enterprises. In the proposed expansion of health infrastructure in the country, women, who already play a significant role in health care at the grass-root level, must be recognised as workers and paid a fair wage. In the expansion of rural infrastructure announced by the Finance Minister, specific attention must be paid to safe and easy transport for women from their homes to workplaces.

As the lockdown is lifted, economic activity is growing but the young and old still remain at home. Further, as the COVID-19 infection spreads, given a higher likelihood of cases among men than women, the burden on women as earners and carers is likely to rise. We need immediate measures to reduce the drudgery of care work. To illustrate, healthy meals for schoolchildren as well as the elderly and the sick can reduce the tasks of home cooking.

It is time for women to be seen as equal partners in the task of transforming the rural economy.

Madhura Swaminathan is Professor at the Economic Analysis Unit, Indian Statistical Institute

Police violence and how some lives do not matter

As a country, Indians seek accountability selectively because their commitment to the rule of law is not principled



ANUP SURENDRANATH & NEETIKA VISHWANATH

As you begin to read this article, we would like you to think of the reactions to the Hyderabad police killing Chennakesavulu, Mohammed Areef, Naveen and Shiva, in the 'Disha' case. That incident, from December 2019, must surely bring back memories of collective celebration at 'justice' having been executed swiftly. The showering of petals, the raucous calls for adopting such measures of instant justice, and our pride in such police officers must still be vivid in our memory.

Now contrast that to the reactions in response to the custodial killings of Jayaraj and his son Benicks in Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu. Celebrities, media platforms, politicians, Twitter and Facebook users, the general public, all aghast at the brutal violence inflicted on these two men. Everyone collectively reminding us that we need to keep our police in check, and that we must not tolerate such abuse of police powers while lamenting the lack of 'rule of law' in our society.

The contrast in the response to these two incidents could not be starker. What lies at the heart of



that we let the police and the legal system do our dirty work. But thankfully for the family of Jayaraj and Benicks, we have judged differently and we are on their side this time. In different circumstances, our reactions would look, sound and feel very different.

The data

We must be careful not to mistake our reactions in this case as some commitment to the rule of law and due process. The track record of our public and legal conversation on torture and fixing accountability for it present a very different picture. In the last three years, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India has received nearly 5,300 complaints of custodial deaths (police and prison) and we can be sure that it is only a fraction of the actual number of such deaths. If reporting such deaths is difficult, the legal process to investigate, prosecute and fix accountability has even more hurdles. This is evident from the fact that while government data recorded 1,727 deaths in police custody between 2000 and 2018, only 26 police officials were convicted.

In a country where custodial

torture and killing is an open secret, it is baffling that we still do not have a domestic law that enables torture prosecution by accounting for the particularities of custodial torture. We continue to struggle with the inadequacies of our regular criminal law in this regard.

An issue glossed over

Despite a suggestion by the Law Commission of India that if a person dies in police custody the burden should be on the police to show that they are not responsible for it, the law still requires the prosecution to prove that the police caused the death. India's political commitment to address torture is symbolised by its failure to ratify the UN Convention Against Torture, and thereby putting itself in the list of only 19 countries to have not adopted it. The Supreme Court of India has laid down many measures to prevent torture and fix accountability, but these judgments are rarely followed. Even legislative mandates suffer the same fate. Besides the usual police investigation into a custodial death, the law mandates an independent magisterial inquiry. It is perhaps a reflection of our institutional apathy that such inquiries have happened in only about 20% of custodial deaths. And to top it all, prosecution of police officials for custodial torture requires the sanction of the government.

The question about why torture is rampant has no straightforward

answers. One of course is that the system incentivises torture by seeking convictions without modernising the police force. However, police violence is not limited to investigations and goes well beyond that. The use of torture is also often justified by police personnel as being required to teach 'hardened criminals' on behalf of society. But here in killing Jayaraj and Benicks, the police seem to have inflicted violence out of sheer expectation of impunity. It reflects a deeply worrying aspect of torture where police unleash violence because they know that the chances of being held accountable are slim.

The worst thing we can do now is to think of the incidents at the Sattankulam police station in Tamil Nadu as being perpetrated by a few errant police personnel. There is an institutional and public culture that breeds, protects and even celebrates this kind of violence. At the heart of that culture is our proclivity to embrace mob justice in situations where we feel it is 'deserved'. And in instances where we are forced to confront murders such as those of Benicks and Jayaraj, we must acknowledge that our celebration and tolerance of police brutality is just as much to blame as anything else. The blood of Benicks and Jayaraj are on all our hands.

Anup Surendranath and Neetika Vishwanath are with Project 39a at National Law University, Delhi

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Public to private
One is oddly uncomfortable while reading the statements of the Railway Board Chairman (Inside pages, "Private trains will benefit travellers", July 3). Even when the Indian Railways was the only rail service provider, the IRCTC followed the airline industry's practice of dynamic fares, a grossly inappropriate move by a monopoly service provider. If private trains are being allowed, it is only going to justify dynamic fares even more. One is quite sure that this is certainly not a welfare measure and all talk

of bringing in competition to reduce fares is pure hogwash when just 5% of trains are set to go private. It is very certain that the affluent will get to pay higher fares and travel in better quality trains. All the rosy pictures being painted of the Indian Railways' development will see a silent burial. Soon, it will see the beginning of the end of rail coach factories as private operators will prefer to import trains, rather than expect government-owned behemoths to raise quality standards of the rakes and cars. The first casualty will

most likely be the integral coach factories, followed by the wheel and axle plants. One is aghast at the impunity with which the present dispensation is going about systematically dismantling the semblance of order and accountability for government assets, instead of raising the Railways' services to world class, as was promised when it came to power in 2014. The lack of an effective Opposition in Parliament has never been felt so acutely in the past 74 years.

ANAND ARAVAMUDHAN,
Chennai

■ The present system has grown too big and unviable to be handled as a single entity, though many vested interests are bound to scuttle all moves to run the railways better. A lot of money is needed to modernise and profitably run it and offer it as an alternative and comfortable travel option.

T.M. RANGANATHAN,
Srirangam, Tamil Nadu

Elephants under siege

It is sad that elephants in India continue to face no respite from dangers (Tamil Nadu, "Elephant shot dead near Mettupalayam", July 3). Poaching, cases of

electrocution and vehicular and train accidents are only rising. Depletion of forest cover due to encroachments, infrastructure, and a shortage of fodder and water sources in forests are some of the reasons for man-animal conflict. The wildlife law enforcement agencies

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:

The graphic that accompanied the front-page story titled "MoD approves 33 new fighter jets in deals worth ₹38,900 cr" erroneously identified the fighter jet in it as a MiG-29. It was actually an

It is the policy of The Hindu to correct significant errors as soon as possible. Please specify the edition (place of publication), date and page. The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-28418297/28576300 (11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday); Fax: +91-44-28552963; E-mail: readerseditor@thehindu.co.in; Mail: Readers' Editor, The Hindu, Kasturi Buildings, 859 & 860 Anna Salai, Chennai 600 002, India. All communication must carry the full postal address and telephone number. Personal visits. The Terms of Reference for the Readers' Editor are on www.thehindu.com



have a pivotal role to play in protecting forests and wild animals. Appropriate changes must be made to wildlife laws, treating animal killings as grave crimes.

V. JOHAN DHANAKUMAR,
Chennai

When protectors turn perpetrators

Arrested for violating lockdown norms, two men in Sattankulam town in Tamil Nadu were allegedly tortured by the police. **P. Sudhakar** and **S. Vijay Kumar** report on the gruesome incident in Thoothukudi district, where anti-police sentiment is running high after the father-son duo died



Residents of Sattankulam gather around the coffins of Jayaraj and Benicks, on June 26, in Sattankulam. (Below): On June 24, condoling the deaths of the two men, mobile shop owners closed their shops in Sattankulam. • AFP, E.LAKSHMI NARAYANAN

An eerie silence prevails along the narrow stretch that leads to the tiled house of a small mobile shop owner in Sattankulam town. As outsiders walk through the mostly deserted lane, the residents, on hearing footsteps, peep through the windows in fear and suspicion. The mobile shop owner, J. Benicks, 31, is no more. Two weeks ago, he and his father, P. Jayaraj, 58, were arrested by the police for a seemingly trivial reason and brutally beaten at the Sattankulam police station, barely 600 metres away. They both died in hospital.

Their deaths have shaken not just Thoothukudi district of Tamil Nadu, where Sattankulam is located, but the whole country. The two men were tortured in the most gruesome manner, according to witnesses, and the minutest details of the incident are in the public domain. Public anger is evident in the town – soon after hearing about the deaths, protesters filled the streets of Sattankulam demanding justice.

Altercation and arrest

The first version of the story in the media quoted locals who said Jayaraj was arrested on June 19 after an altercation between him and the police on keeping his son's mobile phone shop open in violation of lockdown rules. When Benicks questioned the detention of his father, he was also taken into custody. At the Sattankulam police station, they were both allegedly thrashed by the policemen, particularly by Sub-Inspectors Balakrishnan and Raghu Ganesh in the presence of Inspector Sridhar.

As is the case with such incidents, several theories now float around. However, the most authentic seems the following sequence of events, as P. Veerapandi recounts. Veerapandi drives an autorickshaw from a stand close to Benicks' mobile phone shop and is an associate of the family. He says: "On June 18 night, at about 8 p.m., the workers of a tile shop close to Benicks' mobile phone shop were waiting in front of their closed workplace to get their wages from the owner. Sub-Inspector Balakrishnan and constable Muthuraj, who arrived at the spot, abused them verbally and asked them to leave the place. After the police left the spot, the workers also started leaving slowly. Jayaraj, who was going to buy idli batter for the household, stopped on the way and asked them why they were glum. Upon hearing their story of the policemen's attitude and verbal abuse, Jayaraj asked them to wait for a few more minutes. Apparently, a police head constable, who was watching the whole episode from a distance, passed on this information to his colleagues."

The matter didn't end there. The next evening, Veerapandi says he noticed a police vehicle parked near the Kamaraj Statue, which is about 50 feet away from Benicks' shop. Inspector Sridhar was waiting inside the vehicle, he says, ostensibly to intercept bike rid-



ers who were riding without masks. While Sridhar sat inside the police vehicle, Balakrishnan and his team stopped errant bikers. After a few minutes of checking, Balakrishnan started abusing the traders in an apparent retort to Jayaraj's support for them the previous night.

Onlookers reported later that the policeman threatened physical violence against Jayaraj, even at that point. "The constable who overheard the previous night's conversation was also in the vicinity. He made a phone call to the Sub-Inspector and informed him that Jayaraj was present there. The police asked Jayaraj some questions about Benicks' shop being open and forced him into the police vehicle," Veerapandi says.

When Benicks, who was inside the shop, saw this, he rushed to the police station. He apparently found Sridhar and Balakrishnan verbally abusing his father in the presence of a few more people, including local advocates who had come to the police station in connection with their cases. As the policemen beat his father, Benicks intervened. In the melee that ensued, Balakrishnan lost his balance and fell. "On seeing this, Sridhar screamed in anger and asked all the policemen there to thrash both Jayaraj and Benicks," says Veerapandi, who had gone to the station along with a few other auto drivers to attempt to free Jayaraj and Benicks. "When we asked the police to release them, Sridhar and Balakrishnan warned all of us, including the advocates, to get out of the police station. Thereafter, we could only hear Jayaraj and Benicks screaming as the police thrashed them," he says.

Tortured till 1:30 a.m.

Meanwhile, Jayaraj's wife J. Selvarani and her brother also went to the police station and pleaded with the police to release them. "But they asked me to bring a new lungi for my son who was bleeding profusely," says Selvarani. "I rushed back to my house and brought a fresh set of clothes. Even though I begged them to release my husband and son and assured them that we would take them only to a private hospi-

tal for treatment of their injuries, the police refused to budge. They tortured them till 1:30 a.m.," she claims.

After torturing the father and son at periodic intervals for more than four hours, the police detained them in the station. They told the family members that Jayaraj and Benicks would be released in the morning. Believing them, the family left the police station. But the next day, Jayaraj and Benicks were sent to jail. After being taken to the Sattankulam Government Hospital around 9:30 a.m. the next day, for obtaining a fitness certificate, the two men were remanded to judicial custody and lodged in Kovilpatti sub-jail, situated about 100 km from Sattankulam. It remains a mystery why the police took them there instead of lodging them in the sub-jails at Perorani or Srivikundam or the Central Jail at Palayamkottai, all located within 40 km of Sattankulam.

The woman doctor on duty at the Sattankulam Government Hospital said in the case sheet of Benicks and Jayaraj that they had sustained blood clot injuries all over their body, particularly on their thighs, buttocks and backs. When asked the reason for his injuries, Benicks reportedly told the doctor that he fell down while trying to escape from the police, even as Jayaraj remained inconsolable. Since they had high blood pressure, the doctor administered medicines and had them stay in the hospital for about two hours until their blood pressure dropped to normal levels. She also mentioned in the case sheet that though they had blood clots all over the body, there was no cause to admit them in the hospital.

Benicks and Jayaraj, who had been lodged in Kovilpatti sub-jail and were subsequently taken to the Kovilpatti Government Hospital following "health complications", died on June 22 night and June 23 morning, respectively, in the hospital. Benicks' death triggered instant protests in Sattankulam on June 22 night. Deputy Superintendent of Police Prathapan tried to pacify the protesters, but in vain. The agitation became intense as the news about Jayaraj's

death also reached the town the next morning.

The court steps in

The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court took *suo motu* cognisance of the incident and called for a report from the Judicial Magistrate who was probing the deaths of the father and son. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami later announced the State government's decision to transfer the case to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). Meanwhile, Balakrishnan, Raghu Ganesh and Sridhar were suspended.

This move failed to put the controversy to rest. Instead the matter flared up further when the Kovilpatti Judicial Magistrate-I M.S. Bharathidasan submitted a report to the court that the police personnel in Sattankulam police station had not only refused to cooperate but had also behaved in a high-handed manner with him. The CCTV footage at the police station too had been erased.

In an unprecedented turn of events, the court ordered revenue authorities to take over the police station and initiated contempt proceedings against the Additional Superintendent of Police, the Deputy Superintendent of Police, and the constable.

To ensure that the inquiry into the case was not scuttled, a Bench of Justices comprising P.N. Prakash and B. Pugazhendhi ordered that the probe be immediately handed over to the CB-CID till the CBI takes charge of the investigation. Within hours of the case being transferred to the CB-CID, the agency altered the offence, Section 176 (IA) of the Criminal Procedure Code, which states that a Judicial Magistrate shall conduct an inquiry into death in police custody, to Section 302 (murder) of the Indian Penal Code. It arrested the Inspector, the two Sub-Inspectors and the two police constables responsible for the incident, all within 48 hours.

Though some people burst crackers soon after the arrests, not many came forward to disclose any information on what they saw on the evening of June 19. Investigation moved forward thanks in

good measure to constable Revathy who was on duty that night at the station.

Not new in Sattankulam

Sattankulam police station is no stranger to allegations of custodial death. For the past 14 years, D. Femina has been fighting for justice for her brother, Arun, 20, who was beaten by the police in the station in 2006. He also died in a hospital.

She recalls: "The policemen violently knocked at the main door of our house around 10:30 p.m., on June 17, after a complaint was registered against Arun following a petty dispute. They barged into our house to pick him up. They beat him severely with their lathis. Then Inspector Srikumar kicked my brother on his abdomen as he was being taken to the police vehicle. When he fell down in pain, he was folded into the police vehicle like a

piece of cloth."

Arun's brother Vijay rushed to the police station only to see his brother being thrashed mercilessly by the police till he fainted.

When the police tried to wake up Arun, he lay motionless, says Femina. The police asked Vijay to take him after midnight. When Vijay took a grievously injured Arun to a private hospital, the doctor there asked to rush him to the Government Hospital. There the doctors declared him 'brought dead'.

"My brother was healthy till the police detained him and killed him in just two and a half hours," says Femina. She visited J. Selvarani, Benicks' mother, to console her.

the family was popular in the neighbourhood. "Both Benicks and Jayaraj had an excellent relationship with everyone. They were Christians, but the family was like one of us. Whenever we celebrate our temple festival, we used to give him mutton cooked with the goat sacrificed in the temple. It was a ritual for us," says an auto driver, C. Mani.

Jayaraj and Selvarani's daughters - Persis, Beulah, and Berlin - are married; Benicks was to get married in May. "Due to the pandemic, the marriage was postponed to December. The police have destroyed our happiness," says Persis, who lives in Vijayawada with her husband Augustine, a service engineer.

"My brother voluntarily used to help everyone," Persis says. "He had completed a Masters degree in Social Work from a college in Pollachi. He opened the mobile phone shop just a few years ago after working with an NGO and as a medical representative. Right from his college days, he used to donate blood. As his blood group, O negative, was rare, he would donate blood every three months. Now, he and my father have bled to death due to police torture. We believe in god and then in the judiciary. We will get justice," she says.

After his palmyra trade waned, Jayaraj set up the mobile phone shop for Benicks. That ensured a modest income for the family.

"Both Benicks and Appa [father] would call us thrice a day as we sisters live in Vijayawada, Pollachi, and Chennai. Benicks would make video calls every night to speak with my kids. He had made it clear that he would get married only after the youngest sister was married. He was a loving boy and took care of all the members of his family well," the sister says.

"The happiness we once had will never return. But speedy justice for the death of my father and brother will bring back the confidence that was shattered by the police," Persis says.



Strong community bonds

Having lost both their men, the Jayaraj family is devastated. From all accounts,

FROM PAGE ONE

Age of expansionism is over, PM says in Ladakh

Pointing to the improvement in infrastructure along the border, something that the Chinese are believed to be concerned about, he said spending on the boundary had increased three-fold.

India's character was such that while it prayed to a flute-playing Lord Krishna, it also prayed to his Sudarshan Chakra-wielding avatar, he observed.

Mr. Modi quoted Tamil philosopher Thiruvalluvar: "Bravery, respect, dignified conduct and reliability are the defining characteristics of any army."

He also quoted the Buddha. "Courage is related to conviction, courage is mercy and compassion, courage is that which makes us stand on the side of truth and do that which is right."

Eight U.P. policemen killed during raid

Mr. Agarwal also said two weapons, including one looted from the police, had been recovered from the accused. Three other accused persons managed to escape, he said.

The DGP said the incident could not have taken place without a well-planned conspiracy.

UP ADG Law and Order Prashant Kumar, when asked, if there were any lapses by police team, said it was drawn from three police stations under a Circle

The Prime Minister made laudatory references to Rinpoche Kusup Bakula of Ladakh who, he said, helped foster nationalist sentiment in the area and was the inspiration behind raising the Ladakh Scouts infantry regiment.

In the context of national security, I think of two mothers. One is Mother India and, the second, the brave mothers who have given birth to brave soldiers like you," he stated.

Later, Mr. Modi visited the Leh Military Hospital and met the soldiers who were injured in the June 15 Galwan Valley clashes. He told them that those who laid down their lives didn't depart without reason and that they all gave a befitting reply.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

As more COVID-19 cases surfaced in Kerala, local transmission was seen as the reason for small clusters in districts such as Alappuzha, Kannur and Malappuram.

The situation had aggravated in the urban areas in Thiruvananthapuram and Ernakulam, where several cases had no known link.

The number of new CO-

COVID-19

VID-19 cases reported in a day stood at 211, and 34 of these were people who contracted the disease through local transmission. The rest were imported cases.

Cases of local transmission included family clusters and those without a known source of infection. The 34 cases included six personnel of the Central Industrial Security Force at Kannur and one air crew member.

But 201 recoveries were also reported on Friday, which meant that only 10 cases were added to active cases.

Cumulative COVID-19 cases in Kerala since the start of the outbreak were 4,964, of which, those under treatment in hospitals was 2,098. So far, 2,839 persons had recovered.

Samples tested in the last 24 hours stood at 7,306.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said on Friday that the disease was spreading in both urban and rural areas. While one had no control over the number of expatriates who were returning and who might have the virus, the effort was to minimise local transmission.

Andhra Pradesh recorded 837 COVID-19 positive cases including two foreign returnees and 46 others who came from different States. Eight persons died during the period: four in Kurnool, two in Chittoor and one each in Krishna and East Godavari



Mandatory check: Passengers who arrived at the railway station providing samples at a mobile collection unit in Vijayawada on Friday. ■ V. RAJU

districts. The total number of deaths was 206. Cumulative positive cases in the State on Friday stood at 16,934 (A.P. cases 14,414). Active cases and persons discharged stood at 9,096 and 7,632 including 258 sent home over

the past day. The State had tested 9,71,611 samples, 38,898 of them in the last 24 hours.

Another big surge was witnessed in Karnataka, with 1,694 new cases, touching a total of 19,710, besides 21

deaths taking the toll to 293. Active cases touched 10,608 on Friday. Among the new cases, Bengaluru Urban again recorded the highest, at 994. Five deaths were recorded from Bengaluru Urban on Friday.

After recording the first case of COVID-19 on March 7, Tamil Nadu's overall tally of cases breached the one lakh mark on Friday. With 4,329 new cases, the State accounted for a total of 1,02,721 cases of which 42,955 persons were under treatment.

On Friday, the total number of persons discharged stood at 58,378. The toll was 1,385. Another 64 persons, 42 in government and 22 in private hospitals, succumbed to the infection. Of this, 33 deaths were in Chennai, nine in Chengalpattu and eight in Madurai. This took the toll to 1,385.

Health Minister C. Vijayabaskar said 400 beds had been allotted for COVID-19 at the Government Stanley Medical College Hospital. "This has been increased to 800 beds now. Works have begun for further increase to 1,200," he said.

(With inputs from Vijayawada and Bengaluru bureaus)

Will accept marines case ruling: Centre

International tribunal award is final as India is party to UN Convention, it tells SC

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Centre informed the Supreme Court on Friday that it has decided to "accept and abide" by an international tribunal's ruling that the Italian Marines accused of killing two fishermen off the coast of Kerala on February 15, 2012 enjoy immunity and are outside the jurisdiction of Indian courts.

India is bound by the award of the arbitral tribunal formed under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), the government said. The award is "final and without appeal," as India is a party to the U.N. Convention.

Entitled to compensation The Centre asked the Supreme Court to close all the proceedings concerning the Marines, Salvatore Girone and Massimiliano Latorre. The two were detailed on the



File photo of Italian Marines Massimiliano Latorre, right, and Salvatore Girone who are accused of killing two fishermen.

Italian ship 'Enrica Lexie' when they allegedly shot the fishermen, apparently mistaking them for "pirates."

The Marines, who are now in Italy, will face criminal investigation there. India is entitled to compensation for the loss of life. Its freedom and right of navigation was violated by the Marines, the tribunal held.

Constitutional expert and

senior advocate K.V. Vishwanathan said the government's decision to accept the tribunal decision was a correct move, in tune with Article 51(c) and (d) of the Constitution. "The state needs to foster respect for international law and treaty obligations and encourage settlement of international disputes by arbitration. The award is a substantial victory

for India inasmuch as concurrent jurisdiction was recognised, but immunity clause was applied to take the trial out of India. Compensation claim was allowed and the counter claim for compensation by Italy was denied."

Seven-year wait

The tribunal's ruling comes seven years after the Supreme Court ordered the Centre to proceed with the investigation and trial in a decision on January 18, 2013.

However, in 2014, the Marines had successfully gained a stay order on the investigation by the National Investigation Agency. A year later, the Supreme Court froze its own proceedings when the case reached the International Tribunal on Law of Seas.

The apex court later, in September 2015, deferred the case till further orders.

STAFF REPORTER
KOLLM

India losing jurisdiction over its maritime zones in the Enrica Lexie case has left the fishing community disappointed and enraged.

Calling the verdict an invasion into the rights and dignity of fishers, they say this will set a bad precedence since the shooting happened on the fringes of the territorial waters. "Had the incident occurred in Italy will they let the killers go scot-free? This means our fishers will have to live in perpetual fear, which is totally unacceptable," says Peter Mathias,

president, All-Kerala Fishing Boat Operators' Association.

The National Fishworkers' Forum (NFF) and Kerala Swatantra Matsyathozhilai considered our arguments in the matter, leaving many loopholes in the case," they said.

The NFF alleged that the Centre had insulted the fishing community by sitting on the verdict for around 40 days before releasing it. "However, the tribunal endorsing that the Italian ship had violated national and international maritime laws will serve as a warning to foreign freight and passenger ships," said T. Peter, general secretary.

IN BRIEF

'Talks only after Mani group leaves UDF'

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Left Democratic Front will engage with the Kerala Congress (M) faction headed by Jose K. Mani only after a consensus within the front and the faction clarifies its political stance, Communist Party of India (Marxist) State Kodiyeri Balakrishnan said.

Talks would begin only after the faction left the UDF, he said.

Medical Education Minister K. Sudhakar said no hospital could refuse treatment to patients for want of a COVID-19 test.

"Stringent action will be initiated against hospitals to the extent of cancelling their KPME licence, if they refuse treatment to patients," he said.

HC stays takeover of estate for Sabarimala airport
KOCHE

The Kerala High Court on Friday stayed the government order directing the Kottayam District Collector to acquire the Cheruvally estate for the proposed greenfield Sabarimala airport. Justice A.K. Jayasankaran Nambari passed the stay order on a petition filed by the Ayana Charitable Trust, Thiruvalla, and a managing trustee challenging the order.

Cost of testing in Kerala private labs slashed
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala government has issued orders capping the rate of COVID-19 testing in the State's private sector laboratories between ₹1,500 and ₹2,750. Accordingly, the price for the RT-PCR diagnostic test for COVID-19 has been fixed at ₹2,750 as against the current price of ₹4,500. The prices fixed by the government for Xpert NAT test is ₹3,000; TrueNAT Step I assay ₹1,500 and TrueNAT Step II confirmatory assay ₹1,500.

Implead Centre, CBSE in online classes case: HC

Posts matter for hearing on July 13

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Observing that "people sitting in Delhi must think of some schools in Thar desert" while permitting private schools to conduct online classes, the Telangana High Court directed that Central Board of Secondary Education and Central government be made respondents in a PIL petition questioning such class-

es for school students.

A bench of Chief Justice Raghvendra Singh Chauhan and Justice B. Vijaysen Reddy was hearing a PIL plea filed by Hyderabad School Parents Association.

Special Government Pleader Sanjeev Kumar, appearing for State government, suggested that the Na-

telangana Council for Teachers Education too be made respondents in the petition. The bench told the petitioner's counsel to do so and posted the matter for hearing on July 13.

Earlier, lawyer Adinayara Rao, appearing for some schools following Central Board curriculum, said there were schemes to make laptops available at subsi-

dised rates to students to help them take online classes.

But the bench was unimpressed.

"Those who can afford will provide three laptops to their three children. But some families find it difficult to provide two square meals a day to their children," the Chief Justice observed.

3 more die in Bengaluru for want of COVID-19 report

They were denied admission to private hospitals

AFSHAN YASMEEN
BENGALURU

Unable to get admission to hospitals, three more non-COVID-19 patients lost their lives in Bengaluru on Friday.

All three deceased – a senior male citizen from Kadakkaranahalli, a 52-year-old male from Kamakshipalya and a 45-year-old female resident of Samatenahalli in Hoskote – were allegedly denied admission to private hospitals as they had not got COVID-19 tests done.

The second patient, who developed a sudden chest pain while on a walk in a park in Kamakshipalya, was rushed to a nearby private hospital by his fellow walk-ers.

"But they did not admit him and asked us to get a COVID-19 test done. He breathed his last in front of the hospital," said one of his fellow walk-ers.

Similarly, the family of the deceased woman, who slipped and fell near her house two days ago and suffered a head injury, first took her to a small hospital at

Hoskote. "But as she had developed a blood clot in her head, doctors told us to shift her to a hospital with a ventilator facility. We knocked on the doors of at least four hospitals, but were refused admission. Her swab was taken at the first hospital but reports were awaited, and she died early morning on Friday," said her daughter Jasmine.

Medical Education Minister K. Sudhakar said no hospital could refuse treatment to patients for want of a COVID-19 test.

"Stringent action will be initiated against hospitals to the extent of cancelling their KPME licence, if they refuse treatment to patients," he said.

India won't import power equipment from China

and the country self-reliant in equipment manufacture.

Mr. Singh said ₹90,000 crore for the distribution companies was being given under a package announced by the Centre to meet the losses incurred till March 31. Against the demand for ₹93,000 crore from the States and the Union Territories, ₹20,000 crore had been approved, he said.

Speaking to the media through video-conference, the Minister said the request for extending the Centre's package to cover the losses up to June would be considered.

(With agency inputs)

This entails introduction of a time-stamped card system for vehicles passing through Alalur gate, Boodithittu & Majjigehalla Haadi



Reducing road kills: A traffic monitoring system will be in place on the road abutting Nagarhole reserve. ■ M.A. SRIRAM

ncts the highway linking Mysuru and Tellicherry in Kerala and hence the high vehicle movement.

would help ensure that the motorists did not stop midway and litter the area or cause disturbance to wildlife.

"This shows that the instances of drunken driving through forest area is also high," said Mr. Kumar. The department periodically conducted drives to clear the litter along the road stretch. A single drive along a 11-km stretch of the highway yielded 120 sacks of plastic bottles, liquor bottles and other materials recently and such drives were increasing becoming common, un-

derlining the gravity of the problem, he added.

The vehicles on approaching the forest check posts would be given the time stamped card, complete with details of the speed limit to be maintained and the exit time at the next check post.

"This mechanism will ensure that the motorist do not hang around or over speed which can result in animal kills," said Mahesh Kumar.

The forests abutting the highway stretch had also witnessed forest fires and illegal tree felling.

CMK **ND-NDE**

Avoid miscalculation, says China

Embassy terms PM's comments on expansionism 'exaggerated and fabricated'

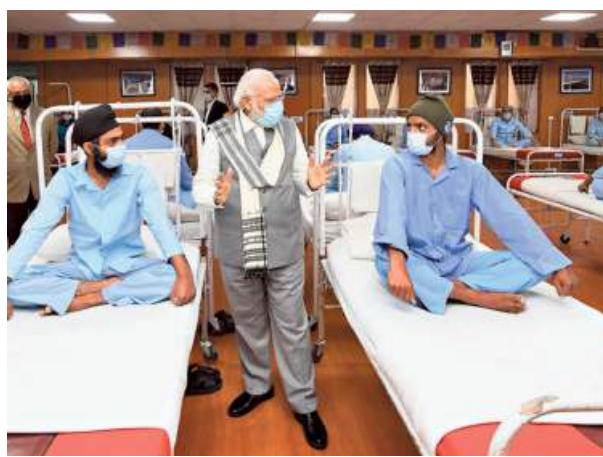
ANANTH KRISHNAN

CHENNAI
China on Friday warned India against making "a strategic miscalculation with regard to China", in a sharp reaction to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's surprise visit to Ladakh to meet Indian troops.

China also described Mr. Modi's comments on "expansionism" as being "exaggerated and fabricated", underlying the tense state of relations. "China has demarcated boundary with 12 of its 14 neighbouring countries through peaceful negotiations, turning land borders into bonds of friendly cooperation. It's groundless to view China as 'expansionist', exaggerate & fabricate its disputes with neighbours," Ji Rong, the spokesperson of the Chinese Embassy in New Delhi, said on Twitter.

Against 'complication'

In Beijing, the Chinese Foreign Ministry reacted to Mr. Modi's visit by saying India should not "complicate" the situation along the border. "China and India are in communication with each other



Checking up: Prime Minister Narendra Modi visiting soldiers at a military hospital in Leh on Friday. ■ AP

through military and diplomatic channels," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said at a daily press briefing, when asked about the visit. "Neither side should make any move that may complicate the border situation."

Mr. Zhao warned India to "avoid a strategic miscalculation with regard to China".

"I would like to stress that China hopes that India will work with us, follow faithfully the important consensus reached between the two

leaders, abide by the agreements reached between the two governments, strengthen communication and coordination on properly managing the current situation through diplomatic and military channels, and jointly uphold peace and stability in the border areas," he said.

"At the same time, we need to see that China and India, both major developing countries, bear the historic mission of accelerating national development and rejuvenation," the official

said. "China and India should follow the important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries and uphold overall bilateral relations," he said.

Mr. Lijian also warned against "artificial barriers" that would hurt economic relations, in reference to India's recent moves on the trade and investment front, from banning 59 Chinese apps to announcing a halt to highway projects.

On Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari's remarks on July 1 to keep Chinese firms away from highway projects, Mr. Zhao said: "In recent days some politicians in India have kept issuing irresponsible remarks that are detrimental to China-India relations.

It calls for concerted efforts on both sides to maintain China-India relations. Artificially setting up barriers for such cooperation not only violates WTO rules, but also hurts India's interests."

He said China would "take all necessary measures to safeguard the legitimate rights of Chinese businesses".

Modi's visit will boost soldiers' morale: Shah

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday lauded the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Ladakh, and said the tour would "boost the morale of our valiant soldiers".

"Leading from the front. Prime Minister Shri @NarendraModi Ji with our brave and courageous personnel of Army, Air Force & ITBP at a forward location in Ladakh. This visit of honourable PM will surely boost the morale of our valiant soldiers," he tweeted.

ed, along with multiple pictures of Modi with the soldiers.

The Union Home Minister also used the hashtag '#ModiInLeh' in his Twitter post.

"*Veer bhogya vasundhara* [a Hindi idiom meaning the brave will inherit the earth]. PM Narendra Modi's words give words to the emotion of 130 crore Indians and act as a great morale booster for our armed forces! True leadership in action!" BJP president J.P. Nadda said in a tweet after the PM's speech.

Someone is lying, says Rahul in a dig at PM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Hours after Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday landed in Ladakh, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi claimed that Ladakhis talk about China taking away their land, but Mr. Modi argues to the contrary.

"Ladakhis say: China took our land. PM says: Nobody took our land. Obviously, someone is lying," Mr. Gandhi tweeted and tagged a video.

In the video, titled "Ladakh Speaks", Congress leaders shared voices of pe-

ople of Ladakh, who talked about Chinese troops coming into Indian territory, and stationing themselves at Pangong Tso. A note in the video read, "Our land was taken away, 20 Indian soldiers martyred, Why is the Prime Minister silent?"

Separately, former Union Minister P. Chidambaram, in a series of tweets, said: "For the third time in a week, PM did not name China as the aggressor, why? What is the purpose of talking about an unnamed 'enemy' to the people of India and the jawans in Ladakh?"

Japan against unilateral action that changes status quo along LAC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

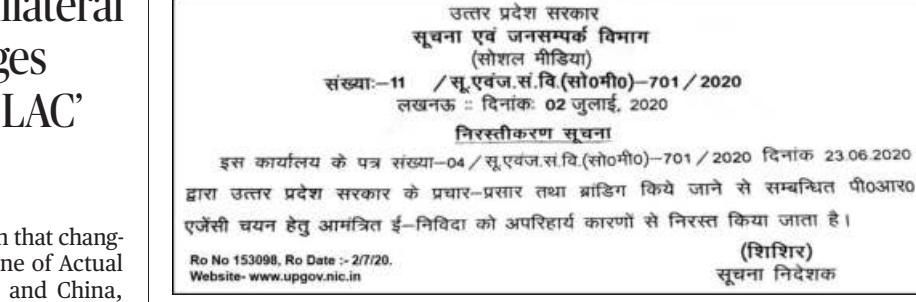
NEW DELHI

Japan opposes unilateral action that changes the status quo along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) between India and China, said Japanese Ambassador Satoshi Suzuki in a discussion on Friday with Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla on the India-China stand-off in eastern Ladakh.

"Had a good talk with Foreign Secretary Shringla. Appreciated his briefing on the situation along LAC, including the government of India's policy to pursue peaceful resolution. Japan also hopes for peaceful resolution through dialogues. Japan opposes any unilateral attempts to change the status quo," said Mr. Suzuki in a social media message after the discussion.

The discussion follows a joint exercise held by the two countries in the Indian Ocean. It also coincided with deterioration in the security scenario along the LoC and International Boundary in Jammu and Kashmir that prompted India to lodge a "strong protest" against ceasefire violation from the Pakistan side.

"This year, till June 2020, 14 Indians have been killed and 88 Indians have been injured in more than 2,432 unprovoked ceasefire violations carried out by Pakistan forces. We have also conveyed our strong concerns at the continued support being extended by the Pakistan forces for cross-border infiltration of terrorists, including through covering fire," said informed sources.



GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"- PROCUREMENT NOTICE
WORKS DEPARTMENT
E-mail : ceworlbankprojects@gmail.com
1st Corrigendum to Bid Identification No. CE-W.B.P.(O) - 04 / 2020-21

The last date of receipt of tender invited for the works vide Bid Identification No.CE-W.B.P.(O)-04/2020-21 is hereby extended upto 5.00 PM of 06.07.2020 and will be opened on 11.30 AM of 07.07.2020.
All other terms and conditions remain unchanged.

Chief Engineer, World Bank Project, Odisha
OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA, BHUBANESWAR
B-127:
OIPR-34003/11/0010/2021

Corrigendum Notice
INSTITUTE OF MATHEMATICS & APPLICATIONS
(Government of Odisha)
Andhra, Bhubaneswar-751029

ADMISSION NOTICE FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2020-21

The Institute of Mathematics and Applications shall offer the following courses for the academic session 2020-21. The details of procedure, fees, centers of entrance tests etc. will be available in the website www.iomaorissa.ac.in.

- 1. B.Sc.(Hons) in Mathematics and Computing (Three years course)
- 2. M.A/M.Sc. in Computational Finance (Two years course).
- 3. M.A./M.Sc. in Mathematics with Data Science (Two years course).

The last date of receipt of completed application has been extended from 03.07.2020 to 06.08.2020 and the tentative date of entrance test is 28.08.2020.

Sd/-
DIRECTOR
OIPR-28006/11/0002/2021

CAD-236:

INDORE SMART CITY DEVELOPMENT LIMITED, INDORE
Nehru Park Campus, INDORE-452003, Ph. No.: 0731-2535572
E-mail: smartcityindore16@gmail.com, Website: www.smartcity.indore.org.

NIT No: 18/ISCDL/2020-21
NOTICE INVITING TENDER Date : 01.7.2020

Indore Smart City Development Ltd. Launching a very prestigious project in heart of city for Mixed Use Development high Rise Construction with 3.00 FSI. For the same project invites online tender from reputed Developer/ Builder/ Investor Agency having interest in Real Estate Projects. The complete projected RERA registered.

S. No. Name of Work Earnest Money Deposit Cost of Tender Form

1	Real Estate Mixed Use Redevelopment Projects at MOG Lines - Old Govt. Quarters Land Parcel for Different towers on Freehold Basis, As per Enclosed Master Plan for High Rise Towers.(Project is RERA registered)	₹ 0.50 Cr.	₹ 30,000/-
---	--	------------	------------

Key Dates:

1. Last date for Purchase of Tender (Online)	04.08.2020 till 17.30 Hrs.
2. Last date for Submission of Tender (Online)	04.08.2020 till 17.30 Hrs.
3. Technical bid Opening (Online)	05.08.2020 at 17.30 Hrs.
4. Last date for Submission of Hard copy of Technical Bid	07.08.2020 till 17.30 Hrs.
5. Pre bid Meeting	20.07.2020 at 15.00 Hrs.

Note:(1) Tender Document and other details shall be available on: Website- www.mptenders.gov.in and smartcityindore.org.
(2) Amendment to NIT, if any would be published on website www.mptenders.gov.in.
(3) The EMD shall be in the form of online payment using Debit Card/ Credit Card/ Internet Banking or System Generated Challan.
(4) The Project is RERA registered. RERA registration no. P-IND-20-2659

Chief Executive Officer
Indore Smart City Development Ltd., Indore

Main accused in Kanpur attack faces 60 criminal cases

Vikas Dubey is known for his proximity to politicians

OMAR RASHID

LUCKNOW

Vikas Dubey, the main accused in the killing of eight policemen in Kanpur, holds a notorious record of criminal activities and proximity to politicians.



Vikas Dubey

ly, the Special Task Force said in a statement issued in 2017.

"That shows the nexus. It was so unbelievable that he was acquitted," says Subhashini Ali, CPI(M) leader and former Kanpur MP.

"Since then, he has committed many more crimes and has also been a land-grabber. The point is, how is he at large," she asked.

He was accused in the murder of BJP leader Santosh Shukla, who was then a Minister of State, in 2001.

According to the Special Task Force, Dubey's animosity towards Shukla started during the political rivalry between Shukla and Hari Krishna Srivastava, who was then with the BSP, in the 1990s. They contested the Chaubeypur Assembly seat.

In 1996, after Srivastava defeated Shukla by over 6,000 votes, Dubey, the victor's associate, participated in a victory parade in which supporters of both clashed.

A case was filed against Dubey, which led to the animosity between him and Shukla. This culminated in Shukla's murder on the Shivli police station premises on November 11, 2001, when Dubey fired indiscriminate

bey won in the zilla panchayat election from Dhimau. Monu Tomar, whose mother Shanti Devi stood third in the election, says Dubey holds enough clout in several villages to decide elections.

There were other crimes Dubey was linked to, including the murder of college manager Siddheshwar Pandey in 2000 and cable operator Dinesh Dubey in 2004. In 2000, from jail Dubey orchestrated the murder of Ram Babu Yadav in Shivli through his associates, the police said.

In October 2017, Dubey was arrested by the STF in Lucknow in a murder case, when the police found him allegedly applying pressure on the complainant and witnesses to submit statements in his favour. A .30-bore spring field rifle and 15 live cartridges were recovered from him then, the police said. Dubey then carried a reward of ₹25,000 on his head.

Bahujan Samaj Party leader Mayawati said the government should not spare the accused, even if it needed to run a special campaign.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, who visited Kanpur, said those involved in the killing would not be spared.

IN BRIEF



Kanpur shootout shows 'jungle raj' in U.P.: Cong.

NEW DELHI
Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Friday attacked the Yogi Adityanath government of Uttar Pradesh (U.P.) over the killing of eight policemen in Kanpur. While Mr. Gandhi termed it an example of 'goonda raj', Ms. Vadra, the party's general secretary in charge of the State, said criminals in the State had become fearless as a jungle raj prevailed.

Ms. Vadra said that Mr. Adityanath himself was in charge of the Home portfolio that looked after law and order in the State.

U.P. govt. is covering up its nexus with criminals'

LUCKNOW
Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Friday accused the Uttar Pradesh (U.P.) government of covering up its alleged nexus with the criminals involved in the Kanpur shootout, in which eight policemen were shot dead by a group of assailants. "The government, scared of getting unmasked, is engaging in drama of showing minor encounters in a hurried manner instead of arresting the main criminal," Mr. Yadav tweeted. In an earlier tweet, he had demanded that the accused be caught alive in order to "expose" the State government's alleged nexus with the criminals.

ALL INDIA COUNCIL FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION
Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India
Nelson Mandela Marg, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110 070
Ph. No.: 011-29581000, Website: www.aictc-india.org

Public Notice
EXTENSION OF CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF ONLINE APPLICATION FOR IKS
Reference AICTE Advt. No. Admn/Estdt./06(02)2020, published in various newspapers on 20.06.2020 for inviting online applications for various posts for Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) Division of MHRD in AICTE.
It is hereby notified that the last date for applying online for the posts mentioned in AICTE's Advt. No. Admn/Estdt./06(02)2020 is hereby extended upto 10.07.2020.
Advt. No. Admn.(Estdt.)/07(03)/2020 Member Secretary

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, CALICUT

Scientific Society of Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

Invites application for contract positions to work on funded projects

- Special Manpower Development Program with focus on Chips-to-System Design (SMDP-C2SD) to develop working prototypes with societal application through indigenous ASIC design & development imparting high-end training in VLSL.
- FutureSkills PRIME (Program for Re-Skilling/ Up Skilling of IT Manpower for Employability) to create an up skilling/ re-skilling ecosystem in emerging & futuristic technologies to facilitate enhancement of skills as well knowledge of employed & unemployed.

**Lab Engineer -1 Project Associate -1
Project Engineer -1 Senior Executive -1**

For details visit :<http://nielit.gov.in/calicut>
Shortlisted candidates are required to attend walk-in / virtual interview

ADMISSION TO M TECH - 2020 PROGRAMS OPEN

GRIDCO Limited
(A Govt. of Odisha Undertaking)
Regd. Office: Janpath, Bhubaneswar - 751 022 (Odisha)
Phone : 0674-2540098/2540877, Fax : 0674-2541904/2543031
Website : www.gridco.co.in, CIN-L4

M.P. Ministry exceeds size limit: Cong.

Party decides to move court alleging violation of the Constitution-prescribed strength

STAFF REPORTER
BHOPAL

Rajya Sabha member Vivek Tankha has said the Congress will move the court as the strength of the Council of Ministers in Madhya Pradesh exceeds the prescribed limit.

On Thursday, when 20 Cabinet Ministers and eight Ministers of State were included in the Ministry, expanding it to 34, Mr. Tankha accused Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan of violating the law.

Describing the Council of Ministers as "illegal", Mr. Tankha wrote on Twitter, "By appointing as Ministers more than 15% of the effective strength of the legislators at 206 the law has been



New team: Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan at a Cabinet meeting on Thursday. ■ PTI

violated." Further, Mr. Tankha said that in the past, it was only after complaining to the President that Mr. Chouhan, who ran a government without a Cabinet, appointed five Ministers.

State Congress spokes-

man Ajay Singh Yadav alleged the BJP government had violated Article 164 (1A) of the Constitution that prescribes, "The total number of Ministers, including the Chief Minister, in the Council of Ministers in a State shall

not exceed 15% of the total number of members of the Legislative Assembly of that State."

Appealing to the President to take cognisance of the matter, Mr. Yadav said: "With an Assembly strength of 206,

the strength of the Council of Ministers shouldn't have exceeded 30. The appointment of 34 Ministers, including Mr. Chouhan, is a clear violation of Constitutional rules."

The Assembly strength of 228 dropped in March when 22 rebel Congress MLAs – 19 of them supporting Jyotiraditya Scindia – resigned, toppling the Kamal Nath government, and later switched over to the BJP. Two seats fell vacant earlier owing to deaths.

The expansion of Mr. Chouhan's Council of Ministers was pending since he returned as the Chief Minister after 15 months on March 23. Nearly a month later, five Ministers were appointed.

Answered ED's 128 questions: Ahmed Patel

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

A day after being grilled by officials of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in an alleged money laundering case involving the Sandesara group, Congress leader Ahmed Patel on Friday said the agency had failed to answer his question on who in the Gujarat government had bestowed privileges on the group.

"Thank you officials of ED for coming to my house thrice. I answered each of their 128 questions but they failed to answer my one fundamental question – Who in the Gujarat state government was responsible for bestowing multiple benefits, privileges and honours on the Sandesara group," Mr. Patel tweeted.

On Thursday, ED officials questioned Mr. Patel for the third time at his residence for about 10 hours in connection with a probe into the Sandesara money-laundering case. The Sandesara group is the promoter of the Vadodara-based Sterling Biotech Limited, a pharma company accused of multi-crore bank fraud and money laundering.

Over 2 lakh flood-hit return home

Death toll rises to 35, but the situation is getting better, says Assam official

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI

The flood situation in Assam improved on Friday, but one more person drowned to take the death toll to 35 since May 22. Landslips killed 24 more during this period.

A spokesperson of the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) said the person drowned in the Athani area of Dhubri district. "The scenario, otherwise, is better with more than 2.76 lakh people having returned to their villages and localities during the last 24 hours. The floods affected 13.27 lakh people across 20 districts," she said.

The number of people in relief camps has reduced. Compared to 12,597 inmates across 93 relief camps on July 2, there were 11,741 people in 92 shelters till the time of reporting.

The Brahmaputra and three of its tributaries, officials said, were flowing above the danger mark, but at fewer stretches than before.

Barpeta continued to be the worst-hit district with 7.41 lakh people affected, followed by South Salmara (1.95 lakh), Goalpara



No breaks: A woman goes about her work as children swim in Assam's Morigaon district. ■ PTI

(93,331), Nalbari (81,011) and Morigaon (46,118).

More animals die

The water level at Kaziranga National Park continues to recede. Now 48 of the total of 223 anti-poaching camps remain inundated, down from a high of 146 a few days ago.

But the number of animals killed by the flooding increased overnight from 25

to 33. Park officials said 10 died of 'other' reasons that included hunting, nine died under treatment at a rescue centre, eight were run over by speeding vehicles and five drowned. A rhino had a natural death.

Animals fleeing the flooded Kaziranga, which has a core area of 430 sq km, have to cross a highway to reach the relative safety of the hills in Karbi Anglong district.

The park authorities had a week ago made it mandatory for vehicles crossing the stretch alongside the park's southern edge to slow down to 40 kmph.

In all, 41 animals were admitted at the Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation at Kaziranga. Of these, nine were either brought dead or died during treatment, while 31 were released back to the wild.

Tribal belts, forests will not be touched: Assam Minister

Sonowal govt. clarifies on industrial land-use ordinance

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI

Facing widespread protests, the Assam government on Friday denied allegations that it was planning to "sell off" the State's land resources through an "anti-indigenous people" ordinance allowing industrialists to set up shop without seeking clearances.

Various political parties, tribal and social organisations and students' bodies went on the offensive after the Sarbananda Sonowal Cabinet approved an ordinance on June 29 to provide hurdle-free land for investors to set up medium, small and micro enterprises (MSMEs).

The ordinance awaits the approval of Governor Jagdish Mukhi.

No hazardous factories

"We appreciate the genuine concerns of the people. The reactions are probably because no one has seen the blueprint of the ordinance, which will not touch the tribal blocks and belts, reserve forests and ecosensitive belts," Assam's Industry and Commerce Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary told presspersons.

Hazardous industries would not be allowed to be set up through the ordinance to promote MSMEs, he added.

He insisted that the ordinance was aimed at generating jobs for the State's 20 lakh registered unemployed as well as some 3.5 lakh people who had been jobless



Livelihood worries: Tiwa tribals working in Karbi Anglong district of Assam. There is fear that the easy transfer of land to investors will hit the local people. ■ RITU RAJ KONWAR

since returning from other parts of India owing to the COVID-19 lockdown.

"What we have envisaged is using non-farm patta (legally owned) land lying idle, after assessment by the district magistrate concerned, or spaces in industrial estates, with the highest investment of ₹50 crore for medium, ₹10 crore for small and ₹1 crore for micro industries," Mr. Patowary said.

"The easy transfer of land for industrial use reeks of a plan to invite major investors. The ordinance will go against the very indigenous people the Bharatiya Janata Party had promised to protect in order to come to power. The farmers too are worried that their land would be taken away," State Congress president Ripun Bora said.

All Indian United Democratic Front president and MP, Maulana Badruddin Ajmal, also slammed the ordinance as a ploy to sell off large swathes of land to corporate houses posing as MSME players.

After three years of running the MSMEs, "he or she will have to possess all ne-

cessary documents within six months," the Minister added.

Farmers worried: Cong. The Opposition Congress, however, said it was not convinced.

"The easy transfer of land for industrial use reeks of a plan to invite major investors. The ordinance will go against the very indigenous people the Bharatiya Janata Party had promised to protect in order to come to power. The farmers too are worried that their land would be taken away," State Congress president Ripun Bora said.

All Indian United Democratic Front president and MP, Maulana Badruddin Ajmal, also slammed the ordinance as a ploy to sell off large swathes of land to corporate houses posing as MSME players.

Tejashwi's apology fails to move NDA

Seeking pardon will not wash off 15 years of RJD's misrule, says Bihar Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

PATNA

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav's "apology" for any "mistakes" during the 15 years of his party's rule in Bihar failed to impress the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) leaders in the State. Ahead of the State Assembly elections – due in October-November later this year – the NDA has set a poll narrative of "15 years of RJD Versus 15 years of NDA".

On Friday, reacting to Mr. Yadav's "apology", riling Janata Dal-United (JD-U) leader and Minister in Nitish Kumar's Cabinet Neeraj Kumar said: "Seeking apology will not wash off 15 years of RJD's misrule. He [Tejashwi Yadav] should apologise for the massacres of the poor, Dalits and upper caste people in the RJD regime. He should donate the ill-gotten money amassed by his parents to RJD workers. Maybe [then] some sin will wash off."

BJP leader and party spokesperson Nikhil Anand said, "Fifteen years of RJD

Rajasthan gets new Chief Secy. in major bureaucratic reshuffle

1985-batch IAS officer Rajeeva Swarup replaces D.B. Gupta

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

JAIPUR

The Congress government in Rajasthan has changed the Chief Secretary in a major bureaucratic reshuffle carried out in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Rajeeva Swarup, a 1985-batch IAS officer, was appointed the new Chief Secretary, replacing incumbent D.B. Gupta, in the orders issued on Thursday night.

Mr. Gupta, who is due to retire in September this year, has not been given any posting. Speculation are rife that he may opt for voluntary retirement.

Lockdown guidelines

Mr. Swarup, who was earlier the Additional Chief Secretary (Home), will retire in October, unless he is given an extension. While heading the Home Department, he was instrumental in deciding the guidelines for enforcing the COVID-19 lock-

down in the State since March 25.

A total of 103 IAS officers were shifted. Additional Chief Secretary (Medical & Health) Rohit Kumar Singh, who led the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and evolved the "ruthless containment" model for the worst-affected Bhilwara district, was moved to the Home Department to replace Mr. Swarup.

Principal Secretary (Social Justice & Empowerment) Akhil Arora was named the new Principal Secretary (Medical & Health). Additional Chief Secretary (Industries) Subodh Agarwal, who coordinated the movement of stranded migrant workers from other States after the relaxation in lockdown restrictions, was posted as ACS (Mines & Petroleum). Principal Secretary (Tourism) Shreyas Guha, who reportedly had some differences with Tourism

Minister Vishvendra Singh in the recent past, was shifted as the Principal Secretary (Forest & Environment). Special Secretary (Pan-chayati Raj) Arushi Malik, who had a turf war with Additional Chief Secretary of her department, Rajeshwar Singh, was shifted to Ajmer as Divisional Commissioner. The other three officers given the posting as Divisional Commissioners were Samit Sharma (Jodhpur), Bhanwar Lal Mehra (Bikaner) and Prem Chand Berwal (Bharatpur).

17 Collectors transferred

The Collectors of 17 districts, including Jaipur, and Divisional Commissioners of five of the seven divisions in the State were transferred. Jaipur Collector Joga Ram was replaced by Antar Singh Nehra, while Divisional Commissioner Kailash Chand Verma was replaced by Somnath Mishra.

Some MPs may work from home this monsoon session

Venkaiah discusses options; House likely to meet in Sept.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

A hybrid of physical and virtual participation is being zeroed in for holding the monsoon session of Parliament, with a majority of members present physically in the House and a limited number joining in virtually.

At a meeting on Friday, senior officials informed Rajya Sabha Chairman M. Venkaiah Naidu that to enable virtual participation of all members, the existing capacity of the National Informatics Centre (NIC) had to be enhanced by manifold.

Space constraints
Mr. Naidu held an hour-long meeting to discuss the various options for conducting the monsoon session, ac-

cording to sources. The session could be delayed from its usual end of July schedule and could get pushed to September, the sources stated.

Screens to be installed
Screens will be arranged both within the House and outside to enable virtual participation.

Mr. Naidu has asked the Secretariat to draw up appropriate plans for seating based on the strengths of various parties in the House.

"Only a limited number of members can participate virtually because of capacity constraints of the NIC. Chairman Mr. Naidu has suggested that the effort shall be to enable the participation of the members in the proceedings from within the House to the extent possible

J&K lecturer arrested for 'seditious' posts

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

SRINAGAR

The Jammu and Kashmir police on Friday booked a higher secondary school lecturer for "seditious posts" on social media.

A Sopore police spokesperson said Tahir Nazir Shalla, son of Nazir Ahmad Shalla from Sopore, violated the social media policy for government employees and ran an anti-national campaign, creating an "untrue and fake narrative."

Shalla was circulating highly seditious and provocative posts through his social media accounts, which were highly prejudicial to the maintenance of law and order," the police said.

The accused, the spokesperson said, was handed over to the Sopore police station by the cyber cell. "He has been booked under relevant sections of law.. Investigations are set in motion to identify other persons involved in similar anti-state campaigns on social media and spreading a false propaganda," the police said.

The action comes days after the Sopore police was criticised for the photos and video of a three-year-old boy that went viral online from an encounter site. The photos of the boy were clicked as his grandfather lay dead, having been caught in the crossfire between militants and the security forces two days ago.

A petition has been filed before the National Human Rights Commission for an impartial inquiry into the killing.



On the road: RJD leaders Tejashwi Yadav and Tej Pratap Yadav during a recent protest against the fuel price hike. ■ PTI

regime will never be forgiven by the people of Bihar. People still shudder merely at the mention of the RJD regime. I wonder why no regret has ever been expressed by RJD chief Lalu Prasad himself, who is currently serving his sentence in the infamous fodder scam cases in Ranchi."

Mr. Yadav, who is also Leader of Opposition in the State Assembly, was present on Thursday at the party

counts. The laundered funds were used to buy property and jewellery and were invested in the stock market and mutual funds.

Multiple accounts

The accused persons opened several accounts in various banks in the names of these companies, individuals and family trusts for diverting the proceeds of crime, the ED said.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached assets worth ₹14.49 crore belonging to the directors of the Pixion group of companies and others in a bank fraud case.

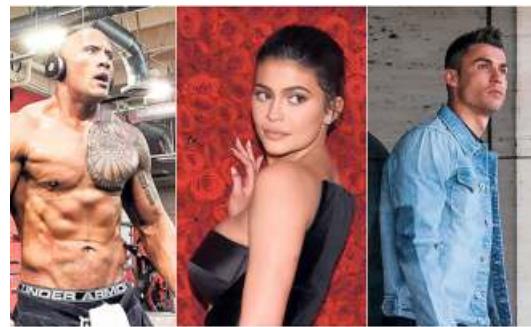
The attached assets are part of the alleged proceeds of crime acquired by causing a wrongful loss of ₹2,600 crore to public sector banks.

The probe is based on se-

ven chargesheets filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) against the companies, directors and others.

Loans diverted

The agency alleged that bank loans were taken on the basis of fictitious documents. The disbursed amounts were diverted through the bank accounts of suppliers and routed back to the group companies or personal ac-



Instapick

Instagram Rich List: Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson (@therock) edged Kylie Jenner out of the top spot on this year's list of highest-paid celebrities. With over 188 million followers, he rakes in around \$1 million per post. Currently, his timeline is filled with promos for Teremana, his tequila brand. Others on the list are Portuguese footballer Cristiano Ronaldo and reality TV star Kim Kardashian West.



Talking point

Oscars Voting Panel: The 2021 Academy Awards has been pushed to April 25 thanks to the ongoing pandemic, but there is plenty of change to look forward to. From India, Bollywood actors Alia Bhatt and Hrithik Roshan and costume designer Neeta Lulla, among others, have been invited to be part of a very diverse voting panel. Will this ensure that #OscarsSoWhite does not trend next year?

KRISHNA SHASTRI DEVULAPALLI

I feel a tremendous sense of relief knowing that we have given a befitting reply to those who eyed our territory in Ladakh. I have immediately discontinued my Ayurvedic antidepressants. If we have been assured that all is well again, it means *sab changa si majama che bagundi* sooper-o-sooper.

Time to crack open that celebratory *thandai* chilling in the fridge, take a refreshing swig, bite into my favourite crunchy snack, *khakra* (whose GST is 12% as opposed to that evil, anti-national 18% GST-attracting Kerala *parotta*), and prepare for the future.

Since it has been mentioned that people from all over India are writing to our leader and reiterating their support for the *atma nirbhar* Bharat movement, I would like to humbly submit here that I was among the first of those letter-writers. My missive to him sits quivering with pride on his desk, sandwiched between Kangana Ranaut's and Payalben's own handwritten letters.

So how do we go about being vocal about local? While removing TikTok and other Chinese apps, breaking telephones and TVs is all well, we need a systemic change if you ask me. Something that will teach our errant neighbours a proper lesson.

For starters, India consumes large quantities of a dish mistakenly referred to as noodles, supposedly of Chinese origin. For those who have read the *correct* history books, they know this is not true. When Hiuen Tsang, the 7th century Chinese traveller, came to our



SREEJITH R KUMAR

SPIT TAKE

Indi-Chini bhow bhow

A strategy that will prove our country's superiority once and for all

ment popularising the dish in its original form. Patriotic Indians suddenly free from the Tik Tok devil can come up with various Indian recipes using this profoundly Indian staple.

Let's talk of Bruce Lee for a minute. No Chinese has had a bigger impact on Indians than this gentleman. And that includes Marlon Brando in *The Teahouse of the August Moon* (in which he may have played a Japanese man, but let's not quibble). Bruce Lee once said, 'Defeat is a state of mind. No one is ever defeated until defeat is accepted as a reality.' To me, that makes him more Indian than Rangoli Chandel. Who better than us at not accepting reality? So how do we use this to our advantage?

Issue an Aadhaar Card in Bruce Lee's name with immediate effect. Ha! The Chinese won't see that coming, will they? Bruce Lee automatically, incontrovertibly, becomes Indian. Imagine the looks on the faces of enemy soldiers if we line our border with large cut-outs of Bruce Lee spinning the *charkha*. And announce a new film starring a digitally-reanimated Lee – directed by SS Rajamouli – called *Tiger Dragon Ko Achcha Sabak Sikha* (Part 1 and 2).

That's not all. We reclaim the Chinese collar, Chinese Checkers and Chinese Whispers by calling them Desi collar, Bharatiya Checkers and Swadeshi Gupshup.

Krishna Shastri Devulapalli is a satirist. He has written four books and edited an anthology.

Pick of the week

Concerts, stand-up and other online events you just can't miss.

The event preview and calendar will resume in a few weeks.



Add to the watchlist

Streaming giants are upping their game this month and Netflix leads with the Charlize Theron-starrer, *The Old Guard*. Directed by Gina Prince-Bythewood, it follows a covert team of immortal mercenaries who fight to keep their identity a secret. On Amazon Prime, stay tuned for *Breathe 2: Into The Shadows* which marks the streaming debut for Abhishek Bachchan. He plays a father whose child has been kidnapped, and the ransom is not money, but murder. Also starring Nithya Menen. Both premiere on July 10.



Keeping it crafty

Artisans across the country are finding new ways to stay afloat. **Pulicat's palm leaf artistes** are selling colourful pencil pouches (\$100 each). Call for details on the initiative by USTTAD and NIFT, Chennai. #9840693387 New Delhi-based heritage community, The Random, is helping **Khurja Weavers** sell their woven *khes* (blankets), made of thick cotton that are perfect for the cooler months. Weighing 2.5 kg each, each pair is priced at ₹580 (Delhi-NCR) and ₹630 (other regions). WhatsApp for details. #826365320.



Streaming couture

Fashion lovers across the world get a front row seat to **Paris Fashion Week** as they organise their very first digital couture fashion week starting Monday. British brand **Ralph & Russo** brings artificial intelligence to their autumn/winter 2020 show, with eight out of the season's 52 looks being showcased by their avatar, **Hauli**. The backdrop will be a digital recreation of the seven contemporary wonders of the world, including the Taj Mahal in Agra and the Colosseum in Rome. At 8.30 pm IST on hautecouture.fchm.paris



Music and lyrics

Stream New Wave music group Noreum Machi's concert, **Same Same but Different**. The Indo-Korean performance features choreographer Astad Deboo and the Trayam ensemble. Today at 6 pm on YouTube. Coming off the success of 'NRI', which garnered 2.5+ million views on YouTube, rapper, singer, songwriter and dancer **Raja Kumari** launched 'Peace', the new single from her forthcoming album debut. On her social media page, she has been sharing tips on meditation, holistic lifestyle, affirmations and mindfulness.



Virtual pantry

Artisan pastry chef **Karim Bourgi** has a two-day, online live class via **The Classroom by La Folie**, today and tomorrow. He will demonstrate his latest collection of tarts and signature *entremets* for a beginner to intermediate level. At ₹15,000 per head. Details on theclassroombylaufolie.com Fancy some beet macaroons with salmon and mustard? Mumbai-based **chef Sarita Pereira** of **The Lovefools** will curate a special virtual two-course party menu for you. Email pantry.thelovefools.com. #9820203360.



Celebrity book club

Bollywood stars **Lilitte and Ira Dubey** take to the (virtual) stage with author **Shobhaa De** for her latest series of e-books, **Lockdown Liaisons**. Today at 7 pm on Simon & Schuster India YouTube and Twitter channels. Celebrate languages with **Words are Bridges**, the latest from Jaipur Literature Festival and publisher HarperCollins India. The series, telecast every Thursday on JLF's social media platforms, features book readings and conversations between Indian language authors and their English translators.



#LockdownWithWeekend

Tomorrow, on our ongoing Instagram Live series, beauty and wellness columnist **Vasudha Rai** will be in conversation with **Dr Renita Rajani**. The Chennai-based dermatologist and founder of Render Skin & Hair Clinic, will give viewers an insight into hormones and their effect on the skin. At 5 pm @thehinduweekend. Earlier sessions from this week, with singer **Madame Gandhi**, Bharatanatyam dancer **D Srinidhi Chidambaram** and author **Amrita Tripathi** are now available on our IGTV.



With a new track out this week, Madame Gandhi talks about being inspired and business-minded

also a contentious one for female artistes. "We [women] have to protect our energy! If there is a business issue, it is hard to deal with directly because we have heart and emotion. That's why artistes have management and protection – the apparatus around you that protects you, but also balances it with accessibility."

Following streams

After graduating, MG worked at Interscope Records in California for two years in 2011. Her time there "was about studying patterns in Spotify Streams and YouTube views so that we could understand our artistes' marketing strategies better". According to MG, it was not directly related to money management, "but as we all know, streams do convert to revenue. So understanding how consumers

the move from independent to signed requires an inside track. "For the longest time, the music industry depended on 'information asymmetry', which means one party knows more than the other. The label knows what numbers are actually coming in and gives the artiste an advance, but the artiste, who is continually performing, is also in a state of owing the label and other entities money, and not seeing any of it come back. It's a very uninspiring arrangement," she says. She also points out that other sources of income – ventures labels cannot touch – are valuable. MG gives speeches at schools, does DJ sets, and has a merch line (which includes a collaboration with Nor-Black NorWhite).

Waiting on a message

The daughter of entrepreneur Vikram Gandhi, MG knows she comes from a unique position in terms of resources. "You can't help where you're born but you can help what you do with the privilege you've been given," she says, adding, "I believe we must use it to make the changes we wish to see in the world." Meanwhile, given her penchant for producing catchy global anthems, MG says music videos help market the artiste differently. For 'Waiting For Me', which was filmed in February, her goal was to move from what is oppressive to what is liberative. "The current climate of political tension, owing to Black Lives Matter and the upcoming US elections, offers good timing for such a music video, especially with all of us sitting at home with our thoughts," she concludes.

Watch on YouTube

Power up like MG

DIVYA KALA BHAVANI

"We always assume our own powerlessness / but never our own power," are some of the catchy lyrics in Madame Gandhi's (MG) latest track 'Waiting For Me', an anthem of resistance and diversity. In the spirit of these words, the Los Angeles-based musician has added a visual layer: a protest music video, directed by Misha Ghose.

On an Instagram Live session as part of our ongoing series, #LockdownWithWeekend, MG says her music and video have become more complementary while staying personal to her history (especially as a young schoolgirl). She recalls, "I had Bata shoes with two buckles instead of one [while at St Ann's in Colaba, Mumbai], and I was sent home! When I went to school in

New York, I was the kid who wore red or neon for self-expression. You see that in the video with the uniformed school girls."

Protecting energies

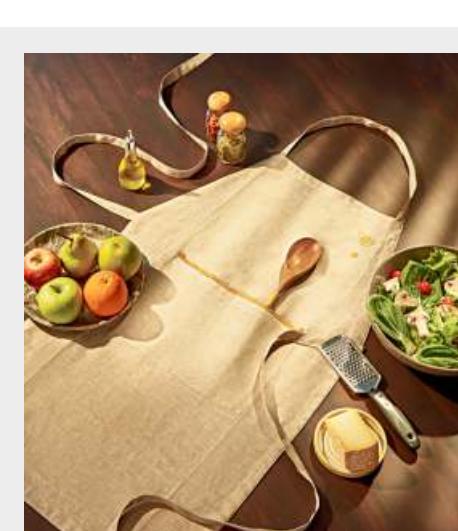
With an MBA from Harvard Business School, MG has a unique knowledge of data, power and business, and feels there is hope for the inherently obstinate major label music industry. She feels the industry is

Madame Gandhi and (top) a scene from 'Waiting For Me'



stream your music and how they find it, is critical. I do believe that every artiste should study their own audience, meet them where they're at, and deliver the content they are seeking so that you continue to build in a consistent and authentic way."

The 'Future is Female' singer admits that seeing record deals come in, and making



TEAM WEEKEND

What, at one point, would have been a considerate gift for a dinner host is now something we must reserve for ourselves. A designer apron. For many of us doing our own cooking and dish-washing in the last few months, an apron designed by Anavila or Antar-Agni or eight other contemporary designers might be that tiny nod to luxury we sorely need.

IndiLuxe, the handcrafted and sustainable segment of Tata CliQ Luxury, has roped in 10 designers this season to create aprons that reflect their sensibilities. So Anavila, known for her handwoven linen saris, has a natural linen apron lined with soft *mulmul*, handmade lace detail, printed piping and a pocket. All 10 designers have factored pockets, even while exploring recycled fabrics or the zero-waste concept. Gaurav Khannijo's denim apron has a belt, buttons and a phone pocket; Gautam Sinha of

Aprons: fashion's newest accessory

Backed by Tata CliQ Luxury, 10 contemporary designers turn to the kitchen for inspiration

Nappa Dori puts canvas and leather to good use, with a multi-purpose clasp; ruffles and a vintage touch come from Payal Singhal; and Urvashi Kaur offers hers with upcycled Shibori panels and *kantha* details. "Each apron has its own unique personality, different from each other yet connected with a contemporary aesthetic," explains Rina Shah, Business Head, IndiLuxe. The aprons, part of Apron Project 2020, are an extension of a gourmet food and kitchen category that includes cast iron cookware and edibles like lemon cookies and single origin coffee.

Apron Project 2020 is reminiscent of the platform's Shawl Project from two years ago, which kickstarted the IndiLuxe section and featured Manish Arora, Rahul Mishra and Rajesh Pratap Singh among the collaborators. Shah admits that 'Kitchen' is an important category and her "curation team is on the lookout for story-led collections". For now, with the aprons limited to 10 pieces per designer, you might want to make quick work of bringing one home.

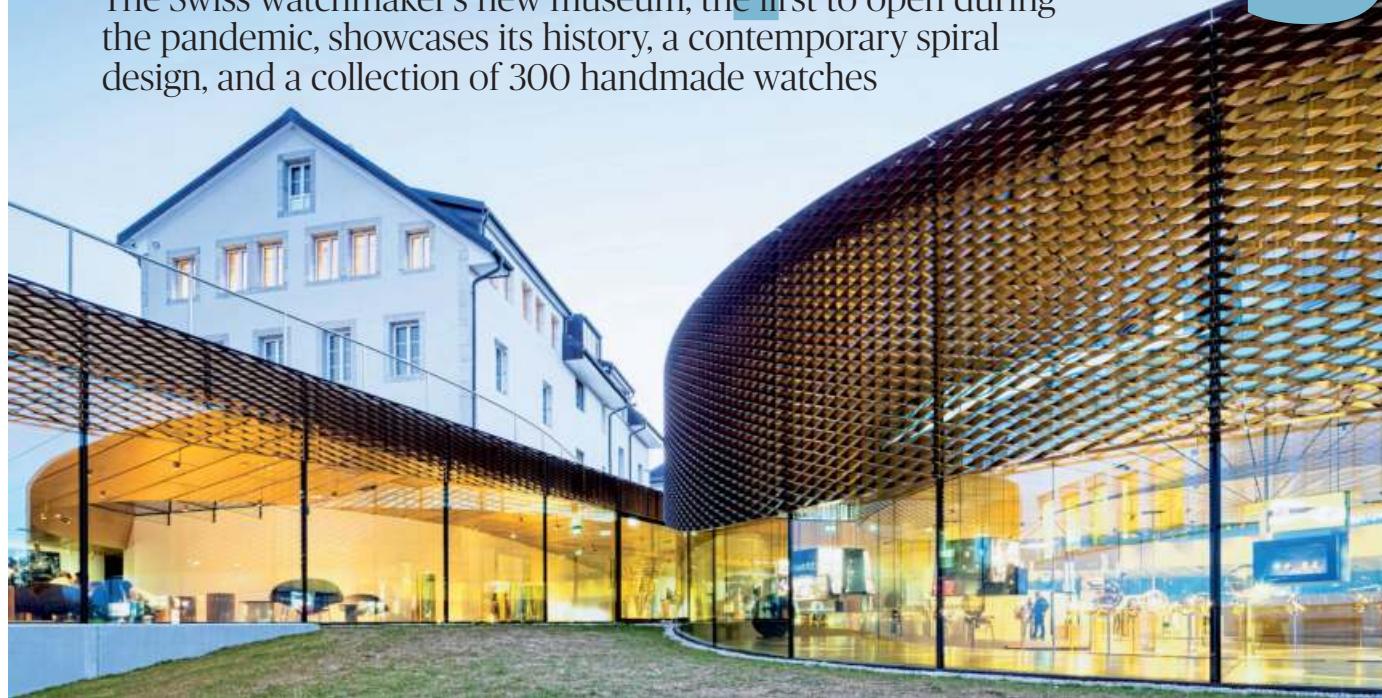
₹5,000 each at luxury.tatacliq.com/indiluxe



M ND-NDE

Inside Audemars Piguet's hairspring

The Swiss watchmaker's new museum, the first to open during the pandemic, showcases its history, a contemporary spiral design, and a collection of 300 handmade watches



AATISH NATH

Sebastian Vivas, the Heritage and Museum Director at Audemars Piguet, speaks with unrestrained passion about the new Musée Atelier Audemars Piguet. The spiral-shaped museum atop a grassy knoll in the picturesque watchmaking village of Le Brassus (an hour from Geneva), Switzerland, opened a week ago and Vivas had a hand in selecting most of the 300-plus items on display.

Though our phone conversation is peppered with PR-friendly statements like, "We're respecting the past but building the future," and how "visitors will appreciate

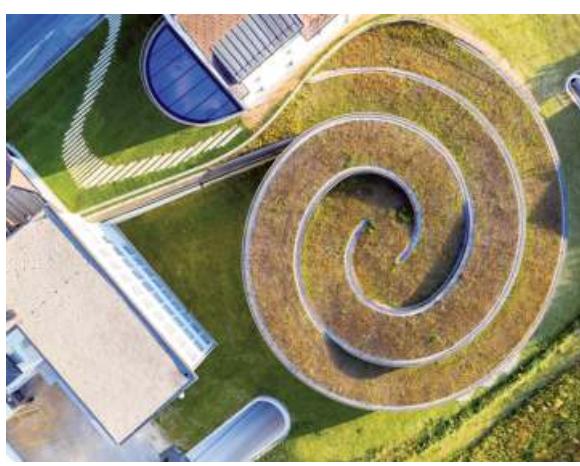
the quality and beauty of the experience [discussing the radical choice of design]", the occasional bon mots better sum up his thoughts. For example, he speaks with disdain about the advent of quartz watches in the 1980s, an existential crisis for the industry at the time, sharing, "Quartz watches are not made by watchmakers, but by my electricians." An unsurprising statement for someone who has published a study on quartz in the *Journal Suisse d'Horlogerie*.

Follow the spiral

The museum isn't the first of its kind in the area (Jaeger-LeCoultre's Heritage Gallery

is a neighbour), but it is the first to open post Covid-19. The Musée Atelier, featuring only handmade watches, has been designed by in-demand Copenhagen architect Bjarke Ingels' firm BIG. So the contemporary 25,000 square metre spiral construction – inspired by a watch's hairspring, and crafted from curved glass, brass mesh and steel – is dramatic and in stark contrast to the two 19th century buildings that it is nestled between. Vivas says the design is a "counterbalance" to its surroundings, reflecting the brand's rootedness and forward-thinking spirit.

Inside, curved glass walls and a sloping terrazzo floor



Next year, the Hôtel des Horlogers will also open near the museum. The 50-room property, another BIG design, will have a roof that will double as a ski ramp.



The twist Exterior and interior views of the museum

■ IWAN BAAN

(adapted to the land's natural gradient) descend clockwise, guiding visitors through the various exhibits. Timepieces displayed in metal cases shaped like astronomical instruments, are often juxtaposed with materials that tie it to the land, like samples of iron (a hat tip to the village's mining history). The collection, which also includes sculptures and moving models that demonstrate the inner workings of watches, serves as an introduction to Swiss horologists and the history of Audemars Piguet, which, till 1951, sold its complications

work on the Haute Joaillerie collections.

In first person

How will the museum make use of the digital, especially now? Not through virtual tours. "Both the museum and its digital presence will be complimentary. But to offer a completely guided online tour is not our idea because nothing will replace the experience of being here.

We will, however, organise talks for particular watches and around certain events." Stressing that "we are not planning for the next five to six months, but for the next 50 to

60 years", Vivas shares that it will be impractical to let people see the 300+ objects on a screen. "The story from this region is about exporting handmade timepieces to the world's capitals. That is what has made people want to come and visit this small, isolated village," he concludes.

The museum is offering 90-minute guided tours on weekdays, by appointment for groups of up to 12 people. For more details log in to: Maap.shop.secutix.com



Vivas picks three

1899 Universelle: This pocket watch occupies the central showcase in the museum and is made up of 1,168 parts for just the movement. "It is the most complicated timepiece the brand has made and came in for restoration a few years ago. It took four years to restore and the brand was lucky to persuade the owner to sell it back to us," says Vivas.

1943 Chronograph: The watch was the basis of the [Re]Master 01, which was launched in March. The limited-edition reissue is based on a 1943 design. Vivas sees this particular model as a bridge between past and future.

1972 Royal Oak: The museum is home to one of the first-ever Royal Oaks ever made – Watch no 19 from the very first batch. Since its introduction, the steel watch has broken the rule of aesthetics and played a role in the survival of Audemars Piguet.



formative relationships in modern times. The intent is most evocative in a scene where Ishii explores a robot hotel, speculating on the possibilities of AI having emotions someday.

While commenting on the capitalist world, where money can buy relationships, *Family Romance, LLC* illustrates a larger dystopian reality, where human connections are transactional.

In one of his interviews at the Cannes Film Festival, where the film had its world premiere in 2019, Herzog talks about 'quasi-friendship' in the world of social media.

Family Romance, LLC in that light, has a lot to say about how these quasi friendships could one day become the biggest export of a soul-less capitalist world. But the film's biggest drawback is that intent and commentary seldom match what we see on-screen. What we are given is as blank and bland as AI humans, who perhaps have a lot going on inside their heads.

Family Romance, LLC will premiere on Mubi World on July 4



Family Romance, LLC

DIRECTOR: Werner Herzog

CAST: Ishii Yuichi, Mahiro Tanimoto

STORYLINE: Yuichi Ishii, a father-on-hire, pretends to be the missing parent of an unsuspecting 12-year-old, Mahiro Tanimoto.

DURATION: 89 minutes

who runs a rent-a-family service off-screen, may not be a terribly good actor, but his sheer presence, playing a version of himself on-screen, feels like one big meta-joke.

As he goes about his routine, and eventually forms a bond with Mahiro, while pretending to be her long-lost father. Dealing with her affection in a morally-conscious way, he provides for a fascinating character study. It makes me wonder if he's the same in real life. It's this play between truth and imagination that's most intriguing in an otherwise is utterly banal film.

With a conscious obfuscation of fact and fiction, Herzog perhaps wishes to comment on per-

FILM REVIEW

Lost between truth and fiction

Werner Herzog's *Family Romance, LLC* is a dispassionate and detached look at quasi-friendship and modern-day loneliness

KENNETH ROSARIO

Loneliness is hyper-real in Werner Herzog's *Family Romance, LLC*. The German auteur's gaze on longing and solitude is raw and unfiltered. Through documentary aesthetics of using a single camera, often moving uncomfortably close to the actors' faces, Herzog brings out a feeling of intrusion, as the film follows Yuichi Ishii, a father-on-hire, to an unsuspecting 12-year-old, Mahiro Tanimoto.

There is a rudimentary, almost

dispassionate perspective on what seems like a bizarre business, when taken out of cultural context, where one can rent a father, friend, or co-worker. The film has rough cuts almost to an amateurish degree. One would expect this realism to cut close, yet Herzog's film has a detached quality to it, one that barely manages to make an emotional dent.

The sentiment that overrides is that of oddity. Even as the narrative meanders and the subject at hand has profound relevance in the modern world, the film

evokes a feeling of strangeness, rather than introspection.

The disconnect between the film's aesthetics, staccato acting and intriguing subject, forms both the appeal and dissonance.

Known for his documentaries as well as his fiction features, Herzog could have captured this subject in one of his non-fiction works. He showcases Tokyo intermittently through clean drone

shots, which function as an antithesis to the film's otherwise rough look, yet again blurring the lines between reality and fiction. The casting also lends this film some verisimilitude. Ishii,



FOOD SPOT

Southern COMFORT

For the sake of the owners of Mahabell, the F&B industry, and for customers, home delivery is a saviour



The parotta in the South they say is mighty fine, but the true star is the non-vegetarian food ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

pork was juicy and soft, and the spices, including crispy curly leaves, added to the taste.

The prawn-mango curry was much loved at home, and I enjoyed it, too – the sauce

with appams (₹495), prawn mango curry (₹565), parottas (₹65 each) and extra appams (₹65 each). We paid ₹3,300 or so (with taxes, packing charges) for the food, and it was enough for three meals: lunch, dinner and breakfast, for four of us.

Needless to say, I loved the pork the most. The dish consisted of fatty chunks that had been roasted with grated coconut, spices, and chillies. The

was mildly sweet and deliciously tart (with little pieces of mango in it), and the prawns in the gravy were crispy from the outside and tender within. I had the pork and the prawns with a flaky, layered Malabar parotta, and enjoyed the meal thoroughly.

We had the idli for breakfast the next day. It came with a coconut and a tomato-onion chutney. The idlis were, as I expected, smeared with a spicy podi, but I didn't think they'd be fried. I would have preferred them steamed, for the fried pieces were a little too toasty.

Lunch, again, was a delight. The vegetable stew was a mix of vegetables (beans, carrots et al) cooked in a light coconut milk, and went well with the soft and fluffy appams. The Alleppey fish was in a coconut-based gravy, too, but had a different taste altogether. The fish – Mahabell usually uses seer fish – came in a superb

sauce made colourful and tangy with kokum, and then lightened with coconut milk. The gravy was prepared with fried shallots, a ginger-garlic paste, curry leaves, rice powder, Kashmiri chillies, turmeric, ground coriander and fenugreek. We had this with home-cooked johna rice, a small and fragrant Assamese variety.

The delivery menu includes Thalassery chicken biryani (₹350), mackerel (aila) fish (₹445), chicken 65 (Rs 385) and gobhi 65 (Rs 299). There are small meals, too, such as Amrit's Dal Khichdi with pickle and papadam (₹199), three chapattis with potato curry (₹199), two parottas with tomato fry (₹199) and two appams with chicken stew (₹250).

I am glad Mahabell is delivering (and all the way to East Delhi, too) for that's the only way food businesses can survive in these difficult times. The restaurant is run by a group of young men who are passionate about food (they have an outlet in Saket and Gurugram) and I hope they do well.

The writer is a seasoned food critic

with appams (₹495), prawn mango curry (₹565), parottas (₹65 each) and extra appams (₹65 each). We paid ₹3,300 or so (with taxes, packing charges) for the food, and it was enough for three meals: lunch, dinner and breakfast, for four of us.

Needless to say, I loved the pork the most. The dish consisted of fatty chunks that had been roasted with grated coconut, spices, and chillies. The

THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13366

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
			8			
9					10	
11					12	
13	14				15	
16						17
18		19		20	21	
22			23			
24				25		

© GUARDIAN NEWS AND MEDIA LTD., 2016

7 Spry (6)

8 Omnipotent (3-8)

14 Enduring (7)

15 Young hare (7)

16 Modify – tweak (6)

17 One taking part in a game (6)

19 Render void (5)

21 Muscle pain (5)



To play The Guardian Quick Crossword, Sudoku & other puzzles online, scan the QR code.

7 Spry (6)

8 Omnipotent (3-8)

14 Enduring (7)

15 Young hare (7)

16 Modify – tweak (6)

17 One taking part in a game (6)

19 Render void (5)

21 Muscle pain (5)

Solution will appear in MetroPlus dated

July 9, 2020.

Solution No. 13365

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

Hardliner to head new Hong Kong body

Zheng Yanxiong, known for tackling protests on the mainland, will head the national security agency

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE

HONG KONG

China appointed a hardliner to head a new national security agency in Hong Kong on Friday as police brought the first charges under a sweeping new anti-subversion law that has shaken the semi-autonomous finance hub.

Zheng Yanxiong – a party official best known for tackling protests on the mainland – will lead the office set up by the legislation that empowers mainland security agents to operate in Hong Kong openly for the first time, unbound by the city's laws.

The appointment came as a man accused of deliberately driving his motorbike into a group of police officers became the first person in Hong Kong to be charged under the new national security law.

China's leaders say the suite of powers will restore stability after a year of protests and will not stifle freedoms. But police have already begun arresting people for possessing flags and banners while the local govern-



Freedom curtailed: Police detaining a protester during a march earlier this week in Hong Kong. ■ AP

ment has made clear certain political views, especially calls for independence, are now outlawed.

On Thursday evening, Nathan Law, one of the city's most prominent young activists, announced he had fled overseas to an undisclosed location, fearing arrest days after the pro-democracy party he helped found said it was disbanding.

Many Western governments – led by Britain and the U.S. – have condemned the law and have angered

Beijing by threatening to hit back with sanctions or offer sanctuary to Hong Kongers.

A tough enforcer'

The new national security agency is just one new element of Beijing's landmark law targeting subversion, secession, terrorism and colluding with foreign forces.

The office has investigation and prosecution powers and will monitor intelligence related to national security and process cases, in some circumstances handing them

over to the mainland for trial. Mr. Zheng rose through the ranks of the local government in southern Guangdong province which borders Hong Kong, to serve as secretary general of the provincial Communist Party committee.

The 56-year-old is known as a hardliner who stamped out often-violent anti-corruption protests that erupted in Wukan, a village in the province, in 2011 after a local activist died in police custody.

"He is a tough enforcer, a law and order person," said Willy Lam, an expert on China's Communist Party at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Hong Kong was rocked by several months of huge and sometimes violent pro-democracy protests last year, a movement which Beijing has vowed to end with its new security law.

China has dismissed protesters' demands for greater democracy and portrayed the unrest as a foreign plot to destabilise the motherland. It has sought to ramp up

oversight on Hong Kong's government.

On Friday, the State Council also named Luo Huining – the current director of Beijing's Liaison Office in the city – as the National Security Adviser to the newly-formed National Security Commission, chaired by Chief Executive Carrie Lam.

A loyalist of president Xi Jinping, Mr. Luo built a reputation for enforcing Communist Party discipline and tackling corruption. Hong Kong's mini-constitution forbids mainland officials from interfering in the running of Hong Kong's day-to-day affairs. But Beijing has argued national security is purely the purview of central authorities.

The most serious offences carry up to life in jail. On Friday afternoon, Tong Ying-kit, 23, was charged with the first national security crimes – terrorism and inciting secession. A police source said that Mr. Tong drove his motorcycle into a group of police officers on Wednesday during protests, wounding three.

U.S. sees 53,000 new cases, U.K. eases quarantine rules

American States have been forced to shut businesses again

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

LONDON

Britain on Friday announced the first exemptions from its quarantine rules as the COVID-19 outbreak slowed in Europe, but the pandemic accelerated in the United States and across the Americas.

With Europe reopening after an unprecedented lockdown, travellers arriving into England from more than 50 countries will from July 10 no longer be required to undergo 14 days' self-isolation.

But across the Atlantic the news was increasingly grim with the U.S. posting a record 53,000 new COVID-19 cases, while the number of infections in Latin America is overtaking those in Europe for the first time.

While much of the planet pursued a return to some semblance of normality, the United States soared past 50,000 new infections on Thursday for the second time in two days. So-called "Sun Belt" States in the south and west have been forced to re-shut restaurants, bars and beaches, casting a grim pall over the nation's upcoming Inde-

pendence Day celebrations on July 4.

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis blamed the surge on "social interactions" among young people at parties, beaches, bars, swimming pools and elsewhere, as well as a more "robust" testing programme. In Texas, Governor Greg Abbott ordered people in counties with 20 or more cases to wear masks and banned gatherings of more than 10 amid a spike in infections.

California has meanwhile seen a 56% increase in hospitalisations over two weeks.

But President Donald Trump, under fire for his handling of the crisis, highlighted positive jobs data that showed 4.8 million people were back to work in June. In Asia, swift lockdowns have largely made progress against the disease.

The Chinese capital Beijing was lifting most travel restrictions, weeks after a new wave of infections broke out.

Trial begins of suspects in Khashoggi's killing

Turkey had charged them in March

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

ISTANBUL

Twenty Saudi suspects, including two former aides to Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, went on trial in absentia in Turkey on Friday, accused of killing and dismembering journalist Jamal Khashoggi in 2018.

Turkish prosecutors claim Saudi deputy intelligence chief Ahmed al-Assiri and the royal court's media czar Saud al-Qahtani led the operation and gave orders to a Saudi hit team. They were formally charged in March with "instigating the deliberate and monstrous killing, causing torment". Eighteen other suspects were charged with "deliberately and monstrously killing, causing torment".

The prosecutor has already issued arrest warrants for the suspects who are not in



Hatice Cengiz, Jamal Khashoggi's fiancee, in Istanbul on Friday. ■ AP

Turkey, Khashoggi's Turkish fiancee Hatice Cengiz, who was attending the trial alongside the UN special rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, Agnes Callamard.

Yasin Aktay, a close friend of Khashoggi and adviser to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's ruling party, was also in the courtroom.

With economic measures, India seeks to turn tables on China

Options are tilted in Beijing's favour as it is far less dependent on India's market than the latter is on Chinese imports

ANANTH KRISHNAN

India is considering a range of economic measures aimed at Chinese firms amid the border tensions. The move to ban 59 Chinese apps may be just the start, with other measures likely to follow if tensions along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) continue, without disengagement.

On Friday, Power Minister R.K. Singh said India would not import power equipment from China – worth \$2 to \$3 billion annually – while Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said on July 1 Chinese companies would not be allowed to take part in road projects. Reports have said the government is considering trade and procurement curbs targeting China. The government is also increasing scrutiny of Chinese investments in many sectors,

China's state media spearheaded a boycott of South

and weighing a decision to keep out Chinese companies from 5G trials.

The moves could potentially cost Chinese companies billions of dollars. The message from Delhi is it cannot continue trade and investment relations as normal, if China does not agree to return to the status quo of April before its incursions along the LAC began.

The Chinese government has hit out at the measures, while state media have widely criticised calls in India to boycott Chinese goods. China is itself no stranger to such moves, having frequently deployed economic countermeasures, from restricting market access to boycotting goods, in the midst of its own disputes, with countries ranging from South Korea and Japan to the Philippines.

China's state media spearheaded a boycott of South

putted East China Sea islands. Two years later, mass protests were organised by China over the islands issue, which led to boycotts of Japanese brands. With the Philippines, a dispute over the Scarborough Shoal in the South China Sea in 2012 led to China curtailing imports on bananas.

the biggest overseas market with more than 100 million users. While the parent company ByteDance reported modest earnings of \$5.8 million in 2018-19, its first full year in India, a source close to the company told the Chinese finance magazine *Caijing* that ByteDance is anticipating a loss of more than \$6 billion, most likely more than the combined losses for all the other Chinese companies behind the other 58 apps banned in India.

If India does have leverage that could hurt potential revenues of Chinese companies, the problem for New Delhi is China could inflict immediate economic pain should it choose to. In 2019-20, India's imports from China accounted for \$65 billion out of two-way trade of \$82 billion. India relies on China for crucial imports for many of its industries, from auto components to active phar-

maceutical ingredients (APIs). Between 70% to 90% of APIs come from China.

Industry representatives have expressed concern over delays in customs clearances. If China curtailed exports to India, consequences would be more serious.

India faces difficult choices and needs to be selective in its measures, said former Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran. "You have to choose areas where you don't get hurt more than they do," he told *The Hindu*. "TikTok is a good candidate as India is their largest market. Telecom is another. This is a huge market for Huawei."

Whether India's measures will influence China's behaviour on the border will ultimately depend on Beijing's calculus, and whether its perceived gains from the current border stand-offs outweigh the potential costs of losing a key market.

19 Pak. Sikh pilgrims die in train-van collision

REUTERS

At least 19 pilgrims of Pakistan's minority Sikh community were killed when a train collided with a passenger van on Friday.

According to police, the dead, which include two children, were all residents of Peshawar, home to most of Pakistan's nearly 40,000 Sikhs.

The accident occurred at an unmanned railway crossing close to the city of Sheikhpura in Pakistan's largest province, Punjab, said Rail-

EU clears use of remdesivir to fight virus

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

BRUSSELS

The European Commission, the bloc's executive arm, on Friday authorised the use of anti-viral drug remdesivir to treat COVID-19. "Today's authorisation of a first medicine to treat COVID-19 is an important step forward in the fight against this virus," said EU Health Commissioner Stella Kyriakides. At least two major U.S. studies have shown that remdesivir can reduce the duration of hospital stays for COVID-19 patients.

Macron picks new Prime Minister

Jean Castex was behind France's lockdown exit strategy

REUTERS

President Emmanuel Macron named Jean Castex, a top civil servant and local Mayor who orchestrated France's COVID-19 lockdown exit strategy, as his new Prime Minister on Friday as he acted to reinvent his administration and win back voters. Mr. Castex, 55, hails from the centre-right of French politics and served for two years as the second-highest ranking official in the Elysee Palace during Nicolas Sarkozy's presidency.

An Elysee official described Mr. Castex as a senior civil servant whose experience in local politics would help Mr. Macron connect with provincial France.



Mr. Castex was a "social Gaulist", the official said in reference to the more interventionist, socially minded wing of France's centre-right. The announcement followed the resignation of Edouard Philippe ahead of a widely anticipated overhaul of the government by Mr. Macron.

Mr. Macron is reshaping his government as France

grapples with the deepest economic depression since Second World War, a sharp downturn that will shrink the economy by about 11% in 2020. The local elections revealed surging support for the Green party and underlined Mr. Macron's troubles connecting with ordinary people. His La Republique en Marche party failed to win a single major city, depriving the President of a local power base ahead of 2022. The most notable win was Mr. Philippe's success in his old redoubt of Le Havre and his resignation clears the way for him to become Mayor of the northern port, from where he could emerge as a rival to Mr. Macron in two years time.

Central Coalfields Limited (A Miniratna Company)

(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)

NOTICE

"All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on websites of Coal India Ltd. www.coalindia.in/respective Subsidiary Company (CCL, www.centralcoalfields.in), CIL e-procurement portal <https://coaliandsubesters.nic.in> and Central Public Procurement Portal <https://eprocure.gov.in> in addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal <https://gem.gov.in>"

ANDHRA PRADESH HIGH GRADE STEELS LTD. REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR LAW FIRM

Andhra Pradesh High Grade Steels Limited (APHSL) was incorporated under Companies Act, 2013 with an objective to establish an integrated Steel Plant in YSR Kadapa District, Andhra Pradesh. The APHSL through this RFP intends to invite proposals from well qualified and well reputed Law Firms to provide professional Legal Services to support APHSL in setting up an Integrated Steel Plant at Kadapa, A.P.

Detailed RFP document can be down loaded from <http://www.aphighgradesteels.com/tenders.php>.

ANDHRA PRADESH HIGH GRADE STEELS LIMITED

10th Floor, APIC Towers, Mangalagiri, Guntur Dist, AP-522503.

Mobile: 09652198987 / 09959915554,

Email: malik.gudipati@aphgradesteels.com

DIPR 152PP/CL, Dt: 03-07-2020

Karnataka Urban Infrastructure Development and Finance Corporation Limited (KUIDFC)

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)

Regd. Office: Nagarabhavihdhi Bhavan,

22, 17th F Cross, Old Madras Road, Indiranagar, Near BMTC Bus Depot,

Bengaluru-560 038 Phone: 080-25196159 Fax: 080-25196110

e-Mail: info@kuidfc.com Website: www.kuidfc.com

No. KUIDFC/KUWSMP/NGO/BGV/224/2015-16 Date: 03.07.2020

Invitation for Expression of Interest (EOI) for the SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS (SOs) for implementation of Communications and Stakeholders Intermediation Activities at (1) Belagavi and (2) Kalaburagi city (Through e-Procurement Portal only)

KUIDFC is implementing 24x7 Continuous Pressurized Water Supply Scheme under World Bank assisted "Karnataka Urban Water Supply Modernization Project" (KUWSMP) in the cities of (i) Belagavi (ii) Kalaburagi and (iii) Hubballi-Dharwad. KUIDFC intends to appoint Support Organisations one each for Belagavi and Kalaburagi to implement Communications and Stakeholder's Intermediation Strategy (CSIS) Activities. Interested SOs may apply online through e-Portal by 16.00 Hrs on 03.08.2020 (as per e-Portal time). Details of EOI and other information on the proposed assignment is available on the Karnataka e-Procurement Portal <http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> and KUIDFC website: www.kuidfc.com from 04.07.2020. For any clarifications, the Task Manager (KUWSMP), KUIDFC may be contacted. Telephone: +91 080 25196124; Facsimile: +91 080 25196110.

Sd/- Task Manager, KUWSMP, KUIDFC

RITES LIMITED

(A Govt. of India Enterprise)

CIN: L74899DL1974G0100722

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS

The General Manager (CP), RITES Ltd, invites on behalf of Central University of Karnataka, Kalaburagi online combination of item rate & percentage rate bids on Single Packet System for the following work:

MARKET WATCH

	03-07-2020	% CHANGE
Sensex	36,021	-0.50
US Dollar	74.66	-0.51
Gold	49,022	-0.23
Brent oil	42.66	-1.06

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	360.40	13.60
Asian Paints	1695.65	9.20
Axis Bank	428.45	5.25
Bajaj Auto	2932.40	53.05
Bajaj Finance	6149.40	-39.40
Bharti Airtel	581.45	23.00
BPCL	385.40	1.90
Britannia Ind	3538.35	3.25
Cipla	638.80	-7.40
Coal India	135.25	1.65
Dr Reddy's Lab	3921.45	0.90
Eicher Motors	18983.50	629.90
GAIL (India)	104.90	1.40
Grasim Ind	628.15	10.20
HCL Tech	579.15	9.95
HDPC	1895.20	-4.25
ICICI Bank	1073.95	-15.45
Hero MotoCorp	2738.25	66.85
Hindalco	146.40	-1.35
Hind Unilever	2173.70	21.95
ICICI Bank	361.00	-1.85
IndusInd Bank	487.20	-7.60
Bharti Infratel	226.70	4.35
Infosys	762.70	6.10
Indian Oil Corp	87.85	-0.50
ITC	207.55	1.70
JSW Steel	190.95	-3.50
Kotak Bank	1353.80	1.80
L&T	944.25	2.95
M&M	530.50	0.80
Maruti Suzuki	5932.10	-16.35
Nestle India Ltd.	16695.60	-93.75
NTPC	94.50	1.10
ONGC	82.40	0.55
PowerGrid Corp	177.60	2.50
Reliance Ind	1787.90	27.55
State Bank	184.70	-0.75
Shree Cement	22872.65	109.80
Sun Pharma	476.85	3.85
Tata Motors	103.45	1.90
Tata Steel	329.90	-5.00
TCS	2199.65	42.50
Tech Mahindra	567.20	6.35
Titan	1003.50	17.10
UltraTech Cement	3889.60	-25.35
UPL	444.20	1.75
Vedanta	106.45	0.05
Wipro	224.80	0.60
Zee Entertainment	172.25	-2.15

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except for 4 p.m. on July 03

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	74.43	74.75
Euro	83.59	83.95
British Pound	92.74	93.14
Japanese Yen (100)	69.23	69.55
Chinese Yuan	10.53	10.58
Swiss Franc	78.62	78.97
Singapore Dollar	53.37	53.61
Canadian Dollar	54.86	55.10
Malaysian Ringgit	17.36	17.44
Australian Dollar	51.62	51.85

Source: Indian Bank

IN BRIEF



Rajan Mathews quits as director general, COAI

NEW DELHI
Rajan Mathews, who was the director general at telecom industry body COAI for 10 years, has quit. S.P. Kochhar, former CEO of Telecom Sector Skill Council (TSSC), will take over. Mr. Rajan Mathews will be returning to the U.S. to join his family. The COAI also appointed Bharti Airtel's COO for India and south Asia Ajai Puri its new chairman and its competitor Reliance Jio's president P.K. Mittal as vice-chairman for 2020-21.

Granules arm recalls diabetes drug in U.S.

HYDERABAD
Granules Pharmaceuticals Inc. is voluntarily recalling 12 lots of diabetes drug Metformin Hydrochloride Extended-Release Tablets USP, 750 mg (100 and 500 count bottles) in the U.S. after N-Nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA) levels were found to be above acceptable daily intake limit. The decision followed tests showing NDMA levels above the acceptable limit in one of the 12 batches distributed in U.S.

Zydus gets nod for COVID-19 vaccine trials

NEW DELHI
Zydus on Friday said it has received approval from Indian authorities to start human trials for its COVID-19 vaccine contender. ZyCoV-D showed a "strong immune response" in animal studies, and the antibodies produced were able to completely neutralise the wild type virus, Zydus said in a statement. This comes within days of Bharat Biotech's Covaxin vaccine getting approval of the drug regulator to start clinical trials. Globally, over 100 candidates are being tested on humans but no vaccine has yet been approved. PTI

U.K. govt. group led by Bharti wins bid for bankrupt OneWeb

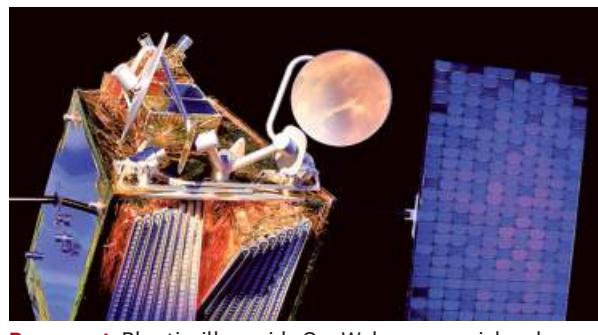
Bharti Global, London to each invest \$500 million in buying the satellite provider

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

A U.K. government consortium led by Bharti Enterprises has won the bid to acquire bankrupt satellite technology company OneWeb. Bharti's overseas arm Bharti Global would invest \$500 million as part of the acquisition, with the U.K. putting in a similar amount.

"The deal will enable OneWeb to complete the construction of a global satellite constellation that will provide enhanced broadband and other services to mobile and fixed terminals in countries around the world," Bharti Enterprises, which was one of the founding members of the London and U.S. based company, said in a statement on Friday.



Rescue act: Bharti will provide OneWeb commercial and operational leadership, the U.K. government said. ■REUTERS

OneWeb was formed with a mission to offer high speed, low latency wireless broadband access to billions of people across the globe, especially in rural areas through a constellation of satellites in low earth orbit.

Separately, the U.K. said its investment would deliver

the country its first sovereign space capability.

Final say

"Bharti will provide the company commercial and operational leadership, and bring OneWeb a revenue base to contribute towards its future success," the U.K. govern-

ment said, adding that London would have a final say over any future sale of the company, and over future access to OneWeb technology by other countries on national security grounds.

"With strong operational execution, we will be able to generate an attractive return for investors, while ensuring that Britain plays a leading role in space and next generation communications," Bharti Enterprises Chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal said. He added that the business had substantial commercial use cases across the telecoms, enterprise, aviation and maritime sectors.

The deal is subject to U.S. court approval and is expected to close before the end of the year.

"India's service sector continued to struggle in June as the country's coronavirus crisis worsened," Joe Hayes, Economist at IHS Markit, said in a release on Friday.

Simply put, the country is gripped in an unprecedented economic downturn which is certainly going to spill over into the second half of this year unless the infection rate can be brought under control, Mr. Hayes added.

The number of infections has spiked to 6,25,544, Health ministry data shows. 12,6 recorded in May.

Falling activity
"A large fraction of the survey panel are still reporting falling activity and order book volumes, reflecting an intensely challenging picture," Mr. Hayes noted.

According to IHS Markit, the slower rate of decline was reflective of some stabilisation in activity levels, with about 59% of firms reporting no change in output since

May. "Only 4% registered growth, while 37% recorded a reduction," it added.

Meanwhile, total new orders fell at a sharp pace during June, which firms attributed to reduced consumption. In some instances, customers had closed their businesses due to the unfavourable environment. Besides, there was yet another steep drop in export sales.

Employment across the Indian services sector fell during June. Job losses were attributed to lower business requirements, although some companies reported poor staff availability.

The sectors covered in the survey include consumer (excluding retail), transport, information, communication, finance and insurance.

Travel demand muted, some airlines may go under: CAPA

Advisory firm sees highest annual loss of \$3 bn for sector

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The resumption of domestic air travel in the country has been a disappointing experience for airlines, which have been forced to fly half-empty planes because of weak demand from passengers. With no certainty of revival in the near future, the industry could witness its highest ever loss of \$3.5 billion and result in a few airlines shutting down operations, warns aviation consultancy CAPA. This is a revision from the earlier estimate of \$2.5 billion in losses.

CAPA estimated that the second quarter beginning



July too will be a washout. It reiterated that the market may only be left with 2-3 airlines if there is a delay in re-capitalisation for the sector.

Since the reopening of domestic flights on May 25, airlines have witnessed a seat occupancy of 55% even

though they have been allowed to fly only 30% of their aircraft. Last month, average daily domestic passengers were at 70,000, an 80% decline from the 4 lakh in June 2019, according to data shared from CAPA.

"The government has taken a... decision to have a fare band, but by capping at the lower end, our capacity to stimulate demand has been kept out of the ambit," said Sunil Bhaskaran, CEO AirAsia India, at a webinar organised by *The Hindu Businessline*. "We believe this is a temporary measure and in future, [the fare] has to be driven by market forces."

Intel to invest ₹1,895 crore in Jio Platforms

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Intel Capital, the investment arm of Intel, has agreed to invest ₹1,894.50 crore in Jio Platforms at an equity value of ₹4.91 lakh crore and an enterprise value of ₹5.16 lakh crore, said Reliance Industries Ltd., the parent of Jio Platforms.

Intel Capital joins the list of marquee firms that have invested in Jio Platforms, taking the total investment to ₹1,758.45 crore.

In a statement, the Dutch workers' union said it had

reached an agreement with the management of Tata Steel in the Netherlands.

The company too confirmed the development.

Mukesh Ambani, CMD, Reliance Industries, said, "Intel Capital has an outstanding record of being a valuable partner for leading technology companies globally."

Won't cut jobs at Dutch unit, says Tata Steel

Employment pact extended by 2 years

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Tata Steel has finally agreed to the demands of workers at its IJmuiden unit in the Netherlands, saying no employee will lose his job, according to labour union FNV Metaal.

In a statement, the Dutch workers' union said it had reached an agreement with the management of Tata Steel in the Netherlands. The company too confirmed the development.

In addition, the employment pact, which contains agreements on job retention, has been extended by five years until October 1, 2026, he said in the state-

Taxpayers get I-T refunds of ₹62,361 crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

The Income Tax Department has issued refunds worth ₹62,361 crore to over 20 lakh taxpayers between April 8 and June 30.

This includes personal income tax (PIT) refunds amounting to ₹23,453.57 crore issued to 19.07 lakh taxpayers and corporate tax refunds amounting to ₹38,908.37 crore to over 1.36 lakh taxpayers during this period. "During this period of just 56 weekdays, the Central Board of Direct Taxes has issued refunds in more than 20.44 lakh cases amounting to more than ₹62,361 crore," the department said in a statement.

Disruptions present an opportunity: Tata Elxsi

Firm to focus on connected car tech

MINI TEJASWI

BENGALURU

Tata Elxsi, a provider of design and technology services across industries and part of the Tata Group, said technology and market disruptions were its "favourites" and that it had been thriving on such disruptions, especially in automotives.

"Any technology disruption is an opportunity for us, and in automotive, we have a number of disruptions happening. The jury is still out on which way it will move. These are exciting times, and a company like ours thrives on disruptions," Manoj Raghavan, CEO & MD, Tata Elxsi, told *The Hindu*.

One disruption coming in a big way is in the form of electric vehicles (EVs) and the charging infrastructure. "Beyond passenger cars, they are being used in commercial and off-road vehicles and agricultural equipment where you can use the same platform," he added.

Hyundai SUV offers two pedal drive

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT</

TV PICKS

Premier League: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 10 p.m. & 12.30 a.m. (Sunday); SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 5 p.m., 7.30 p.m., 10 p.m. & 12.30 a.m. (Sunday)

Serie A: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 8.40 p.m., 11 p.m. & 1.10 a.m. (Sunday)

Austrian GP: Qualifying, SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 6.20 p.m.

PGA Tour: Eurosport (SD & HD), 12.30 a.m. (Sunday)

Kartik live!

Catch former India cricketer and broadcaster Kartik Murali in a live chat on Sportstar's Instagram handle (@sportstarweb) on June 4 (Saturday) at 4 p.m. IST.

Giri escapes with a draw

RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI

World champion Magnus Carlsen frittered away a clear advantageous position and Anish Giri saved the opening set of the \$150,000 Chessable Masters final on Friday.

Playing black, Carlsen gained a sizable advantage in the middle game, but could not sustain the pressure.

Late on Thursday, Giri bounced back from losing the opening rapid game and knocked out Ian Nepomniachtchi in the second blitz game to book a place in the final. Giri won the three-set semifinal 2-1 by claiming the deciding set 3.5-2.5.

After the four rapid games ended at 2-2, the first blitz game was drawn before Giri won with white pieces.

The results:

Final: Set One: Rapid (Game One): Anish Giri (Ned) drew with Magnus Carlsen (Nor). **Semifinal: Set Three: Rapid (Game One):** Ian Nepomniachtchi (Rus) bt Giri; **(Game Two):** Giri bt Nepomniachtchi; **(Game Three):** Nepomniachtchi drew with Giri; **(Game Four):** Giri drew with Nepomniachtchi.

Blitz (Game One): Nepomniachtchi drew with Giri; **(Game Two):** Giri bt Nepomniachtchi.

It's Ushenina vs Gunina again

P.K. AJITH KUMAR
KOZHIKODE

It will be Anna Ushenina of Ukraine against Valentina Gunina of Russia in the final of the second Grand Prix leg of the FIDE Chess.com Women's Speed Chess, too. In the first leg's final, Ushenina had triumphed.

She had it tough in Saturday's semifinal though, as she was stretched by Saraswat Khademalsharieh of Iran.

She won 8-7 in the tie-breakers.

The other semifinal wasn't as close, as Gunina defeated Kateryna Lagno 6.5-4.5 in all-Russian semifinal. The final will be played on Sunday.

City honours, then routs Liverpool

Ramos' penalty takes Real Madrid four clear of Barcelona in the LaLiga

EURO LEAGUES

REUTERS
MADRID

Manchester City generously applauded new champion Liverpool onto the field before its Premier League match on Thursday – and promptly showed no mercy by thrashing it 4-0 at the Etihad stadium.

After the guard of honour, which included City manager Pep Guardiola, the visitors started brightly and Ederson had to be alert to keep out a fourth-minute effort from Mohamed Salah.

First strike

In the 25th minute, Joe Gomez could not cope with Raheem Sterling's twisting and turning in the box, pulling him to the ground before Kevin de Bruyne converted the penalty.

Sterling doubled the lead 10 minutes later when after a swift break, Phil Foden found him inside the box and the ex-Liverpool forward cut inside Gomez and



Well done, boys! The Manchester City team applauds the newly crowned Premier League champion Liverpool before their match-up on Thursday. ■ GETTY IMAGES

slid the ball home. The 20-year-old Foden made it 3-0, firing past Alisson after a swift exchange with Kevin De Bruyne. Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain rounded up a night of misery for Reds by turning a ball into his own net.

Real Madrid captain Sergio Ramos scored a late penalty to secure a win over Getafe on Thursday for a sixth consecutive LaLiga victory, taking his side four points clear of Barcelona in the title race.

Real, which has not won the title since 2017, leads with 74 points with five games left.

The results:

Premier League: Manchester City 4 (De Bruyne 25-pen, Sterling 35, Foden 45, Oxlade-Chamberlain 66-og) bt Liver-

pool 0; Sheffield United 3 (Berge 31, Mousset 69, McBurnie 84) bt Tottenham 1 (Kane 90).

LaLiga: Eibar 0 lost to Osasuna 2 (Santos 6, 74); Real Sociedad 2 (Willian Jose 56, Isak 84) bt Espanyol 1 (D. Lopez 10); Real Madrid 1 (Ramos 79-pen) bt Getafe 0.

Serie A: Atalanta 2 (Pasalic 47, Gosen 55) bt Napoli 0; Roma 0 lost to Udinese 2 (Lasagna 12, Nestorovski 78).

AICF factions propose different teams for online Chess Olympiad

Anand and Humpy yet to confirm participation

RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI

With the two warring factions of the All India Chess Federation (AICF) proposing separate Indian teams for the upcoming FIDE online Olympiad, the on-going crisis has assumed new proportions.

The differences between president Venkateswara Raja and secretary Bharat Singh Chauhan have split the AICF down the middle.

Acting on a letter from Chess Players' Forum, the Sports Ministry sought clarifications from both factions. Since the last date for sending names to the FIDE is July 13, a consensus over the names is still likely.

The new online event, in mixed format, will take place from July 22 to August 30. Each participating team comprises six players (and six reserves).

Not surprisingly, both



Chief selector R.B. Ramesh.

teams include Viswanathan Anand, Vinit Gujrathi, K. Humpy, D. Harika, besides reserves P. Harikrishna and Bhakti Kulkarni.

Differ on juniors

However, the factions differ on the selection of the juniors.

Chauhan's list includes Nil Sarin and R. Vaishali, with R. Praggnanandhaa and Divya Deshmukh as reserves. Raja's proposal has National junior champions Aradhya Garg and Srishti Pandey, with runners-up Mitrabha Guha

and Arpita Mukherjee, as reserves.

Chief selector Grandmaster R.B. Ramesh cleared the air. "We, selectors, have not approved two teams. The first proposed team (from Chauhan) was based on three-month average rating, as decided by AICF in 2017. I checked everything and gave my nod. One more selector also approved this proposal.

"Subsequently, I received another provisional team (from Raja) in which the junior players were chosen based on their performances in the National junior championship, and not rating. I wrote back saying, 'this is not correct.'

Chauhan said, "Four out of six playing members (not counting reserves) have confirmed their participation. Anand and Humpy have asked for a couple of days to decide."

Hima Das

midway through the 400m with a back injury at the Doha Asians in April and though she ran two 400m races in the Czech Republic, she only clocked 53.07s in her last race in August and missed September's Doha Worlds.

Strangely, the back injury

did not appear to trouble Hima in the 200m, she won five races last year in Poland and the Czech Republic.

Almost a year has gone by, so will Hima, now 20, be fit for the quarter-mile this year?

Workload

"We don't know, she started three weeks ago, we will have to see how she responds to training. She had a lot of issues with her back."

"Though she has been treated, we will have to see when she actually takes the load whether she can run the 400m. If she can't, we will switch her to 200m," said Sumariwalla.

Athletics Federation of India

What's in store in July-August

Sporting activity is set to gather further momentum in July and August. Here is a look at the calendar:

CRICKET

■ England vs West Indies Test series: July 8-12, July 16-20 & July 24-28

■ England vs Pakistan Test series: July 30-Aug. 3, Aug. 7-11, & Aug. 20-24

TENNIS

■ WOMEN Palermo Open & Silicon Valley Classic: Aug. 3; Prague Open: Aug. 10; Cincinnati Masters: Aug. 21; US Open: Aug. 31

■ MEN Citi Open: Aug. 14; Cincinnati Masters: Aug. 21; US Open: Aug. 31

FOOTBALL

■ Premier League, LaLiga, Serie A and FA Cup will continue

UEFA Champions League

resumes on Aug. 12

FORMULA 1

■ Austrian GP: July 5 | Styrian GP (Austria): July 12 | Hungarian GP: July 19 | British GP: Aug. 2 | Formula One 70th anniversary GP (Britain): Aug. 9 | Spanish GP: Aug. 16 | Belgian GP: Aug. 30

GOLF

■ PGA Tour will continue; PGA Championship from Aug. 6 to 9

■ BASKETBALL NBA will restart on July 30

SNOOKER

■ World Championship from July 31

Hamilton means business

Leads the 'Black Arrows' to a 1-2 in both practice sessions

AUSTRIAN GP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SPIELBERG

Lewis Hamilton began his quest for a record-equalling seventh World title by topping the times on Friday as Formula One roared back with a full day's practice for the belated season-opening Austrian Grand Prix.

Three months after the cancelled traditional curtain-raiser in Australia and six months on from the last race, it was business as usual from the dominant 'Black Arrows' Mercedes men with Valterri Bottas next fastest as the sport re-started after its longest off-season.



Setting the pace: Lewis Hamilton made his intentions clear by steering his all-black Mercedes to the top times. ■ AFP

was fourth for the Italian outfit ahead of McLaren-bound Daniel Ricciardo of Renault and Lando Norris of McLaren.

Lance Stroll, in the second Racing Point car, modelled on the hugely-successful 2019 title-winning Mercedes, was seventh ahead of Red Bull's Max Verstappen, Charles Leclerc in the second Ferrari and his future team-mate Carlos Sainz of McLaren.

"For a long time, we've been planning for the livery change for the car, for the (driver) suit change and I have also designed my helmet in black," said Hamilton, speaking on a video released on social media.



Jason Holder, Kemar Roach, Chamar Holder, Alzarri Joseph and Raymon Reifer, West Indies will travel to Southampton on Friday. The first Test will begin at the Ageas Bowl on Wednesday. PTI

IN BRIEF

Gabriel in Windies squad for England series

MANCHESTER

Seasoned paceman Shannon Gabriel, returning from an ankle surgery, has been drafted into the 15-man West Indies Test squad for the Test series against England beginning on July 8. Gabriel proved his fitness with impressive performances in the two intra-squad warm-up matches at Old Trafford here. He is now part of a strong pace attack which includes captain

Indian Open golf cancelled

NEW DELHI

Owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, the \$1.75 million Hero Indian Open golf now stands cancelled. This flagship event on the Indian golf calendar was postponed in March to later part of the year. Now, the Indian Golf Union, in consultation with European Tour, has announced cancellation of the 2020 edition.

Roland Garros ticket sale from July 9

NEW DELHI

Roland Garros has announced sale of tickets from July 9 for its Grand Slam to be played from September 21 to October 11. Organisers have also ensured conduct of all regular events, including qualifying, junior and wheelchair sections. More tickets may be put up for sale in case of an improvement in the COVID-19 situation, or the number of spectators reduced and money refunded if so required.

England will also wear 'Black Lives Matter' logo

London

England will join the West Indies in wearing 'Black Lives Matter' logos on shirts during the three-Test series, but the England and Wales Cricket Board insisted on Thursday "it is not an endorsement of a political organisation". The West Indians had earlier announced they would be wearing the logo which is also being worn by Premier League footballers. ECB said its decision had been "fully supported" by England players led by Test captain Joe Root and stand-in skipper Ben Stokes. AFP

Formula 2: Daruvala qualifies sixth

SPIELBERG

India's Jehan Daruvala qualified sixth on his maiden Formula 2 race here on Friday. Daruvala, who is one of the Red Bull F1 team's junior driver, posted a time of 1:15.028s, nearly six-tenths of pole-sitter Guanyu Zhou who topped the timesheets with a time of 1:14.416s. Daruvala will start from the third row of the grid just behind Michael Schumacher, son of seven-time F1 champion

Three share lead; Atwal lies 68th

DETROIT

Returning to competitive golf after four months, India's Arjun Atwal opened his campaign at the Rocket Mortgage Classic with a round of two-under 70 on Thursday. Atwal was tied 68th, five shots behind the three leaders Doc Redman, Scott Stallings and Kevin Kisner, who shot seven-under 65 each.

DeChambeau, Peter Malnati, Emiliano Grillo, Chase Seifert, J.J. Spaun, Matt Wallace and Chris Stroud were a stroke behind at 66. Defending champion Nate Lashley shot one-under 71 to be T-87. PTI

Saroj Khan, the choreographer who danced past the glass ceiling, takes last bow

Three-time National Award winner was the first woman chief dance master in Bollywood and was known to highlight emotions in her four-decade-long career

KENNETH ROSARIO
MUMBAI

In her more than four-decade-long career, Saroj Khan not only broke the glass ceiling in an area dominated by men in Hindi cinema, but also propelled generations of female actors into the spotlight through her catchy dance moves, with actors Madhuri Dixit and Sridevi being the two best examples. Through songs like 'Ek Do Teen' and 'Hawa Hawa', Ms. Dixit and the late Sridevi found unprecedented fame, thanks to Khan's evocative choreography, which was at once traditional and modern, folk and contemporary. Khan, 71, passed away on



Best foot forward: Saroj Khan receiving an International Indian Film Academy award in September 2019 and, right, with actor Madhuri Dixit in 2011. ■ AP, PTI

came the first woman chief choreographer in Hindi cinema, delivering some of the biggest hits of the 1980s and

1990s such as 'Mere Hathon Main', 'Choli Ke Peeche' and 'Dhak Dhak Karne Lag'. Khan and Ms. Dixit collabora-

</div