



Congress not equal to whole of Opposition, says BJP chief Nadda  
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COVID-19 has widened educational inequalities: UNESCO  
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West Bengal extends lockdown till July 31, with a few relaxations  
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Ahead of key nationwide election, Putin reviews military parade  
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## NEARBY



With 70,000 cases, Delhi now the worst-hit city

NEW DELHI

Delhi recorded 3,788 new COVID-19 cases on Wednesday and overtook Mumbai to become the city with the highest number of total cases. Delhi's case tally has risen to 70,390, while its death toll climbed to 2,365 with 64 more fatalities.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

Historians ask DUAC to reject Parliament project

NEW DELHI

A group of nearly 90 architects, historians, environmentalists, academics and artists has written to the Delhi Urban Art Commission (DUAC) calling upon it to reject the proposal for a new Parliament building as part of the Central Vista redevelopment project.

CITY ▶ PAGE 2

Trinamool MLA falls victim to COVID-19

KOLKATA

Trinamool Congress MLA Tamonash Ghosh, who tested positive for COVID-19 and was undergoing treatment at a private health facility in the city, passed away on Wednesday. The 60-year-old three-time MLA is survived by wife and two daughters. Mr. Ghosh represented the Falta Assembly constituency.

NEWS ▶ PAGE 10

## PLA said Galwan clash was unfortunate'

India and China have agreed to disengage from three friction points in Ladakh, says Indian official

VIJAYA SINGH

NEW DELHI

People's Liberation Army (PLA) officers, at the Corps Commanders meeting on Monday, repeatedly said that the Galwan clash was an "unfortunate incident", a top Indian official told *The Hindu*.

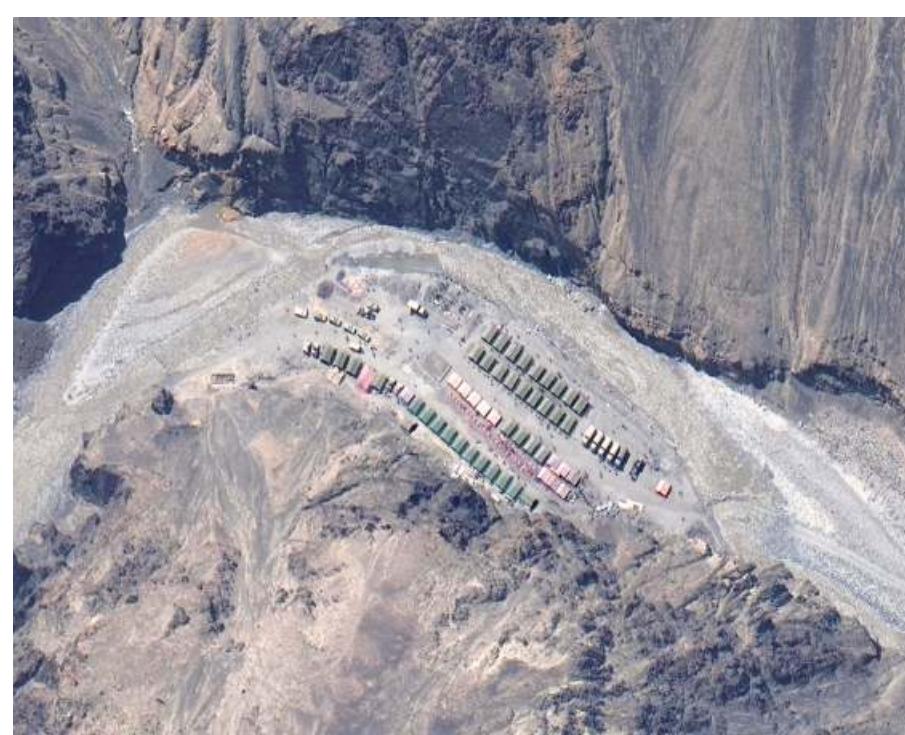
India and China have agreed to "disengage from three friction points" in Ladakh and pull back from their current positions, where the Indian Army and the PLA are engaged in an eyeball-to-eyeball confrontation, a second official said.

### Unprecedented build-up

The three areas are Galwan, Hot Springs and the Finger area near Pangong Tso (lake) in Ladakh along the contentious Line of Actual Control (LAC). The areas have witnessed unprecedented build-up of troops since April-May.

The second official said the final details of the second round of Corps Commander-level talks that were held on June 22 in Moldo on the Chinese side of the LAC have not yet been finalised, and the way ahead would depend on the progress made in the next three-four days.

The official said the process of forces pulling back from their positions as part of the "de-escalation exercise" had been initiated and a statement would be issued after the process is com-



Proof of intrusion: A recent satellite image from Maxar Technologies shows the People's Liberation Army base in Galwan Valley. ■ REUTERS

plete. "The Galwan incident was raised in the meeting and China was told in the strongest terms that it was not acceptable. What triggered the incident is still being enquired and investigated into. They agreed that any flare-up at the border could derail the efforts put in so far," added the official.

The first official said that in the Galwan area no permanent structures had come up and the Chinese had put

up prefabricated tents and makeshift stone shelters.

"In Galwan, the PLA used to patrol and leave, but in the past few days they stayed for more number of days than necessitated, around 600-800 m inside India's perception of the LAC," the official said.

### Temporary structures

In the Finger area near Pangong Tso, the Chinese built temporary structures 1 km

inside the Indian line.

"China has shown a willingness to move. Both sides have made good progress. All friction points were discussed one by one in the meeting that went on for more than 10 hours," said the official.

The Chinese side also raised the aggressive coverage of the Galwan incident by the Indian media. They did not provide details of their casualties though.

## India must move out of Galwan: China

ANANTH KRISHNAN

China has demanded a withdrawal of Indian personnel and facilities from Galwan Valley. This was conveyed at the Corps Commander talks on June 6 and June 22, officials from China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) said on Wednesday.

The statements from Beijing came as both sides "agreed to resolve the existing situation peacefully," following talks held through videoconference on Wednesday under the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on border affairs.

The Ministry of External Affairs said both sides "discussed in detail the developments in the India-China border areas in particular the situation in Eastern Ladakh". India "conveyed its concerns" on the June 20 face-off that claimed the lives of 20 Indian soldiers and "emphasised that both sides should strictly respect and observe the Line of Actual Control", it stated.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

CHINESE POST IS BACK ▶ PAGE 9

## UGC may scrap final year exams

Academic session may be pushed back

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ

NEW DELHI

The University Grants Commission (UGC) is considering advising colleges and universities to cancel their final year examinations and semester examinations in light of the increase in COVID-19 cases, according to a senior official at the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

It may also recommend further delays in the academic calendar, with the next session pushed back to October.

On Wednesday, Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhrayal Nishank tweeted that he had advised the UGC to revisit its earlier guidelines on these issues.

"The foundation for revised guidelines shall be health and safety of students, teachers and staff," he said.

### SC hearing

This comes a day before the Supreme Court hearing on cancellation of Class 12 and 10 examinations of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) due to the spread of COVID-19. The Ministry and the CBSE told the court that a final decision on the issue would be communicated by Thursday. The Class 12 examination is scheduled to begin



## Can't permit ICSE exams: Maharashtra

The Maharashtra government has told the Bombay High Court that it cannot permit the ICSE examinations to be conducted because of the COVID-19 situation. The court, through video conferencing, was hearing a PIL petition filed by a parent. ▶ PAGE 10

on July 1.

In April, a UGC panel, headed by Central University of Haryana Vice-Chancellor R.C. Kuhad, had recommended that final year examinations could be held in July, while intermediate semester students could be graded based on internal assessment or examinations where possible.

UGC's guidelines, based on the panel's report, also recommended that the new academic year begin on August 1 for second and third year students, and September 1 for first year students.

However, Ministry officials say the Kuhad panel updated its suggestions due to the spread of COVID-19.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

## RBI will supervise coop. banks

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

To protect depositors, the Centre has decided to bring all urban and multi-State cooperative banks under the supervision of the RBI. The Union Cabinet approved an ordinance to this effect on Wednesday.

"In a landmark decision, the urban cooperatives and multi-State cooperative banks, which are 1,540 in number and have a depositor base of 8.6 crore, who have saved ₹4.84 lakh crore, a huge amount... They have been brought under RBI supervision process, which is applicable to scheduled banks. Depositors will get more security..." Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar said.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8



Clean transport: Fumigation underway in an AC bus run by the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation in Bengaluru on Wednesday. ■ V SREENIVASA MURTHY

## Record rise

In terms of COVID-19 tests and daily confirmed cases, Wednesday marked the highest single-day spike in India. Sample results from a record high of 2,15,195 were released, hiking the day's new cases to 16,869. Cumulatively, 4,72,940 cases and 14,903 deaths have been recorded so far. States are classified based on where the cases are rising —, dropping —, or showing a mixed trend —.

### NEW CASES AND DEATHS IN INDIA

CASES 16,869

7 DAY-CHANGE +22.5%

DEATHS 424

7 DAY-CHANGE +23.6%

MAHARASHTRA 3,890

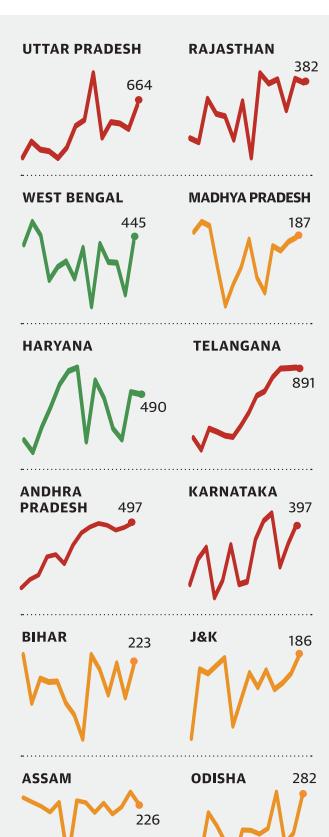
DELHI 3,788

TAMIL NADU 2,865

GUJARAT 572

ASSAM 226

ODISHA 282



FIGURES IN THE GRAPHS SHOW THE NUMBER OF NEW CASES RECORDED ON WEDNESDAY

## Sisodia turns to Shah to change new policy for assessment of virus cases

CM backs him, calls mandatory clinical assessment 'chaotic'

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Delhi's Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Wednesday wrote a letter to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, requesting him to change the new policy under which people who test positive for COVID-19 using RT-PCR (Rapid Antibody and Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction) method have to be taken to a 'COVID Care Centre' for assessment even for home quarantine.

"Yesterday, I had written a letter to the L-G (Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal) to change the new policy which is creating a lot of problem... I had told L-G sit to call an SDMA (State Disaster Management Authority) meeting and change the policy. But the L-G did not reply to the



Medical workers with rapid antigen test kits in north-west Delhi on Wednesday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

two models on COVID-19 in Delhi. The first model is by Amit Shah ji and the second model is of [Delhi Chief Minister] Arvind Kejriwal ji... I have written to the Home Minister that this is not about your model versus my model. The focus should remain on what model when implemented would ease the problems of the people of Delhi," Mr. Sisodia said.

Mr. Kejriwal also waded in again on Wednesday, saying the virus spread is still not severe in Delhi and the Central government's order for mandatory clinical assessment is chaotic. "If a person is positive and has a body temperature of 100°C or 102°C, how will he or she stand in queue for a medical check-up?" he said while visiting a COVID Care Centre.

letter," Mr. Sisodia said while addressing a video briefing.

Mr. Sisodia said that the new policy of taking every person to a "quarantine centre" has put a lot of pressure on officials and ambulances, resulting in people being taken to the centres in buses. "There are currently

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## Timings

DELHI

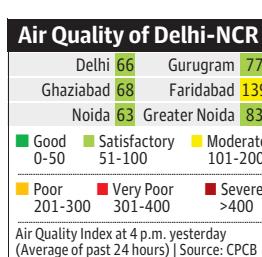
THURSDAY, JUN. 25
RISE 05:26 SET 19:23
RISE 09:11 SET 22:55
FRIDAY, JUN. 26
RISE 05:26 SET 19:23
RISE 10:14 SET 23:35
SATURDAY, JUN. 27
RISE 05:26 SET 19:23
RISE 11:18 SET 00:00

**Delhi Weather** max min  
Delhi City 35 28  
Safdarjung 35 28  
Palam 37 29

**Delhi Palam Today**  
34°C Few spells of rain or shower with a cloudy sky and moderate winds likely.

**Delhi Palam Tomorrow**  
37°C Very warm and humid day with cloudy sky. A spell of rain and thundershower at few areas.

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### IN BRIEF

**Metro station renamed 'Rainbow Station'**

NOIDA  
The Sector 50 station of Noida-Greater Noida metro has been renamed 'Rainbow Station', a move dedicated to the transgender community, officials said on Wednesday. The NMRC took the decision based on suggestions from people and NGOs. PTI

# Architects, historians ask DUAC to reject new Parliament proposal

'Commission should consider comprehensive proposal for Central Vista revamp'

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI



A group of nearly 90 architects, historians, environmentalists, academics and artists has written to the Delhi Urban Art Commission (DUAC) calling upon it to reject the proposal for a new Parliament building as part of the Central Vista redevelopment project.

"The Supreme Court has emphasised that all matters related to the Central Vista project, which includes a new Parliament building, be placed before them as part of the ongoing hearings challenging various procedural and substantive aspects," the letter reads.

Citing a report in *The Hindu* that the DUAC had considered a proposal for the new Parliament building during a meeting earlier this month and had asked for additional information, they argued it would be "inappropriate, misleading and illegal for the DUAC to limit itself only to the Parliament building as part of its review".

## Civic bodies get new mayors

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Committee chief earlier, was elected Mayor while councillor from Rohini-I, Ritu Goel, was elected his deputy.

In SDMC, Anamika Mithilesh, councillor from Rohini and Subhash Bhadana from C.R. Park were elected Mayor and Deputy Mayor respectively.

In East Delhi, Nirmal Jain, who was the Leader of House earlier, was elected Mayor and Hariprakash Bhardur, councillor from Saboli, elected the Deputy Mayor.

Minutes of these meetings are yet to be uploaded on to the commissions website.

The signatories, that include historian Narayani Gupta, architect Arun Rewal, architect and conservationist A.G.K. Menon, academic Sudha Gopalakrishnan among others, demanded that the commission reject the proposal for the building on grounds of "incomplete information and deliberately misleading the commission", that it consider only a comprehensive proposal of the entire Central Vista redevelopment project and, while doing so, ask for public comments that can inform the DUAC's scrutiny.

According to the CPWD's application for environmental clearance of the project, the proposal is to construct a triangular Parliament building in a 10.5 acre plot next to the existing heritage structure at an estimated cost of ₹922 crore.

## Over 1 lakh register at DU

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The number of registrations for Delhi University's undergraduate programmes stood at 1.38 lakh on Wednesday.

As many as 46,132 people have also applied for postgraduate programmes, while 5,932 have applied for M.Phil and Ph.D programmes at the university.

They also demanded that any appraisal of project materials include an assessment of the "potential to repurpose the present Parliament and other buildings to meet future functional demands, and a heritage impact assessment of the proposed new buildings on the Central Vista to evaluate specific measures that the project has taken to safeguard heritage value."

According to the CPWD's application for environmental clearance of the project, the proposal is to construct a triangular Parliament building in a 10.5 acre plot next to the existing heritage structure at an estimated cost of ₹922 crore.

## HC tells police to reply to Ishrat's plea

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The High Court on Wednesday asked Delhi Police to reply to a plea by former Congress municipal councillor Ishrat Jahan, arrested in connection with a north-east Delhi riots case, challenging trial court's order extending time for completing the probe by 60 days.

The court asked the police to submit written arguments within 10 days and posted the case for further

# 'Virtual meeting facility suspended in Tihar jail'

Jailed activist unable to access lawyer

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

er a sit-in protest at Jafrabad metro station against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act.

Justice C. Hari Shankar, who was hearing Ms. Narwal's petition seeking direction to jail authorities to allow her access to her counsel by way of video conferencing, asked Mr. Mehra to submit a report on the matter.

The High Court has posted the case for further hearing on June 29.

It also asked Mr. Mehra to look into another grievance of Ms. Narwal that she was unable to make the daily call to family members, allowed under prisons rules.

Ms. Natasha was arrested on May 23 along with fellow JNU student Devangana Kalita in relation with an FIR registered on February 24 ov-

# High Court grants bail to AAP MLA

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday granted bail to Prakash Jarwal, AAP legislator from Deoli Assembly Constituency, in connection with a case of alleged suicide of a doctor in south Delhi.

The court took into consideration the fact that Mr. Jarwal was in judicial custody since May 09, 2020, and he was no more required for further investigation and that the trial would take substantial time.

The High Court also noted that the doctor died by suicide on April 18, 2020, but immediate prior to the date, there were no allegations against Mr. Jarwal in the note left behind by the deceased and the diary recovered by the police. "Thus, it seems, there is no proximity and link in alleged commission of the offence," the court said.

Senior advocate Rebecca M. John and advocate Ravi Drall, appearing for Mr. Jarwal, submitted that the FIR mentioned that the deceased's wife gave one complaint against Mr. Jarwal to the Delhi Jal Board on April 09, 2020, just a week before the death. "Name of the petitioner as well as name of co-accused persons has not been mentioned," Ms. John argued, adding that "no allegations of extortion or threat has been made".

# Riots: HC refuses bail to Pathan

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday refused to grant bail to a man, who allegedly pointed a pistol at a police head constable during the north-east Delhi riots, saying if someone takes law in his hands, then he will have to face the law.

After Justice Suresh Kumar Kait made it clear that he was not inclined to grant any relief to Mr. Pathan, his counsel withdrew the plea.

Mr. Pathan, in his bail plea, had said that he has to take care of his 76-year-old father who is unwell and

there is no one in the family to look after him. His advocate said Mr. Pathan has been in judicial custody for 113 days and has clean antecedents and not required for investigation as the chargesheet has been filed.

The Additional Public Prosecutor opposed the bail plea, saying they have got two more CCTV footage clearly showing the accused firing.

The Delhi police had registered a case against him under the IPC and the Arms Act. They said they had recovered the pistol that he had allegedly pointed at a policeman during the communal violence, from his house.

Office of the Chief Engineer, Hamirpur Zone  
Public Works Department, Government of Himachal Pradesh, Hamirpur  
[On the Letterhead of the employer]

Date: 23rd June, 2020.  
Invitation for Bids No.: PWD/06R1/2018-19.  
Loan No. and Title: Loan No. 3573 IND/ Himachal Pradesh Skill Development Project.

Contract Package (NCB) No. and Title: Supply of the Machinery & equipment's for Industrial Training Institutes to enhance Technical and Vocational Skills among the youth of Himachal Pradesh under following packages lot :

Package No.	Title
HPSDP-DOTE/01	Automobile and related equipment's: Lot-2.1: Engine & engine parts Lot-2.2: Chassis
HPSDP-DOTE/02-R2	Information Technology and related equipment's: Lot-4.1: CAD software Lot-4.2: MS office & Antivirus Software Lot-4.3: Designing software
HPSDP-DOTE/03	Electrical and Electronics related equipment's: Lot-2.1: AC & refrigeration items Lot-2.2: Audio-visual & communication devices Lot-2.3: Electronics items Lot-3.1: Metering & Measuring Devices Lot-3.2: Electrical Lab equipments
HPSDP-DOTE/04	Mechanical and related equipment's: Lot-2.1: Test equipment & hand operated moulding machines Lot-2.2: Microprocessor/ PLC controller based machines Lot-2.3: Extruding Machines Lot-2.4: Automatic forming & moulding machines Lot-2.5: Stretch Blow moulding machine

1. India has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of "Himachal Pradesh Skill Development Project" and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this financing to the payment under the Contract Package named above. Bidding is open to Bidders from eligible source countries of ADB.

2. The Directorate of Technical Education, Vocational and Industrial Training, Himachal Pradesh", represented by the Director ("The Purchaser") invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for the supply of various equipment for Industrial Training Institutes.

3. National Competitive Bidding will be conducted in accordance with ADB's Single-stage: Two-envelope bidding procedure and is open to all Bidders from eligible countries as described in the Bidding Document.

4. Only eligible Bidders with the following key qualifications should participate in this bidding:

Package No.	Lot No.	Contractual experience:	Average Annual Turnover:
HPSDP-DOTE/01	Lot-2.1	Successful completion as main supplier within the last three (3) years, of at least One (1) contract with nature, and complexity similar to the scope of supply described in Section 6 (Schedule of Supply). The contract value of Lot is indicated below:	Min. average annual turnover as indicated below calculated as total payments received by the Bidder for contracts completed or under execution over the last three (3) years. The Average Annual Turnover of the Lot is indicated below:
	Lot-2.2	INR 470.00 Lakhs	INR 1174.00 Lakhs
	Lot-2.3	INR 350.00 Lakhs	INR 874.00 Lakhs
HPSDP-DOTE/02-R2	Lot-4.1	INR 27.00 Lakhs	INR 68.00 Lakhs
	Lot-4.2	INR 12.00 Lakhs	INR 31.00 Lakhs
	Lot-4.3	INR 5.00 Lakhs	INR 13.00 Lakhs
HPSDP-DOTE/03	Lot-2.1	INR 32.00 Lakhs	INR 81.00 Lakhs
	Lot-2.2	INR 75.00 Lakhs	INR 187.00 Lakhs
	Lot-2.3	INR 55.00 Lakhs	INR 136.00 Lakhs
	Lot-3.1	INR 55.00 Lakhs	INR 138.00 Lakhs
	Lot-3.2	INR 109.00 Lakhs	INR 272.00 Lakhs
HPSDP-DOTE/04	Lot-2.1	INR 32.00 Lakhs	INR 80.00 Lakhs
	Lot-2.2	INR 84.00 Lakhs	INR 210.00 Lakhs
	Lot-2.3	INR 70.00 Lakhs	INR 174.00 Lakhs
	Lot-2.4	INR 20.00 Lakhs	INR 50.00 Lakhs
	Lot-2.5	INR 8.00 Lakhs	INR 20.00 Lakhs

However, for complete eligibility and qualification requirements, respective bid document should be referred.

5. To obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents, Bidders should contact:

Attention: The Director,  
Directorate of Technical Education, Vocational and Industrial Training

Circular Road, Lalit Chowk, Sunder Nagar, District: Mandi, Himachal Pradesh

ZIP code: 175018; Country: India;  
Telephone & Fax: 01976-266120, 266722, E-mail address: techedu-hp@nic.in

6. To purchase the bidding documents in English language, eligible Bidders should write or visit at the office of the Purchaser at address stated above and pay a non-refundable fee of INR 10,000 for each bidding document in the form of Bank demand draft in the name of the Director Technical Education, HP, Sundernagar towards cost of bidding document.

7. Deliver your bid:  
• to the address above  
• On or before the deadline: 24/07/2020 at 12:30 PM.

8. Bids will be opened on 24/07/2020 at 12:30 PM in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

9. The Purchaser will not be responsible for any cost or expenses incurred by the bidder in connection with the preparation or delivery of bids.

10. Bids will be opened on 14th July, 2020 at 11:30 hrs (IST) in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

11. Deliver your bid:  
• to the address above  
• on or before the deadline: 14th July, 2020 at 11:00 hrs (IST).

12. Executive Engineer, Bilaspur-1, HPPWD  
For and on behalf of:  
Chief Engineer, Hamirpur Zone  
Public Works Department,  
Government of HP, Hamirpur  
Himachal Pradesh, India.

13. Scan the QR code  
Date: 25th June  
Time: 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm  
Register here: [BIT.LY/STCOACH1](http://BIT.LY/STCOACH1)

14. CM YK  
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IN BRIEF

MLA in hospital denies he is infected with COVID-19

NEW DELHI  
Karawal Nagar MLA Mohan Singh Bisht and his wife got admitted at a city hospital on Wednesday, triggering speculation that he has contracted COVID-19. Mr. Bisht, however, took to Facebook later to state that he was down only with viral fever and he would resume his work soon.

NGT seeks report over plea on slaughterhouse waste

NEW DELHI  
The National Green Tribunal has sought a factual report from a joint committee over a plea, which alleged that waste water from a slaughterhouse in Ghaziabad was being discharged unscientifically resulting in the contamination of ground and drinking water.

Two held for extortion bid in north Delhi

NEW DELHI  
Two men were arrested for allegedly posing as journalists and trying to extort ₹50,000 from a woman in north Delhi's Alipur, the police said on Wednesday. A case was filed against the accused Pradeep (38), a resident of Alipur and Manish Sisodia (28), a resident of Village Jindpur Extension, said the police.

# COVID-19 cases cross 70,000; Delhi is now the worst-hit city

Capital sees 3,788 fresh cases in second-highest single-day surge; 64 more deaths

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Delhi recorded 3,788 new COVID-19 cases on Wednesday and overtook Mumbai to become the city with the highest number of total cases. Delhi's case tally has risen to 70,390, while its death toll climbed to 2,365, with 64 more fatalities.

Mumbai added 1,118 new COVID-19 cases, pushing its total to 69,528.

The 3,788 new cases in Delhi is the second-highest single-day spike seen in the city so far. This is the fifth time in six days that the Capital has reported 3,000 or more cases. Tuesday had witnessed the highest number of new cases in a single day at 3,947. Of the total cases in the city, 41,437 people have recovered while there are 26,588 active cases.

As cases in the city surged, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Wednesday visited Shehnai Banquet Hall, which has been converted



People waiting for their turn for rapid antigen test in the city on Wednesday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

into a 100-bed COVID Care Centre.

treatment of COVID-19 patients," he said.

"Out of 13,500 beds, around 6,200 beds have been occupied in both private and government hospitals in Delhi. This number has been stagnant since yesterday [Tuesday], which means that the usage of beds has not increased, even though we have observed 4,000 new cases in the last 24 hours," Mr. Kejriwal said.

COVID-19

and added that this also shows that the virus is not very severe in Delhi.

The Delhi government also advised all heads of hospitals and medical institutions under the Delhi government to extend the tenure of senior and junior resident doctors currently working there by six months to meet the shortage of resident doctors during the outbreak.

In a related development, the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) Vice Chairperson Raghav Chadha on Wednesday visited a 10,000-bed under construction COVID Care Centre at Radha Soami Satsang Beas to inspect water supply works undertaken by the DJB.

"DJB has carried out engineering works and installed hydrants to connect the underground reservoir to which clean Ganga water will be provided to all the patients and healthcare staff," Mr. Chadha said.



The file sterilisation machine with UV light. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

and it will be purchased when offices raise a request to the government for the same.

"The machine has a capacity of 30 litres and files have to be placed inside the machine for about two to three minutes after switching it on for the files to get sterilised," the official added.

The machine, which is about 30 centimeters high,

has two horizontal compartments in which files can be kept. The official did not disclose the price.

The wall-mounted contactless machine, each costing around ₹10,000, sprays sanitiser when a person keeps his/her hand under the nozzle. "It uses alcohol-based sanitiser and we have to refill it."

Gupta lauds Modi govt. for reviving Delhi's health sector

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Capital's health system is "coming back on track" after the intervention of the Narendra Modi government, Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta claimed here on Wednesday. He alleged that it was due to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's model, that it had "collapsed" over the last 80 days.

Meanwhile, north east Delhi MP Manoj Tiwari demanded a white paper on the ₹7,704 crore health budget, the highest allocation for the city's health sector made by the Aam Aadmi Party government in the last three years, given the condition of the city's hospitals during the pandemic.

Leader of the Opposition in the Delhi Legislative Assembly, Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, wrote to Union Minister Amit Shah for providing 19,000 beds equipped with required facilities for the treatment of COVID-19 patients. Out of these, he said, 10,000 will be available at the Radha Soami Satsang Beas, 8,000 in railway coaches and 1,000 at a facility being built by the DRDO and Tata Trust.

## Labourers stranded at Azadpur Mandi can contact SDM to return home: HC

Court informs that they can also seek help of DSLSA secretary

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday said if any labourer, who is currently working or residing in and around Azadpur Mandi, wishes to return to his or her hometown, the person shall be entitled to approach the Sub-Divisional Magistrate of the area for assistance.

A Bench of Justice Hima Kohli and Justice Subramoniun Prasad said the labourers, if necessary, could also approach the Secretary, Delhi State Legal Service Authority (DSLSA) of the area for guidance.

The Delhi government also told the court that earlier 686 labourers stranded at Azadpur Mandi had registered themselves with the help desk set up by the government, expressing their desire to return to their hometown.

However, only 182 labourers had responded to the SMSes and telephonic calls and had turned up at Azadpur Mandi on June 18 for being transported to the Railway Station. Another 26 labourers had turned up on June 23. All of them have been transported, the Delhi government said.

On June 18 itself, arrangements were made for the labourers who expressed their desire to go back to their hometowns. For this, three Shramik special trains were arranged for Bihar and one for West Bengal, that were to depart from Old Delhi Railway Station. Necessary intimation to the stranded la-



A view of the Azadpur Sabzi Mandi in the Capital. ■ FILE PHOTO

## Dip in mercury as rain lashes Capital

Generally cloudy sky with moderate rain likely today

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Capital received pre-monsoon showers on Wednesday morning that lead to a drop in temperatures. The humidity, however, remained high.

The weather station at Safdarjung that is the official reading for the city recorded 14.6 mm of rainfall between 8.30 a.m. and 5.30 p.m. The maximum temperature was 34.6 degrees Celsius, which was three degrees below normal for the season. The minimum temperature was 28.3 degrees which was normal for the season. Humidity hovered between 70% and 100%.

The Met department said that the Southwest Monsoon has further advanced in some parts of Rajasthan, remaining parts of Ut-



Delhi Police women patrol team caught in a downpour in the city on Wednesday. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA

Chandigarh and north Punjab, most parts of Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh and the entire Uttarakhand and Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Gilgit-Baltistan and Muzaffarabad. It added that conditions are becoming favorable for further advance in some more parts of Rajasthan, remaining parts of Ut-

tar Pradesh, entire Chandigarh and Delhi, most parts of Haryana and Punjab during next 24 hours.

The forecast for Thursday reads "generally cloudy sky with moderate rain/thunderstorms. The maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to settle around 36 and 28 degrees respectively".

## Plea against ban on export of PPE kits and masks

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has sought response of the Centre and the AAP government on a plea by a company against the ban on export of personal protective equipment (PPE) kits and medical masks during the pandemic.

Justice Sanjeev Sachdeva sought the stand of both the Central and Delhi government on a petition by Thompson Press Service, which has claimed that there was a dearth of buyers. However, the petitioner and other manufacturers are wanting to export for making financial gains and not for the reason that there is any shortage of demand in the country.

During the hearing, Additional Solicitor General Maninder Acharya, appearing for the Centre, submitted that the ban on export of PPE kits and medical masks has been imposed to prevent any shortage in the country. She submitted that as per her instructions, there is no dearth of buyers. However, the petitioner and other manufacturers are wanting to export for making financial gains and not for the reason that there is any shortage of demand in the country.

The court has posted the case for further hearing on July 10.

## Neighbour stabs 57-year-old for feeding stray dogs

The accused got angry after the canines charged and pounced on him

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A 57-year-old man was allegedly stabbed to death by his neighbour, after the street dogs that the former fed charged at the latter in Central Delhi's Paharganj, the police said on Wednesday.

On June 21 night, when Brij Mohan was feeding dogs, Prahlad picked up an argument with him after

the dogs barked and charged at him, they said. Soon, the altercation became heated and they began to use abusive language.

Prahlad, who works as a DJ, warned Mohan that feeding strays could increase incidents of dog attacks in the area. Then the dogs barked and pounced on Prahlad, who alleged

that Mohan then mocked him saying even the dogs were complaining about him, the police said.

Prahlad then went home, but returned with a knife after sometime and stabbed Mohan. Though he was rushed to a nearby hospital, he died, the police said. A case was registered and an investigation was taken up to nab Prahlad, who went

absconding, said Sanjay Bhatia, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central).

"After we received information that Prahlad was hiding somewhere near Krishna Market in Paharganj, we apprehended him," he said.

The accused was arrested on Wednesday and the weapon of offence was also recovered, he added.

Secretariat gets UV light file sterilisation machines  
Contactless sanitiser machines installed

NIKHIL M BABU  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government has started to install file sterilisation machines with UV light in offices in the Delhi Secretariat from this week as a precaution against the spread of COVID-19. Besides, 25 contactless hand sanitiser machines were installed in the Secretariat in the last two weeks while more will be installed in the coming days, the officials said.

The Delhi government also advised all heads of hospitals and medical institutions under the Delhi government to extend the tenure of senior and junior resident doctors currently working there by six months to meet the shortage of resident doctors during the outbreak.

In a related development, the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) Vice Chairperson Raghav Chadha on Wednesday visited a 10,000-bed under construction COVID Care Centre at Radha Soami Satsang Beas to inspect water supply works undertaken by the DJB.

"DJB has carried out engineering works and installed hydrants to connect the underground reservoir to which clean Ganga water will be provided to all the patients and healthcare staff," Mr. Chadha said.

"We have installed the file sterilisation machines with UV light in at least five offices so far. These offices had raised the demand for the machines, which were procured from the GeM [Government e Marketplace]," an official told *The Hindu*.

The official added that the government has not bought and stored these machines

about 30 centimeters high,

has two horizontal compartments in which files can be kept. The official did not disclose the price.

The wall-mounted contactless machine, each costing around ₹10,000, sprays sanitiser when a person keeps his/her hand under the nozzle.

"It uses alcohol-based sanitiser and we have to refill it."

all personnel posted in government departments from which positive cases had been reported tested, the association requested the offices of all departments under the Delhi government be sanitised at the earliest.

the association demanded. This, the association argued, would work out better, as only half the strength of a particular department would need to be quarantined in case of an infection.

Duty timings could be reduced to 8 hours from 12 and field staffers, who had already performed duties for two months, should be replaced with other personnel before resuming work post leave in a healthier condition, it said.

## Employee strength

Personnel with co-morbidities should be relieved from field duty during the pandemic and only 50% staffers should be called in to work,

## TO ADVERTISE PLEASE CONTACT

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Mr. MANOJ KUMAR KUSHWAHA  
PH: 9999490055  
manoj.kushwhaha@thehindu.co.in

THE HINDU  
India's National Newspaper

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Umesh Yadav  
Indian Cricketer and RBI Employee

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- If the fraudulent transaction is due to your negligence, you will bear the loss till you report to the bank
- When you notify the bank of a fraudulent transaction, ask for an acknowledgment. The bank should resolve your complaint within 90 days from the date of its receipt
- Always keep your bank's contact details handy to report fraudulent transactions



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## PUBLIC NOTICE

BEFORE THE SOLE ARBITRATOR  
SHRI SIDDHARTHA SHANKAR RAY  
Arbitration Case No. 03/2020  
IN THE MATTER OF:  
Exim International Through Proprietor  
Mohit Sat Kumar ... Claimant  
Versus  
Transtechsoft Private Ltd. & Ors. Respondents

## NOTICE

To  
Respondents

1. Transtechsoft Private Ltd.  
Having its registered office at Flat-8/1,  
Opposite DLF Mall, Hi Tech City, Near  
Marine Drive, Sonari Jamshedpur,  
Jharkhand-831011.

Also at: D-1-804, IREO Skylon, Sector-60,  
Gurugram, Haryana-122001.

Phone No.: 0124-4401011  
2. Mr. Nikhil Anand

Director of Transtechsoft Private Ltd.,  
Having address at: Flat No.: 0804, D-1, I  
REO Skylon, Sector-60, Near DLF  
Leisure Tree, Gurugram, Haryana-122001

3. Mr. Raj Anand  
Director of Transtechsoft Pvt. Ltd.

Having address at: Flat No. 1803, Tower  
No. 3, DLF Phase 3, DLF Mall, Hadapsar,

Pune-411028, Maharashtra.

4. Mr. Rishabh Anand

Director of Trasntechsoft Private Ltd.

Having address at: Flat No.: 1803, Tower  
No. 1, DLF Phase 3, DLF Mall, Hadapsar,

Pune-411028, Maharashtra.

WHEREAS, the Claimant above

mentioned has filed a claim before the

undersigned against the abovesigned

Respondents. That he had made all

efforts to serve the above mentioned

Respondents, but despite every effort

being made, service could not be

effected upon the Respondents,

therefore, notice is hereby given by

advertisement directing you, the above named

Respondents to contact Mr. Rinku Matkar, Secretary to the

undersigned at: 918787754757 &

918787754758 or e-mail:

rinku92271@gmail.com so as to

facilitate your appearances before this

Tribunal on the next date of hearing ie.

23/07/2020 at 14.00 hrs.

In keeping with the previous direction,

the matter will now be taken up on the

date indicated above through use of

Video-Conferencing.

Take notice that the default of your

appearance on the day above

mentioned, the claim will be heard and

determined in your absence.

Given under my hand on this day of 17th

day of June, 2020.

Sd/-

Siddhartha Shankar Ray  
(Sole Arbitrator)

## PERSONAL

## CHANGE OF NAME

IT IS for general information that ASIM KUMAR NAG, residing at QTR NO.647, Laxmi Bai Nagar, ND-23 declare the name of mine has been wrongly written as ASIM KUMAR NAG in my Service book. The actual name of mine is ASIM KUMAR NAG, which may be amended accordingly

## Discontent brewing in Punjab Cong.

Some leaders, workers unhappy with proposed list of candidates for party posts

VIKAS VASUDEVA  
CHANDIGARH

After the Punjab unit of the Congress recently sent a proposed list of district committees and members of its new executive body to the party high command for approval, discontent has started brewing among senior leaders and workers over the process of finalising the list and choice of candidates.

A few senior leaders told *The Hindu* that "wider consultations" were not held and the proposed list was prepared by a handful of people in the organisation.

"It would have been much better had PCC president Sunil Jakhar taken the views of other senior leaders as well.

There should have been a consensus. They should have shown magnanimity and a bigger heart... Two people sat together and prepared the list for PCC, this is not the way it works. If the intention is to win the 2022 Assembly polls then wider consultations should ought to have taken place. The process should have been open for the entire family of the Congress," said former PCC president and Rajya Sabha MP Partap Singh Bajwa.

"It is unfortunate that a lot of people had worked hard for the party but they are not being heard. If they want to convert the Indian National Congress into a private limited company they are most

welcome to do so... but let me tell you it is for such reasons that the party has been going down day by day," he said.

In January, this year Congress president Sonia Gandhi dissolved the Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee and all district committees in the State. The State unit chief, however, was retained.

According to party insiders, several leaders and party MLAs have sent letters to AICC general secretary K.C. Venugopal against the "shortlisted" candidates for district president positions in Sangrur, Rupnagar, Ludhiana, Hoshiarpur, Moga and Amritsar.

Former Chief Minister and

senior leader Rajinder Kaur Bhattal said AICC's Punjab in-charge Asha Kumari had not spoken to her on the issue.

## 'List made after inputs'

Punjabi Congress chief Sunil Jakhar said: "Everybody's concern has been taken on board. The list has been prepared after inputs from everywhere and it has been discussed among Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, Ms. Asha Kumari and myself. Obviously there are more than one deserving candidates... We will be accommodating them. There's lot of work to be done and there many responsibilities that need to be shouldered," he said.

## Parties to meet PM over ordinances

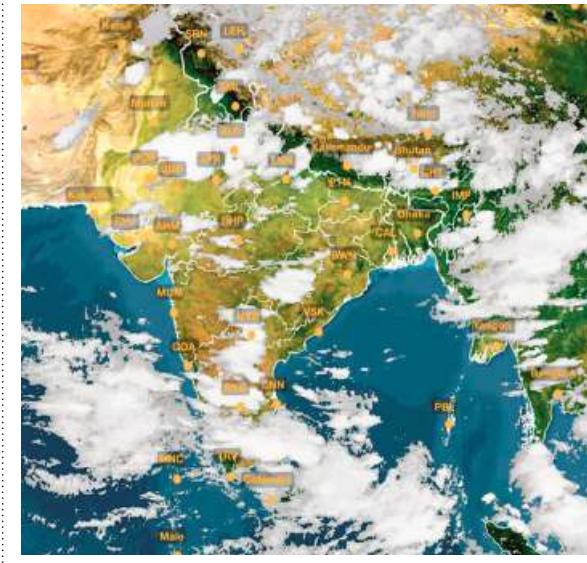
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Wednesday said the major political parties of Punjab, barring the BJP, have resolved to appeal to the Centre to immediately withdraw the recently passed ordinances on the agriculture sector.

A government statement said a delegation of parties led by the Chief Minister would meet the Prime Minister and the Union Agriculture Minister to convey their strong reservations on these 'anti-farmer legislations' and urge them to immediately withdraw them in public interest.

## WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.30 HRS)

**Forecast for Thursday:** Thunderstorm accompanied by lightning likely at isolated places over east Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Gangetic West Bengal, central Maharashtra, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	... -	36.1	28.0	Kozhikode	... -	33.2	25.4
Ahmedabad	... -	36.0	28.3	Kurnool	... -	37.6	27.2
Aizawl	3...	36.1	19.3	Lucknow	13.7	33.6	26.5
Allahabad	... -	33.7	27.6	Madurai	... -	39.2	28.5
Bengaluru	... -	31.4	21.4	Mangaluru	0.1	31.0	22.9
Bhopal	14.8	30.4	23.8	Mumbai	4.6	32.8	27.0
Hubballi	2...	36.4	27.3	Mysuru	... -	31.9	21.0
Chandigarh	... -	34.8	29.6	New Delhi	... -	34.6	28.2
Chennai	0.2	37.1	26.1	Patna	... -	35.0	28.0
Coimbatore	3...	34.0	22.5	Port Blair	... -	31.0	26.4
Dehradun	7.2	33.0	25.1	Puducherry	26.2	35.5	24.2
Gangtok	1.8	22.5	18.4	Pune	... -	32.9	22.4
Goa	23.6	30.4	24.2	Raipur	0.4	28.0	24.6
Guwahati	... -	33.5	26.5	Ranchi	2.3	31.6	23.0
Hubballi	... -	28.0	26.5	Shillong	0.6	25.6	19.5
Hyderabad	... -	35.8	25.4	Shimla	0.2	25.6	20.7
Imphal	1.2	30.1	23.6	Srinagar	... -	29.8	17.9
Jaipur	0.7	36.0	28.6	Thiruvananthapuram	... -	32.2	25.1
Kochi	... -	31.2	25.4	Tiruchi	... -	38.5	27.8
Kohima	26.2	32.8	26.0	Vijayawada	1.6	38.3	26.0
Kolkata	2.5	36.0	28.1	Visakhapatnam	0.2	33.4	29.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

## Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>x</sub>	CO	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	PM <sub>10</sub>	CODE	Yesterday
Ahmedabad	17	.19	30	31	-	■	
Bengaluru	10	.22	37	-	93	■	
Chennai	.5	.22	.86	77	-	■	
Delhi	12	.9	109	41	55	■	
Hyderabad	.7	.54	20	31	60	■	
Kolkata	.3	.9	13	33	55	■	
Lucknow	.3	.71	70	42	-	■	
Mumbai	-	1	.52	15	31	■	
Pune	15	.6	.62	20	18	■	
Visakhapatnam	14	.31	.33	43	78	■	

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

## Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>x</sub>	CO	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	PM <sub>10</sub>	CODE	Yesterday
Ahmedabad	17	.19	30	31	-	■	
Bengaluru	10	.22	37	-	93	■	
Chennai	.5	.22	.86	77	-	■	
Delhi	12	.9	109	41	55	■	
Hyderabad	.7	.54	20	31	60	■	
Kolkata	.3	.9	13	33	55	■	
Lucknow	.3	.71	70	42	-	■	
Mumbai	-	1	.52	15	31	■	
Pune	15	.6	.62	20	18	■	
Visakhapatnam	14	.31	.				

# SERVICE-CARE-EMPATHY GOVT OF CHHATTISGARH

## Economic Upliftment through 'NYAY'

Cash transfer of 5750 cr to 19 lakh farmers under the 'Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojna'. Second instalment on 20<sup>th</sup> August, first instalment of 1500 cr transferred in the beneficiaries' accounts on 21<sup>st</sup> May



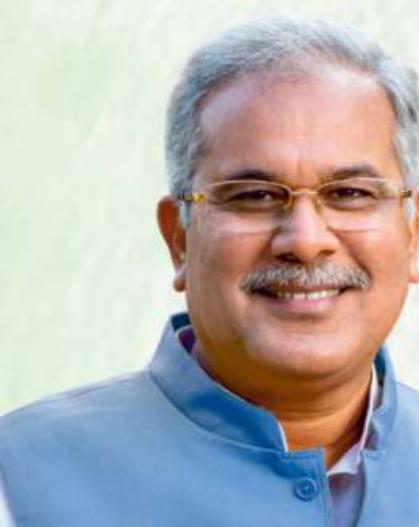
## Generating Employment for Inclusive Growth

Under MGNREGA, new record in rural employment generation; 60% of the annual budget's target achieved in 3 months. More than 1767.57 cr paid in wages so far



## Sustainable Livelihood, Forest Protection, Empowering Communities

Income of approx. 2500 cr guaranteed to the families dependent on forests for livelihood. Number of forest produce purchased on support price raised from 7 to 31. Support price also increased



Bhupesh Baghel  
Chief Minister, Chhattisgarh



REACHING OUT TO THE LAST MILE



## Bad to worse

Ties between India and Pakistan seem strained beyond immediate repair

In another round of tit-for-tat manoeuvres, India, followed by Pakistan, has decided to halve the strength of diplomatic missions in each other's capital. The government's decision, conveyed in a démarche to the Pakistani Chargé d'affaires on Tuesday, follows the ill-treatment and torture of Indian personnel posted in Islamabad, in clear violation of their diplomatic rights. Pakistan's contention was that the two men arrested were carrying fake currency, but it is more likely the action was a response to arrests and the expulsion of two Pakistani High Commission officials accused of espionage last month, who were also taken into custody by Indian security officials. New Delhi also accused Pakistan High Commission officials of maintaining "links to terror organisations" as a reason for its decision. While expulsions of diplomats are not uncommon between countries as inimical to each other as India and Pakistan are, this is the first time such a measure has been taken since 2001. Then, the Parliament attack in December 2001, and the largest military mobilisation of the time along the India-Pakistan border, Operation Parakram, were the triggers. Eventually, after a thaw in ties, and Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee's visit to Pakistan for the SAARC summit in 2004, the move was reversed and diplomats were gradually taken back to a full strength of over a 100 in each High Commission.

The latest decision follows not one event, but a general downslide in relations in the past year. After the Pulwama attack last February, the Balakot air strike and the August 5 decision to amend Article 370 of the Constitution and reorganise Jammu and Kashmir, India and Pakistan have snapped all trading ties, downgraded missions – now without High Commissioners – and shut down most diplomatic activities. India and Pakistan have had no talks since 2015, when PM Modi visited Lahore, and the External Affairs Ministers met a few months later. All sporting and cultural exchanges are at an end, and visas are rarely granted, apart from the rare exception being made for the Kartarpur corridor inaugurated last year. From the LoC, where ceasefire violations continue to claim lives of soldiers and civilians on both sides, to practically every multilateral forum India and Pakistan are a part of, both sides are at daggers drawn. Even on non-contentious issues such as cooperating on the coronavirus pandemic as a part of the SAARC grouping, or collaborating against the recent locust invasion that affected the region, Islamabad and New Delhi are unable to find common cause. While the present seems bleak, the future does not augur well for a change, particularly as India-China tensions occupy New Delhi's concerns and focus. The decision to reduce mission strengths is unlikely to impact working relations between India and Pakistan at present. It is a sign, however, that just when it seems ties between the two neighbours cannot get much worse, they do.

## Signalling intent

India needs enhanced manufacturing capabilities and improved efficiencies

The Centre's decision to make it mandatory for vendors on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) procurement platform to specify the country of origin of new products listed by them is on the face of it unexceptionable, aimed as it is at promoting India-made goods. Apart from the place of manufacture, the platform's administrators have also sought details on the extent of local content and set guidelines on the percentage of localisation for enabling procurement in the case of bids of a specified value. However, the timing and thrust of the announcement – set in the backdrop of the government's new-found push for self-reliance in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and its devastating impact on the global economy, coupled with the recent heightened border tensions with China – raises several questions. The government's attempts to raise the share of manufacturing in the economy through the 'Make in India' programme have so far failed to significantly boost investment in new, cutting-edge technology-driven or export-oriented industries and instead only taken the country back to import substitution plants making goods predominantly for domestic consumption. To that extent, the drive for self-reliance and greater localisation risks once again eroding India industry's global competitiveness by placing a premium on 'Indianness' over quality or cost.

The Centre's move with its GeM portal has also predictably kindled and amplified a gathering clamour for the identification and subsequent boycott of Chinese products including on private e-commerce platforms. The weaponisation of trade ties, especially one where India's reliance on imports from China now extend beyond smartphones and low-cost electronics to heavy machinery and active pharmaceutical ingredients, is a double-edged sword and fraught with risks for the Indian economy as well. India's drug makers, who are seeking to entrench themselves as a pharmacy to the world amid the pandemic and accompanying rush for affordable generic treatments, depend on the northern neighbour for about 70% of their requirements of bulk drugs and intermediates. For India to wean itself off these dependencies will take time. The fact is that enhancing manufacturing capacities with improved efficiency and reduced cost would require an overhaul of bureaucratic processes. Attaining genuine self-reliance is a long and capital intensive process that would require far greater investment in education, skill-building and infrastructure. The GeM move on country of origin is at best symbolic. For now, policymakers ought to tone down any trade-linked rhetoric and give diplomats and military negotiators the room to smoothen ties.

# China, Kashmir and the ghost of August 5

Apart from Pakistan and its involvement in the Kashmir conflict, India may now have a third party in the game — Beijing capture attempts.

For both India and China, the region is of great strategic importance. For India, Chinese aggression close to Eastern Ladakh could frustrate its hold over Siachen glacier and compromise its security in the western frontier given the close partnership between Islamabad and Beijing. For China, the region is important for the CPEC and its access to Central Asia, both of which are part of its "Belt and Road" grand strategy.

### More worry

More so, as a second-order consequence of the August decision, New Delhi may have unwittingly brought China and Pakistan closer than ever on the Kashmir question. From being somewhat neutral on the Kashmir question in the 1990s and 2000s, China today is an aggrieved party, or so it claims, in the Kashmir conflict. If Pakistani involvement in the Kashmir conflict were not enough, we now have China in the game as well as a much more powerful third party.

Furthermore, we have always known that China and Pakistan shared a formidable strategic alliance and yet, by wisely deemphasising that and dealing with them separately – not as a strategic alliance – New Delhi had contained their combined effect on itself to a great extent. Not anymore. Our strategy should have been to continue to weaken the China-Pakistan alliance by engaging China economically, multilaterally and regionally. Instead we may have brought them closer than ever.

The lesson is self-evident. A country the size of India can ill-afford to be narrowly tactical in its foreign and security policy decision making. Geopolitics in South-East Asia is changing way faster than we previously imagined and, therefore, our decisions should not be made based on tactical and political considerations, but on cold, clear-headed strategic assessment.

Happymon Jacob teaches national security at the School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi



HAPPYMON JACOB

Sometimes, a seemingly rhetorical statement or a symbolic political decision has the undesirable ability to fundamentally alter the material reality around a particular issue, especially when it comes to sensitive international disputes and conflicts. The impact of the Bharatiya Janata Party-led government's decision on Kashmir in 2019 on the current China-India military stand-off on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) is one such phenomenon. As a political scientist, I am aware of the apparent "methodological overreach" in my attempt at linking the two even though it might not be an analytical overreach. Consider the following.

What is becoming clear now is that by "inventing" a rhetorical position around the issue of Aksai Chin, a territory India may never have intended to take back by force from China, New Delhi seems to have aggravated the existing Chinese sensitivities on it. Put differently, India's infrastructure-building activities on its side of the LAC and the China's China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) connectivity to Pakistan were already on a collision course, and it seems the reorganisation of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) on August 5 last year, and the rhetoric surrounding it, may have finally triggered a conflict that was building up for a long time.

#### The ground reality

The impact of August 5 has been felt on two fronts – China and Pakistan. Official data show a steady rise in violence in Kashmir since 2014, and the August 2019 decision has done little to reduce this despite the restrictions of movement and a heavy security presence in Kashmir. Early trends on violence in 2020 show that the le-

### On the boil

According to Government of India data, most indicators of violence in Kashmir record a spike since 2014



\*OFFICIAL DATA IS AVAILABLE UP TO NOVEMBER 17, 2019 (FOR SECURITY AND CIVILIAN CASUALTIES).

vels of violence will indeed cross those of 2019.

The impact of August 5 goes beyond a mere spike in violence in Kashmir. Since August, retired Pakistani officials close to the establishment have argued that in the wake of India's Kashmir decision, the Simla Agreement of 1972 – which forms a key basis of bilateral relations, including the management of the Line of Control (LoC) in Kashmir – is not valid anymore. The Pakistani side argues that the Indian decision *vis-à-vis* Kashmir goes against the spirit of the Simla Agreement since the agreement states that "pending the final settlement of any of the problems between the two countries, neither side shall unilaterally alter the situation...". This of course does not take away from the fact that Pakistan has altered the situation in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK) several times over in the past.

If this indeed reflects an emerging official thinking within Pakistan, this might have serious implications. For one, this would mean that the agreement governing the India-Pakistan border in J&K will no longer be the Simla Agreement but would, as a result, have to be the one signed between the two sides in Karachi in 1949, at the end of their first war in 1948. Since the Simla Agreement formalised several territorial changes which took place after 1949 and until December 1971, such territorial adjustments could become null and void. This raises two specific issues. For one, since the current ceasefire agreement between In-

dia and Pakistan (declared in 2003) is essentially a reiteration of the ceasefire agreement declared at the end of the 1971 war, this could mean an end to the existing ceasefire agreement between them. Second, if "Simla is dead", does it mean that the LoC that came into being (replacing the ceasefire Line in 1971) also stands nullified? In other words, the entire basis of India-Pakistan negotiations on J&K since 1972 may cease to exist if Pakistan decides to undermine the Simla Agreement, or accuse India of having done so by the August decision and then decide not to abide by it.

#### The China challenge

Let us return to the impact of August 5 on the current India-China stand-off. It was clear soon after the August decision that Beijing was deeply uneasy about India's decision for at least two reasons. One, India's strong official claim about a territory, Aksai Chin, that has been under the Chinese control; and two, bringing Ladakh under India's central rule annoyed Beijing since it considers Ladakh's borders to be disputed between them. From Beijing's perspective, the August decision also complicated the ongoing boundary talks between the two sides. Pakistani appeals to Beijing to push back against India may have sharpened the Chinese reaction. There is also some similarity between the Pakistani and Chinese positions on India's August decision: both sides argue that India changed the status of a territory (J&K) whose borders were still being negotiated.

Foreign Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar's visit to Beijing in August 2019 and his assurances to China that India's decision had "no implication for the external boundaries of India or the Line of Actual Control with China. India was not raising any additional territorial claims. The Chinese concerns in this regard were misplaced" did not calm Beijing. Mr. Jaishankar was right about the implication of the reorganisation of J&K, but not the Home Minister's statement about Aksai Chin. China took the position that India "continued to damage China's territorial sovereignty by unilaterally modifying the form of domestic law" and that it was "unacceptable".

#### Fallout of India's official stand

Cut to June 19, 2020. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, after an all-party meeting to discuss the LAC stand-off, stated: "Neither is anyone inside the Indian territory nor any of our border posts captured." Notwithstanding the clarifications from his Office, leading to even more controversy, the question is whether this was a deliberate climb-down from the August rhetoric so as to calm nerves in Beijing. We do not know. What we do know, however, is that the climbdown, if indeed that was the case, was not only ineffective but may also have had the opposite effect. Going by the Chinese statements thereafter, the Prime Minister's clarification has clearly been used by Beijing to justify its position on the LAC. It could now further embolden China to undertake more border raids and land

## The perils of follow the leader syndrome

To the thinking Indian, the management of the pandemic, among other issues, is both unsatisfactory and misguided



DUSHYANT DAVE

André Gide, the French writer, once said, "Everything has been said before, but since nobody listens we have to keep going back and begin all over again." These words only underscore the need to be vocal especially when one has the country's best interests at heart, more so when India is passing through one of its most difficult phases since Independence.

#### Listen to the inner voice

The novel coronavirus pandemic is causing great pain. But the reason for its most painful blow is its handling or mishandling by the government of the day, affecting not only the economy but also the very livelihoods of lakhs of Indians. We need to stir up our collective conscience, the inner voice that warns us that things are not normal. But how do we do it?

We must remind ourselves of what B.R. Ambedkar said on November 25, 1949: "The second thing we must do as to observe the caution which John Stuart Mill has given to all who are interested in the maintenance of democracy, namely, not to lay their liberties at the feet of even a great man, or to trust him with power which enables him to subvert their institutions."

... this caution is far more ne-

cessary in the case of India than in the case of any other country. For in India, Bhakti or what may be called the path of devotion or hero-worship, plays a part in its politics unequalled in magnitude by the part it plays in the politics of any other country in the world. Bhakti in religion may be a road to the salvation of soul. But in politics, Bhakti or hero-worship is a sure road to degradation and to eventual dictatorship."

These words of caution hold good even today.

#### Managing disaster

COVID-19 has posed a grave threat to India right from the time of the national lockdown. And yet, even now, the planners in the country do not have a national plan to combat the disease. The Disaster Management Act, 2005 expressly defines "Disaster" as "a catastrophe, mishap, calamity or grave occurrence in any area, arising from natural or man made causes, or by accident or negligence which results in substantial loss of life or human suffering or damage to, and destruction of, property, or damage to, or degradation of, environment, and is of such a nature or magnitude as to be beyond the coping capacity of the community of the affected area".

The Act is comprehensive and provides for, *inter alia*, the constitution of a National Authority, a National Executive committee, the constitution of an advisory committee of experts in the field to make recommendations and to prepare a national plan. This plan must provide for measures for pre-

vention or mitigation. The Act lays down "guidelines for minimum standards of relief, including "ex gratia" assistance on account of loss of life... and for restoration of means of livelihood". It enables the creation of a National Disaster Response Fund in which the central government must make due contribution and requires "any grants that may be made by any person or institution for the purpose of disaster management" to be credited into the same Fund. It also provides for a National Disaster Mitigation Fund, exclusively for mitigation. The Act also provides for State and local-level plans and for creating State Disaster Response Fund among others.

The Act was not enforced for a long time even by the United Progressive Alliance/Congress government which enacted it. The Supreme Court of India intervened at the instance of Swaraj Abhiyan (*Swaraj Abhiyan vs Union Of India And Ors*) and Prashant Bhushan. Justices Madan Lokur and N.V. Ramanan directed, in 2016, that the Act be implemented, and in particular the preparation of a National Plan, a National Disaster Response Fund, or NDMP, and a National Disaster Mitigation Fund, or NDMF. So, for the first time, the government came out with a National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP), the crux being sent to this fund are not even audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India. It is a totally opaque exercise. Curiously on May 22, the government of India issued a notification to fight the locust menace by extending relief under the NDMP as also the SDRF. So, according to the government, the threat of locusts is more severe than the novel coronavirus. Clearly, the government of the day has not only ignored the binding law but also circumvented it. The government has decided to fight the crisis in an ad hoc and arbitrary manner instead of the organised steps as mandated by the Act. In so doing,

2016, which dealt with various kinds of disasters; it was amended in 2019. So why is this National Plan not even in place? Without it, the fight against COVID-19 is ad hoc, and has resulted in thousands of government orders, confusing those who are to enforce them as well as the public.

#### Obtuse steps

Worse still, the NDMP is inactive. On April 3, 2020, the government of India agreed to contribute its share to the NDMP. But curiously, "keeping in mind the need for a dedicated national fund with the primary objective of dealing with any kind of emergency or distress situation, like [that] posed by COVID-19", a public charitable trust under the name of Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund (PM CARES Fund) was set up to receive grants made by persons and institutions out of the NDMP, in violation of Section 46 of the Act. The crores being sent to this fund are not even audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India. It is a totally opaque exercise. Curiously on May 22, the government of India issued a notification to fight the locust menace by extending relief under the NDMP as also the SDRF. So, according to the government, the threat of locusts is more severe than the novel coronavirus. Clearly, the government of the day has not only ignored the binding law but also circumvented it. The government has decided to fight the crisis in an ad hoc and arbitrary manner instead of the organised steps as mandated by the Act. In so doing,

As Albert Einstein once said, "The strength of the Constitution lies entirely in the determination of each citizen to defend it."

So, let us all take a vow to defend the Constitution of India. I know of no other way forward.

## 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.

### China face-off

A dispassionate analysis of all news reports, opinion pieces and even letters to the Editor on the India-China tensions reveals the preparedness of China for any eventuality and the muddle India is leading itself into. Even while engaging in talks at the military command level, the Chinese could be preparing themselves for a confrontation by moving men and materials to

strategic points. But the Indians seem to be pinning their hopes on a 'peaceful resolution' and diplomatic moves to ease tensions. Even in diplomacy, China is upstaging India by providing 'timely' help to India's neighbours. Given the history and timeline of earlier conflicts, the present situation shows India as not having learnt its lessons. The political atmosphere of our country is so fragmented that

anything and everything is given a political colour. No doubt peace is important. But at what cost? Shouldn't the rulers shed the cloak of secrecy? And shouldn't the political Opposition help build a consensus about how to deal with the situation wisely and effectively? On this count too China scores, with no domestic Opposition to handle.

YOGANANDH T.,  
Salem, Tamil Nadu

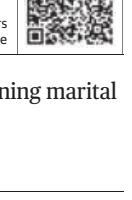
**Hate crimes**  
The constitutional vision of building a society on the foundation of social justice by eliminating all types of caste-based prejudices and discriminations is still not a reality in India due to the absence of strong political will, administrative mechanisms and a justice delivery system to effectively implement the rule of law to stop atrocities against Dalits. If we fail to pave the way for improved

social perceptions and enhanced institutional capabilities to deal with crimes against Dalits, caste conflicts may attain menacing proportions,

**CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:**  
The last sentence in the report titled "A brutal caste murder that shook the State in 2016" (June 23, 2020, some editions) erroneously said five assailants P. Jagathesan (Mr. Chinnasamy's friend), M. Manikandan, P. Selvakumar, P. Kalaiarasan alias Tamil alias Kalai and M. Mathan alias Michael were also ordered to be released forthwith. Actually, the court had only ordered the release of the prime accused and two others and not these five assailants whose death sentences were commuted to life.

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thereby dampening marital choices.  
RAVEENDRA BABU,  
Hyderabad



# The many questions about Favipiravir

The DCGI has granted approval for use of the drug to treat mild COVID-19 patients, but on what basis?



S.P. KALANTRI &amp; DINESH THAKUR



REUTERS

The pandemic has not only exposed the dire situation of the public health infrastructure, but also the opacity with which drug/medical device approvals are granted in India. We have had many controversies over the last few months: the use of hydroxychloroquine for treating COVID-19 patients, grant of licences for diagnostic kits for COVID-19, and the specificity of serological tests for detecting antibodies against the virus. Another controversy is brewing due to the opacity surrounding the regulatory approval granted to Favipiravir for the treatment of COVID-19 patients with mild or moderate symptoms.

#### No scientific consensus

The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) has approved Glenmark Pharmaceuticals, an Indian pharmaceutical company, to sell generic versions of Favipiravir for the treatment of COVID-19. This drug, originally invented by a Japanese company, was meant to treat influenza. After the outbreak of COVID-19, doctors in China and Russia started using it to treat COVID-19 patients although there is no scientific consensus on the efficacy of the drug.

As per Glenmark's filing with the Bombay Stock Exchange, the company has received "accelerated approval" from the DCGI for "restricted emergency use in India". On what basis did the DCGI grant approval? Will the underlying data be made publicly available to the medical community? While the New Drugs and Clinical Trial Rules, 2019 allow the DCGI to grant approvals for the use of certain drugs based on approvals granted overseas, they do not absolve it from making their rationale for such decisions public.

There is no information on the DCGI's website explaining the scientific basis of its approval of Favipiravir for COVID-19. Evidence-based medicine requires the testing of pharmaceutical drugs through randomised clinical trials (RCT) wherein one set of patients get a placebo (or

an alternate therapy) and the other set of patients gets the investigational drug. Neither the doctors nor the patients know who gets what drug. If the set of patients that gets the investigational drug shows a better outcome, it can be presumed that the drug has a demonstrable therapeutic effect on the disease in comparison to the comparator. This is the gold standard for demonstrating the efficacy of a drug in treating a particular disease. The data collected from such clinical trials are usually published in a peer-reviewed journal where they are subject to scientific scrutiny. This system has worked during this pandemic to disprove claims that hydroxychloroquine was useful in treating COVID-19.

With regard to Favipiravir, we know that Glenmark was conducting a clinical trial for this drug in India. According to the Clinical Trials Registry of India (CTRI), Glenmark's study was meant to be carried out on 150 patients at 12 different hospitals in Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Delhi with the aim of comparing Favipiravir with "standard care" provided to patients with mild or moderate COVID-19. The decision to enrol patients with "mild" COVID-19 is baffling given that virtually all these "mild" cases often resolve themselves without any intervention. Further, the CTRI does not explain the nature of the "standard care" being provided to the patients. It is important to disclose this information from a scientific and ethical viewpoint. If we do not know the treatment with which Favipiravir is being compared, how do we know if it is any better than perhaps a placebo?

The Japanese regulator, which approved this drug for influenza, man-

dated a warning to be printed on the packaging of this drug for early embryo toxicity and teratogenicity, specifically cautioning its use in women in the early stages of pregnancy. The exclusion criteria listed on the CTRI list pregnant and lactating women, which is not necessarily the same thing. The protocol on CTRI also specifies that the 150 patients enrolled in the study will be randomised 1:1. This patient cohort is not adequate to substantiate statistically either the primary or the secondary endpoint of the study.

#### Flaws in observational studies

Glenmark claims in a letter to the Bombay Stock Exchange that it was granted approval based on evaluation of data and expert opinion. We tried to retrieve the scientific studies that have tested the effectiveness and safety of this drug among mildly ill COVID-19 patients. PubMed, a database that contains more than 30 million citations and abstracts of biomedical literature, lists a single study published in a journal called *Engineering*. It shows that a group of Chinese investigators did an observational study on 80 patients and concluded that those who got the drug tended to have faster disappearance of virus and quicker improvement of shadows in their chest x-rays. The study was not a randomised controlled trial and therefore, small size apart, had two serious flaws – bias (the sample studied is not representative of the population it was drawn from or the population at large) and confounders (unable to control for all other factors that might differ between the two groups). The only way to eliminate these is to design a prospective ran-

domised controlled study. We are unable to find well-designed robust scientific studies on the effectiveness and safety of this drug in COVID-19 patients. Therefore, the explanation that the grant was approved based on "evaluation of data" does not seem tenable.

Subsequent to a scandal in 2012, the DCGI instituted a system of review by a Subject Expert Committee (SEC) to decide whether a new drug should be approved for the Indian market. The SEC was meant to have external experts who were specialists in the field of therapy being considered. After a SEC approval, the DCGI is required to take the final call on whether to approve a drug. Thereafter the information on which such decisions were made was required to be disclosed because the Right to Information Act requires such a disclosure. However, in this case, the minutes of the meetings, the composition of the SEC and the clinical trial results submitted to the SEC/DCGI are not available on the DCGI's website. A representative of Glenmark disclosed on a channel that the approval for restricted use was based on an "early readout" from the study; the study is expected to be completed in the coming weeks and months. So, on what basis did the DCGI approve restricted use of this drug?

A culture of secrecy around drug approvals serves no purpose except to benefit pharmaceutical companies. At ₹103 a tablet, the manufacturer stands to make a fortune once there are bulk orders for this drug. However, if the drug does not work as advertised, the DCGI could end up promoting widespread misuse of this drug and a false sense of security amongst the population. The regulator would be responsible for promoting irrational medicine as it has been on previous occasions. We would caution our countrymen against any such purchases until the DCGI makes public the clinical information on the basis of which the accelerated approval has been granted along with the minutes of the SEC meeting where this drug was approved.

S.P. Kalantri is Professor of Medicine at the Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences and Medical Superintendent of Kasturba Hospital, Sevagram, Maharashtra; Dinesh Thakur is a public health activist

# How to battle depression

Finding meaning in life through love and work and being socially connected are important



RAMESH POKHRIYAL 'NISHANK'

and society at large, we can find effective meaning in life. 'The Art of Living' involves managing the self for others.

Prescriptions for depression and anxiety can be found in the writings of Rabindranath Tagore. Tagore believed that being socially connected was an antidote to the mental estrangement that plague-affected people were undergoing in 1918. Tagore was aware that such a wildly contagious disease was likely to cause panic among the students. He organised many events in the Ashram which ensured that social connections existed despite physical distance. In an essay, he suggested that we generate bonhomie between the affected and those who were not, because the ill were not the enemy; the illness was. For immunity from psychological suffering, what was required was a design of togetherness, which Tagore insisted was ingrained in the famous Rig Vedic dicta, *Yatra Visvam Bhavati Ekanandam* (where the whole world meets in a single nest) and *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* (the world is one family).

#### Connecting with others

Besides finding meaning in life, social connect is very important. I feel that positive and continuous communication is the key to end the misery of anxiety, depression and stress to achieve higher levels of well-being. I want to make an earnest request to all the students and teachers who are under any form of stress, or tend to feel depressed, to reach out and talk to people, whether friends or relatives. A depressed person may not want to connect initially. Therefore, I appeal to family, relatives and friends to watch out for signs in their near and dear ones of persistent sadness, aloofness, loss of interest in activities and appetite, negative thoughts including about self-harm, and provide immediate support and connect. We must not stigmatise the condition of mental health issues; it can happen to anyone. Instead, let us support our family and friends to tide over the difficult times with love and care. In doing so, we will find meaning in our own lives.

Every Indian citizen is unique as he/she undertakes life's journey in this diverse and vibrant democracy. The onus lies on society and the immediate family to identify the unique talents in each member of society/child and nurture them, so that people don't feel neglected/isolated. Individuals should work for society and for themselves so that they are part of communities. This spirit of harmony between individual and society glued by communication is the best way we can overcome stress, anxiety and depression.

Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' is Human Resource Development Minister, Government of India

# The U.S. trial at The Hague

The grounds for the ICC's case against the U.S. for alleged atrocities in Afghanistan look strong

#### GARIMELLA SUBRAMANIAM

U.S. President Donald Trump's authorisation of new sanctions on the International Criminal Court (ICC) is an act of retaliation against the UN body's high-profile investigation to bring justice to victims of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

In March, the Hague Court's Appeals Chamber unanimously authorised investigation into alleged atrocities by U.S. troops in Afghanistan since May 1, 2003 as well as other alleged crimes committed since July 1, 2002 in the Central Intelligence Agency's so-called black sites in Poland, Romania and Lithuania. The court overturned a 2019 pre-trial chamber decision and admitted the 2016 preliminary findings of the ICC's chief prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda. Ms. Bensouda's report claims systematic atrocities of torture, summary executions, forced disappearances and rape, in which the Taliban, the Haqqani Network and Afghanistan's defence forces were also implicated.

**Decrying the probe**  
Mr. Trump's June 11 executive order, which decries the investigations of U.S. personnel as a threat to American national security and foreign policy, slapped asset freezes and family travel bans on investigators. The curbs build on the State Department's revocation last year of Ms. Bensouda's U.S. visa. At the time, the move was widely viewed as an attempt to pre-empt the decision over the Afghanistan probe, which the pre-trial chamber declined to authorise the following month.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has also said that the new measures would be deployed to shield Israel, which faces a separate inquiry following Ms. Bensouda's application last December. It relates to Israel's settlements on the West Bank and the 2014 invasion of Gaza, resulting in hundreds of Palestinian casualties. The latest sanctions could in theory apply to victims and witnesses, besides lawyers and researchers assisting investigators. But their effectiveness is doubtful, say commentators, since the presence of the Hague staff and others on U.S. soil may not be required for progress in the case.

The U.S. has always refused to recognise ICC jurisdiction over U.S. personnel on the grounds that it is not party to the Rome Statute that underpins the court. In 2002, the George W. Bush administration suspended its signature to the Statute, when it failed to win backing to restrict the court's remit solely to cases where the accused belonged to a ratifying state. To do otherwise was a negation of a basic principle of treaty law and would impair the U.S. from meeting its international humanitarian obligations, the officials had argued. Accordingly, the U.S. Congress passed the American Service-Members' Protection Act, requiring the President to protect American forces from prosecution in The Hague court, besides extending such commitment to the troops of its allies.

On the other hand, the 1998 Rome Statute provides for the prosecution of crimes committed in the territory of any one of the 123 states-parties, even if the accused come from a non-member nation. This is the basis for the current investigation wherein Afghanistan and the three European nations, the location of the alleged crimes, are within the ICC's jurisdiction, even if the U.S. remains outside.

#### Situation in Kabul

Meanwhile, after nearly 20 years of Afghanistan's brutal civil war, which claimed hundreds of thousands of lives, the country's political future seems highly uncertain. Kabul's government was excluded from the February agreement between the U.S. and the insurgent Taliban; the latter did not even commit to a lasting ceasefire. On the contrary, its leaders laid down the release of some 5,000 Taliban fighters as a precondition to begin negotiations with the government. The situation has thus strengthened the perception that the real aim behind the agreement was to demonstrate America's troop reduction before Mr. Trump hit the campaign trail on his re-election bid. In the absence of a functioning government in Kabul, domestic remedies for victims of mass atrocities are a far cry. The grounds for Ms. Bensouda's case could not be stronger.

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#### DATA POINT

## Data woes

An analysis of COVID-19-related health bulletins from various States shows a clear variance in data reporting. Most provide bare-bones information on cases and deaths, but only a few provide detailed information on patient demographics and the cause of deaths. T.N. and Karnataka provide the most comprehensive data, while U.P. does not provide access to even case/death numbers on its government website. By **The Hindu Data Team**

**HOW TO READ THE TABLE** | The table checks for the availability of COVID-19-related data across 21 States and Union Territories that have a significant case load. 'Yes' or 'no' indicates the presence or absence of that particular data. In some cases, 'okay' is used to indicate irregular or partial furnishing of the relevant data

State/U.T.	Regular bulletins	Archives available	Data on cases and deaths	Data on samples tested	Patient demographics	District-level data	Detailed data on deaths	Details of imported cases
<b>Maharashtra</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Okay	Okay	No	No
<b>Delhi</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
<b>Tamil Nadu</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Gujarat</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
<b>Rajasthan</b>	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
<b>West Bengal</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Okay	No
<b>M.P.</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
<b>Haryana</b>	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
<b>A.P.</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Okay	No	Yes
<b>Karnataka</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Telangana</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Okay	No	Okay	Okay	No
<b>Bihar</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
<b>J&amp;K</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Okay
<b>Assam</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
<b>Odisha</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
<b>Punjab</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
<b>Kerala</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Uttarakhand</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Chhattisgarh</b>	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
<b>Jharkhand</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No

**A HUNDRED YEARS AGO** JUNE 25, 1920.

**The Menace in the East.**  
(From an editorial)

The one-sided industrial development that is so characteristic of prominent Western countries to-day is not without its perilous side. It involves incessant watchfulness, a not over-scrupulous regard for the rights of other nations, and, above all, military as well as other kinds of preparedness, so that an open door may be secured in countries possessing essential raw materials. More than all this, there is a need on the part of these nations for keeping a jealous eye on the industrial developments and prospects of development in other countries so as betimes to take action to counteract any prejudicial effects that external developments might entail on their own industries. It was, we suppose, this necessary spirit of watchfulness which prompted the Aberdeen Chamber of Commerce to request Lord Merton to address it on "the industrial development of Japan, China and India and especially of India" and Lord Merton's industrial gospel to them was, in effect, this: "be prepared, the East is full of possibilities and is awakening from its slumber."

## FROM PAGE ONE

## India must move out of Galwan Valley: China

China's statements, however, pointed to sharp differences on where the LAC lies in Galwan Valley. The valley begins from the confluence of the Galwan and Shyok rivers, and the LAC that both sides had been observing runs east of the confluence, in the valley. China, however, is demanding an Indian withdrawal from the entire valley and limiting India's presence to the "Galwan estuary", where it meets the Shyok. Wednesday's statements from Beijing appeared to describe the LAC at the "estuary" of the river.

**Claims untenable: MEA**  
The MEA said last week China's claims over the entire valley were "exaggerated" and "untenable".

At Wednesday's talks, the MEA said both sides agreed to "sincerely implement the understanding on disengagement and de-escalation that was reached by the Senior Commanders" and that doing so "expeditiously" would "help ensure peace and tranquillity in border areas and the development of broader relationship between the two countries."

The MFA, in a statement, said both sides would "actively cooperate with the armed forces of the two countries to implement the consensus from the two rounds of military leaders' talks on June 6 and 22, strengthen communication and coordination between military and diplomatic channels, and peacefully resolve relevant issues in border areas through bilateral dialogue and consultation."

The talks were led by Naiven Srivastava, Joint Secretary (East Asia) in the MEA, and Hong Liang, Director General of the Department of Boundary and Oceanic Affairs of the MFA.

At the same time, the MFA and the Defence Ministry, in separate statements, accused India of breaking the

agreement of June 6, and claimed India had committed to not patrolling in the valley or building facilities there. The Defence Ministry said India "should bear full responsibility for the incident that was solely and completely triggered by its breach of consensus and unilateral provocations" and "demanded the Indian side severely punish those who should be held accountable, strictly discipline its front line troops so as to ensure that such incidents do not happen again."

MFA spokesperson Zhao Lijian said, "it is the Indian side that went against the bilateral agreement. The Indian side at first agreed to withdraw personnel from Galwan Valley which it did, and it dismantled its facilities as requested by the Chinese side. During the first Commander meeting on June 6, the Indian side committed to no trespassing of the Galwan Valley for patrolling and for building. The two sides agreed to set up observatory posts at the two sides of the river estuary, but the Indian side went against this agreement and asked China to dismantle China's posts, and also crossed the LAC," which, he said, led to the clash.

India, however, said the clash was triggered by China violating the June 6 agreement and setting up a post on its side of the LAC. Indian officials said the LAC that both sides had been observing has been east of the confluence near Patrolling Point 14, where the clash occurred.

China's Defence Ministry spokesperson, PLA Senior Colonel Wu Qian, repeated China's claim that "it has sovereignty over the Galwan Valley region."

"Over the years, the Chinese border troops have been patrolling and guarding this region," he said.

(With inputs from Dina-kar Peri)

## UGC may scrap final year exams



University Grants Commission building in New Delhi.  
FILE PHOTO

UGC will consider its recommendations to cancel the examinations and delay the calendar, and is likely to issue guidelines this week.

There are concerns regarding the alternative assessment methodology to be adopted if examinations are cancelled. Internal assessments usually translate to project work. "For a small college with 500 students in the final year, their project reports can be checked and graded. But for large State universities, with two to three lakh students from affiliated institutions, it will be impossible to check that many project reports," said a senior official. Another op-

tion would be to use students' performance in previous semester examinations instead.

Although UGC's guidelines are only advisory in nature, with each university making its own decision in accordance with local conditions and State rules, several Vice-Chancellors said they would await the Central body's norms before taking a final call. UGC regulates 945 universities, including 412 State universities and 53 Central universities. All institutions have been closed since mid-March, although many have continued classes through online and distance education.

(People having suicidal thoughts can seek counselling by calling suicide prevention helpline DISHA-0471-2552056, 1056).

## RBI will supervise cooperative banks

Currently, these banks come under dual regulation of the RBI and the Registrar of Co-operative Societies. The move to bring these urban and multi-State coop. banks under the supervision of the RBI comes after several instances of fraud and serious financial irregularities, including the major scam at the Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative (PMC) Bank last year. In September, the RBI was forced to supersede the PMC Bank's board and impose strict restrictions.

"I am very sure when this

announcement was made, people have welcomed it, and depositors will get protection and benefit out of it," Mr. Javadekar said, regarding the ordinance approved by Cabinet.

The Cabinet also approved a scheme to provide interest subvention of 2% for a 12-month period to small borrowers with loans up to ₹50,000 under the Shishu category of the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana. This relief had been announced as part of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat package last month.

"I am very sure when this

## Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh witness 24 deaths

Telangana reports five fatalities, adds 891 cases; Kerala tally up by 152 cases

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Karnataka reported 14 COVID-19 deaths on Wednesday, taking the toll to 164, the highest for a single day. Tamil Nadu reported 2,865 fresh cases of COVID-19.

Andhra Pradesh crossed the psychological mark of

## COVID-19

10,000 cases with the addition of 497 cases in 24 hours. The State also witnessed 10 deaths and the toll rose to 129. Five patients died in Telangana, and 891 new cases were detected.

The number of overall fresh cases, number of fresh cases among locals and the number of deaths set new single-day records in Andhra Pradesh. The State tally was 10,331 with 5,423 active pa-

tients, while 4,779 patients recovered. Of the 10 new deaths, four were in Kurnool, three in Krishna, two in Guntur and one in Srikakulam district, the Health Department said.

Meanwhile, testing capacity rose to 36,047 samples per day. The government launched mobile testing centres recently, and 10 vehicles were deployed in Krishna district. So far, 7.5 lakh samples were tested and in four days, nearly one lakh samples were tested in the State.

Telangana crossed the 10,000 cases mark with 891 more testing positive - the tally stood at 10,444. The 891 fresh cases was the highest in a day. It included 719 cases from Greater Hyderabad, 86 from Rangareddy, 55 from Medchal. Five more COVID-19 patients died on Wed-

## The way forward

Civic officials across the country are trying their best along with health workers to contain the spread of COVID-19. The graphs show the spread of the pandemic in Southern States



Riding along: A municipal worker on his way to sanitise an area in Vijayawada on Wednesday.  
■ V. RAJU

nnesday. Of the total 10,444 cases, 5,848 were active.

## 8 local cases in Kerala

Kerala reported 152 new cases and 81 recoveries. Active cases or cases currently undergoing treatment in hospi-



cal transmission.

Karnataka's positive case total touched 10,118 on Wednesday, with 397 new cases. Of the new cases, 75 were inter-State passengers and eight international travellers. The State reported 14

deaths taking the toll to 164. This is the highest ever number reported on a single day. While five of the deaths were from Bengaluru Urban, four were from Ballari. While Kalaburagi and Ramanagar reported two each, there was one death in Tumakuru.

It was another new high for Tamil Nadu as it recorded 2,865 cases of COVID-19 on Wednesday, while over 2,000 patients were discharged across the State.

With the fresh cases, the State's overall tally increased to 67,468. A total of 2,424 persons were discharged, the highest number on a single day. With this, total of 37,763 have been discharged, while active cases were 28,836. Another 33 persons died of the infection, taking the toll to 866. Chennai topped with 1,654 new cases, taking its overall case count past the 45,000-mark.

(With inputs from Vijaya-wada, Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Chennai bureaus)

## Kerala govt. not to insist on COVID-negative certificate

Those without it to undergo rapid antibody test

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Ending week-long suspense, the government has decided not to insist on COVID-19 negative certificate for expatriates coming on Vande Bharat flights, chartered flights, and private aircraft to Kerala from Thursday.

The change in stance comes after the Centre re-

## CISF personnel at Kannur airport quarantined

STAFF REPORTER  
KANNUR

The Kannur International Airport on Wednesday briefly closed the Central Industrial Security Force office and quarantined employees who came in contact with one of the four CISF personnel who tested

positive for SARS-CoV-2 on Tuesday.

A CISF guard who returned to Kerala from his home in North India after leave joined duty after 14 days of quarantine. However, he showed symptoms of the disease a day later.

out the COVID-19 test should undergo a test within 72 hours of their travel.

All NoRKs coming by flights should register on the COVID-19 Ja-gratha website.

**'Speed up return'**  
The Union government is continuing the efforts and

we have not gone back on the stance. The relaxations are to speed up the return of the NoRKs," Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said on Wednesday. Those landing in the State without the COVID-19 test, even if they do not show any symptom, will be subjected to the rapid antibody test at airports.

The UN marked the day to honour people who risk their lives to deliver essential public services amid the pandemic. Ms. Shylaja was the speaker from India, along with UN Secretary-General António Guterres and WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreye-

## The litmus test was Nipah, says Shylaja

It brought out gaps in health system'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The first Nipah outbreak in 2018 was a litmus test of the resilience of Kerala's public health system, Health Minister K.K. Shylaja has said. The experience in managing the outbreak helped the State realise the weaknesses in its public health system and build a more sensitive and alert disease surveillance mechanism, she said at a webinar organised by the United Nations on Public Service Day, 2020, on Tuesday.

The UN marked the day to honour people who risk their lives to deliver essential public services amid the pandemic. Ms. Shylaja was the speaker from India, along with UN Secretary-General António Guterres and WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreye-



K.K. Shylaja

sus, among a chosen few leaders.

Answering a question on how the State had primed itself for the response to COVID-19, she said two consecutive Nipah outbreaks and major floods in 2018 and 2019 had taught the State public health system the importance of disease surveillance and preparedness. When COVID-19 broke out in China, Kerala knew that there could not be any delay in taking pre-emptive measures.

## Wild elephant falls off slope, dies in A.P.

CHITTOR  
The carcass of an adult male wild elephant was found in a decomposed state inside the reserve forest of Koundinya wildlife sanctuary belt near K.C. Penta village in Gangavaram, Andhra Pradesh, on Wednesday. Forest Range Officer (Palamaner)

Srinivasulu said that the elephant could have lost grip while scaling a slope of a hill and fallen into a ditch below. "Though the animal had fallen from a height of six feet, its head hit a boulder in the ditch. The pachyderm seemed to have died three days ago due to haemorrhage in the brain," he said.

## Child rights panel for prosecuting activist

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM  
The Kerala State Commission for Protection of Child Rights has directed that criminal proceedings be initiated in connection with a woman activist getting her minor children to paint on her semi-nude body and posting its video on social media. Commission member K. Nazeer, while initiating suo motu proceedings under Section 13 (1) (j) of the Commission for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005 and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012, has asked the Pathanamthitta District Police Chief to investigate the incident and submit a report.

## 'Consider one-time free ration to needy priests'

BENGALURU  
The Karnataka High Court on Wednesday asked the State government to consider whether one-time free ration can be supplied to the needy archaks and temple servants working in the nearly 35,000 category 'C' Muzrai temples controlled by the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department. A Division Bench, comprising Chief Justice Abhay Shreenivas Oka and Justice Nataraj Rangaswamy, passed the order while hearing a PIL petition filed by Shreeshari Kutsa, an advocate, and K.S.N. Dikshit, an archak.

## Karnataka all set to conduct SSLC exams

Over 8 lakh students to appear; all 2,879 centres to have health screening facility



Getting ready: The staff of a school in Bengaluru preparing a classroom for the SSLC examinations. ■ K. MURALI KUMAR

sides his department, officials from the Home, Health and Family Welfare, Transport, Revenue, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj departments were also working for the smooth conduct of the exams.

Physical education teachers have been vested with the responsibility of ensuring that social distancing norms are not violated.

While several parents and students had demanded that

the examinations be postponed, the Department of Primary and Secondary Education has decided to go ahead roping in health experts.

Physical education teachers have been vested with the responsibility of ensuring that social distancing norms are not violated. While each year, up to 32 stu-

## Telangana govt. restores normal salaries, pensions

Revenues showing improvement

M.L. MELLY MAITREYI  
HYDERABAD

The Telangana government has issued a GO restoring the normal payment of salaries and pensions to government employees and pensioners from June 2020.

According to a communication received from the Chief Minister's Office on Monday night, the Chief Minister has taken the decision as the State's revenues started showing improvement since the lockdown was imposed in the last week of March.

In a press release on Wednesday, the KSRTC said the temperature in the buses would be maintained at 24 to 25 degrees Celsius. He also instructed Fi-

nance Department officials to implement the directive.

Accordingly, the Finance Department issued the GO on Tuesday.

Because of the adverse impact of the lockdown on the State's revenues, the government had earlier issued orders for deferred payment of salaries and pensions for the months of March, April and May.

The latest GO said instructions with regard to payment of arrears, if any, after adjustment of deductions and recoveries, would be issued separately.

RTC identifies intra-State routes; online bookings begin

SPECIAL CORRESP







# Let the hotel life come to you

Mixologists in living rooms and butlers in your kitchen: luxury hotels innovate to stay relevant in challenging circumstances by extending services to clients' homes, hygiene managers in tow

PRIYADARSHINI PAITANDY

Lunch, packed and delivered by the ITC. A bartender from The Park shaking martinis in your living room. Blazers dry-cleaned by the Hyatt. Sounds like the film star life?

Well, this is real life in 2020. This year has forced the world to change rapidly as companies and professionals pivot, finding innovative ways to stay afloat. As they weather this storm, the learnings from the last three months are likely to permanently influence the hospitality business.

Faced with empty rooms, restaurants and banquet halls, luxury hotels around the country have diversified into food deliveries, laundry and housekeeping.

COVID-19 and lockdowns around the world have kept diners and travellers from going to hotels. So instead, the hotels are going to them: and in true five-star fashion, they are doing it in style.

Order Peshawari's signature mutton *raan*, dal *makhani* and chicken kebabs, and it will arrive in a chauffeur



feared car, with a butler in tow. Their newly-launched 'Gourmet Couch' menu has a minimum order of ₹5,000 for free delivery to a radius of 15 kilometres around the hotel.

Set in cane baskets, the food is packed in plant-starched clamshell boxes, and biodegradable bags. The *biryani* and *dals* come in colourful handi, sealed with dough. A label on each dish gives details on date and time of preparation, as well as specific heating instructions. Need

help? Just ask the butler. If you prefer a more low-key dinner, the hotel is also now on Swiggy.

#### The show must go on

"Every industry, in the current scenario, is thinking of sustainable ways and means to rediscover the way their businesses are run," says Chef Ashutosh Nerlekar of The Park Chennai.

The Park is taking their restaurants to clients' homes, where they

will cater for anything from two to 50 guests. They are also launching a Home Bartender segment after lockdown. With this, guests can avail mixologist services. Or, they can opt for a Bar Takeover. "The hotel's bartender will turn up at your house with chasers, glassware, cocktail syrups and garnishes. Only liquor needs to be provided by the guest," says Kiron Kumar, F&B director at The Park Chennai.

At the Hyatt Regency in Gurugram, the general manager Vishal Singh says they started home delivery in April with cakes. It proved popular, so they went on to create a multi-cuisine delivery menu, competitively priced 25% lower than the hotel's regular in-house dining rates.

He admits that it took a change in mindset to move to a delivery platform, adding "As hoteliers, we are equipped to adapt. We also learnt things from Swiggy and Zomato on how this model works." Though the hotel has resumed all operations (except pool, gym and spa) since June 8, the number of deliveries are still higher than footfall.

**Ready to serve** (Clockwise from left) The gourmet couch meal from ITC Grand Chola, Chennai, the housekeeping team from Green Park, Chennai, and laundry in progress at Hyatt Regency, Gurugram ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



This is why hotels are also beginning to diversify now, finding avenues beside F&B for generating income.

#### Out of the comfort zone

"We started our laundry services last month," says Vishal, explaining that with most households not having domestic help and with dry cleaners and launderers not functioning, this seemed like a good idea. "Also in North India, this is when people dry-clean and pack away their woollens," he says. Though the volume of demand for this is not as big as home delivery, they get between one to three orders in a day, and are hoping to grow as word spreads.

Stating that they have a pick-up and drop-off option, Vishal says, "We deliver after 48 hours. As safety is top priority, we have a hygiene manager. Our biggest advantage is that we have an in-house laundry on our premises, as opposed to other laundries which are collection points, which send the clothes to a laundering facility." Everything is machine-washed at a high temperature, chemicals are used to disinfect, the garments are then ironed and steamed.

The hotel is now in talks with corporate clients and complexes to take over housekeeping.

The Green Park hotel in Chennai, is one of the first players to enter the housekeeping business, post lockdown. They started in mid-May and have so far catered to 25-odd corporate clients.

While the terms 'sanitise' and 'disinfect' might be in use a lot these days, these are standard procedures at hotels. "Any good five-star hotel, will have at least 60 to 100 housekeep-

ing staff alone. These professionals have mastered the art of cleaning rooms and sanitising places," says Sudip Sen Gupta, vice-president operations, at Green Park.

"With offices reopening, workspaces need disinfecting. So we started doing that here, as well as in Hyderabad and Vizag, where we have our properties," says Sudip. "Now, it has become mandatory for corporates to sanitise their buildings. We also train their housekeeping team to deep-clean effectively," he explains. Rates vary depending on the square feet, starting at ₹3 and going up to ₹6, depending on the kind of cleaning required.

Meanwhile, The Oberoi, Bengaluru, has been receiving queries from corporations who are looking for independent or group work spaces in hotels.

"We have ample choices with us, starting from our business centre meeting rooms, board room, independent work stations and even our alfresco restaurant spaces which are ideal for work with fresh air and lush green views," says Visheshwar Raj Singh, vice president and general manager of the property. Apart from a slew of measures that the hotel says they have undertaken, the other benefits of working from a luxury hotel include customisable food and beverage menus available.

Given that a few companies are shutting down their physical office space and moving towards a permanent WFH platform, Visheshwar believes there is potential for this segment to see reasonable growth,

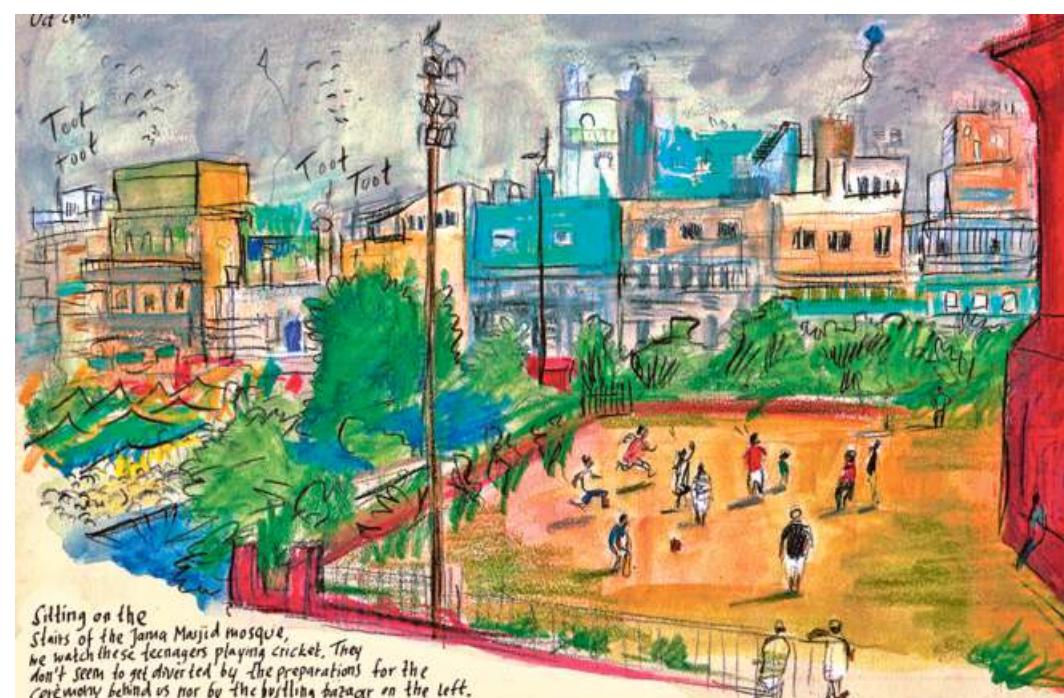
"especially with many corporates seeking a neutral, peaceful, non-cluttered environment for their work hours keeping safety and convenience both in mind."

## Risky business

As more people are on the lookout for free-to-access content, McAfee reveals two lists of top 10 movie and TV titles targeted for web crime



**Most wanted**  
(Left) Brooklyn Nine-Nine and (inset) Chhapaak attract traffic on piracy websites ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



**Colours of life** A scene from Delhi; (below) the promenade at Casablanca ■ GOETHE INSTITUT

## A magic carpet ride

Graphic Travelogues takes viewers on a journey around the globe, through works of comic artists

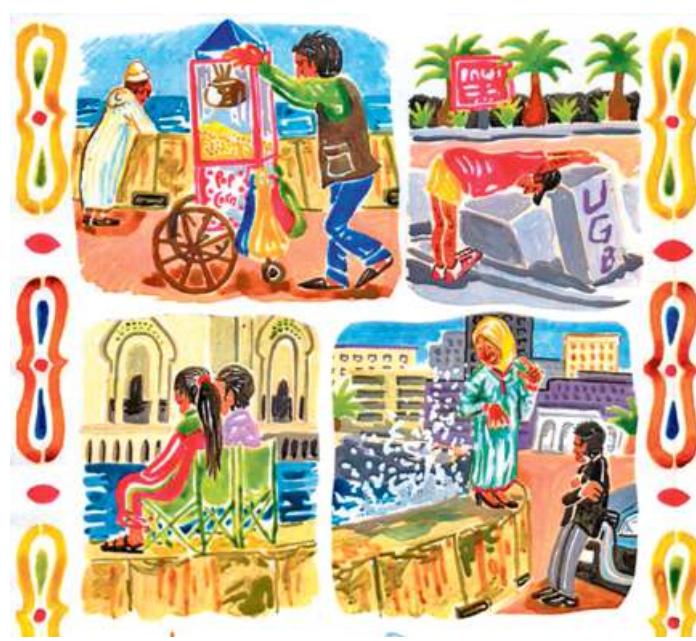
PRIYADARSHINI PAITANDY

From the steps of Jama Masjid, the scene that unfurls is a blur of colour. Boys playing an intense game of cricket, a sole blue kite wandering the expanses of the sky, bright buildings huddled together, the distant cacophony of horns...

A second later, silence takes over as we follow the course of a dry river bed in Alice Springs, Australia, followed by lush meadows, cattle and the imposing Alps in Austria.

So, where to next? Goethe Institut Max Mueller Bhavan's latest project Graphic Travelogues, takes viewers on a journey around the world.

The website has an interactive map of the world, with little images, marking the cities that are ready with works of comic artists.



This includes sketches, graphic novels, graphic diaries and illustrations. There are works of 18 artists to choose from now, spread across Delhi, Bengaluru, Cairo, Havana and Istanbul among others.

"Goethe Institut, all over the world, works with different art

a nice collection and wanted to make that visible."

Though these are illustrations, you can almost hear the sounds and smell the air of the location depicted. For example, the *jalebis* on the streets of Delhi, or the fresh popcorn and salty scent of the sea in Casablanca.

Toggling between cities in different countries also highlights similarities that some of them share. Some could be clichés, and some eyeopeners. It is entirely the perspective of the artist, what he/she sees, experiences and imbibes from a place or a scene.

While photography is mostly associated with travelogues, Thomas said their research found there is potential for "travelling through comics". "This art form adds a new perspective. Though you can depict a lot of things in photographs, it is a moment in time. But in a comic, there can be multiple perspectives and you can add text to it," says Thomas.

The website also lists categories such as Everyday Heroes, City Explorers, Seekers of Meaning, Adventurers and Gourmets, to draw in different types of travellers and pique their interest. "Travel is an important factor. COVID-19 has changed it," says Thomas, adding, "It is interesting to see how art in graphic travelogues copes with this phenomena of travelling."

"Our target groups are people interested in travelling and comics. Through this we are providing them with the possibility of discovering new places even when they are not able to leave their couch," he says.

There are works from artists from around the globe: Germany, Russia, India. The idea was to have a global perspective and showcase a variety of styles and countries.

Their social media pages are also active with artists giving a peek into how graphic novels are developed.

For details, log on to [www.goethe.de/india/graphictravelogues](http://www.goethe.de/india/graphictravelogues)

DIVYA KALA BHAVANI

'Free download', 'Free login', 'Free', 'Torrent', 'Pirated download' are some of the top searches, which, when clubbed with modifying terms like film or television titles, subject users seeking to avoid subscription-based OTT platforms for content to malware attacks and other cyber vulnerabilities.

Traffic across piracy websites increased during COVID-19 lockdown as online video consumption rose. MUSO, a digital piracy authority, reported that piracy in India was 62% high-

er in March compared to February. Trending piracy sites include names like Stremio, Popcorn Time, SolarMovie, 123Movies and Tamil Rockers.

That said, McAfee researched the risks Indian consumers could potentially be exposed to when browsing the web for popular online entertainment content.

"The lockdown induced surge in online entertainment traffic has brewed the perfect storm for cybercriminals. They are following and targeting consumers' obsession with accessing content, particularly for free. They entice users to visit potentially malicious websites that are designed to install malware or steal passwords and personal information," said Venkat Krishnapur, McAfee India's VP of engineering and managing director in a company statement.

After analysing more than 100 most-talked-about entertainment titles available across leading streaming service providers, McAfee identified a 'Top 10 web risk list' for both television and movies, and ranked them in order of web search risk.

#### TOP 10 WEB RISK LIST – TELEVISION (HIGHEST TO LOWEST)

1. Delhi Crime
2. Brooklyn Nine-Nine
3. Panchayat
4. Akoori
5. Fauda
6. Ghoul
7. Mindhunter
8. Narcos
9. Devlok
10. Lost

#### TOP 10 WEB RISK LIST – FILMS (HIGHEST TO LOWEST)

1. Mardaani 2
2. Zootopia
3. Jawaani Jaaneman
4. Chhapaak
5. Love Aaj Kal
6. Inception
7. Baahubali
8. Rajinigandha
9. Gully Boy
10. Bala



IN OUR BACKYARD

# Powder puff prettiness

The Siris tree is enjoying its second flowering, beckoning us to come and smell its flowers

ABHISHEK GULSHAN

Shortly after the partition of India, my paternal grandparents relocated to a nice green area in Lajpat Nagar. I now realise that my childhood was lathed with stories of how the area was a beautiful jungle then, and how my grandfather used to cut across on his cycle to reach his office in North Block. Although my inclination towards nature came much later in life, I often remember the stories of all the native trees (and others) that my grandmother had planted with great fondness. We still enjoy the presence of a few of them and mourn the absence of others.

One such tree that still stands tall in the park in front of my house is the majestic Siris (*Albizia lebbeck*). It is one of the tallest Siris tree specimens that I have seen in urban colonies across the city, considering that the area is repeatedly subjected to concretisation. In Lutyen's Delhi it is not planted widely, since the aim was to stay away from deciduous trees, says Pradip Kishen, in his book *Trees of Delhi*. This is possibly because deciduous trees tend to shed leaves and remain bare in winter and Lutyens possibly wanted that

part of Delhi to look green all year round.

Siris is a moderate sized (sometimes large) deciduous tree. When it is given enough space to grow, it generally has a rough, brown, shorter trunk (or bole) compared to when it grows in forests. According to Robert S. Troup in his two volume book *The Siviculture of Indian Trees*, published in 1921, the tree is sun-loving so when the tree is in an open area, the access to the sun is much easier. In a forest, it is competing with trees of varied heights, so here, it produces a much longer straight trunk in order to reach the sun. Troup says that the rich, dark heartwood of the tree was elegantly streaked and extensively exported to Europe as the East Indian Walnut or Koko.

In gen-



**Majestic tee**  
The Siris  
• ABHISHEK  
GULSHAN

eral, the canopy of the tree is broad and shade-giving. Being deciduous, it sheds its leaves in January, though I have seen 'my' park tree start shedding by November or December. The leaves have only a few side stalks, with each stalk consisting of between 3 and 10 pairs of leaflets.

In winter, it operates with limited resources until March, when new leaves begin to arrive. Soon after, it bears beautiful fragrant 'powder-puff' flowers with whitish or greenish-yellow stamens, in early to mid April, that fall in a month. A few showers in June and July see new flushes of flowers, the fragrance of which I am currently enjoying with a cup of coffee every morning.

The fruit pods are long and flat, attaining full size by August-September, and fully maturing by October, turning yellow in No-

vember. They remain on the tree till as late as spring, turning brown.

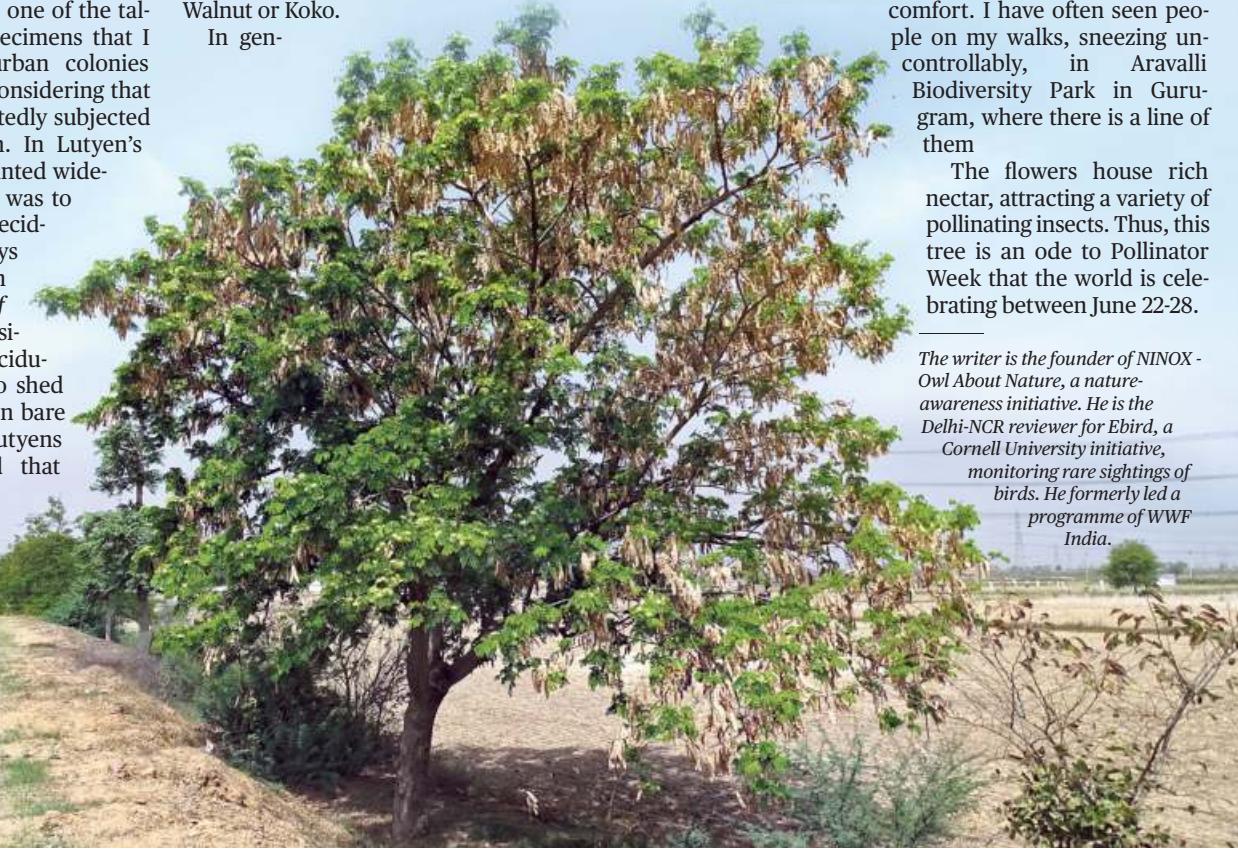
Harbouring a shallow root system hurts these trees as they are blown away by storms and heavy winds. According to Troup, the natural reproduction in this tree is very meagre, largely owing to insect attacks, drought, and sometimes excessive rain that rot the seeds inside the pods.

The tree has been so extensively planted along avenues and in gardens, because of the clusters of fragrant yellow flowers that the origin of its natural habitat is difficult to fathom, says Troup.

The seeds of this tree are often used in folk medicine as a remedy for leprosy. Overall the bark, leaves, flowers and seeds are also used as an anti-allergy medicine, but the fragrance of its flowers may also cause breathing discomfort. I have often seen people on my walks, sneezing uncontrollably, in Aravalli Biodiversity Park in Gurugram, where there is a line of them.

The flowers house rich nectar, attracting a variety of pollinating insects. Thus, this tree is an ode to Pollinator Week that the world is celebrating between June 22-28.

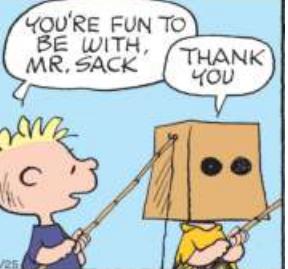
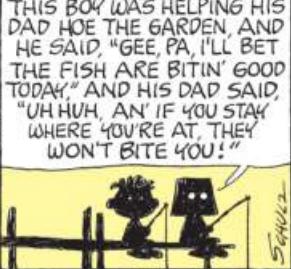
*The writer is the founder of NINOX-Owl About Nature, a nature-awareness initiative. He is the Delhi-NCR reviewer for Ebird, a Cornell University initiative, monitoring rare sightings of birds. He formerly led a programme of WWF India.*



Pooch Cafe



PEANUTS

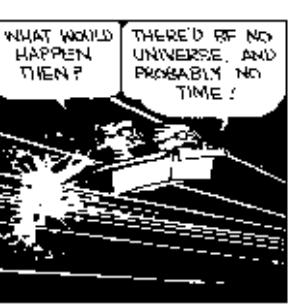


You're fun to be with, Mr. Sack. Thank you!

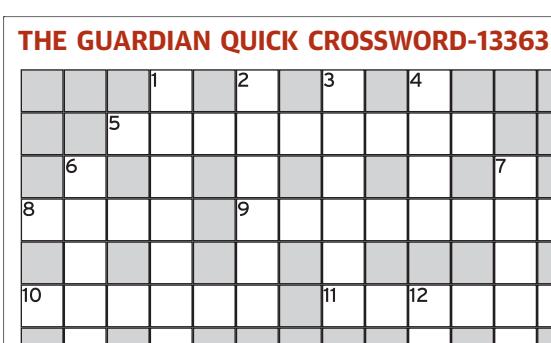
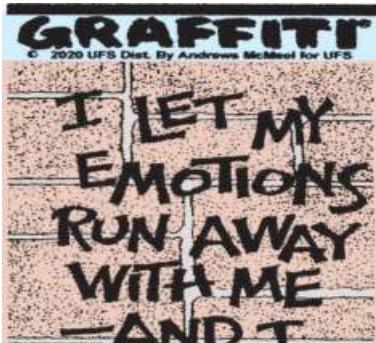
Hagar the Horrible



CALVIN AND HOBBES



TIGER



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

- 12 Courteousness (8)  
14 Quantum of electromagnetic radiation (6)  
15 Turning (6)  
17 Calf meat (4)

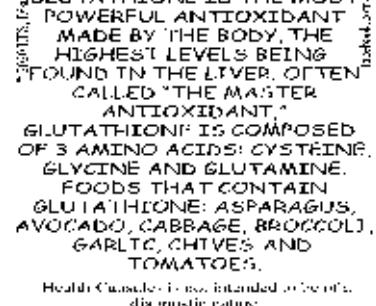
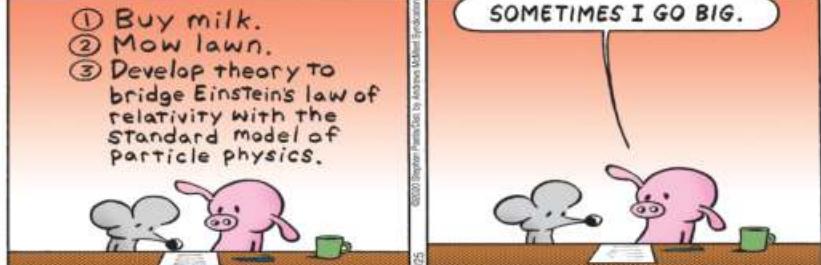
The solution will appear on June 27, 2020.

Solution No. 13362

WUMO



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



CM YK

## HOMING IN

From a pride party to folksy fable-esque duets, this week's list of **Live Gigs** has a range of options for your coming weekend

MEGHNA MAJUMDAR

## Glastonbury Festival

This was supposed to be 50th edition of the iconic Somerset performing arts festival, that has hosted the likes of David Bowie, Metallica and Beyoncé in the past.

While that grand plan was cancelled, organisers announced an online "lineup" earlier this week, to complement BBC's streaming of classic Glastonbury sets on TV, radio and online platforms. The virtual show includes an opening ceremony to be live-streamed on June 25 noon BST, sets prepared by DJs like Honey Dijon for the fest, curated playlists of stars who would have performed, and more. Details on [glastonburyfestivals.co.uk](http://glastonburyfestivals.co.uk).



## Queer Carnival

They are calling it a virtual Pride party. Though it does feature performances by drag queens like Lush Monsoon, Dame Imfala, Miss Benji, Magic Prat and more, it is essentially meant to be a safe space for members of the LGBTQIA+ community, their family and allies to celebrate. Fabulous wardrobe choices are welcome, and so is the absence of judgement. The DJ for the celebration is Glorius Luna, and the fun starts on June 28, 6.29 pm on Zoom. Passes at [insider.in](http://insider.in).

We would love to know how you are keeping busy at home. Tell us who you are watching live at [metro@thehindu.co.in](mailto:metro@thehindu.co.in).

## Parvinder Singh

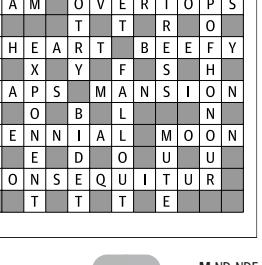
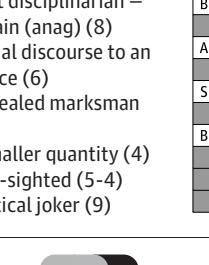
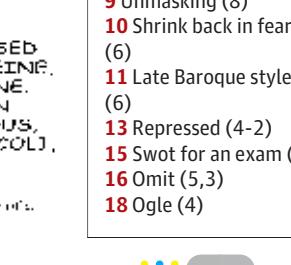
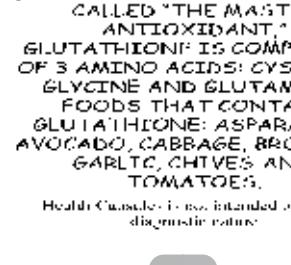
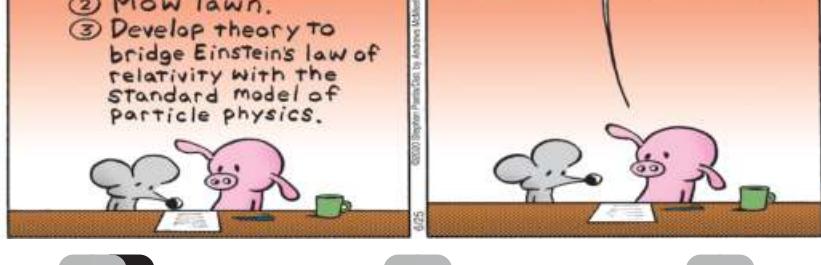
The New Delhi-based standup comedian was one of the finalists of The Great Indian Laughter Challenge 2017, and has since been serving up laughs on YouTube and at gigs. From cricket to travel dreams and embarrassing moments of Punjabi childhood, his material covers everything both personal and relatable. He goes live on Zoom at a show by Comedy Munch, on June 27 at 7 pm. Passes at ₹249 available on [insider.in](http://insider.in).

## The salad revolution

SHARAN is holding a two-day free Zoom event to share with participants everything they need to know about salads. Questions such as how safe is it to have salads now, what not to add in salads and how to make salad dressings will be answered, along with demos and meet-ups with organic farmers and chefs. Your hosts will be founder Nandita Shah, nutritionist Shalu Nijhawan, Masterchef Neelima Sriram and more. For details, please click <https://sharan-india.org/events/the-salad-revolution-free-event>.



POOCH CAFE





## MARKET WATCH

	24-06-2020	% CHANGE
Sensex	34,869	-1.58
US Dollar	75.72	-0.08
Gold	49,352	0.86
Brent oil	40.75	-6.36

## NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	351.85	-3.80
Asian Paints	1747.25	63.35
Axisc Bank	424.65	-19.00
Bajaj Auto	2817.25	-44.90
Bajaj Finserv	6046.05	-273.60
Bajaj Finance	2934.45	-91.05
Bharti Airtel	557.35	-21.45
BPCL	378.55	-13.45
Britannia Ind	3446.40	-20.65
Cipla	631.20	-28.60
Coal India	141.55	-2.30
Dr Reddys Lab	4042.65	-66.20
Eicher Motors	18436.85	545.70
GAIL (India)	101.40	2.15
Grasim Ind	613.65	-8.70
HCL Tech	559.60	-20.65
HDPC	1797.75	-40.35
HFDC Bank	1032.50	-9.80
Hero MotoCorp	2493.80	74.95
Hindalco	151.40	-6.95
Hind Unilever	2130.30	-25.65
ICICI Bank	348.10	-28.05
IndusInd Bank	481.70	-38.70
Bharti Infratel	233.05	0.70
Infosys	714.15	-6.50
Indian Oil Corp	87.10	-2.25
ITC	191.85	6.00
JSW Steel	193.90	-7.75
Kotak Bank	1343.90	-46.00
L&T	955.55	-12.05
M&M	515.35	-1.05
Maruti Suzuki	5755.35	-131.15
Nestle India Ltd.	16707.95	159.50
NTPC	97.05	-3.70
ONGC	83.10	-2.55
PowerGrid Corp	178.50	-8.95
Reliance Ind	1727.85	6.95
State Bank	184.60	-7.85
Shree Cement	22566.25	-190.00
Sun Pharma	484.40	-16.05
Tata Motors	104.80	0.40
Tata Steel	326.05	-5.95
TCS	2042.20	6.90
Tech Mahindra	560.95	2.15
Titan	988.20	-11.05
UltraTech Cement	3821.60	-121.20
UPL	444.95	-18.15
Vedanta	109.45	-0.55
Wipro	218.20	-2.40
Zee Entertainment	174.10	-7.85

EXCHANGE RATES		
Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on June 24		
CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar.....	75.52	75.84
Euro.....	85.28	85.64
British Pound.....	94.42	94.82
Japanese Yen (100).....	70.89	71.19
Chinese Yuan.....	10.68	10.73
Swiss Franc.....	79.89	80.23
Singapore Dollar.....	54.36	54.60
Canadian Dollar.....	55.62	55.88
Malaysian Ringgit.....	17.67	17.75
Australian Dollar.....	52.20	52.42

Source: Indian Bank

## Bharti Infratel defers Indus Towers merger

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Bharti Infratel on Wednesday extended the deadline for merger with Indus Towers by over two months till August 31. The telecom infrastructure company said in a regulatory filing that its Board of Directors met on Wednesday and took note of the status of the scheme of arrangement between Indus and Bharti Infratel.

## IN BRIEF



## CCEA nod for animal husbandry infra fund

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has given its nod to set up a ₹15,000 crore Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund. "Eligible beneficiaries under the scheme include farmer producer organisations and MSMEs with a minimum 10% margin money contribution by them," said a statement.

## Mayur suiting brand to offer anti-viral fabric

MUMBAI RSWM Ltd. of the LNJ Bhilwara Group has unveiled anti-viral fabric 'ViroSecure' via a technology partnership with Swiss firm HeIQ, Suketu Shah, CEO and business head, Mayur Suiting and LNJ Denim said, "ViroSecure fabric range offers anti-COVID protection against the spread and transmission of the pathogen."

## NLC posts 35% growth in standalone Q4 profit

CHENNAI NLC India Ltd., a Navratna company under the Coal Ministry, has posted a 35.28% growth in its standalone net profit for the fourth quarter ended March 2020 to ₹392.48 crore. The total income of the company rose to ₹2,574.65 crore from ₹2,266.80 crore, the company said in a regulatory filing with the exchanges.

## India GDP to contract 4.5% on COVID-19: IMF

Contraction first in decades for country, says fund

## AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

WASHINGTON

Key emerging market economies are taking a severe hit to GDP amid the COVID-19 pandemic, with India seeing the first contraction in decades, the IMF said.

The updated World Economic Outlook shows India's GDP will fall 4.5% this year, far worse than expected in April just after the pandemic first took hold outside of China. Mexico will see a double digit decline of 10.5% while Brazil just misses that mark with a drop of 9.1%.

Argentina is projected to fall 9.9%, with the country already in the middle of a massive debt crunch on top of the health and economic crises. During the global financial crisis in 2009, these emerging markets, along with China, were booming, supporting the global economy even as advanced nations faced severe recessions.



The pandemic has sent world GDP plunging 4.9% this year and wiping out \$12 tn over two years, the IMF said.

Meanwhile, South Africa's GDP is seen dropping 8%, while oil-producer Nigeria falls 5.4%, it said.

The pandemic has sparked an economic "crisis like no other," sending world GDP plunging 4.9% this year and wiping out \$12 trillion over two years, the IMF said.

## Jobs destroyed

Worldwide business shutdowns destroyed hundreds of millions of jobs, and the

prospects for recovery – along with the forecasts themselves – are steeped in "pervasive uncertainty" with the virus still rife, the IMF said. The U.S. economy is set to contract 8% in 2020, while China fares slightly better, posting growth of 1%, the report said. The IMF cautioned that trade and geopolitical tensions between the world's largest economies could undercut a modest recovery in 2021.

## Sales dip spurs cash-n-carry mode at India Cements

Firm clocks Q4 loss; 'demand better than expected'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI

Impacted by lower sales volume due to the lockdown, The India Cements Ltd. (ICL) has switched over to a cash-and-carry system to help improve liquidity.

"To combat liquidity issues, we have instituted the 'cash and carry' system," said N. Srinivasan, vice chairman and MD, ICL. This, he added, helped improve liquidity as buyers pay immediately for their purchases, instead of opting for credit.

"Due to the impact of the Covid necessitated lockdown and lower volume, ICL lost ₹50 crore in sales in 2019-20," he said, adding the firm made up for this by pruning costs; the final net loss in sales was contained to ₹57-60 crore in FY20.

If Covid had not happened, the demand would have been better. We are doing well in places where the

lockdown has been lifted. Rural demand is decent. There is already a smart rise in cement prices," he said.

ICL reported a standalone net loss of ₹111.07 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 2020, including provision of ₹100.04 crore towards an airline subsidiary, the infrastructure division and on account of a vendor who had approached the NCLT.

**'Takeover by Damani?'** On the reported takeover of ICL by investor R.K. Damani, he said: "[What appeared in the media] is an incorrect report. We have clarified to SEBI. There is nothing [more] to say."

"Stability of management will be okay. Mr. Damani is a respectable person, who has chosen to invest in India Cements. I should not say more. This company has been around for more than 70 years. We will continue to make cement."

## Rane Holdings Q4 net profit plummets 77%

Board declares final dividend of ₹4

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI

Rane Holdings Ltd. (RHL), the holding company of the Rane Group, reported a 77% drop in net profit before exceptional items to ₹73.7 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 2020 on lower volumes across vehicle segments.

During the period under review, total net revenue decreased 17.4% to ₹4,436.8 crore.

The board declared a final dividend of ₹4 per share taking the total dividend for

the year to ₹8 per share, the company said.

RHL said revenue from Indian original equipment customers declined by 22% and that from international customers declined by 8%.

There was a drop in steering products and light metal casting products partially offset by growth in occupant-safety products.

Revenue from the Indian aftermarket segment declined by 5%. This drop was mainly due to the lockdown in the last week of March 2020, according to a statement from the lender.

During the quarter, net NPAs dropped by 106 basis points to 3.92% to ₹1,809 crore, the bank said.

his litigation friend, is bringing these proceedings on his behalf," they added.

The case has been brought by S.P. Hinduja, 84, against his brothers and revolves around the "validity and effect" of a letter dated July 2, 2014, *Press Trust of India* reported.

The letter includes statements to the effect that the brothers appoint each other as their executors, and that assets held in any single brother's name belong to all four. A related second letter, dated July 1, 2014, is also linked to the dispute.

In summary, SP seeks a declaration that neither document has legal effect, whether as a will, power of

attorney, declaration of trust or other binding document, or alternatively that the documents are revocable and have been revoked," PTI cited Justice Sarah Falk as noting in her judgment on June 23.

"It is very unfortunate that these proceedings are taking place as they go against our founder's and family's values and principles that have stood for many decades, especially that 'everything belongs to everyone and nothing belongs to anyone,'" the three brothers said in the statement.

The Hindujas' group's interests in India include Ashok Leyland Ltd., IndusInd Bank Ltd. and Gulf Oil Corp.

The Hindujas' group's interests in India include Ashok Leyland Ltd., IndusInd Bank Ltd. and Gulf Oil Corp.

## OVL gets nod for investment in Myanmar

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on Wednesday approved an additional investment of \$121.27 million (about ₹909 crore) by ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL), for further development of the Shwe oil and gas project in Myanmar.

According to an official statement, ONGC Videsh has been associated with the exploration and development of the Shwe project in Myanmar since 2002, as part of consortium of companies from South Korea, India and Myanmar, and has invested \$722 million till March 31, 2019 in the project.

GAIL is also an investor in this project. The first gas from the Shwe Project was received in July 2013 and plateau production was reached in December 2014.

The project has been generating positive cash flows since FY15, the government said.

## RBI slams banks, NBFCs as digital loan agents flout code

Regulator says onus of compliance rests with lenders

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has come down heavily on banks and non-banks as it found violation of fair practices code by digital platforms that act as an agency of these lenders to sell loans.

The banking regulator has now prescribed norms such as loan sanction letter to be issued to the borrower on the letter head of the lender concerned.

According to an official statement, the RBI said it found the platforms tend to portray themselves as lenders without disclosing the name of the bank/ NBFC at the back end as a result of which customers were not able to access grievance redressal avenues available under the regulatory framework.

"Outsourcing of any activity by banks/ NBFCs does not diminish their obligations, as the onus of compliance with regulatory instructions rests solely with



them," the RBI said. As a result, the lenders were now told to disclose the names of all digital lending platforms, engaged as agents, on the websites of banks/ NBFCs.

"Immediately after sanction but before execution of the loan agreement, the sanction letter shall

## TV PICKS

**Premier League:** Star Sports 1, SS Select 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 10.30 p.m. & 12.30 a.m. (Friday)  
**PGA Tour:** Eurosport (SD & HD), 1 a.m. (Friday)

## IN BRIEF



Connor to become MCC's first woman president

LONDON  
Clare Connor has been named as the next president of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC). The former England captain will become the first woman president in the Club's 233-year history. She will take over from Kumar Sangakkara in October 2021.

## Vaughan critical of British PM's comment

LONDON  
Former England captain Michael Vaughan has criticised UK Prime Minister and self-confessed "village cricketer" Boris Johnson over the latter's statement on upholding the ban on the recreational game saying the ball is a "natural vector of disease". Vaughan tweeted: "hand sanitiser in every players pocket...use every time you touch the ball... SIMPLE... Recreational Cricket should just play from July 4th...utter nonsense it's not being allowed back." AFP

## Hafeez says his second corona test is negative

KARACHI  
Pakistan's Mohammad Hafeez tweeted on Wednesday that a second test he commissioned himself proved he didn't have coronavirus, a day after the PCB said he was one of seven players who tested positive. AFP

## Bangladesh's tour of Sri Lanka called off

COLOMBO  
Bangladesh has formally called off its Test series in Sri Lanka because of the coronavirus pandemic, officials said here on Wednesday. The Bangladeshi team was due to play three Tests in late July. AFP

## New York and Berlin Marathons cancelled

NEW YORK  
The New York Marathon, planned for Nov. 1, has been cancelled due to COVID-19, organisers said. New York's race was set to celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2020. The Berlin Marathon was also cancelled due to problems in finding an alternative date. AGENCIES

## Vachier exits, Giri tops

RAKESH RAO  
NEW DELHI  
Anish Giri held on to his position at the top but overnight joint-leader Maxime Vachier-Lagrave lost the last four rounds to tumble out in the league phase of \$150,000 Chessable Masters on Tuesday.  
**The results: Group 'B': (10th round):** Anish Giri (Ned, 6) drew with Fabiano Caruana (USA, 5); Teimour Radjabov (Aze, 4.5) drew with Ding Liren (Chi, 5.5); Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra, 3.5) lost to Ian Nepomniachtchi (Rus, 5.5); **Ninth:** Nepomniachtchi drew with Giri; Caruana drew with Radjabov; Liren by Vachier; **Eighth:** Radjabov drew with Giri; Liren bt Nepomniachtchi; Caruana bt Lagrave; **Seventh:** Giri bt Liren; Vachier lost to Radjabov; Nepomniachtchi bt Caruana.

## Sponsorship relook: BCCI finds itself in a tight spot

There's a feeling that snapping deals will hurt it financially

AMOL KARHADKAR  
MUMBAI

The decision to review the IPL's sponsorship deals in the wake of India's border dispute with China has evoked a mixed response – both within the BCCI and from industry.

IPL authorities had recently issued an unattributed statement on its verified Twitter handle, indicating that a Governing Council (GC) meeting would be convened to "review" sponsorship deals. This put a question mark over title sponsor Vivo as well as three other associate sponsors of the BCCI/IPL – Dream11, Byju's and PayTM, which are funded by Chinese entities.

## In bad shape

Given the 'sensitivity' of the matter, no BCCI official was available for comment. However, a GC member, on condition of anonymity, conceded that terminating sponsorship deals now will significantly affect BCCI's already troubled financial situation.

"We aren't sure about the fate of IPL this season. Moreover, with the economy in a bad shape, chances of getting a new sponsor at the same price are remote, to say the least. I am not sure whether this is a wise move," he said.

Mobile handset manufacturer Vivo shells out approxi-



What's in store? It remains to be seen whether Vivo will continue to be IPL's title sponsor. ■ FILE PHOTO: K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

mately ₹440 crore per IPL edition. Byju's, the Indian team's main sponsor, pays ₹4.61 crore for each of India's international matches, except those in ICC events (₹1.56 crore per match).

## Sleight of hand

Ad film director and entrepreneur Prahlad Kakkar offered a solution. "It's a no-brainer that you can't get the same price should you decide to replace the sponsor. Instead, it's best to make

them pay for the sponsorship deals and boycott the products," Kakkar told *The Hindu*. "That's a good Indian rhetoric: Take money from one hand and don't pass it on from another. It's called a sleight of hand or divine justice."

Interestingly, even if the BCCI decides to follow Kakkar's prescription, captain Virat Kohli, who is the brand ambassador of Vivo India, will find himself in a difficult situation.

## ICC chairman: Board meets today to finalise process

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

The International Cricket Council (ICC) Board is set to meet on Thursday to finalise the process of electing chairman Shashank Manohar's successor.

The issue has been on the agenda for the ICC Board since last month but has had to be postponed due to other issues – T20 World Cup fate and breach of confidentiality clause – taking centrestage in the last couple of meetings. As a result, the ICC Board is scheduled to meet on Thursday primarily to finalise the election process.

Manohar, despite being eligible for another two-year term, has made it clear he will step down after being the first independent ICC chairman. While the pandemic has resulted in his term being extended, all the national Boards are hoping that the election process kicks off at the earliest.

The uncertainty over T20 World Cup, scheduled to be played in Australia in October-November, is unlikely to be over until the Board nails down the new ICC chief.

## Djokovic under fire after fiasco

Murray says the event should not have gone ahead

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
PARIS

World No. 1 Novak Djokovic was widely criticised for hosting the tennis exhibition where he was one of four players to test positive for the coronavirus, a lapse that sent shudders through a sport struggling to get back on its feet.

The Serbian star said on Tuesday that he was "deeply sorry" in an unscripted apology for the now-cancelled Adria Tour. In the latest repercussion, Serbian NBA player Nikola Jokic has reportedly tested positive. He was pictured with Djokovic at an exhibition basketball event in Belgrade recently.

**Scathing**  
Among the scathing criticism of Djokovic, there were questions about whether he, or tennis, should be allowed back. Many also voiced concerns over attempts to restart professional tournaments in August, including the US Open from August 31.

The last few months have been a public relations disaster for Djokovic. He broke lockdown rules to train while in Spain, raised eyebrows over possible compulsory vaccination for players in future and described limits on players' entourages at the US Open as "extreme". Some have now questioned his presidency of the ATP Player Council.

ATP chairman Andrea Gaudenzi said the Adria Tour fiasco was a lesson for

other tournaments. "When you tell your kids when they try to learn to ride the bike to wear the helmet, it's 'no, no, no,'" Gaudenzi said. "And when they ride the bike, they fall, and then they wear the helmet."

## Father blames Dimitrov

Meanwhile, Djokovic's father Srdjan Djokovic defended his son and instead blamed Grigor Dimitrov, the first player to test positive, for spreading the coronavirus. "Why did it happen? Because that man probably came sick, who knows from where," he told RTL Croatia TV.

"He inflicted damage to both Croatia and to us as a family in Serbia."



A billboard with Djokovic's image in Belgrade. ■

**C** A couple weeks ago I said yeah it looks like a 'normal' tennis event to me. I'm not sure everyone got my point. Maybe they are getting it now. Nothing's foolproof so don't be foolish

PATRICK MCENROE  
Former player and noted commentator

**C** I don't think it has been a great look for tennis. It's not something that should have gone ahead. Not surprising how many people have tested positive.

ANDY MURRAY  
Three-time Major champion

**C** Yikes this is not good and it's a pattern. Hope Novak will be ok of course! What now, U.S. Open? Roland Garros? We have a lot of work to do

MARTINA NAVRATILOVA  
18-time Major champion

## Vaishali wins, Humpy loses

P.K. AJITH KUMAR  
KOZHIKODE

Chennai girl R. Vaishali stunned former World champion Antoaneta Stefanova of Bulgaria and entered the quarterfinals of the first leg of the FIDE Chess.com Women's Speed Chess on Wednesday.

Her 6.5 victory gave India something to cheer about after Koneru Humpy, the reigning World rapid champion, was shocked earlier in the day by Vietnam's Le Thao Nguyen Pham. Humpy lost the match 4.5-5.5. The scores were level at 3.5 after the first two segments before Le Thao's wins in the first two games of the final phase secured her a berth in the last eight stage.

## Boxers join camps



Back in the mix: Kavinder Singh Bisht found training at home difficult. ■ FILE PHOTO: RITU RAJ KONWAR

## Rakitic is Barca's hero

REUTERS  
BARCELONA

Barcelona midfielder Ivan Rakitic came off the bench to give his side a 1-0 win at home to Athletic Bilbao in the LaLiga on Tuesday.

## The results:

**Premier League:** Leicester 0 drew with Brighton 0; Tottenham 2 (Soucek 64-og, Kane 82) bt West Ham 0.

**LaLiga:** Levante 0 lost to Atletico Madrid 1 (Gonzalez 15-og); Valladolid 1 (Unal 45+5-pen) drew with Getafe 1 (Mata 41); Barcelona 1 (Rakitic 71) bt Athletic Bilbao 0.

**Serie A:** Hellas Verona 0 lost to Napoli 2 (Milik 38, Lozano 90); SPAL 0 lost to Cagliari 1 (Simeone 90+3); Torino 1 (Bellotti 16) bt Udinese 0; Genoa 1 (Falque 59-pen) lost to Parma 4 (Cornelius 18, 33, 53, Kulusevski 87).

training right now. About 10 more are going through quarantine in order to join the camp," said Negi.

"I was doing my training at home (at Haldwani, Uttarakhand), but it's difficult to stay focused as you are bound to face distractions. It's better to stay in the camp even though sparring and close contact exercises are forbidden due to the social distancing protocols. At least you can maintain a routine here."

While Asian championships medalist Manisha Moun and prominent heavyweight boxer Sanjeet have been training at the Institute of Sports (IIS), Vijayanagara, Olympics-qualified boxers Vikas Krishan and Ashish Kumar are going through a 14-day mandatory quarantine period with the hope to begin their training on the IIS campus soon.

"Training was getting affected at home due to the long duration of the lockdown. I will get good equipment here and prepare better for the Olympics. Besides, I will get good care and recover from minor injuries to become fully fit," said Ashish.

International Duryodhan Singh Negi and National champions P.L. Prasad and Naresh Boora were among those who joined the Army Sports Institute in Pune.

"Only Gaurav Solanki (Commonwealth Games gold medallist) trained here during the lockdown. I joined on June 3. Around 10 boxers are

## Academies in dire straits: Raj

The administrator has taken up the matter with Rijiju

KAMESH SRINIVASAN  
NEW DELHI

Sports persons are trying to cope with the effects of lockdown in their individual capacity with varying degrees of success. But, the sports academies are choking without resources and players.

The coaches and other personnel have been demoralised without any income for months.

"Right now, most of them are struggling to make ends meet. That is the ground reality. They have lost their livelihood for about four months, and have spent their savings. They are worried about clearing their credit with the grocery shops, pending school fees of their children, rent dues etc. They

need support for their personal lives first before they get back to sports," said Raj Hazarika who runs seven sports academies in Delhi and Gurugram, catering to 12 sports activities.

## Positive side

On the positive side, Raj mentioned about the Union Minister Nitin Gadkari expressing confidence in a webinar about restarting the fitness industry with social distancing and strict hygiene norms.

A national-level tennis player from Assam, Raj has taken up the pitiable plight of the sports academies with the Union Sports Minister, Kiren Rijiju, through a public petition.

## A feat of human endeavour and mental toughness

ASHWIN Achal  
BENGALURU

Kieren D'Souza is a tired man. Only a few days ago, he began a gruelling 5,289-metre trail run on the Pir Panjal mountain range in Himachal Pradesh. While most climbers take around six days to scale 'Friendship Peak', Kieren did it in just under 12 hours.

The 27-year-old followed the global trend in mountaineering and trail runs, where the emphasis is on recording fast times.

After securing permission from the local police and government officials, he began the trek from Dhundi. The scheduled start time of 1 a.m. was delayed by a few minutes,

as a couple of uninvited, inebriated guests crashed the party.

**Low inclines**  
Once the trail run began, Kieren eased through the initial stages, aided by good weather and low inclines. At around the 4,000m mark was when he was forced to slow down. Sub-zero temperatures and chilly winds made for a punishing combination. Kieren had to change out of his running gear – a thin water-proof jacket, shorts and gloves – to protective mountaineering clothes.

"My hands started to swell; I was really struggling. I had to take help from my

friends in the production house who were doing the video shoot. They helped me put on my boots and pants," Kieren said. Approaching dawn, Kieren was dehydrated and sleepy, but most crucially, he managed to keep his mind sharp. "One wrong step could result in a 1km free fall. You also had to watch for dangerous crevasses," Kieren said. Taking a slow and steady approach,

he nevertheless got the job done – a feat of human endeavour and mental toughness.

"The accepted norm may be to climb a mountain in 10 days, but that's not the only way. One must think out of the box – set new challenges and overcome them."



A new high: Kieren D'Souza followed the global trend in mountaineering and trail runs. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Kieren finally made it to the peak. The exhilaration he felt was short-lived, as he had to gear up for the arduous descent. Due to the steep decline, Kieren could not walk down in normal fashion. He had to 'down climb' – similar to the technique used to come down a ladder.

He was soon running on fumes. Pure instinct took over, with Kieren stumbling through the final stretch. He nevertheless got the job done – a feat of human endeavour and mental toughness.

"The accepted norm may be to climb a mountain in 10 days, but that's not the only way. One must think out of the box – set new challenges and overcome them."

that we seek to revive through this mega cultural event," Mr. Nahar said.

"Satyendranath Tagore had translated Tilak's *Geeta Rahasya* and Sam Tukaram's abhangs [devotional poetry] into Bengali, while Rabindranath Tagore had penned a poem on Chhatrapati Shivaji. In the mid-1970s, eminent Marathi litterateur P.L. Deshpande, known as 'Pu La', had visited Tagore's Shantiniketan and had penned his masterful *Vang-Chitre* soon after. It is precisely such ties

that we seek to revive through the Independence era spirit of the 'Lal-Bal-Pal', named after nationalists Lala Lajpat Rai, Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Bipin Chandra Pal, and to mark the death centenary of Tilak, Pune-based non-governmental organisation (NGO) 'Sarhad' will launch a series of literary and cultural programmes to strengthen connections between Maharashtra and West Bengal.

He said Sarhad would be facilitating the publishing of these translated works.

## To mark Tilak's death centenary, Pune NGO aims to revive spirit of 'Lal-Bal-Pal'

Sarhad to launch a series of literary and cultural programmes to strengthen connections between Maharashtra and West Bengal

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE  
PUNE

In a bid to revive the Independence-era spirit of the 'Lal-Bal-Pal', named after nationalists Lala Lajpat Rai, Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Bipin Chandra Pal, and to mark the death centenary of Tilak, Pune-based non-governmental organisation (NGO) 'Sarhad' will launch a series of literary and cultural programmes to strengthen connections between Maharashtra and West Bengal.



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