



Meetings being held in India to topple my govt., says Nepal PM Oli
page 9



Lockdown will continue in Maharashtra after June 30, says Uddhav
page 10



Centre unveils new rules to regulate trade in exotic species
page 10



Iran facing its toughest year due to sanctions, COVID-19: Rouhani
page 12

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

NEARBY



COVID-19 drug claim: FIR against Ramdev, 4 others

JAIPUR
The police have lodged an FIR against yoga guru Ramdev and four others for allegedly conspiring to sell a fake Ayurveda medicine with the misleading claim to cure COVID-19 following clinical trials on some patients.

NORTH & EAST ▶ PAGE 4

CITY SEES 2,889 fresh virus cases, 65 deaths

NEW DELHI
Delhi reported 2,889 new COVID-19 cases in the past 24 hours, taking the total to 83,077, read the health bulletin released on Sunday. The death toll has risen to 2,623 with 65 deaths in the past 24 hours. There are now 27,847 active cases in the city.

CITY ▶ PAGE 2

Malls to open from July 1 in Gurugram, Faridabad

GURUGRAM
Shopping malls in Gurugram and Faridabad will reopen from July 1 and will be allowed to operate from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Cinema halls, gaming arcades and children play areas inside the malls will remain closed. Shoppers have been advised to install the Aarogya Setu app.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

EDUCATION PLUS ▶ PAGE 11

Befitting reply given to those coveting our territory, says PM

'Challenges that 2020 has brought should not weigh the country down'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday put out a strong statement on the ongoing stalemate between India and China in east Ladakh, saying that "the world has seen India's commitment to protecting its borders and sovereignty. In Ladakh, a befitting reply has been given to those coveting our territory."

He said this in his monthly radio broadcast, *Mann ki Baat*, referring to the sacrifice of the 20 soldiers killed in the clash with Chinese troops on June 15 as one that the whole country paid homage to.

Befitting reply

"India is peace loving but if anyone casts an eye on our territory and sovereignty, we are more than capable of giving a befitting reply," he said. Without mentioning China, he quoted a Sanskrit sloka that characterised for India what Chinese actions at the border revealed about that country's character. "Vidya vivaad dhanam madaya, shakti parashan paripeedanya. Khalsya sadho vipareetam etat, gyaanaya, daanaya cha rakshanaam" (For crooked persons, knowledge

is meant for arguments, wealth for ego, power for troubling others. The opposite is the case among noble souls. Knowledge is meant for wisdom, wealth for donation and power to protect the weak.) he said.

Saying that the sentiments expressed by the family members of those slain lent courage to the entire country, he referred in particular to jawan Kundan Kumar's father who has, despite losing a son, expressed a desire to see two of his grandsons

serve the Indian Army. He also referred to a journalist from Assam, Rajani, who said that after the clashes in Ladakh, she was determined to buy locally made products.

Mr. Modi said the challenges that 2020 had brought to the country, like COVID-19, Cyclones Amphan and Nisarga, and locust attacks, apart from the situation in Ladakh, should not weigh the country down.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

The China Study Group (CSG), headed by National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, met on Saturday to discuss the prevailing situation along the LAC. The CSG is an informal group constituted in 1997, comprising the Cabinet Secretary, the Secretaries of Defence and Home, the Army chief and the Director of Intelligence Bureau, among others. The details of the meeting were not known.

A senior government official told *The Hindu* that an analysis of the medical reports of the 20 men killed showed the cause of death in most cases was a "mix of head injury and drowning".

The bodies were retrieved from Galwan river. "As many as 15 deceased personnel had head injuries, one or two had injuries on the chest and remaining had shoulder and knee injuries. Their bodies were badly bruised as

India will win both battles, says Shah

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said India will win the battles against the COVID-19 pandemic and the Chinese aggression along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh.

Mr. Shah, in an interview with the news agency Asian News International (ANI), said, "We will win both the battles. I want to assure the people that under the leadership of Modi ji, we will win both the battles."

He said Parliament is about to convene, and he will discuss everything related to China that has occurred in the country since 1962.

Accusing Congress leader Rahul Gandhi of indulging in "shallow politics", Mr. Shah said the party should introspect why Pakistan and China were promoting Twitter hashtags initiated by its leader.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

CBI will probe Thoothukudi deaths, says Tamil Nadu CM

Sattankulam inspector suspended, pending inquiry

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SALEM/ THOOTHUKUDI

The Tamil Nadu government has decided to hand over to the CBI the probe into the recent deaths of a father and son – Jayaraj and J. Benicks – at Sattankulam, allegedly due to torture in police custody, Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami said in Salem on Sunday.

The government will inform the Madras High Court (Madurai Bench) of its decision when the case related to the deaths is taken up for hearing.

In a related development, Sridhar, inspector of Sattankulam police station, where the father and son were allegedly subjected to third degree assault, was on Sunday suspended from service, pending an inquiry into the case.

Action against 4 more
The Chief Minister told journalists that Jayaraj and Benicks, who were running a mobile shop at Sattankulam, Thoothukudi, were arrested and remanded in judicial custody at the Kovilpatti sub-jail following an issue regarding closing their shop [during the ongoing COVID-19 lockdown] and they died later at the Kovilpatti hospital.



Widespread outrage: Residents carrying the coffins of Jayaraj and Benicks in Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu, last week. ■ AFP

the police on avoiding such incidents, the Chief Minister said, "I have already advised the police to behave cordially with the public and traders and take necessary legal action if there are any issues.

Earlier, the government suspended two sub-inspectors – Balakrishnan and Raghuganesan – and initiated a departmental inquiry against two head constables Muthuraj and Murugan.

The Madras High Court has taken suo moto cognisance of the deaths and the government has decided to hand over the case to the CBI for probe.

When the case is taken up for hearing, the government will inform the court about this decision and it will be handed over to the CBI with the court's permission," Mr. Palaniswami explained.

Asked if he had advised

the police on avoiding such incidents, the Chief Minister said, "I have already advised the police to behave cordially with the public and traders and take necessary legal action if there are any issues.

Sources in Thoothukudi said on instructions from the government, inspector Sridhar had been placed under suspension and Bernard Xavier of Kanniyakumari district had been posted as inspector of Sattankulam with immediate effect. Mr. Sridhar had earlier been shifted from the station, but kept on compulsory wait.

Tense standoff continues along the LAC

Despite Corps Commander talks, troops are in eyeball-to-eyeball positions

VIJAYA SINGH
NEW DELHI

A week after the Corps Commander-level talks in the wake of the June 15 Galwan incident when 20 jawans personnel were killed, both Indian and Chinese troops continue in "eyeball-to-eyeball" positions at all the friction points along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh.

The China Study Group (CSG), headed by National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, met on Saturday to discuss the prevailing situation along the LAC. The CSG is an informal group constituted in 1997, comprising the Cabinet Secretary, the Secretaries of Defence and Home, the Army chief and the Director of Intelligence Bureau, among others. The details of the meeting were not known.

A senior government official told *The Hindu* that an analysis of the medical reports of the 20 men killed showed the cause of death in most cases was a "mix of head injury and drowning".

An IAF helicopter flying over mountains surrounding Leh on Sunday. ■ ANI

The bodies were retrieved from Galwan river. "As many as 15 deceased personnel had head injuries, one or two had injuries on the chest and remaining had shoulder and knee injuries. Their bodies were badly bruised as

they had toppled into the river," said the official.

At least 25 personnel, who were injured in the incident, had "blunt injuries" on head, chest and back, inflicted by rods.

Premeditated action
The Ministry of External Affairs had issued a statement that the "Chinese side took premeditated and planned action that was directly responsible for the resulting violence and casualties".

As reported earlier, the violent clashes took place on June 15 after Colonel Santosh Babu, who was commanding the unit, dismantled a tent

erected by the Chinese and set it on fire. Col. Babu was among the Army personnel killed.

Officials said the understanding to remove the tent in Galwan Valley was taken at a meeting on June 6 between the two armies. The official said after the tent was removed on June 15 evening, Col. Babu went to patrol the area with a small team.

"When the team arrived there late in the evening, the violent reaction from the Chinese should have been anticipated and factored in," the official said.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

SC to hear CA exam petition

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court will on Monday urgently hear a petition vital to the rights of nearly five lakh chartered accountancy students slated to take their exams between July 29 and August 16, amid the surge in COVID-19 cases.

A virtual Bench, led by Justice A.M. Khanwilkar, will examine the petition filed by the India Wide Parents Association, which has challenged the "opt-out" scheme announced by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India on June 15 and 20.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

VISIONIAS INSPIRING INNOVATION
LIVE/ONLINE Classes Available
www.visionias.in

You are as strong as your Foundation!

FOUNDATION COURSE GENERAL STUDIES PRELIMS CUM MAINS 2021

PERSONAL GUIDANCE SIMPLIFIED
Receive One-to-One Mentoring via phone / email / in-person sitting

LIVE / ONLINE cum Offline classes

DELHI Regular Batch **30 June 5 PM** Weekend Batch **21 June 9 AM**
CHANDIGARH **15 July 5 PM** **LUCKNOW** **18 June 5 PM**
PUNE | JAIPUR | AHMEDABAD | HYDERABAD **17 June 5 PM**

To know more, get **FREE Counseling** or **Register**

ALL INDIA PRELIMS TEST SERIES » General Studies » CSAT
Start: 14 June Air PRELIMS 2021 starting from 21 June

ALL INDIA MAINS TEST SERIES » General Studies » Essay
Start: 28 June for MAINS 2021 starting from 21 June

DELI • HEAD OFFICE: Apsara Arcade, Karol Bagh | CONTACT: 8468022022, 9019066066
JAIPUR 9001949244 | **PUNE** 8007500096 | **HYDERABAD** 9000104133 | **AHMEDABAD** 9909447040 | **LUCKNOW** 8468022022 | **CHANDIGARH** 8468022022

VISIONIAS [/visionias.upsc](http://visionias.upsc) [/c/VisionIASdelhi](http://c/VisionIASdelhi)

Scan the QR code & download VISIONIAS app

DELI • HEAD OFFICE: Apsara Arcade, Karol Bagh | CONTACT: 8468022022, 9019066066
JAIPUR 9001949244 | **PUNE** 8007500096 | **HYDERABAD** 9000104133 | **AHMEDABAD** 9909447040 | **LUCKNOW** 8468022022 | **CHANDIGARH** 8468022022

DELI • HEAD OFFICE: Apsara Arcade, Karol Bagh | CONTACT: 8468022022, 9019066066
JAIPUR 9001949244 | **PUNE** 8007500096 | **HYDERABAD** 9000104133 | **AHMEDABAD** 9909447040 | **LUCKNOW** 8468022022 | **CHANDIGARH** 8468022022

SHUBHRA RANJAN Always Ahead

GS FOUNDATION 2021 TABLET COURSE

PROGRAM FEATURES

Two subjects at a time

Prelims and Mains Test included

Coverage of important issues

Answer writing practice sessions

Prelims MCQ practice

Synchronisation of Syllabus

Value added notes

Faculty driven test discussions

Test strategy discussion videos

Timely evaluation of copies

Classes available on Tablet mode



TOTAL FEE ₹68,700

REGISTER NOW



29th JUNE 2020

BATCH TIMING : 7:30 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.

LIVE Q&A : 10:15 P.M. - 11:00 P.M.

FOR DEMO - CONTACT : +91-11-45612719

PSIR and Geography optional courses also available

SCAN HERE FOR COUNSELLING SESSION

OUR TOPPERS

SHUBHRA RANJAN IAS STUDY PVT LTD.

delli@shubhraranjan.com

www.shubhraranjan.com

32-B, Pusa Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi 110005

011 - 45612719 ; +91991

DU teachers raise term renewal issue

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Delhi University Teacher's Association (DUTA) on Sunday wrote a letter to the university's dean of colleges highlighting various issues faced by ad-hoc teachers, including the renewal of their terms.

According to the revised academic calendar, July 1 is scheduled to be the date of reopening of the university, the letter reads. Consequently, it argues, the ad-hoc teachers should be given their joining date as on July 1. The letter said it is important to carry this out to ensure the protection of teachers' vacation salaries. Any measures to deal with the pandemic must not adversely affect the services or livelihood of teachers, DUTA said. "...the university must issue clear guidelines regarding joining to all colleges," it demanded.

Air quality of Delhi-NCR			
Delhi	209	Gurugram	202
Ghaziabad	271	Faridabad	181
Noida	215	Greater Noida	—
Good 0-50	51-100	Satisfactory 101-200	—
Poor 201-300	301-400	Severe >401	—
AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M. YESTERDAY (AVERAGE OF PAST 24 HOURS) SOURCE: CPCB			

Police register ₹1 crore fraud case against dead man

SAURABH TRIVEDI
NEW DELHI

The police have come under the scanner for registering a case of ₹1 crore fraud at the Karol Bagh police station against a man two days after he was found dead at his home in north Delhi's Sarai Rohilla.

The victim's relatives, who belong to U.P.'s Lakimpur Khiri, raised suspicion over the police when an officer asked them to leave the city at the earliest with the body, citing pandemic and did not give any satisfactory reply on the death.

On June 23, an FIR was registered against the man, Manoj Gupta, who worked as a sales manager for a Karol Bagh-based jeweller, for duping him of ₹1 crore worth of gold at Karol Bagh police station. In his complaint, the owner, Rajat Kandodia, said Manoj left the shop on March 21 with 2 kg gold to deliver it in Rajasthan and Haryana but after that, the lockdown was announced and he claimed to have got stuck. He kept asking Manoj about his location but he kept saying he could not deliver the gold due to lockdown in place. Later, Manoj stopped taking calls.

The victim's father, Ashok Kumar Gupta, said on June 21, he received a call from his son's colleague informing him about his death. "He told us that my son was found hanging in a flat and that it was a suicide. Next day, we reached Delhi when a policeman asked us to leave the city at the earliest with the body due to the pandemic," said Mr. Gupta.

He said Manoj was always accompanied by workers whenever he travelled with gold or cash. He demanded a detailed probe. When *The Hindu* contacted Karol Bagh police station, its SHO was unaware of Manoj's death. Meanwhile, officers at Sarai Rohilla police station said they were unaware of any pending investigation against Manoj. DCP (Central) Sanjiv Bhatia said the role of police personnel will also be probed. "We will find out why the employer registered a case against Manoj even though he knew the latter was dead. We will also find out where the gold is kept," said Mr. Bhatia.

Suicide prevention helpline: Sanjivni, Society for Mental Health, Telephone: 011-4076 9002, Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-7.30 p.m.

THE MOSQUITO BUZZ MAY GET LOUDER

SIDHARTH RAVI
NEW DELHI

Every year, domestic breeding checkers hop from door to door, climb atop water tanks and containers and inspect narrow damp corners for mosquitoes breeding on their premises. Employed by the municipal corporations in the city, they check whether their surroundings are conducive for mosquito breeding, slap fines if violations are observed and spray insecticides to keep off the buzzing intruders, carriers of a host of diseases.

This year, however, as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has diverted public health resources and made certain interventions more difficult, such screening and preventive measures are lagging compared to previous years, data from the municipal corporations show. Experts warn that the lack of attention to these measures could lead to an outbreak of vector-borne diseases this season.

The numbers

In 2019, the domestic breeding checkers visited 1.43 crore houses by June 22. In 2018, they inspected 1.41 crore houses by June 23 and in 2017, 1.73 crore houses were covered in the same time. This year, the checkers have visited only 62 lakh houses till June 20, a drop of about 56% compared to last year, reveal data shared by R.S. Sharma, ex-addition-

al director of the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme, concurred. He said that prior to COVID-19, in January and February, the number of malaria cases in the country were already on the rise. The cases in Delhi, however, have been the same as this time last year, at 31.

"During the pandemic they will definitely increase because no one doing surveillance, no one is doing treatment, they are not checking mosquito breeding," he said.

Apart from this, Mr. Sharma said that such vector-borne diseases are also cyclic, which means that a rise in cases could be witnessed in the coming years too.

Mr. Sharma, a former nodal officer for Delhi's vector disease management, said that domestic breeding checkers had been put in place in the city for household surveys after an outbreak of dengue in 1996 when up to 10,000 people were infected and nearly 400 people died.

Explaining the role of the checkers, Mr. Singh said that they visit houses and check all containers, go to the rooftops to check the tanks and identify water collection points and instruct the residents to either drain them

out or change the water.

"Now there is nobody to instruct and nobody to identify vulnerabilities," he said, adding: "Most of the people employed for mosquito checking are now deployed for COVID-19 control. Earlier, they would spray mosquitoicide. Now they are engaged in spraying disinfectants." Disinfectants don't kill mosquitoes, said experts.

An official with the Na-

tional Vector Borne Disease Control said the chance of an outbreak could not be ruled out.

"But we have issued advisories and guidelines to States and municipalities, asking them to sensitise communities and households to carry out the work themselves," the official said.

Currently, reports indicate that the workers are going to construction sites and



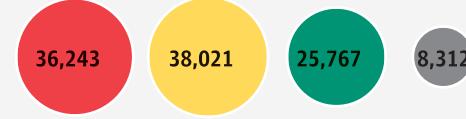
Falling numbers

How the civic bodies have combatted the mosquito menace in the city over the last four years

● 2017 ● 2019
● 2018 ● 2020

NOTE: EACH YEAR'S DATA TILL JUNE 4TH WEEK

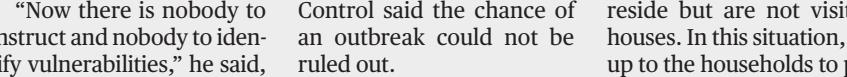
NUMBER OF HOUSES FOUND POSITIVE FOR MOSQUITO BREEDING



NUMBER OF LEGAL NOTICES ISSUED



NUMBER OF HOUSES VISITED



SOURCE: MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS OF DELHI

checkers inside their premises. "In many cases people are quarantined. Also, they are not letting them [checkers] into their house in case there is no issue," she said, explaining the drop in numbers. She also said that because of the pandemic and the lockdown, the checking work started later than usual, but the process is underway and would take a little longer.

Ms. Singhal informed that the work of checking people's houses is over and ensuring water doesn't accumulate in their premises is ultimately the responsibility of the house owners. The checkers' primary task is to spread awareness through various means, which is still taking place, she said. Additionally, the corporation is engaged in spraying disinfectants in drains. The fogging machines were stopped as it could aggravate respiratory conditions, she said.

An East Delhi Municipal Corporation official agreed that people were not allowing workers in on account of social distancing norms. "Whenever there is an opportunity to interact with householders, they are being educated and motivated to take care of their water collection points," he said.

The official also said that the workers were burdened because of the dual disease situation, given that disinfestation was not part of routine activity of domestic breeding checkers, but insisted that this hasn't hampered breeding checks.

Despite this, he admitted that it was a cause of concern because the workers were not entering houses and it was left to the responsibility of the householder to ensure that mosquito breeding was not taking place.

City reports 2,889 fresh COVID-19 cases; total count climbs to 83,077

Lok Nayak doctor, Hindu Rao Hospital worker die; containment zones go up to 417

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Capital reported 2,889 new COVID-19 cases in the past 24 hours, taking the total number of cases to 83,077, according to a health bulletin released by the Delhi government on Sunday.

Also, 65 deaths were reported in the past 24 hours, taking the total number of deaths to 2,623. Of the total cases, 3,306 people have recovered in the past 24 hours. Till now, a total of 53,607 people have recovered.

There are 27,847 active cases in the city out of which 17,148 cases are in home isolation. The total number of beds available is 13,411 out of which 6,014 are occupied. The government said 20,080 tests were conducted in the past 24 hours and 4,98,416 tests have been conducted so far.

Meanwhile, a doctor employed at Lok Nayak Hospital died of COVID-19 on Sunday, said the hospital spokesperson. Dr. Aseem Gupta was a consultant anaesthesiologist at the COVID-19 ward of the hospital. "A dear senior and all-weather friend. He lost the battle after a valiant fight," the spokesperson added.

Also, a 53-year-old employee at the Hindu Rao Hospital, who had tested positive for the virus, died on Sunday afternoon. The worker, Raju, was admitted to a hospital on June 26 and tested positive for the virus a day later. While he was shifted to the emergency ward, he developed kidney failure, said a spokesperson for the North DMC.

Redrawing zones

The number of containment zones had increased to 417 after 175 new zones were added after June 21. This happened when a committee appointed by the Home Minister suggested that the boundaries of these zones in the city be redrawn more effectively to contain the spread of the virus. The deadline set by the committee for the government to redraw the boundaries of these zones is June 30 and the number of zones is likely to increase over the next two days.

Under the government's revised COVID-19 response plan, the officials of 11 districts here were directed to aggressively identify more containment zones in their areas.

In a separate case involving the looting and setting on fire of an e-rickshaw, a unit of Harsh Trading Company in Karawal Nagar, the court rejected the bail plea of Suail, the accused, on the basis of location as per the call details record and identification by two witnesses.

The public prosecutor stated that the mob of rioters, including Mr. Suail, looted the parts of e-rickshaw and other related documents, and following the robbery, the godown was set on fire by the men of Tahir Hussain (AAP leader).

783 cases registered
As per one of the charge-sheets filed, a total of 783 cases had been registered in respective police stations regarding the incidents of riots in north-east Delhi. A total of 52 persons died in the riots, and another 434 sustained injuries, out of which about 100 sustained bullet injuries.

In another case, the bail plea of Mohd. Anas was rejected by a local court here after the public prosecutor said the recovered CCTV footage show him with a 'danda' along with a co-accused who had a sword. The public prosecutor opposed the bail plea, stating that a victim, who was murdered by Mr. Anas, has also identified him.

Riots: courts refuse to release those seen in footage indulging in violence

City's trial courts have been getting several bail applications

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH
NEW DELHI

With over 750 individuals arrested in relation to the north-east Delhi riots, the trial courts here, facing a flood of bail applications, have taken a stringent stand against releasing those seen in CCTV footage indulging in violence, arsoning or looting.

In one of the cases, the Court of Additional Sessions Judge Vinod Yadav declined the bail plea of Mahender Kumar, who pleaded that his mother was suffering from paralysis and his wife was pregnant and that there was nobody else to look after them.

The public prosecutor objected to the bail plea on the ground that during the investigation of a video footage, Mr. Kumar was "clearly seen carrying looted box of rooh

afa [a drink] from the warehouse of Jakir Malik". The court rejected Mr. Kumar's bail plea noting that he "has been categorically identified to be one of the rioters who had played havoc at the time of riots and vandalised and looted the property of innocent persons".

In a separate case involving the looting and setting on fire of an e-rickshaw, a unit of Harsh Trading Company in Karawal Nagar, the court rejected the bail plea of Suail, the accused, on the basis of location as per the call details record and identification by two witnesses.

The public prosecutor stated that the mob of rioters, including Mr. Suail, looted the parts of e-rickshaw and other related documents, and following the robbery, the godown was set on fire by the men of Tahir Hussain (AAP leader).

Virus spread

Total number of COVID-19 cases

83,077

Total deaths

2,623

New cases in the past 24 hours

2,889

New deaths in the past 24 hours

65

SOURCE: DELHI GOVERNMENT HEALTH BULLETIN

Effectively to contain the spread of the virus. The deadline set by the committee for the government to redraw the boundaries of these zones is June 30 and the number of zones is likely to increase over the next two days.

Under the government's revised COVID-19 response plan, the officials of 11 districts here were directed to aggressively identify more containment zones in their areas.

Besides, she pointed out that for admissions to music courses, the university was allowing online trials.

Among such students is an 18-year-old Bharatnatyam dancer, Hritika Aneesh, who started a petition against the university for scrapping the course. Her petition against the university for scrapping the course is based on the fact that the university has been conducting online trials for admission to music courses.

Pratishita Arya, another dancer who has taken part and won competitions at district and State levels, also said that it was odd that the university was willing to carry out online examinations but did not have the capacity to do so. Ms. Aneesh, whose mother runs a dance school, ques-

Gurugram worst-hit, Faridabad tops in death cases in the State

Gurugram beats Faridabad in terms of rate of recovery

ASHOK KUMAR
FARIDABAD

In terms of absolute number

of COVID-19 cases, Gurugram is the worst hit in Haryana,

but Faridabad, with the second highest number of infection cases, has the highest

mortality rate in the State and a

higher fatality rate in the State.

Timings

DELHI

MONDAY, JUN. 29
RISE 05:27 SET 19:24
RISE 13:24 SET 00:48
TUESDAY, JUN. 30
RISE 05:27 SET 19:24
RISE 14:28 SET 01:25
WEDNESDAY, JUL. 01
RISE 05:28 SET 19:24
RISE 15:33 SET 02:03

Delhi Weather

max	min
Delhi City	40 29
Safdarjang	40 29
Palam	43 30

Delhi Palam Today

40°C Partly cloudy sky with hot and humid condition. Short spells of rain and thunderstorm likely.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow

39°C A hot and humid day. A partly cloudy sky with moderate winds likely.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2019
All rights reserved.

THE HINDU

DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any advertisement before responding to any enquiry or making any purchase. PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or accept responsibility for any of the advertiser's products or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director, Editors, Staff, Agents or their companies be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

Delhi hasn't reached community transmission stage, asserts Shah

Home Minister says Centre and Delhi govt. working in tandem to combat virus

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI



Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Sunday that Delhi has not reached the COVID-19 "community transmission" stage and all the government arms, including the AAP-led Delhi government were working together to fight the pandemic. Community transmission is the stage when the source of the infection cannot be traced and a large number of people are affected.

In an interview to *Asian News International* (ANI), Mr. Shah, when asked if Delhi had reached the stage of community transmission, said: "I spoke to all the three doctors, Dr. Paul [Dr. V.K Paul of Niti Aayog], Dr. Bhargava [ICMR chief] and Dr. Guleria [Director, AIIMS]. This situation has not come to Delhi...earlier 30% turned out to be positive as tests were being conducted at the last moment. Now we are doing

Amit Shah

20,000 tests on an average and there is no reason to fear."

Delhi has reported more than 80,000 cases and around 2,500 deaths. Earlier, Delhi Health Minister Satyendra Jain had said that only Centre could confirm if there was a community transmission in Delhi.

'Under control'

He said there was panic after Delhi's Deputy CM Manish Sisodia said earlier this month that there would be 5.5 lakh cases in the city by July 31. "I do not think we will reach

'CM sought support of every agency to battle pandemic'

NEW DELHI

Reacting to Union Home Minister Amit Shah's interview, Deputy Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has sought help and support of every agency to battle the pandemic in Delhi as he believes that no individual person or agency can deal with it alone. "In the first week of June, there was a sudden spike in cases. There was a shortage of beds and testing. The CM immediately reserved 40% beds in all big private hospitals for the virus infected in addition to declaring some big hospitals like GTB Hospital as COVID-19 facility," Mr. Sisodia said.

that stage, things are under control," Mr. Shah said.

"It is the State government's responsibility to take measures against COVID-19 but after the deputy CM's statement the Centre decided to intervene... From March 25-June 14, in 82 days, the total number of tests stood at 2.41 lakh. But between June 15-June 25, as many as 1.75 lakh tests were done, which means, 16,000 tests per day," Mr. Shah said.

He said as on June 14 that there were 9,937 COVID-19 beds in Delhi and now it has been increased to 30,000. "Even the beds arranged by Delhi Government have not been fully occupied, but we have done advance planning," he added.

Mr. Shah said that based on the results of aggressive testing, 280 new containment zones have been added in Delhi. He said since Delhi is the Capital city, the Delhi government's decision to not allow patients from other States to get treatment here was changed. He said in India, the rate of COVID positive cases per million stood at 357 compared to the world average of 1,250.

Gurugram, Faridabad malls to reopen on July 1

They will remain open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GURUGRAM

Shopping malls in Gurugram and Faridabad will reopen on July 1. The Haryana government has issued orders to this effect fixing the timings for the malls from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. in view of the night curfew and also issued Standard Operating Procedures for the various stakeholders, including visitors.

GOVERNMENT ORDER

any frontline work requiring direct contact with the public.

The use of escalators with one person on alternate steps may be encouraged. In food courts and restaurants, not more than 50% of seating capacity will be permitted.

All the visitors should install and use Aarogya Setu app, said the orders. Employees in high-risk groups such as senior citizens, pregnant women and those with underlying medical conditions were advised to take extra precautions. They will preferably not be exposed to the order.

IN BRIEF

Congress to protest against fuel price hike

NEW DELHI The Delhi Congress on Sunday said that it would protest at around 400 fuel stations across the Capital on Monday against unregulated rise in the prices of petrol and diesel by both Centre and Delhi governments. "For the first time ever, diesel has become costlier than petrol in the Capital and we demand the immediate roll back of the price hike," the party said.

TO ADVERTISE PLEASE CONTACT

Mr. N SELVA KUMAR
PH: 9820350726
selvakumar.n@thehindu.co.in

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

THE HINDU
India's National Newspaper

Two major projects to decongest Gurugram likely to be delayed

NHAI has paid its share of the construction cost amounting to 50%, but other stakeholders are yet to contribute theirs

ASHOK KUMAR

GURUGRAM

The two major infrastructure projects in the Millennium City to decongest the Delhi-Gurugram Expressway – a U-turn underpass near the Ambience Mall and the U-turn flyover near Shankar Chowk – could be delayed due to non-payment of their shares by the stakeholders.

Though the National Highways Authority of India has paid its due share for the both projects, the Gurugram Me-



The U-turn underpass near Ambience Mall. • ASHOK KUMAR

Developers and Infrastructure Private Limited are yet to make their respective contributions.

As per the fund sharing formula, NHAI has to incur 50% cost of the ₹102.94 crore underpass project and 75% cost of the ₹58.96 crore flyover. The DFL Limited and the Ambience Developers need to pay ₹25.37 crore each for the underpass and the GMDA has to pay ₹14.74 crore for the flyover. As per the contract, the two projects are to be

completed before September this year.

Ahead of schedule

Though both projects were running ahead of the schedule, the construction was stopped for 45 days due to high pollution levels in November last year and again for two months due to the lockdown this year.

In a latest communication, the GMDA has written to Ambience Developers and the DLF Limited on June 15 seek-

ing to release their shares at the earliest.

Krishan Goel, co-partner of the construction firm Ram Kumar Contractor, said work had resumed post lockdown and around third-fourth of the construction was completed. He claimed that the projects could still be completed in time if the payment was received in 10-15 days.

When contacted, DLF Limited spokesperson said they had always supported authorities in completing their com-

mitments and were committed to paying their share. K.C. Sharma of GMDA said the authority had not received any formal communication from the NHAI seeking the funds. Repeated attempts to reach Ambience Developers did not elicit any response.

The 377-m-long underground U-turn will reduce the travel time and traffic congestion under the Rajokri flyover in Delhi. The 455-m-long elevated U-turn will reduce the traffic volume on the NH-48.

NLC India Limited
'Navratna' - Government of India Enterprise
Regd. Office : First Floor, No.8, Mayur Sathayamurthy Road,
FSD, Egmore Complex of Food Corporation of India, Chetpet, Chennai - 600 031.
Corr. Office : Block-1, Neyveli-607 001, Cuddalore District, Tamil Nadu.
CIN No.: L93090TN1956G0003507, Website: www.nlcindia.com

APPOINTMENT OF DOMAIN EXPERT

NLC India Limited (NLCIL) intends to appoint a domain expert to function as Consultant for implementing "Lignite to Briquette Plant" of 1000T/day capacity at Neyveli. The interested domain experts in this field willing to work as Consultant on fixed / Part-time basis may submit the biodata and work experience to NLCIL within **TEN days** from the date of this advertisement. For more information visit NLCIL website : www.nlcindia.com

PUBLIC SECTOR IS YOURS : HELP IT TO HELP YOU

ADVERTISEMENT

What it takes to succeed in the UPSC CSE with the Unacademy Summit

Preparing for the toughest competitive exam, life at the training academy, and the ground realities of being a civil servant... all this and more was covered on Days 2 and 3 of the summit.

Did you know that each year over one million Indians apply for the civil services examinations? They come from all walks of life: medicine, engineering, arts, humanities, banking, and even economics. Of these, only about 700 to 800 are selected depending on the number of vacancies posted. Saying that the competition is stiff would be an understatement.

UPSC CSE is one of the toughest competitive exams to be held nationwide and it has aspirants preparing at least a year in advance. However, as they go about studying and trying to cover the vast syllabus, often sticking to rigorous schedules, there are a million questions crowding their minds. Right from what to expect, facing the unexpected, strategising to maximise their chances at success and even wondering what life after being selected might be like.

It was to address these questions that Day 2 of the Unacademy Summit, in association with The Hindu Group, brought together experts from various fields to help aspirants gain clarity. For starters, there was a talk by leading nutrition expert Rujuta Diwekar on the importance of eating right to focus better on their studies. Along with right food, it is also important to have the right attitude, said former Indian cricketer Kapil Dev, who led the team to the World Cup victory back in



- Dr. Kiran Bedi, IPS (Retd)
Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Puducherry

"As you step into a life as a Civil Servant you must remember that change is the law, growth is optional and continue to work regardless of transfers."



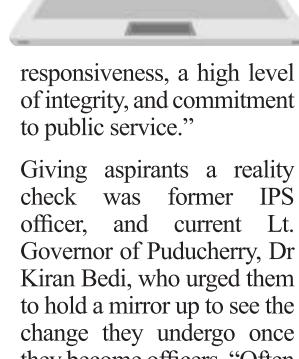
- Kapil Dev
Former Indian Cricket Captain

"One has to realise that there is no substitute for hard work. In the face of failure, don't be disheartened or tempted to give up. Get back to the basics and get your knowledge and skills right."

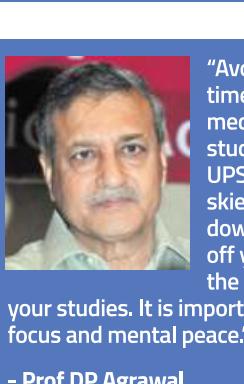


- Dr. Shashi Tharoor,
Member of Parliament

"Civil servants need the attitude of innovation and technical adoption. Timely delivery of service and grievance redressal by the bureaucracy is of utmost importance."



in association with
THE HINDU GROUP



- Prof DP Agrawal
Former UPSC Chairman

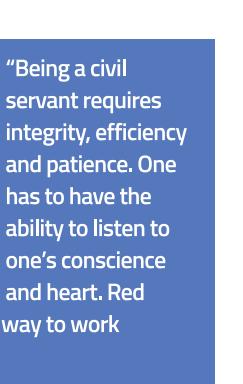
"Avoid wasting time on social media when studying for the UPSC CSE. The skies won't fall down if you turn off your phone for the duration of your studies. It is important to maintain focus and mental peace."



- Dr. Chhavi Rajawat,
India's Youngest Sarpanch

"When working with the public, I hope civil servants will work on understanding what the local people need. Spend time talking to them and understand the local challenges. One cannot have a pan India or pan district approach to their problems."

- Sanjukta Parashar, IPS
Superintendent of Police, NIA



- Rujuta Diwekar
Nutrition Expert

"Being a civil servant requires integrity, efficiency and patience. One has to have the ability to listen to one's conscience and heart. Red tapism exists, find a way to work around it."

"One must realise the importance of eating right; the right foods can help you focus and concentrate better, and distress as well in conjunction with physical activity and adequate sleep."

responsiveness, a high level of integrity, and commitment to public service."

Giving aspirants a reality check was former IPS officer and current Lt. Governor of Puducherry, Dr. Kiran Bedi, who urged them to hold a mirror up to see the change they undergo once they become officers. "Often in the interviews, aspirants give all the right answers and are a picture of idealism. However, once they're selected and receive their postings, that earnestness and idealism seem to decline. They want to be out of the office at 6 pm and are reluctant to conduct field visits. Officers are afraid to speak out and priorities swing towards their family. These are things you should think about before you embark on your journey."

IAS officers Sonalika Jiwani (2016 rank holder) and Junaid Ahmed (2018 rank holder) spoke to aspirants about the preparation strategies. While Ahmed spoke about what it takes to be successful, Jiwani said, "The mains are not an examination of the UPSC syllabus. It is an examination of you as a person. The exam prepares you to be an officer."

Over a lakh of learners benefitted from the three-day e-conclave for civil services aspirants.

1983. "Being passionate to succeed is one of the most important factors, you don't need any other mantra. If you've set your mind to do something then stick to it. There should be no plan B. Having a back-up plan allows weakness to creep in," he said.

While aspirants wonder about which strategy might work best to get them through the doors, they also wonder what life after being

selected might be like. Walking them through life at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) in Mussoorie, was Nandini Mahajan, assistant collector, South Delhi, who ranked 42 in the 2018 UPSC exam. She shed light on everything from the extracurricular activities officer trainees can access, to the sprawling campus spread across the hill side, the treks, and even life in the hostel. Day 3 saw experts like the former chairman of UPSC Prof. DP Agrawal, IPS officer Sanjukta Parashar, India's youngest sarpanch Dr. Chhavi Rajawat and politician and former diplomat Dr. Shashi Tharoor take to the platform to dole out tips and advice to the aspirants. While talking about preparing for the UPSC CSE during COVID-19 times, Prof. DP Agrawal said, "This year there are a lot of uncertainties due to the pandemic and the exam has been postponed by a few months. While students might be in a quandary, they can look at the positive and use the extra time to re-strategise. While staying cooped up at home might seem like an impediment to some, having family around will afford them the time and convenience to focus better on their studies. Earlier if your tutor chalked out the

Stressing upon the need

in his career, "Politicians might come and go, but the bureaucracy is permanent till retirement. They are also involved in policy making and are crucial when it comes to crisis management. The bureaucracy is the link between the common people and the politicians," he said. "Therefore, it is important to have a robust bureaucracy. This can be achieved through factors such as transparency, accountability,

Kin of deceased accuse Aligarh mortuary of mismanagement

'Bodies are being kept in the open and we are asked to pay for the ice slabs'

ANUJ KUMAR
GHAZIABAD

Allegations of bodies being kept in the open and the kin of the deceased being asked to pay for ice slabs to protect them from decomposition in Aligarh have come to light.

Parveen Begum, sister of Shareef Ahmed, told reporters that her brother passed away on June 18 under suspicious circumstances and the body was kept in the mortuary till June 22 because the district administration suspected him to be COVID-19 positive.

Viral video

"We were asked to pay ₹500 per day for the ice slabs to prevent the body from decomposing. He was buried only after his report came out to be negative," she could be heard saying in a video that went viral.

On Sunday, Congress gen-

eral secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra tweeted about the issue, citing local media reports.

In another case, the body of Mukhtyar who was allegedly killed during a fracas in the Jalesar area of Etah district, was also kept for five days as the mortuary officials allegedly wanted to check if he was COVID-free or not before conducting the post-mortem.

Mohd. Yasin, the nephew of the deceased, alleged that they were made to wait despite a medical report from Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College and Hospital saying that he was not a COVID suspect. "The official at the mortuary still wanted his sample to be sent to JNMCH," he alleged.

Ravi Kant Dixit, the pharmacist at the mortuary and the official who addresses the media, said: "The mortu-

ary has arrangement to keep six bodies in deep freezers. In mid-June, one of the freezers developed a fault and the electrician could not address the problem because of the fear of COVID-19. Unfortunately, during that period, the inflow of bodies had also increased. Now, the problem has been rectified and bodies are not being kept in the open."

On officials asking the kin of the deceased to pay for the ice slabs, Mr. Dixit said: "Keeping the bodies secure till the post-mortem is the job of the police. We have no role in this."

He added that sometimes the post-mortems got delayed because JNMCH could not send the report in time.

Senior Superintendent of Police Muniraj P. said the police had no role in the af-

fairs of the post-mortem house. "It is the doctors who declare whether a deceased should be tested for COVID-19 or not."

JNMCH principal Shahid Siddiqui said: "If the administration wants a test report on priority, it could convey it to us. The workload is high as we are testing samples from the neighbouring districts as well. As per the State government order, no post-mortem is required for those who have died of COVID-19. Even if the officials suspect a deceased to be COVID positive, they could perform the last rites according to protocol, the report could wait."

There are grey areas, he said, in cases of deaths where the post-mortem is a must, which should be addressed.

The Chief Medical Officer didn't respond to the queries despite repeated attempts.

False' virus death in Meghalaya

The patient actually died owing to asthmatic complications

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

A 76-year-old man who spent more than 14 days of quarantine in a hospital after he was declared COVID-19 positive due to a technical error, died in his Meghalaya village on June 26.

The hill State's first 'false positive' patient died of asthmatic complications.

The man from Umsamlem village in Ri-Bhoi district was admitted at the Dr. H Gordon Roberts Hospital in State capital Shillong in the first week of June. The doctors undertook the reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction, or RT-PCR test after diagnosing him with acute respiratory infection.

He was declared positive on June 9, following which the Health department carried out contact-tracing in his village as well as in Shillong. The outcome of all tests, including a few more



Rush to buy cylinders in Guwahati on Sunday. ■ PTI

on the septuagenarian, was negative.

The State Medical Expert Committee later said the man's was a case of 'false positive' due to the error factor of the RT-PCR testing kit.

Aman War, the Director of Health Services said the machines through which the RT-PCR tests were being conducted have an accuracy rate of 99%.

"This particular case fell under the 1% error of the ma-

chine and hence the man from Ri-Bhoi was categorised as false positive," he added.

Consultants at the hospital where the man was admitted released him on June 22. "He passed away around 5:30 pm on June 26," said one of his relatives.

'48 cases in the State'

Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma said the State recorded 48 COVID-19 positive cases till June 27.

Five of them were active while one person, a 69-year-old doctor, died.

The COVID-19 death count in Assam touched double figure on June 27 with the death of a woman at the Gauhati Medical College and Hospital late night on June 26.

With 246 fresh cases on June 27, Assam's COVID-19 positive count read 7,165. While 2,338 of these are active cases, 4,814 were discharged after recovery.

Proof of planting trees must for availing govt. services in Odisha

Jajpur district lists number of trees against licences, services

SATYASUNDAR BARIK
BHUBANESWAR

The processes for obtaining government licences are already long and tedious. The Jajpur district administration in Odisha has stretched them further by making plantation a precondition for granting its approval.

And no one is complaining.

The Jajpur administration has stumbled upon the novel idea to popularise plantation drive by assigning specific number of trees to be planted against each licence or service.

Getting a gun licence requires thorough verification of one's criminal antecedents, address authentication and certificate of good behaviour from neighbours. Now, one has to plant 10 trees before seeking new

gun licence and five trees for licence renewal. Similar precondition has been kept for opening of new foreign liquor shops and renewal of licence.

"We are not taxing people with the additional condition. But we want to inculcate a practice whose outcome will be beneficial for future generation," said Jajpur District Collector Ranjan Kumar Dash.

"During regular reviews, we found fair price shop dealers were very unpopular among people. We asked them to carry out plantation for image makeover. As many as 700 retailers planted 7,000 trees and submitted proof," said Mr. Dash.

People have been asked to choose any government land, school premises, tem-

ple complaints against Mr. Ramdev had been received for claiming to have developed the medicine without any trial. No arrests have been made so far.

Mr. Jakhar said in his complaint that the accused had put the lives of common people at risk and neither the Centre nor the Rajasthan government had been informed about the clinical trials of Coronil. Patanjali Ayurveda, on the other hand, had claimed that it had complied with all legal formalities.

'Stop advertising'

The Union AYUSH Ministry has since sought details about the medicine and directed Patanjali Ayurveda to stop advertising the claim about the cure of COVID-19. Rajasthan Medical & Health

Minister Raghu Sharma has said that action would be taken if any attempt was made to sell purported Ayurveda drug as potential medicine for COVID-19 patients in the State.

ples, mutt or their own backyards to do the plantation before submission of applications.

Plantation, which has to be self-certified through photographic or video evidence, has been made mandatory for eight services including society registration, license for minor mineral, setting up crusher units, purchase of new vehicles and issuance of solvency certificate.

According to the District Collector, the administration reserves right to carry out random checking of plantations. The district administration, which began the drive since Rath Yatra, achieved a milestone when public planted 1.25 lakh trees alone in Jajpur block on Sunday.

NSUI protest against fuel price hike in Chandigarh

It flays Centre for 'anti-people policies'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHANDIGARH

Students of Panjab University having allegiance to the National Students' Union of India (NSUI) on Sunday held a symbolic protest against the BJP-led government at the Centre in the backdrop of rising prices of fuel.

A group of NSUI members staged the protest at city's Sector 10 fuel station, where they symbolically pretended to "offer loan" to the people for buying petrol and diesel.

A few days ago the NSUI students had held a "boot polish" protest, in which they expressed their anguish against increase in prices of fuel by polishing shoes of bystanders.

"We are staging protest to wake up this government. People are fed-up of Central government's anti-people policies and we want the government to know this. At a time of pandemic when people are already struggling the government instead of offering a helping hand is creating more troubles for them. With price hike of petro-

leum products, which will result in inflation, the Central government seems adamant to devastate the economic structure of the country

MANOJ LUBANA

NSUI leader

leum products, which will result in inflation, the Central government seems adamant to devastate the economic structure of the country

"As a part of our protest against rising fuel prices we are 'offering loan' to the people, who are visiting the fuel station here. The aim is to convey the message about faulty policies of the ruling government at the Centre," he said.

"By sharply increasing fuel prices, the government has broken the backbone of every section of the society. I would urge Prime Minister Narendra Modi to stop hurting people of the country with faulty economic management," he said.

NAME CHANGED

I, Smt Droupati Debbarma W/o, Sudhir Debbarma Resident of Kambuk Chhara, P.O. Subalsing, P.S. Sidhi Mohanpur, Dist. West Tripura, do hereby give this notice for information of all concerned that my actual name is "DROUPATI DEBBARMA" and my actual date of birth is 01/01/1980 But in some of my relevant documents/papers/ certificate my name has been wrongly written and recorded as "ANJALI DEBBARMA". But in my ARMY Records erroneously and by mistake her name was recorded as "ANJALI DEB" and accordingly I have executed an AFFIDAVIT on 16th March 2020 before the NOTARY PUBLIC at Agartala, West Tripura.

NAME CHANGED

I, Budhraji Debbarma (Ex Army No. 14810720M Rank HAV/SER) S/o. Shri Charan Debbarma Resident of Binan Kobra Para, P.O. Borakha, P.S. Mandai, Dist. West Tripura, do hereby give this notice for information of all concerned that my wife's actual name is "ANJALI DEBBARMA". But in my ARMY Records erroneously and by mistake her name was recorded as "ANJALI DEB" and accordingly I have executed an AFFIDAVIT on 13th March 2020 before the NOTARY PUBLIC at Agartala, West Tripura.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

IN MEMORIAM

IN MEMORIAM



D.O.B. 08.02.1935 D.O.D. 29.06.2019

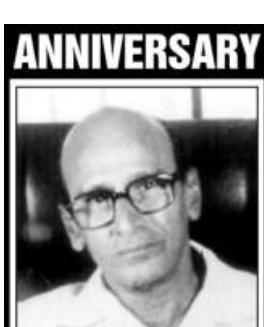
Padma Shri Dr.Jaya Arunachalam
" You still live in our hearts, thoughts & deeds"

Remembered Forever by

Family - Yashovardhan - Nandini Azad,
Ramesh Arunachalam - Janaki,
Mithila - Dhananjaya Dendukuri
Indira Arjun Dev

Working Women's Forum (India)
Indian Cooperative Network for Women Ltd.,
Vidya Bharathi Kalyana Mandapam
Independent Commission for People's Rights and Development
Rabo Home & Kamaraj Illam
55, Bhimasena Garden Road, Mylapore, Chennai - 4
Ph: 044 - 24993937, 24992853, 24991248, 24993797

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES



23.06.1921 29.06.2002

SRI. N.S. MANI

Founder

Jai Group

For enquiries on
announcements in this
section, please contact our
office at the following number
between 10a.m. and 8p.m.
New Delhi : 011- 43579797

Rate for New Delhi:
(Minimum Rs. 320/- 2 Lines

Extra Line - Rs.160/-)

(B/W Display): Rs.60/Per Sq.cm

(C/I Display) : Rs.70/Per Sq.cm

Log on to
www.thehinduads.com

For Placing Advertisements
Online

In memory of your loved ones
To dedicate a space in this section,
Please contact:

011-43579797

from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

& For Placing Advertisements

Online log on to

www.thehinduads.com

DONATE EYES-GIFT SIGHT

CLASSIFIEDS MART

TO ADVERTISE:

www.thehinduads.com

011-43579738 • 43579797

EDUCATIONAL

ECONOMICS OPTIONAL

by Ravindra N. Jha

CSE - 2018 RESULT



REGULAR BATCH ONLINE Admission Open

Test Series for Mains 2020

BLISS POINT STUDIES

Join the Best in the Best

North Delhi 2455, Noida Link

9811343411, 9811343938, 9811343464

blisspointstudies.com

General Studies Paper 2 Plus

Pre-cum-Mains

New Online Batch

by

M. PURI

Starts Today

The most comprehensive coverage of



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

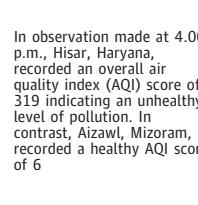
Forecast for Monday: Thunderstorm accompanied by lightning likely at isolated places over Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Gujarat, central Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	22.8	31.5	25.8	Kozhikode	34.7	31.2	24.8
Ahmedabad	—	38.7	28.8	Kurnool	84.3	36.0	23.7
Aizawl	11	25.1	19.1	Lucknow	—	36.8	25.6
Allahabad	5.1	36.1	25.6	Madurai	—	38.0	27.0
Bengaluru	2.2	30.0	21.4	Mangaluru	37.8	29.4	23.9
Bhopal	2.8	33.9	24.0	Mumbai	2.2	33.8	26.8
Bhubaneswar	—	35.2	26.7	Mysuru	—	31.0	21.0
Chandigarh	—	39.4	28.9	Patna	—	40.2	29.4
Chennai	4.2	35.4	28.0	Port Blair	—	31.2	25.4
Coimbatore	—	33.2	23.6	Puducherry	—	35.4	27.8
Dehradun	4.2	35.6	24.8	Pune	—	33.8	24.1
Gangtok	26.7	19.7	17.8	Raipur	—	35.0	25.5
Goa	0.1	31.2	26.3	Ranchi	20.6	30.8	23.2
Guwahati	33	32.0	23.0	Shillong	88.2	24.3	16.0
Hubballi	—	28.0	22.0	Shimla	—	30.6	20.8
Hyderabad	66.6	34.2	22.2	Srinagar	—	31.8	15.8
Imphal	3.8	30.1	22.7	Tiruvananthapuram	6	30.6	24.2
Jaipur	—	40.0	30.8	Tiruchi	0.3	37.5	26.6
Kochi	13	28.4	25.0	Vijayawada	2	37.0	27.2
Kohima	8.8	25.8	18.0	Visakhapatnam	—	33.7	28.8
Kolkata	58.9	34.3	24.6				

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

Yesterday



In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Hisar, Haryana, recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 319 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram, recorded a healthy AQI score of 6.

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor □ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)
SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.
NO_x: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.
CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.
PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Maharashtra reports new single-day high of 5,493 cases

Third consecutive 5,000 case surge brings total cases near 1.65 lakh mark

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE

PUNE

Maharashtra recorded its highest single-day surge in COVID-19 cases on Sunday, with a staggering 5,493 fresh cases taking the State's total case tally to 1,64,626.

This is the third consecutive daily spike of more than 5,000 cases to be reported in the State, with 5,318 cases being recorded on Saturday and 5,024 cases on Friday. Of the total case tally, however, only 70,607 are active ones.

As many as 156 more deaths pushed the State's death toll to 7,429. Of these, 60 were reported in the last 48 hours, while 96 were from an earlier period, said State Health Department officials. As many as 2,330 patients were discharged on Sunday, taking the total number of recoveries till date to 86,575.

With 1,287 new cases on Sunday, Mumbai's total case tally has reached 75,539, of whom only 28,066 are active ones though. With 23 more deaths reported, the city's death toll has risen to 4,371.

As many as 20 deaths



A medic checks a woman's temperature during a door-to-door COVID-19 testing drive in a Mumbai slum on Sunday. ■ PTI

from Pune district saw the total death toll surge to 714, while eight from Nashik district took the latter's COVID-19 related death count to 217.

State Surveillance Officer Dr. Pradeep Awate said the State's recovery rate stood at 52.59%. The State's case fatality stands at 4.51%.

After Mumbai, Pune district reported an alarming rise of nearly 850 – the district's second-highest single-day surge – as its total case tally soared to 20,870, as per State Health Department fi-

gures. Of these, 9,448 are active cases, while 10,708 people have been discharged thus far.

Along with Mumbai city, most areas in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) reported record high case surges as well.

"Till date, of the 9,23,502 laboratory samples, 1,64,626 (17.52%) have been tested positive, with nearly 27,000 samples across the State tested on Sunday," Dr. Awate said. He further said presently, 5,70,475 people across the State are in home quarantine and 37,350 are in institutional quarantine.

Man held for cheating, impregnating women

RAINA ASSAINAR
NAVI MUMBAI

The Rabale police have arrested a management graduate for cheating and impregnating several women by creating a fake matrimonial profile. Sachin Dilip Sambre-Patil (35), a resident of Thane who worked with a private firm as sales manager, was arrested on June 23 from his native in Palghar.

In his profile, the accused claimed he was unmarried and made advances towards the complainant.

The complainant, a 33-year-old advocate, had filed a case against Mr. Sambre-Patil on May 31, after which the latter had gone absconding. According to her, she met the accused through a matrimonial website in June 2018.

In his profile, the accused claimed he was unmarried and made advances towards the complainant.

Pune district sees 850 cases; death toll at 714

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE

PUNE

A spike of more than 800 new COVID-19 cases on Sunday saw Pune district's total case tally surge to 20,870. Nearly 850 fresh cases were reported till evening, while 20 more fatalities pushed the total death toll to 714,

Pune Divisional Commissioner Deepak Mhaisekar told *The Hindu*.

However, the number of active positive cases is 7,628, with 11,942 recoveries thus far. As many as 356 of the active cases in the district are in a critical condition.

The district's recovery rate stands at 58.04%, while the present case fatality rate is 3.39%.

Meanwhile, the death toll in Solapur district has climbed to 253.

'Congressisation' of MVA led to killing of sadhus in Palghar, says Smriti Irani

ALOK DESHPANDE

MUMBAI

Union Minister for Textile and Women and Child Development Smriti Irani on Sunday said that 'Congressisation' of the Maha Vikas Aghadi government in Maharashtra resulted in the mob lynching of two sadhus in Palghar district.



Smriti Irani

after by Sonia, Rahul and Priyanka Gandhi, when the UPA was in power. "When Manmohan Singh was the Finance Minister, he had paid around ₹100 crore to the foundation. Congress-ruled States and some PSUs also made donations. There is no better example of political hafta. Is it the reason why Dr. Singh's name came up suddenly when discussions about who was going to be the Prime Minister were on?" the minister asked.

Earlier, Leader of Opposition Devendra Fadnavis alleged that the State government is hiding the real number of the COVID-19 patients. "The Maharashtra government's tendency is to hide the figure. There is no seriousness. Instead of fighting the virus, the government is cutting down on tests. Delhi is testing more than Mumbai. This is being done to hide the real number of positive patients," he said.

Mr. Fadnavis cited the example of Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party leader (AAP) Arvind Kejriwal, saying the State should learn from him about working along with the Centre. "The Centre is ready to help Maharashtra, but the government which stands with China and wants friendship with Pakistan," Ms. Irani alleged.

She said that she was stunned to know the details of donations given to Rajiv Gandhi foundation, looked

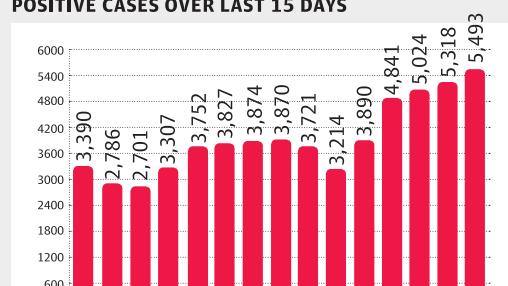
Maharashtra COVID-19 tracker

TOTAL CASES	NEW CASES	ACTIVE CASES	RECOVERED	DEATHS
1,64,626	5,493	70,607	86,575	7,429

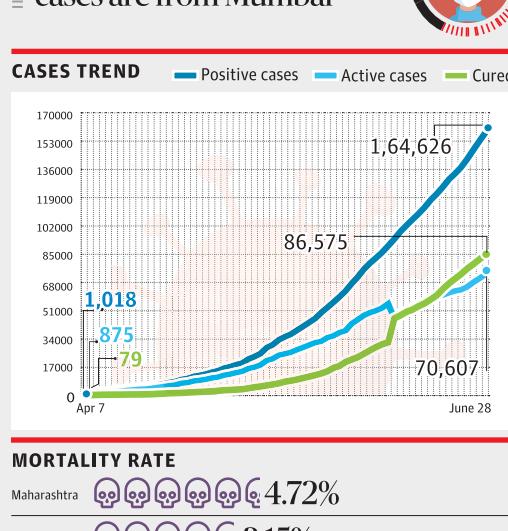
DISTRICTS Affected: 35

DISTRICT	CASES	DEATHS	DISTRICT	CASES	DEATHS
Mumbai	75,539	4,371	Ahmednagar	399	14
Thane	34,257	845	Nanded	337	13
Pune	20,870	714	Hingoli	262	1
Aurangabad	4,833	227	Yavatmal	283	10
Palghar	5,267	101	Latur	303	17
Nashik	3,902	217	Osmanabad	203	9
Raigad	3,669	95	Sindhudurg	204	4
Solapur	2,588	246	Buldhana	213	12
Jalgaon	3,002	220	Gondia	105	1
Nagpur	1,421	14	Parbhani	92	4
Akola	1,463	73	Beed	112	3
Satara	1,004	43	Nandurbar	166	7
Kolhapur	824	10	Washim	101	3
Ratnagiri	569	26	Bhandara	79	0
Dhule	962	54	Chandrapur	80	0
Anravati	528	25	Gadchiroli	64	1
Jalna	488	14	Wardha	16	1
Sangli	347	11			

POSITIVE CASES OVER LAST 15 DAYS



1,287 (23.42%) of Sunday's cases are from Mumbai



Eco-sensitive zones

She feared that with the removal of such conditions, projects could now be proposed in dangerously close proximities of boundary of protected and eco-sensitive zones. The draft notification also stated that while projects concerning national defence and security or "involving other strategic considerations as determined by the Central government" would not be treated as category 'A', "no information relating to such projects shall be placed in public domain".

"From this, it is clear that with the Centre deciding on the 'strategic considerations' for their projects, they are free to hide information from people under this rubric. This flies in the face of the Centre's stated intention of making the EC process more transparent," she said. "This means

Don't get clean bowled by a fraudulent or an unauthorised transaction in your bank account



Brief reprieve

Pakistan has bought time, but it cannot back away from its commitments to the FATF

According to reports in Pakistan and India, the Financial Action Task Force, the global watchdog group, has decided to grant Pakistan and other countries on its watch list a three-month extension on fulfilling commitments, in view of the pandemic. Pakistan was placed on the grey list or "increased monitoring" list in June 2018, and given time until October 2019, in order to complete a 27-point action plan on countering terror finance and anti-money laundering. Failing that, it would be put on the black list of "high-risk jurisdictions" facing severe financial sanctions. This means that in effect, Pakistan will have had at least one extra year to meet its deadlines, despite the fact that it has only completed about 14 points so far. The remainder is still a tall order, and includes improving mechanisms to curb terror financing, amending laws to curb 'Hawala' transactions and placing sanctions against cash couriers who facilitate terror groups, completing the prosecution of groups banned by the UNSC, and converting madrasas run by them into formal schools. Each item demands more accountability by Pakistan on terror groups, as well as a shift within its ruling establishment on the benefits of allowing such groups to exist at all.

Despite this being Pakistan's third stint on the FATF watch list (prior occasions were in 2008 and 2012-2015), there is little evidence that it has yet internalised that message. In a U.S. report on terrorism released last week, Pakistan remains a "safe haven" for most UN proscribed groups. The report also adds that its steps to prosecute certain leaders of JeM and LeT are inadequate. In the past year, Pakistan has pursued indictments against LeT leaders, but not on serious charges, and even 26/11 mastermind Hafiz Saeed has only been convicted for "being part of a banned terrorist outfit" and for "having illegal property". Meanwhile, LeT operations commanders Zaki Ur Rehman Lakhvi, Sajid Mir, and JeM chief Masood Azhar appear to be at large. Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's reference in its Parliament to al-Qaeda founder Osama Bin Laden as a "martyr" underlines the establishment's attitude to these groups. Pakistan's failed attempt to have the UNSC designate four Indians as terrorists last week – it was vetoed by the U.S. – speaks to its lack of credibility on the issue. Pakistan is counting on its role in facilitating the Afghanistan peace deal by pushing Taliban leaders to participate in order to mitigate its troubles at the FATF, and with support from countries keen to conclude the Afghan deal, may even ensure a few more extensions for its government. Eventually, given the rigorous FATF action plan, and the combined pressure of countries in the group, Pakistan would do well to realise that only clear and consistent actions would free it from the commitments at the FATF. In any case, giving a free rein to terror groups cannot be in its own interest.

Letter and spirit

Opposition to the new domicile rules in J&K is rooted in old fears and new suspicions

New domicile rules that followed the termination of the special constitutional status of Jammu and Kashmir, which was reorganised into two Union Territories, have brought succour and hope for a segment of its population that had to contend with fragmented citizenship rights for long. This group, of two to three lakh people, is made up of refugees from Pakistan, sanitary workers resettled from other parts of India and Gorkhas who arrived as soldiers before Independence. The erstwhile State of J&K gained special powers to define its 'permanent residents' and restrict land, educational and employment rights only to them. This cohort was not classified as permanent residents, leading to a denial of opportunities to them in education, employment and politics – a situation not merely unjust but also untenable. Subsequent to changes to Articles 370 and 35A in August 2019, in March 2020, the concept of "permanent resident of the State" was discontinued in J&K. As per the new domicile rules, those persons and their children who have resided for 15 years in J&K, or have studied for seven years and appeared in the Class X or XII exam in an educational institution in the UT, are eligible for grant of domicile. Besides mitigating the historical deprivation of one segment, the changes will enable many others currently living in J&K to get domicile and associated rights.

Not everyone is rejoicing, though. There are concerns that the changes in domicile rules will lead to a huge influx into the region; a more uncharitable interpretation is that a deliberate scheme to change the demographic character of the region is unfolding. The National Conference and the People's Democratic Party, both Valley-based parties, have reiterated their opposition to the changes. In the Jammu region also, there are concerns that there could be dispossession of land and a shrinking of economic opportunities for local people. Movement of people across political and natural borders has been a constant feature of progress, and arguments over who are the original inhabitants of a place serve little purpose other than to accentuate political polarisation. Economic growth and vitality of a society often positively correlate with its openness towards the outside world. Communities that are not equipped to negotiate with unfamiliar market and cultural forces need some insulation. It is arguable that with relatively high rates of literacy, education and material standards, J&K is not susceptible to any demographic or economic takeover by immigrants. Movement into the region will be largely driven by economic reasons. A state-driven reengineering of the demography of any place is not desirable or democratic, but the fear of such a scenario is no good reason to retreat into a cocoon of nativism.

Making sense of China's calculations

Analysts should have considered the pandemic's impact on its economy and India's strategic alignment with the U.S.



M.K. NARAYANAN

What policy planners in Delhi, and possibly those in Beijing, have long feared, *viz.*, a direct confrontation leading to fatal casualties, occurred in the Galwan heights in the late evening of June 15. The number of casualties, 20 on the Indian side was the highest since 1967, and included that of a high ranking Colonel of the Bihar Regiment. The number of casualties on the Chinese side has not been formally indicated, though they have conceded that at least one Colonel was among those killed.

No aberration

With this incident, it should have been obvious that the die was cast as regards the future of China-India relations. Nevertheless, there was a flicker of hope when apparently the Corps Commanders of India and China on June 22-23 appeared to reach a "mutual consensus" to disengage and embark on lowering "tensions" through a "gradual and verifiable disengagement". This proved shortlived, with the Chinese post in the Galwan area not only being restored, but also, from satellite images available, bigger in size than before.

What occurred in the Galwan heights on June 15, must not, hence, be viewed as an aberration. It would be more judicious to view it as signifying a new and fractious phase in China-India relations. Even if the situation reverts to what existed in mid-April (highly unlikely), India-China relations appear set to witness a "new and different normal".

The debate on the Indian side has so far been largely limited to China's perfidy in violating the status quo. Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh for instance, accused China of "brazenly and illegally seeking to claim parts of Indian Territory such as the Galwan

Valley and Pangong Tso". Adding spice to the debate was the Prime Minister's statement at an all-party meeting on June 19 to discuss the border issue, that "there was no intruder on our land now and no post in anyone's custody", which raised the Opposition's hackles.

China's reaction has been consistent – India must move out of Galwan. This is something that India cannot ignore any longer. What took place in the Galwan heights cannot be viewed as a mere replay of what took place in Depsang (2013), Chumar (2014) and Doklam (2017). This is a new and different situation and India must not shrink from addressing the core issue that relations between India and China are in a perilous state.

China's assertion of its claim to the whole of the Galwan Valley needs close and careful analysis. For one, Point 14 gives China a virtual stranglehold over the newly completed, and strategically significant, Darbuk-Shyok-Daulat Beg Oldie Road, which leads on to the Karakoram Pass. For another, the strategic implications for India of China's insistence on keeping the whole of the Galwan Valley are serious as it fundamentally changes the status quo. Finally, by laying claim to the Galwan Valley, China has reopened some of the issues left over from the 1962 conflict, and demonstrates that it is willing to embark on a new confrontation.

Ambiguity has existed regarding the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in this sector; the Chinese "claim line" is that of November 1959, while for India the LAC is that of September 1962. In recent years, both sides had refrained from reopening the issue, but China has never given up its claims. By its unilateral declaration now, China is seeking to settle the matter in its favour. India needs to measure up to this challenge.

Importance of Aksai Chin
A charge that could be levelled against successive administrations in Delhi in recent years is that while China has consistently asserted its claims over the whole of Aksai Chin, India has chosen to



overlook China's more recent postures in this region. The importance of Aksai Chin for China has greatly increased of late, as it provides direct connectivity between two of the most troubled regions of China, *viz.*, Xinjiang and Tibet. This does not seem to have been adequately factored in to our calculations. While Indian policy makers saw the reclassification of Ladakh as purely an internal matter, they overlooked the fact that for China's military planners, the carving out of Ladakh into a Union Territory (followed later by Home Minister Amit Shah's statement last year laying claim to the whole of Aksai Chin) posed a threat to China's peace and tranquility.

On intelligence assessment

It is in this context, that questions are now being raised about the failure of intelligence. It is axiomatic that leaders make better decisions when they have better information, and the enduring value of intelligence comes from this fundamental reality. Admittedly, the timing and nature of China's actions should have aroused keen interest in intelligence circles about China's strategic calculations. The Chinese build-up in the Galwan Valley, Pangong Tso and Hot Springs-Gogra did not require any great intelligence effort, since there was little attempt at concealment by the Chinese. India also possesses high quality imagery intelligence (IMINT) and signals intelligence (SIGINT) capabilities, distributed between the National Technical Research Organisation, the Directorate of Signals Intelligence of the Ministry of Defence

and other agencies, which made it possible to track Chinese movement.

Where, perhaps, intelligence can be faulted is with regard to inadequate appreciation of what the build-up meant, and what it portended for India. This is indicative of a weakness in interpretation and analysis of the intelligence available, as also an inability to provide a coherent assessment of China's real intentions. Intelligence assessment of China's intentions, clearly fell short of what was required.

It is at the same time true that while India's technological capabilities for intelligence collection have vastly increased in recent years, the capacity for interpretation and analysis has not kept pace with this. Advances in technology, specially Artificial Intelligence have, across the world, greatly augmented efforts at intelligence analysis. It is a moot point whether such skills were employed in this instance.

The failure to decipher China's intentions in time is no doubt unfortunate, but it has to be understood that deciphering China's intentions, understanding the Chinese mind (which tends to be contextual and relational), and trying to make sense of Chinese thinking, are an extremely difficult task at any time. Even so, since last year when China's economy began to show signs of a decline followed by the COVID-19 pandemic, China is known to have become extremely sensitive to what it perceived as efforts by others to exploit its weakness. It has often felt compelled to demonstrate that no nation should attempt to exploit the situation to China's disadvantage. India's intelligence and policy analysts obviously failed to analyse this aspect adequately, while trying to make sense of China's latest forward push.

Another of China's current preoccupation, *viz.* that India is feeling emboldened because of its growing strategic alignment with the United States, should also have been adequately considered by the analysts, in any assessment of putative Chinese responses.

The principal responsibility for intelligence assessment and analysis concerning China, rests with the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) and India's external intelligence agency, the Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW), and to a lesser extent, the Defence Intelligence Agency. It may not, perhaps, be wrong to surmise that the decision of the NSCS to dismantle the Joint Intelligence Committee has contributed to a weakening of the intelligence assessment system. In the case of the R&AW, lack of domain expertise, and an inadequacy of China specialists might also have been a contributory factor.

Limitations of summit meets

We cannot also minimise the adverse impact of certain policy imperatives. For one, the preference given recently to Summit diplomacy over traditional foreign policy making structures proved to be a severe handicap. Summit diplomacy cannot be a substitute for carefully structured foreign office policy making. Any number of instances of this nature are available. Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain of Great Britain was one of the earliest victims of Summit diplomacy. The disastrous meeting between Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and U.S. President Richard Nixon had long-term adverse implications for India-U.S. relations.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and U.S. President George W. Bush did establish a rapport through frequent Summit meetings, but this was the exception rather than the rule.

Currently, India's Summit diplomacy has tended to marginalise the External Affairs Ministry with regard to policy making, and we are probably paying a price for it. As it is, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) stock of China experts seems to be dwindling, and its general tilt towards the U.S. in most matters, has resulted in an imbalance in the way the MEA perceives problems and situations.

M.K. Narayanan is a former National Security Adviser and a former Governor of West Bengal

In border claims, reimagining South Asia's boundaries +

In the backdrop of troublesome territorial assertions, the 'entity' needs to be rethought of as a region of regions



SWATAHSIDDHA SARKAR

Even during this period of social distancing and public lockdown, claims and counterclaims over territories in and around the Kalapani region (located at the tri-junction between northern India, western Nepal and southern China/Tibet) have resurfaced to become an issue that has embroiled India and Nepal in a political debate; it is now gravitating towards a confrontational trend of popular politics. Therefore, it is pertinent to look at our South Asian mentalities as to how such disputes are "handled" rather than "addressed" within the given dispensation of South Asian statecraft.

State as sole arbiter

One of the major problems of South Asian politics is that it has to flow from within a state-centric paradigm. State-centrism, within the assumption of a South Asia, has given the state structure the propriety to be the sole arbiter of disputes, if any, among communities and regions falling within the territorial limits of nation states. It is the state that articulates, defines, and represents "national"

interests in negotiations with other states. Experience suggests that states in South Asia concurate political boundaries as the "natural" shield even in the arbitration of South Asian affairs. Interestingly, this "realist" fashion of statecraft happens to be the dominant South Asian pattern within which territorial boundaries are valued more than lives, livelihoods and the well-being of the people located at the edges of nation states. "Patriotism" looms large as and when inter-state relationships are viewed through the statist lens, although "jingoism" might be missing. Myopic hostility, real or imagined, is used as the governing principle in the arbitration of territorial disputes across South Asia.

Contested idea

Basically, the term "region" seems to be a contested idea in a South Asian context as none of the South Asian states has ever recognised and respected the idea of regional identity or regional politics, while becoming suspicious of such natural cleavages in politics. Given that this is a reality, how could one even think of South Asia as a region to reckon with? One must understand that South Asia is perhaps the most natural regional grouping of states around the world. And, at the same time, it is also the most difficult and contested grouping. South Asia needs to be rethought, not as a region of states, but as a region of regions.

Life here is fluid

Such a perspective is necessary in order to address the contemporary crisis that has emerged from the Kalapani dispute.



As such it demonstrates itself more as a borderland that needs to be cultivated out of contact zones which exist beyond the limits of territorial boundaries shared by the member-states.

Impact on cooperation

Howsoever real the "realist" positions may be, borderlands act as natural vessels to de-essentialise the statist paradigm. As places of habitation, such spaces are more real than what the "realist" positions of statecraft might make out of them – for those who live in them. Administrative treaties and tribunals represent them as spatial categories; but as lived spaces, they hardly fit into the protocols of a statist paradigm. This is crucial especially when we know that as countries, both India and Nepal not only share cultural and civilisational backgrounds but also an "officially" recognised porous border.

Unless both India and Nepal agree to see the reality beyond the gaze of the statist paradigm, they are going to endanger the future of other regional experiments such as the Bay of Bengal Initiative for

old of another nation state. In a certain sense, the people living at the edges of nation states within South Asia do not actually belong to any of the two nation states. Or in other words, they belong to both the states at the same time. Non-sedentary practices define their life courses, while switching positionality animates their aspiration of belonging. Plurality, differences and inclusivity bring coherence to borderland ontology; they defy the logic of singular, unifying, exclusive identities that the nation states privilege.

There is every likelihood that South Asian countries would remain busy in making tall claims of regional cooperation while closing all doors of recognising difference and mutual tolerance. In the commotion that ensues, powerful countries operating within and beyond the orbit of South Asia might become successful in establishing their control by using the same token of "regional cooperation" as an issue of realpolitik.

Both India and Nepal, and for that matter, other South Asian countries need to rethink South Asia as a region of regions before they submit to the enticements of a new language of "regional cooperation" – one that is ontologically empty but materially more rewarding. Region and regional identity are not just issues of "realpolitik" in South Asia; rather, the need is to "officially" accommodate this rather naturally drafted way of doing politics, if we are genuinely concerned about South Asian geopolitics.

Swatahsiddha Sarkar is the Director of the Centre for Himalayan Studies, University of North Bengal, Darjeeling, West Bengal

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.

Now, China links

It is clear that the BJP is in need of a handle to hide its failures in dealing with border tensions with China (Inside pages, "BJP steps up attack on Cong. over China funds" June 28). Ever since the party came to power in 2014, it has been increasingly dependent on a strategy of accusing the Congress of the reason why things go wrong. There need to be answers to why Indian soldiers lost their lives and on the PM's poor messaging on the Chinese incursions. If China funded the RGF then an

investigation should be ordered to check whether there was anything amiss. Deliberations to defuse present border tensions with China need to be prioritised.

THUMATI ANURADHA,
Hyderabad

J&K Bill

On the passage of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill by the Rajya Sabha, the factual position is that it was done with the highest numbers of Members of the House from the most number of parties participating in the

discussion on any Bill during the last 20 years. As many as 39 Members of the House from 24 political parties besides two independent and nominated members took part in the discussion on the said Bill, that lasted for over six hours and seven minutes. In addition to this, five Ministers also intervened in the discussion. There have been very few Bills that have been discussed for a longer duration than this.

So it is fair to use the phrase, "pushed through" (Editorial, Members as

numbers", June 22). No institution of democracy should be used by parties to stall initiatives and measures of the popularly elected government unreasonably, which happened during 2014-19.

PRALHAD JOSHI,
MINISTER FOR PARLIAMENTARY
AFFAIRS, COAL AND MINES,
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
New Delhi

Rights of the accused
The Sathankulam incident in Tamil Nadu, where a father and son died on account of police brutality, and, more importantly, due

to abdication of judicial responsibility in remanding them to judicial custody despite noticing visible injuries, highlights everything that is wrong with the criminal justice system in India. More often than not, magistrates remand an accused mechanically despite the amendment to Section 41 of the CrPC under which they have to look into the

reasons for the arrest. That apart, the Supreme Court has made it clear in many cases, that an accused is entitled to the assistance of a lawyer at the time of

remand. It is common knowledge that an accused is remanded even without the magistrate noticing whether the accused has suffered any injuries or not. The constitutional guarantees of an accused person have been reduced to a farce. Remand proceedings should be video-recorded and take place in public view in the presence of near relatives and a lawyer.

N.G.R. PRASAD,
K.K. RAM SIDDHARTH,
Chennai



P.V. Narasimha Rao, the subversive insider

This personality trait subverted his own place in the consciousness of the new India that he helped shape

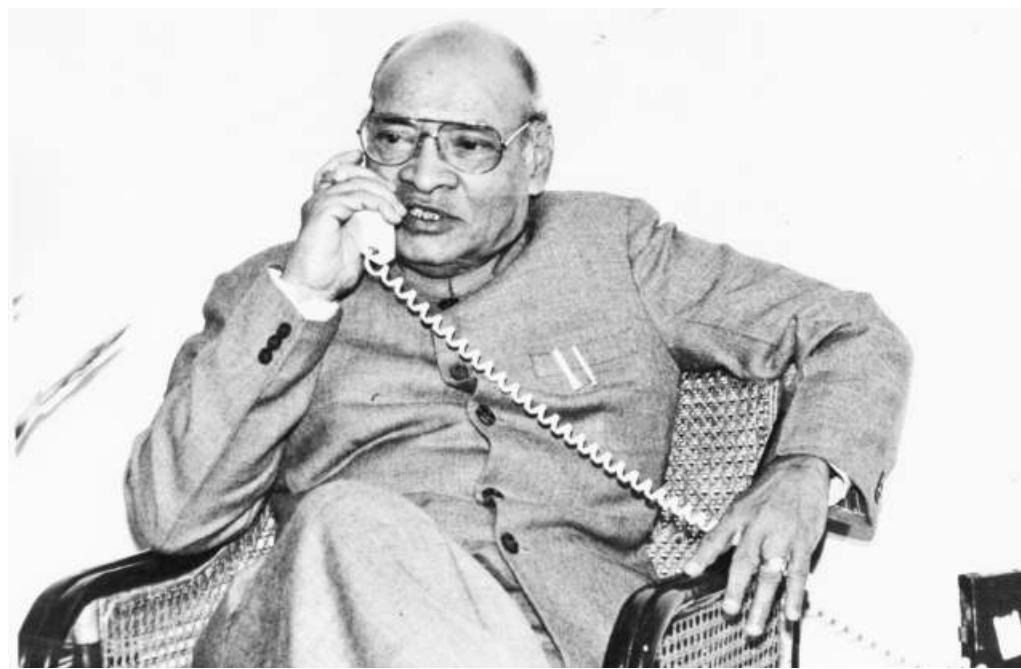


PARAKALA PRABHAKAR

P.V. Narasimha Rao was, arguably, the first accidental Prime Minister of India. He was also an accidental Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. Very few, if any, foresaw Rao to be Prime Minister in 1991. No one had expected him to become the Chief Minister of his State about two decades before that. Once in office, on both occasions, Rao brought in reforms that fundamentally changed the destiny of Andhra Pradesh and India. Rao, who would have turned 99 on Sunday, was essentially a mute rebel, intensely uncomfortable with the socio-economic ethos around him. The rebel in him was not in enough measure to make him an outsider, but was sufficient to mount an intellectual challenge from the inside. A combination of his discomfort with the status quo and his unwillingness to roll up his sleeves for an open fight turned him into a subversive insider.

In both his roles as Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and Prime Minister, he subverted the very structures that he was a definite yet uneasy beneficiary of. More than anything else subversion defines his long, successful but unspectacular political career. Temperamentally he preferred to avoid open fights. His inclination was for negotiation, compromise or, at best, a crafty rearguard action. This perhaps enabled him to occupy strategic positions and carry out his project, but surely left him with no passionate following or a die-hard political constituency that owns him. In the event, this personality trait subverted his own place in the popular mind of India.

As Chief Minister, he dismantled the political and economic power of the large feudal land-owning class, but without any grandstanding. He did not try to portray his measures as an all-out assault on the archaic structures of economic and social control. But they indeed were. His land reforms gradually squeezed the surplus capital out of the rural economy. That capital made its way into trade, industry and urban areas. The



"Celebrating Rao's achievements has no rewards; denouncing him has no punishment; ignoring him has no penalty." Rao in 1993. ■ THE HINDU ARCHIVES

economic landscape of Andhra Pradesh was never the same again. This was an unlikely subversion because Rao was a member of that very land-owning class.

The 1991 economic project

His political rise owed much to the decline of regional satraps in the Congress system, the rise of its 'high-command culture' and the consolidation of the 'socialistic pattern of society' as its creed. However, as Prime Minister and Congress President, Rao defanged that arrogant culture and obliterated its socialist creed. His liberalisation-privatisation-globalisation programme unleashed economic and social forces that changed India beyond recognition from what it was until then. The policy departures under his watch hurtled India into a different and hitherto unfamiliar political economy. Rather than describing it as an attempt to upset the Nehruvian legacy, he laboured to portray it as a continuation of Jawaharlal Nehru's vision and Rajiv Gandhi's dream – another characteristic subversive manoeuvre, not a frontal attack. The economic paradigm that he introduced then remains unchallenged even today. Since he left office, every major political formation in the country participated in successive

Central governments or supported them from outside. But none could overturn the fundamentals of his 1991 economic project. Rao's subversion of the Nehruvian economic doctrine is irreversible.

He disagreed with the imposition of Emergency but was reluctant to break ranks and openly defy his party's high-command. He made peace with the rebel in him without ceasing to be an insider. He took the help of his friend Nikhil Chakravarthy to vent his dissent. He published a series of articles in *Mainstream* under the pseudonym 'A Congressman'. Again, the subversive insider in him answered the call of his conscience by mounting an intellectual challenge to Emergency. His passion for democratic values was evident during the days when the Bharatiya Janata Party was battling 'political untouchability'. Rao declared that BJP leaders too were elected to Parliament by the same political process as he and others in the Congress were and, therefore, one had to do business with them. That view was no less than blasphemy in the Congress of those days.

Shaping a new India

Rao learnt to keep quiet in about a dozen languages. He never claimed credit for his successes in the Punjab, Assam, Kashmir, and for dousing the fires of the Mandal agitation. He did not effectively defend himself when accused of inaction during the Ayodhya episode. He did not cultivate a regional, caste, ideological constituency. Nor did he cultivate a personal following. He stayed away from patron-client politics. Rejecting him, therefore, is no slight to any region, caste, or an ideological constituency. His party could easily disown him without fear of backlash. Today, no group owns or claims him as its own. Celebrating his achievements has no rewards; denouncing him has no punishment; ignoring him has no penalty. There is no one to celebrate his achievements in life; no one to bemoan his humiliation in death; no one to make a spirited demand for awarding the Bharat Ratna to him. Perhaps his subversive streak did not spare his own legacy. The Telangana government has begun celebrating his birth centenary on a grand scale. One hopes that its efforts would reclaim Rao's rightful place in the popular consciousness of the new India that he helped shape.

Parakala Prabhakar is former Communications Adviser to the Government of Andhra Pradesh and Managing Director of RightFOIL, a Hyderabad-based knowledge enterprise

The Mapillah uprising

The pitfalls of monocausal explanation must be avoided

MOHAMMED AYOOB

With the centenary of the Mapillah rebellion of 1921 fast approaching, controversy has erupted over Malayalam movie projects commemorating what was arguably the greatest challenge to British rule between the great uprising of 1857 and the Quit India movement of 1942. Right-wing radicals have launched attacks on social media against actor Prithviraj Sukumaran after he announced his role as the lead actor in the film *Variyamkunnam* that celebrates the life and exploits of Variyamkunnam Kunhama Hajji, a leading figure in the Mapillah revolt against British rule.

The controversy surrounding the Mapillah uprising demonstrates that in the case of most important historical events no single narrative is accepted by all sections of society. There are multiple narratives proffered by people of different ideological persuasions. More often than not these divergent perspectives are shaped by the proponents' current political projects and their preferred visions of their societies' future. Frequently, it is not history that determines the present and the future but the political preferences of contemporary actors that dictates the reading of history at the popular level.

The Mapillah uprising is no exception to this rule. On the one hand, people of secular and nationalist persuasions see it as a major instance of resistance to British colonial rule. On the other, people of the Hindutva persuasion revile it as an example of ingrained Muslim hatred against Hindus. Both these perceptions are based on single-factor explanations of a very complex phenomenon. The rebellion can be understood only if one discards ideological blinkers. It is an excellent example of the veracity of the assertion that important historical events always have multiple causes and do not occur in a social, economic, and political vacuum.

The revolt

The immediate trigger of the uprising was the Non-Cooperation Movement launched by the Congress in 1920 in tandem with the Khilafat agitation. The Malabar Congress, many of whose leaders were Nairs, was the most active participant in these twin

agitations with several Hindu leaders addressing Khilafat gatherings.

The anti-British sentiment fuelled by these agitations found fertile ground among the Muslim Mapillahs of south Malabar living in economic misery which they blamed in large part on British rule. The British had introduced new tenancy laws that tremendously favoured the landlords and instituted a far more exploitative system than before. The pre-British relations between landlords and tenants were based on a code that provided the tenants a decent share of the produce. The new laws deprived them of all guaranteed rights to the land and its produce and in effect rendered them landless.

This change created enormous resentment among the tenants against British rule. The fact that most of the landlords were Namboodiri Brahmins while most of the tenants were Mapillah Muslims compounded the problem. The Nairs formed an intermediate grouping of well-off peasantry with their own economic and social grudges against the Namboodiri landlords but largely unsympathetic to the economic travails of the Mapillahs.

The spark that lit the fire

The Non-Cooperation Movement combined with the Khilafat agitation provided the spark that lit the fire of Mapillah revolt against the British rulers and their Hindu landlords. The fiery speeches by Muslim religious leaders that accompanied the Khilafat movement added to the religious fervour of an already desperate peasantry and fuelled their ire against the British and the Hindu landlords leading to the atrocities committed by a segment of the mobilised Mapillahs against Hindus regardless of caste. Non-partisan analyses of the uprising make clear that multiple factors contributed to the character of the movement. These included economic distress, anger against foreign rule and the tenancy laws it instituted, and religious zeal. But above all it was an agrarian revolt that simultaneously took on the garb of anti-colonialism and religious fanaticism.

Mohammed Ayoub is University Distinguished Professor Emeritus of International Relations, Michigan State University

DATA POINT

Status check

CASES AND DEATHS | As of Friday, India accounted for over 5% of the world's cases and 3% of fatalities. Even after the total no. of cases crossed the 5 lakh mark, infections and fatalities have spiralled upwards, but the testing rate, which is measured as 'tests per confirmed cases', has consistently come down

By The Hindu Data Team

TESTING RATE | As of Friday, nearly 80 lakh tests were conducted in India with the average number of daily tests hovering around the 2 lakh mark lately. However, India is conducting only over 15 tests per confirmed case, half of the over 30 tests per confirmed case it was conducting in March. While there is an increase in the no. of tests, testing is still not enough relative to the outbreak size

Date	Cases in India	% of world's cases	Deaths in India	% of world's deaths	Doubling time for cases	Case fatality rate	New cases (7-day average)	New deaths (7-day average)
June 26	5,09,428	5.2	15,690	3.2	19.5	3.1	16,350	389
June 12	3,09,556	4.0	8,890	2.1	18.4	2.9	10,377	320
May 29	1,73,418	2.9	4,974	1.4	15.2	2.9	6,539	179
May 15	85,762	1.9	2,752	0.9	13.5	3.2	3,755	111
May 1	37,104	1.1	1,214	0.5	12.1	3.3	1,802	62
April 24	24,494	0.9	781	0.4	9.4	3.2	1,463	41
April 10	7,523	0.5	252	0.2	5.8	3.3	638	24
March 27	871	0.1	21	0.1	4.3	2.4	95	3

Tests per cases is an important parameter to track a region's response. Despite successfully controlling the pandemic, S.Korea continues to conduct over 250 tests per confirmed case. The figure is high for most nations which flattened the COVID-19 curve

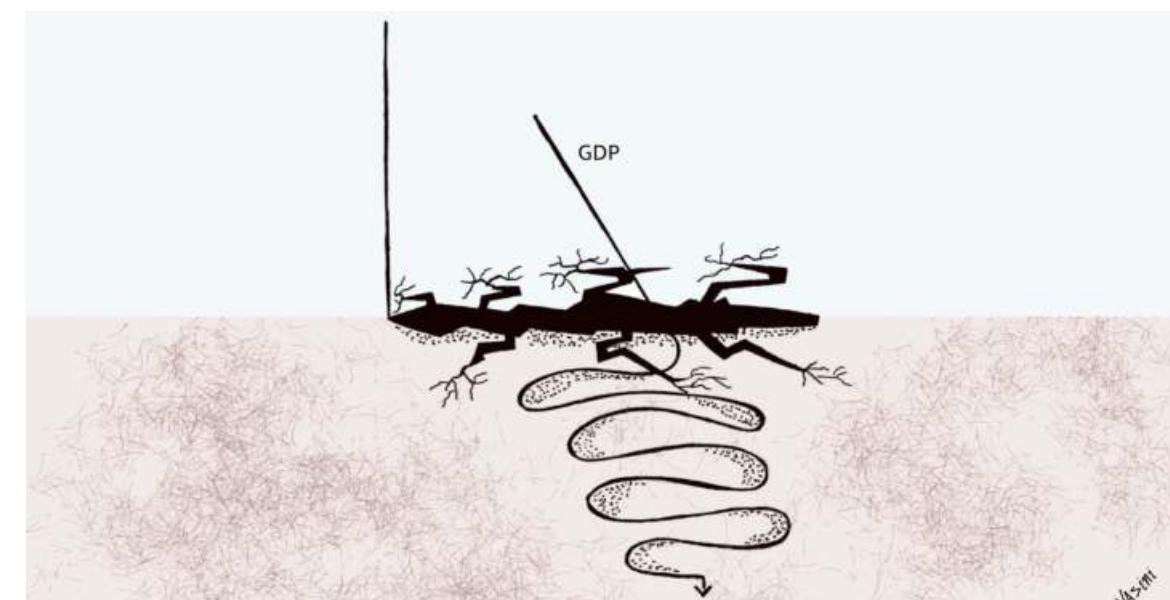


Illustration: VASU

FROM THE READERS' EDITOR

Governments should not aid media extinction

The desire for fact-based journalism can't be extinguished



A.S. PANNEERSELVAN

Pradesh Police against Supriya Sharma, Executive Editor of *Scroll.in*, for her report on the impact of the lockdown on the Prime Minister's constituency, Varanasi. While condemning the FIR, the Editors Guild of India stated that the use of Sections of the IPC and the SC/ST Act and the use of criminal provisions of the law against journalists has become "an unhealthy and despicable trend that has no place in any vibrant democracy". It rightly concluded that "the increasing frequency of such misuse of laws by the authorities is tantamount to shooting the messenger and destroying a key pillar of India's democracy." What *Scroll.in* published was a fine piece of journalism and journalists who believe in core values extend their solidarity.

The third is the state broadcaster Prasar Bharati's threat to cancel its subscription to Press Trust of India, alleging that the news agency's recent coverage was "detrimental to national interest" and undermined India's "territorial integrity". Prasar Bharati claimed it has supported PTI by paying a "huge" annual fee running into crores for years. It also accused PTI of being rigid on the issue of rationalisation of the subscription fee. PTI is a news agency that provides news to subscribers such as the mainstream media, companies, and several government and non-government organisations. Prasar Bharati is among PTI's biggest subscribers.

At a time when the media industry is vulnerable, there seems to be a method behind the government's moves to weaken the media. The media provides credible news and offers space for multiple views and ideas, but the powers that be want to create and push a singular narrative. They want their tall claims and spurious achievements to be presented as the gospel truth. There is a systematic attack against the act of verification.

The attack is multi-pronged. While the state comes up with FIRs, a powerful, omnipresent troll army indulges in character assassination. Former Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran, in his lead article titled "The myopia of 20/20 hindsight" (June 26, 2020), expressed his utmost sadness at the fact that foreign policy, too, has fallen victim to very narrow and cynical jousting in domestic politics.

It is important for governments to realise that the human desire for democratic liberties, including access to fact-based journalism, can never be extinguished.

readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 29, 1970

Yahya's visit to Moscow

Pakistan has already obtained substantial quantities of arms from the Soviet Union and though its appetite for arms is still keen, President Yahya Khan's latest visit to Moscow seems to have been more concerned with economic aid. Pakistan has been receiving generous aid from the international consortium, but its debt service liabilities are very heavy and it has now embarked on an ambitious programme to develop heavy industries. Its Western friends are not happy about the current exchange parity of the Pakistani rupee and are urging a measure of devaluation. Nor have they found the prospects of setting up a steel industry in West Pakistan (there is a small Japanese plant in East Pakistan) very bright and President Yahya Khan has now succeeded in persuading Russia to promise help for setting up a million-tonne plant. As was only to be expected, the Pakistan President also raised during his talks in Moscow the issue of Kashmir, the Farakka Barrage, etc., and insisted that India is adopting an intransigent attitude on disputed matters.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 29, 1920

The parting of the ways
(From an editorial)

We wonder if people in England realise how rapidly Britain is sinking in India's estimation in consequence of the attempts that are being made to justify the Punjab horrors. India asks if the honour of Britain is so light a thing that it can be made the plaything of her Bottomleys and her militaries. The warning of The Times on the significance of the Army Council's virtual re-opening of the whole case comes therefore not a moment too soon. If, as is generally anticipated, the Army Council decides to exonerate General Dyer a situation will be created which will be the reductio ad absurdum of government. It will mean that it will always be open for a clique of militarists to shield one of their number from the just censure of competent civil authorities. In other words it will be an apotheosis of militarism such as a Junker might have dreamt about but would never have expected to see realised in actual life. As for General Dyer he has been condemned, it is true in varying degrees of severity, by every authority entitled to pass judgment upon his conduct. That it could be open to the Army Council to revise that judgment no sane man would argue who had any faith in constitutional government or in the future of democracy.

FROM PAGE ONE

Befitting reply given to those coveting territory'

"We must face the challenges and use them to march ahead," he said.

He added that India had transited from the lockdown phase of fighting COVID-19 to the unlock phase, which would require more alertness and care. Taking the point further to highlight recent reforms his government had undertaken, the Prime Minister said, "India is unlocking, be it sectors like coal, space, agriculture and more" and that it was time "to work together to make India self-reliant and technologically advanced."

He pointed out that before Independence, India had an edge in defence production which it lost subsequently, and that it was time to regain that edge.

Pays tribute
Mr. Modi also paid fulsome tributes to late Prime Minis-

ter P.V. Narasimha Rao, whose centenary year celebrations are being kicked off on Sunday. He referred to Rao as one of the most experienced leaders of modern India, a polyglot and someone who steered India through a very delicate phase in its history.

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi, in a tweet in Hindi, wondered when we will talk about national defence and security.

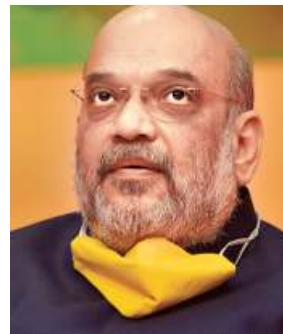
The Congress said *Mann Ki Baat* was 33 minute long, but there was not a single reference to China or the conflict on the Line of Actual Control. "Why are you so scared of China?" said Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala. It was time for the Prime Minister of a strong nation like India to act strongly. "Don't fear China and please stand by our armed forces," he said.

India will win both battles, says Amit Shah

Mr. Shah was asked about the hashtag #surrendermodi, which was spurred by Mr. Gandhi's tweet, in which he sought to know the "expanse of territory occupied by the Chinese".

"Parliament will convene, come there, we will have a one-to-one discussion. From 1962 till now, let's discuss, no one is afraid of discussions. But when jawans are struggling (*sangharsh*) at the border and government has taken a stand, is taking firm action, then to raise issues that make Pakistan and China happy is not done," he said.

Mr. Shah also spoke at



Amit Shah

length on various measures taken by the Centre and the Delhi government to control the spread of the coronavirus disease in the national capital.

Tense standoff continues on the LAC

"The troops fought on the edge of a cliff where normally no more than two people can stand together; it had also become dark," he said, adding that had it been a flat terrain, the deaths wouldn't have occurred.

After analysing the chain of events, officials believe that the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) was also annoyed as India had constructed a helipad till the edge of Y-nallah at Galwan, not very far from the June 15 clash site.

"A similar clash took place on May 5 in the Finger area near Pangong Tso (lake). The intensity of the Galwan clash was more or less similar but the terrain and the spiked batons the Chinese were carrying cost

SC to hear plea on CA exams today

The scheme allows students to opt out of the exam, which would be deemed to be cancelled. They would lose their chance. The petition said the scheme discriminates against students living in remote areas or containment zones. Due to the restrictions, they would be forced to opt out unlike their counterparts living in urban areas.

Instead of the scheme, which is not pro-student, the petition said the ICAI should focus on increasing the number of exam centres. There should be one centre in every district.

Greater safety measures

The petition sought greater COVID-19 safety measures to be put in place, including an increase in the number of examination centres so that students need not have to travel far and wide to take their exams.

About 4.67 lakh students are scheduled to appear at 259 centres in India and five centres overseas.

Karnataka, A.P. witness a record spike in cases

Toll in the two States rises by 28; Telangana records 983 cases and four deaths; Tamil Nadu sees 3,940 fresh cases

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

In an alarming rise, Andhra Pradesh reported 12 more COVID-19 deaths and 813 fresh cases on Sunday as 25,778 samples were tested. It was the biggest single-day spike on both counts.

The toll mounted to 169 and the case tally to 13,098.

COVID-19

Of the total, 7,021 cases were active and 5,908 patients had recovered. The tally of positive cases doubled since June 16. Deaths too doubled in 13 days.

Six new deaths occurred in Kurnool, five in Krishna districts and one in West Godavari district.

Of fresh cases, 755 were local, 50 were people from other States and five were returnees from abroad.

So far 8.41 lakh samples were tested with a positivity rate of 1.56%, showing a slight increase. The recovery rate too slightly increased to 45.11%. The mortality rate

was 1.29% and tests per million population 15,765.

Kerala reported 118 new COVID-19 cases and 42 recoveries on Sunday. Active cases stood at 2,015.

Among new cases, 14 were people who contracted the infection from the community through local transmission. This included two doctors and three nurses of a private hospital at Edappal, Malappuram district, who tested positive in the RT-PCR tests done among health care workers, as part of a sentinel surveillance study.

Four persons in Kottayam district also got the disease through local transmission. The other "contact" cases were in Thiruvananthapuram, Alapuzha, Thrissur, Kannur and Palakkad.

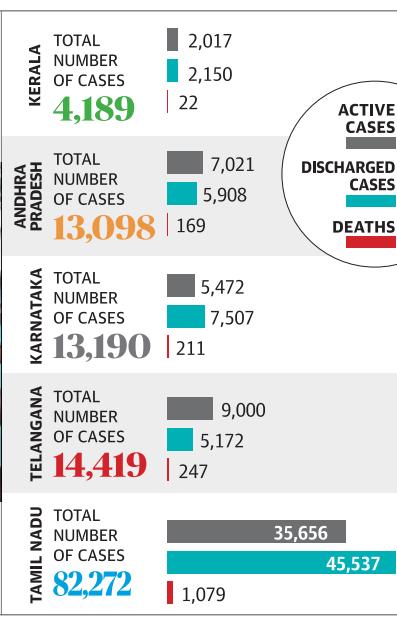
The Government decided to decongest Medical College hospitals, which were dedicated COVID-19 hospitals in the districts, by shifting all mild cases to first line treatment centres and keeping only patients with serious disease in MCHs. However, the centres had just become

Race against time

State governments are rushing to increase bed capacity across districts as the number of COVID-19 cases rise



Ramping up: Workers assembling beds for a COVID-19 care centre at the Koramangala indoor stadium on Sunday as cases as are on the increase across Bengaluru. ■ K. MURALI KUMAR



patients being added.

The COVID-19 tally in Telangana touched 14,419 with 983 more testing positive. Four deaths were also reported. The fresh cases included 816 from Greater Hyderabad, 47 from Ranga-reddy and 33 from Mancherial.

The number of persons testing positive in one day for COVID-19 infection touched a new high in Tamil Nadu on Sunday with 3,940 persons, including 179 returnees, being added to the tally. An 18-month old baby and a 17-year old boy were among those who died, while 1,443 patients were discharged post-recovery. A total of 31,505 persons were tested on Sunday. The number of active cases (including those in isolation) stood at 35,656 and total number of persons who tested positive was 82,275.

In Chennai the number of persons testing positive rose by 1,992, taking total positive cases to 53,762.

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

operational to accommodate in-patients in many districts. As the intake went up, the Government would provide round-the-clock care. Of the new cases, 68 were from abroad, and 36 from other States.

The overall case tally was

now 4,189 and recoveries were put at 2,150. The State

had over 1.75 lakh people on surveillance and quarantine; 2,611 persons with mild symptoms were in hospitals.

Karnataka saw a further jump in COVID-19 cases with new cases on Sunday touching 1,267. Over 61% of these cases – 783 – were from Bengaluru.

The number of fatalities

KCR hails Narasimha Rao's reforms

Telangana CM says country will remember former PM for economic decisions

R. RAVIKANTH REDDY
HYDERABAD



Paying tribute: CM K. Chandrasekhar Rao paying homage to former PM Narasimha Rao on Sunday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao hailed the late Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao as a reformist par excellence. "His reforms in education and land have changed Telangana's landscape while his economic reforms changed India forever," the Chief Minister said.

Praising Narasimha Rao as a 360-degree personality, Mr. KCR said it was unfortunate that he did not get the respect and recognition he deserved and said he would speak about it at an appropriate time as he didn't want to politicise such a solemn occasion. "But

which we all enjoy today," he said. He said Narasimha Rao's life was like a personal development lesson and his contribution to the country was no less than Jawaharlal Nehru. "He [Narasimha Rao] created a global India."

Recalling Narasimha Rao's contribution to education, Mr. Rao said the first residential school in the country was

started at Sarvai in Nalgonda district by him in 1971 that paved the way for Navodaya Vidyalayas in the country when he was the Union HRD Minister. "Our DGP Mahender Reddy is a product of that school and our government established 900 residential schools in the last five years with that inspiration," he said.

The Chief Minister added that Narasimha Rao's contri-

butions in creating a global India would be revived and passed onto all Indians throughout this year. As part of it, hoardings were being put up by the Telangana government in all metro cities and celebrations would be held in 51 countries.

Bharat Ratna

He assured that PM Narendra Modi, President Ramnath Kovind and former PM Manmohan Singh would be involved in the celebrations. "I will personally meet the Prime Minister to seek Bharat Ratna for PV," he said.

PV birth centenary celebra-

tions committee chair-

man K. Keshava Rao, TPCC

president N. Uttam Kumar Reddy and several Ministers earlier paid floral respects at Gyan Bhoomi along with the CM.

Chennithala alleges graft in e-mobility consultancy

PwC was engaged at high cost, he says

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Leader of the Opposition Ramesh Chennithala on Sunday added a multi-crore e-mobility consultancy contract awarded to the PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) to his litany of corruption charges against Kerala's Left Democratic Front (LDF) government.

He said the surreptitious move to contract the PwC at a high cost under the pretext of seeking expert counsel in procuring 3,000 electric public transport buses at an estimated cost of ₹4,500 crore was the latest in the chain of corrupt deals authored by the administration during the COVID-19 crisis. He said those in power had perfected a systemat-

ic approach to amass wealth through fraudulent means.

The political executive announced non-viable mega projects to pull the wool over the eyes of the public. It then cynically used the quixotic schemes as an excuse to engage global consultancies for sizeable back-hander camouflage as brokerage.

+
Chennithala allegations of graft in e-mobility consultancy

Church moves SC, seeks to intervene in Sabarimala case

Judicial review into religion should remain limited, it says

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI



The Ayyappa temple

Members of the Malankara Jacobite Syrian Church in Kerala have approached the Supreme Court for permission to intervene in the Sabarimala review case before a nine-judge Constitution Bench.

The nine-judge Bench is poised to decide "larger questions" of what constitutes religious freedom under Article 25 of the Constitution. The Bench will also determine whether the court can examine religious practices across multiple faiths and decide if they are really essential or not.

The Jacobite Church members, represented by advocates Haris Beera and

Pallavi Pratap, said what is integral to a faith should best be left to the discretion of the religious denomination. Judicial review into religion should remain limited.

"The applicants submit that the extent of judicial review with regard to religious practices with regard to Article 25 is very limited and therefore the religious denomination should have the right to determine whether a par-

Class 10 student from Udupi tests positive

She can appear for exam though

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MANGALURU

A 15-year-old Class 10 student from Padubidri in Karnataka's Udupi district tested positive for COVID-19 on Sunday. She will write the remaining papers of the SSLC examination as a fresher in the supplementary examination.

The members said the immediate need to protect their religious freedom and beliefs has arisen from the recent appointments of vicars to their parish churches. "Priest/vicar of the parish church was someone who has got *kaiyepu* [laying of hand on the head and through consecration] from the Patriarch of Antioch and who believes in the spiritual supremacy of the Patriarch of Antioch." However, the priests appointed now do not believe in the supremacy of the Patriarch.

Mr. Sheshashayana said

the room in which the student wrote the examination had been sanitised and

closed. Other students who were in that room would write the science paper on Monday in another room. As each student was seated with adequate distance between them, there were no chances for the spread of the infection, officials said. However, the students will be kept under observation.

Relief to students

In a relief to Secondary School Leaving Certificate (SSLC) students writing their examination, the Karnataka Secondary Education Examination Board (KSEEB) has decided to allow them to write the mathematics examination.

Mr. Sheshashayana said

the room in which the student wrote the examination had been sanitised and

aims at providing context to the crimes it analyses.

The *Encyclopedia of Investigation*, on the other hand, will detail the criminal investigation process, from the First Information Report till the filing of charge-sheets.

"This is a six-and-a-half-year project involving in-depth analysis of cases, which helps one see how and by whom our laws are enforced. Each of the 12 volumes runs into about 1,200 pages," Mr. Nasim said.

Writing, he added, helps him balance the stress of his demanding job.

Crime historian and Kottayam ASP A. Nasim has written a book on the Kayamkulam Kochunni case

with a book titled *Police Digest*.

Now, an Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) in Kottayam, Mr. Nasim is fast becoming an authority on the history of crime in Kerala.

A crime historian who holds a doctoral degree in custodial deaths in Kerala from 1956 to 2016, he has now completed a book on the Kayamkulam Kochunni case of custodial death, and has set out another on the 101 murders that shocked Kerala, besides a 12-volume

Encyclopedia of Investigation.

"Kayamkulam Kochunni's is arguably the first recorded case of custodial death in such a way as not to sensationalise violence. The book

Modi has a 'soft spot' for China: Cong.

Party lists donor firms of PM CARES that are wholly or partially owned by Chinese companies

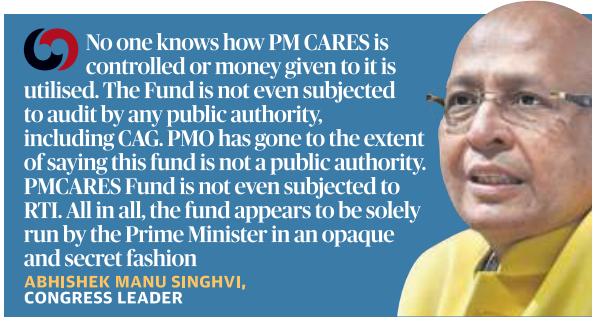
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Congress on Sunday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of having a "soft spot" for China, and listed out the firms that are fully or partially owned by Chinese companies which have recently donated to the PM CARES fund, instituted by the Prime Minister's Office in wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On Saturday, BJP president J.P. Nadda had alleged that Rajiv Gandhi Foundation headed by Congress President Sonia Gandhi every year had received donations from the Chinese Embassy between 2005 and 2009.

'Distraction from reality'
In a counter attack, the Congress on Sunday said the BJP has been targeting Congress to distract from the reality of Chinese transgressions in the Galwan Valley, Pangong



No one knows how PM CARES is controlled or money given to it is utilised. The Fund is not even subjected to audit by any public authority, including CAG. PMO has gone to the extent of saying this Fund is not a public authority... PM CARES Fund is not even subjected to RTI. All in all, the Fund appears to be solely run by the Prime Minister in an opaque and secret fashion.

ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI,
CONGRESS LEADER

Tso Lake area, Hot Springs and Depsang Plains up to Y-Junction.

"Every time the Modi government is questioned on the Chinese transgressions of our territory, a deceptive Modi government and a paranoid BJP resorts to diversionary tactics and disinformation. Let them know that the Congress party will keep asking these questions in national interest," Congress leader Abhishek Manu Singhvi said. Mr. Singhvi, who tested positive for CO-

VID-19, spoke via video conference from a quarantine facility. Mr. Modi's statement of claiming no intrusion or occupation by the Chinese in Indian territory was the "greatest disservice to the nation", Mr. Singhvi said.

"As we all know the Prime Minister has a special soft spot for China. Even as Chief Minister of Gujarat, we saw his close association in his four Chinese visits. He is the only Prime Minister who has visited China five times," he added. Mr. Singhvi said ma-

ny Chinese firms and Indian firms which are partially owned or funded by Chinese companies including telecom giants Huawei (donated ₹7 crore), Xiaomi (₹15 crore) and OPPO (₹1 crore) had donated to the PM CARES Fund. PayTm which donated ₹100 crore to the Fund has 38% Chinese ownership. Similarly Chinese social media firm TikTok donated ₹30 crore. So far, as per the Central government, ₹9,678 crore had been collected under this fund.

"No one knows how PM CARES is controlled or money given to it is utilised. The Fund is not even subjected to audit by any public authority, including CAG. PMO has gone to the extent of saying this Fund is not a public authority... PM CARES Fund is not even subjected to RTI. All in all, the Fund appears to be solely run by the Prime Minister in an opaque and

secret fashion," Mr. Singhvi said.

Despite intrusions

Later in a series of tweets, senior Congress leader P. Chidambaram said the PM CARES fund was set up after Chinese intrusions into Depsang (2013), Chumar (2014) and Doklam (2017). "Why did the PM accept funds from Chinese-owned firms, one of which has a deep connection with the Chinese Army," he asked.

"PM-CARES fund was set up on 28-03-2020. Chinese-owned companies donated money from that date. Chinese troops began incursions into Ladakh in March-April 2020. Does it require great intelligence to discern China's motives?" he said. The party asked Mr. Modi to explain why despite overt Chinese hostilities, he had received the money into the fund.

PTI was just doing its duty, says IWPC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Expressing concern over state broadcaster Prasar Bharati's "threat to review its subscription to the Press Trust of India (PTI)", the Indian Women's Press Corps (IWPC) and Press Association, in a joint statement, said it was ironical that the government chose to crack down on the news agency hours after marking the 45th anniversary of Emergency when the press was heavily censored.

The statement said the PTI was only doing its professional duty. "At a time when the Chinese have intruded into Indian territory, it is the job of the journalist to ask the 'other side', in this case a representative of the Chinese government, why this is happening. The interview made all the news – in fact, the Chinese Ambassador even conceded, for the first time, that there had been some casualties on the LAC," it said.

Though the broadcaster's letter to PTI didn't mention any particular report or interview, sources confirmed that the provocation was primarily the two interviews of Indian Ambassador to China and the Chinese Ambassador to India conducted and circulated by PTI.

"By describing PTI's 'recent news coverage' as being detrimental to 'national interest and undermining India's territorial integrity', it seems the authorities have failed to appreciate the meaning of a free, objective and unbiased media...," the statement said.

The Indian Association of Foreign Affairs Correspondents also slammed Prasar Bharati for trying to "arm-twist" PTI.

Russia agrees to speed up defence deals

Long-pending contracts for AK-203 assault rifles and Ka-226T light utility helicopters figure in talks

DINAKAR PERI

NEW DELHI

Russia has agreed to quickly address some urgent defence requirements sought by India and this was discussed during the recent trip of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, defence and diplomatic sources said. The long-pending deals for AK-203 assault rifles and Ka-226T light utility helicopters were also discussed in a review of the entire gamut of defence cooperation.

India will present its requirements soon and Russia has agreed to address them within a few months, the sources said without elaborating. Mr. Singh was on a four-day visit to Moscow from June 21 for the 75th anniversary of the Victory Day Parade, during which he held talks with Russian Deputy Prime Minister Yury



Reaffirming ties: Rajnath Singh with Deputy Prime Minister of Russia, Yury Ivanovich Borisov, in Moscow on June 23. ■ PTI

Borisov. The request comes against the backdrop of tensions with China along the Line of Actual Control and the large-scale mobilisation undertaken by the armed forces in response to the massive Chinese build-up.

S-400 by 2021-end
In a statement after the talks in Moscow, Mr. Singh said

Russia had agreed that ongoing contracts would be maintained and "in a number of cases will be taken forward in a shorter time". However, on the S-400 deal, the sources said the deliveries would start by the end of 2021 as scheduled and it was difficult to accelerate the deal any further. "No further acceleration is technically possible,"

a diplomatic source said, while the Indian sources said the deliveries would be completed as per the contractual terms.

There is some progress on the AK-203 assault rifle deal which has been held up over pricing, another diplomatic source said.

The deal was for over 7.5 lakh rifles, of which one lakh would be imported and 6.71 lakh rifles manufactured by a joint venture (JV) Indo-Russian Rifles Private Ltd. (IRRPL) at Korwa in Uttar Pradesh.

However, the deal for 200 Ka-226T utility helicopters remains stuck over the level of indigenisation. To reach the indigenisation percentage as specified by the tender, Russia and India are evaluating the possibility of using Indian aviation materials in the production of In-

dia, which will give the programme a new indigenisation angle and also an impetus to the domestic aero industry.

"Another significant feature of the project is going to be the transfer to India of a number of crucial helicopter engineering technologies, including the unique coaxial scheme technologies," two sources said, adding that India will have the choice to integrate domestic avionic and weapons. Of the 200 helicopters, 60 will be imported directly and the remaining will be manufactured by a JV between Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. and the Russian Helicopters (RH).

Several MoUs have already been signed with domestic companies by RH for localising assemblies such as fuselage, blades, radio station and landing gear.

Meetings being held in India to unseat me: Oli

Delhi upset with new map, he says

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli of Nepal on Sunday said meetings were being organised in India to topple his go-



vernment.

Addressing a gathering at his official residence to mark the 69th birth anniversary of the late communist leader Madan Bhandari, Mr. Oli said his government enjoyed a parliamentary majority and plans to oust him would fail.

+

"There is some news coming from Delhi about this. Look at the meetings being organised in India against Nepal's decision to amend the Constitution to place the revised map of the country in the national emblem," said Prime Minister Oli, alleging a plot to overthrow his government.

"You must have heard that the Prime Minister will be changed in 15 days. If I am removed at this time, no one will dare to speak in favour of Nepal because that person will be dismissed immediately. I am not speaking for myself. I speak for the country. Our party, our parliamentary party will not fall into such traps," Mr. Oli said.

Fissures emerge

Despite the popular and emotive move on the new map, Mr. Oli has been criticised by colleagues from the faction of Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' in the ongoing meeting of the powerful Standing Committee of the ruling Nepal Communist Party.

The hostility between the two factions was evident on Friday when Mr. Oli did not attend the Standing Committee's meeting.

The members of the committee have been critical of the Prime Minister's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is understood that of the 44 members in the committee, some 30 are with co-chair Prachanda, considered a challenger to Mr. Oli.

Kashmiris anxious over order to stock up LPG

The government had issued similar orders ahead of the operation in Balakot and Article 370 dilution

PEERZADA ASHIQ

SRINAGAR

Two separate government orders on stocking up LPG cylinders for two months in the Kashmir Valley and on vacating of school buildings for security forces in Ganderbal, adjoining Kargil, have triggered a fresh wave of anxiety among people, in the wake of the India-China face-off.

Described as a "most urgent matter", an Adviser to Lt. Governor G.C. Murmu passed the directions on June 23, "to ensure sufficient stocks of LPG in the Valley as the supply gets affected due to closure of the National Highway on account of landslips". According to an order passed by the Director of the



Fresh trouble: Exercises to stock up LPG are usually carried out in winter when highway traffic is affected. ■ FILE PHOTO

Food, Civil Supplies and Consumers, oil companies should make adequate stocks of LPG that can last up to two months.

This is the first time that the administration has decided to stock up LPG cylinders at the peak of summer. Usually, such exercises are

carried out in October-November when the harsh winter affects the highway traffic.

Separately, the Ganderbal police have requested 16 educational institutions in the district, including ITI and middle and higher secondary schools, to vacate

their buildings. "In view of the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2020, these educational centres be made available for accommodation of Central Armed Police Force companies," the order reads.

Such build-up assumes significance as the coming yatra is likely to be a low-key affair due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Besides, Ganderbal adjoins Kargil in Ladakh, where India and China are engaged in a face-off over the Line of Actual Control.

"We have been hearing jets hovering in the skies on a daily basis for many weeks now. Similar orders were issued in February and August last year," said Nazeer Ahmad, a resident of Hawal.

Ahead of the operation in

Balakot inside Pakistan in February last year and the revocation of J&K's special status in August 2019, the government had issued a slew of similar orders.

National Conference vice-president Omar Abdullah said, "Unfortunately, after all the lies and false assurances last year, even if and when the government explains these orders, hardly any of us will take the assurances at face value."

Simrandeep Singh, Secretary, Department of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, however, said the LPG stocking was discussed in the context of the monsoon. "The NH-44 highway closes intermittently during the rains. That's all."

Kulgam woman held for posing with gun, terror recruitments

She is the mother of a slain Hizb militant, say police

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

SRINAGAR

The police in Kashmir have arrested a woman for posing with a gun, alongside her militant son, and "playing a role in recruitment of two locals" into militancy. Naseema Banoo, from Kulgam's Rampura Qaimoh, was arrested on June 20.

"In the photo, the arrested woman is toting an automatic weapon and posing next to her son, who was an active terrorist [killed later in an encounter]," the Kulgam police said in a statement. "She is involved in much more serious offences and her role has surfaced in recruiting at least two youth



Ms. Banoo was also arrested in 2018 under the UAPA.

into terrorist ranks, arranging arms and ammunition, communication and logistics for terrorists and terror organisations," the police added.

Ms. Banoo, mother of slain Hizbul Mujahideen commander Touseef Sheikh, who joined militancy in 2015 and is categorised as an 'A plus' militant," he said.

Over 9.26 lakh displaced in Assam floods

Number doubles in less than 24 hours

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI

Two more people drowned on Sunday and more than 9.26 lakh people displaced as 23 out of Assam's 33 districts reeled under floods.

Landslides at six places in Guwahati also killed a girl while another woman, trapped in debris two days ago, succumbed to her injuries. Altogether 43 people have died in flood and landslides since May 22.

"Incessant rainfall has made the situation grim with personnel of the National Disaster Response Force and other agencies rescuing 9,303 people," a spokesperson of the Assam Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) said. Accord-

ing to ASDMA's update, 2,071 villages and localities have been flooded across 23 districts – two more than on Saturday. The number of displaced people almost doubled to 9,26,059 in less than 24 hours.

COVID-19 challenge

"We have readied 193 relief camps in the 12 worst affected districts where 27,308 people have taken refuge. Maintaining social distancing due to COVID-19 protocols has been a challenge at these camps..." the spokesperson said.

Officials of the Water Resources Department said the Brahmaputra and most of its tributaries were flowing above the danger mark.

192 U.P. teachers under scanner over duplicate PAN numbers

Officials find identical bank details used for drawing salaries

OMAR RASHID

LUCKNOW

The Education Department in Uttar Pradesh is verifying the records of 192 teachers in the State after officials found duplicates of PAN numbers and bank accounts used for drawing salaries.

This comes at a time when the police is investigating the "Anamika Shukla" controversy in the alleged recruitment of "fake teachers" across districts under the aforementioned identity. Vijay Kiran Anand, Director General of School Education-U.P., has written to the district Basic Shiksha Adhikaris (BSA) to check the records of the 192 cases in

which identical PAN cards and bank details have been recorded under different teachers.

"When we checked the database of all the teachers whose salaries are being drawn, in some instances, we found duplicates of the PAN. Now we are verifying whether the data feeding was done correctly or there is actually a problem," Mr. Anand told *The Hindu*.

The official clarified that it was not a case of a single PAN number being used in the 192 cases but there were multiple cases of duplicates with different details. Further action would be taken after the BSAs submit

their reports, he added.

11 cases in Ballia

One such district where details are being collected is Ballia, where eleven cases of duplicate details have been found, said officials. The district BSA has asked the Block Education Officers (BEO) to direct the 11 teachers to appear in person on Monday with their documents proving their details.

BEO of Belharpur in Ballia, Narendra Kumar, hinted that some of the faulty entries could have been due to the transfers of teachers from one district to another, leading to documentation at both places.

A-NODE

IN BRIEF

**Punjab postpones all exit exams till July 15**

CHANDIGARH The Punjab government on Sunday announced postponement of exams for the exit classes in all universities of the State till July 15. Chief Minister Amarinder Singh said in a statement that the final decision on the issue will, however, be subject to the new directions and guidelines expected to be released by the University Grants Commission soon.

Bihar Minister, wife test positive for COVID-19

PATNA Bihar's Backward and Extremely Backward Classes Welfare Minister Vinod Kumar Singh and wife tested positive for COVID-19 on Sunday and were admitted to an isolation ward at a city hospital. Contact tracing and testing is being conducted, Kathar District Magistrate Kanwal Tanuj said.

Haryana prepared to deal with locust attack'

CHANDIGARH The Haryana government is fully prepared to deal with any locust attack, State Agriculture Minister J.P. Datal said on Sunday, as he credited officials for a timely response to tackle an infestation of the short-horned grasshoppers in Rewari district. He also said the Rewari district administration will conduct a survey to assess the damage caused to crops by locusts. "We have sufficient stocks of insecticides, pesticides, machinery to deal with locust attacks. Our officials swing into action as soon as these insects settle down on vegetation, trees, soil," he said.

Vande Bharat flights from Australia sold out

NEW DELHI Air India on Sunday opened bookings for eight flights from Australia under the Vande Bharat Mission, but many passengers were left disappointed after all seats were sold out in less than three hours. Late on Saturday, Air India announced on Twitter that it would operate four flights each from Sydney and Melbourne between July 1 and July 14. The total number of seats booked are estimated to be 2,048.

Fresh air to be pumped inside AC trains

NEW DELHI Air conditioned trains will now have operation theatre-like fresh air pumped into coaches, replacing the circulated air which raises the chances of spread of infections, Railway officials said. The experiment, which started with 15 pairs of air conditioned trains being run by the Railways on the Rajdhani routes since May 12, will be replicated in all AC trains as part of the national transporter's preparations for post-COVID operations. PTI

Lockdown will continue: Uddhav

There will be a few relaxations post-June 30, says Maharashtra Chief Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Sunday said the COVID-19 lockdown will not be lifted post-June 30, but there will be a few relaxations. He said the State might witness a surge in the number of patients in the coming days.

Mr. Thackeray said re-imposing the lockdown or allowing more relaxations would squarely depend on citizens as discipline has to be maintained.

"We are not going to end the lockdown after June 30. But yes, we will offer a few relaxations. We have to realise that as more relaxations are given, more number of cases of corona have come up. We are walking on the edge. We are opening services only to revive the stopped economic cycle," he said.

Mr. Thackeray said the threat of the virus remains. "Come out of the illusion



Back to business: Salons opened in Mumbai on Sunday after a gap of three months. • VIBHAV BIRWATKAR

that relaxations mean corona threat is over. I am getting requests from local authorities about shutting down areas due to the rising number of cases. I have told them that they can impose lockdown locally if people continue to crowd on roads and cases are increasing."

Maharashtra is the worst-affected State in the country with 1,64,626 cases. "As we open up more and more ac-

tivities, there is a possibility that positive cases may rise. But we are ready to take on the surge. We have increased our infrastructure and also testing facilities. Mumbai implemented 'Chase the Virus' successfully. This will be replicated in other parts of the State as well," he said.

'Donate blood plasma' He appealed to the patients who have recovered to do-

nate blood plasma for the Plasma Therapy. "Maharashtra has the largest use of plasma therapy. The success rate is good. I appeal to the recovered patients to contact government medical colleges and doctors to donate plasma."

Request to doctors

Mr. Thackeray also requested senior doctors to join the anti-COVID operations, assuring them that their safety will not be compromised at any level. He acknowledged that senior citizens are at risk but "we need your experience".

"We are also using all available medicines, including Remdesivir. We followed up with the Central government and have received permission to use it. There will no shortage. We will make available these medicines free of cost at government hospitals. Soon stocks will be full."

Hackers get data of 80,000 COVID-19 patients in Delhi

Group says it wanted to highlight vulnerability of system

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The website of the Delhi State Health Mission (dshm.delhi.gov.in) was taken down temporarily on Sunday after a group of hackers exposed its vulnerability. They hacked the website and accessed personal data of more than 80,000 COVID-19 patients in Delhi.

A senior police officer with the cybercrime cell said they had not received any police complaint so far.



An official collecting health details of residents during a survey in Delhi.

that it had hacked the Delhi government to investigate, report, and track the COVID-19 situation in Delhi. A hacker can edit, manipulate as well as misuse these data to make profits. The consequences can be the downfall of the entire Indian security. For instance, manipulating these data will cause miscalculations, and inaccuracy in tracking COVID-19," the post read.

"We are not satisfied with the Delhi government's approach towards the healthcare personnel ... Thus, to show our protest, we were on an errand to obliterate 'Delhi State Health Mission' website. Gaining access to their server took us lesser than 10 minutes. We were appalled to witness sensitive data stored in these servers without any security," read the post.

"This is the server used by the Delhi government to investigate, report, and track the COVID-19 situation in Delhi. A hacker can edit, manipulate as well as misuse these data to make profits. The consequences can be the downfall of the entire Indian security. For instance, manipulating these data will cause miscalculations, and inaccuracy in tracking COVID-19," the post read.

Centre unveils new rules to regulate exotic animal trade

Owners have to register their stock

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI The Environment Ministry's wildlife division has introduced new rules to regulate the import and export of exotic wildlife species'.

Currently, it is the Directorate-General of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce, that oversees such trade.

Under the new rules, owners and possessors of such animals and birds must also register their stock with the Chief Wildlife Warden of their States.

Select animals

Officials of the Wildlife Department will also prepare an inventory of such species and have the right to inspect the facilities of such traders to check if these plants and animals are being housed in salubrious conditions.

Additionally, stockists will have six months to declare their stock.

The advisory, issued earlier this month, also says 'exotic live species' will mean animals named under Appendices I, II and III of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) of Wild Fauna and Flora.

It will not include species from the Schedules of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

The CITES is part of a multilateral treaty that includes plant, animals and birds under varying categories of threat of extinction and which will be jointly protected by members of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature. India is a signatory to this.



A file photo of exotic animals seized in Thane, Maharashtra.

'Over 14% in Kolkata have antibodies'

ICMR survey indicates that transmission is high in the metropolis, say experts

SHIV SAHAY SINGH

KOLKATA

A sero survey conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) to estimate the sero-prevalence of the novel coronavirus infection in West Bengal reveals a higher number of antibodies in the population of Kolkata than in other districts.

The sero-prevalence is the level of a pathogen in a population, as measured in blood serum.

A June 26 letter, written by ICMR Director-General Balram Bhargava to West Bengal Health Secretary Niranjan Swaroop Nigam, re-



Virus alert: A medic collecting samples for COVID-19 testing at a slum in Kolkata on Sunday. • PTI

veals that of the 396 samples in Kolkata, 57 tested positive, taking the "unweighted prevalence" to 14.39% in the

city. In South 24 Parganas, only 10 of the 400 samples tested positive, indicating a prevalence of 2.5%.

SC refuses to stay Rajasthan Board exam

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI In a special Sunday hearing, the Supreme Court dismissed a plea made by the mother of a student to stay the Rajasthan government from conducting Class X exams on June 29 and 30 amid a surge in the COVID-19 cases.

A three-judge virtual court Bench led by Justice A.M. Khanwilkar allowed the Rajasthan Board of Secondary Education to go ahead with the scheduled exams, postponed due to the pandemic and lockdown.

Maghi Devi, whose son is taking the exam, had failed to convince the Rajasthan High Court.

SC dismisses review petitions challenging verdict on adultery

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has refused to review its 2018 judgment which decriminalised adultery.

A five-judge Review Bench, led by Chief Justice of India Sharad A. Bobde, upheld a September 2018 Constitution Bench which had struck adultery out of the penal statute book.

"We have carefully gone through the review petitions and the connected papers filed therewith. We do not find any ground, whatsoever, to entertain the same. The review petitions are, accordingly, dismissed," the Bench said in a short order recently.

The original judgment was by a Constitution Bench, led by then chief justice Dipak Misra, which found that Section 497 (adultery) of the Indian Penal Code cannot "command" married couples to remain loyal to each other for the fear of penal punishment.

The original judgment in 2018 was based on a writ petition filed by a Kerala resident, Joseph Shine, represented by advocate Kaleswaram Raj.

The court had reasoned that there was no data whatsoever to support claims that abolition of adultery as a crime would result in "chaos in sexual morality" or an increase of divorce.

Section 497 treats a married woman as the commodity of her husband, the Bench had held.

Adultery is not a crime if the cuckolded husband conspires or consents to his wife's extra-marital affair. Section 497 treats a married woman as her husband's "chattel".

Sanjaya Baru duped in online scam

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

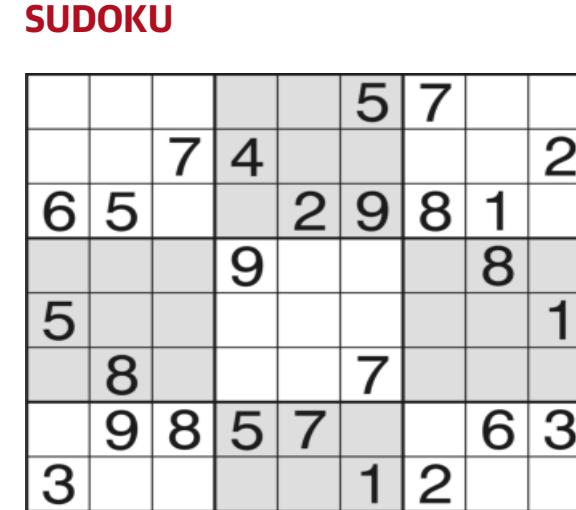
The Delhi police arrested a man for allegedly duping policy analyst Sanjaya Baru of ₹24,000 on the pretext of online delivery of liquor, the police said on Sunday.

The accused Akib Javed, a resident of Kaman, Bharatpur, was nabbed from his home town after a search on Saturday. Efforts are being made to nab his absconding associates.

The police said the matter came to notice on June 2 after they received a complaint from Mr. Baru, who was media adviser to former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

In his complaint, Mr. Baru alleged that while he was shopping for liquor online, he found the purported online store 'La Cave Wines and Spirits'. When he contacted the number provided to place his order, he was asked to pay online. After making a payment of approximately ₹24,000, the seller switched off his mobile phone, the police said.

After analysing transaction details and mobile numbers used to avail banking alerts, the accused was traced to Kaman.

SUDOKU**Solution to puzzle 12974**

www.knightstales.com

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

www.knightstales.com

FAITH**Essence of prapatti**

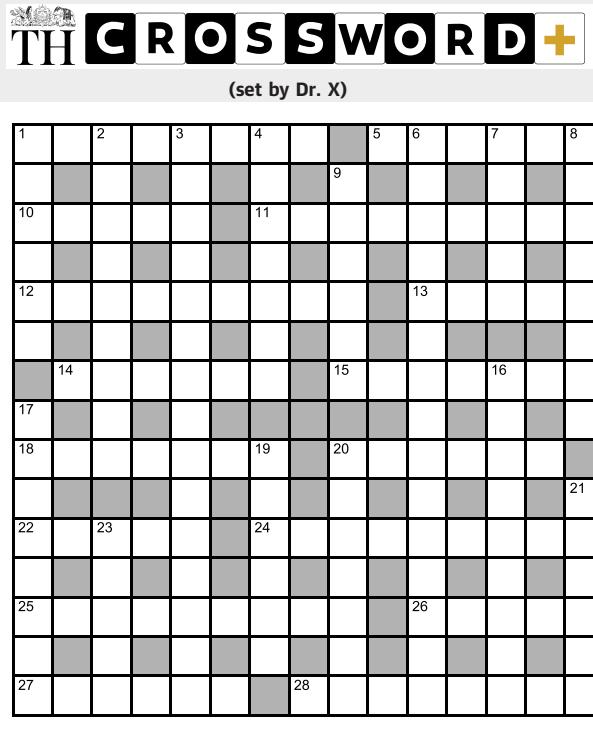
The Upanishads state in one voice that attainment of Brahman Jnana is the ultimate goal of all jivatmas. They also point out that one who fails to know the Brahma Swaroopa is to be pitied, for he continues to suffer in samsara through ignorance. In the Vaishnava tradition, this goal is attainable through the act of Prapatti that is based on the firm understanding and belief in the undying relationship between the jivatma and the Paramatma, pointed out Sri Asuri Madhavarachari in a discourse.

Prapatti is the 'atma samarpana' of the jivatma and the acharya plays an important role by intervening on his behalf and by entreating the Lord to accept his surrender. The acharya explains the true nature of his relationship to the Lord as that as a servant and Master. The entire creation of chit and achit is the sarira of the Lord who is the Paramatma. He is the ultimate end to be reached and He is also the means to attain this end.

Vedanta Desika has succinctly captured the essence of the spirit of prapatti in the hymn 'Nyasa Dasaka.' Prapatti entails that the prapanna has to do all ordained duties and avoid those that are against the sastras. He is well aware of his limitations and accepts his inability to protect himself. By offering one's entire self to the Lord, including one's sarira and atma, the jivatma is relieved of all kinds of pressures and fears that inhere in the daily grind of life. He believes implicitly that the entire responsibility for his life henceforth rests with the Lord. He relinquishes the sense of 'I' and 'Mine' in all his endeavours pertaining to his thought, word and deed. By offering himself and all what he owns to Him in all humility, he prays to God to bestow on him the greatest gift of being included in His 'Eternal Service,' Kainkarya.

TH CROSSWORD + 12974

(set by Dr. X)

**ACROSS**

- 1 Serious dispute after expensive initiation of Brexit (8)
- 5 Hurt and killed around eastern border of Iran (6)
- 10 Bit of tenderness in stomach? Associate gives drop of medicine (5)
- 11 Entertainment in nightclub confounds! In what way? (5, 4)
- 12 Enthralled by knocking back pegs, women turn heads in middle of racket (5, 4)

There is no lockdown for your brain!

Try solving a puzzle today!
@ <https://crossword.thehindu.com>

SCAN TO PLAY



- 13 Leader of Arabs in chamber gets legitimately slaughtered meat (5)
- 14 Wicket! India's captain unfortunately gone for duck (6)
- 15 The wrong time to embrace a mistress (7)
- 18 Cut across bog around ridge of hill (7)
- 20 Wait! Torrent contains electronic trace of malware (6)
- 22 Rep्रimand degenerate stealing a dollar (5)
- 24 One seen in bathroom by wife in a bash, slyly snorting bit of speed (9)
- 25 Saw revolutionary in battle reach the lowest point (6, 3)
- 26 Essentially erotic on-screen images (5)
- 27 Decanter in restaurant contains a spot of rum (6)
- 28 Chokes in matches, losing final of tournament for good (8)
- DOWN
- 1 Most monstrous thugs moving around back of house (6)
- 2 Buzz after leading heroine enters opening party (9)
- 3 Defeat decisively and violently expose the inferior members? (4, 3, 5, 3)
- 4 Style of bowling is substandard with shots all round (3-4)
- 6 At present, cuddling date before night falls (3, 3, 4, 5)
- 7 Type of alcohol they served, primarily liqueurs (5)
- 8 Blue stuff in file on computer (8)
- 9 Feverish after consuming bit of opium, cocaine and hard liquor (6)
- 16 Discharges schoolgirl involved in making noise (9)
- 17 Enthralling oriental massage, elegant and heavenly (8)
- 19 Wife took out a little whip! Knee submissively (6)
- 20 Drunkard involved in dreadful riot for food (7)
- 21 Charges of commissions! Leading bureaucrat's expelled (6)
- 23 Redesign interior of international terminal (5)



■ M.G. SETHURAMAN

Hundreds and thousands of students in India are in a state of anxiety. With the 2019-2020 exams not over, a big question mark lies over their fate. In states such as Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, the class X Board exams have been cancelled, and CBSE has now decided not to hold the remaining exams for class XII. Many universities and colleges are still undecided over whether to conduct the end-semester exams.

The future of exams, at least for this year, is bleak with COVID-19 spreading rapidly in Mumbai, Delhi and Chennai. Exams are usually conducted to evaluate knowledge and to test students' understanding and learning levels. Unfortunately, over the years, education has become too exam-centric, and the latter has taken priority over learning.

Need for change
The inappropriate exam system, which mostly calls for rote memorisation, has failed to test the higher

Teachers have to be more objective to escape from the criticism of being partial.

order thinking skills among students. Hence, there is a need for a thorough overhaul. The present one-size-fits-all system only increases the stress on students and parents. Exam procedures often lack transparency, and students resort to malpractices. The annual/end-semester exams have failed to serve the selection needs of the next le-

vel of education/career.

The existing system calls for urgent reforms. It not only has to be flexible but also fair to all groups. Though many higher education institutions have continuous formative assessments and summative assessments, rarely does the continuous assessments include modes of assessments apart from the written tests.

Even the question papers do not test the various cognitive levels as prescribed by the revised Bloom's Taxonomy. With the pandemic not

Exams should be FLEXIBLE and FAIR

The current system of exams needs to be overhauled and reformed, at least for the future

allowing the congregation of students and with conditions like social distancing in force, we need to not only reduce the exam duration, but also the weightages given for the final one.

Digital tools

There are at least 17 digital online educational tools that are available for teachers. In place of written exams, students can be assessed through portfolios, course-embedded assignments, capstone projects, juried review of tasks, externally reviewed internship, performance on case studies, essay blind scored across units in the syllabus and other varied tools.

Students can be made to respond through online tests that require graphic response, equation response hot text and so on.

The online assessments embedded with the online course are learner-centric and can be conducted as and when the students opt for it rather than at the convenience of the system. These ICT-based systems not only make the exam system flexible, but also reduce the administrative and financial burden. It is said that University of Madras spends about ₹3 crores per semester to evaluate more than 12 lakh answer sheets. With online and various other modes of assessments, it is certain that exam-related administrative inconvenience and financial expenditure can be curtailed.

The results can be declared within a short time, even if a syndicate attack takes place, in the future. To change the system, a proper change in the mindset of teachers and students is required. Teachers have to be more objective to escape from the criticism of being partial. Even if colleges and universities decide to award marks on the basis of available test results, assignments, class room performance and attendance for this semester, it is necessary to bring changes in the system, at least for the future.

The writer is the Director (R&D), The Gandhigram Rural Institute, Gandhigram

SCHOLARSHIPS



Career Counselling webinars

The Hindu Education Plus hosts a webinar series on Career Counselling. Presented by SRM Institute of Science and Technology, this series will discuss a range of topics including Engineering, Medicine, Humanities and Social Sciences, and Sciences.

The first webinar will focus on Engineering in an AI-Enabled World: What will it take to survive automation? The speakers are:

Dr. D.K. Aswal is the Director of CSIR-National Physical Laboratory (CSIR-NPL), New Delhi. He is an internationally reputed condensed matter physicist and has made several contributions in the areas of molecular electronics, physics of organic films and their applications, thermoelectric power generators and gas sensors.

Dr. Sandeep Sancheti is currently the Vice Chancellor, SRMIST, Chennai, and Member of Council, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru. He is on various national-level bodies of the UGC, AICTE and AIU, for higher education related matters and has been a part of Indian delegations abroad.

Dr. Damodar Acharya is an eminent educationist and engineer. He is the former Director of IIT Kharagpur and former Chairman of the AICTE. He was also the founding Vice-Chancellor of Biju Patnaik University of Technology (BPUT).

When: July 1, 2020, from 3.00 to 5.00 p.m.

Register: <https://bit.ly/2Yv23li> or scan the QR code



PROGRESSIVE Learning



Did you know, study of “imagineering” could land you a job in Disney?

Ever wondered who designs theme parks with rhythmic fountains, simulated snow meadows and youthful rides or who is the brain behind the vibrant ambience in luxury hotels? Common among all these is an out of the box thinking and a sense of wonderment. Yes, it is imagination at work, professionally, it is Imagineering that is taking place.

If you are sparkling with creativity and are willing to meaningfully design your professional skills into reality without compromising on your freedom of dreaming, then a course in Imagineering is for you. Reinforced on a contemporary journey of innovative education that will dock you in one of the most sought-after careers in licensed expression this is relatively new area of study in India called Imagineering.

With innovation-based education taking centre stage, students and parents are exploring newer avenues

of study away from regular courses. "Study of Imagineering is based on Complexity Theory that leads to innovation. It is directed towards stimulating the right brain hemisphere which is a storehouse of emotions to curate brilliant experiences through novel perspectives", shares Kerwin Savio Nigli, Head, Department of Hotel Management, Christ University, Bengaluru, pioneering the subject. Globally, it is a highly competitive course and admission into a Master's requires a CGPA of 3.5 or more in graduation", he tells.

The Study
Disciplines covered include Planning, Creative Progression, Concept Development, Idea Documentation, Multimedia and Designing, Interactive Technology, Production, Product Management, Research and Advanced Development. Pre-requisite is a vivid imagination and a zeal to apply this imagination

across varied genres of study to usher in newness in various functions. A Master's from abroad will remodel cultural distinctness of academic work into a more desirable course as learning forms into an inclusive path.

Look out for an MBA in Imagineering in universities like Breda University, Netherlands, University of Estonia in Europe or Master's in Intelligent Robotics, University of Southern California. A paid internship from The Walt Disney after graduation may equip students with an on-job experience as they jump straight into a career of their choice. For under graduation, Nevada University or Florida International University known to enrol students for Imagineering Competitions at Disney offer the required exposure as students rub shoulders with accomplished Imagineering Researchers. Alternatively, check out on Short Course Developing Illustration Practice, University of Edin-

burgh, London, Short Course in Functional Interior Design, London School of Business and Finance, Certificate Creative Processes in Art and Design, Aarhus University, Denmark and the like for a quick wrap up.

Career
Careers in Imagineering comprise of working with celebrated luxury brands to create lasting experiences and build lifetime memoirs either through technical or non-technical expertise.

A plethora of career opportunities await students of Imagineering. With the significance of the "experience perspective" gaining ground among generations today, the career graph for this course is seen only escalating for the deserving. The concept of Disney land has developed from this very deliberation. Perks are of course comparable only to the best in the industry", Kerwin concludes.

K GIRIJA

Online and Offline learning at InsightsIAS UPSC Training Institute steers aspirants

InsightsIAS, an online and offline training institution for UPSC Civil Services examination, led by its director Vinay Kumar G B, has been taking proactive steps to ensure that aspirants who are preparing for Civil Services exam are not adversely affected by the ongoing Covid situation in India. IAS aspirants are put under a lot of stress due to uncertain exam dates and results. UPSC has



postponed the Civil Services preliminary exam and personality test as well. Also, staying away from preparation hotspots has created problems of its own. Many students are not accustomed to studying from home as this exam requires constant motivation and peer participation.

It's in this regard, with daily traffic of more than 1.25 lakh unique visitors, In-

and YouTube channel, has come with intensive study plans that require active participation by students.

With revision plans for upcoming exams, constant motivational articles and videos, support to the depressed students through counselling, InsightsIAS is making sure that students stay relaxed and engaged in their preparation productively.

INSTACLASSES-2021

(Prelims + Mains + Interview)



ONLINE & OFFLINE CLASSES FOR FRESHERS

(OGP - Online and Offline Guidance Program for Freshers)

We Don't Just Guide, We 'EQUIP' You to Succeed

ADMISSIONS OPEN

Features:

- ▼ EQUIP Strategy for your success: Explanation + Quest + Understand + Interact + Perform
- ▼ Integrated Course for PRELIMS + MAINS + INTERVIEW
- ▼ Comprehensive coverage of syllabus including Current Affairs
- ▼ Ethics & Essay integrated in the timetable
- ▼ Prelims & Mains Test Series with detailed Analysis, Evaluation and Feedback
- ▼ Mentorship – Personal guidance to keep track of your progress
- ▼ Live & Recorded Class
- ▼ Success and Mindset Coach

* Online to offline classes convertibility provided

Early Bird Offer - 25% Discount for Subscribing before 25th July 2020



#InsightsForWomenEmpowerment

25% Discount for female aspirants for OFFLINE INSTACLASSES 2021

Integrated Prelims Cum Mains (IPM) Test Series 2021

A flagship program of INSIGHTSIAS

STARTS FROM 8th JULY 2020

- ▼ 50 Prelims + 52 Mains Tests in EBS Approach
- ▼ Single, tailor-made timetable for integrated preparation for Prelims and Mains
- ▼ Choose Offline/Online mode for every test

- ▼ Mentorship, Preparatory Classes, Rapid Discussions & Discussion Classes included.
- ▼ INSTA 30 and other INSTA Value added material

DISCOUNTS & OFFERS

► Early Bird Discount: 10% for Subscribing before 30th June 2020

► Old Subscriber Discount: 20%

SCAN HERE FOR MORE DETAILS



To Subscribe (IPM)



Other InstaCourses available: Prelims Test Series 2021 & Mains Test Series 2021



+91 74831 63074
+91 93808 63034
support@insightsias.com
www.insightsionindia.com

Happy living for the elderly

How senior citizens who have opted for retirement homes are working on physical and mental health during the pandemic

SOMA BASU

Up in the hills of Dehradun, Ren Madan celebrated his 92nd birthday last week with his wife Leontine, 89, and their friends. They wore masks and gloves, and maintained the physical distancing norms of our COVID-19 times, as they gathered in the dining hall of the Antara Senior Living residential home, to cut a birthday cake baked by the wellness staff.

"Had I been in my home in Munnar now, it would not have been possible to take care of things amidst the present restrictions," says the senior-most resident at the facility. He and Leontine will celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary next month, unsure of when they will be able to meet their two children, both doctors in the US. Last month, the Madans had to be content with participating in the marriage ceremony of their granddaughter on a Zoom call.

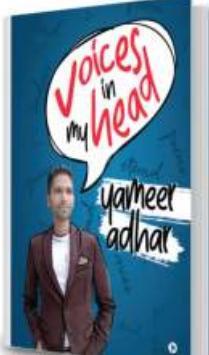
All things considered though, the birthday celebration "is a nice feeling that helps to push away dark thoughts especially during these trying times," says Ren, who is learning Spanish now. "We are kept engaged like back in school," he adds with a laugh.

Seniors at risk

As one of the most vulnerable groups, the management and staff of several senior citizens' homes are taking precautions to keep residents (including its staff) safe physically, while helping people interact with precautions, to take care of mental health too. Antara, for instance, went into lockdown a week before it was officially announced. "This allowed us time to prepare the residents mentally, stock



WELLNESS ON THE SHELF



Voices In My Head

What could be the secret to long-lasting wellness? Author Yameer Adhar tries to get a little closer to answering this question in his book *Voices In My Head* (Notion Press), named after a podcast he currently hosts. The world sees eternal health and happiness as some sort of elusive destination at the end of an arduous journey. But that couldn't be further away from the truth, believes Yameer. In a simple narrative, he shares real-life anecdotes that have helped him in his quest to empower himself and be happy.

₹350; available on Amazon.in



Happy Inside

At a time when we are all bound to Work From Home, author Michelle Ogundehin's *Happy Inside* is a practical guide to creating a home that supports well-being, whether that home is owned or rented, small or large. This guide by the former Editor-in-Chief of ELLE Decoration UK covers everything from how to create more light and space to how to get a good night's sleep; the path to a perfect sofa and why a dining table is your most vital piece of furniture. Plus, how to decorate to promote joy; the importance of play (and circular side tables); your definitive capsule kitchen kit; and why your hallway is where it all starts.

₹980; available on Amazon.in



AGE IN PLACE

Dr AB Dey, Head, Department of Geriatric Medicine, AIIMS Delhi, says that alarmist news makes senior citizens fear death more than a person who has the day's busy-ness to keep them distracted. He says there are ways of developing a positive attitude to help keep stress levels down:

Step out of the room and get some sunshine daily.

Keep walking at intervals even if it is around the house, on the terrace or balcony.

Practise deep breathing.

Gently push yourself to do some safe and simple stretching and bending exercises.

Follow a quarantine routine for meals and sleep.

However tough it may be, do smile.

nya Shelters' signature project in Coimbatore. S Geetha, from the management says, they have shut the gates of their society ever since the lockdown. The supplies are ordered over the phone and after the delivery boys leave them at the gate, the items (such as milk packets, fruits and vegetables) are given a thorough wash before being brought inside. "All this may take some extra time and labour, but we cannot afford to put a single resident at risk," she says. The place

has been out of bounds even for the family members of the elderly residents.

Interacting with caution

The need now is to balance the humane needs with rigour and protocol, says Major Sathyaranayanan Parthasarathy, co-founder, Melur Meadows Retirement Village near Mettupalayam (Coimbatore). Much before the COVID-19 lockdown, he says, the group had built houses spread across the luxury of greenery, open space, air and sunlight.

Given the layout, it has not been difficult to help residents

Keeping busy Residents at Antara Senior Living in Dehradun; (below) The Madans ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

keep physical distance. "Sometimes, they'd come together for activities – cooking, baking, gardening, farming – and we make sure they do these activities in small batches," he says. For instance, the yoga sessions earlier were conducted in batches of six; now only two people attend a class. "We are delivering meals to every resident's home instead of asking them to compulsorily come to the dining area. Our service care providers hand over the food to the residents and collect the utensils later," says Sathyaranayanan.

Regulations in the dining hall at Nana Nani Homes has made CN Andal more confident of going in to eat, rather than eating her food alone. "Earlier, many of us could sit around a table and chat and eat, but now the number of tables has been reduced and only two residents are allowed to sit at one table," she says and adds that the entire area is well protected and regularly sanitised. "Though we have to be alert, I do not feel worried of catching the infection here," she says.

She misses meeting her grandchildren, whom she visits in summer. "But the staff make sure I do not feel lonely. They take turns to visit me and help me do the Skype calls with my family."

Besides routine temperature, pulse and oxygen level checks for every staff member and resident, retirement homes are also looking at arranging for indoor games, simple exercises, spiritual talks, or movie screenings. "We want them to bond and let them meet in small groups as permitted under the protocol for the activities they enjoy doing," says Sathyaranayanan.

COULD IT BE THAT...

We're now dressing for health?



SUNALINI MATHEW

vest money when it comes to clothes – yes invest, not buy mindlessly, irrespective of how a shoe pinches or a seam cuts into the side or a bra is a needlessly constrictive.

We will now probably see whole ranges of wellness wear go mainstream, some as a part of existing mega brands, and some from boutique companies. With workouts getting more gentle on the body – with gyms closed there's less HIIT and more yoga classes are online – we're likely to see a shift towards thinner, natural, stretchable fabric that forms just a layer on the body, not aimed at compression.

In a post-Coronavirus world, functional fabrics and biotextiles that are non-toxic with antimicrobial and hypoallergenic properties, will come to the fore. Chitosan, a by-product from the exoskeletons of crustaceans (which means it is easily derived from the fishing industry) is already being used. Perhaps neem, turmeric, aloe vera, and several others will find funding and use. Shoes too will see more cork, leather, and fabric, and will be focused on comfort rather than fashion.

There's been talk of the revival of the kaftan and of more bras without the underwire being bought, reflecting a veering towards comfort and practicality. I notice more women in comfortable shorts stepping out sans make-up. And this is Delhi, where make-up is not the only cover-up we see. Artifice is the other, and our clothes and accessories are often representative of that.

With yoga being pushed as an immunity booster and the act of exposing ourselves to the sun for vitamin D being considered a necessity, our wardrobes too have begun to revolve around health. The fact that at home, we don't have the air-conditioning on all the time, means we are able to dress more appropriately for the weather and be slightly more in contact with the way Nature functions.

Confronted with the problem of weavers going into distress with little business, citizen initiatives have sprung up. WhatsApp messages have begun circulating around buying what they produce – cotton, silk, or linen saris – all natural fabrics that allow the skin to breathe, with nature-based dyes that are skin-friendly.

Will all of this change the way we shop in the future? Probably. We are now seriously considering how much we already have, why we need more, and where to in-



■ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

WASH THESE MYTHS AWAY

Skin specialists tell us about common untruths and misunderstanding around alcohol-based rubs in COVID-19 times

SOMA BASU

Myth 1: Hand sanitiser is the no. 1 solution to keeping germs at bay

Truth: Soap and water is – when you scrub for 20 seconds. Also, too frequent use of sanitiser can make you more prone to allergies in the long run, says Dr Radha Gongati, senior consultant dermatology, Apollo TeleHealth, Hyderabad. When compared to the

corresponding months of March to June in 2019, the number of skin allergy cases she has encountered doubled in 2020. "Where earlier I saw five or six cases in a month, now I have received nine hand eczema (a condition where the skin

becomes dry, flaky and itchy) complaints in a month – a few new cases and a few existing ones that got aggravated," she says.

While a little bottle of sanitiser is easy to carry, use it only when you have no access to soap and water.

However, doctors say there is no conclusive study to indicate that the rise in skin allergies is due to excessive or continuous use of hand sanitisers. "We speak based principally on clinical observations," says Dr Hema Sathish, a Madurai-based skin specialist, who has seen a spike in eczema in her online consultancy over the past three months.

Hand sanitisers: Those alcohol-based rubs that everyone from your grandmother to the corner store is stocking in five-litre cans these days. While it is true that they have antiseptic properties because of the 60%-90% alcohol, dermatologists remind us that they are not a one-liquid-fits-all-problem solution.

Here, common myths they encounter, and the truth we should all know.

Myth 2: As long as I use sanitiser, I'm safe

Truth: "Sanitisers give people a false sense of security of being 100% disease-free. Though its use is beneficial, it is not 100% protective," says Dr Gongati. It's important to avoid needlessly touching surfaces in public places, for instance. Also, do take into consideration that after the initial shortage, many locally manufactured sanitisers (often without necessary labelling) have flooded the market in which the composition and combination of ingredients (chemicals and alcohol) can vary. Ideally, sanitiser should evaporate within a few seconds of application. If it doesn't, and remains watery, you know it may not have the required amount of alcohol. Good quality sanitisers are a little thick in consistency and spread evenly on the hands.

While buying a sanitiser, check if it contains triclosan, a powerful anti-bacterial agent used in pesticides. It is readily absorbed by the skin and can act on thyroid functioning, causing damage over the long term to liver and muscles.

Synthetic fragrances in sanitisers can be toxic and act as endocrine disruptors (chemicals that interfere with hormonal systems). Also remember that sanitisers are inflammable and can burn near fire. You need to store them in air-tight bottles in cool and dry places.

Myth 3: If I have no soap, it's best to use sanitiser

Truth: "Grease and dirt in combination with sanitiser attract more viruses and germs instead of working on them.

Always remember, water cleans and sanitiser disinfects," says Dr Sathish. The impact of sanitiser is also minimised when applied on wet hands. If you don't have soap, avoid handling food altogether, because if you eat immediately after applying sanitiser, it could impact your digestive system, making children particularly vulnerable because of the chemicals. If it's something you're eating out of a packet, try and manipulate the packaging in a way that your hands don't touch the food.



On the other end of the spectrum are those, often people with OCD, who wash their facial masks with sanitisers. This could cause the vapours to get trapped in the fabric and the fumes can cause nausea and vomiting.



■ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK



A real page TURNER

With contribution from local residents, an initiative by a library in Kerala's Perumkulam has added public book shelves, earning it the title of India's second 'village of books'

SHILPA NAIR ANAND

Way back in 2017, when Bhilar, a village in Maharashtra's Saura district, was declared a 'village of books' (*Pustakang Gaav*) by the State Government, it sparked an idea in Kerala. Bhilar had created 25 special spaces called 'book zones' to encourage people to pick

one up and read right there.

The office-bearers of Bapuji Smaraka Vayanasala, a library in Perumkulam near Kollam in Kerala, were determined to replicate it. Now, they have achieved their goal.

On June 19, Perumkulam, with its roughly 4,000 inhabitants, was declared a 'village of books' by writer MT Vasudevan Nair, making it the second village in India with this distinction, and Kerala's first. However, according to V Vijesh, a school teacher and a former secretary of Bapuji library, even before Bhilar was honoured with the title, Perumkulam had placed its first public bookcase as an experiment in January 2017.

Perumkulam's Bapuji library with its 625-strong membership was established in 1948, and is housed in a three-storey building. Writer M Mukundan is the library's patron. As part of Perumkulam's transformation, the library recently placed 10 *pustaka koodu*

The bookcases were built with sponsorships from local residents and placed strategically



Love for the written word
Perumkulam residents are proud of their 'village of books' tag; (inset) a *pustaka koodu* installed by the library
■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

(sloped-roof, house-shaped glass full of books) across 10 spots in the village.

Public-private partnership

"Each *pustaka koodu* has 30-50 books, mostly children's literature that kids can borrow," says Vijesh. There are a few books for adults besides newspapers. The idea is aimed, primarily, at children so that the habit of reading is encouraged and nurtured early. The idea for the bookcase came from US-based Little Free Library – a book-sharing movement through bookcases placed in public spaces – of which Bapuji library is a registered entity. "Our library shows up in their map of Little Libraries. That gave us the idea of placing the bookcase in a public space," Vijesh says.

There was scepticism when they in-

stalled the first bookcase. Office-bearers of the library expected either the books to remain unused or the glass-palmed cases to be shattered.

"We were pleasantly surprised when neither happened. It is intact and the books are being read. We placed a register there since we couldn't monitor it," says Vijesh, adding, "The principle is simple. You take a book and keep it back or replace it with another book. Going by the entries, not only are the books being read but they are also being replaced with others. So, obviously, the response is good."

The bookcases were built with sponsorships from local residents. All the cases have also been strategically placed: near bus stops with waiting sheds and seats. The library is prepared for books going missing; if it does, the box will be replenished with new books.

Santhwan Vijay, a student of Class VII, looks forward to reading the books after schools reopen post-lockdown, "There are bookcases everywhere in our village now. There is plenty for us kids and also grown-ups. I can read on my way to school and back,

I can pick up books from one and put it in another and read one from there," he says.

Most books are in Malayalam. There are comics and story books for children such as *Balarama* and *Oru Kudayum Kunju Pengalum*. For adults, there are classics such as OV Vijayan's *Khasakkinte Itihasam*, Vaikom Muhammed Basheer's *Balyakalasakhi*, and M Mukundan's *Mayyazhipuzhayude Theerangalil*. "It is imperative, especially now since children are forced to use smartphones and computers for their education, that they are encouraged to read," Vijesh adds.

Sweet child of mine

Seven mothers from different cities got together to compose and create a music video based on a lullaby as an expression of love for their daughters

SARASWATHY NAGARAJAN

Seven mothers synergised their creative talents to compose, sing, choreograph and edit a Malayalam music video, *Jwalamukhi*, that is based on a lullaby and which is now winning them accolades.

Released by actor Mammootty on his Facebook page last week, the brains behind the idea is Smitha Nambiar, a media professional, who says she was stuck in Dubai due to lockdown and had to miss being part of the birthday of her four-year-old daughter Vaidehi, who is in Kerala, in May.

Although mother and daughter would connect over video calls, the ambiguity around resumption of air travel, made Smitha despondent. That is when she decided to give vent to her emotions and



joyed it the best, and so we chose to do away with any kind of orchestration," explains Sajna.

Smitha soon roped in an artist to make a video with digital drawings. In the meantime, another friend from Chennai, Sushma Chakkungal, expressed interest to choreograph, for editing.

"What happened is that all seven of us have daughters and it became an ardent expres-



Ode to love (Left) A poster for *Jwalamukhi*, (above) Smitha Nambiar with her daughter Vaidehi ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sushmita and Purnima Balasubramanian from Chennai, Anusri S Nair from Thiruvananthapuram and Seethalakshmi from Kochi, the group decided to use a monochromatic colour palette with black and red highlights for the video. The choreographed bits were recorded and sent to Soumya Sagar, Smitha's sister-in-law, for editing.

"What happened is that all seven of us have daughters and it became an ardent expression of our dreams and wishes for our daughters to go forth, shine and be a beacon of light," adds Sajna.

Though, it was by a happy chance that the video turned into a "mums' project", the group of friends is thrilled by how it was received by people who watched it.

"Mammootty sir told me that he enjoyed the music, and that the words were sensitive and soaked in emotion," says Smitha.

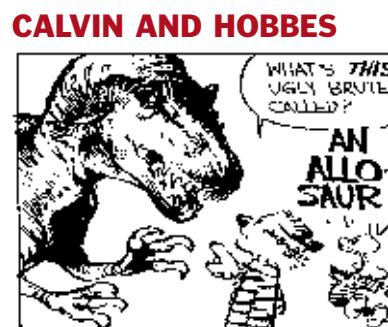
PEANUTS



POOCHE CAFE



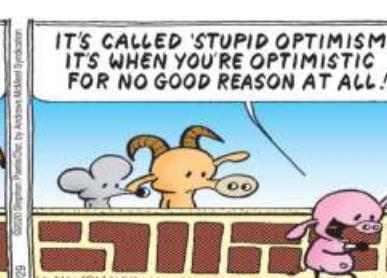
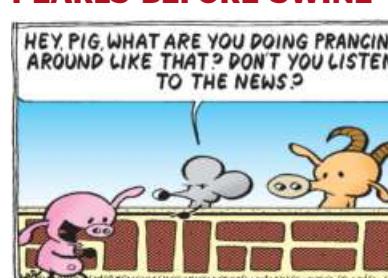
CALVIN AND HOBBES



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



TIGER



Chasing trails
Narcondam Hornbill; (below) KA Dhanuparan
■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Thriving in seclusion

A wildlife photographer tracks the endangered Narcondam hornbill to its natural habitat in the Andamans

K JESHI

Award-winning wildlife photographer KA Dhanuparan recalls the "special moment" when he caught a first glimpse of the Narcondam hornbill with its velvet-black plumage and over-sized yellow beak.

An endangered species, the bird is endemic to the Narcondam Island in Andamans. It is where Dhanuparan headed to on a two-day birding and photography trip to document its nesting activity.

"From Havelock island, it took us eight hours to reach Narcondam. First, I saw a male bird with a prominent rufous head and neck, and then a female bird that was fully black. Soon, they came out in hundreds. They were flying and feeding on berries and fruits from tall trees," he says.

However, access to the tiny, dormant volcanic island of Narcondam, which spans an area of 6.8 sq.km, is restricted, since it is a protected habitat for the hornbills. It is maintained by the Department of Environment and Forests of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Dhanuparan's self-proclaimed love for photographing hornbills led him to Narcondam. So far, he has captured the Malabar grey hornbill, Malabar pied hornbill (both endemic to the Western Ghats), the Great hornbill and the Indian grey hornbill.

His photo of a Great hornbill, seated on a tree with its magnificent wings outstretched opposite a Nilgiri langur, earned him a runner-up spot in the Natural History Museum's Young Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition in 2017.

Cusp of extinction

Shirish Manchi of Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, in a YouTube upload on conservation, explains how Narcondam hornbills faced threat of extinction due to habitat loss and hunting. If not for concerted conservation efforts, it would have been impossible to boost their numbers from a mere 360 birds in 1999 to over a thousand now.

Yet, habitat destruction remains the biggest threat to hornbills around the world, according to Nilgiris-based birder Aggal Sivalingam, where Great hornbills can be seen in places like Mulli in Coonoor, Marambam in Kotagiri and in Masinagudi. "They need tall fruiting trees for nesting and breeding. Their calls are loud and aggressive, especially to send an alarm to the flock when they spot birds of prey," he says.

The Narcondam hornbill is smaller in size and is not loud, unlike its cousins, points out Dhanuparan.

However, being endemic to an isolated, uninhabited island, the Narcondam hornbill still faces the threat of extinction in the event of a natural calamity causing a species wipe-out.

"Those two days with the birds were unforgettable. I hope they are there when I go back someday," adds Dhanuparan, who is currently at the Anamalai Tiger Reserve filming its bio-diversity.



PARENTING BY EXAMPLE

The hornbills are role-model parents and also have unique nesting habits. Says birder K Selvaganesh, an English teacher at the Cinchona Government High School in Valparai, "The hornbills build nests on tree cavities. While incubating, the female seals the nest with droppings, mud and fruit pulp. A small slit is left open for the male to pass on the feed every few hours to the mother and the chicks."

He adds: "Though the birds are frugivores that primarily eat fruits and berries, during breeding, the males also bring insects, worms, owl kills, giant squirrels and rats to meet the high protein requirement of the chicks. I have seen the male Great hornbill clutching over 60 to 70 focus berries in its mouth to feed its family. It is a role model in parenting."

seen in places like Mulli in Coonoor, Marambam in Kotagiri and in Masinagudi. "They need tall fruiting trees for nesting and breeding. Their calls are loud and aggressive, especially to send an alarm to the flock when they spot birds of prey," he says.

The Narcondam hornbill is smaller in size and is not loud, unlike its cousins, points out Dhanuparan.

However, being endemic to an isolated, uninhabited island, the Narcondam hornbill still faces the threat of extinction in the event of a natural calamity causing a species wipe-out.

"Those two days with the birds were unforgettable. I hope they are there when I go back someday," adds Dhanuparan, who is currently at the Anamalai Tiger Reserve filming its bio-diversity.

Infection numbers cross 10 million mark

Death toll nears five lakh as efforts to reopen economies are set back by the jump in new infections

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PARIS

Global infections from COVID-19 have surpassed 10 million as the rate of new cases surges, according to an AFP tally on Sunday. One million new cases were recorded in only six days, according to the AFP count, just as countries start to unwind punishing lockdowns that have devastated their economies and thrown millions out of work.

The worldwide death toll from the disease that first emerged in China about six months ago is also nearing 500,000 as fears grow of a full-blown second wave.

The United States, the hardest hit country, has surpassed 2.5 million cases alone, as efforts to reopen the world's economic powerhouse were set back by a jump in new infections in States such as Florida. Infections are also up in some other parts of the world that have reopened, with Europe registering over 2.6 million.

Lockdown near Beijing

China on Sunday imposed a strict lockdown on nearly half a million people in a province surrounding Beijing to contain a fresh virus cluster. Beijing city official Xu Hejian told reporters that the situation was "severe and complicated," warning that the city needed to continue tracing the spread of the virus.

The tension between reopening battered economies and public health is a source of debate in nearly every country. On Saturday alone, the U.S. recorded more than 43,000 new cases, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University. U.S. deaths now exceed 125,000, approximately one-quarter of the world total of almost 4,99,000.



Perilous proximities: Shoppers at a commercial centre in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on Saturday. The country is second only to the U.S. in terms of infection count. ■ GETTY IMAGES

Across the Atlantic, the EU on Saturday pushed back a decision on a list of "safe countries" from which travellers can visit Europe – a list which could exclude the U.S. Meanwhile stars including Coldplay, Miley Cyrus and Jennifer Hudson lent support to a European Commission-led drive Saturday that raised €6.15 billion (\$6.9 billion) to support vaccine research and help make it available to poorer countries. In West Asia, the Governor of Bethlehem announced that the Palestinian city would temporarily close due to rising infections.

The disease also continues to rampage through Latin America, with Peru topping 9,000 deaths on Saturday. Brazil – the second hardest-hit country after the U.S. – recorded 990 deaths on Saturday, the highest toll in the world that day, while Mexico recorded the second highest at 719.

In the U.S. State of Florida, Republican Governor Ron DeSantis has conceded there has been an "explosion" in new cases. On Saturday the "Sunshine State" notched 9,585 cases in 24 hours, a new daily record.

Cases in Florida

The average age of people infected has dropped sharply – to 33 from 65 two months ago. Young people frustrated by months of confinement have poured back to Florida's beaches, boardwalks and bars, often without masks and seemingly unconcerned about social distancing. With Mr. Trump struggling to lift his re-election bid off the ground, the campaign confirmed that events featuring Vice President Mike Pence in Arizona and Florida next week have been postponed "out of an abundance of caution."

In California, Governor Gavin Newsom ordered some areas to reinstate stay-at-home orders, while San Francisco announced a "pause" in its reopening.

763 Indian-origin people have died in the U.K.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON

The U.K. government on Sunday said it is planning to impose localised lockdowns in regions showing a spike in COVID-19 infections, as latest figures showed that Indian-origin people remain in the category of those hardest hit from the deadly virus among Britain's ethnic minorities. Home Secretary Priti Patel confirmed as "correct" reports of the first such lockdown for Leicester, a region in eastern England with a large Indian-origin population. "We have seen flare-ups across the country already, just in the last three or four weeks in particular. There will be support going into Leicester," she said. Ms. Patel's confirmation

came as England has seen an overall fall in the daily death toll and prepares to substantially lift lockdown restrictions from July 4, when bars, restaurants and cinemas will begin to open up to public access.

Meanwhile, the latest NHS England statistics revealed that 763 people identifying with Indian heritage had died so far in the pandemic, according to data collated until last Thursday. This continues to reflect 3% of the total deaths officially recorded by the National Health Service from COVID-19, first reported in April at the peak of the pandemic, followed by those of Pakistani and Caribbean heritage as the second-hardest hit ethnic groups at 2% each.

Trump denies being briefed on 'Russian bounties for U.S. soldiers'

Reports said that Afghan militants were paid to kill troops

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump denied on Sunday that he had been briefed on intelligence that reportedly showed Russia had offered bounties to Taliban-linked militants for killing U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan.



U.S. President Donald Trump. ■ AP

sian military intelligence unit offered rewards to Taliban-linked militants to kill troops of the U.S.-led coalition in Afghanistan.

In a pair of early morning tweets, Mr. Trump angrily slammed the report by *The New York Times* as "Probably just another phony Times hit job, just like their failed Russia Hoax." "Nobody briefed or told me, @VP Pence, or Chief of Staff @MarkMeadows about the so-called attacks on our troops in Afghanistan by Russians, as reported through an 'anonymous source' by the Fake News @nytimes," he wrote.

On Friday, *The Times* reported that U.S. intelligence had concluded that a Rus-

briefed on the findings in March, but has not decided how to respond.

White House's denial

White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany on Saturday issued a denial similar to Mr. Trump's but left open the possibility that such intelligence existed.

The Taliban has denied the report, reiterating that it was committed to an accord signed with Washington in February that paves the way for withdrawing all foreign forces from Afghanistan by next year.

Russia has also denounced the report, with its Embassy in Washington tweeting that the "baseless and anonymous accusations" in the story had "already led to direct threats to the life of employees" at its embassies in Washington and London.

French citizens vote in delayed local poll

REUTERS
PARIS

Voters in France donned face masks to cast their ballots on Sunday in a delayed second round of country-wide municipal elections, a mid-term test for President Emmanuel Macron and his ruling party which could fail to win a single big city.

A year ago, Mr. Macron had hoped the local elections would help anchor his young centrist party in towns and cities across France, less than 48 hours before Mr. Macron imposed one of Europe's strictest COVID-19 lockdowns, forcing a long delay before the second round.

The pandemic could still depress turnout. At midday this was at 15.3%, below the 19.8% registered at the same time in 2014.

In the capital, the election's biggest prize, the sitting socialist Mayor Anne Hidalgo is on track for a comfortable win after a shambolic campaign by Mr. Macron and his La République en Marche party.

Paris is unlikely to be the only disappointment for Mr. Macron. The Greens could do well in cities such as Lyon, Marseille and Bordeaux, sometimes in alliance with the Left, building on momentum they created in 2019's European elections.

In Perpignan, Marine Le Pen's far-right party may take control of its first city with a population of more than 1,00,000.

Sri Lanka lifts nationwide lockdown

No community transmission: official

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's nationwide lockdown was lifted on Sunday after a selective curfew a month ago was reimposed during a surge in COVID-19 infections, the country's President said.

"The curfew has completely been lifted effective from today," President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's office said in a statement. Health officials said new infections reported since April 30 were from Sri Lankans stranded in West Asia who were brought home on special flights and quarantined.

A cluster in a Navy camp was controlled with the facility still in lockdown, they said. "There has been no community spread of the virus and the infections at the Welisara Navy camp are



Health workers in Colombo earlier in June. ■ AP

now contained," a health official said.

Authorities plan to reopen Sri Lanka's borders on August 1, but the date could be reviewed due to the imported cases, the official added. Sri Lanka will also hold its parliamentary elections at the start of August.

53 held after Hong Kong anti-Bill protest

Several hundred protesters stage 'silent march' against the planned Chinese law

REUTERS
HONG KONG

Hong Kong police arrested at least 53 people on Sunday after scuffles erupted during a relatively peaceful protest against planned national security legislation to be implemented by the mainland Chinese government.

Armed riot police were present as a crowd of several hundred moved from Jordan to Mong Kok in the Kowloon district, staging what was intended as a "silent protest" against the planned law.

However, chanting and slogans were shouted towards police and later scuffles broke out in Mong Kok, prompting police to use pepper spray to subdue parts of the crowd.

Hong Kong Police said on Facebook that 53 people had been arrested and charged with unlawful assembly, adding that earlier some prot-



Battle continues: Protesters taking out a march against China's national security Bill in Hong Kong on Sunday. ■ REUTERS

esters tried to blockade roads in the area.

The proposed national security law has raised concerns among Hong Kong democracy activists and some foreign governments that Beijing is further eroding the extensive autonomy promised when Britain handed the territory back to China in

1997. "The government wants to shut us up and to kick us out," one protester, Roy Chan, 44, said. "We must stand up and strike down all those people who deprive Hong Kong peoples freedom."

China has said the law will target only a small group of troublemakers as it tackles the COVID-19 pandemic.

separatism, subversion, terrorism and foreign interference in Hong Kong.

Review of Bill

China's National People's Congress Standing Committee reviewed a draft of the Bill on Sunday, according to state media Xinhua.

Chinese state media reported that lawmakers overwhelmingly supported the draft. The Chinese government has "unshakable determination to push ahead with enactment of the security Bill and safeguard national sovereignty and interest," state broadcaster CCTV reported, citing a government spokesperson. Sunday's event came a day after Hong Kong police refused permission for an annual march usually held on July 1 to mark the 1997 handover, citing a ban on large gatherings amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

One killed in shooting at Black Lives Matter rally

Kentucky has seen protests since March

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

One person was killed and another wounded in a shooting at a Black Lives Matter rally in the U.S. State of Kentucky, police said.

The incident on Saturday took place at Jefferson Square Park in the centre of Louisville where protesters have gathered for weeks over the killing of African American woman Breonna Taylor. Her death in March helped fuel a campaign against racism and police brutality in the United States that has since spread across the globe.

Louisville Metro Police Department said officers were called to the park at around 9.00 p.m. "Calls then came in that Sheriff's Department personnel were in the park performing life-

saving measures on a male who eventually died at the scene," the department said on Twitter.

Soon after another person was shot across the street at the city's Hall of Justice, police added. It was unclear if there was more than one shooter and authorities have yet to release any details of the victims. Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer said he was "deeply saddened by the violence."

Louisville has seen especially passionate Black Lives Matter protests due to the police killing Taylor in her own apartment.

The 26-year-old emergency room technician was shot dead after police barged into her home, alleging that drug dealers had used the apartment to receive packages.

ELSEWHERE



U.S. envoy appears on Lebanese channels

BEIRUT

Lebanese media broadcast interviews with U.S. Ambassador Dorothy Shea on Sunday, ignoring a ruling by a judge who banned the diplomat from television for a year over remarks that criticised Hezbollah, the main force behind the country's government. ■ REUTERS

UN calls for protection of civilians in Myanmar

YANGON

The UN called for "urgent measures to spare civilians" in Myanmar's northwest on Sunday, saying fighting has intensified between the army and insurgents. The military has been battling the Arakan Army in Rakhine and Chin since January 2019. ■ AFP

Russian firm to be probed over Arctic 'dumping'

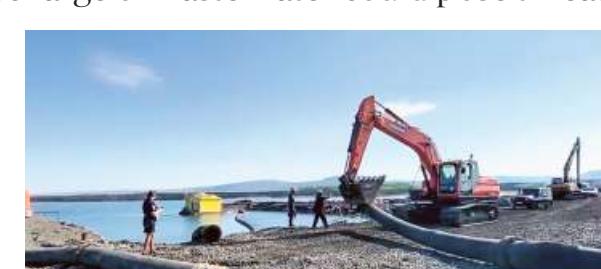
Reports say that discharge of waste water could pose threat to a nearby river

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MOSCOW

Russian mining giant Norilsk Nickel said on Sunday that it had stopped the discharge of waste water from one of its Arctic facilities, one month after an unprecedented fuel leak nearby sparked a state of emergency.

The incident occurred at the Talmakh enrichment plant near the Arctic city of Norilsk, the company said, when liquids used to process minerals were "discharged from a reservoir". "Measures were taken to stop" the removal of the liquid into nearby territory, the company said, adding that there was no threat of waste leaking.

Dumping of waste
A source in the Emergency Situations Ministry however told the RIA Novosti news agency that the discharge of toxic substances could pose



investigation was under way. A spokeswoman for Russia's natural resources agency said the decision to remove water from the reservoir was taken to avoid an emergency, after heavy rains and tests had caused water levels to increase dramatically. "To prevent possible emergencies due to increasing water levels in the basin, the operating personnel decided promptly to lower the water level," Svetlana Radionova said. Norilsk Nickel was at the centre of another incident last month when more than 21,000 tonnes of diesel leaked into soil and rivers after a fuel reservoir collapsed at a power plant also near Norilsk. President Vladimir Putin declared an emergency situation after the accident and the head of Norilsk Nickel, oligarch Vladimir Potanin, promised to pay the costs of the clean-up.

The death toll has recently topped 100 a day for the first time in two months. Some 2,489 new cases were recorded in the past 24 hours, taking the total to 2,22,669. Health Ministry spokesman Sima Sadat Lari told state television. She said 144 people had died, bringing the total to 10,508.

Iran experiencing its toughest year due to sanctions, virus: Rouhani

Wearing of masks to become mandatory from next Sunday

REUTERS
DUBAI

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said on Sunday that his country is experiencing its toughest year because of U.S. sanctions coupled with the COVID-19 pandemic.

The COVID-19 crisis has exacerbated economic problems that worsened after U.S. President Donald Trump withdrew in 2018 from Iran's nuclear deal with major powers and reimposed sanctions. On Monday, Iran's rial currency fell to its lowest ever level against the U.S. dollar.

Economic pressure
"It's been the most difficult year due to the enemy's economic pressure and the pandemic," Mr. Rouhani said in a televised speech. "The economic pressure that be-



A pedestrian sporting a mask in Iran's capital Tehran on Sunday. ■ AFP

gan in 2018 has increased ... and today it is the toughest pressure on our dear country."

Senior officials have regularly warned that restrictions will be reimposed if health regulations such as social distancing to stem the surge in infections are not observed. Iran launched a campaign on Saturday to motivate a reluctant public to use face masks.

The death toll has recently topped 100 a day for the first time in two months. Some 2,489 new cases were recorded in the past 24 hours, taking the total to 2,22,669. Health Ministry spokesman Sima Sadat Lari told state television. She said 144 people had died, bringing the total to 10,508.

Iran has seen a sharp increase in COVID-19 infections and deaths since restrictions to stem the spread of the pandemic were gradually lifted from mid-April.

■ CM YK

ASK US



K. NITYA KALYANI

Claiming medical insurance

Q. I am a retired employee of the Andhra Pradesh government. I am covered under the government's Arogyasri programme. About a year ago, my wife underwent a hysterectomy which cost about ₹2 lakh. I was reimbursed only ₹35,000 as per norms. My wife and I had taken a private health insurance policy for ₹5 lakh. My question is whether I can claim from both Arogyasri and the private health insurance company schemes for the medical expenses incurred?

GURJALA RAGHAVA REDDY

A. Arogyasri operates like a hospitalisation expenses indemnity policy, that is, expenses are reimbursed against bills and treatment is cashless if availed in a network hospital.

So, if you have an additional cover in the form of a hospitalisation policy from an insurance company, you will be able to make a claim under both as you have to submit bills. Arogyasri is a mass health insurance scheme for beneficiaries defined by their lower income, and has restrictions on claim amounts which has meant, in your experience, that all your expenses may not be forthcoming as claims.

So, while you can claim under Arogyasri where the expense is within its limits, you will have the option of claiming it from your personal policy in hospitalisations which cost above what Arogyasri allows.

Multiple policies, multiple claims

Q. Can one buy more than one term life insurance policy? If I have, say, two or more term life policies of different sums assured from the same or different insurers then, in the case of any disability or loss of life, will my dependent/nominee be paid the claim from any one of the policies or all of them? Is this also applicable to health insurance?

ROHIT YADAV

A. There is no bar on the number of term life policies one can purchase. When you buy a policy, you have the responsibility to disclose to the life insurance company details of other life policies you already have. Insurers take into account your income, future income potential and premium-paying capacity before issuing policies as there is a notional limit on the total amount of life insurance you can hold.

Once you do have two or more term life policies, all of them will pay the sum assured to your nominee should you pass away. If there is a disability clause or rider, then those claims will be paid to you as per policy terms.

A hospitalisation policy will not work like this. If you have two hospitalisation policies you cannot claim from both for the same incident. If you exhaust the sum assured under one and still have unpaid expenses, then you can claim under the other in sequence.

If all you want is more sum insured, then you can opt for a basic hospitalisation policy combined with a top-up or super top-up policy to enhance your cover. In this case you can exhaust your sum insured under the basic policy and proceed to claim under the top-up or super top-up policy according to terms and conditions. All these claims will be against bills, so the coverage will be supplementary and not overlapping.

Should you have a hospitalisation policy and a benefit policy like a critical illness or personal accident policy, then you can claim all expenses under the hospitalisation policy as per its terms and conditions and claim the full sum insured under the critical illness policy or personal accident policy provided the hospitalisation is due to a covered peril, namely one of the named critical illnesses or an accident.

(The writer is a business journalist specialising in insurance & corporate history)

Readers can send in queries on personal finance and investing to moneywise@thehindu.co.in. Our experts who write on personal finance will answer these queries. Moneywise will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund scheme, share or fixed deposit.

Savings options for the twilight years

Senior citizens may need a financial guide to select the right investment vehicle

JOYDEEP SEN

Sometimes senior citizens or retired people require guidance on where to put their life's hard-earned savings and derive a regular flow of income from the capital. There are multiple options. Here are a few:

PMVY

The Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana, or PMVY, is a social security scheme for senior citizens, implemented through the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).

This gives an assured minimum pension. LIC invests the corpus in the market and generates market-related returns. If such returns are lower than the guaranteed return, the differential is subsidised by the Union government. This Scheme has been extended till March 31, 2023.

The assured rate of return has been set at 7.4% for 2020-21. Thereafter, it will be reset every year.

The minimum investment has been revised to ₹1,56,658 for an annually paid pension of ₹12,000 and ₹62,162 for getting a monthly pension of ₹1,000. The upper limit is ₹15 lakh of initial subscription.

The scheme also offers a death benefit in the form of re-

turn of purchase amount to the nominee. The minimum entry age for this scheme is 60 years, there is no maximum age limit. The maximum investment allowed per person is ₹15 lakh. The PMVY scheme allows premature withdrawal only in the case of critical and terminal illness. However, only 98% of the purchase price is payable as surrender value in such a case.

Loan facility is available against PMVY after three policy years, up to 75% of the purchase price. There is no social tax benefit. You can buy a PMVY pension from LIC. Policy term is 10 years.

SCSS

The interest rate for Senior Citizen Savings Scheme (SCSS), since April 1, 2020, is 7.4%, paid out quarterly. Eligibility age is 60. A depositor may operate more than one account in individual capacity or jointly with spouse. There is an upper limit

of ₹15 lakh in SCSS, and there is tax benefit under Section 80C of the Income Tax Act.

Maturity period is 5 years. The account can be extended for a further period of three years within a year of maturity.

Both PMVY and SCSS are similar.

The interest rate is 7.4% (till

next revision), and payout is quarterly in the case of SCSS and of your chosen frequency in PMVY. SCSS has the added advantage of Section 80C tax benefit.

If the senior citizen has the funds, he/she should avail of both, subject to the upper

limit i.e. ₹15 lakh each.

Post Office scheme

Interest rate for the Post Office Monthly Income Scheme has been reduced to 6.6% since

April 1, 2020. The reason that the interest rate is lower than the previous two schemes is that the MIS is for everybody.

The government has a special dispensation for senior citizens, and gives a higher return in, say, PMVY and SCSS. In MIS, the upper limit is ₹4.5 lakh in a single account and ₹9 lakh in a joint account.

Public Provident Fund

Usually, PPF is not viewed as a retirement planning avenue. However, in a falling interest rate regime, the factors that need to be considered are: the 15-year term can be extended in blocks of five years i.e. there is no limit on the term of a PPF; interest rate is usually on the higher side compared with the prevailing rate regime, currently it is 7.1%; tax-efficiency of the interest, apart from Section

80C benefit for contribution up to ₹1.5 lakh per year. You can also withdraw from the PPF as per rules.

Bank deposit

This is a popular avenue as it is very simple and easy. The issue is, when interest rates are falling, fresh deposits are made at lower rates. Currently, deposits in State Bank of India for maturity of five to 10 years would fetch 5.4% and for senior citizens, it is 6.2%. There are banks that pay a higher interest rate, but the safety issue has to be kept in mind. Nationalised banks and leading private sector banks are safe but usually safer banks would pay a lower rate of return.

Mutual Fund SWP

You may invest your money in MF schemes as per suitability i.e. in debt and equity funds. Returns are market driven, there is no guarantee or commitment. A systematic withdrawal plan (SWP) gives you complete flexibility over how much you want to redeem per month/other frequency plus lump sum withdrawal as per requirement. Returns are tax-efficient over a holding period of three years for debt funds and one year for equity funds. In government-oriented schemes, your money gets locked in for that tenure.

(The writer is founder, wi-seinvestor.in)



INSURANCE INSIDER: PORTABILITY

Miffed? You can change your insurer

Portability offers a choice but before taking the leap, here are some points to note

AMIT CHHABRA

Recently, Gaurav Gupta, a 36-year-old professional thought of porting his 4-year-old health insurance plan as he was not happy with the services offered by his current insurer.

The dissatisfaction began a few months back with his wife Prerna (34) being hospitalised for a minor gallstone surgery and the insurer refused to pay the full claim amount as there were co-pay and sub-limits attached to the policy, which he was unaware of. His policy had a sub-limit on room rent with the maximum limit of ₹5,000/day. However, unaware of the room-rent sub-limit he chose to get his wife admitted in a private suite of the plush hospital that cost him ₹12,000/day.

Know your co-pay terms
As per policy wordings, he had to pay the remaining ₹7,000/day from his own pocket. Also, his policy had a mandatory co-pay clause of 10% – meaning Gaurav would have to pay 10% of the total claim from his own pocket. Soon after this experience, Gaurav wanted to change his insurer. However, all porting requests will be subject to underwriting guidelines and every insurer has the complete right to accept or reject a consumer's port-in request.

It has also often been observed that most health insurers are only keen on insuring young and healthy individuals

as apparently the chances of their falling ill and filing a claim are quite low. Many insurers, at times, do not accept policy portability requests from those who are old and have poor health conditions.

Or at times, they attach numerous clauses and restrictions; as a result, people get discouraged and drop the entire idea of porting their health insurer. There are many things that must be kept in mind before filing for a porting request.

As a customer, it is quite important for you to know that when you request for porting, the application undergoes several underwriting procedures and based on findings of these procedures, the insurer approves or rejects your request.

You can even port your cover during the ongoing crisis if

you are not satisfied with the services of the insurer.

The entire process can be done through the digital services offered by the insurer.

Enhance sum insured

While applying for portability, you must think of enhancing the total sum insured (SI) provided you have a family floater plan with limited sum insured.

However, you must know that the increase in SI is totally subject to acceptance by the insurer's underwriter.

While most insurers do not reject the request if the increase is justified i.e. up to 50-70%, requests demanding 100-200% increase in the SI may be rejected by the insurer. It also depends upon the claims made in the past.

If the request is made for a

claim-free policy, the chances of your request getting approved are quite high.

Every health insurance policy comes with a pre-defined waiting period. Usually there are three types of waiting period in a health insurance policy. First, a 30-day waiting period for fresh claims; second, up to two years for some specified ailments and procedures; and third, up to four years for pre-existing illnesses.

If you are planning to port, make sure you give due consideration to the new insurer's waiting period. In most cases, if you have already served the waiting period with the previous insurer, you do not have to again serve the period for the new insurer. If the SI is same as the previous policy, there is no waiting period but if the SI in the new policy is more than in the previous policy, the waiting period applies.

Features offered

Always choose a policy that offers both hospitalisation and day-care procedures without any sub-limits and has no mandatory co-pay feature which means the insurer will pay the entire claim amount up to the sum insured. Always look for a policy that offers the maximum possible benefits such as providing cover for pre and post-hospitalisation expenses.

(The author is health business head, Policybazaar.com)



GETTY IMAGES/STOCK

Exide coverage upto 60 yrs for age 30 yrs

Source: www.policybazaar.com

LOOSE CHANGE

RAVIKANTH



"Keep it in mind! This year, month-ends start soon after the first week of the month."

Life insurance term plan premium

Male: 30 Years, Sum insured- ₹ 1 crore, Cover upto - 70 Years			
Insurance company	Plan name	Maximum cover Up to (Years)	Annual premium ₹(Male)
Aditya Birla Capital	Life Shield Plan	80	12,998
Aegon Life	iTerm Insurance Plan	100	9,114
Bajaj Allianz	Smart Protect Goal	85	10,911
Canara HSBC OBC Life	iSelect+ Term Plan	99	9,284
Exide Life Insurance	Smart Term Plan	75	12,411*
Future Generali	Flexi Online Term Plan	75	9,427
HDFC Life	Click2Protect Plus	85	12,601
ICICI Prudential	iProtect Smart	99	15,089
India First Life	e-Term Plan	80	8,260
Kotak Life Insurance	Kotak e-Term Plan	75	9,558
Max Life Insurance	Online Term Plan Plus	85	10,148
PNB Met Life	Mera Term Plan	99	10,148
Reliance Nippon Life	Digi Term	80	11,012
SBI Life	eShield	80	15,070
TATA AIA Life	Maha Raksha Supreme	100	12,980

Health insurance premium

Insurer name	Key features	Plan names	Premium ₹	Insurer name	Key features	Plan names	Premium ₹
Religare Health	Day Care Treatments Family Floater option Health Checkups Pre and Post Hospitalisation Coverage	NCB Super Premium Care With care with unlimited recharge NCB Super Premium with UAR	9,092 8,265 8,885 9,712	Digit Healthcare Plus	Hospital Room Eligibility Day Care Treatments Family Floater Option	Maxima Restore Super Option 2 - Early Cover Option 3 - Super care	8,861 7,985 7,541
Max Bupa Health	Day Care Treatments Hospitalization at Home Family Floater option Alternate Medicine	Health Pulse Enhanced Health Companion Go Active	10,696 9,862 11,747	Bajaj Allianz General	Hospital Room Eligibility Wellness Benefits Family Floater Option	Health Infinity Individual Health Guard Health Ensure	15,576 11,569 7,642
Star Health	Family Floater option Restoration of cover Wellness Benefits	Medi Classic Star Comprehensive Young Star Gold Plan Young Star Silver Plan	9,661 11,476 8,389 7,133	SBI General Insurance	Pre and Post Hospitalisation Coverage Day Care Treatments Hospitalization at Home	Arogya Premier	10,547
HDLC Ergo Health	Family Floater option Restoration of cover Pre and Post Hospitalisation Coverage	Easy Health Individual Standard Easy Health Individual Exclusive Easy Health Individual Premium Health wallet	11,094 12,670 15,692 22,908	Manipal Cigna Health	Day Care Treatments<br		

TV PICKS

Premier League: Star Sports 1 & SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 12.30 a.m. (Tuesday)

IN BRIEF



Ceballos puts Arsenal in FA Cup semifinals

SHEFFIELD: Dani Ceballos, in pic, scored in injury-time as Arsenal beat Sheffield United 2-1 in the FA Cup quarterfinal on Sunday. **The results (quarterfinals):** **Sunday:** Sheffield United 1 (McGoldrick 87) lost to Arsenal 2 (Pepe 25-pen, Ceballos 90+); **Saturday:** Norwich 1 (Cantwell 75) lost to Manchester United 2 (Ighalo 51, Maguire 118). AFP

Todd on top after bogey-free round

CROMWELL (US): Brendon Todd carded a nine-under 61 to open up a two-shot lead after the third round of the PGA Tour Travelers Championship on Saturday. Todd, chasing his third win of the 2019-2020 season, posted nine birdies in a bogey-free round. Overnight leader Phil Mickelson's 71 saw him slip six shots off the pace. **Top scores:** 192 - Brendon Todd (66-65-61); 194 - Dustin Johnson (69-64-61); 195 - Kevin Streelman (66-66-63). AFP

Riyaz shines

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

World No. 2 Riyaz Akbar Ali was in irrepressible form as he executed two White Slams and a Black Slam in the third round of the World carrom challenge on Facebook Live.

Riyaz was unlucky to miss an Ultimate Slam on the second board as the last pocket eluded him after 18 straight ones.

With 13 bonus points from the three Slams, his net score was reduced to nine and Riyaz moved to third behind Komervelli Srinivas and Prashant More. Yogesh Dhongade was fourth.

In the women's section, two-time World Champion Rashmi Kumari executed a Black Slam to stay on top, ahead of Aisha Sajid and Roshita Joseph of Sri Lanka. Naga Jothi climbed to the fourth place.

The top four will advance to the knock-outs.

Lazio cuts Juve's lead

Atletico posts fourth straight win since resumption

REUTERS

ROME

Serie A leading scorer Ciro Immobile converted a contentious second-half penalty to set second-placed Lazio on the way to a 2-1 comeback win over Fiorentina that kept it four points behind leader Juventus on Saturday.

Francesco Caputo stunned the host when the 37-year-old put Fiorentina ahead with a solo goal in the 25th minute, slipping between two defenders, then gliding past a third before past Thomas Strakosha.

Contentious

Lazio was struggling to find a way past Fiorentina's defence until Felipe Caicedo went down under a challenge from goalkeeper Bartłomiej Dragowski and Immobile converted his 28th goal of the season from the spot in the 67th minute.

However, replays suggested that Caicedo fell before any contact was made. Luis Alberto grabbed the winner with seven minutes left, to



Adding to the tally: Serie A's top scorer Ciro Immobile netted his 28th goal, albeit a controversial one, on Saturday. AP

leave Lazio with 65 points from 28 games with Juve on 69.

Staying firm

Atletico Madrid beat Alaves 2-1 at home in LaLiga to maintain its superb run of form since the season resumed, recording a fourth straight win to further tighten the hold on third place.

Atletico has 58 points after 32 games, with the win extending the advantage over fourth-placed Sevilla by four points.

The results: **LaLiga:** Levante 4 (Mayoral 21, Bardhi 35, Morales 50, Rochina 59) bt Real Betis 2 (Canales 70, Juanma 87). **Saturday:** Osasuna 2 (Gallego 9, 90+6) bt Leganes 1 (Aviles 59, Costa 73-pen) bt Alaves 1 (Joselu 90+3-pen). **Serie A: Saturday:** Brescia 2 (Donnarumma 10, Semprini 13) drew with Genoa 2 (Falque 38-pen, Pinamonti 70-pen); Cagliari 4 (Nandez 12, Simeone 17, Nianggolan 46, Pedro 69-pen) bt Torino 2 (Bremer 60, Belotti 65); Lazio 2 (Immobile 67-pen, Alberto 83) bt Fiorentina 1 (Ribery 25).

Manchester City will form a guard of honour for new Premier League champion Liverpool when the teams meet next Thursday, manager Pep Guardiola has said.

Liverpool took the title City has owned for the last two years this.

When the league resumed this month, Liverpool's trip to Etihad Stadium was a potentially decisive game in the title race. But City's loss at Chelsea put Liverpool mathematically out of reach, and Guardiola feels it would be sporting to pay tribute to the new champ.

"We are going to do the guard of honour, of course. We always receive Liverpool when they come to our house in an incredible way. They cannot complain and of course we are going to do it because they deserve it," said Guardiola.



Pep Guardiola. AP

Riya looking ahead with confidence

Plans to use yoga and meditation when action resumes

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI

Riya Bhatia is looking forward to using her yoga techniques and meditation, when tennis resumes. In an online chat with coach M. Balachandran, 22-year-old Riya – who won back-to-back National titles on hard and grass courts – said that she is getting better under the guidance of coach Stephen Koon in Thailand.

"I have been able to improve my fitness. I was happy doing 108 suryanamaskars on the yoga day. It felt like I had accomplished something," said Riya.

"I have learnt a lot of new techniques and have seen the changes in me after the meditation. I am now looking forward to the matches," she said.

Looking back, Riya recalled that she used to play table tennis with her parents and developed interest in tennis as the courts were near home.

Bopanna's help

Riya has also had help from



Riya Bhatia.
• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

how she controlled her nerve. She used to give me some tips," said Riya.

"It hurts me more when I play bad and win," she said, giving credit to Koon for helping her achieve clarity about improving. "This is how much you need to work to reach your goals, tells Stephen. It is nice."

She did miss competing in the junior Grand Slams, but said that she was happy with the decision to plunge into the women's circuit.

"You can't have everything."

Four finals

Riya confessed that she loved playing on clay, and had made four finals, back to back, in Europe.

She said that she tried to pick up the good qualities from various top players, and that Ashleigh Barty was her favourite.

With three titles each in singles and doubles in the women's international circuit, Riya said that she was getting better in her pursuit to compete at a higher level.

She was equally happy to be part of the FedCup team with Sania Mirza. "I saw Sania playing matches, and

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Rayo said, "Aashi, who started less than a year ago, definitely has a lot of potential. This is a massive opportunity one can only dream of."

"She will definitely have to increase her efforts as there will be intense competition."

Sita Raina, Chairperson of FMSCI's Women in Motorsports Commission, said: "Aashi has shown her mettle during the last season and has the potential to become a star. This is a great moment for women in Indian motorsport."

Chakraborty urged in his letter.

While congratulating the CM for her initiative, Chakraborty cited the example of Odisha FC and urged her to provide Government support in helping East Bengal find a place in the ISL.

"Mohun Bagan has already gained a place in the ISL after getting merged with the ATK. I hope that you will look into the matter and extend your government's support in helping East Bengal find a place in the ISL," Chakraborty urged in his letter.

Man City to give Liverpool a guard of honour

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON

Manchester City will form a guard of honour for new Premier League champion Liverpool when the teams meet next Thursday, manager Pep Guardiola has said.

Liverpool took the title City has owned for the last two years this.

When the league resumed this month, Liverpool's trip to Etihad Stadium was a potentially decisive game in the title race. But City's loss at Chelsea put Liverpool mathematically out of reach, and Guardiola feels it would be sporting to pay tribute to the new champ.

"We are going to do the guard of honour, of course. We always receive Liverpool when they come to our house in an incredible way. They cannot complain and of course we are going to do it because they deserve it," said Guardiola.

"We are going to do the guard of honour, of course. We always receive Liverpool when they come to our house in an incredible way. They cannot complain and of course we are going to do it because they deserve it," said Guardiola.

"We are going to do the guard of honour, of course. We always receive Liverpool when they come to our house in an incredible way. They cannot complain and of course we are going to do it because they deserve it," said Guardiola.

"We are going to do the guard of honour, of course. We always receive Liverpool when they come to our house in an incredible way. They cannot complain and of course we are going to do it because they deserve it," said Guardiola.

"We are going to do the guard of honour, of course. We always receive Liverpool when they come to our house in an incredible way. They cannot complain and of course we are going to do it because they deserve it," said Guardiola.

"We are going to do the guard of honour, of course. We always receive Liverpool when they come to our house in an incredible way. They cannot complain and of course we are going to do it because they deserve it," said Guardiola.

"We are going to do the guard of honour, of course. We always receive Liverpool when they come to our house in an incredible way. They cannot complain and of course we are going to do it because they deserve it," said Guardiola.

"We are going to do the guard of honour, of course. We always receive Liverpool when they come to our house in an incredible way. They cannot complain and of course we are going to do it because they deserve it," said Guardiola.

"We are going to do the guard of honour, of course. We always receive Liverpool when they come to our house in an incredible way. They cannot complain and of course we are going to do it because they deserve it," said Guardiola.

"We are going to do the guard of honour, of course. We always receive Liverpool when they come to our house in an incredible way. They cannot complain and of course we are going to do it because they deserve it," said Guardiola.

"We are going to do the guard of honour, of course. We always receive Liverpool when they come to our house in an incredible way. They cannot complain and of course we are going to do it because they deserve it," said Guardiola.

"We are going to do the guard of honour, of course. We always receive Liverpool when they come to our house in an incredible way. They cannot complain and of course we are going to do it because they deserve it," said Guardiola.

"We are going to do the guard of honour, of course. We always receive Liverpool when they come to our house in an incredible way. They cannot complain and of course we are going to do it because they deserve it," said Guardiola.

"We are going to do the guard of honour, of course. We always receive Liverpool when they come to our house in an incredible way. They cannot complain and of course we are going to do it because they deserve it," said Guardiola.

"We are going to do the guard of honour, of course. We always receive Liverpool when they come to our house in an incredible way. They cannot complain and of course we are going to do it because they deserve it," said Guardiola.

Jet, set, go!



Ready for the challenge: Babar Azam, snapping a selfie with teammates on the chartered flight to England, is looking forward to doing well on the tour. • TWITTER/@BABARAZAM258

QUICK SINGLES



Wisden magazine honour for Muralitharan

COLOMBO: The world's highest Test wicket-taker Muttiah Muralitharan has been named the 'Most Valuable Test Player of the 21st Century' by *Wisden Cricket Monthly*. The magazine, in consultation with cricket analytics company CricViz, has a special feature on the top 30 of the century in the current issue.



Don't make superfluous changes, says Shikha

NEW DELHI: Senior India pacer Shikha Pandey finds suggestions like reducing the weight of balls and use of shorter pitches to make the women's game appealing "superfluous", and urged the ICC "not to tinker" with the rules to attract more audience. "Growth can also be achieved by marketing the sport well," said Shikha. PTI

Carlsen makes it to semifinals

RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI

Magnus Carlsen and Ian Nepomniachtchi got past Fabiano Caruana and Vladimir Artemiev on their way to the semifinals of the \$150,000 Chessable Masters late on Saturday.

Quarterfinal results (set two, game one):

Hikaru Nakamura (USA) drew with Ding Liren (Chn); Anish Giri (Ned) drew with Alexander Grischuk (Rus). **On Saturday:** Magnus Carlsen (Nor) bt Fabiano Caruana (USA) 2.5-0.5; Ian Nepomniachtchi (Rus) bt Vladimir Artemiev (Rus) 2.5-0.5.

Ushenina wins

P.K. AJITH KUMAR
KOZHIKODE

Anna Ushenina of Ukraine won the first Grand Prix leg of the FIDE Women's Chess.com Speed Chess, beating Russia's Valentina Gunina 7-4 in the final on Sunday.

Earlier, R. Vaishali finished fourth after losing 7-4 to Alexandra Kosteniuk of Russia in the playoff. The second leg begins on July 1.

Dhanraj's rise in world

chess from a humble background, Yuvraj chasing dreams living in a shack were other popular narratives. Negi's own story, recovering from the Delhi disgrace scars to transforming into a successful India women's coach, was reflected in scenes from Chak de India, a hockey theme movie. It was followed by a part in Jhalak Dikhla Ja, a celebrity TV dance show.

Recovery

He said: "Mohinder Lal, who retired as DIG (Border Security Force), is a reputed pistol shooter so focused that once during a national championship when the pistol sight broke off, he blocked negative vibes and shot his way to the gold medal. I met him first due to a close friendship with brother Kulbhushan, my classmate at the Christian College (Indore)."

Dhanraj's rise in world

chess from a humble background, Yuvraj chasing dreams living in a shack were other popular narratives. Negi's own story, recovering from the Delhi disgrace scars to transforming into a successful India women's coach, was reflected in scenes from Chak de India, a hockey theme movie. It was followed by a part in Jhalak Dikhla Ja, a celebrity TV dance show.

One English course to help you sail through the 3 stages of UPSC

STEP for Competitive Exams is a tailor-made course that trains you for all 3 stages of UPSC exam.

Objective Test

- Practice sets on reading comprehension
- Video lessons on para jumbles and word reordering
- Lessons on idioms, phrases, antonyms/synonyms
- Fill in the blanks (Cloze Test) - Lessons focusing on all aspects of such questions
- Grammar lessons on active/passive voice, direct/reported speech, etc.
- Vocabulary - Words in the Indian Constitution, words relevant for exam preparation, etc.

Written Exam

- Precis Writing
- Essay Writing
- Advanced Grammar

Interview