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- Pratibha Verma, AIR 3rd CSE 2019

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NEARBY



EC revokes Kamal Nath's status as star campaigner

NEW DELHI
The Election Commission on Friday revoked the status of Congress leader and former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath as a star campaigner for the party in the ongoing State Assembly bypolls for "repeated violation of Model Code of Conduct", an EC order said.

NEWS ▶ PAGE 9

New cases above 5,000 for third straight day

NEW DELHI

Delhi on Friday reported its highest single-day spike yet with 5,891 new COVID-19 cases, taking the tally to over 3.81 lakh. It also recorded 47 new fatalities, pushing the death toll to 6,470. This was the third straight day when over 5,000 cases have been reported in a day in Delhi.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

JNU violence: court rejects prof's plea

NEW DELHI

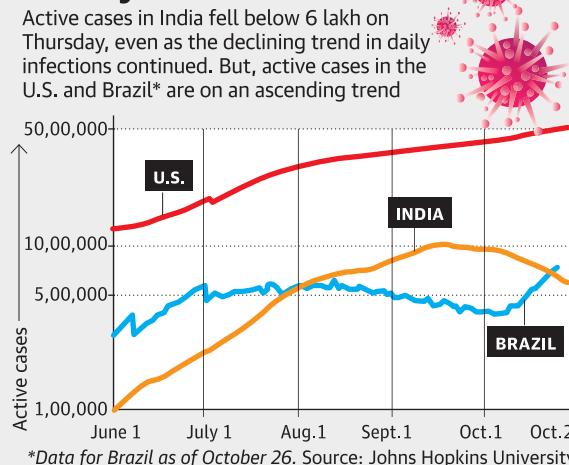
A Delhi court has declined a plea by a JNU professor, who was allegedly injured during an attack by an armed mob inside the campus on January 5, seeking registration of an FIR in the matter. The court rejected the plea noting that an FIR has already been lodged regarding the incident.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

Active cases fall below 6 lakh after 85 days

India has also sustained its high number of COVID-19 recoveries, according to the Health Ministry

Steady descent



SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

India's active COVID-19 case load has fallen below six lakh for the first time in nearly three months (85 days) with 5.94 lakh active cases on Friday. The active caseload was 5.95 lakh on August 6, the Health Ministry said.

"Presently, the active cases comprise only 7.35% of the total positive cases of the country standing at 5,94,386. This has strengthened its trend of steady decline. India has also sustained its high number of recoveries. The total recovered cases stand at

73,73,375. India continues to be the topmost country with the maximum number of recovered cases globally. The difference between active cases and recovered cases is consistently increasing and stands at 6,778,989 on Friday," said the release.

The Ministry said 57,386 patients had recovered in the last 24 hours whereas the new confirmed cases were 48,648. The national recovery rate has progressed to 91.15%. Of the new recovered cases, 80% are concentrated in 10 States and UTs. Kerala contributed the maximum with more than

8,000 to the single-day recoveries, followed by Maharashtra and Karnataka with over 7,000 recoveries each, said the Ministry. It added that Kerala was still reporting a very high number of new cases with an average of over 7,000 cases daily, followed by Maharashtra and Delhi with over 5,000 cases each.

The Ministry said, "A total of 563 case fatalities had been reported in the past 24 hours. Of these, 81% are concentrated in 10 States/UTs. Maharashtra reported the highest single day deaths."

'CRITICAL JUNCTURE' ▶ PAGE 10

Second arrest after France knife attack

ASSOCIATED PRESS



Police officers stand guard near the Notre Dame church in Nice, France. ■ AP

official who was not authorised to be publicly named.

The attacker, Ibrahim Israoui, was seriously wounded by police and hospitalised in life-threatening condition, authorities said.

DETAILS ON ▶ PAGE 13

New wage code bars bonus for those facing sex abuse charges

VIKAS DHOTI

NEW DELHI

Those indulging in sexual harassment of any form could run the risk of losing out on bonus dues from their employers, thanks to a provision in the Code on Wages that the government is currently framing rules for.

Among other things, the Code on Wages lays down norms for annual bonus dues that accrue to employees, replacing the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965. The new Code, expected to become operational once

the government notifies the rules, includes 'conviction for sexual harassment' as a ground for denying bonus payouts to employees.

As per the extant law, bonus dues are barred only in case of employees dismissed for fraud, violent conduct and theft or sabotage.

Move welcomed

"This is a brilliant nudge to get people to be on their best behaviour in the workplace," said Rituparna Chakrabarty, co-founder and executive vice-president of Teamlease Services Limited.

"The prospect of losing one's benefits may make employees more careful of their conduct, and they should be made aware of this provision. Money is important to everyone after all; so this serves as an additional deterrent apart from the Prevention of Sexual Harassment (PoSH) law of 2013," Ms. Chakrabarty said.

As per the PoSH law guidelines, firms are required to form an Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) to inquire into complaints.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Farooq 'not allowed' to attend Friday prayers

Gupkar alliance delegation visits Kargil to drum up support for 'pre-August 5 position'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

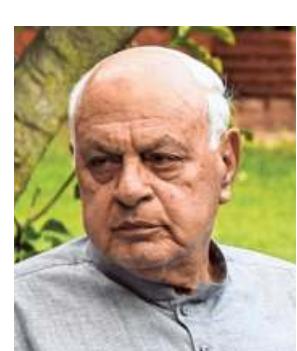
SRINAGAR

National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah was prevented by the authorities from attending a Friday congregation in Srinagar on the occasion of Id-e-Milad, the birth anniversary of prophet Muhammad.

"They [security forces] didn't allow me to offer [Friday] prayers, despite it being a revered day," Dr. Abdullah said.

The National Conference alleged that Dr. Abdullah's residence was blocked by the security forces since Friday morning and termed it an "infringement of the fundamental right to pray."

"We strongly condemn the actions of the administration. This marks a new



Farooq Abdullah

said the move "exposes the Government of India's deep paranoia and their iron fist approach towards J&K."

Meanwhile, constituents of the PAGD, in a bid to widen its base, visited Ladakh's Kargil district on Friday to galvanise support for the pre-August 5 position, the first since the special status of J&K was ended last year. The delegation headed by Omar Abdullah met local party leaders, members of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council-Kargil and leaders of religious seminaries "to discuss the current situation in J&K."

Restore rights

Addressing a public gathering in Drass, Mr. Abdullah said the August 5 decision was forcibly implemented.

PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC PARTY

president Mehbooba Mufti

low in the curtailment of fundamental rights of the people of J&K. He was slated to go to Hazratbal in order to participate in the religious congregation," People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) spokesman Sajad Lone said.

Peoples Democratic Party president Mehbooba Mufti

"We haven't accepted it and will fight for the restoration of all that has been snatched."

He said the delegation met leaders of the Kargil Democratic Alliance.

"All of us [are] united that the pre-August 5th, 2019 position must be restored," Mr. Abdullah said. He was accompanied by leaders from the PDP and the Awami National Conference.

"We have come here to assure you [people of Ladakh] about the fight we have started and take you along in this fight. People of Ladakh are in our mind and heart," Mr. Abdullah said.

This is the first time that leaders from J&K have travelled to Ladakh, which was carved out as a separate Union Territory last year.

DETAILS ON ▶ PAGE 13

and wear masks.

Anto Alphonse, DCP (North), said extra personnel have been deployed in the area. "A team of policemen roamed the market and fine visitors for not wearing masks or not following social distancing norms. To decongest the lanes and enable smooth pedestrian movement, we have earmarked dedicated parking areas for shop owners, their employees and shoppers," he said.

"We held a meeting with

peoples, aren't paying off.

Time to recoup losses

Anurag Agarwal, a dry fruits wholesaler, said crowds are unavoidable during festive season. "Our sales have dropped 50% from last year. After acute losses due to lockdown, the time has come to recoup some of those losses," he said.

Mr. Agarwal, however, claimed most shops ensure that customers enter wearing masks and sanitise their hands. Rakesh Gupta, another shop owner, said some listeners, most don't. "I got my entire staff of six tested for COVID-19 as we are exposed to scores of visitors coming from various parts of Delhi and other States," he said.

The elaborate efforts, ho-

wever, aren't paying off.

Business as usual

Shoppers throng Sadar Bazar ahead of Deepavali. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

SOURCE: DELHI POLICE

and wear masks.

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The elaborate efforts, ho-

Punjab police file chargesheet in Hoshiarpur rape-murder case

Probe done within eight days of 6-year-old Dalit girl's killing

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHANDIGARH

The Punjab police on Friday presented the 'challan' (chargesheet) in the Hoshiarpur rape-murder case of a six-year-old Dalit girl in a special court, after completing investigations into the incident in just over a week.

A special prosecutor has been appointed for expedited proceedings in the case, in which the State government has sought a fast-track trial to ensure speedy justice for the minor victim, daughter of a migrant labourer in Tanda village.

The accused, Gurpreet Singh, allegedly took the girl

to his home and raped her. Later, he, along with his grandfather Surjit Singh, allegedly killed her and then burnt the body.

Both the accused in the case were arrested on the night of October 21, hours after the six-year-old was raped and murdered.

Forensic teams were called in to collect evidence from the scene of the crime, while technical evidence and DNA samples were taken for forensic examination to state-of-the-art labs. The post-mortem examination of the deceased has been conducted by a board of medical officers," the DGP said.

the probe within just eight days of the incident, said an official statement.

Director General of Police Dinkar Gupta said utmost vigil was practised during the course of the probe, which was "carried out expeditiously without compromising on quality at any stage".

"Forensic teams were called in to collect evidence from the scene of the crime, while technical evidence and DNA samples were taken for forensic examination to state-of-the-art labs. The post-mortem examination of the deceased has been conducted by a board of medical officers," the DGP said.

Keeping shoppers safe

Initiatives taken by the police:

- Posters put up displaying social distancing guidelines
- Barricades in place to ensure separate entry and exit
- Public address system installed at 40 locations
- 300-400

Air quality remains in 'very poor' category

'Conditions likely to improve in Delhi on Sunday owing to favourable wind speed'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The air quality in the Capital remained in the upper end of 'very poor' category on Friday with the 24-hour average AQI settling at 374, which was a slight improvement from the 395 recorded the previous day.

The air quality has deteriorated after it had entered the 'poor' category on Wednesday. Forecast have said that the quality of air is likely to improve in the Capital on

Air quality of Delhi-NCR			
Delhi	374	Gurugram	367
Ghaziabad	382	Faridabad	337
Noida	379	Greater Noida	394
Good	0-50	Satisfactory	51-100
Poor	101-200	Very poor	201-300
Severe	301-400	>401	AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M. YESTERDAY (AVERAGE OF PAST 24 HOURS) SOURCE: CPCB

November 1 due to favourable wind speed.

Ministry of Earth Sciences' air quality monitoring agency, SAFAR, said: "Del-

hi's overall AQI has marginally improved as predicted and has remained in the high end of very poor category. Calm surface winds prevail over the region and winds are forecast to pick up [speed] which will improve the ventilation and is likely to influence air quality positively."

SAFAR also said that the share of stubble burning in Delhi's PM2.5 pollution was 19% on Friday and had come down from Thursday's 36%,

the maximum so far this season.

The SAFAR model predicts that a significant improvement in AQI is forecast for November 1 - to the lower-end of 'very poor' to 'poor' category.

"The SAFAR said stubble fire counts significantly decreased and stood at 1,143 on Thursday. Improved ventilation conditions are likely to bring down the concentration levels in Delhi," the bulletin added.

JNU violence: court rejects prof's plea for separate FIR

Move comes after police's status report says FIR already filed

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH NEW DELHI

A Delhi court has declined a plea by a JNU Professor, who was injured during an attack allegedly by an armed mob inside the campus on January 5, seeking registration of an FIR in the matter.

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Pawan Singh Rajawat said there was no need for a separate FIR based on the complaint by Professor Sucharita Sen, noting that an FIR has already been registered regarding the incident.

"The injuries suffered by number of persons, including the complainant [Ms. Sen] was a result of violent act, which forms part of same transaction for which FIR is already registered as it

not only has proximity in time and place but also the damage to property and injuries suffered by the complainant and other persons," the Judge said.

Ms. Sen said she, along with students and other teachers, was holding a meeting at Sabarmati Tea Point on January 5 at around 6.00 - 6.30 p.m. when an armed mob gathered at Periyar Hostel. The mob reached the meeting venue and started



Police personnel on the JNU campus after the attack.

* FILE PHOTO: SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

ed pelting stones and beating the students and teachers. Ms. Sen had sought registration of a separate FIR in the matter.

She said a separate complaint was given on January 6 at Vasant Kunj police station but no action was taken. She was instead told that her complaint had been transferred to Crime Branch.

She also gave a representation to Special Commissioner of Police as well as Joint Commissioner of Police (Crime Branch) on January 10 but still no action was taken. This was despite she sustaining head injury and the mob vandalising her car. The Judge said:

"No directions are required for registering separate FIR on the complaint made by Ms. Sen." It, however, directed police to submit a status report on the FIR already registered in the case before the next date of hearing on December 19.

Firecracker claims life of nine-year-old

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

A nine-year-old boy died after sustaining injuries while bursting firecrackers in outer north Delhi's Alipur, the police said on Friday.

A senior police officer said that the deceased has been identified as Prince, a Class II student and a resident of Bakhtawarpur. The incident was reported on Wednesday, the police said.

They said that the boy had put a steel glass over a cracker. "The cracker did not burst at first, but when the boy went closer, it suddenly did. The remains of the glass hit him, which is suspected to have led to his death," the officer said.

The boy was rushed to a hospital where he succumbed to injuries.

According to the family, they had bought the crackers, which were "easily available", from a nearby shop.

The family said that the boy's parents were at work when the incident happened. They added that there should be strict vigilance by the police on those selling firecrackers illegally.

The parents of the deceased are labourers.

Performance of Delhi councillors termed poor in report card

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

The performances of Delhi's municipal corporation councillors fell in terms of attendance and three-fourth of the questions asked by them in the House were "poorly related" to citizens' complaints in their constituencies, said Praja Foundation.

Praja Foundation released its third report card for the current term (2017-22) of Delhi municipal councillors elaborating on the performance and areas of improvement for local elected representatives (RE) in Delhi.

"Councillors have been at the forefront of ground-level relief and intervention in the COVID-19 pandemic in many cities in India. Given the current structure of governance in Delhi, however, councillors have not been party to decision-making for the city in spite of being closest to the ground situation and having the knowledge of the needs of their constituents," said Nitai Mehta, Founder and Managing Trustee, Praja Foundation.

"The performances of councillors have fallen in all three Corporations - 2019-20 being an election year. Attendance score fell in the North Corporation from 75.32% in 2017-18 to 66.38% in 2019-20, in SDMC from 75.10% to 66.61% and in EDMC from 81.83% to 71.27%, the highest fall," said Milind Mhaske, Director, Praja Foundation.

From this year, the foundation said in a statement, Praja reworked its matrix to focus mainly upon the deliberative performance of councillors, as deliberative duties are the most important responsibility of any elected representative.

Head Constable's letter: Commissioner says vigilance inquiry initiated

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

Responding to a letter written by a Delhi Police Head Constable to the Commissioner of Police sharing his grievance of being unable to complain against other officers in the force, Special Commissioner said that a vigilance inquiry has been initiated.

Special Commissioner of Police (Operations) Muktesh Chander said, "I heard the Head Constable's grievances last month and a vigilance inquiry into the matter has been initiated. His grievances have been heard by several senior officers prior to me as well."

Mr. Chander also said that the Head Constable had demanded ₹50 lakh as compensation for the money he spent during litigation but "that demand cannot be accepted" as it does not qualify under the provisions of Police Families Welfare Society.

The Head Constable alleged he was troubled by officers after he helped a youth against a local goon in 2012. In his letter, he said he would have no option other than taking his life if he was not helped. "A police officer should not threaten to take his life," said Mr. Chander.



DELHI POLICE
SHANTI SEWA NYAYA



Saluting his Contribution to Unity of the Nation

Delhi Police
pays tribute to
India's First Home Minister -
The Iron Man of India,
Commemorating
The National Unity Day

31st October, 2020

"It is prime responsibility of every citizen to feel that this country is free and to defend its freedom is his duty."

— Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

DP9258/2020



NATIONAL UNITY DAY

Haryana Remembers
The Iron Man of India
SARDAR VALLABHBHAI PATEL
On His Birth Anniversary

31st October, 2020

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Timings

DELHI

SATURDAY, OCT. 31
RISE 06:33 SET 17:37
RISE 17:43 SET 06:03
SUNDAY, NOV. 01
RISE 06:33 SET 17:37
RISE 18:14 SET 06:56

MONDAY, NOV. 02

RISE 06:34 SET 17:36
RISE 18:50 SET 07:50

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	31	13
Safdarjung	31	13
Palam	30	15

Delhi Palam Today
31°C Wide spread smog during morning. Clear sky and moderate winds likely. Pollution level may drop.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
31°C Cool morning and comfortable day with light dry winds. Haze would continue.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2019
All rights reserved.**IN BRIEF****Sisodia encourages students to join politics**

NEW DELHI

Education Minister Manish Sisodia while interacting with students of Ashoka University during an online class on entrepreneurship in governance encouraged them to join politics as the government needs skilled and knowledgeable professionals. "You don't have to necessarily stand in elections, but by simply becoming a member, or even a party worker, you can engage in various departments where work on research, etc," he said.

Capital witnesses new single-day COVID peak

L-G approves proposal to run buses with full seating capacity

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Capital on Friday reported 5,891 COVID-19 cases in the past 24 hours – another single-day peak – according to a health bulletin by the Delhi government.

Moreover, 47 deaths were reported in the past 24 hours. The bulletin stated that 4,433 recoveries were reported and 59,641 tests were conducted with a positivity rate of 9.99%. There are 32,363 active cases in the Capital. The total number of cases now stands at 3,81,644 with 6,470 deaths and 3,42,811 recoveries.

The number of cases has been spiking here for three consecutive days with 5,739 cases reported on Thursday, 5,673 on Wednesday and 4,853 on Tuesday.

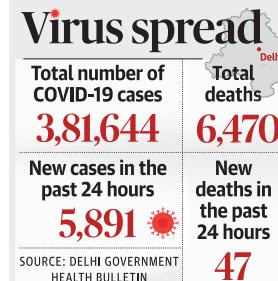
3,158 containment zones
The number of containment zones has risen to 3,158 from 3,113 on Thursday and 19,064 patients are under home isolation, the bulletin added.

Also, out of the 15,749 available hospital beds, 9,645 were vacant and out of 7,887 beds at dedicated COVID Care Centres, 968 were occupied. At the dedicated COVID-19 health centers that



A man gets tested for the virus in the Capital on Friday.

• SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA



have 527 beds, 201 are vacant.

Health Minister Satyendar Jain, who had attributed the rising figures to an increase in testing of even asymptomatic patients, on Friday reiterated the importance of wearing face mask.

"People should wear masks as a vaccine till there is one. The spread of the vi-

rus can be stopped to a large extent if everyone wears a mask," Mr. Jain said, adding that it is more beneficial than a lockdown.

Despite the rising cases, L-G Anil Baijal approved the government's proposal to allow buses to run with full seating capacity. Buses had been running with a maximum of 20 passengers so that social distancing could be maintained. The government, had on October 23, sought permission for full seating without any passenger standing on buses as bus stops in the city has started to witness long queues as a result of reduced capacity.

Now, a bus will be able to accommodate 40-45 passengers.

Lawyer seeks consent for proceedings against CBI DIG

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

A lawyer has made a representation to Delhi government Standing Counsel Rahul Mehra, seeking consent for initiating criminal contempt proceedings against CBI Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Raghavendra Vats.

The issue relates to Public Prosecutor Sunil Kumar Verma. He had told a trial court that he had filed a police complaint against DIG Vats for allegedly punching him in the face for not accelerating the framing of charges in a case involving Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's former private secretary Rajinder Kumar.

The trial court has also issued summons to the DIG, and the CBI has initiated a fact-finding inquiry into the allegations of its prosecutor. Mr. Sahni has also written to the BCI for taking appropriate action regarding the incident of attack on the Public Prosecutor.

Mr. Hooda campaigned in Jasrana, Guman, Aavli and Billibal in Baroda and addressed several public meetings seeking support for Congress candidate Induraj Narwal.

Haryana Dy. CM campaigns for Dutt in BarodaSPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala on Friday joined the campaign for the coalition candidate in Baroda bypoll and addressed gatherings in half-a-dozen villages. The senior leader of Janayak Janta Party attacked Congress and former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda for allegedly plundering the State for over a decade.

With just three days left before the election campaign for the bypoll comes to an end, Mr. Chautala went on a whirlwind tour of the Assembly segment addressing gatherings at Gangana, Bhavarh, Medina, Rukhi and Rabha in support of party's nominee Yogeshwar Dutt.

The Deputy CM, addressing residents, said Mr. Hooda and his son Rajya Sabha MP Deepender Hooda did not visit Baroda in this term and are going door-to-door asking for the votes. He questioned them about the number of times Mr. Hooda came forward for the development of Baroda and worked for the people. He alleged that Mr. Hooda looted the land of farmers and handed it over to outsiders like Robert Vadra.

Mr. Chautala said Mr. Dutt, a wrestler, had brought accolades to the State both nationally and internationally and could take the issues of the people to the Prime Minister and the President, whereas the Congress candidate could not go beyond the Hoodas.

Spearheading the Congress election campaign, Mr. Hooda, on the other hand, said Baroda bypoll was a battle for Chandigarh. Taking a jibe at Chief Minister Manohar Lal's assurance for "participation in governance" of the region, Mr. Hooda said the hard-working, honest and self-respecting people of Baroda did not want a share in the government of plunder, crime and corruption, but wanted their own government.

Mr. Hooda campaigned in Jasrana, Guman, Aavli and Billibal in Baroda and addressed several public meetings seeking support for Congress candidate Induraj Narwal.

Three arrested for abducting contractor, demanding ransom

Victim was rescued from Sitapur in Uttar Pradesh

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Three persons have been arrested for allegedly abducting a contractor, the police said on Friday. The victim was rescued from Uttar Pradesh's Sitapur district, they said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (South) Atul Thakur said that the accused have been identified as Irfan Ali (27), Aziz Ali (35) and Bablu (24), all residents of Sitapur.

With the help of technical surveillance, the police reached

Sitapur in Uttar Pradesh, rescued Mr. Chandra from a jungle and arrested the accused on Wednesday

ATUL THAKUR
DCP (South)

Lakhimpur Kheri in U.P. for some work on October 23, had been abducted by some unidentified people. She said they had also demanded a ransom of ₹4 lakh for his release.

A case was then registered and investigation revealed that Irfan had called the victim to Lakhimpur Kheri on the pretext of finalising some deal. "With the help of technical surveillance, the police reached Sitapur, rescued

Mr. Chandra from a jungle and arrested the accused on Wednesday," Mr. Thakur said.

During interrogation, Irfan told the police that he was engaged in stone polishing work along with Mr. Chandra in Delhi, but a dispute had ensued between them over an issue of payment. In order to teach Mr. Chandra a lesson, he made a plan to abduct him. He asked the victim to come to Lakhimpur Kheri and when he arrived at the bus stand, he was abducted by Vakeel, Irfan's elder brother, and Aziz Ali, who took him to Sitapur in a car. They also admitted to have demanded ₹4 lakh as ransom.

Two on the run
The police said that efforts are being made to nab Vakeel and another accused, identified as Samim.

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UTTARAKHAND RURAL ROADS DEVELOPMENT
(Agency for Rural Development Department, Uttarakhand)
First Floor, Directorate of Panchayatiraj, Opp-IT Park, Sahadhrara Road, Dehradun
Ref. No. 14251/1-02(xvi)/ITCO/URRDA/20 Dated : 29 October, 2020

PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY)
e-Procurement Notice

The Zonal Manager, NPCC on behalf of Chief Engineer, URRDA, Uttarakhand invites the item rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of Roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the Districts of Chamoli for 01 number of Package with estimated cost totaling to Rs. 08.98 Crore including their maintenance for two years (for stage I & five years for stage II) from the eligible contractors registered with PWD/CPWD or equivalent*. Date of release of invitation for Bids through e-procurement **02.11.2020**.

Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission: The bid documents are available online and should be submitted online in www.pmgstendersuk.gov.in. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities. The bidders are required to submit (a) original demand draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security in approved form and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4B (ii) of ITB with the NPCC LTD., 98-NEHRU COLONY, DEHRADUN (UTTARAKHAND) on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the bid for Phase XV and XVI and while for Phase XVII, XVIII and XIX submission of all physical documents will be accepted only upto or before the time and date of submission of bids, either by registered post or by hand failing which the bids will be declared non-responsive.

Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-tendering **17.11.2020 01:00 PM**
For further details please log on to www.pmgstendersuk.gov.in

Chief Engineer, URRDA
URRDA, Dehradun

* Non Registered bidders may submit bids, however, the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities before signing the contract.
Note : For e-Procurement for any sort of queries 0135-2675725 number may be contacted 10:00 AM to 05:00 PM.

Punjab waives vehicle tax for bus operators

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

The Punjab government on Friday ordered 100% waiver on motor vehicle tax till December 31 for all stage carriage, mini and school buses, while deferring payment of arrears of taxes, without interest and penalty, to March 31, 2021.

The directives were announced by Chief Minister Amarinder Singh at a virtual conference with private transport associations. An official statement said the move would result in benefit to the transport sector to the tune of ₹100 crore.

Capt. Amarinder also directed Transport Minister Razia Sultan to discuss and resolve other issues of concern to mini private bus owners by next week.

Though the Transport department had initially suggested waiver up to 50% of tax till December 31, the Chief Minister, responding to the concerns of transporters, overruled the department to announce 100% relief. It may be recalled that the transporters were earlier provided 100% relief for two months, till September 30, by the State government, said the statement.

Capt. Amarinder took note of the problems faced by the transporters, who pointed out that with less than 10% commuters availing the bus services, they were unable to meet even the cost of diesel to run their vehicles.

He agreed with the transporters that their industry needed further support from the State government in the present situation.

'Half of Bhubaneswar population may have been exposed to virus'

Third serological survey in Odisha capital was carried out from October 16 to 18

SATYASUNDAR BARIK
BHUBANESWAR

Half of Bhubaneswar's population may have been exposed to the SARS-CoV-2 infection and developed antibodies, finds the third sero-survey conducted by the Regional Medical Research Laboratory (RMRC).

"The present and third sero-survey was carried out from October 16 to 18. As many as 1,403 samples were taken for tests in 25 clusters or wards of city. We have found

that antibody has formed in 50% of the city's population," said Sanghamitra Pati, Director of RMRC, an Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) institute, here on Friday.

Sero-surveys are conducted by drawing blood samples and checking for a spec-



Swabs being collected in Bhubaneswar. ■ FILE PHOTO

ific class of antibodies that appear within two weeks of an infection.

First round of survey

"In the first round of sero-survey conducted in Bhubaneswar on July 11, we had

found 1.42% sero-prevalence in community level. Since more than 98% were not ex-

posed, it was then decided to do another survey. The sero-survey done on August 28 indicated sero-prevalence at 5.1%," said Dr. Pati.

"The present October 16-18 survey corresponds to infection status prior to three weeks ago that means if fresh sero-survey is carried out, the sero-prevalence would go up further," she observed.

According to findings, there has been variation in sero-prevalence from one ward to another. For example, 28% prevalence was found in Ward-55 while it was 63% in Ward-16. In 10 out of 25 wards, the sero-prevalence was above 50%.

There was above 60% sero-prevalence in five wards.

The survey did not find variation as far as gender

was concerned. Both men and women were exposed to SARS-CoV-2 uniformly. More than 90% people, who had antibody, were asymptomatic.

"One third of people had undergone tests through Reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) or Rapid Antigen Tests which shows effectiveness of the door-to-door survey of Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation," she said.

'Can't be complacent'

"The outcome is a matter of relief because the sero-survey gives indication about what lies ahead. Since 50% are not exposed, we cannot be complacent. We need to wear mask and maintain social distancing," the RMRC director remarked.

'Miya Museum': Assam Cong. warns its MLA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

The Congress in Assam has asked its MLA Sherman Ali Ahmed to desist from pursuing the setting up of a museum reflecting the culture and heritage of the people living in 'char-chaporis' of the State.

'Char' in Assamese means sandbar while 'chaporis' is flood-prone riverbank. These areas are associated with migrant Muslims of Bengali origin who are viewed as 'Bangladeshis'.

Assam Pradesh Congress Committee president Ripun Bora in a letter to the MLA asked him to refrain from making "any further controversial statement" on the issue that had given the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) a scope for polarising the people with "disinformation campaign and propaganda".

Mr. Ali represents the Congress from the Baghbor Assembly constituency in Barpeta district.

Conmen dupe many with promise of riches from 'Aladdin's lamp'

Meerut duo held after victim complains of losing ₹2.5 cr.

ANUJ KUMAR
GAZIABAD

In an incident that reminds how human greed is beyond reason, two persons have been arrested in Meerut for allegedly duping people with what they claimed is 'Aladdin's Chiragh'.

Meerut Police has arrested Ikramuddin and Anis on the complaint of one Laiq Ahmed for allegedly duping him of ₹2.5 crore after promising him that all his wishes would be fulfilled through the magical lamp.

"Laiq, who apparently specialises in Ayurveda and claims to be a doctor used to treat the mother of the accused Ikramuddin, himself a *tantrik* (occult practitioner). Ikramuddin promised the doctor that he had a lamp that would make him a billionaire," said SHO, Brahmputra Subhash Atri.

Anis and Ikramuddin have been booked under sections 386 (extortion after putting a person under fear of death or



The lamp recovered from the accused. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

grievous hurt and 420 (Cheating) of IPC.

Mr. Ahmed, who claims to have spent some time in London, told the police that Ikramuddin and his brother-in-law Anis would make a *djin* appear in a dark room.

"When Laiq would ask them to sell the lamp, they would scare him by saying that it would bring bad things to him. Ultimately, they agreed to sell [the lamp] him for ₹70 lakh but told him not to use it for six months otherwise the *djin* would destroy his family," said Mr. Atri.

According to the SHO, ho-

wever, Ikramuddin confessed to having duped Laiq of only ₹40 lakh. "He said the rest of the amount was paid back to the doctor to win his trust. We are investigating his account and would attach a house that he says he built from the amount received."

Mr. Atri said the modus operandi of the accused included winning the trust of the people by first showing them the results of the magical lamp. "For instance, they would ask people to give them ₹5 lakh and give them ₹7 lakh in return. In some cases, they would bury the money in some secluded place and ask the client to go there and dig it out. Such practices convinced people of their power."

Mr. Atri said police were tracking the duo for some time. "As they have no fixed place of residence, it was hard to fish them out. Such practices mostly work on word of mouth. Finally, after a tip-off, they were nabbed."

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH APEWIDC, VIZAYAWADA

National Competitive Bidding
e-procurement Notice Inviting Tender

e-mail:apewicd.mdpeshi@gmail.com, Phone No: 9704701236 & 08645295758

NIT No:83/MD/APEWIDC/VJA/2020-21 Dated: 30.10.2020

Tenders are invited on e-procurement from Original Equipment / Product manufacturers of White Boards @ an ECV of Rs.10.29 Crores to the Government Schools (Educational Institutions) in Andhra Pradesh.

Submission of Tender through Online: From 30-10-2020 to 16-11-2020 up to 15.00 Hrs and opening on : 16-11-2020 at 15.30 Hrs. and Display & finalization of Samples on or before 13.11.2020 @ 5.00 PM (no Relaxation of time unless specifically notified) at HO APEWIDC. For all details, visit e-procurement Platform @ www.apeprocurement.gov.in.

Note: Changes / Modifications if any will be communicated through the above e-Procurement platform only.

Sd/- Managing Director, APEWIDC, Vijayawada

HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED ("A State Govt. Undertaking") NOTICE INVITING TENDER (E-Tender Mode Only)

Online tender (Two Part bid) are invited for the supply of following item, on the prescribed form (Tender Documents). The dates of Sale, Submission, and opening of techno commercial bid of tender is as per detail given below. The detailed tender notice can also be downloaded from website <http://www.tenderwizard.com/HPSEB>.

Tender No.	Description of Items	Qty.	Estd.Cost (in Lacs)	EMD @ 1% of Estimated cost value (ECV) (in Rs.)	Tender document fee (Non-Refundable) (in Rs.)	Last date & Time of submission of tender online/offline	Last date & Time of opening of tender online/offline	Due date & Time of opening of techno comm. bid
DI/P/J-2256-P/20	Executive Engineer Electric Division, JPCL Batote	86477 Nos.	81,67-	81,67/-	11/20/-	17.11.2020 (upto 5.00 PM)	18.11.2020 (upto 5.00 PM)	19.11.2020 (at 11.30 AM)

Note:

- The detailed tender notice can be viewed at website <http://www.tenderwizard.com/HPSEB> and tender documents can be had after making prescribed payment. For terms and conditions visit above website.
- The undersigned reserves the right to change the scope of purchase and to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereto.
- The above quantities are tentative and likely to increase or decrease.
- Those who temper the Tender documents are liable for rejection.
- In case, the date of opening of tender remains holiday, the tenders shall be opened at the time and place on the next working day.

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

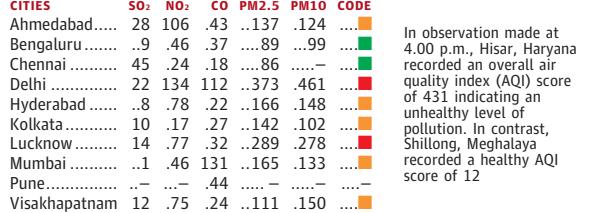
Forecast for Saturday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over south Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	...35.0	25.4	13.0	Kozhikode	...33.8...	25.1	13.0
Ahmedabad	...35.2	18.3	10.0	Kurnool	...33.7...	24.6	13.0
Aizawl	...28.3	18.2	10.0	Lucknow	...33.0...	15.4	10.0
Allahabad	...33.5	16.0	10.0	Madurai	14.7	32.6...	23.5
Bengaluru	...28.8	17.8	10.0	Mangaluru	0.8	32.6...	23.0
Bhopal	...31.8	16.4	10.0	Mumbai	...34.8...	23.0	10.0
Bhubaneswar	...32.6	19.8	10.0	Mysuru	...31.0...	21.0	10.0
Chandigarh	...30.7	12.8	10.0	New Delhi	...31.4...	13.1	10.0
Chennai	7.4	32.5	23.8	Patna	...33.2...	18.6	10.0
Coimbatore	...34.4	22.4	10.0	Pond Blair	3.7	30.7...	24.5
Dehradun	...31.1	12.3	10.0	Puducherry	...32.2...	23.4	10.0
Gangtok	...22.4	13.9	10.0	Pune	...32.0...	18.7	10.0
Goa	...34.3	23.2	10.0	Raipur	...32.4...	20.0	10.0
Guwahati	...33.0	22.9	10.0	Ranchi	...30.4...	16.1	10.0
Hubballi	...27.0	19.0	10.0	Shillong	...25.6...	16.0	10.0
Hyderabad	...31.5	21.1	10.0	Shimla	...23.0...	13.0	10.0
Imphal	...31.0	17.0	10.0	Srinagar	...20.0...	2.1	10.0
Jaipur	...31.0	16.7	10.0	Thiruvananthapuram	...32.2...	25.0	10.0
Kochi	...31.4	25.0	10.0	Tiruchi	...33.8...	23.4	10.0
Kohima	...25.3	17.5	10.0	Vijayawada	...33.4...	23.0	10.0
Kolkata	...33.7	24.3	10.0	Visakhapatnam	...34.0...	23.2	10.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

Yesterday



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

HC lauds police for 'working against odds' amid pandemic

People should cooperate as personnel are under a lot of pressure: Bombay HC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

Praising the Mumbai Police for working against all odds, the Bombay High Court has said the personnel are carrying out their duty under a lot of pressure amid the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown, and cooperation from the public is required.

A Division Bench of Justices S.S. Shinde and M.S. Karnik on Thursday also said the Mumbai Police are considered as one of the best in the world. "The job of a police officer is difficult during these times of pandemic. They have to do 12-hour duty and then there are processions and morthas for which bandobast is required," Justice Shinde said.

"Among all these odds,



Policemen provide security to health workers before entering a slum, where residents earlier denied them entry. ■ FILE PHOTO

the Mumbai Police is considered as one of the best in the world and is compared to the Scotland Yard police. Some amount of cooperation is required from people too," he said.

The remarks were made by the court while hearing a

petition filed by a Navi Mumbai resident, Sunaina Holey, seeking to quash three FIRs lodged against her for allegedly promoting enmity, hatred and ill will among groups in society after she posted offensive remarks against Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and Environment Minister Aaditya Thackeray on social media.

On Thursday, additional public prosecutor Jayesh Yagnik told the court that despite the notice issued to Ms. Holey, asking her to appear before the investigating officer of BKC Cyber Police for recording her statement, she did not appear.

Ms. Holey's counsel Abhinav Chandrachud said she could not appear owing to health issues and that she would appear before the police on November 2.

'Cooperate with probe'
The court accepted this and said, "We hope and expect that the petitioner shall extend full cooperation for the investigation." The court posted the plea for further hearing on November 23.

AMU students hold protest march, seek apology from Macron

'Islam deliberately maligned in France'



Students of Aligarh Muslim University staging a protest march on Thursday. ■ ANUJ KUMAR

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GHAZIABAD

Scores of Aligarh Muslim University students took out a protest march on Thursday, demanding an "apology" from French President Emmanuel Macron for hurting the feelings of Muslims across the world.

Raising slogans signifying universal brotherhood, the students demanded a boycott of French products. "We are also planning to lay siege to the French Embassy in Delhi," said Farhan Zuberi, a student leader – who has recently joined the youth wing of All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM).

"Since 2011, Islam is being deliberately maligned in France. Be it banning the *naqab* [head cover] or publishing satirical cartoons of the Prophet, Muslims are not being allowed to practise their religion freely. Respecting the sentiments of other religions is the crux of democracy. But in France, the feelings of Muslims are being deliberately hurt," said Mr. Zuberi.

He said AMU students would boycott French products. "We made a poster where the names of such products were listed and la-

ter it was burnt. I appeal to the well-wishers of the AMU to boycott French products," he added.

Reacting to killings in a French church, Mr. Zuberi said: "It was a personal reaction of somebody who was hurt by the policies of the French government. We are nobody to justify it. It is for the judges to decide. His act should not be associated with the entire Muslim world. He took a violent step. We are non-violently putting our point across."

Ansar Aamir, former secretary of the University Literary Club, who was not part of the protest, said most students condemned the French government for how it reacted to the killing of the teacher.

'AMU flays violence'
He said religious extremism of all kinds was bad and students of AMU had been condemning violence of all forms, including religiously motivated, from the very beginning. "However, the way the French government tried to fuel religious extremism further rather than finding a common ground between the two civilisations is not acceptable to many people."

Pune conference on Maratha quota scrapped

Students from the community hoped the meet would address their pressing issues

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PUNE

A conference on the Maratha quota issue that was to be held in the city on Friday, under the leadership of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Udayanraje Bhosale, was abruptly cancelled. No particular reason was given for the sudden cancellation.

Petitioners, scholars, jurists and other dignitaries were to attend the meeting scheduled at 2 p.m. at Residency Club to decide the future course of the agitation for implementing the Maratha quota in the State.

According to sources, those invited to the meeting were informed, by the BJP

MP himself, that the conference had been called off.

Last month, Mr. Bhosale had said that if the Uddhav Thackeray-led State government failed to get the Maratha quota law implemented in the State, then reservation for all communities ought to be scrapped.

The MP, a direct descendant of Maratha warrior King Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, and an influential community leader from Satara district in western Maharashtra, had called for a merit-based approach instead – a suggestion which elicited a caustic response from the Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi chief, Prakash Ambedkar, who hit out

and were hoping that the conference would prove to be a forum to address their pressing issues.

A section of community leaders, including Shiv Sanegam leader Vinayak Mete, – a BJP ally in the State – have been urging Mr. Bhosale to take over the community's leadership in tackling the Maratha quota imbroglio.

The storm of the Maratha agitation throughout 2018 saw Mr. Bhosale cast in the role of a possibly important mediator between the community's interests and the then BJP government. At the time, too, Mr. Bhosale had chaired a Maratha Parishad in Pune in August 2018.

Udayanraje Bhosale

at the BJP MP and called him an 'imbecile'.

With the Supreme Court

delaying the implementation

of the Maratha quota in Maharastra, students from the

community considered themselves to be in a limbo



"A nation's strength ultimately consists in what it can do on its own, and not in what it can borrow from others."

Indira Gandhi
Former Prime Minister



"Her vision of a self-reliant India laid the foundations of a progressive nation. Let us today, on her 36th death anniversary, pledge ourselves to upholding Indira ji's ideals of a united India, built on those very foundations."

Capt. Amarinder Singh
Chief Minister, Punjab





Terror in Nice

France must win the terror fight if the world is not to descend into civilisational chaos

The knife attack in the southern French city of Nice on Thursday that killed three people and injured many more has left the country, which has barely recovered from the beheading of a schoolteacher in a Paris suburb by an 18-year-old Chechen two weeks ago, in shock and pain. The suspected Nice attacker, a 21-year-old Tunisian who is now in hospital with injuries, killed two, including an elderly woman, in a church; the other escaped to a pub nearby but later died of injuries. France, home to Europe's largest Muslim community, has particularly been hit by Islamist terrorism in recent years. Thursday's incident, which occurred in the context of the controversy over satirical magazine *Charlie Hebdo*'s decision to republish Prophet Mohammed's caricatures, is the latest in a series of terror attacks in the country in the last eight years that have killed more than 200. France's agony and anger are understandable and its leaders have repeatedly said they would not give in to threats from terrorists. But the tragic reality is that jihadists continue to strike, taking innocent lives. Each time, it serves as a reminder that neither the government's preventive measures, that include credible intelligence gathering and deradicalisation efforts, nor its combative postures work in ending this terror run. Needless to say, these attacks are driving a wedge between France's already polarised communities, feeding into the far-right Islamophobic political narrative.

An implacable security response is an imperative of any counter-terrorism strategy. But it is important to understand the enemy. The Islamist terrorists, those who are inspired by the ideology of organisations such as al-Qaeda and the Islamic State, see the world as an arena of a clash of civilisations. Driven by a perverted interpretation of religion, they are ready to unleash violence against anybody who does not subscribe to their worldview. The fight against jihadists – a minuscule minority among the world's Muslims but a potent threat to societies given their embrace of violence and a vicious ideology – should be mindful of not allowing them to sow discord on the basis of religious identities. This is the biggest challenge before the French President, Emmanuel Macron. Mr. Macron, who earlier this month said "Islam is in crisis", should lead a united response to terrorism that does not posit French values against any belief system. The fight is for civilisational values, for democracy, secularism, freedom, and equality against radical Islamism, a medieval ideology that has equipped itself with modern weapons. It is important for the world that France wins this fight.

Science of monsoons

India needs better science to prepare more effective disaster management plans

The southwest monsoon 2020 has officially drawn to an end with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) declaring a withdrawal of the associated winds and rainfall pattern from India on Wednesday. The over 8% surplus this year has surpassed the IMD's estimates. For the first time since 2010, India got more than 100% of its long period average (LPA) of 88 cm in consecutive years. Last year the country saw record rainfall of 110% of the LPA, the highest in a quarter century. India has never got over 105% of the LPA in consecutive years in at least 30 years, according to records available since 1988 on the IMD website. Meteorologists often speak of two or three decade 'epochs' of rainfall variation. Since 2000, India was in a low patch with several drought years and had barely a handful of above normal or excess rainfall. In that light, the two years of a munificent monsoon could signal a possible return to a rainy epoch. While it could mean more rain, it also implies floods, overflowing dams, landslides and loss of lives. Moreover, surplus rains are not evenly distributed in time and space. Therefore, much like there are attempts to improve flood forecast warnings – especially the short-term ones – there ought to be commensurate efforts by authorities and infrastructure agencies to prepare for the environmental and ecological impact of excess rain. This year the IMD undertook a long-due revision of the onset and withdrawal dates of the monsoon in India. By this reckoning, the monsoon's normal withdrawal date was October 15. Historically, this has always been a statistical average and the actual withdrawal is usually within a few days of this. However, this year the withdrawal has been extremely delayed. Factoring in these changes must become a key part of a State and city's disaster management preparedness.

The southwest monsoon's withdrawal also heralds the advent of north-easterly winds that bring in the northeast monsoon to parts of peninsular Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. While significant to the agriculture there, the northeast monsoon contributes 10%-12% of India's annual rainfall, against the southwest monsoon's 75%-80%. That, and its limited geographic spread has meant that the northeast monsoon is not showered with as much research attention. However, studies show that northeast monsoon rainfall displays significant variation and climate models are fairly inaccurate in their forecasts of its unfolding over the sub-continent. There have been significant investments in super computing infrastructure to simulate weather as well as to tune forecasts to go beyond just giving rainfall estimates and factor in the potential damage of floods and cyclones. Building on these, scientists must also put in more effort and design research programmes that better analyse the vagaries of the northeast monsoon. Along with more understanding of how climate is changing locally, India needs better science to prepare more effective disaster management plans and improve resilience in a warming world.

Time for a 'sponge cities' mission in India

The idea needs traction at a time when discussion on urban flooding only reduces the problem to simple dichotomies



KABEER ARORA

Unpredictable nature, unbridled avarice and untrammeled urbanisation are back in currency, this time, in the wake of torrential rains in the third week of October in Hyderabad. Over 50 people died. Hundreds of riverbed huts were flushed away. Thousands of homes remain submerged two weeks after the flood. The scale of destruction has been unprecedented. This experience is not unique to the city of Hyderabad but something that cities across India have been experiencing in recent years. Barely five years ago, it was Chennai that saw a massive flood costing much damage and lives; Gurugram over the past few years comes to a complete standstill during the monsoon months, and for Mumbai, the monsoon has become synonymous with flooding and enormous damages.

The case of Hyderabad

Almost 10 years ago, scientists from the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, Germany, built climate change adaptation tools for Hyderabad (<https://bit.ly/34FVbR>). However, the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority of that time did not use it. Such tools are held in trust by many civil society organisations across the country in many of our cities (<http://cathy.hydlab.in/>). Anticipating significant increases in rainfall, they offered tools to build solutions. So what was it really brought us down to our knees?

Our persistence in using these cliched expressions year after year also restitutes a profoundly disabling account of the world. After all, what can one do against such trans-historic forces? Let us examine these claims closely.

The first is unprecedented rainfall. On September 21, 2016, break-

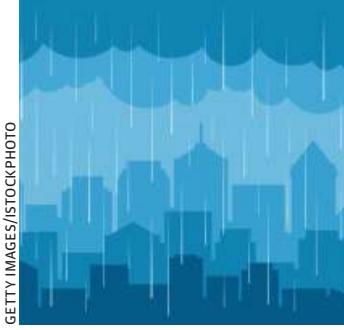
ing a 16-year record, Hyderabad received 16 cm of rain in a single day; in September 2017, the city witnessed a 450% increase compared to the average rainfall it receives during this month; in September 2019, the rainfall was the highest in 100 years, while in October it was in 62% in excess. The rainfall received in 2020 has been the highest for the month of October in a century. Every year, the rains bring something unprecedented with them. But our constant, unwavering attention to the rainfall levels draws our attention away from our inability to manage the city's drainage systems. The floods of October 2020 occurred because we did not discharge the water in time. And when we did discharge the water, we did it in a sudden, uncontrolled manner. To put it bluntly, first our sluices did not open and then our bunds breached.

The second is antiquated infrastructure. Hyderabad's century-old drainage system (developed in the 1920s) covered only a small part of the core city. In the last 20 years, the city has grown at least four times its original built-up area.

But the areas that suffered from the floods of 1908, 2001, and 2005 have not been hit by the 2020 floods. The narrative of antiquated infrastructure conceals the fact that the city has grown rapidly, and into areas where there was no drainage infrastructure to begin with. And as the city grew beyond its original limits, not much was done to address the absence of adequate drainage systems.

Communities are left out

Government pronouncements, media representations and public protests have all focused repeatedly on factors which by their very description fall outside our capacity to influence. So what is to be done? The manner in which we talk about recurring floods in the city often reduces the problem to simple dichotomies of public versus private property and individual conduct versus faceless governmental action. This means that we neglect the issues of incremental land use change, particularly of those commons which pro-



vide us with necessary ecological support – wetlands. This framing also disavows the role of local communities in managing local ecosystems – people with traditional rights for fishing and farming. This is a lesson that has been learnt by others around the world. We need to start paying attention to the management of our wetlands by involving local communities. The risk is going to increase year after year with changing rainfall patterns and a problem of urban terrain which is incapable of absorbing, holding and discharging water.

Making cities permeable

Urban floods of this scale cannot be contained by the municipal authorities alone. Nor can they be dealt with by the State government. They cannot be managed without concerted and focused investments of energy and resources. Such investments can only be done in a mission mode organisation with active participation of civil society organisations at the metropolitan scale. In Hyderabad, this can be done by the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority, but all metropolitan areas have similar organisations with constitutional mandates via the metropolitan planning committee. So what should the mission objectives be?

We need a mission that mitigates flood risk and provides a pathway to water security. The most promising idea across the world at this time appears to be the idea of "sponge cities". The idea of a sponge city is to make cities more permeable so as to hold and use the water which falls upon it. Sponge cities absorb the rain water, which is then naturally fil-

tered by the soil and allowed to reach urban aquifers. This allows for the extraction of water from the ground through urban or peri-urban wells. This water can be treated easily and used for city water supply. In built form, this implies contiguous open green spaces, interconnected waterways, and channels and ponds across neighbourhoods that can naturally detain and filter water. It implies support for urban ecosystems, bio-diversity and newer cultural and recreational opportunities. These can all be delivered effectively through an urban mission along the lines of the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), National Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY) and Smart Cities Mission. On a top priority, such a mission should address the following.

The first subject is wetland poli-

cacy. In most of our lakes, the shallow ends, which often lie beyond the full tank level, have disappeared. These shallow ends are best characterised as wetlands; sometimes owned by private individuals, other times existing as ecological commons. Regardless of ownership, land use on even this small scale needs to be regulated by development control.

Watersheds, terrain alteration

Watershed management and emergency drainage plan is next. This should be clearly enunciated in policy and law. Urban watersheds are micro ecological drainage systems, shaped by contours of terrain.

Detailed documentation of these must be held by agencies which are not bound by municipal jurisdictions; instead, we need to consider natural boundaries such as watersheds instead of governance boundaries like electoral wards for shaping a drainage plan. The Metropolitan Development Authorities, National Disaster Management Authority, State revenue and irrigation departments along with municipal corporations should be involved in such work together.

Ban against terrain alteration is third. Lasting irreversible damage

has been done to the city by builders, property owners, and public agencies by flattening terrain and altering drainage routes.

Without doubt, terrain alteration needs to be strictly regulated and a ban on any further alteration of terrain needs to be introduced. Our cities are becoming increasingly impervious to water, not just because of increasing built up but also because of the nature of materials used (hard, non-porous construction material that makes the soil impervious). To improve the city's capacity to absorb water, new porous materials and technologies must be encouraged or mandated across scales. Examples of these technologies are bioswales and retention systems, permeable material for roads and pavement, drainage systems which allow storm water to trickle into the ground, green roofs and harvesting systems in buildings. These not only reduce run-off and the load on infrastructure, but also help keep water in the city for later use.

Stop the blame, start action

Acknowledging the role of different actors for the city can create a practical space to begin this work. Doing so will not just help control recurring floods but also respond to other fault lines, provide for water security, more green spaces, and will make the city resilient and sustainable. The constant search for a scapegoat to blame, while a few people try what they can, limits our capacities and only creates cycles of devastation.

We must not allow nature, human conduct, and urbanisation to be mystified and rendered as trans-historic villains. We can learn to live with nature, we can regulate human conduct through the state and we can strategically design where we build. We need to urgently rebuild our cities such that they have the sponginess to absorb and release water without causing so much misery and so much damage to the most vulnerable of our citizens, as we have seen.

Kabeer Arora is an urbanist working with Hyderabad Urban Lab. The views expressed are personal

The 'swing State' skew in the U.S. electoral framework

The political balance in some of these States could make 2020 one of the most closely contested American polls



ATANU BISWAS

In his legal thriller, *Too Close to Call*, American lawyer Jeffrey Toobin portrayed the 36 anxiety-filled days following the U.S. presidential election of 2000 that culminated in one of the most stunning Supreme Court decisions in American history. A margin of only 537 votes in Florida made Republican George W. Bush defeat Democrat Al Gore in that election. In fact, with 29 electoral votes at the moment, Florida is a large 'swing State' in the U.S., having roughly an even number of Democrats and Republicans. Whoever won Florida became the President in all elections since 1928, except 1960 and 1992. However, the State of Ohio with 18 electoral votes is possibly a microcosm of the U.S. in a better way. Since 1896, the buckeye State has wrongly predicted the presidential election only in 1944 and 1960.

On electoral votes

First-past-the-post is a 'plurality' voting system where the candidate winning the most votes in a constituency is elected. While a 'constituency' means a Lok Sabha constituency in the general election in India, it is mostly a State in the U.S. presidential election. In 48 States

and DC, the candidate winning most votes in a State receives all of that State's electors; Nebraska and Maine are further divided in congressional districts. The U.S. 'Electoral College' has 538 electors, where an absolute majority of at least 270 electoral votes is required to win the election. Each State gets two electoral votes for its two U.S. Senators, and one more vote for each of its members in the House of Representatives. California has the maximum electors (55), while Alaska has only three electoral votes. And the Twenty-third Amendment, ratified in 1961, grants the District of Columbia the same number of electors as the least populous State.

Consequently, individual citizens in less populated States have proportionately more voting power than those in more populous States. Dividing the estimated population of the U.S. in 2019, obtained by the U.S. Census Bureau, i.e. 328,239,523, by the total electoral votes (i.e. 538), one electoral vote corresponds to every 610,111 people, on an average. However, remarkable variation exists between the States. Florida and Wyoming (with 29 and 3 electoral votes, and population figures of 21,477,737 and 578,759, respectively) have 740,612 and 192,920 people per electoral vote, respectively. Thus, while an average person of Florida has 82.4% clout of an average American in the Electoral College, an average person of Wyoming has 316.3%.

Campaigns and swing States It is widely observed that most of the States in the U.S. have voted for the same party, the Republicans or the Democrats, in the most recent elections. However, some States occasionally 'swing' from one party to another. Thus, the key election strategy is to fix the



There are instances of losing the election despite getting more 'popular votes', even in this century. While U.S. President Donald Trump got 77 more electoral votes than Hillary Clinton despite getting 2.1% less nationwide popular vote share in 2016, George W. Bush won the presidency by a margin of only five electoral votes despite trailing 0.51% in popular vote share in the thrilling contest of 2000. Such a situation is not quite uncommon in India as well. In 2018, in the Karnataka Assembly elections, the Bharatiya Janata Party had won 26 more seats despite getting 1.8% less votes than the Congress, while, in the Madhya Pradesh elections, the Congress won five more seats than the BJP although the BJP's vote share was 0.13% more than that of Congress.

Creating a pool of health practitioners for primary health-care services in rural India The emphasis on the study of medicine is closely related to the basic need of the very huge population of India starved of primary health-care services especially after the fading of traditional systems labelled as obsolete and inadequate. In this connection, the Manmohan Singh government made efforts to introduce a B.Sc (C.H.) or community health degree course in universities with a view to

campaign plan accordingly. For obvious reasons, there is not much point of desperate campaigning in States heavily inclined towards favouring either party. The list of 'swing States' certainly changes over time. In 2020, States such as Florida, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Georgia, North Carolina, Arizona, Wisconsin, and Iowa feature prominently in this list. However, Ohio, Wisconsin and Iowa were not among the most competitive States according to a pre-election analysis of 2016.

The decisive vote

Had just 269 Republican votes been shifted in favour of Al Gore in Florida, it would have changed the outcome of the entire 2000 presidential election. And, astonishingly, that was nearly 0.00026% of the total number of U.S. votes. What then is the worth of a single vote in the U.S. presidential election? Certainly, the worth of a vote is bound to vary from constituency to constituency in a first-past-the-post system. In a 2012 research paper published in the journal, *Economic Inquiry*, Andrew Gelman, a professor of Statistics at Columbia University, Nate Silver of the poll aggregators 'FiveThirtyEight', and Aaron Edlin of the University of California, Berkeley, have estimated that the probability of a single vote being decisive in the U.S. presidential elections is, at most, about one in 10 million in a few States near the national median. This might even become one in a million in the closest State. On

the other hand, for voters in 'safe States' such as New York, California and Texas, the probability of a decisive vote is closer to one in a billion, which is effectively zero. Averaging these probabilities over all the States and weighting by turnout yielded a one in 60 million chance that a randomly selected voter would be decisive.

Electoral college matters

Overall, this is the structure of the U.S. presidential elections. Obviously, it is an unprecedented election in 2020 when a sitting President is up to his re-election bid amid a deadly pandemic ravaging the world and causing a tanking of the U.S. economy. While Democrat Joe Biden is leading at the moment according to most opinion polls, we must keep in mind that only the 'electoral college' matters in the U.S. elections – not the 'popular votes'. And, the political balance in some 'swing States' is so evenly poised that the U.S. election might turn to be 'Too Close to Call'. There is no scope of surprise even if the election is finally decided by only a few hundred votes in a State such as Pennsylvania, for example. The Florida episode of 2000 is still vivid in memory. And many Americans believe that the appointment of Justice Amy Coney Barrett in the Supreme Court just before the election might become crucial in such a situation.

Atanu Biswas is Professor of Statistics, Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata

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.

Horror in France The French tolerance to Islam and its leanings to secularism in modern day France has its logical roots from its resurgence out of a class-centric French revolution. In fact the influential Basques cover a very large area of northwest France. Their roots are from the Moors with deep Arab links. Thus, Islamic strands could weave well with a potpourri of cultures flourishing in the French ethos.

The rise of militant Islam – the causes of which are yet to clearly emerge and would need extensive research – has been impacting the very image of this otherwise prolific religion. France too now seems to be as perplexed as many other nations around the globe, to understand and deal with increasing Islamic extremism. What is worrying is that the famously secular Turkey of Kamal Ataturk should be seriously in conflict with

France subsequent to the dastardly beheading of the French teacher, that has ignited worldwide revulsion.
R. NARAYANAN,
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The importance of being Indian in America

While many Indian Americans are campaigning vigorously for Democratic nominee Joe Biden, several others are making strenuous efforts to keep Donald Trump in the White House. **Sriram Lakshman** reports on the issues and aspirations of a politically charged community

Tens of millions of Americans have voted already and many more are expected to vote on November 3, Election Day. The levels of political polarisation are high in the country and presidential candidates on both sides have called this the most consequential election in recent times.

Indian Americans, of whom there are 4.16 million (and just over 2.6 million U.S. citizens), comprise less than 1% of registered voters, but the group has gained prominence in the list of priorities of both the Donald Trump and Joe Biden campaigns as well as in "down ballot" contests.

"There are both push and pull factors at play. Both presidential campaigns are actively courting the Indian American vote, which is creating greater awareness. But there is also increased bottom-up mobilisation due to growing political socialisation, campaign giving and interest group formation," says Milan Vaishnav, who directs the South Asia program at the Carnegie Endowment and has co-authored the Indian American Attitudes Survey (IAAS) 2020.

In conversations and public events, it is clear that neither side is coy about getting to the crux of the matter: the number of Indian American voters in some battleground states such as Florida, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin exceeds the 2016 presidential victory margin in those states. These voters could – at least in theory – be key to winning the presidency.

Determination on both sides

The community is seeing unprecedented levels of political engagement and mobilisation at all levels: more candidates, more voter outreach, more fundraising. A part of this is a reflection of what is happening across the board in the U.S., but a part is unique to the community.

"I call it coming of age," says Shekar Narasimhan, a Democrat, and Chairman and Founder of the AAPI Victory Fund, a "Super PAC", a type of Political Action Committee or PAC that spends money independently of a campaign but can receive unlimited contributions from individuals and organisations.

"...Young people growing up in this country, getting to vote..., 70% of the Indians who've come to this country have come since 2000. Most of them... have gotten citizenship," he says. "But the second thing is Trump. I view Trump as the best organiser for our community," Narasimhan says, referring to Trump as "blatantly anti-immigrant."

If getting Trump out of the White House is a motivating factor for Indians on the Democratic side of the aisle, keeping him there for a second term is motivating a smaller but no less determined group of Indian Americans on the Republican side.

Some 72% of registered voters are expected to vote for Democratic candidate Joe Biden and 22% for incumbent President Donald Trump, as per the IAAS.

The available data from voter surveys suggest that while Indian Americans are significantly with the Democratic Party, there is evidence of some shift towards the Republican Party since 2016, the year of Trump's election.

Close to 60 Indian American candidates are running for state legislatures or the U.S. Congress or are on the presidential ticket according to a partial list obtained from the Indian American Impact Fund, a PAC. There are many more running for office at the local level and some who did not make it past the primary stage.

A total of 158 Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) candidates are running for state legislatures, a record. Some 21% of these are South Asians, 75% are Democrats and 25% are Republicans, as per AAPI Data, a data and policy research organisation.

'2016 changed everything'

At their home in Malvern, in Chester, a county just west of Philadelphia, which Hillary Clinton won in 2016, an Indian American couple in their sixties, Jayashree and K.S. Bhaskar, spent the evening on Thursday making telephone calls to voters asking them if they have a plan to vote or if they've voted already.

Jayashree is from Bengaluru and Bhaskar spent his early years in Chennai, Mumbai and Delhi. They moved to the States in the 1980s and became American citizens in the 1990s. They have always been politically active, Jayashree says, canvassing for candidates and so forth. "But 2016 changed everything," she says. "We decided we needed to do a little bit more than sitting on the sidelines and lamenting about the course the country is taking."

Bhaskar ran and won an election at the municipal level. They volunteer with They See Blue (a play on Desi Blue) a group of Democrats that works informally (and therefore not bound by campaign financing laws that apply to nonprofits) to get out the vote.

Volunteer groups that coordinate



Supporters watch a video of U.S. President Donald Trump while waiting in the rain for his arrival at a campaign rally in Lansing, Michigan. (Below): A supporter of U.S. Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden attends a drive-in campaign event in Bristol, Pennsylvania. ■ AFP, REUTERS



with the official campaign and groups that work independently of it (including for legal reasons) are active across several states.

"In so many cases, our communities have been so historically cut off from the political process for language barrier reasons, for cultural reasons," says Mohan Seshadri, whose parents came to the U.S. from India.

Seshadri, who is in his twenties, is Political Director of the Asian Pacific Islander Political Alliance – an organisation that works independently of the Biden campaign but supports the Biden candidacy.

His organisation's outreach has been in several Asian languages. They just completed a six figure digital ad buy in English, Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese with ads on Facebook, Hulu and so forth, Seshadri says. They also have a direct mail campaign – sending messages in support of the Biden-Harris ticket and also other candidates ("down ballot") in the state of Pennsylvania, where Seshadri lives.

While most Indian immigrants to the U.S. are conversant in English, language is nevertheless important to campaigning, especially for non-Indian Asian communities.

This isn't lost on candidates either.

"We are running a campaign in 27 languages to meet voters where they are at. Inclusion is at the core of this campaign, and we are excited to bring that to Congress," Sri Preston Kulkarni, who is running for the U.S. Congress from Texas, told *The Hindu* via email.

This year, as in India, there is a lot of misinformation around the elections, often transmitted via WhatsApp, Jayashree says. "The common theme is 'Don't vote for Biden or Kamala because they're anti-India...they're pro-Pakistan, anti-India,'" Jayashree says. *The Hindu* got access to a few of these posts.

Groups like 'Desis United', which is part of a PAC, seek to counter misinformation campaigns or negative ads with their own messaging. "Someone who looks like us on a presidential ticket... that's crazy!" one woman says in a video "Our Community's Candidate" about Kamala Harris. The video, most of which has Hindi narration set to Indian music, says don't vote for someone just because they are Indian (at this point one sees images of Republican politicians Bobby Jindal, Nikki Haley and Ajit Pai) but vote for them because they stand for values: education, family (a photo of Harris and her grandparents in traditional Indian attire is shown at this

point), nonviolence. Biden-Harris policies flash across the screen as does Harris's mother Shyamala Gopalan saying, "A culture that worships goddesses produces strong women."

The IAAS finding on the Harris nomination is that while it may not change a large number of votes (since most Indian Americans already vote Democrat), it has led to higher levels of enthusiasm for the Democratic ticket.

The candidates themselves have actively courted the Indian American and the Hindu American community, participating in Independence Day commemorations around August 15, sending messages around Hindu festivals – presumably in response to criticisms that the candidates were not doing enough to recognise Hindu Americans.

Democratic party donor and fundraiser Frank Islam who is originally from Azamgarh, in Uttar Pradesh, says the view that a Biden presidency is bad for India and Trump presidency is good to it, is not based on facts.

"He [Mr. Trump] has criticised India and mocked [Prime Minister] Narendra Modi himself multiple times. If you recall, he strongly criticised India in both his debates with Biden, each time clubbing New Delhi with Moscow and Beijing," he says.

Biden has sought to burnish his own India credentials talking about his role, as a Senator, in finalising the U.S. India Civil Nuclear Deal and declaring that under his presidency the U.S. would stand with India against terror and Chinese threats.

Most of the campaigning on the Democratic side has been virtual this year. The tone is set at the top. Biden and Trump have very different approaches to the pandemic. Trump has said the country is "rounding the turn," is not enthusiastic about mask wearing and social distancing, and is conducting large rallies across the country.

Biden holds drive-in rallies or virtual events and has promoted mask wearing. The candidates also differ in their positions on when and how to open up the economy. In addition to running largely on his economic record, Trump has

cited depression, job loss, suicide and abuse among reasons he wants the country to open fast.

Republicans have been knocking on doors as part of their campaign – a million doors a week in their estimation. Democrats have only more recently engaged in this form of campaigning.

"In my experience, many Indian-Americans won't open their doors to strangers as it is, so I can't imagine that door-to-door campaigning during a pandemic is going to have a significant impact on which presidential candidate our community votes for," says Chavi Khanna Koneru, a lawyer who runs a community organisation, North Carolina Asian Americans Together in Action.

Support for Trump

Heading the Trump campaign's outreach is Co-chair of Trump Victory Indian-American Finance Committee, Al Mason. Mason, an Indian American, is the man behind an ad the Trump campaign released this summer featuring clips of Modi and Trump at their joint rallies in Houston and Ahmedabad. This ad, which targets Indian American voters, features Trump telling a crowd: "America loves India, America respects India..."

Mason says he has surveyed the voting preferences of over 10,000 people. "According to my research – take it to the bank – I have everything documented – 50% of Indian Americans who have never been Republicans are moving over, or rather had moved over to President Trump," he says. "So anyone speaking otherwise is speaking nonsense," he told *The Hindu*, which followed up with a Trump campaign official to get the survey report and data from Mason. The response said 6,000-7,000 Indian Americans in each of five battleground states were spoken to. A published report with sampling methods, size and margin of error was not provided.

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FROM PAGE ONE

Rules bar bonus for those facing sex abuse charges

The Committee is required to make recommendations to employers on the action required pursuant to its inquiry in such complaints.

"If the ICC upholds a complaint, it could be construed as a conviction," Ms. Chakraborty said, adding that the ICC has the powers to decide if someone is guilty and report it further to the police, though not all sexual harassment cases translate into a police case.

Calling this a step forward towards creating seriousness towards instances of sexual harassment, Anshul Jain, partner at PwC told *The Hindu*: "The rules under the Code on Wages should clarify whether the conviction would cover cases of outcomes of the investigation by the Internal Complaints Committee ar-

riving at a conclusion to pay compensation to the victim or not." While the other disqualification triggers for withholding bonus dues, like theft and violent conduct are explicitly restricted to actions on an employer's premises of the employer, the trigger referring to conviction under sexual harassment doesn't include such a condition about the location of the incident.

"At this point, it is not clear if sexual harassment incidents or related crimes against women outside the workplace could lead to dismissal of employees with loss of bonus payments. But yes, harassing a co-worker irrespective of where it is done, should come under this provision's purview," said a labour law consultant, requesting anonymity.

Import barriers not to be perpetual: NITI Aayog

"But it will be done in a global context. It will be done with India remaining open and trying to regain its share in global and regional production chains, it will be done with respect to rule-bound multilateral trading orders. It will not imply in any sense any form of isolation, closed economy or protectionism," he said.

Mr. Kumar added that the country will do its best to increase the share of trade in its gross domestic product (GDP).

"If there is any support given to domestic enterprises, it will all be targeted towards creating globally competitive capacities and

any support that we give them through tariffs would have an in-built sunset clause. I wanted to emphasise India's commitment to a global economy with open order," Mr. Kumar said in an address to the Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

Mr. Kumar also called for a more empathetic and humane approach to assess economic growth beyond GDP numbers and flagged concerns about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the onset of technologies like robotics, machine learning and artificial intelligence on job creation.

"He was playing in the compound, while the parents were working in the building. The boy went near the lift shaft, which is around 10 feet deep. It was filled

with water from the recent rains. He lost his footing and fell into the pit," said a police

officer.

Workers in the area saw the boy approaching the lift

shaft but could not stop his fall.

They immediately pulled him out from the pit.

"Vinod was still alive when he was pulled out, but had a head injury. He was rushed to a nearby private hospital but died a few hours later," a police official said.

Case against owner

The Kengeri police have registered a case of causing death due to negligence against the building owner.

The lift shaft was kept open with no safety precautions or barricades to prevent anyone from falling.

"Given that the pit was around 10 feet deep and was filled with water, it was a potential danger to even adults working at the site. We are investigating the case," the police said.

bala Bhanu, Simhadri Prasad, vehicle driver P. Narasimha Dora, S. Gopala Krishna and Ch. Hema Sri-latha, all belonging to East Godavari district.

Naidu expresses grief

Telugu Desam Party national president N. Chandrababu Naidu expressed shock and profound grief over the deaths.

Calling the accident 'very unfortunate', he conveyed his deep sympathies to the bereaved family members.

The TDP leader said that the government should ensure proper treatment to those who sustained injuries and provide all possible assistance to the families of the victims.

Telangana unveils electric vehicles policy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

A policy to promote usage, ownership and manufacture of electric vehicles (EVs) as well as encourage setting up of allied infrastructure, such as charging stations through a bouquet of incentives and facilitation measures, was unveiled on Friday by the Telangana government.

Talking at the launch of the Telangana Electric Vehicle & Energy Storage Policy 2020-203, Industries and Information Technology Minister K.T. Rama Rao said that it was a comprehensive policy and drafted in consultation with industry and public policy institutions.



Fatal fall: The vehicle that rolled down the hill at Thantikonda village in Andhra Pradesh. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Seven killed in A.P. as van rolls down hill

Marriage party was returning after function when vehicle rolled down stairs and overturned

STAFF REPORTER
KAKINADA

Seven persons of a marriage party were killed and one was seriously injured when a minivan, in which 16 persons were travelling, rolled down the hill top at the Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple at Thantikonda village under Rajamahendravaram Urban police limits in East Godavari district on Friday.

The bridegroom's family from Tagorepalam village in Govakaram mandal and the bride's family from Velugubanda village in Raja Nagaram mandal had come to the temple to perform the marriage.

While returning after the wedding around 2.30 a.m.,

the van, instead of taking the road downhill, rolled down the stairs and overturned, according to Rajamahendravaram Urban Superintendent of Police Shemushi Bajpai.

Police suspect that a mechanical problem in starting the vehicle could have led to the van going off the path.

At least five persons, including three women, died on the spot. The bride and the bridegroom are safe. One person, S. Venkata Lakshmi, has been shifted to the Government General Hospital in Kakinada for further treatment.

The deceased are Y. Sridevi, Y. Naga Srilakshmi, Kam-

Two-year-old falls into lift pit, dies

The child's parents live in a temporary shed at the construction site

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

A two-year-old boy, son of a labourer couple, succumbed to his injuries hours after he fell into a pit dug for a lift shaft at an under-construction building site in Kodipalya, near Kengeri Gate here, on Friday.

The child's parents, who hail from Vijayapura, work on the site as construction labourer and watchman, and lived in a temporary shed on the work site. Police suspect that the child, Vinod Kumar, may have followed his mother to the under-construction building when she went to work.

"He was playing in the compound, while the parents were working in the building. The boy went near the lift shaft, which is around 10 feet deep. It was filled



Death trap: The under-construction lift area, where the toddler fell and died. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

with water from the recent rains. He lost his footing and fell into the pit," said a police

officer.

Workers in the area saw the boy approaching the lift

shaft but could not stop his fall.

They immediately pulled him out from the pit.

"Vinod was still alive when he was pulled out, but had a head injury. He was rushed to a nearby private hospital but died a few hours later," a police official said.

Case against owner

The Kengeri police have registered a case of causing death due to negligence against the building owner.

The lift shaft was kept open with no safety precautions or barricades to prevent anyone from falling.

"Given that the pit was around 10 feet deep and was filled with water, it was a potential danger to even adults working at the site. We are investigating the case," the police said.

Govt. backs survivor's plea in actor rape case

It cites sessions court's hostile attitude

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

The Kerala government on Friday supported in the High Court the plea for a change of trial court by the survivor in the woman actor sexual assault case in which actor Dileep is one of the accused.

When the petition filed by the survivor came up before Justice V.G. Arun, Senior Public Prosecutor Suman Chakravarthy submitted that a fair trial in the case would not be possible before the additional special sessions judge.

In fact, the Special Prosecutor appointed to conduct the trial had suffered extreme difficulties owing to

the hostile and partisan attitude of the sessions court, he said.

The survivor was harassed during the trial by the counsel of the accused and the trial court did not prevent the counsel from asking defamatory questions. The court had violated the in-camera proceedings norms by allowing around 20 lawyers inside the court when the survivor was examined.

The conduct of the court was biased, which was detrimental to the interest of the judicial system as well as the survivor, Mr. Chakravarthy said.

The court adjourned hearing on the petition to November 2.

and 27 of 49 deaths. Karnataka carried out 1,03,281 tests during the day, 79,369 of them RT-PCR tests.

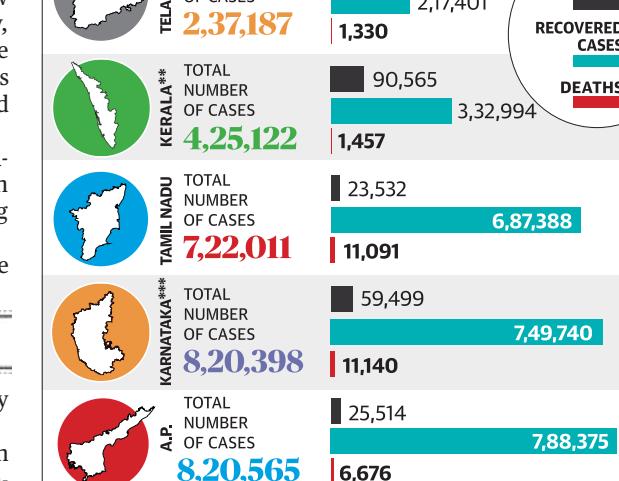
Seven districts, including Chennai, accounted for more than half of the 2,608 fresh COVID-19 cases reported in Tamil Nadu on Friday. The new cases pushed the State's tally to 7,22,011.

About 62% of the new cases were reported in Chennai, Coimbatore, Chengalpattu, Tiruvallur, Tiruppur, Erode and Salem, while the remaining districts had less than 100 cases each.

Chennai's overall tally of COVID-19 cases moved closer to the two lakh-mark. A total of 1,99,173 persons have tested positive for the infection in the city till date.

In the last 24 hours, 77,356 samples were tested in the State.

(With inputs from Vijayawada, Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Chennai bureaus)



2,886 new infections and 17 new deaths on Friday.

The positivity rate for 84,401 samples was 3.42% and overall positivity rate of 79.46 lakh tests 10.33%.

Three districts reported

Kannigiri reported one new death each, West Godavari reported 493 new cases, the highest.

It was followed by Krishna (448), East Godavari (405), Guntur (385), Chittoor (296), Visakhapatnam (152), Anantapur (151), Kadapa (148), Prakasam (146), Nellore (80), Srikrakulam (77), Vizianagram (69) and Kurnool (36).

Telangana added 1,531 cases on Thursday. The State tested 43,790 samples. There were six more fatalities. Greater Hyderabad recorded 293 cases, Medchal-Malkajgiri district 120, Rangareddy 114, and Bhadravathi 96.

People with moderate to severe symptoms were asked to report to notified government hospitals in the State.

Karnataka on Friday reported 3,589 new cases, with a positivity rate of 3.47%, and 49 new deaths. Bengaluru Urban reported 1,811 cases

Kerala's positivity rate unchanged at over 12%

A.P. with 2,886 new cases records 3.42%; Karnataka's 3,589 represent 3.47%; Telangana adds 1,531 cases

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala reported 6,638 new COVID-19 cases on Friday, testing 53,981 samples. The test positivity rate was 12.29%, in the 12%-14% band seen in recent days.

Of active cases, 806 patients were critically ill, in ICUs, with 230 requiring ventilator support.

Fresh deaths added to the

COVID-19

State's official list on Friday stood at 28.

These occurred between October 17 and 27. Thiruvananthapuram accounted for seven, Kozhikode five, Malappuram and Thrissur three each, Ernakulam, Kottayam, and Kollam two each, and Alappuzha, Pathanamthitta, Wayanad, and Kannur one each.

Andhra Pradesh reported

received any relief are left seething with anger.

At a few locations such as Nagole, residents held the distribution officials hostage, demanding relief amounts. GHMC officials had to seek help from the police to get their colleagues released.

Thousands of city residents, flood affected as well as unaffected, who have not

wealth and investments.

The ED has frozen Bineesh's known assets in Kerala. However, the agency required to verify reports that Bineesh had sunk his allegedly illegitimate earnings into real estate, cinema, hotel, plantation and forex businesses in Kerala.

The arrest of one Muhammad Anoop, a Kochi resident, on drug charges by the Narcotic Control Bureau (NCB) in Bengaluru in April had led to the arrest of Bineesh on Thursday.

The ED described Anoop as a 'drug peddler.' It said a massive infusion of funds into Bineesh's accounts from questionable sources often preceded his periodic cash transfers to Anoop.

Bineesh Kodiyeri

cratic Front on the defensive.)

The agency required to 'unearth' the illegal money routes and identify Bineesh's benefactors in the country and abroad. It deemed Bineesh uncooperative during questioning and cagey about his source of

new deaths, and Krishnagiri district three deaths. Guntur, Chittoor, Visakhapatnam, Anantapur and Kadapa reported two deaths each while West Godavari, East Godavari, Prakasam and Vi-

zianagram reported one new death each, West Godavari reported 493 new cases, the highest.

It was followed by Krishna (448), East Godavari (405), Guntur (385), Chittoor (296), Visakhapatnam (152), Anantapur (151), Kadapa (148), Prakasam (146), Nellore (80), Srikrakulam (77), Vizianagram (69) and Kurnool (36).

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with a married woman a conspiracy. A Telugu TV channel aired breaking news of linking the Minister (without naming him) with the chat.

Speaking to *The Hindu* about the circulation of screenshots of the video chat and the 'breaking news', the Minister brushed it

EC revokes Kamal Nath's status as star campaigner

Order cites repeated violation of model code of conduct

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) on Friday revoked the status of Congress leader and former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath as a star campaigner for the party in the ongoing State Assembly by-polls for "repeated violation of Model Code of Conduct (MCC) and for completely disregarding the advisory issued to him," an EC order said.

The EC said the entire expenditure on any campaigning by Mr. Nath for the November 3 by-election would be borne by the candidate in whose constituency he campaigns. The expenditure of star campaigners' events, travel and stay is borne by the party and is not added to the candidate's spending, which is limited.



Kamal Nath

"...the Commission has carefully considered the matter and has observed with displeasure that Shri Kamal Nath despite being a leader of a political party is repeatedly violating the provisions of Model Code of Conduct and breaching the ethical and dignified behaviour," the EC order said.

The EC had issued an advisory to Mr. Nath on Monday for violation of the MCC and the EC's advisory to can-

candidates and parties against any speech or actions against the dignity of women for his remarks calling a woman candidate an "item".

The EC had advised him not to use such language in public utterances.

The EC said another complaint had been brought to its notice from the Madhya Pradesh Bharatiya Janata Party that Mr. Nath had on October 13 called Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan "nautanki ke kakaoar" (an artist in a street play) and that he should go to Mumbai to act.

The EC said it had received a report from the Chief Electoral Officer of the State with a transcript from a speech that quoted Mr. Nath as saying "aapke bhagwan toh voh mafia hai" (Your god is mafia).

BJP leader Vijayvargiya violated model code: EC

'Chunnu-munnu' taunt invites trouble

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) on Friday found BJP leader Kailash Vijayvargiya in violation of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) for calling Congress leaders Kamal Nath and Digvijaya Singh "chunnu-munnu" while speaking at a rally in the ongoing Madhya Pradesh bypolls campaign.

The EC had issued a notice to Mr. Vijayvargiya on Monday for his remarks made at a rally in Sanwer, Indore, on October 14. In his response to the notice on Tuesday, the BJP leader denied the allegation and said the remarks quoted in the notice were in "complete misunderstanding of the context".

The EC said it had considered the matter and was of the view that Mr. Vijayvargiya had violated the MCC's para two, which states:

Minister gets 1-day ban on campaigning

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission on Friday barred Madhya Pradesh Higher Education Minister Mohan Yadav from campaigning on Saturday for the November 3 bypolls after finding him in violation of the Model Code of Conduct.

"Criticism of other political parties, when made, shall be confined to their policies and programme, past record and work. Parties and candidates shall refrain from criticism of all aspects of private life, not connected with the public activities of the leaders."

Car used to kill 3 BJP men seized

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

J&K police on Friday seized the car used to kill three BJP workers in south Kashmir on Thursday evening, as it started a manhunt to trace the attackers who, they have said, belong to the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and The Resistance Front (TRF).

The three were shot dead in Kulgam's Y.K. Pora area on Thursday.

"Militants from the LeT and the TRF had come in a vehicle and resorted to indiscriminate firing at the BJP youth leader Fida Hussain and his two colleagues. They fled in the same vehicle," Inspector General of Police Vijay Kumar said. The vehicle was seized near Achabal area of Anantnag district in south Kashmir on Friday.

"According to our technical and human intelligence, the three militants involved in the attack included two local militants, Nisar Ahmed Khanda and Abbas Sheikh. Sheikh was earlier with the Hizbul Mujahideen and later joined the LeT. The third one may be a foreigner," Mr. Kumar said.

PM condemns attack

Prime Minister Narendra Modi condemned the killing and expressed his condolences to the families.

The National Conference party, Peoples Democratic Party, CPI(M), Congress and J&K Apni Party also condemned the attack.

Rajasthan govt. set to bring Bill to counter Centre's farm laws

Assembly will resume business today



Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot. ■ FILE PHOTO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
JAIPUR

The Ashok Gehlot government in Rajasthan is likely to introduce an amendment Bill to counter the Centre's new farm laws when the State Assembly convenes on Saturday.

The fifth session of the current Assembly was adjourned on August 24 and the House will resume its business on October 31, according to the Rajasthan Legislative Secretariat.

The Rajasthan government's move to introduce the amendment Bill comes days after the Punjab Assembly adopted a resolution against the farm laws and unanimously passed four Bills to counter the Centre's contentious legislations.

Earlier, the Congress leadership had suggested to States where the party is in power to pass laws of their own, negating the Central

legislations.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, too, had said that his government will bring a Bill on the lines of Punjab.

The Union government, however, has been saying that the laws passed by Parliament recently amid a vociferous protest will raise farmers' income, free them from the clutches of the middlemen and usher in new technology in farming.

On Friday, Speaker C.P. Joshi visited the State Assembly to oversee the preparations and issued instruction to deal with the coronavirus threat.

Extensive arrangements have been made keeping in mind the precautions to be taken to tackle coronavirus, an official statement said.

The government is also likely to bring a Bill to make the wearing of masks mandatory in the State.

INTERVIEW | SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN

'Congress govt. played tricks with the people'

Good governance of BJP in the past 15 years speaks for itself, says Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister



CThe new members of our party have assimilated very well

Scindia's role in the byelection?

■ Mr. Scindia is a mass leader and a respected member of the BJP. He holds strong public support, and is working hard to make the BJP win the byelection.

Most seats are in the Gwalior-Chambal region, the Scindia stronghold. How did you reconcile your older, committed cadre and leaders

with the Scindia supporters who were their political adversaries in the past but are now BJP candidates?

■ The BJP is a democratic organisation where leaders emerge through their own excellence, capabilities and hard work. It is a big family. New members of our party have assimilated very well into it and have a unanimous thought process with the other members. They are one now. Each member is a dedicated one who is looking forward to the upcoming election and the development of the State. We are confident the BJP will win.

How challenging has campaigning been during the COVID-19 pandemic? Do you believe political parties and leaders are not taking the threat posed by the disease seriously?

■ Yes, it is a challenging sit-

uation and it is not just about campaigning. The whole world is facing this threat and we have to learn to live with it by taking all precautions. As a public representative, I can't stay away from common people for long and the same is the case with all other representatives too. Life needs to go on, but we should never forget to follow safety guidelines. I believe all political parties, leaders and members are well aware of the threat of COVID-19 and are following the safety measures while campaigning.

Defections from the Congress are still continuing. What do you believe is the primary cause of this series?

■ They were very disappointed and fed up with the working style and ill practices of Kamal Nath and Digvijaya Singh. They saw a ray of hope in the BJP.

Nitish attacks Lalu on women's welfare

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KHAGARIA

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Friday appealed to people to not "get misled" by those who "ignored" women and backward classes during their rule. At an election rally, he said, "They are talking today, but what was the condition of women earlier? They were ignored." Without naming RJD chief Lalu Prasad, Mr. Kumar said, "When he was sent to jail, he installed his wife (Rabri Devi) on the chair, but did nothing for the welfare of the women otherwise."

30th ANNIVERSARY



Pranams at the lotus feet of my beloved Guru Padma Bhushan awardee, Sangita Kalanidhi Dr. M.L. VASANTHAKUMARI Padma Bhushan awardee, Sangita Kalanidhi Smt. SUDHA RAGUNATHAN

Centre denies claim of Chinese transgression

Former MP says he stands by his words

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Press Information Bureau (PIB) has denied claims made by Ladakh's former Member of Parliament Thupstan Chhewang that the Chinese troops have further transgressed into Indian territory and occupied positions in Finger 2 and 3 of north bank of Pangong Tso (lake).

In the news report carried by *The Hindu*, Mr. Chhewang, a former Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP from Ladakh said he had received information from locals living in forward areas along the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh that Indian soldiers were living in

tents and it was not adequate for them in the sub-zero conditions.

Reacting to the report, PIB Fact check posted on Twitter, "@the_hindu" citing a claim, has published that Chinese troops have further transgressed into Indian territory and occupied positions in Finger 2 and 3 of the north bank of #PangongTso Lake. #PIBFactCheck: It is a #Fake news. @adgpi has refuted this statement."

Responding to PIB's tweet, Mr. Chhewang told *The Hindu* on Friday that he stood by his claim.

India and China have been engaged in a military standoff in eastern Ladakh for the past five months.

Congress asks govt. to clarify on 'incursion'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Congress leader in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury on Friday asked the Union government to "clarify" on the claims made by a former BJP MP from Ladakh that Chinese troops have further transgressed into Indian territory.

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi tweeted, "The soldiers of the country, despite living in ordinary tents in severe cold, stand up to the attack of China. While the Prime Minister of the country moves around in an ₹8400 crore aircraft, he is afraid even to take the name of China. Who got acche din?"

THE TAMILNADU INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of Tamil Nadu Undertaking)
692, Anna Salai, Nandanam, Chennai - 600 035
(Ph: 044-24331203, 24306100 E-mail: hrm@tic.org)

Applications are invited through open tender by M/S. Tamilnadu Industrial Investment Corporation Ltd. (TIIC), a State Financial Corporation, from Consultancy Organisations, for undertaking a study on 'Organisational Study for Restructuring and for assessment of manpower/skill sets requirement of TIIC'. Request For Proposal (RFP) and other details are available in the websites www.tic.org and www.tenders.tn.gov.in.

Clarifications and Corrigendum on any change will be uploaded only in the above websites.

DIPR/4056/Tender/2020

MANAGING DIRECTOR,
THE TIC LTD.



RFP for Legal Advisor

NSIC Venture Capital Fund Limited (NVCFL) is a wholly owned subsidiary of The National Small Industries Corporation, a Mini-Ratna Corporation of the Government of India under the Ministry of MSME. NVCFL is in the process for setting up of Self Reliant India (SRI) Fund, an FoF to be registered as an Alternative Investment Fund.

NVCFL requires services of a reputed Law Firm with experience and expertise in comprehensive handling of assignments relating to AIFs, VCFS, PE to act as Legal Advisor and assist NVCFL in all the processes and activities related to Fund of Funds (FoFs). The tenure for appointment would be for 5 years

Indian Law Firms, qualifying the eligibility conditions prescribed in the RFP, may submit their proposals latest by 3:00 PM on 16th November, 2020. The RFP can be downloaded from the website of NSIC (www.nsic.co.in).

Sd/-, NVCFL

Tel: 011-23924510, Email: osd.nvcfl@nsic.co.in

DIPR/20/2020/Tender/2020

SALEM CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
2020-21 INTEGRATED URBAN DEVELOPMENT MISSION - ROAD, STORM WATER DRAIN AND CULVERT WORK
RE E-TENDER NOTICE
(Double Cover System)

Date: 29.10.2020

1 Restoration of BT Road, Storm Water Drain and Culvert Damaged work in Division No: 9,10,34,35,36,37,39,41,42,43 and 44 in Ammapet Zone, Est. Rs. 733.41 Lakhs.

2 Bid document and other information available at (free of cost) www.tntenders.gov.in, www.salemcorporation.gov.in "e-submission" is also permitted.

Date, time and Venue for Tender Procedures.

3 Submission of bids - 31.10.2020 up to 09.12.2020 - 3.00 P.M.

Opening of bids - 09.12.2020 at 3.30 P.M.

DIPR/ 4064 /TENDER/2020

Commissioner, Salem Corporation

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)

49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan Race Course Road Bengaluru – 560 001 . Phone No. 080-22265383 website : www.kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-30/7280/2020-21 Date: 29.10.2020

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

(Through GOK e – Procurement Portal Only)

Item rate Tenders under two cover system are invited as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from Class-I Contractors (Civil) registered in KPWD who have got adequate financial resources & sufficient past experience for the following works

(1). Formation of Industrial Layout Including 45M Wide Rigid Pavement (Road No.17 & 20) 30M & 24M Wide Asphalt Road (Road No.23 & 26), Construction of RCC Side Drains, Ducts, RCC Cross Drainage Works, RCC Retaining Wall, RCC GLSR, RCC OHT, RWH, PUMP Room & HDPE Dual Water Supply Pipe Line for Haraluru-Muddenahalli Industrial Area, Bengaluru Rural District (Package-1) (2nd Call). (2) Formation of Industrial Layout Including 45M Wide Rigid Pavement (Road No.1, 2 & 5) 30M & 18M Wide Asphalt Road (Road No.4 & Service Road), Construction of RCC Side Drains, Ducts, RCC Cross Drainage Works, RCC Retaining Wall, RWH & HDPE Dual Water Supply Pipe Line for Haraluru-Muddenahalli Industrial Area, Bengaluru Rural District (Package-2) (2nd Call).

(3) Formation of Industrial Layout Including 45M Wide Rigid Pavement (Road No.10) 30M & 15M Asphalt Road (Road No.11, 16, 24 & 25), Construction of RCC Side Drains, Ducts, RCC Cross Drainage Works, RCC Storm water Drain, RCC Retaining Wall, RWH & HDPE Dual Water Supply Pipe Line for Haraluru-Muddenahalli Industrial Area, Bengaluru Rural District (Package-3) (2nd Call).

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : 02.12.2020 upto 04:00 pm Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the E-Procurement Portal <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>.

Sd/-

INTERVIEW | POONAM KHETRAPAL SINGH

'We are at a critical juncture in fight against COVID-19; it's time to be more alert'

We must break the virus transmission chains and governments should continue to strengthen pandemic response, says regional director, WHO South-East Asia

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN

Poonam Khetrapal Singh, regional director, WHO South-East Asia, speaks about a second wave of COVID-19 infection, fatigue among healthcare workers/general public and how countries in the northern hemisphere continue to be at a critical juncture in the fight against the pandemic:

We are now witnessing a second wave of COVID-19 infections across Europe and the U.S. What would public health experts attribute this to? Where does India stand?

■ We are at a critical juncture in this pandemic, particularly in the northern hemisphere. In India, recently we are seeing active cases plateau. Like the rest of the world, the country remains vulnerable to COVID-19. Now is the time to be even more alert. The pandemic is still not behind

us. Our efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19 transmission need to be more vigorous now.

Governments across the world need to continue to further strengthen implementation of core public health measures – test, detect, isolate and treat – and continue to provide essential services. But, all of us, as individuals, we have our own responsibility: we must practise physical distancing, hand and respiratory hygiene, and wear a mask when needed. We cannot let

our guard down.

Are you seeing COVID-19 fatigue in various countries among the general public and healthcare workers?

■ The pandemic has impacted lives and livelihood. We understand the difficulties people continue to face – working from home or losing income, children being schooled remotely, not being able to celebrate milestones with friends and family or not being there with them in the most difficult times – it's very tough and the COVID-19 fatigue is real.

Health workers, who have themselves gone through immense stress and trauma, are still on the front line, taking care of patients, and it is no surprise if they too are get-



ting tired. And in addition, we do not know how long this pandemic will last.

We must do all what we can to protect health workers, and the best way to do that is for all of us to take every precaution we can to reduce the risk of transmission, for ourselves and others.

The pandemic is still not behind us. Our efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19 transmission need to be more vigorous now

mission chains.

What measures are the international agencies suggesting to tackle and live with this virus in the long term?

■ Till such time there is a vaccine or a medicine to protect the world from COVID-19, our best defence against the virus remains the core public health measures we know to break the chain of transmission: hand hygiene, physical distancing, respiratory etiquette and masks.

Should schools be allowed to risk having children back? Now we know that this group can act as spreaders and super-spreaders?

■ From a public health per-

spective, deciding to close or re-open schools should be guided by a risk-based approach, taking into consideration the epidemiology of COVID-19 at the local level; the capacity of educational institutions to adapt their system to operate safely; the impact of school closures on educational loss, equity, general health and well-being of children; and the range of other public health measures being implemented outside school. Decisions on full or partial closure or reopening should be taken at a local administrative level, based on the local level of transmission of COVID-19 and the local risk assessment, as well as how much the reopening of educational settings might increase transmission in the community.

Are international agencies talking about a long-term work/study from home for people/services that can be managed in this manner?

■ While the pandemic affects lives and livelihoods, it forces people to think of ways to overcome the challenges that COVID-19 forced upon them. With lockdowns imposed in several parts of the world, many organisations moved to working from home as a precautionary measure from the very start of the pandemic. Many organisations continue to provide their staff the option to work remotely, wherever feasible, even after lockdowns have been lifted. Whether or not this will become a part of a new work culture globally, remains to be seen.

IN BRIEF



Will conduct study on Olive Ridley turtles

BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha government has requested the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) to conduct a fresh study for identifying the movement of endangered Olive Ridley sea turtles, which would help the State renew its conservation efforts along its coast. K. Sivakumar, WII scientist, said the State has emphasised on working with the local community for conservation.

CBI registers bank fraud case against logistics firm

NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation has registered a fresh case against Surat-based Siddhi Vinayak Logistics Limited and others for allegedly cheating the erstwhile Andhra Bank of over ₹89 crore. The company, which had taken loans of about ₹2,000 crore from 13 banks, is already facing probe by multiple agencies.

Govt. seeks comments on draft IR Code rules

NEW DELHI

The Union Labour and Employment Ministry on Friday published the draft rules framed under the Industrial Relations Code, 2020, that would require firms with 300 or more workers to seek government approval for lay-offs 15 days prior to the intended action. For retrenchment and closure, the establishments would have to apply for permission 60 days and 90 days ahead of the actions respectively.

Prime accused absconding in Assam JEE fraud case

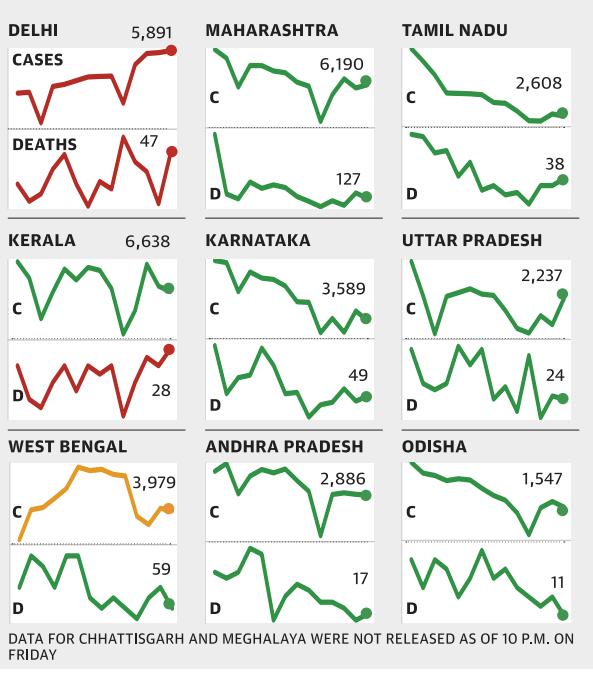
GUWAHATI

The Assam police are yet to nab the prime accused in the Joint Entrance Examination (Main) proxy candidate case. The police said efforts were on to nab Bhargav Deka, owner of a Guwahati-based coaching institute that allegedly provided a substitute to take the test on behalf of candidate Neel Nakshatra Das to eventually score 99.8%.

Viral tracker

With 46,605 COVID-19 cases recorded on Friday, India's tally stood at 81,34,104. As many as 494 new deaths were registered, taking the toll to 1,21,647. The graphs depict new cases and deaths in the last 14 days in select States. The States are classified based on where cases/deaths are rising (red), falling (green) or showing a mixed trend (orange).

	CASES	7 DAY-CHANGE
CASES	46,605	-3.5%
DEATHS	494	-0.8%



DATA FOR CHHATTISGARH AND MEGHALAYA WERE NOT RELEASED AS OF 10 P.M. ON FRIDAY

Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Goa best governed States: report

4 southern States take top four ranks in large State category

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

BENGALURU

Kerala was adjudged the best governed State in the large States category, while Uttar Pradesh ended at the bottom in the Public Affairs Index-2020 released by the Public Affairs Centre here on Friday.

The city-based not-for-profit organisation, headed by former Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman K. Kasturirangan, said in its annual report that the States were ranked on governance performance based on a composite index in the context of sustainable development.

Four southern States – Kerala (1.388 PAI Index point), Tamil Nadu (0.912), Andhra Pradesh (0.531) and Karnataka (0.468) stood in the first four ranks in the large State category in terms of governance, it said.

At the bottom
Uttar Pradesh (-1.461), Odisha (-1.201) and Bihar (-1.158) were at the bottom of the ranking.

In the small State category, Goa ranked first with 1.745 points, followed by



Scoring high: Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and his Tamil Nadu counterpart Edappadi Palaniswami.

Meghalaya (0.797) and Hi-

and Kashmir (-0.50) and Ni-

cobar (-0.30) were the worst

performers.

According to the PAC, the

governance performance is

analysed in the context of

sustainable development de-

fined by the three pillars of

equity, growth and sus-

tainability.

Speaking on the occasion,

Dr. Kasturirangan said: "The

evidence that PAI 2020 gen-

erates the insights that it

provides must compel us to

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der way in India."

■ The central cooperative,

NAFED, will soon begin im-

porting onions in a bid to

tame soaring prices, Food

and Consumer Affairs Minis-

ter Piyush Goyal said on Fri-

day.

The government is already

facilitating import of oni-

ons by private traders, with

7,000 tonnes of the bulb al-

ready having arrived in the

country, and another 25,000

tonnes expected to arrive be-

fore Deepavali.

The CPCB has now ad-

vised that the Ministry of

Railways shall be responsi-

ble for the implementation of

various pollution controlling

measures.

A separate template on

environment assessment and

management would be

prepared for all metro sta-

tions, the sources said.

Poor quality of environ-

ment parameters, particu-

larly noise levels, has been

an issue of concern at major

stations. Joint inspections

conducted by the central and

State pollution control au-

thorities at select stations in

the past two years re-

vealed that a majority of

them, including the Puratchi

Thalaivar Dr. MGR Chennai

Central railway station and the

Tiruchi junction in Southern

Railway, had not com-

plied with the green

norms under various statu-

tory rules of the CPCB.

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vised that the Ministry of

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Instapick

Halloween: 2020 has been one long drawn out scream fest, so do we need All Hallows' Eve? Yes, say enthusiasts as they plan Zoom parties and creepy-good costumes. Celebs and talk show hosts are expected to pull out all the stops in the creative department. Meanwhile, the make-up community on Instagram is killing it this year: check out UK-based MUA Chris Gravé, who has a look a day for October.



Talking point

World Vegan Day: On November 1, the UK's first fully-vegan butcher will open in London, offering meat-free versions of pulled pork, meatballs, "lobstah" salad, and chilli "non-carne". Closer home, aśā Beauty is readying to launch a line of vegan cosmetics with refill options. The ongoing Global Vegan Business Expo 2020 features virtual talks on building an eco-conscious brand, cooking workshops and more. Details: [compassionmagazine.in](#)

SPIT TAKE

Giving the index finger

India's global rankings in various sectors can be grossly misunderstood

KRISHNA SHASTRI DEVULAPALLI

Dear Don-bhai Trump,

You do know we adore you. Kamala Mamis will come and go but our loyalties are with you. After all, when you attended our do in Houston, did we not ask our NRI brothers to vote for you? And when you came here and spoke so eloquently about Swami Vivekanand and Veerat Kooli, did we not cheer you loudly? There was much hugging and hand-pumping, remember? It was all good. Then you had to spoil it all by saying India's air is filthy.

I think you've come to this hasty conclusion based on our ranking, 179 out of 180, according to some dubious air quality study. That kind of short-sighted evaluation by western "scholars" completely ignores our pre-eminent culture and its inherent wisdom.

That our air is thick with unbreathable particulate matter is de-

liberate. What your tiny western eyes perceive as air pollution is our 12,000-year-old tradition of making our air suitable for the smooth take-off, comfortable flight and glitch-free landing of our *pushpaka vimanas*. Anyone who has read Sage Vijayananda Mallyodri's treatise on ancient air travel (*Majama Ka Raja*) knows thick air is imperative for sky travel. That, and nubile *akashakanyas* who give you two-minute *upma* in handy little cups.

Now that we are clearing misconceptions, let's deal with some of the others as well - results of sub-standard studies - that show our incomparable land in a poor Nehruvian light.

Another recent lie I came across is that we are 94th out of 107 countries on the Global Hunger Index. How uninformed you westerners are, I tell you. While all of you gobble Big Macs and cheesecake with impunity, become morbidly obese



REPORT CARD

Air quality	179/180
Hunger index	94/107
Inequality index	147/157
Water quality	120/122
Happiness index	144/156
Press freedom	142/180

■ SREEDHAR RUMAR

and get all manner of health issues, we Indians *fast*. I can assure you that the ranking in question was done on an *ekadashi* day when most Indians skip their meals in order to develop ancient six-packs

like our gods. What you say is akin to dubbing a spacecraft's moon landing on *amavasya* day a failure. Where will it land when there is no moon, for god's sake?

Also, apparently we are ranked

147th out of 157 countries on the Inequality Index. As if. In our ancient land, we have several levels of equality. How can everyone have the same equal? It just so happens that some of us are more equal than others. But more equal and less equal is still equal, no? Please study our culture before you make such sweeping statements.

You really think we could be 120th out of 122 countries on the Water Quality Index? What a laugh. We have Ganga Maiya with us, fools. One drop of it is all we need to purify ourselves. Plus, which country produces more rain songs than us? You think that would be possible if we didn't have high-grade bottled mineral water for our lead actors to covet in?

Then there is our 144th rank among 156 countries on the UN World Happiness Index. What an utter lie. We Indians are so deliciously happy we need to voluntarily depress ourselves on a regular basis. We just pretend to be unhappy so as not to attract *drishiti*. Plus, we have also trained ourselves to look cross to prevent neighbours, friends and random uncles from asking us for hand loans.

As for being 142nd out of 180 on the World Press Freedom Index, are you serious? Haven't you seen the *istri vandis* on every street corner of our country? You think that would be possible if we didn't have freedom to press?

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

Pick of the week

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



Christie's fashion haul

Custom Hermès rarities, including a 2018 Étain Swift Leather Kelly Lakis 28 with gold hardware, and iconic Louis Vuitton offerings such as the Hermetic Explorer's Zinc Cabin Trunk feature in Christie's upcoming auction. Lots from the handbags and accessories selection will also be on view for those at Christie's King Street in London. Other highlights for the holiday season include Chanel pieces like the 2014 White Lucite and Crystal Lego Clutch. From November 3 to 17 on christies.com

The good life online

Meet celebrated chefs from across the world, including Wolfgang Puck, Mauro Colagreco, Matt Orlando, and Prateek Sadhu at the **GQ Food & Drink Festival**. The two-day virtual event that takes place today and tomorrow will also feature sessions with Jacqueline Fernandez and Prakash Amritraj on mindful eating; YouTuber Mike Chen on his love for food and travel; and Rahul Akerkar and Thomas Zacharias on the late chef Floyd Cardoz. From 10.30 am to 7.30 pm. Details: [gqindia.com/food-and-drink-festival](#)

Keeping up with the kids

The pandemic has put kids through some unprecedented experiences. To spruce up their space as they continue to remain at home, **Peekaboo Patterns** is offering up to 50% off on child-friendly furniture and home decor with fun prints. On peekaboopatterns.com. For the ones who solemnly swear that they are up to no good, pop culture brand **Balenzia** brings a line of **Harry Potter** socks. From ₹299 upwards, on balenzia.com. And if your child is craft-inclined, sign up for immersive experiences on Sony's Yay! Dekho platform.

At home in style

The Oberoi, New Delhi has introduced **In-Residence Dining** where a team from the hotel will customise a menu for you and then execute it on site. Ingredients are locally sourced and you'll get a taste of the food before you freeze on the spread. Chefs and a service team will come to your residence or office for gatherings not exceeding 25-30 people, at either an indoor or outdoor location. They'll bring along cooking and service equipment, all in hotel-owned sanitized cars. Reservations at 70489 51001 or 011-24304454

KMB goes virtual

The **Kochi Muziris Biennale**, which was slated to begin on December 12, has been officially moved to November 1, 2021. The fourth edition of the **Students' Biennale** has been re-structured to take place online, with five curator-motors: Adip Dutta, Archana Hande, Manoj Vylor, Suresh K Nair, and Vasudha Thozhur. Other events that have gone online include the **Art By Children** activities, and the ongoing graphic novel workshop with **Sarnath Banerjee**. Details on [kochimuzirisbiennale.org](#)

Celebration food

The Lodhi Bakery has introduced a **Diwali hamper** with an assortment of sweet and savoury confectionery. There is a cookie box with dark chocolate and cashew cookies, a Valrhona dark chocolate bar and white chocolate rocks, cashew nut tarts, sweet and sour almonds and herb cashew nuts, and a banana loaf in the basic box. Baskets can be customized keeping in mind dietary preferences as well, so you can include **gluten-free breads** too. At The Lodhi, New Delhi, ₹5,500 upwards; 011-43633333

Art and the unknown

Suburban Shadows is an exhibition of recent works on paper by Prasanta Sahu, presented by Emami Art. Sahu's solo show features what he calls "the unknown multitudes" – urban workers who provide essential services but remain unacknowledged and under-represented. Till November 30, on emamiat.com. **Sky's The Limit** is an exhibition of new media work by seven artists, including Payal Kapadia, Rabia Ajaz and Michelle Poonawalla, at the Mediations Biennale, Poland. Catch the show on [mediations.pl](#)

E-STORE EDIT

Diwali gifting and objets d'art

Furniture designer Gunjan Gupta takes her collectible tableware online, while Design Miami/ Shop supports artists from 52 galleries

ikkis.in



SUSANNA MYRTLE LAZARUS

After expanding their international reach with Italian design platform, WallpaperSTORE*, and the Asia website of Design Anthology, this New Delhi-based lifestyle brand has now launched their own e-commerce site. Designer Gunjan Gupta's ikkis ('21' in Hindi) focusses on using indigenous materials to give traditional objects a contemporary form.

The home page gives a clear idea of the kind of products to expect, with well-shot photographs. If you have a slow internet connection, however, the page may take some time to load. The site navigation is simple and easy, with two categories – Limited and Unlimited – to shop

from. The former includes collaborations with master craftsmen across India, which Gupta first curated for the Revelations Fine Craft Biennial in Paris last May. Kangan, a terracotta/ceramic line, draws inspiration from the women's wrist accessory of the same name, and is

created by National awardee Prithviraj Singh Deo from Odisha. Shatranj features *bidi* (pure silver inlay on a metal alloy) combined with miniature terracotta pottery. This fusion is best seen in a *bidi* chessboard with clay pieces. Meanwhile, Chuha showcases the tale of Hindu Goddess Karmi Mata of Bikaner, Rajasthan, who transformed into a rat after her death. The hand-carved marble rats can be found on drinking bowls. The limited editions of 21 pieces each are price on request.

The Unlimited collection of drinkware, serveware and décor reimagines *chai* glasses with a stem, brass bowls that stack up to form a *matka* or *lota*, and a *damroo* (percussion instrument) designed as a stool with copper mesh. Scrolling over (or single tap on mobile) shows the name of each product, but pricing is not visible unless you go to the page. With a minimal number of products, this option would make the shopping experience quicker.

From ₹1,850 onwards

■ Up next: Gift cards and wrapping options for the festive season.

shop.designmiami.com



“Collectible historic and contemporary furniture, lighting, objets d'art and more,” promises the new e-store from Design Miami. The online marketplace, launched in late June, showcases over 800 collectibles from 52 international galleries – necklaces to table lamps and ceramics to notebooks. The annual Art Basel in Miami Beach, slated to take place in December, has been cancelled because of the pandemic. With a \$16 million economic impact annually, the organisers aim to support artists across the world by contributing sales proceeds to the GlobalGiving Coronavirus Relief Fund.

Filtered by category (jewellery, sculptures, textiles, etc) or galleries. Or choose from curated categories of Brutalist, French Mid-Century or Post-Modern styles. Bestsellers include French product designer Fabien Cappello's Lampara de Frutas de Bronce, a Francesca Torzo ottoman and Le Corbusier Pierre Jeanneret *Chandigarh, India* book, published by the Galerie Patrick Seguin. Pieces start from as little as ₹22,50 (approximately ₹1,700) for an art show catalogue from Milan's Studio Vede and go up to ₹15,00,000 (approximately ₹11,16 crore) for French architect Jean Prouvé's Demountable House.

The site's quick view format offers information such as gallery, product name, price and availability at a glance. All sales inquiries are routed through the respective galleries, so there is no direct purchase on the site. An option to add to cart and buy immediately would perhaps help move things along quicker.



BALLOT BATTLES

Follow the action with these online resources as the US presidential election takes place on November 3

SML

Red, Wine & Blue

This sisterhood is “harnessing the power of suburban women” to make a change – by bonding over wine and politics. Started by strategic consultant Katie Paris, it is using **VinoTheVote** to mobilise Democrats (and the undecided) to go out and vote for Joe Biden in Ohio. Members' social media feeds are filled with women representing the ‘Suburban Housewife’ (a term often used by US president Donald Trump), accompanied by funny captions. Details: [redwine.blue](#)

60 Minutes

President Trump's interview with veteran **60 Minutes** host Lesley Stahl drew 16.8 million total viewers. Although Trump apparently cut short the taped interview, which shared screen time with opponent Biden's chat with Norah O'Donnell, it beat the numbers from Stormy Daniels' interview with Anderson Cooper in 2018. On **60 Minutes** YouTube channel.

Late night hosts

Last Week Tonight with John Oliver got a head start with an election special three weeks ago. Then Jimmy Fallon and *The Roots* rapped about how to properly complete Pennsylvania's mail-in ballot, while Jimmy Kimmel shared an update on his son's health, urging people to ‘vote with your heart’. On election night, Emmy and Peabody



• GETTY IMAGES

Award-winning late night host Stephen Colbert will host a one-hour live special on **Showtime**, reacting in real-time to state-by-state results. Trevor Noah's **Daily Show** also has plans for live coverage titled **Votegas 2020: What Could Go Wrong?** (Again).

Zen with Jay Bradley

US voters (and interested candidates across the world) are encouraged to find their ‘happy place’ before the chaos of election night in a 60-minute guided workshop on spiritual breathwork (a conscious breathing practise which helps people get centred). The Los Angeles-based wellness coach will lead the session via **Zoom** on November 2. Email to register: [eerath@michelemariepr.com](#)

#AmbitionSuitsYou

Wondering about the hot pink suit that Mandy Moore, Zoe Saldana and Kerry Washington, among many other female celebrities, have worn while voting? They're all sporting a collaboration between Argent (a women's workwear brand favoured by Hillary Clinton during the 2016 election) and Supermajority (an organisation fighting for a more equitable future for women). The four-piece collection, available in sizes 0 to 24, includes a white Super Stacked T-shirt, and pins to customise your statement look. Details: [@argent](#) on Instagram.



Designs from Payal Khandwala, Urvasi Kaur, Saaksha & Kinni, Abraham & Thakore, and Rimzim Dadu, and the 11:11 jumper

A sweater sets the mood

At Lakme Fashion Week Festive 2020, 11:11's jumper was a timely reminder of what could be achieved if designers stayed true to themselves

VARUN RANA

Let's start with the good bits. While the country's second digital fashion season, Lakme Fashion Week Festive 2020, began with Manish Malhotra's couture presentation titled *Ruhaaniyat* (282K views on the official LFW Instagram page), the first 'show' I saw belonged to 11:11 (106K views). Not that I didn't see Malhotra's later. I did, and enjoyed the unabashed luxury and opulence of his embellished *lehangas* and elegant *shervanis*. But it was the simplicity of a single indigo-dyed jumper, shown being made by hand from scratch, that stuck in my mind.

There is no greater luxury any designer could show to-

day; all my peers will be wearing this 11:11 sweater soon, I know. It spoke for the entire collection, and revealed precisely where 11:11's strength lies. It was the idea – raw fibre being spun into yarn, dyed indigo, and then knit into a simple jumper all by hand – that marked it out. This is what an Indian brand has to offer, the video said, loud and clear.

The India story
But there are other ways of showing what your country has to offer; a lesson driven home by the All About India show (104K views) that included capsule collections by six designers. It began with Payal Khandwala's oversized floral motifs in *jamdani* from Phulia

in West Bengal. Next came Rajesh Pratap Singh's futuristic *ikat* saris for Satya Paul, developed in Puttapaka in Telangana. True to her love for linen, Anavila Misra took off to Dumka in Jharkhand to mix it with the *khatwa* weave. Suket Dhir showed contemporary silhouettes in Banarasi brocades, while Urvashi Kaur's updated *shibori* and tie-dyes came from the clusters she works with in Haryana and Rajasthan, developing skills and innovating with the communities there. Meanwhile, Abraham & Thakore looked to Farrukhabad in Uttar Pradesh for the region's famed block prints, especially in the delicate gold *khadi* technique that they utilised to theatrical effect.

The sari, too, had its moment. From Parsi *gara*-bordered *Uppadas* by Gaurang Shah (106K views) to metallic moon-phase drapes in Banarasi brocade by Hemang Agrawal (102K views), there were enough points of interest to ensure a good retail response in a market slowly waking up to India's festive season in the midst of a global pandemic. Even Rimzim Dadu, who showed as part of the joint finale (a concept unique to Indian fashion weeks; 230K views) with Saaksha & Kinni, made a strong case for this timeless drape. And she did so by making it – through her unique sculptural methods and reflective surfaces – timeless.

Digital bumps
So far, so good. But this review could well have come from a regular, pre-COVID fashion week at the Jio Garden in Mumbai. How did LFW being fully digital work apart from the absolute numbers of views it garnered? We must look to the experience itself.

The first among them was



the virtual show format, which, going by the CGI, was not worth the effort. The Gen Next category, which I always look forward to, was ill served with outmoded graphics and backdrops that drew attention away from the clothes. Another designer had a post-apocalyptic Pleistocene fantasy going with woolly mammoths come back to life amid a ruined cityscape overrun with tropical foliage. Yet another featured giant *charkha* wheels spinning in the background like the windmills of sustainability, flanked by CGI pillars that tried their hardest to look vintage.

These are points of personal aesthetic. So a deeper dive into the digital experience becomes necessary. The problems, I am sorry to say, began from day 1, when logging on to the official LFW website became troublesome. I chalked it up to the site being overloaded, and satisfied myself with viewing the shows on their Instagram handle. What I looked forward to was the 'virtual showroom', a place for designers to conduct B2B and B2C business. While I'm unable to comment on the former, as I never registered as a buyer, the process of registration, even a few days after LFW ended, is no cakewalk. The website crashes with amazing regularity, and, in case it doesn't, you will still need to be approved by a back-end team to access the showroom and designers' collections.

The ideas are there, but the execution is where they hit a snag. And as I type this, I am glad we're going through these teething troubles. If anything, it is these problems that will hopefully show designers how important it is for them to invest in their individual online presences. Here's hoping.

The author is a fashion commentator and Communications Director at the House of Angadi.



FOOD SPOT

The home delivery service from the Taj group can get you a taste from the restaurants at the hotel's properties across Delhi



roots in a mix of vegetables. What I really enjoyed was the roast chicken with thyme jus, which came from Capital Kitchen at the Taj Palace. The chicken was crisp outside and moist within, and I even had the leftovers in a sandwich the next morning.

What took the cake – literally – was the wild rice pilaf, which had a crunchy texture, and a mildly sweet taste.

The rates, as you would expect in a five-star outfit, are high. The dimsums cost ₹800-820; the vegetable dishes are in the ₹950-1,050 range; and the non-vegetarian mains between ₹1,000 and ₹2,000, depending on what you order, and from which restaurant. The Ambassador and Vivanta rates, for instance, are lower than the other two. The food is good, delivered well packed, and is quite an experience.

The writer is an experienced food critic



(Clockwise from top)
Asparagus trio
pepper; roast chicken;
wild rice pudding;
steamed prawn
golden garlic

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



RAHUL VERMA

Remember how we scoffed when our grandfathers told us that they walked 10 kilometres to get to school? I think of that when I recount – to young friends – how we used to have a buffet at the Taj Mahal once upon a time for ₹20. They look sceptical, the way we did when our grandfathers talked about hard times. But the midnight buffet at Machan at the Taj – that was much before Taj Palace came up – was something we used to save up for, and do full justice to.

I was reminded of those carefree times – back in the late '70s and early '80s – when a representative of a public relations firm called me. I was informed that the Taj group had started a delivery service called Qmin. The group, as you'd expect,

maintains strict hygiene

protocols and delivers food from some of its restaurants at the Taj Mahal, Taj Palace, Ambassador Hotel, and Vivanta New Delhi (Dwarka) to distances of up to 8 km or so. A minimum order must be ₹1,500; call 1800 266 7646 from 12:00 noon to 3:00 pm or 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm.

Machan, I was happy to see, figures on the list. I have, as I said, nostalgic ties with the coffee shop, even though my last visit there – several years ago – was disappointing. I had asked for a mixed grill and found a lot of my favourites missing from what was meant to have been a hearty, meaty dish.

Larry's Kitchen at the Ambassador is another old favourite and is on the list of restaurants. The sampler I was sent included some Chinese dishes from Larry's Kitchen, The House of Ming at the Taj Mahal and Spicy Duck at the Taj Palace. I am rather fond of dimsums, and enjoyed their sea bass siu mai with truffle oil. The asparagus

pepper dumpling, however, had a somewhat dry casing.

For the main course, the grilled prawns with lemon, caper and garlic in a butter

sauce was excellent. The prawns were sweet and plump, and the sauce was just right – smooth, and mildly tart. The chicken black pepper had a nicely piquant sauce, and I had it with some lightly stir-fried, jasmine-flavoured rice. The steamed bean curd with black bean and spring onion and stir-fried lotus root with celery were both just right. The first consisted of almost melt in the mouth silken tofu, and the second had crunchy lotus

roots in a mix of vegetables.

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which restaurant. The Am-



A few examples of the fabrics and cuts of Architecture, and (below) designer-founder Radharaman

Ikat for a start

The House of Angadi presents ready-to-wear with an architectural line of unstructured tunics and pant suits

SURYA PRAPHULLA KUMAR

Lockdown or not, the last few months were a time of activity at The House of Angadi. The Bengaluru-based brand, renowned for its *kanjeevarams*, *Banarasi* and *Kota dorias*, was finalising the first collection of its just launched ready-to-wear label, Alamelu. "It is a breakaway from preconceived notions of what is considered 'Indian' in fashion and design," says founder and creative director, KH Radharaman, adding, "I want to create a modern design vocabulary that is season-less, and technique- and region-agnostic."

His engineering background is reflected in the textile manipulations. With a contemporary palette – think luminous eggshell tones to jewel-like ruby – the cuts are relaxed, and play with proportions and layers. "For the first collection, we have done a tight edit of just over 30 pieces [from tops and tunics to pants]. The idea is to present a truly modern design offering for the ever-evolving woman of today," he adds. Does he have a favourite? "While all the designs are close to my heart, my two favourites are the pant suit and our signature trench coat. They are the perfect representation of what Alamelu means to me."

Edited excerpts from an interview:

Why a ready-to-wear label now?

• Honestly, given that many of our textiles have adorned the collections of international design houses for many years now [they exported fabrics and

collaborated with brands], we probably should have done a ready-to-wear line earlier. As a designer, my first love has always been Indian textiles. This is where I chose to focus my energies for the past 10 years [under my other label, Advayal], which is why the RTW brand has taken time to launch. That said, I had been thinking of this label for over a year and it is an outcome of my design philosophy and a culmination of many ideas that have built up over the years.

Inspiration behind the collection.

• Alamelu's first collection, Architecture, draws inspiration from the various ways in which Modernist architecture incorporates layers, volumes, and proportions. To me the idea of Modernism lies in the spirit of purposeful innovation and region agnostic design language. Hence I chose two distinct directions for this collection to make it truly international.

While on the one hand it celebrates the timeless beauty of the *ikat* technique, on the other I have created a range of never-before-seen silk fabrics. The *ikats* have an abstract and geometric visual vocabulary, and explores patterns ranging from Houndstooth to Yayoi Kusama-esque polka dots, all woven by hand. I have also ex-

plored surfaces through my textiles, creating textures not through pleating or other post production techniques but at the weaving stage itself.

Why *ikat* as a technique?

• I chose *ikat* for Alamelu's first collection for both emotional and practical reasons. My family and I have a lifelong relationship with *ikat* [my father was one of the early pioneers of using it in silk]. It is also the one weaving technique that crosses all geographical boundaries, and has multiple interpretations across the world.

Experiments with textile surfaces.

• Most textiles in use today, especially for apparel, tend to be two dimensional in nature. Our surface engineering techniques transform silk yarn into three-dimensional textures, resulting in fabrics that shimmer like rippling waters, yet remain lighter than air. This has been achieved through the interplay of warp and weft, and is a new design direction.

What next?

• From a business point of view, Alamelu's design philosophy is aimed at capturing the attention of design-conscious women across the world. In keeping with this, our next steps will include international expansion through e-commerce and retail presence in strategic global locations. All of this dovetails with the overall mission to keep pushing the boundaries of Indian design.

Available at Angadi Heritage, Ensemble, and Ogaan; from ₹11,900 upward



Second arrest after France knife attack

Police detain 47-year-old suspect; Tunisia to probe claim of responsibility for Thursday's incident

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mourners lit candles and prayed silently on Friday to honour the three people killed in a French church by a young Tunisian extremist, as France heightened security at potential targets at home and abroad amid geopolitical tensions around published cartoons mocking the Prophet of Islam.

Tunisian anti-terrorism authorities opened an investigation on Friday into an online claim of responsibility by a person who said the attack on the Notre Dame Basilica in the French Riviera city of Nice was staged by a heretofore-unknown Tunisian extremist group.

Investigators detained a second suspect in Thursday's attack, a 47-year-old man believed to have been in contact with the assailant the night before, according to a judicial official who was not authorised to be publicly

named. The attacker, Ibrahim Issaoui, was seriously wounded by police and hospitalised in life-threatening condition, authorities said.

A substitute prosecutor at the Tunisian anti-terrorism prosecutor's office, Mohsen Dali, said that the claim of responsibility came in an online post, saying the attack was staged by a group called Al Mehdi of Southern Tunisia, previously unknown to Tunisian authorities. Issaoui was arrested in 2016 for violence and using a knife, said Mr. Dali.

Virus lockdown

As France entered a new virus lockdown on Friday, four soldiers with rifles periodically walked past the church in Nice and mourners placed flowers, messages and candles at the entrance, crossing themselves and praying silently for the three victims.

They included 55-year-old church warden Vincent



Paying tribute: A nun laying flowers outside the Notre-Dame de l'Assomption Basilica in Nice on Friday. ■ AFP

Loques, a father of two.

Another victim was Brazilian-born Simone Barreto Silva, a 44-year-old mother of three who moved to France to join a dance group led by her sister and worked in elderly care, according to Brazilian media G1. Silva was playful and dreamed of travelling around the world in a food truck, her friend Ivana Gomes Amorim told G1.

'Shocked' mother

From the Tunisian province of Sfax, the mother, her eyes wet with tears, said she was surprised to hear her son was in France when he called upon his arrival and

had no idea what he was planning. "You don't know the French language, you don't know anyone there, you're going to live alone there, why, why did you go there?" she said she told him over the phone.

France's anti-terrorism prosecutor said the suspect is a Tunisian born in 1999 who reached the Italian island of Lampedusa, a key landing point for migrants crossing in boats from North Africa, on September 20. It is not clear when he arrived in Nice.

Italy's Interior Minister confirmed on Friday that the suspect was ordered to leave Italy on October 9.

France's Interior Minister said on Friday that the country is "at war" with Islamist extremists, and the conservative lawmaker for the Nice region, Eric Ciotti, called for a "French-style Guantanamo" to lock up terrorist suspects.

Anti-France protests in Muslim countries

Thousands join demonstrations in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Palestinian territories

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Thousands of Muslims, from Pakistan to Lebanon to the Palestinian territories, poured out of prayer services to join anti-France protests on Friday, as the French President's vow to protect the right to caricature Prophet Muhammed continues to roil the Muslim world.

Demonstrations in Pakistan's capital Islamabad turned violent as some 2,000 people who tried to march toward the French Embassy were pushed back by police firing tear gas and beating protesters with batons.

A few hundred demonstrators in Lebanon's capital Beirut flocked toward the Palais des Pins, the official residence of the French Ambassador to Lebanon, but found their way blocked by lines of police officers in riot gear. Waving black and white flags with Islamist insignia, the Sunni Islamist activists cried, "At your service, oh prophet of God."

The sight of anti-France protests in Lebanon is an embarrassment for Prime Minister-designate Saad Hariri, who is trying to form a new government that would implement a French plan for reform.



Protesters at a rally against French President Emmanuel Macron in Lahore. ■ AP

In Jerusalem, hundreds of Palestinians protested against Macron outside the Al-Aqsa Mosque, the third holiest site in Islam, chanting, "With our souls and with our blood we sacrifice

for our Prophet, Muhammed."

Cries of "Death to France" rang out in Afghanistan's capital of Kabul and several other provinces as thousands filled the streets. Demonstrators trampled on portraits of Mr. Macron and called on Afghan leaders to shut down the French Embassy, halt French imports and ban French citizens from visiting the country.

In Bangladesh's capital Dhaka, tens of thousands marched through streets, chanting "boycott French products" and carrying banners calling Mr. Macron "the world's biggest terrorist".

Mr. Mahathir had said the French "in the course of their history has killed millions of people. Many were Muslims. Muslims have a right to be angry and to kill millions of French people".

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Mr. Trump will travel to Michigan, and Mr. Biden also plans to be in Iowa.

Mr. Trump's wins in Michigan, Wisconsin and Iowa helped him to victory in 2016.

But polling averages from the RealClearPolitics.com site show Mr. Biden up in all four of those States, ranging from 6.5 percentage points

Mahathir slams tech giants for removing posts

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

KUALA LUMPUR

Malaysia's former premier Mahathir Mohamad accused Twitter and Facebook of unfair treatment on Friday after they removed his posts that said Muslims had the right "to kill millions of French people".

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Trump, Biden square off in key Midwestern States

Both are set to campaign in Wisconsin and Minnesota

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

TAMPA

President Donald Trump and Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden are set to square off with rallies in key Midwestern States on Friday as a resurgent coronavirus further highlights their sharp differences just four days before the U.S. presidential election.

Even with the United States reaching another daily record in new COVID-19 infections on Thursday, President Trump stuck to his strategy of downplaying its dangerousness and calling for businesses to reopen.

He has also ramped up fear-mongering, warning of rampaging "socialists" and seeking to portray his Democratic challenger as intent on shutting the country down.

Mr. Biden has sought to persuade the few remaining undecided voters that he would provide a steady hand on the wheel and heal America's "soul," calling Mr. Trump irresponsible.

The former Vice-President has held drive-in, socially distanced rallies, while Mr. Trump's gatherings have often seen attendees ignore such guidelines and eschew masks.

The two candidates plan to be in three Midwestern States on Friday, with both campaigning in Wisconsin and Minnesota.

"They will allow you nothing," the Republican said.

"We're never going to lock down again.... We're open for business," he said, telling supporters that his own recent bout with COVID-19 proved that it can be beaten. "You know, the bottom line is you get better," he said.

But the pandemic, which has already taken 2,28,000



Caravan of supporters: People at a drive-in rally for Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden in Atlanta. ■ AP

in Michigan to just one point in Iowa.

American lives, has shown its resilience and is undergoing a long-predicted second wave.

On Thursday, more than 91,000 new U.S. infections were recorded, according to a Johns Hopkins University tally, the highest 24-hour total since the pandemic began.

Florida rallies

Mr. Trump and Mr. Biden are concentrating their efforts on battleground States that will decide the election in the days before the November 3 polls, and on Thursday both were in the crucial State of Florida.

Mr. Trump, 74, held another raucous rally in Tampa, telling the cheering crowd that coronavirus lockdowns under Mr. Biden would banish normal life.

"They will allow you nothing," the Republican said.

"We're never going to

lock down again.... We're

open for business," he said, telling supporters that his own recent bout with COVID-19 proved that it can be beaten. "You know, the bottom line is you get better," he said.

Rebuffing Mr. Trump's central charge, the 77-year-old reemphasised his claim that he would bring responsible leadership after months of the White House downplaying the virus' danger.

New figures showed an annual growth rate of 33.1% in the third quarter – a jaw-dropping statistic that reflected the economy's rebound from such a low base.

Mr. Biden, addressing a socially distanced drive-in event in Broward County, reminded supporters that of all the States there are few as important as Florida in deciding the outcome of tight elections.

Rebuffing Mr. Trump's central charge, the 77-year-old reemphasised his claim that he would bring responsible leadership after months of the White House downplaying the virus' danger.

The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd.

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No.	Tender ID	Items
1.	2020_KMML_395365_1	For Construction of Garland drain around cluster of old IOP & ETP ponds
2.	2020_KMML_393133_1	For supply of bearing block

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On behalf of Roads and Bridges Development Corporation of Kerala Limited, its Managing Director invites bids under two bid systems (1. Pre qualification Bid & Technical Bid 2. Price Bid) for Civil and Electrical Works for Developing CUAT as International Centre for Excellence in Academics & Research - Package IV-Design, Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning and Comprehensive Maintenance for 5 Years of 735 KWp DC Grid Connected Solar Photovoltaic System at CUAT, Cochin.

Approximate value of work	Bid Security	Cost of document
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Sd/- Managing Director

Bid No.RBDCK/T220/CUSAT/PACKAGE IV/ 47/ 2020 (Retender) Dt: 31.10.2020

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STATEMENT OF STANDALONE & CONSOLIDATED UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND HALF YEAR ENDED 30TH SEPTEMBER 2020

(Rs. in Crores)

S. No	Particulars	Standalone		Consolidated	
		Quarter ended	Half Year ended	Quarter ended	Half Year ended
		30.09.2020	30.09.2019	30.09.2020	30.09.2019
1	Total Income	295.18	408.10	344.14	5,482.20
2	Net Profit / (Loss) before tax (before Exceptional Items)	14.15	(38.81)	8.78	271.79
3	Net Profit / (Loss) before tax (after Exceptional Items)	8.69	(44.27)	1.71	(21.73)
4	Net Profit / (Loss) after tax (after Exceptional Items)	7.48	(45.25)	1.37	(25.28)
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income / (Loss) (after tax)]	29.93	(4.33)	(12.98)	216.96
6	Equity share Capital (Face value of Rs.5/-each)	10.12</			

MARKET WATCH

	PRICE	CHANGE
Sensex	39,614	-0.34
Gold	50,812	0.36
Brent oil	37.49	-0.85

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	359.85	17.15
Asian Paints	2211.50	-13.95
Axist Bank	492.50	-1.35
Bajaj Auto	2886.90	-38.45
Bajaj Finance	5573.50	-50.45
Bajaj Finance	3309.00	-71.05
Bharti Airtel	433.75	-17.05
BPCL	354.45	12.65
Britannia Ind	3473.25	-59.40
Cipla	754.50	-7.80
Coal India	114.20	3.35
Divis Lab	3142.05	34.45
Dr Reddy's Lab	4888.65	-53.30
Eicher Motors	2085.60	-51.25
GAIL (India)	84.75	1.30
Grasim Ind	778.35	8.15
HCL Tech	841.95	1.90
HDPC	1923.55	-10.75
HFDC Bank	1183.55	-3.65
HFDC Life	589.75	3.65
Hero MotoCorp	2799.80	-94.20
Hindalco	170.65	2.75
Hind Unilever	2071.30	-50.80
ICICI Bank	392.60	-7.30
IndusInd Bank	585.70	-3.00
Infosys	1060.60	-14.25
Indian Oil Corp	79.55	1.15
ITC	165.25	1.40
JSW Steel	309.00	2.20
Kotak Bank	1547.40	-23.50
L&T	929.50	-5.00
M&M	594.00	2.05
Maruti Suzuki	6965.15	-152.55
Nestle India Ltd.	17161.60	291.00
NTPC	87.60	1.10
ONGC	64.90	0.50
PowerGrid Corp	171.00	-0.60
Reliance Ind	2054.50	27.60
SBI Life	769.15	7.65
State Bank	189.25	0.55
Shree Cement	21694.55	17.55
Sun Pharma	465.75	9.40
Tata Motors	132.65	0.75
Tata Steel	410.55	9.15
TCS	2664.85	32.20
Tech Mahindra	813.30	9.05
Titan	1165.75	-12.45
UltraTech Cement	4574.05	-2.75
UPL	453.25	3.00
Wipro	340.70	3.25

Reliance profit slides 15% as COVID-19 slams oil business

September-quarter net declines to ₹95.67 billion; Jio revenue surges 33%

REUTERS

BENGALURU

Reliance Industries Ltd.'s September-quarter profit fell 15% as the COVID-19 crisis hammered its dominant oil business, although the Indian conglomerate reaped double-digit revenue growth at its Jio telecom service.

Reliance has in recent years built massive retail and telecom businesses to tap into the country's consumer boom and reduce its dependence on the energy sector.

Reliance said on Friday its consolidated profit slipped to ₹95.67 billion (\$1.29 billion) in the three months to September 30 from ₹112.62 billion a year earlier.

Refining revenue plunged 36%, said Reliance, which operates the world's biggest oil refining complex.



Slippery slope: Reliance's refining revenue plunged 36%, while petrochemicals revenue slumped 23%. ■ REUTERS

Petrochemicals revenue slumped 23%.

Oil demand has collapsed as the COVID-19 pandemic disrupts global travel and business, hurting sales of refined products such as gasoline, diesel and jet fuel.

Its gross refining margin – the profit earned on each barrel of crude oil processed – slumped to \$5.7 per barrel, lower than the \$6.3 in the previous quarter and the \$9.4 a year earlier.

Meanwhile, Reliance's Jio

BSE turns to SEBI on Amazon plaint about Future-RIL deal

E-com firm hopes exchanges, SEBI will stall transaction

REUTERS

MUMBAI/NEW DELHI

Stock exchange BSE will consult regulator SEBI and seek clarification from Future Retail and Reliance Industries about their \$3.4 billion transaction, following Amazon's objection to the deal, an exchange source said.

Amazon on Oct. 25 won an injunction from a Singapore arbitrator to halt Future's deal to sell retail assets to Reliance, arguing the Indian retailer group breached contract provisions it had entered into last year in a separate deal with the U.S.

Amazon has now written to SEBI, as well as the BSE and the National Stock Exchange, to put the deal on hold in light of the arbitration order, two separate sources said.

A BSE source said it would consult SEBI on its stance on the deal and the exchange later on Friday also plans to seek clarification from Future and Reliance Retail. SE-

BI and the stock exchanges did not respond to requests for comment. Amazon declined comment, while Future and Reliance did not immediately respond.

Amazon has shared a copy of the Singapore arbitrator's interim order with SEBI and the two exchanges, hoping they would step in to stall the approval, the second source said. People familiar with the case have previously told Reuters the Singapore order is not enforceable in India and Amazon may need a binding order from an Indian court.

Plastics group targets \$25 bn exports by '25

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

The Plastics Export Promotion Council of India, sponsored by the Union Ministry of Commerce & Industry, has announced plans to achieve an export-target of \$25 billion by calendar 2025.

The council said it was expecting 20% growth in plastics exports during FY21 and FY22, it said.

Samsung may dial in 40% smartphone sales growth

First-time, high-tech buyers fuel demand

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA

NEW DELHI

Samsung India expects to clock a 40% year-on-year growth in value terms in its smartphone business during the current quarter, driven by consumers opting for 'higher tech' products as well as demand from first-time buyers.

"We're really excited for Q4, 2020," said Samsung India senior vice-president Asim Warsi in an interview.

"We have built up for 40% growth year-on-year in this quarter over Q4, 2019, in terms of value. We have virtually revamped our portfolio for this quarter and have launched a slew of smartphones, tablets, wearable devices besides the luxury segment's Samsung Galaxy Fold 2," he added.

He pointed out Samsung now offered smartphones

from ₹4,999 to ₹1.5 lakh. "Our industry is not exempt from what happened in the first half of the year... the first half having gone the way it did. In the second half, we have broadly seen two phases," he said.

"One phase was the early part of the unlockdown where there was a fair amount of pent-up demand and the second part, which is where we are now, the festive part," he added. Overall, in the second half, they expected a very strong, YoY double-digit growth."

Mohandeep Singh, senior vice-president, mobile business said the demand was being driven by consumers wanting to graduate to better technology because they want to be better-enabled along with consumers who were becoming digitally-enabled for the first time.

Wheels India net falls to ₹743 cr., revenue dips 14%

Reached 90% of pre-Covid levels in Sept.'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

Auto components player Wheels India Ltd. posted a net profit of ₹7.43 crore for the second quarter ended September 30.

The company had recorded a net profit of ₹28.67 crore a year earlier. In a statement, the firm said these numbers were not strictly comparable as the year-earlier profit had a one-time write-back of a deferred tax liability of ₹19.8 crore.

Revenue dropped 14% to ₹510.84 crore from ₹595.63 crore a year earlier.

Ram, MD, said. "With the unlocking of the economy, we reached around 90% of our pre-Covid production levels in September," he added.

He said demand for exports had been encouraging and that annual growth would reappear starting the end of the first quarter," Srivats Ram

Ram, MD, said. "With the unlocking of the economy, we reached around 90% of our pre-Covid production levels in September," he added.

He said demand for exports had been encouraging and that annual growth would reappear starting the end of the first quarter," Srivats Ram

IOC net jumps 11-fold on inventory gains

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

India's top oil firm IOC on Friday reported an 11-fold jump in its standalone net profit to ₹6,227.3 crore for the September quarter, on the back of a boost in refining margins and inventory gain on using low-priced crude oil for making fuels.

The net profit stands at ₹6.78 per share. The company had reported a net profit of ₹563.4 crore in the corresponding period a year earlier, IOC Chairman Shrikant Madhav Vaidya told reporters here. "The profit was up due to higher inventory and foreign exchange gains and better refinery margins," he said.

IOC gained ₹7,400 crore on using low-priced crude oil. Mr. Vaidya said the fuel demand, which had nearly halved following the coronavirus lockdown, is fast returning to normal.

Fifteenth Finance Commission to hand in report on Nov. 9

GST compensation to States may figure

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Three years after it was constituted, the Fifteenth Finance Commission has finalised its report for fund devolution from the Centre to States for the five years from 2021-22 to 2025-26.

The panel, which had to grapple with an enlarged brief that included determining the viability of a separate defence and national security fund as well as the issue of GST compensation, will submit its report to the President on November 9. The report will be subsequently tabled by the Finance Minister in the Parliament along with an action report.

Chairman N.K. Singh and members Ajay Narayan Jha, Anoop Singh, Ashok Lohani and Ramesh Chand signed the report on Friday, the Commission said in a statement. A copy of the report will be presented to Prime Minister Narendra Modi later next month.

The Fifteenth Finance Commission was constituted on November 27, 2017, against the backdrop of the abolition of the Planning Commission and the distinction between Plan and non-Plan expenditure, and introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

Term extension
Although its original remit was to recommend the fund-sharing formula between the Centre and States from 2020-21 to 2024-25, the commission's term was extended by 11 months. Last year, the government had requested the Commission to submit an initial report just for the year 2020-21.



That report had pared the States' share of the divisible tax pool from 42%, as recommended by the Fourteenth Finance Commission, to 41%, citing the creation of the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

The Commission had then said that some of the key recommendations it was required to make would feature in its final report, including the viability of creating a separate defence and national security fund as suggested by the Centre. States would keenly await these recommendations as it may translate into a lower share of funds for them.

The panel is also expected to factor in unpaid GST compensation dues to States for this year, while working out States' revenue flow calculations for the years beyond 2022. States were guaranteed compensation by the Centre for revenue losses owing to the implementation of the GST for a period of five years. However, the disruption in economic activity due to the pandemic and lockdowns this year has damped cess collections used to compensate States.



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STEP LIVE Junior

Royals' batting collective eclipses 'Gaylestom', snaps Kings' streak

Rajasthan's top five come good after the West Indian's blistering 99 lifts Punjab to 185; Rahul's men suffer first defeat in six games; both teams still in the reckoning

IPL 2020

SPORTS BUREAU

The race for the playoffs remains wide open in IPL 2020. A magnificent chase by Rajasthan Royals against Kings XI Punjab at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi on Friday ensured as much.

Steve Smith's men won by seven wickets with 15 balls to spare. They now have 12 points, the same as KXIP and Kolkata Knight Riders.

It was a combined effort from the top-order that saw them through, as they reached the target of 186 with remarkable ease.

Chris Gayle's 99 (63b, 6x4, 8x6) had given KXIP a competitive total after being put in, but contributions from Robin Uthappa (30), Ben Stokes (50, 26b, 6x4, 3x6), Sanju Samson (48, 25b, 4x4, 3x6), Smith (31 not out) and Jos Buttler (22 not out) took RR to a memorable victory.

It was perhaps as accomplished a chase as any seen in this tournament, with the RR batsmen making sure that they were ahead of the asking rate for much of the innings.

Setting the tone

The tone was set by Stokes, whose unbeaten hundred had given the team a badly



Power-hitters: Ben Stokes put Rajasthan Royals on course in the chase after Chris Gayle had played a sizzling knock for Kings XI Punjab. ■ BCCI/IPL

needed win against Mumbai Indians in RR's previous match. His fifty came off just 24 balls when he lofted England teammate Chris Jordan high over long-off. But after a dot ball, he found Deepak Hooda at mid-off, failing to generate enough power to clear him.

Uthappa, too, was shap-

ing up well before he fell to M. Ashwin. After slogging sweeping the leg-spinner beautifully over deep mid-wicket for six, he attempted a similar shot only to be well caught near the boundary by Nicholas Pooran.

Samson looked in great touch, playing some delectable shots square off the wick-

et before he was needlessly run out – by a direct hit from substitute fielder J. Suchith.

Still the boss

Earlier, the 41-year-old Gayle showed he still remained the boss of the T20 universe with some astonishing hits. He may have fallen one short of a seventh IPL hundred –



bowled off his pad by Jofra Archer – but he passed another amazing milestone; his seventh six of the innings was his 1000th in T20 cricket.

But this match will likely be remembered more for the manner in which RR responded in another must-win situation.

■ Gayle is the first batsman to hit 1000 sixes in T20s

Next assignment

KXIP: Nov. 1 vs. CSK

Abu Dhabi, 3.30 p.m. IST

RR: Nov. 1 vs. KKR

Dubai, 7.30 p.m. IST

SCOREBOARD

KINGS XI PUNJAB

K.L. Rahul c Tewatia b Stokes 46 (41b, 3x4, 2x6), Mandeep Singh c Stokes b Archer 0 (1b), Chris Gayle b Archer 99 (63b, 6x4, 8x6), Nicholas Pooran c Tewatia b Stokes 22 (10b, 3x6), Glenn Maxwell (not out) 6 (6b, 1x4), Deepak Hooda (not out) 1 (1b); Extras (lb-1, w-8, nb-2); 11; Total (for four wkts. in 20 overs): 185.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-1 (Mandeep, 0.6 overs), 2-121 (Rahul, 14.4), 3-162 (Pooran, 17.6), 4-184 (Gayle, 19.4).

ROYALS BOWLING

Archer 4-0-26-2, Aaron 4-0-47-0, Tyagi 4-0-47-0, Shreyas 1-0-10-0, Stokes 4-0-32-2, Te-watia 3-0-22-0

RAJASTHAN ROYALS

Robin Uthappa c Pooran b M. Ashwin 30 (23b, 7x4, 2x6), Ben Stokes c Hooda b Jordan 50 (26b, 6x4, 3x6), Sanju Samson run out 48 (25b, 4x4, 3x6), Steve Smith (not out) 31 (20b, 5x4), Jos Buttler (not out) 22 (11b, 1x4, 2x6); Extras (lb-2, w-3); 5; Total (for three wkts. in

17.3 overs): 186.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-10 (Stokes, 5.3), 2-111 (Uthappa, 10.5), 3-141 (Samson, 14.2).

KINGS XI BOWLING

Arshdeep 3-0-34-0, Shami 3-0-36-0, M. Ashwin 4-0-43-1, Jordan 3-0-44-1, Bishnoi 4-0-27-0.

Toss: RR; MoM: Stokes.

Royals won by seven wickets with 15 balls to spare.

Innings scan

KXIP	RR
47	Dots 32
10	Fours 17
13	Sixes 10
53/1	PP 66/1
9.25	RR 10.62

For the IPL scorecards and points table, scan the QR code



Points table

Team	M	W	L	PTS	NRR
Mumbai Indians (Q)	12	8	4	16	1.186
Royal Challengers	12	7	5	14	0.048
Delhi Capitals	12	7	5	14	0.030
Kings XI Punjab	13	6	7	12	-0.133
Rajasthan Royals	13	6	7	12	-0.377
Kolkata Knight Riders	13	6	7	12	-0.467
Sunrisers Hyderabad	12	5	7	10	0.396
Chennai Super Kings	13	5	8	10	-0.532

After the KXIP-RR match on Oct. 30

Q: Qualified

Afidi, Riaz star for Pakistan

Having qualified, there will be no pressure on Mumbai



Shaheen Afridi celebrates a strike with Abid Ali. ■ AFP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

RAWALPINDI

Shaheen Afridi grabbed five for 49 and Wahab Riaz took four for 41 as Pakistan survived Brendan Taylor's 112 (11b, 11x4, 3x6) to thwart a fighting Zimbabwe by 26 runs and win the first One-Day International here on Friday.

Earlier, Haris Sohail (71) and Imam-ul-Haq (58) helped the host post 281 for eight against some tight Zimbabwe bowling.

The scores: Pakistan 281/8 in 50 overs (Sohail 71, Imam 58) bt Zimbabwe 255 in 49.4 overs (Ervine 41, Taylor 112, Madhevere 55, Afridi 5/49, Riaz 4/41).

Delhi Capitals has its task cut out



Shreyas and Pollard will look to lead from the front. ■ BCCI/IPL

Capitals, on the other hand, need to pull up their socks.

Shikhar Dhawan (471 runs) has been in blazing form, but needs support. At least one from among Ajinkya Rahane, skipper Shreyas Iyer, Rishabh Pant, Shimron Hetmyer and Marcus Stoinis has to step up.

The South African pace duo of Kagiso Rabada (23 wickets) and Anrich Nortje (15) will have to be at their best to control MI's formidable batting.

Rohit unlikely to play

Rohit Sharma, who missed the last three games due to a left hamstring injury, is unlikely to take the field. But Quinton de Kock, Ishan Kishan and Suryakumar Yadav can take any attack to the cleaners.

Jasprit Bumrah (20 wickets)

have been lethal upfront and at the death, while James Pattinson (11) and Rahul Chahar (14) have provided good support.

Warner's SRH needs to go all out; Kohli's RCB has to regroup

The Bengaluru side better placed in the race for playoffs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SHARJAH

Royal Challengers Bangalore needs to shrug off the disappointment of two back-to-back defeats when it meets Sunrisers Hyderabad here on Saturday.

Full of confidence

But, SRH is brimming with confidence after a fine win over Delhi Capitals.

As per the current standings, RCB is better-placed at number two and needs to win one of its remaining two games.

SRH, on the other hand,

has nothing to lose. In sixth spot, the Hyderabad outfit needs to win its remaining two matches.

Heavy losses

RCB needs to regroup after crushing defeats to Mumbai Indians and Chennai Super Kings.

Young Josh Philippe, who replaced Finch in the last match, scored a handy 33 up front, but RCB's lower middle-order, which has the likes of Shivam Dube, Chris Morris, Gurkeerat Mann, needs to take more responsibility.

In bowling, Rashid Khan,

SPurs failed to create a single chance of note in a lifeless display.

Important results: Group A: Roma 0 drew with CSKA Sofia 0.

Group B: Arsenal 3 (Nketiah 42, Willock 44, Pepe 46) bt Dundalk 0.

Group C: Slavia Prague 1 (Olayinka 80) bt Bayer Leverkusen 0.

Group F: Real Sociedad 0 lost to Napoli 1 (Politano 56).

Group G: AEK Athens 1 (Tancovic 49) lost to Leicester City 2 (Vardy 18-pen, Choudhury 39).

Group H: AC Milan 3 (Diaz 24, Leao 57, Dalot 67) bt Sparta Prague 0.

Group I: Qarabag 1 (Kwabena 78) lost to Villarreal 3 (Pino 80, Alcacer 85, 90+6-pen).

Group J: Antwerp 1 (Refaelov 29) bt Tottenham 0.

Group L: Gent 1 (Kleinendinst 90+3) lost to Hoffenheim 4 (Belfodil 36-pen, Grillitsch 52, Gacinovic 73, Dabbur 90+4).

TODAY'S MATCHES

DUBAI, 3.30 P.M. IST

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Played: 25

DC 12 | MI 13

FORM GUIDE

(last five matches, latest game first)

DC L | L | L | W | W

MI W | L | W | L | W

STAR SPORTS 1 & SELECT 1 (SD & HD)

SHARJAH, 7.30 P.M. IST

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Played: 15

RCB 7 | SRH 8

FORM GUIDE

(last five matches, latest game first)

RCB L | L | W | W | L

SRH W | L | W | L | L

STAR SPORTS 1 & SELECT 1 (SD & HD)

IN BRIEF



Shubhankar gets off to a good start in Cyprus

PAPHOS
Shubhankar Sharma got off to a good start, signing a bogey-free four-under 67 to tie 18th after the first round of the Aphrodite Hills Cyprus Open here. S.S.P. Chawrasia carded an even-par 71 and was T-83.

American Johannes Veerman and Mitch Waite of England share the lead on seven-under 64. Cyprus became the 50th nation to host the European Tour in its 48-year history. PTI

Lahiri wastes front nine gains, slips to T26

SOUTHAMPTON (BERMUDA)
Three bogeys on the back nine spoilt Anirban Lahiri's opening-day card at the Bermuda Championship as he settled for a three-under 68 that placed him tied-26th. Lahiri was 5-under through the first 10 holes but finished the last seven holes in two-over. Arjun Atwal finished with a disappointing 4-over 75. Peter Malnati shot a round of 8-under 63 for a one-shot lead. PTI

Three Indian boxers in France tourney finals

NEW DELHI
Kavinder Singh Bisht (57kg), Sanjeet (91kg) and Amit Panghal (63kg) made the finals of their respective categories at the Alexis Vastine International boxing tournament in Nantes on Thursday. However, Shiva Thapa (63kg) won a bronze after losing his semifinal to Lounes Hamraoui 2-1.
The results (semifinals):
57kg: Kavinder Singh Bisht bt Benik George Melkumian (Fra); **91kg:** Sanjeet bt Sherrod Fulghum (USA) 2-1; **63kg:** Amit Panghal bt Christopher Herrera (USA); **63kg:** Shiva Thapa lost to Lounes Hamraoui (Fra). PTI

Rutuja in last four

SPORTS BUREAU
SHARM EL SHEIKH (EGYPT)

Rutuja Bhosale beat Lamis Alhussein Abdel Aziz of Egypt 6-1, 6-2 to make the semifinals of the \$15,000 ITF women's tennis tournament here on Friday.

In the \$80,000 event in Tyler, US, qualifier Ankita Raina was beaten 7-5, 6-2 by fourth seed Aliona Bolsova Zadoinov of Spain in the first round.

The results: \$80,000 ITF women, Tyler, USA: First round: Aliona Bolsova Zadoinov (Esp) bt Ankita Raina 7-5, 6-2. Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Marta Kostyuk (Ukr) & Clara Tauson (Den) bt Anna Danilina (Kaz) & Ankita 6-2, 6-2.

\$15,000 ITF, Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt: Women: Quarterfinals: Rutuja Bhosale bt Lamis Alhussein Abdel Aziz (Egy) 6-1, 6-2; Pre-quarterfinals: Rutuja bt Maria Timo- feeva (Rus) 7-6(6), 6-1.

Men: Doubles (semifinals): Alessandro Bega (Ita) & Petros Chrysos (Cyp) bt Vladi- slav Manakov (Ukr) & Arjun Kadhe 2-6, 7-5, [11-9].

'Strokes of genius'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Discovery+ app is offering a 90-minute documentary *Strokes of Genius* on the rivalry between Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal.

Based on L. Jon Wertheim's book, the documentary features the 20-Grand Slam champions Federer and Nadal through the Wimbledon final of 2008, dubbed the greatest tennis match ever by John McEnroe.

There are insights from Bjorn Borg, Pete Sampras, Martina Navratilova, Chris Evert, Carlos Moya and Tim Henman in the documentary which traces the game of the two champions from the time they were 16 years old.



Charged up: With the likes of Cummins, Morgan, Karthik and Rana in its ranks, KKR can still pull off a few surprises. ■ BCCI/IPL

We are still breathing: Hussey

Kolkata Knight Riders in with a chance for playoffs, says team's mentor

IPL 2020

Y.B. SARANGI
KOLKATA

Kolkata Knight Riders mentor David Hussey has said his team can perform well in its last match against Rajasthan Royals on Sunday and make it to the playoffs.

Following KKR's six-wicket defeat to Chennai Super

The next match is against RR. We are going to rest up and charge our batteries

Kings in Dubai on Thursday, Hussey said his side could still qualify and shock a few teams there.

"We have put ourselves in this position by losing matches. But we are still breathing, but only just, in

the competition. "The next match is against Rajasthan. We are going to rest up and charge our batteries and play some free-flowing cricket and you never know what could happen," said Hussey.

Hussey said the dew played a big factor after KKR put up an "about par" score of 172.

"The toss did not help. I think with a lot of dew

around, our bowlers could not quite grip the ball. Can't take too much credit away from Chennai, they chased a decent total. The spinners bowled well. Our bowling upfront was pretty consistent. Unfortunately, they attacked a few of our bowlers and got away with it."

Hussey was pleased with the efforts of opener Nitish Rana and Dinesh Karthik.

ATK Mohun Bagan vs Kerala Blasters in November 20 opener

The much-anticipated Kolkata derby on November 27

ISL 2020

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MARGAO

ATK Mohun Bagan will face Kerala Blasters in the opening match of this year's ISL on November 20.

The organisers released the fixtures of the first half of the 11-team league on Friday. The schedule covers matches to be played till January 11, 2021.

The remaining schedule will be released later.

The much-anticipated first clash between Kolkata sides ATK Mohun Bagan and SC East Bengal will be played on November 27.

Before their arrival in Goa, all teams were required to have three negative test results.

Following their arrival, the players and officials were put under quarantine for 10 days (14 for foreign players) during which five tests were conducted.

ATK Mohun Bagan's schedule (all matches at 7.30 p.m.): Nov. 20: Kerala Blasters; Nov.

27: SC East Bengal; Dec. 3: Odisha FC; Dec. 7: Jamshedpur FC; Dec. 11: Hyderabad FC; Dec. 16: FC Goa; Dec. 21: Bengaluru FC; Dec. 29: Chennaiyin FC; Jan. 3: NEUFC; Jan. 11: Mumbai City FC.

SC East Bengal's schedule (matches at 7.30 p.m. unless mentioned otherwise):

Nov. 27: ATK Mohun Bagan; Dec. 1: Mumbai City FC; Dec. 5: NEUFC; Dec. 10: Jamshedpur FC; Dec. 15: Hyderabad FC; Dec. 20: Kerala Blasters; Dec. 26: Chennaiyin FC; Jan. 3: Odisha FC, 5 p.m.; Jan. 6: FC Goa; Jan. 9: Bengaluru FC.

Mumbai City FC's schedule (matches at 7.30 p.m. unless mentioned otherwise):

Nov. 21: NEUFC; Nov. 25: FC Goa; Dec. 1: SC East Bengal; Dec. 6: Odisha FC, 5 p.m.; Dec. 9: Chennaiyin FC; Dec. 14: Jamshedpur FC; Dec. 20: Hyderabad FC, 5 p.m.; Jan. 2: Kerala Blasters; Jan. 5: Bengaluru FC; Jan. 11: ATK Mohun Bagan.

NEUFC's schedule (matches at 7.30 p.m. unless mentioned otherwise):

Nov. 21: Mumbai City FC; Nov. 26: Kerala Blasters; Nov. 30: FC Goa; Dec. 5: SC East Bengal; Dec. 8: Bengaluru FC; Dec. 13: Chennaiyin FC, 5 p.m.; Dec. 18: Jamshedpur FC; Dec.

Jamshedpur FC's schedule (matches at 7.30 p.m. unless mentioned otherwise):

Nov. 24: Chennaiyin FC; Nov. 29: Odisha FC, 5 p.m.; Dec. 2: Hyderabad FC; Dec. 7: ATK Mohun Bagan; Dec. 12: FC Goa; Dec. 17: Bengaluru FC; Dec. 22: NEUFC; Jan. 3: SC East Bengal, 5 p.m.; Jan. 7: Kerala Blasters; Jan. 10: Chennaiyin FC, 5 p.m.

Odisha FC's schedule (matches at 7.30 p.m. unless mentioned otherwise):

Nov. 23: Hyderabad FC; Nov. 29: Jamshedpur FC, 5 p.m.; Dec. 3: ATK Mohun Bagan; Dec. 6: Mumbai City FC, 5 p.m.; Dec. 12: FC Goa; Dec. 17: Bengaluru FC; Dec. 22: NEUFC; Jan. 3: SC East Bengal, 5 p.m.; Jan. 7: Kerala Blasters; Jan. 10: Chennaiyin FC, 5 p.m.

FC Goa's schedule (all matches at 7.30 p.m.):

Nov. 22: Bengaluru FC; Nov. 25: Mumbai City FC; Nov. 30: NEUFC; Dec. 6: Kerala Blasters; Dec. 12: Odisha FC; Dec.

16: ATK Mohun Bagan; Dec. 19: Chennaiyin FC; Dec. 23: Jamshedpur FC; Dec. 30: Hyderabad FC; Jan. 6: SC East Bengal.

Hulkenberg 'not stressed' about future

German has performed competitively when called up

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
IMOLA

Formula One super-sub Nico Hulkenberg said this week he is staying cool as he ponders his future in the sport – not knowing if he could be racing for Red Bull next year or watching from the stands again.

The 33-year-old German has produced outstanding performances when called up at short notice as a reserve driver for Racing Point this year, but knows his hopes of landing a permanent seat rely on other team decisions.

"The situation is that there are 20 seats and that is super limited," he told the ESPN F1 podcast. "Very few numbers... This is a thing that is out of my control and other people make the decision for me - or about me, but I'm not too stressed."

Hulkenberg said he had produced competitive performances when called up. "When I had the chance – and that's the one thing, if you are not doing a full season, that is kind of difficult...



Fingers crossed: Hulkenberg knows his hopes of landing a permanent seat rely on other team decisions. ■ GETTY IMAGES

You're not that visible and people tend to forget quickly. "They always tend just to remember the last race so it's not easy to make an impression. I was happy to be able to have some races and to perform well. I think I did what I had to do and now it's up to them."

Red Bull beckons? Hulkenberg has been linked with a potential vacancy at Red Bull where Alex Albon has struggled as teammate to Max Verstappen this year.

I am always trying to evolve: Stokes

"I have never been happy with where I am as a player"

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Peers, seniors and even critics can't help being in awe of the brilliance that defines Ben Stokes' career but the World Cup-winning England cricketer prefers being mostly unhappy with his performances to ensure that the improvement never stops.

In great form

In the form of his life for the past three to four years, the 29-year-old already has 7,000 plus runs and more than 270 wickets across formats. Speaking to PTI, Stokes revealed how he transformed into a world beater in the past couple of years.

"Experience. The more you play, the more you learn about yourself. You are able to understand different things and different situations. Constantly, I have never been happy with where I am as a player," Stokes said.

"I am always trying to evolve. I am still trying to work on my strengths and that's how I score runs and take wickets."

Whether it's being the central figure in a tense World Cup final or an epic Ashes hundred at the Leed's, Stokes admits that the occasion does play on the mind of every player.

Asked how he keeps calm for the big games, Stokes replied: "System of the game."

"It begins around with people picking the game up (hype). That's not to say we don't get nervous or feel an-



Up and away: After struggling for a few games as an opener, Ben Stokes turned it around against MI. ■ BCCI/IPL

xious about the occasion. It's normal. It's all about embracing the situation and dealing with it in the right way."

Sense of occasion

About big games, Stokes speaks about how the IPL, over the years, has prepared players to understand what a sense of occasion means.

"IPL is an amazing learning curve and you get to play alongside and against some of the best players in the world. You get to pick their

Sumariwalla set for a third term

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
GURUGRAM

Incumbent Adile Sumariwalla will be unanimously elected as Athletics Federation of India (AFI) president for a third term while former long jumper Anju Bobby George will be made senior vice-president during its AGM on Saturday.

Ravinder Chaudhary, who has served AFI for a long time in various capacities, will be elected unopposed as the secretary. There will be no contest for other posts also as there are only one candidate for all of them.

Sandeep Mehta, who had filed nominations for the secretary's post, had withdrawn from the contest. He will now be the senior joint secretary.

Madhukant Pathak will be elected unopposed as treasurer. The AGM also will elect five joint secretaries and eight EC members without contest.

AFI Planning Committee head Lalit Bhanot is one of the executive committee members. He was also an executive committee member in the last term.

Marathon Mobile App. Registrations can be done on the website airteldelhi-halfmarathon.procram.in from October 30 to November 27. The virtual participants can run and complete the event any time through the race week (Nov. 25-29).

The entry fee for the half marathon and the 10km is ₹499 and ₹299 for the Great Delhi Run.

DELHI ROUND-UP

Angad Kalaan scores the match-winner

Angad Kalaan struck the match-winner in the sudden death chukker to guide Sona Polo to a 9-8 victory over Rajnigandha Achievers in the semifinals of the Indian Masters 14-goal polo tournament on Friday.

In the other semifinal, Simran Shergill struck eight goals in helping Jindal Panther to a 11/2 goals to 8 victory over Cavalry-Velocity 48. The final will be played at 3 p.m. on Sunday.

The results (semifinals):

Jindal Panther 11 1/2 (Simran Shergill 8, Naveen Jindal 2, Abhimanyu Pathak, handicap 1/2) bt Cavalry-Velocity 48 8

All-round show by Chaprana

Haryana Ranji player Arun

Chaprana (66 n.o. and two for 14) helped Royal Striker Club beat Hitz XI by eight wickets and enter the YS Sports T20 semifinals.

The scores: Hitz XI 11 1/9 in 20 overs (Ravneet Tanwar 25 n.o.; Arun Chaprana 66 n.o.).

Easy win for Telefunken

Yash Dabas's 43 helped Telefunken Club beat Maulana Azad Club by six wickets in the BR Sharma memorial tournament.

The scores: Maulana Azad Club 132 in 30.4 overs (Saransh Sethi 34; Prashant Bhandari 2/8, Tushar Bawali 2/26) lost to Telefunken Club 134/3 in 21.4 overs (Yash Dabas 43).

Raikkonen, Giovinazzi to continue at Alfa Romeo

ASSOCIATED PRESS
IMOLA

Kimi Raikkonen