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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2020

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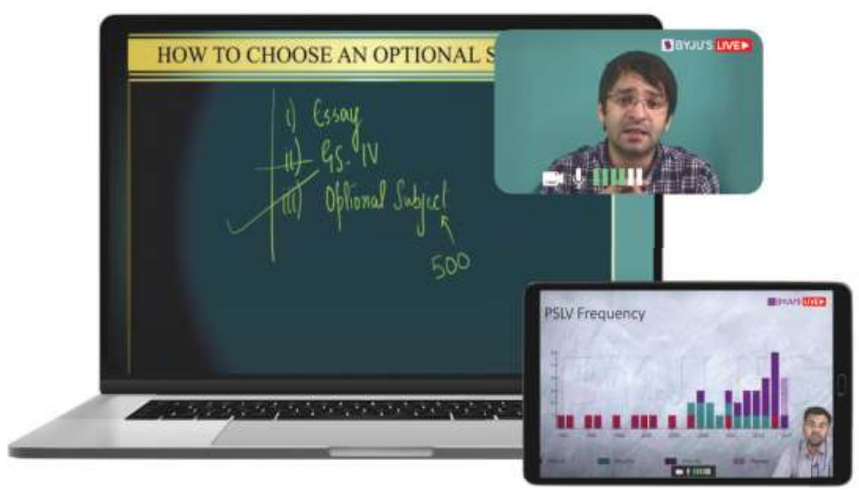

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NEARBY

Bio-decomposer spraying from Oct. 11, says Kejriwal

NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday said that the Aam Aadmi Party government will start spraying 'bio-decomposer' in farms in Delhi to decompose straw and stubble left in the fields after harvesting. The solution turns the straw into manure and is seen by the Delhi government as a way to curb stubble burning.

CITY ▸ PAGE 3

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Positivity rate in Delhi falls below 5%

NEW DELHI

As many as 2,676 new COVID-19 cases and 39 more fatalities were reported in Delhi in the past 24 hours, taking the tally to 2,95,236, and death toll to 5,581. The positivity rate (percentage of people testing positive for every 100 tests done) was 4.9%, which is the lowest in more than 100 days.

CITY ▸ PAGE 3

OPPORTUNITIES ▸ PAGE 2

Will ensure smooth probe into Hathras gang rape, says SC

It orders U.P. govt to file affidavit on steps taken for protection of victim's family

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday said it would ensure that the investigation into the alleged gang-rape and torture and murder of a 19-year-old Dalit girl by upper caste men in Hathras would be conducted smoothly.

"We will ensure the investigation part is smooth," Chief Justice of India Sharad A. Bobde, heading the three-judge Bench, said.

The court ordered the Uttar Pradesh government to file an affidavit and place it on record that the witnesses in the case are protected.

"We want it on affidavit on how Hathras case witnesses are protected. We want you to ascertain whether the victim's family has chosen a lawyer. We want to know the scope of the ongoing proceedings in the case before the Allahabad High Court and how we can widen and make it more relevant," Chief Justice Bobde addressed Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the State government.

'Horrible and shocking'

The Chief Justice said there was no doubt what transpired with the victim was "horrible" and "shocking".

There was no doubt that the case is "extraordinary", the court said.

The court is hearing a petition filed by Satyam Dubey to transfer the case to the CBI or form a special investigation team to probe the case under the supervision of the Supreme Court.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

Demanding justice: Democratic Youth Front activists staging a 'rail roko' in Solapur, Maharashtra, on Tuesday. ▪ PTI

I see a major tragedy: Rahul

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday said it was U.P. CM Yogi Adityanath's prerogative to see an "international conspiracy" in the Hathras incident but he "personally sees in it a major tragedy". ▸ PAGE 9

6-year-old rape victim dies

Almost 20 days after she was raped, allegedly by her cousin, in Aligarh's Iglas area, a six-year-old girl from the Sadabad area of Hathras passed away at Safdarjung Hospital in New Delhi on Monday. ▸ PAGE 9

Kerala scribe, 3 others held near Hathras

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LUCKNOW

A Delhi-based journalist working for Malayalam news portals was among the four men arrested by the Uttar Pradesh police late on Monday when they were on their way to Hathras.

The arrests came just hours after the State police, under fire for their handling of the Hathras gangrape and murder of a Dalit woman, claimed there was a conspiracy to defame the State government and trigger caste riots over the incident.

The four were identified as Ateeq-ur-Rehman, Siddiqui Kappan, Masood Ahmed and Alam. Mr. Kappan is a journalist working for several Malayalam media houses and was reportedly heading to Hathras to cover the case.

The four were taken into custody at a toll plaza in Mathura.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

4 get life term for 2019 rape in Rajasthan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

A special court in Alwar on Tuesday sentenced four men to rigorous life imprisonment and a fifth convict to five years in jail for raping a 19-year-old Dalit woman at Thanagazi in 2019.

The incident had caused widespread outrage in Rajasthan, particularly after the culprits posted a video of the crime on social media.

A special court for SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act cases held the four men – Hansraj Gujjar, Indraj Gujjar, Ashok Kumar and Chhote Lal – guilty under Section 376-D (gang rape) and other provisions of the IPC. All four accused were ordered to be imprisoned for the rest of their natural life.

The fifth accused, Mukesh Gujjar, who filmed the crime and later circulated the footage on social media, was convicted under the Information Technology Act. The sixth accused, a minor, is facing trial before the Juvenile Justice Board in Alwar.

The court also imposed a fine of ₹1 lakh on each of four main accused and ₹50,000 on Mukesh Gujjar.

The amount will be paid to the victim. All the convicts are between 20 and 23 years old.

Nitish is leader of NDA in Bihar: BJP

It shares seats evenly with the JD(U)

Leading the way: Nitish Kumar, in white, and Sushil Kumar Modi at a press conference in Patna on Tuesday. ▪ PTI

AMARNATH TEWARY
PATNA

After several rounds of talks, the major NDA partners in Bihar – JD(U) and BJP – on Tuesday announced a seat-sharing formula for the upcoming Assembly election. The JD(U) will contest 122 seats while the BJP will fight on one seat less in the 243-member Assembly.

"The JD(U) will contest on 122 seats and give seven seats out of it to alliance partner Jitan Ram Manjhi-led Hindustani Awam Morcha (secular) and the BJP will contest on 121 seats while accommodating the Vikashil Insaan Party from its own quota," JD(U) president and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar announced at a crowded joint press meet along with BJP leaders.

Cong. excludes three names

The Congress panel to select candidates for the Bihar poll has withheld three names, against whom there are 'serious' charges of crimes against women, a senior party leader said. ▸ PAGE 9

BJP leader and Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi reiterated remarks made earlier by the party's State chief Sanjay Jaiswal, who said, "Those who do not accept Nitish Kumar's leadership will not be a part of NDA in Bihar."

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

Pompeo slams China at Quad meeting

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

Directly criticising China for the coronavirus crisis as well as its actions in the Indo-Pacific region, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo called for the Quadrilateral dialogue, or "Quad", to "collaborate" in countering China.

At a meeting in Tokyo of the four-nation grouping, Australian Foreign Minister Marise Payne, Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar, Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi and Mr. Pompeo agreed to make the Quad ministerial meeting an annual event.

Mr. Pompeo also made a specific reference to the India-China stand-off at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the "Himalayas", and regional tensions with China.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

Hands-on approach

Steering the stir: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi drives a tractor during the party's *Kheti Bachao* tractor rally against the recently passed agriculture laws, at the Haryana-Punjab border on Tuesday. ▪ PTI (REPORT ON PAGE 10)

Cinemas will allow only 50% seating

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

After more than six months, cinemas will reopen on October 15 but movie buffs will face stringent protocols.

A set of guidelines issued by the Information and Broadcasting Ministry suggests only 50% seating, no food delivery inside the halls, only packaged food to be sold, mandatory face masks, thermal screening, staggered show timings and registration of phone numbers for contact tracing later, if necessary.

The SoPs issued by the Ministry also include observance of the 6 ft distance norm, hand sanitisers in common areas and adherence to alternate seat only arrangement.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

FESTIVE EVENTS ONLY OUTSIDE CONTAINMENT ZONES ▸ PAGE 10

SC judgment on Shaheen Bagh stir today

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday will pronounce its judgment on balancing the right to protest with the right to public movement, in the background of the marathon protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act at Shaheen Bagh.

A Bench led by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul will deliver judgment on a petition filed by advocate Amit Sahni for a direction to shift the anti-CAA protesters of Shaheen Bagh, mostly mothers and their children, to an alternative site as they have been "blocking" public movement and causing jams.

DETAILS ON ▸ PAGE 2

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NEHA BHOSLE (AIR - 15)
I wrote 8 FLTs of ForumIAS MGP 2019 (two tests of each GS Paper). The questions were good, the evaluation and the marking pattern were also very good. I found the model answers very useful and apart from the FLTs, I also referred to the model answers of sectional tests and some selective areas like Geography, History and Ethics. My best wishes to the entire ForumIAS community
PRATYUSH PANDEY (AIR - 21)
I am Pratyush Pandey, Rank 21 in CSE-2019. This was my first attempt, and I would like to thank the ForumIAS team who played a major role in my success. I had enrolled for MGP+ Test Series (Mains + Essay) and I sincerely recommend all the aspirants. The professionalism, the speed and quality of feedback I received helped me immensely, and improved the quality of my answers.
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3 black hole researchers get Nobel Prize for Physics

Scientists awarded for discoveries on 'one of the most exotic phenomena in the universe'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
STOCKHOLM

Roger Penrose of Britain, Reinhard Genzel of Germany and Andrea Ghez of the U.S. won the Nobel Physics Prize on Tuesday for their research into what the Nobel committee called "one of the most exotic phenomena in the universe, the black hole".

Mr. Penrose, 89, was honoured for showing "that the general theory of relativity leads to the formation of black holes", while Mr. Genzel, 68, and Ms. Ghez, 55, were jointly awarded for discovering "that an invisible and extremely heavy object governs the orbits of stars at the centre of our galaxy", the jury said. Ms. Ghez is just the fourth woman to receive the physics prize since 1901 when the first Nobel prizes were handed out.

Making a mark: (From left) Reinhard Genzel, Andrea Ghez and Roger Penrose were awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics on Tuesday. ▪ AP & AFP

"I feel delighted to be recognised in that way because I think having visible role models can make a huge impact on young women thinking about becoming scientists," Ms. Ghez said.

The first woman to win the prize was Marie Curie in 1903, who was also the first person to receive two Nobel prizes when she won the 1911 chemistry prize.

The term "black hole" refers to a point in space where matter is so compressed as to create a gravity field from which even light cannot escape. For years, physicists questioned whether black holes could really exist but Mr. Penrose, a professor at the University of Oxford, used mathematical modelling to prove back in 1965 that black holes can form.

His calculations proved that black holes – super dense objects formed when a heavy star collapses under the weight of its own gravity – are a direct consequence of Einstein's general theory of relativity.

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, which awards the Nobel Prize winners in physics, chemistry and economics, said Mr. Penrose's 1965 article "is still regarded as the most important contribution to the general theory of relativity since Einstein".

Mr. Penrose also worked closely with famed physicist Stephen Hawking, who died in 2018, and some experts lamented that he was no longer around to share the credit.

Mr. Genzel and Ms. Ghez have led research since the early 1990s focusing on a region called Sagittarius A* at the centre of the Milky Way.

Using the world's largest telescopes, they discovered an extremely heavy, invisible object – around 4 million times greater than the mass of the Sun – that pulls on surrounding stars, giving the galaxy its characteristic swirl.

Six arrested for betting on IPL match

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Six persons have been arrested for allegedly betting on an IPL match between Delhi Capitals and Royal Challengers Bangalore on Monday, the police said.

DCP (South) Atul Thakur said the accused have been identified as Gaurav Sejwal, Sonu Rathi, Sahil Luthra, Mohit Dagar, Hemant Dalal and Sanjay Rathi. He said a tip-off was received after which a raid was conducted at a house in Rajpur Khurd village on Monday. "On reaching the spot, the police found six people sitting with a laptop and making entries of betting," Mr. Thakur said. Cash worth ₹1,19,700, nine mobile phones and a laptop were seized during the raid, the police said, adding that a case has been registered.

SC judgment today on Shaheen Bagh protests

Apex court's verdict is of significant import for stirs in future

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on October 7 will pronounce its judgment about balancing the right to protest against the right to public movement in the background of the marathon protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act at Shaheen Bagh.

Shift anti-CAA protesters

A Bench led by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul will deliver judgment on a petition filed by advocate Amit Sahni, several months ago, for a direction to shift the anti-CAA protesters of Shaheen Bagh, mostly mothers and their children, to an alternative site as they have been "blocking" public movement and causing traffic snarls in the area.

The protesters were later removed by the police on March 24 with the advent of the pandemic and the resultant national lockdown.

The protesters had at the time written to Chief Justice of India S.A. Bobde against the "forcible and vindictive removal of the protest site" by the Delhi Police.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta had argued that the right to protest, like any other right, was not "absolute". Justice Kaul had orally said in a parliamentary democracy the avenue of debate was first Parliament.

In addition, peaceful protests could be held.

Mr. Sahni had said though the reason for the petition – the blockage of the main road by Shaheen Bagh protesters – had become infructuous, the court should still pass specific orders that "in future, protests should not hinder public movement".

Not getting MSP for produce, allege farmers

APMC says FCI under Centre not buying from markets since 2015; BKU writes to CM

NIKHIL M BABU
NEW DELHI

Farmers from different villages in Delhi alleged that they are not getting the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for their produce in markets and many times, suffer losses despite the Delhi government promising higher prices than the MSP.

"A week ago, I sold about 17 quintals of bajra for ₹1,250/quintal to a middleman in Najafgarh mandi. The MSP is more than ₹2,100. But we do not get that rate and there is no government control at the mandi. Also, the government does not buy from us," said 65-year-old Ram Kumar, a farmer from Kharkhari Jatmal village in Delhi.

Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) Delhi in-charge Virender Dagar said the Delhi government had promised them Swaminathan Committee rates for their produce, which is higher than the MSP, but they do not even get the MSP.

Naresh Kumar, Chairman of Najafgarh Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC), where farmers go to sell their produce, said the FCI (Food Corporation of India) under the Centre has not been procuring any produce from Delhi's markets since 2015. He said they have written multiple letters to the FCI on the same, but in vain.

(From left) Farmers Raj Kumar, Radhay Krishan and Surender in Najafgarh's Kharkhari Jatmal village on Tuesday.
▪ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

"The Delhi government has no power to buy produce from farmers and it has no storage. If FCI buys from the farmer, then they will buy at MS. But now when a private person buys, farmers do not get the MSP in most cases," Mr. Kumar said. He said the farmers are suffering losses because of this problem.

On Tuesday, the BKU gave a memorandum to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on the issue and he has promised to look into the matter.

Panel report

In February 2019, the Delhi government had said they have "conceptualised" the implementation of recommendations of the Swaminathan Committee report on farmers that "MSP should be at least 50% more than the weighted average cost of production" under a scheme – Mukhya Mantri Kisan Mitra Yojna.

An "Agriculture Conference on Implementation of Recommendations of Swaminathan Committee" was also held by Development Minister Gopal Rai. The proposed MSP, with 50% margin at the cost of production, was ₹2,616/ quintal and ₹2,667/ quintal for wheat and paddy respectively.

"The proposed MSP structure is higher than the Government of India MSP by ₹776/quintal for wheat and ₹897/quintal for paddy. It is likely to incur an additional liability of ₹96.38 crore, if implemented," an official statement had said. The FCI was supposed to buy produce from the farmers at the new higher MSP and the Delhi government was to give the extra amount to the Centre. But the scheme did not work out as FCI is not buying the produce, according to Delhi government officials.

Mr. Kumar and other farmers said their counterparts in Haryana were getting the MSP of ₹2,150/quintal for bajra. "After all my expenses in ploughing, sowing, cost of manure and cutting, I am losing money by selling it at ₹1,250/quintal. But what can I do?" said the farmer, who owns two acres of land.

Kamal Singh, 60, from the same village said he had sold 27 quintals of wheat at ₹1,680/ quintal, which is less than the MSP of ₹1,925/quintal of 2019.Many others from the village had similar complaints and said that always middlemen buy from them.

Yogesh Phalswal, 25, of Ghumman Hera village said bajra is being sold for around ₹1,400/quintal and they do not get MSP. He also showed a WhatsApp message of the purported rates of different produce being sold in the market and all prices in the list, expect for rice, was lower than MSP.

A Delhi government spokesperson refused to respond to queries.

DU to hold webinar for UG students on Friday

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi University said it will organise a webinar on Friday for undergraduate students to make them acquainted with this year's admission process.

Due to the prevailing pandemic, admissions this year will be completely online, including verification of documents.

"At the webinar, applicants can understand the processes related to the calculation of marks, selection of course and colleges, payment of fees and change of course or college," a DU official said.

Admissions under the first cut-off list is scheduled to begin from October 12 and continue till October 14. The last date of payment under the first cut-off list is October 16.

The varsity will begin admissions under the second cut-off list on October 19 and the process will continue till October 21 with October 23 being the last date of fee payment. The University has received over 3.53 lakh applications this year.

Women's organisations call for U.P. CM's sacking

They want safety of Hathras victim's kin

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

National Federation of Indian Women, along with Pragatisheel Mahila Sangathan and ANHAD demanded the sacking of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath after visiting Hathras on Monday.

A delegation comprising NFIW's national general secretary Annie Raja, PMS' general secretary Poonam Kaushik and activist Shabnam Hashmi met the rape victim's family and doctors and other staff in Aligarh, where the victim underwent treatment before being shifted to Delhi.

The team demanded that Mr. Adityanath be sacked from the CM's post "for deteriorating condition of constitutional bodies and growing violence against women, especially Dalits".

They also demanded enquiry into the diversionary narrative propaganda, suspension of the District Magistrate, safety security and livelihood of the family. "We demand that NHRC should investigate why all the dissent is being criminalised," they said in a statement.

Talking about the "narrative" being propagated claiming that the victim was not raped, the team said that an offence has been committed by revealing the girl's identity by the head of BJP IT cell who shared a video of the victim.

The team also condemned filing of cases against protesters and said that all acts of dissent is now being termed as conspiracy to malign "the BJP and its State governments".

Ink attack was pre-planned by BJP, alleges AAP MLA

NEW DELHI

AAP MLA Rakhi Birla on Tuesday alleged that the ink attack at an AAP delegation, which went to meet family members of the Hathras victim, was "pre-planned" by the BJP. The MLA also said that Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath should resign and there should be President's rule in the State.

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NOTICE INVITING RE-TENDER

The Director of Agriculture, Assam is hereby invites bids in two bid system for procurement of combine harvesters under 'CMSGUY' from the manufacturers of combine harvesters enlisted in the list circulated vide the GOI, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare Letter No.13 - 10/99-M&T (I&P) Vol. V Dated 18-02-2019 and/or amended and uploaded at **http://farmmech.gov.in/LOE.htm**, through e-Procurement Portal of Govt. of Assam: **https://assamtenders.gov.in**

To participate, interested manufacturers possessing a valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) have to register in the e-Procurement portal: **https://assamtenders.gov.in** The BID document is made available on the said Portal from **10:00 AM on 07-10-2020 upto 1:00 PM on 19-10-2020**. The online submission of Bids through e-Procurement Portal will open from **10:00 AM on 07-10-2020** and will close at **1:00 PM on 19-10-2020**. The authority will not be liable for any delay/failure in submission of Bids and system errors (if any).

The Bid Security deposited by the participated Bidders in the earlier bid published vide. No.Agri/Engg/4858/Combine Harvester/2020-21/127 Dtd. 25-08-2020 shall remain valid.

-Sd/-
Director of Agriculture, Assam
Khanapara, Guwahati-22

Janasanyog No.CF/2076/20

SR UNIVERSITY
Ananthasagar, Hasanparthy, Warangal Urban, Telangana, India - 506 371
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Recruitment Notification

SR University is looking for Assistant Professors, Associate Professors and Professors with PhD s' from IISc, IIT s', IIM s', NIT s', IIIT s' and other reputed Institutions / Universities, in the following disciplines:

Engineering
• Computer Science and Engineering - AI&ML | Data Science | Cybersecurity | Cloud Computing • Electronics and Communication Engineering - IoT | VLSI | Embedded Systems • Electrical and Electronics Engineering - Electric Vehicles | Power Electronics | Automation • Mechanical Engineering - Digital Manufacturing | Automation & Robotics • Civil Engineering - Geotechnical Engineering | Construction Technology & Management

Humanities and Sciences
• Physics • Mathematics & Statistics • Psychology • Cognitive Science • English • Product Design

Management and Business Administration
• Finance • Marketing • Human Resources • Operations • Business Analytics • E-Commerce • Digital Marketing

Agricultural Sciences
• Agronomy • Genetics & Plant Breeding • Plant Pathology • Soil Science & Agricultural Chemistry • Entomology • Crop Physiology • Agricultural Extension • Horticulture • Agricultural Engineering • Agricultural Microbiolog

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Director : Admissions | Placements
Trainers : Proficiency in C | Data Structures | Python | Java | Web Technologies | Aptitude | Soft Skills
Construction Engineer - M.Tech. with 5 years experience

NOTE Ph.D. is mandatory for all positions
(For CSE, M.Tech candidates with good programming skills may also apply)

Submit the CV s' by 15th October 2020 to hr@sru.edu.in

IndianOil
Pipelines Division – Southern Region
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
EOI No./Subject

SRPL/ETBPNMTPL/LA Staff: Applications are invited from Retired Government Officials (revenue) in the grades of Tahsildar, Surveyor or equivalent and above for "Providing support services as Land Acquisition Staff to Land Acquisition Officer cum Competent Authority (LAO & CA) on contract basis for Pipeline Projects in the states of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Pondicherry (UT)"

Last Date for Submission of Application:14.10.2020
Contact Person: General Manager (Human Resources)
Ph: 044-28243129/42/69
E-mail: venkatg@indianoil.in
Visit:https://iocletenders.nic.in for more details

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BHARAT ELECTRONICS LIMITED
(A Govt. of India Enterprise under the Ministry of Defence)
(CIN: L32309KA1954GOI000787)

Bharat Electronics Limited, India's Premier Navaratna Defence Electronics Company requires the following personnel for its Chennai Unit :

Name of the Post	Qualification	No. of posts	Consolidated Remuneration per month
Trainee Engineer-I	B.E./B.Tech (Electronics)	9	Rs 25,000/-
	B.E/B.Tech (Mechanical)	2	
Trainee Officer-I	MBA (Finance)	2	
Project Engineer – I	B.E./B.Tech (Electronics)	4	Rs 35,000/-
	B.E/B.Tech (Mechanical)	3	
	B.E/B.Tech (Computer Science)	1	
	B.E/ B.Tech (Civil)	1	
Project Officer-I	Two years full time MBA/ MSW/PG Degree/PG DHRM/ IR/PM	1	

Name of the Post (Permanent)	Qualification	Experience	No. of posts	Wage Group/ Career Path/ Pay Scale
Havildar (Security)	SSLC (Pass)	15 Years of Service in the Defence Forces (Army / Navy / Air Force) as Non-Commissioned Officer	4	WG-III/CP-III Rs 20500-3% -79000 + admissible allowances

For details about Eligibility criteria, reservation, Mode of applying, Application, etc., please visit our website: **www.bel-india.in/Careers/Recruitment-Advertisements**

Date: 07.10.2020 SR.DGM (HR&A)

'Har Kaam Desh Ke Naam'

CITY UNION BANK LTD.
Administrative Office : No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001.
Phone : 0435-2402322, 2401622 Fax : 0435-2431746

TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

The following property/ies mortgaged to **City Union Bank Limited** will be sold in Tender-cum-Public Auction by the Authorised Officer of the Bank, under Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, under the SARFAESI Act, 2002, for recovery of a sum of **Rs.1,04,89,560/- (Rupees One Crore Four Lakh Eighty Nine Thousand Five Hundred and Sixty Only)** as on **28-09-2020** together with further interest to be charged from **29-09-2020** onwards, other expenses and any other dues to the bank by the borrowers / guarantors **No.1) M/s. Khushi Trading Co., 3355/A, Gali No-06, SGM Nagar, Faridabad, Haryana - 121 001. No.2) Mr. Sachin Virmani, S/o. Mr. Ashok Kumar Virmani, House No-3183, Block No-A, Gali-04, SGM Nagar, Faridabad, Haryana - 121 001. No.3) Mrs. Pooja Verma, W/o. Mr. Sachin Virmani, House No-3183, Block No-A, Gali-04, SGM Nagar, Faridabad, Haryana - 121 001.**

Immovable Property Mortgaged to our Bank
(Property Owned by Mr. Sachin Virmani, S/o. Mr. Ashok Kumar Virmani)

House No.3183 (Old Plot No.14) Measuring 233 Sq. yards (30 x 70) ft. forming part of Rect. No.119, Kila No.11, 12, 13, 14/1 situated at Block A, Gali No.4, Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Nagar, Near Vaishna Mata Mandhir, Mauza Badhkal, Tehsil Badhkal, District Faridabad, Pin - 121 001 and is bounded as under ; North - Rasta 25 ft. Wide, South - Other Property, East - Plot No.13, West - Plot No.15.

Reserve Price: Rs.1,00,00,000/-
(Rupees One Crore Only)

AUCTION DETAILS

Date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale	Venue
16-11-2020	City Union Bank Limited, Faridabad Branch, 5E/10, BP Railway Road, Near Neelam Bata Chowk, NIT Faridabad, Haryana - 121 001. Telephone No.0129-2421708, Cell No.9354776693.

Terms and Conditions of Tender-cum-Auction Sale:

(1) The intending bidders should be present in person for the auction and participate personally and give a declaration in writing to the effect that he/she is bidding for himself / herself. **(2)** The intending bidders may obtain the Tender Forms from **The Manager, City Union Bank Limited, Faridabad Branch, 5E/10, BP Railway Road, Near Neelam Bata Chowk, NIT Faridabad, Haryana - 121 001. (3)** The intending bidders should submit their bids only in the Tender Form prescribed in sealed envelopes addressed to **The Authorised Officer, City Union Bank Ltd.**, together with a Pay Order / Demand Draft for an EMD of **10%** of the Reserve Price, drawn in favour of **"City Union Bank Ltd.", on or before 12.00 Noon** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. **(4)** For inspection of the property and other particulars, the intending purchaser may contact **Telephone No.0129- 2421708, Cell No.9354776693. (5)** The property/ies are sold on "As-is-where-is", "As-is-what-is" and "whatever-there-is" basis. **(6)** The sealed tenders will be opened in the presence of the intending bidders at **01.00 p.m.** on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. Though in general the sale will be by way of closed tenders, the Authorised Officer may, at his sole discretion, conduct an Open Auction among the interested bidders who desire to quote a bid higher than the one received in the closed tender process, and in such an event, the sale shall be conferred on the person making highest bid. The sale, however, is subject to confirmation of City Union Bank Limited. **(7)** The successful bidder shall have to pay **25% (inclusive of EMD paid)** of the sale amount **immediately** on completion of sale and the balance amount of **75%** within **15 days** from the date of confirmation of sale, failing which the initial deposit of **25%** shall be forfeited. **(8)** The Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer in favour of the successful purchaser only after receipt of the entire sale consideration within the time limit stipulated herein. **(9)** The successful purchaser shall bear the charges/fees payable for conveyance, such as stamp duty, registration fee etc., as applicable under law. **(10)** The successful bidder should pay the statutory dues (lawful house tax, electricity charges and other dues) TDS, GST if any, due to Government, Government Undertaking and local bodies. **(11)** The Authorised Officer shall have all the powers to accept or reject the bids or postpone or cancel the sale without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Place: Kumbakonam, Date: 05-10-2020 Authorised Officer

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Vikram Jeet Singh S/o** Virender Jeet Singh **R/o** One Horizon Centre, Level-18, Golf Course Road, DLF Phase-5, Gurugram, Haryana and also at Flat No. 3701, Lord Apartments, Plot/Pocket-7, Sector-19, Dwarka, New Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 159/2019, U/s-420 IPC** has been registered at **P.S. Defence Colony, New Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Vikram Jeet Singh** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Vikram Jeet Singh** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Vikram Jeet Singh** accused of **FIR No. 159/2019, U/s-420 IPC P.S. Defence Colony, New Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer said complaint on or before **18.11.2020**.

By Order
Sh. Gagandeep Jindal, MM-09, Room No. 206, 2nd Floor, Saket Court, New Delhi
DP/252/SD/2020-(Court Matter)

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD.
(O/o CE/TS, B-1, Shakti Vihar, Patiala
Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall Patiala-147001
Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813 : Website : www.pspcl.in

OPEN e-tender Notice

Online Tenders are invited for the supply of the following material as per Tender Specification No 218/2020 of PSPCL:-

Manufacturing, Testing and supply of Battery Charger of following ratings	Qty. (Nos.)	Enquiry No/Year	Last date & time for downloading of tender.	Last date & time for Bid submission	Date & time of opening of Bids
220V-100AH	38	218/2020	2.11.2020 11.00 AM	3.11.2020 11.00 AM	4.11.2020 11.30 AM
24V-100AH	12				

EMD 1,05,220/-
Minimum EMD 26,310/-

Detailed NIT and Specification may be downloaded from PSPCL e-tendering website **http://eproc.punjab.gov.in.**

The prospective bidders may contact customer care of above cited portal in case of any difficulty.

It is informed that in case tender process is not completed due to any reason, No CORRIGENDUM will be published in newspapers. Details regarding corrigendum may be seen on PSPCL e-tendering website **http://eproc.punjab.gov.in.**

DPRPB -I/86191/2020 Dy. CE/Sub-Station Design
C314-2020 PSPCL, Patiala.

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Timings
DELHI

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 07		
RISE	06:18	SET 18:00
RISE	21:31	SET 10:50
THURSDAY, OCT. 08		
RISE	06:18	SET 17:59
RISE	22:16	SET 11:45
FRIDAY, OCT. 09		
RISE	06:19	SET 17:58
RISE	23:09	SET 12:40

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	36	18
Safdarjang	36	18
Palam	36	21

Delhi Palam Today
36°C Dry weather with mainly sunny sky and warm afternnon likely.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
36°C Pleasant morning and warm day with gentle breeze.

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THE HINDU
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Positivity rate in Delhi falls below 5% after months

Multiple parameters are showing downward trend of virus

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

As many as 2,676 new COVID-19 cases were reported in Delhi in the past 24 hours, taking the count to 2,95,236, according to a health bulletin released by the Delhi government on Tuesday. Also, 39 more deaths have been reported, taking the death toll to 5,581.

As per the bulletin, 2,997 people have recovered in the past 24 hours and in total, 2,66,935 people have recovered.

The number of active cases, which fell below the 25,000 mark after almost 25 days on Sunday, further decreased to 22,720 on Tuesday. Also, the number of people admitted in hospitals decreased for the eighth consecutive day and those under home quarantine came down for the fifth straight day.

A man takes a rapid antigen test at Daryaganj in Delhi.
▪ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Out of the total 15,840 beds available for COVID-19 treatment, 64.8% are vacant as per government data. But 57.4% of the ICU beds with ventilators have been occupied and 65.13% of the ICU beds without ventilators are full.

The positivity rate (percentage of people testing positive for every 100 tests done) was 4.9%, which is lowest in more than 100 days. The overall positivity rate till now is 8.7%. The number of containment zones is 2,697.

Virus spread

Total number of COVID-19 cases	Total deaths
2,95,236	5,581
New cases in the past 24 hours	**New deaths**
2,676	39

SOURCE: DELHI GOVERNMENT HEALTH BULLETIN

Under control

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said: "Now [COVID-19] situation is under control in Delhi. The peak of the second wave was on September 17, we had about 4,500 cases and now cases are decreasing slowly. Now beds and ICU occupancy are decreasing. I hope that second wave is also slowly ending."

'Will begin use of bio-decomposer from Oct. 11'

CM makes announcement after visit to facility; many farmers wary but ready to try

NIKHIL M BABU
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday said that the government will start spraying "bio-decomposer" in the fields to decompose straw and stubble left in the fields after harvesting. The solution turns the straw and stubble into manure and is seen by the government as a solution to avoid burning them.

The Chief Minister made the announcement after visiting a facility in Kharkhari Nahar village, where the bio-decomposer capsule which was developed by Pusa Institute, is made into a solution through a week-long process.

Creating a model

Development Minister Gopal Rai said: "If Delhi can make a centralised system and do it, then other States can also do it. It depends on how serious they are. Delhi will get benefit only when Punjab and Haryana will use this".

"The entire process of creating the solution to spraying it on the fields across the entire Delhi costs only around ₹20 lakh," the Chief Minister said.

Arvind Kejriwal and Gopal Rai at Kharkhari Nahar village.
▪ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Meanwhile, farmers of two villages *The Hindu* met are wary since they can only sow wheat or mustard about 20-25 days after the government sprays the solution and said they doubt whether the time gap may affect their next crop.

About a dozen farmers said that they do not burn the stubble in Delhi and also the crop is cut by labourers not using machines.

Surender Singh, 45, a farmer from Kharkhari Jatmal village, said that he was ready to try the new solution on the stubble standing on the ground after selling the straw.

Many other farmers had a similar opinion.

SC notice to Centre, others on plea to ban crop burning

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday sought the response from the Central government and others on a petition seeking directions to ban stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana, which causes massive air pollution in the Capital in winters.

The court was hearing a plea filed by environmental activist and Class 12 student Aditya Dubey and law student Aman Banka.

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'No coercive action against FB official'

Assembly defends its rights before SC

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Assembly told the Supreme Court that senior Facebook official Ajit Mohan was summoned to ascertain whether the social media platform, in any way, "contributed" to the situation which culminated in the February communal riots.

Further, the Assembly's Committee on Peace and Harmony wanted to pick brains on how social media can be used to "strengthen the unity among the citizens of Delhi in the future".

"It is the inherent right of the Legislature to examine matters of public importance... This is a matter of great public importance going to the very foundation of the day-to-day functioning of the NCT of Delhi," the Assembly, represented by advocate Shadan Farasat, explained.

Live broadcast

Its affidavit submitted on October 5 said the Committee had summoned Mr. Mohan as a witness. There was no coercive action against him. The committee proceedings are conducted in the "most transparent manner with live broadcast".

"A witness cannot claim his right to silence or to be let alone in response to the summons to depose before a lawful Committee of an empowered legislature," the affidavit contended.

The Assembly said Mr. Mohan had attended the proceedings of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on September 2, 2020.

"The plea of the petitioners claiming right to silence and violation of other fundamental rights in the present petition is therefore, non-genuine and not in good faith, having appeared before another Legislature knowing fully well that he does not have a right to silence before a committee of a legislature," the affidavit said.

It said the right to remain silent was relevant only in a criminal investigation.

"The proceedings before a committee of the Legislature are not criminal or judicial proceedings. There is no accused before a committee," the affidavit said.

"Committee on Peace and Harmony had received multiple complaints/representations addressed to its chairman Raghav Chadha, underscoring the alleged instances of inaction/inability on the part of social media platform - Facebook to enforce its policies against inflammatory and hateful contents. It was alleged in the complaints/representations that even in respect of Delhi riots in February 2020 a lackadaisical approach of Facebook was visible," the affidavit said.

The court had asked the Assembly to not proceed further with the Facebook official. The next court hearing is on October 15.

L-G meets DDMA officials to review COVID situation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal on Tuesday chaired a meeting of the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) with Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and senior government officials to review the management of the COVID-19 situation in Delhi.

According to Raj Niwas sources, neither the issue of staging Ramlilas during the upcoming festival season nor the issue of opening city theatres which have been allowed under Unlock 5 guidelines were discussed. It would be taken up at another meeting of the DDMA scheduled later this week, they said.

The Health Department made a detailed presentation on the statistical overview of the COVID-19 situation in Delhi according to which the Case Fatality Rate in Delhi at present is 1.89%, recovery rate is 90.22%, doubling time is 70.71 days and tests per million are 1,74,599 with positivity rate having declined to 5% recently.

Anil Baijal

There are 15,834 dedicated COVID-19 beds, 11,137 oxygenated beds, 2,916 ICU beds and 1,321 ventilators beds in dedicated COVID hospitals. The L-G was also informed that a total of 173 dedicated multi-organisation mobile teams have been formed in 11 districts for concerted enforcement action.

It was decided that focused attention should be on containing transmission, strengthening medical infrastructure.

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Growing Big and Caring More

"This was the first full financial year post the successful acquisition of Govt. of India's 52.63% equity stake in REC by PFC. The PFC Group performed remarkably in the last year disbursing more than ₹1.4 lakh crore."

Ravinder Singh Dhillon
Chairman & Managing Director

34th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held on 29th September, 2020

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to the 34th Annual General Meeting of your Company. The Financial Year 2019-20 was a challenging yet promising year for PFC.

The end to the financial year was marred by the unprecedented global disruptions caused by the coronavirus outbreak and need no reiteration. The pandemic has not only caused severe impact on the manufacturing industries but also caused disruptions in financial markets worldwide including turbulence in the currency markets as well.

Considering the scale of COVID-19 pandemic, India has not been left untouched. Although, the full extent of its impact on the power industry is yet to be ascertained, but series of reforms unleashed by the government to tackle COVID-19 and its aftermath is surely going to limit the impact on the power sector.

This was the first full financial year post the successful acquisition of Govt. of India's 52.63% equity stake in REC by PFC. The PFC Group performed remarkably in the last year disbursing more than ₹1.4 lakh crore.

I am proud to share that your company is the largest Central Public Sector Enterprise in terms of the balance sheet size. Your company is also slated to be the fifth highest profit making Central Public Sector Enterprise in terms of consolidated PAT for the year 2019-20. Forbes has ranked your company in the top 250 best employers worldwide in its ranking for 2019, which also makes us among top 20 best employers in India. On a consolidated level, your company would make it among the top 500 global public companies in term of the profit and asset size.

On the business front, the year saw some significant landmarks for PFC. Your company has recorded its highest ever disbursements for 4th year in a row, with this year's loan disbursements almost touching ₹68,000 crore. The loan assets also crossed the ₹3.5 lakh crore milestone and saw a robust growth of 10% during the year.

There have been significant developments on the stressed assets front. GMR Chhattisgarh and Rattan India Amravati, two of PFC's large stressed assets were resolved during the year. Also, resolution plan for, Suzlon Energy and Essar Power Transmission were approved.

On the borrowing front, your company's efforts towards diversification of borrowing portfolio has started yielding results. In the last financial year, PFC raised about USD 3 billion from international markets. Now, the share of foreign currency borrowings in the overall borrowing has increased to 16%. Going forward, we expect the foreign currency borrowings to contribute to our portfolio to a greater extent. Your company is also raising funds through 54EC capital gain tax bonds, which are an important source of funds for PFC owing to its low cost. I am happy to share that the mobilization under the 54EC capital gains tax bonds has almost quadrupled since our first issue in financial year 2017-18. Due to the various efforts made by your company on the borrowing front, the cost of funds has reduced significantly from 7.95% in FY19 to 7.79% in FY20.

There have been significant developments in the global economy front. The disruptions in many supply chains dependent on China amid COVID-19 has come as a jolt to global manufacturing. These been further exacerbated with the geo-political developments in the Indian context. Using the opportunity provided by the pandemic, Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has urged the nation to become self-reliant via his clarion calls for 'Vocal for Local' and 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.

India Inc. and the power sector, which is critical for nation's march towards self-reliance, can utilize this push from the Government in promoting more domestic manufacturing, which will help in rebooting India's economy faster. It would also mean that sluggish power demand will witness more pickup in the coming quarters. Going forward,these Government initiatives can provide a huge impetus to the industry.

COVID-19 pandemic worsened the woes of power players across the country especially the distribution companies. The situation aggravated during the lockdown as power demand from commercial and industrial segment weakened, resulting in lower revenue realization for distribution companies, as these big consumers either remained shut or only operated partially, thereby leading to lower realizations. To ease out stress on cash flows, Govt of India had announced reforms-linked allocation of ₹90,000 crore for cash-strapped distribution companies under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan. This financial package has been a welcome news for power producers and has given a significant boost to power sector reforms. I am happy to share that your company and its subsidiary REC shall be the only lenders to provide the financial support under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat liquidity package of ₹90,000 crore.

Furthermore, in line with the notification of Reserve Bank of India, to ease the liquidity crunch amid COVID-19, your company has provided moratorium on both principal and interest to its borrowers due from 1st March 2020 to 31st August 2020. This shall help the power utilities, both state and private owned, to improve their cash flows for sustaining business operations.

Your company has been publishing Performance Report on state power utilities on annual basis and is also involved in publishing the annual integrated rating of power distribution companies. These reports are widely used by stakeholders including policy makers, developers, lenders, equity analysts, regulators, public at large etc. and helps in decision making. To promote transparency and accountability at the distribution companies, Ministry of Power has advised to periodically publish performance of the distribution companies on key parameters, to enable people to know how their power distributor fares vis-à-vis its peers.

The renewable segment has also seen its share of positive news where the tariffs have stabilized and this provide huge opportunities to invest in clean sources of energy. This also gives strong tailwinds to India's ambitious green energy target.

Government is also pursuing innovative models in distributed solar power generation in line with its goal of transitioning towards clean fuels. Since a one-size-fits-all approach may not be beneficial, Government is also making efforts to find specific solutions to incentivize every state for improving performance. Government is also focusing on indigenous production in various sectors and it is critical that share of power sector equipment manufactured in India should increase going forward. We believe that various government initiatives like 'Make In India' & 'Digital India' will go a long way towards building an ecosystem for manufacturing wafers, ingots, cells and modules within the country. This will not only help the Indian Power Sector being self-reliant and self-sustainable but will also help in generating employment and providing entrepreneurial opportunities. Being a leading lender in the country, your Company is well positioned to wholeheartedly support creation of more assets for production of renewable power.

To strengthen the sector, Government is focusing on many reform initiatives in the power sector. The proposed amendment in the Electricity Act is aimed at addressing issues that are adversely impacting the financial viability and therefore the investments in the sector. We believe that Establishment of Electricity Contract Enforcement Authority to enforce the performance of contracts like PPAs/ FSAs/ TSAs related to generation and transmission of power will help in addressing the issue of renegotiation of PPAs by DISCOMs, which is leading to lot of uncertainties in the sector. Proposed amendments in the National Tariff Policy such as capping of losses at 15% for determination of tariff, higher penalties for non-compliance to RPOs, restrictions on creation of new regulatory assets etc. will also help in making the sector more efficient. Recently, Ministry of Power has also issued guidelines to procure Round the Clock renewable power complemented with power from coal based thermal projects, which is aimed at enhancing grid stability keeping in view the intermittency of power, limited hours of generation, low CUFs etc. of renewable projects. Also, Phase II of the Pilot PPA for stressed thermal projects was launched, wherein tariff of ₹3.26 per unit was discovered for procurement of 2500 MW power. This will help the projects to sell power on sustainable basis and resolve the stress going forward.

Your Company has always believed in the philosophy of good Corporate Governance by maintaining highest standards of transparency, accountability and adequate disclosures.

Your Company has been firm on being a socially responsible corporate entity committed towards contributing to the society at large. Your company has always focused on the Sustainable Development and implementing projects of national as well as local importance. PFC has continued its efforts towards funding of projects to uplift the economically and socially backward citizens though their skill development, providing medical facilities to the backward regions, installation of solar street light and high mast lights etc. We have especially focused on the aspirational districts notified by NITI Aayog for implementing many of the schemes. Your company aims to touch the maximum number of lives to improve the quality of living and benefit the society as a whole. Your company has disbursed ₹97 crore under the CSR activities in FY20.

Your company has taken proactive steps to contribute towards the society amid COVID-19 by contributing ₹200 crore to PM CARES fund and sponsoring meals for underprivileged section. At this critical time, when our nation's Corona warriors have been fighting the battle at the forefront, your company has contributed towards providing lunch facilities for the medical staff at the Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, New Delhi. Your company has also provided medical equipment, PPE kits, sanitizers, face masks etc. to various district administrations for fighting this pandemic.

I am extremely thankful to the shareholders, who have reposed faith in us. My sincere and heartfelt thanks go out to the Hon'ble Union Minister of State (I/c) for Power, New and Renewable Energy & Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Secretary (Power) and officials of the Ministry of Power for their continued support and guidance. I am also truly grateful to Board of Directors, Investors and valued clients for their support.

I also convey my gratitude to Ministry of Finance, Reserve Bank of India, Department of Public Enterprises, Securities and Exchange Board of India, National Stock Exchange of India Limited, Bombay Stock Exchange Ltd., NITI Aayog, Central Electricity Authority, Comptroller & Auditor General of India, Statutory Auditors, Internal Auditors, Registrars, various Commercial Banks, Financial Institutions, Credit Rating Agencies and other concerned Government Department/ Agencies at the Central and State level for their continued support. I also appreciate the continuous and unwavering support by our partners in the Print and Electronic Media.

The success your company has witnessed and the feats that it has achieved over the years would not have been possible without the hard work and zeal with which employees have given their heart and soul to your company.

Sd/-
(R. S. Dhillon)
Chairman & Managing Director

Place: New Delhi
Date: 29.09.2020

(This does not purport to be a record of the proceedings of the Annual General Meeting held on 29th September, 2020).
For full text please visit www.pfcindia.com

On a consolidated level, your company would make it among the top 500 global public companies in term of the profit and asset size.

I am happy to share that your company and its subsidiary REC shall be the only lenders to provide the financial support under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat liquidity package of ₹90,000 crore.

Your company has taken proactive steps to contribute towards the society amid COVID-19 by contributing ₹200 Crs to PM CARES fund and sponsoring meals for underprivileged section.

Shri R. K. Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State (I/c) Power and Renewable Energy, Minister of State, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Shri S. N. Sahai, Secretary (Power), Shri R. S. Dhillon, CMD, PFC at the Ceremonial Bell Ringing of Listing ceremony of PFC's USD 750 million Foreign Bonds on NSE.

Shri R. K. Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State (I/c) Power and Renewable Energy & Minister of State, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship along with Shri S. N. Sahai, Secretary (Power) and Shri R. S. Dhillon, CMD releasing PFC's Report on 'Performance of State Power Utilities' for FY 2018-19.

Shri P. K. Singh, Director (Commercial), PFC, Dr. Rajiv Sood, Dean, Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, Shri R. S. Dhillon, CMD, Dr. Poonam Kapoor and Smt. Parminder Chopra, Director (Finance) at RML Hospital, New Delhi. PFC has been providing lunch boxes to Doctors & other medical staff engaged in treatment of COVID-19.

POWER FINANCE CORPORATION LTD.
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
Regd. office : "Urjanidhi", 1, Barakhamba Lane, Connaught Place
New Delhi 110 001. Ph.: 011-23456000, Fax: 011-23412545
Website: www.pfcindia.com | **CIN**: L65910DL1986GOI024862

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Narco analysis facility to start after pandemic: govt.

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government has informed the High Court that a narco analysis test facility is being set up at Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hospital here but cannot be put to use in view of the pandemic.

A Bench of Justice Vipin Sanghi and Justice Rajnish Bhatnagar had earlier asked the Delhi government to file a status report disclosing as to whether any steps have been taken to set up the facility in Delhi, considering the fact that a large number of such tests are required to be conducted in respect of the cases registered here.

Delhi government said the process to start the narco analysis examination here will begin as soon as the pandemic situation comes under control.

PIL initiated to monitor cases against MLAs

High Court asks Centre, Delhi government and its own registry to respond

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday asked the Centre, Delhi government and its own registry to respond to a case initiated by it on direction of the Supreme Court to all High Courts to immediately hear long-pending criminal cases against sitting and former legislators.

A Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice Prateek Jalan asked all the respondents to submit their affidavits indicating the steps taken pursuant to the top court's direction.

On September 16, the apex court had asked the Chief Justices of all High Courts to list before an appropriate Bench all pending criminal cases involving sitting and former lawmakers, where stay was granted.

4,400 trials held up

Over 4,400 criminal trials have been held up, some for decades, because the powerful MPs and MLAs had approached the High Courts and got an interim stay. Some date back nearly 40 years. Most are stuck at the stage of framing of criminal charges. These cases range from corruption to money laundering, the top court had said.

"There are about 175 cases under the Prevention of Corruption Act and 14 cases are pending under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 against sitting/former legislators," the order had noted.

There are over 2,500 criminal cases against sitting legislators alone, it had said. The top court has directed that there should not be any unnecessary adjournments. The hearings should proceed on a day-to-day basis. The COVID-19 restrictions would not apply as the hearings can be done through video-conferencing, it ordered.

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

Noor Jahan

General Public is hereby informed that one woman **Namely: Noor Jahan, W/o Sullah, R/o: Unknown**, has been found in an abandoned condition near Park Plaza Hotel, Metro Mall, near CBD Ground, Shahdara , Delhi on **14.09.2020** at 7 pm. In this regard a **FIR/DD No. 87 dated 14.09.2020**. has been registered at P.S. Anand Vihar, Delhi. The description of the woman is as under:- **Age:** 70 years, **Sex:** Female, **Height:** 5', **Complexion:** Shallow, **Wearing**: Suit and salwar. She was admited in Nai Duniya Old Age Home, B-46/3, East Azad Nagar, Krishna Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the women's family but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this woman's family kindly inform to the following.

Website: http//cbi.nic.in
E-mail Id - cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639
DP/229/SHD/2020

SHO
P.S. Anand Vihar, Delhi
Tel.No. 011-21210296, 7065036022

SEARCH FOR MISSING

Sarita Kashyap

General public is hereby informed that a lady namely **Sarita Kashyap, W/o** Vijay Kashyap **R/o** Village- Ramhepur Lormi ward, No. 15, District- Mungeli, Chhatishgarh has been missing since 22.09.2020 from Platform No. 13, New Delhi Railway Station, Delhi. In this regard, **DD No. 24-A dated 03.10.2020 has been registered at P.S. New Delhi Railway Station, Delhi.** Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing lady but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the missing lady is as under:
Name: Sarita Kashyap, **Gender:** Female, **Age:** 27 years, **Height:** 5', **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Oval, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Brown colour saree, green colour towel and blue colour slippers.
If anyone has any information regarding this missing lady, kindly inform SHO/ New Delhi Railway Station, Delhi.
E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax : 011-24368639
DP/4483/RLY/2020

SHO
P.S. New Delhi Railway Station, Delhi.
Ph. No. 011-23744073

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person **Namely:** Ramesh, **S/o** Unknown **R/o** Unknown **Age** : 60 years, **Height** : 5'9", **Complexion** : Shallow, **Face:** Long, **Built:** Thin, **Hair:** White. **Identification:** Small mole on chik left side, **Wearing:** White colour shirt and green colour pant has been found dead at RBTB Hospital, Kingsway Camp, Delhi on 02.10.2020. In this regard a case vide DD No. 25A dated 02.10.2020 has been lodged at Police Station Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved for 72 hours in Sabzi Mandi Mortuary, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this dead person may kindly inform to the following:-

SHO :
P.S. Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi
Tel. No. 011-28940698

DP/4480/RLY/2020

HSRP makers told not to take new appointments

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government on Tuesday held a meeting to address public grievances over High Security Registration Plates (HSRPs) and colour-coded stickers.

The meeting was attended by senior officers from the Transport Department, National Informatics Centre (NIC) and other stakeholders such as Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM), Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) and HSRP manufacturers.

"Our objective is public convenience. It was misinterpreted by a section of people that we are immediately enforcing the HSRP rule. This created panic among vehicle owners. We have asked dealers and HSRP manufacturers not to take any further appointments until a proper system is in place," a statement from Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot's office stated.

Jharkhand Government
Forest, Environment & Climate Change Department
O/o Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (FDA), Jharkhand, Ranchi

Tender Notice
Tender Notice Number 4/2020/FDA/ FoSTaC Training

Addl. PCCF (FDA) invites proposals from FSSAI empanelled/ **accredited FoSTaC Training Providing organizations** for providing **Basic level Manufacturing/Processing Training** to 200 trainees who are in the business of production and sale of Foods/Food products made from **minor forest produce**. The One day duration FoSTaC trainings shall be held in Six forest divisions in Jharkhand.

Detailed information and the Tender Document for the tender is available on the website www.forest.jharkhand.gov.in

Pre bid meeting shall be held on 20.10.2020.Technical as well as **Financial bids** will be opened on 28.10.2020.

Last date and time for submission of bids & EMD is 28.10.2020 (12.00 Noon). For queries : Call office at **0651-2480450/9958387834**, email at : **apccf-fda@gov.in**

(D.K.Tewatia IFS)
APCCF (FDA)
Van Bhawan, Doranda, Ranchi-834002

PR 233880 Forest, Environment and Climate Changes (20-21)_D

ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

E-Tender Notice No. N-2020-21-TSK-NIT-08; Dated: 28-09-2020. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: **E-Tender No.:** N-2020-21-TSK-T-16. **Brief Description of item:** AMC of 37 (Thirty seven) nos Amararaja make IPS in Tinsukia division for a period of one year. **Tender Value:** ₹38,19,387.3; **Earnest Money:** ₹77,000/-. **E-tenders will be closed at** 15:00 hrs. on 27-10-2020 and **Opened at** 15:30 hrs. on 27-10-2020. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available in website **www.ireps.gov.in**.

DSTE/Tinsukia
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
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HIMACHAL PRADESH STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED
(A State Government Undertaking)
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
DATE EXTENSION (e-Tendering Mode only)

The date for sale, submission and opening of following tender is hereby extended as below. All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged. The detailed tender document can also be downloaded from website: **https://www.tenderwizard.com/HPSEB.**

Sr. No.	Tender No.	Description of Item	Estd. Cost. (In Lacs)	EMD Fixed (In Rs.)	Tender document fee fixed (Non-refundable) inclusive GST (In Rs.)	Last date & Time of online sale of tender.	Last date & Time of Submission of tender online & offline.	Due date & Time of opening of techno comm. bid
1.	CE(MM)-10/2020	Tender Enquiry for the hiring of Service provider for e-procurement portal services providing various e-bidding services including e-Reverse Auctions at HPSEBL.	20.80	45,000/-	1120/-	26.10.2020 (upto 5:00 p.m.)	27.10.2020 (upto 5:00 p.m.)	28.10.2020 (at 11:30 a.m.)

Energy Saved is Energy Generated

(Er. M.K. Upreti)
Chief Engineer (MM),
HPSEB Ltd. Shimla-4.

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA
Public Works Division, Ahmednagar
Ph. No. 0214/2325334 &0241/2325086
E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 09 FOR 2020-21 (Online)

Online E-Tenders in **B-1 Form** for the following works invited by Executive Engineer, Public Works Division, Ahmednagar (Phone No. 0241-2325334/2325086) From the Competant and Interested contractors. (Not Necessary Registered with P.W.D.) If Global Company having its Branch / Sub Company in Indian they can Participate in tender. Superintending Engineer, Public Works Circle, Ahmednagar who reserves the right to reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason therefore.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Amount	Tender Document Sale Start & End Date
1	Construction of Concrete road at Karjat Nagar Panchyat Area 1. Ward No.3 Jogeshwarwadi to Mhaske mala rd 2. Ward No.6 Ishkhabhai Home to Baban Shrisagar Home road and Other 41 Works	**Rs. 215.48 Lakh**	Sale Date - **08/10/2020** to **22/10/2020.** Bid opening Dt. **23/10/2020.** Prebid Meeting Dt. **15/10/2020,** At noon.12.00. Place of Prebid Meeting - Office of The Superintending Engineer, Public Works Circle, Ahmednagar.
Note-	Please Submit Hard Copy of All Tender Documents on or before Dt.**22/10/2020**. 17.00 Pm.		

The details of works are provided on the websites as below.
1. www.mahapwd.com
2. https://mahatenders.gov.in.

Sd/-
(Executive Engineer)
Public Works Division, Ahmednagar

DGIPR - 2020/2021/893

SUPPLY AND RENEWAL WORKS AT LUMDING DIVISION

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. LMG/Engg/53 of 2020 (Item No. 1 & 2); dated: 30-09-2020. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work: **SN. 01. Brief Description of Item:** Supply of SKV Welding portion with all consumables, supervision of welding of rail joints by SKV process compressed Air petrol pre-heating system with 3 (three) piece mould (Automatic Thimble) by single shot crucible method of Lumding - Furkating (FKG) (BG) section under DEN/IV/Lumding. **Tender Value:** ₹65,28,714.00; **Earnest Money:** ₹1,30,600.00. **SN. 02. Brief Description of Item:** Between Lumding - Furkating Section- Renewal of Worn out switches and crossing bodies (with sleepers) (Total = 4 sets) under the jurisdiction of ADEN/Dimapur. **Tender Value:** ₹26,43,844.75; **Earnest Money:** ₹52,900.00. **All above E-tenders will be closed** 15:00 hrs. on 29-10-2020 and **Opened** 15:00 hrs. on 30-10-2020. The complete information with tender documents of above e-tender will be available **upto 15.00 hrs. of 29-10-2020** in website **www.ireps.gov.in**.

DRM/Works, Lumding
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
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ENTERPRISE CONNECT

A Business Initiative

PNB commemorates the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi by launching 'Gram Sampark Abhiyan'

The nation's leading public sector bank, Punjab National Bank (PNB) commemorated the 150thbirth anniversary of the father of the nation and paid homage to Mahatma Gandhi by launching a financial inclusion & literacy camp, the 'Gram Sampark Abhiyan'. Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Minister of Rural Development and Minister of Food Processing Industries, Government of India, officially launched the nationwide campaign.The campaign is centred on four key themes namely, Digital, Credit, Social Security & Financial Literacy that will encapsulate various activities and prescribes the cherished theme of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'. Acknowledging the efforts of PNB,Shri Narendra Singh Tomar said," "PNB is India's first Swadeshi Bank established in the spirit of nationalism and inspired by freedom fighters like Lala Lajpat Rai. It was the first bank purely managed by Indians with Indian capital. The bank plays a vital role in the economic development of the country". Also Speaking on the occasion,Shri S.S. Mallikarjuna Rao, MD and CEO, PNBsaid, "Our constant efforts aim towards educating the villagers on various government schemes and products available while providing them ease of banking and unified services. PNB also offers digital services in native languages to make banking more accessible, convenient, and user friendly.

Tata Power- DDL launches 'SAMVAAD' Mobile Messenger App

Tata Power-DDL, a leading power utility supplying electricity to a populace of 7 million in North Delhi, has launched a new and highly useful mobile messenger application – SAMVAAD in order to elevate its digital consumer experience. SAMVAAD App is available for Android and iOS users as well as on TATA Power-DDL – CONNECT App to ensure that the entire user base is covered by the company."In the ever evolving digital landscape, we at Tata Power- DDL aim to provide the best of experience and services to our consumers. Our newly launched two way messenger service/ App Samvaad will help our consumers avail the key services just at the touch or a click of a button through their mobile handsets. I urge all our consumers to download the messenger app in large numbers and support us in providing contactless services during these pandemic times." said Mr. Ganesh Srinivasan, CEO, Tata Power-DDL.

NDMC launches 'Cycle4Change' project to promote cycling

In view of COVID 19 pandemic, to promote the cycling in New Delhi, the Chairperson, New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC), Shri Dharmendra has flagged off a cycle ride tour on the occasion of launching of 'NDMC Cycle4Change' – a project to promote cycling on a dedicated 6 km pilot corridor from Bikaner House-near India Gate. NDMC has also initiated a move toward normalcy and road safety by organizing pilot cycle rides in New Delhi area. The cycle rides tour will continue till October 10th, 2020 in the morning between 6.00 am to 9.00 am and two hours in the evening from 5.00 pm to 7.00 pm.Based on the success of this pilot project, many more corridors will be dedicated in other areas under jurisdiction of NDMC in the coming winter seasons, he added.

REC finalises targets for FY2021 with DPE

Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) has finalised ambitious targets for REC Ltd in the ongoing financial year. Revenue target for FY2021 has been set at Rs. 35,000 Cr, up by 17.5% from the previous year achievement. Several other performance-related parameters and non-financial parameters including parameters relating to GoI's ambitious program of DDUGJY have also been agreed to.The MoU was signed by Shri Sanjeev Kumar Gupta, CMD REC and Shri Ravinder Singh Dhillon, CMD, PFC. REC is confident to meet these targets in excellent category despite the ongoing pandemic. A major boost is expected from the "Atmanirbhar" scheme for state utilities, whereby REC is expected to provide 45000 Cr of loan assistance within this year and also the thrust to financing large Renewable Energy projects where sanctions during the first quarter itself have surpassed the assistance provided in the previous year.

POWERGRID signs MoU with Ministry of Power

Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (POWERGRID) has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Ministry of Power, Govt. of India on September 29, 2020. The MoU has been signed by Shri Sanjiv Nandan Sahai , Secretary (Power), Government of India and Shri K. Sreekant, Chairman & Managing Director, POWERGRID in the presence of senior officials from MOP and POWERGRID. The MoU includes targets related to various parameters such as Financial, Physical, Project execution, etc. to be achieved by POWERGRID during the FY 2020-21.

Hudco holds 50th Annual General Meeting

The Housing & Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) held its 50th Annual General Meeting through video conferencing on 30.09.2020. Shri M. Nagaraj, Director Corporate Planning HUDCO chaired the meeting and addressed the shareholders to apprise them of the outstanding performance of the Company in its Golden Jubilee year.

Shri R.P. Goyal takes over as Director (Finance), NHPC

Shri R.P. Goyal has taken over as Director (Finance) at NHPC Limited, India's premier hydropower company and a Schedule 'A' Enterprise of Government of India on 1st October 2020. Shri Goyal joined NHPC on 18th November 1988 as Senior Accountant and he has risen the professional ladder by virtue of utmost sense of responsibility, ethics and dedication to the Corporation. Before assuming his present assignment as Director (Finance), he was working as Chief General Manager (Finance) and heading the Corporate Accounts & Policy, Taxation, Banking, Establishment and Investor Relations functions. He has vast experience of more than 31 years in NHPC in the core areas of Finance, coupled with in-depth understanding of Financial, Contractual and Regulatory issues involved in the construction and operation of hydropower projects

DDU-Gorakhpur University constitutes student exchange program cell

DDU Gorakhpur University Hon Vice Chancellor Prof Rajesh Singh today chaired a meeting of newly constituted International Student Exchange Program Cell of the University.

The main agenda of the meeting was to increase the visibility and presence of the International Cell. The Brochure development, and concept of South Asia Consortium where 50-100 universities would come under the umbrella program were discussed & which will be done shortly by the Cell so that the brochure and other details can be posted on the website to help the international student fraternity for upcoming academic session. Prof Singh said that University web portal will have a separate webpage to cater the international students requirement and would provide comprehensive information about international funding, grants, hostel facility, library and 24/7 internet facility, etc.

SJVN Investment Proposal gets Govt Nod

SJVN Sh Nand Lal Sharma, Chairman & Managing Director SJVN, informed that the investment proposal of Rs 687 Crores has been approved by Govt of India for 66-Megawatt Dhaulasidh Hydro Electric Project. This includes budgetary support of Rs 21.6 Crores from Govt of India for enabling infrastructure.Sh Sharma stated, that the Project was initially envisaged on 27th October 2008, when initially MoU was signed between SJVN and GoHP for development of this project SVP. Sh N L Sharma mentioned that it is a matter of great pride and historical achievement for SJVN, that all necessary approvals and clearances have been obtained in a record time, paving way for commencing of Construction activities of the project. The project will generate 304 Million Units of energy annually. Sh Sharma assured that SJVN would complete this project in 54 months and this would generate employment for 1000 persons.

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By DR. RAMASWAMY Sociology by a Sociologist
Starts: 26th Oct. (Mon) | sharp 10:00am
9350933144, 9958589406
4-A/17, 3rd Floor, Old Rajendra Nagar Main Market, New Delhi-60
Online/Offline Admission www.ramaswamyiasacademy.org

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PERSONAL
LOST & FOUND

I DEEPALI Shrivastava on behalf of Vrinda Shrivastava have lost FD JA/ 2460289,in case you find it contact me on 9818467603

PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, KAMLA, W/O Mr. Bhagwan Shankar, residing at Flat A–G, Tower 1, New Moti Bagh, New Delhi have changed my name to Kamla Chourasia vide affidavit dated 05/10/2020 at New Delhi.

I, Charu Shiv, W/o Sh Pardeep Malhotra, residing at D-II/ 5, Indian Institute of Public Administration, I.P. Estate, Outer Ring Road, ITO, New Delhi 02, Shall henceforth be known as Charru Malhotra, for all future purposes.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Jitesh Mendiratta S/o Tulsi Dass Mendiratta, R/o H.No-154, Sector-7A, Faridabad, Presently R/o H.No-89 Block-D2, Sector-10, DLF Faridabad, have changed my minor son name from Aejaz Mendiratta to Aejas Mendiratta.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for notice of the general public that a political party is proposed to be registered by the name of "United Republic of Bharath Party". The office of the party is located at D.No.6-62, Padmasarovaram Colony, Thukivakkam Village, Renigunta Post, Renigunta Mandal, Chittoor Dist., Andhra Pradesh, India - 517 520. This party has submitted application to the Election Commission of India, New Delhi for its registrations as Political Party under Section 29A of the Representation of People Act, 1951. Names / Address of the office bearers of the Party are as follows:

PRESIDENT: Tupakula Radhakrishna Venkatesh, D.No.6-9-1373A, Defence Colony, Near APHB Post Office, Beside Kanchimatam Hospital, Tirupati, Chittoor Dist., Andhra Pradesh, India - 517 501.

VICE PRESIDENT: Kokula Madhusudhana Rao, D.No.4-3-790A, Reservoir Road, Tirupati, Chittoor District, Andhra Pradesh, India - 517 507.

SECRETARY: Amudala Hari, D.No.18-37-S2-34, Bhavani Nagar, Tirupati, Tirupati, Chittoor Distrct, Andhra Pradesh, india - 517 501.

TREASURER: Smt. Avula Dakshayani, D.No.22-7-29, Subbareddy Nagar, Tirupati, Chittoor District, Andhra Pradesh, India - 517 507.

If anyone has objection to the registration of "UNITED REPUBLIC OF BHARATH PARTY" they may send their objection with reasons thereof, to the Secretary (Political Party) Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi - 110 001 within 30 days of the publication of this notice.

Sd/- T.R.Venkatesh (President)
"United Republic of Bharath Party"

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

Mr. Srichand P. Ahuja
19.02.1936 - 01.10.2020

It is with profound grief and sadness that we mourn the passing of our beloved father,
Mr. Srichand P. Ahuja.
He is greatly missed and will forever remain in our hearts.

In loving memory,
Reshma and Sumanth
(daughter & son-in-law)
Eeshan (grandson)

Family, friends and staff

For enquiries on announcements in this section, please contact our office at the following number between 10a.m. and 8p.m.
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TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Tamilnadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Moderate thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Assam, Manipur, Tripura, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha, coastal Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	6.8	33.8	25.6	Kozhikode	–	32.6	24.6
Ahmedabad	–	37.0	24.6	Kurnool	–	33.6	23.8
Aizawl	16	27.3	17.7	Lucknow	–	37.2	22.6
Allahabad	–	35.3	26.4	Madurai	–	38.6	24.9
Bengaluru	–	31.3	20.2	Mangaluru	–	32.0	23.1
Bhopal	–	33.4	18.6	Mumbai	–	32.5	25.0
Bhubaneswar	–	28.2	24.6	Mysuru	–	32.0	20.3
Chandigarh	–	35.9	20.3	New Delhi	–	36.4	18.2
Chennai	–	37.1	27.7	Patna	49.2	33.6	25.4
Coimbatore	–	33.2	23.4	Port Blair	–	30.6	25.2
Dehradun	–	34.0	18.5	Puducherry	–	36.2	26.1
Gangtok	1.7	21.8	17.3	Pune	1.8	33.4	20.6
Goa	–	31.6	24.9	Raipur	–	32.3	24.6
Guwahati	–	33.2	24.2	Ranchi	–	32.2	22.6
Hubballi	–	29.0	21.0	Shillong	9.8	25.3	17.0
Hyderabad	–	33.0	21.9	Shimla	–	27.4	17.1
Imphal	18.3	28.1	20.0	Srinagar	–	26.8	6.4
Jaipur	–	36.9	21.1	Thiruvananthapuram	–	31.3	23.0
Kochi	0.2	30.2	22.4	Tiruchi	–	37.4	25.4
Kohima	11.6	26.0	17.4	Vijayawada	0.3	32.4	26.0
Kolkata	5	33.7	26.1	Visakhapatnam	0.4	31.4	26.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	28	.66	.32	60	94	
Bengaluru	10	.32	.32	64	87	
Chennai	49	.48	.55	78	–	
Delhi	–	110	108	187	230	
Hyderabad	46	.31	.13	102	.124	
Kolkata	9	.16	–	42	52	
Lucknow	3	.60	.26	333	.191	
Mumbai	13	.31	.15	71	.112	
Pune	–	–	–	–	–	–
Visakhapatnam	5	.16	.14	37	45	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Charkhi Dadri, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 313 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Kohima, Nagaland recorded a healthy AQI score of 22

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: 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_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

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

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Maharashtra to decide on reopening schools only after assessing situation

Educational institutions told to stop collection of development fees, says minister

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

While the Union Education Ministry has issued guidelines to States on the reopening of schools and colleges from October 15, Maharashtra Minister of Higher and Technical Education Uday Samant on Tuesday said that in the current pandemic situation in the State it was not conducive to do so.

The Minister hinted that Maharashtra would be reopening schools and colleges only after assessing the COVID-19 situation.

"The decision to open up colleges will have to be based on the current spread of COVID-19 in the State... Maharashtra's pandemic situation has not yet normalised. Hence, it will not be appropriate to physically conduct classes," Mr. Samant said after a review meeting of preparations for final year exams with the authorities of the Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU). He said that he had directed educational institutions to stop the collection of development fees from students as there had been no physical classes for the last few months.

Students stand in a long queue to appear for NEET exam with mask, hand gloves, sanitiser and water bottle at an exam centre in Kandivali in Mumbai. • FILE PHOTO

Stating that the final year examinations would be conducted while taking due care of the health of the students, Mr. Samant said that two-and-a-half lakh students would be appearing for the final year examinations under the SPPU.

"Of them, two lakh students will be taking the exams online. The rest 50,000 students will be writing the exams offline," Mr. Samant said, adding that all provisions had been made to ensure that students do not encounter any technical problems while taking their exams and that no student would be deprived of the exams. The disabled students will be get 20 extra minutes to complete their papers.

"For those appearing physically at the 113 exam centres, zilla parishad and Pune civic body authorities must ensure that the facilities are properly sanitised," he said.

Mr. Samant further said that practice question papers would be given from October 8 while a grievance redressal centre would be set up to deal with any problem students might encounter.

However, a number of students across the State, especially in rural areas, are apprehensive about their online exams with several complaining about technical glitches, hall tickets, and power failure among others.

"About 60% of the students appearing for the final year examinations are from the rural areas. They face a range of problems from erratic electricity supply to poor range for mobile phones. Already, students appearing for Mumbai University's final year exams have been bedevilled with poor internet connectivity and power outages with server failure and phones hanging in the middle of their examinations," student leader Kuldeep Ambekar said.

U.P. power engineers, workers call off strike

State govt. agrees to put on hold plan for discom's dissolution and privatisation

OMAR RASHID
LUCKNOW

Engineers and employees of the Uttar Pradesh power department on Tuesday called off their agitation after the State government agreed to put on hold its plan for dissolution and privatisation of the power distribution company Purvanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Limited.

Under the U.P. Vidyut Karmachari Sanyukt Sangarsh Samiti, the employees of the power department had launched an agitation and boycotted work, leaving many parts of East U.P. without electricity on Monday and Tuesday.

After a meeting with State Power Minister Shrikant Sharma and Finance Minister Suresh Khanna, the UPVKSSS representatives agreed to call off the boycott of work.

"No privatisation would be taken at any level in U.P. without taking into confidence the employees and engineers," the government said. Also, no oppressive action would be taken against the engineers and staff of the department for taking part in the agitation, said the note of agreement reached by the two sides. The cases lodged against the agitating employees and engineers would also be unconditionally withdrawn, the note added. The agitators were also assured that corrections would be made in the existing system of power distribution and action would be taken after taking into confidence the engineers and employees.

Tear gas used on farmers in Haryana

They planned to gherao Dy. CM's home

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

The police resorted to use of tear gas and water cannon on Tuesday to disperse the agitating farmers in Haryana's Sirsa, as they marched to 'gherao' the residence of Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala, against the Centre's agriculture sector laws.

Several farmers outfits under the banner of the All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee held a protest rally in Sirsa after which a group of farmers had 'marched' towards Mr. Chautala's residence even as various routes leading to it were sealed by the police.

No clash with farmers

"There was no clash with farmers. We had to use water cannons and tear gas, after the agitators broke the first of the two-layer barricades on roads leading to the Dy. CM's house. They were about to break the second layer, following which we were compelled to use water and tear gas," Bhupender Singh, SP, Sirsa, told *The Hindu*.

"In the entire incident there were no injuries either to any police personnel or the protesters," he said.

Agitated farmers raised slogans against the Centre and the State governments, terming the laws "anti-farmer", and demanded Mr. Chautala to withdraw from the coalition government by resigning from his post.

"The police lobbed tear gas shells, used water cannon when the farmers tried to go past the barricades to lay siege to the residence of Mr. Chautala," said Phool Singh Sheokand, president, Haryana Kisan Sabha.

Inderjit Singh, a farmer leader associated with the AIKSCC, said the resistance of the farmers will continue.

"Either Dushyant Chautala should not claim the legacy of his great-grandfather former Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal or he should quit from his post," Mr. Singh said.

"We will observe October 14 as the MSP rights day and march to Delhi on November 26 and 27," he said.

Rajasthan to provide seeds, fertilizers for rabi crops

MOHAMMED IQBAL
JAIPUR

Amid protests against the farm Acts, the Congress government in Rajasthan has started making arrangements of seeds and fertilizers for the rabi crops after an assessment of the farmers' needs in different regions. Instructions have been issued for taking strict action against adulteration and black marketing of agricultural inputs.

The sowing season for rabi crops in the State extends from mid-October to November-end. Agriculture Minister Lalchand Kataria said here on Tuesday that monitoring would ensure availability of certified seeds, urea, diammonium phosphate and single superphosphate in sufficient quantities.

Mr. Kataria gave instructions for ensuring the supplies first to the eastern parts of the State.

இந்திய தகவல் தொழில்நுட்பக் கழகம் திருச்சிராப்பள்ளி
भारतीय सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान, तिरुचिरापल्ली
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TIRUCHIRAPPALLI
(An Institute of National Importance under MHRD, Govt. of India)
Oxford Engineering College Campus, TIRUCHIRAPPALLI -620009
Website: www.iiitt.ac.in Mail id: office@iiitt.ac.in

IIITT/ADVT/PhD/Even Sem/2020 07-10-2020

Ph.D. PROGRAMME ADVERTISEMENT

Applications are invited from qualified candidates for admission to Ph.D. programme (Full Time / Part Time) in the disciplines of CSE, ECE, ME, Mathematics, Physics, English and Economics. The online application form and other details are available on Institute's Website: www.iiitt.ac.in
Last date for submission of duly filled in application: 31st October 2020, 5 p.m.

Assistant Registrar (I/C)

Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment (KSCSTE)
Sasthrabhavan, Pattom, Thiruvananthapuram - 695 004
Phone : 0471-2548316, Website: www.kscste.kerala.gov.in

NOTIFICATION - 01.10.2020

The KSCSTE is seeking qualified candidates for the post of **Scientist E2, Scientist-C** (Clinical Virology and Viral diagnosis), **Technical Officer and Technical Assistant** for the Institute of Advanced Virology, Thonnakkal, Thiruvananthapuram.
For details log on to **www.kscste.kerala.gov.in**
Last date for the receipt of application/Nomination is **16.11.2020, 5.30 pm**
RO/01557/D3/2020/I&PRD **MEMBER SECRETARY**

GOVERNMENT OF KERALA
Transport (A) Department
Applications are invited for appointment on contract / deputation basis to the Post of
Chartered Accountant / Cost Accountant (5 Nos)
in Kerala State Road Transport Corporation.
* Application format and other details are available at
www.prd.kerala.gov.in, www.keralartc.com/html/Employzone.html.
1556/F4/2020/I&PR File No.TRANS-A1/161/2020-TRANS

Tender Notice

Directorate of Sericulture Uttarakhand, invites E-tender from manufacturer/authorized distributors for procurement of Sericulture Rearing Trays size 3'X2'X2.5" made of HDPE material. The trays should be double walled for extra strength with perforated bottom and closed at sides and HDPE Sericulture Mountages size 3'X2' with 11 folding height 70 mm khancha 18X20 mm 350 gm weight Colour: Black. The E-Tender programmes are as under:

S.No.	Description	Dated
1	Web Portal / Platform	www.uktenders.gov.in
2	Tender document will be available on website	06-10-2020 from 10:00 a.m.
3	Last date for uploading Technical and Financial bids	20-10-2020 upto 5:00 p.m.
4	Date of receiving the following in original at Directorate Office: i. Tender form ii. Earnest money DD iii. Tender Fee DD iv. Technical bid v. Samples.	20-10-2020 upto 5:00 p.m.
5	Date of opening of tender	21-10-2020 at 3.00 PM

Director
Directorate of Sericulture Uttarakhand
DIPR/UK/13412 **Premnagar-Dehradun India**

KASHMIR POWER DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LIMITED (KPDCL)
(Fully Owned Government of J&K Undertaking)
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (Planning) PLANNING & PROCUREMENT WING, KASHMIR
E-Mail : epndcs@gmail.com

EXTENSION NOTICE-II

In view of the requests from the prospective Bidders and to ensure fair participation, extension in critical dates is given to e- NIT NO: SE/EPL/e-NIT-07 of 2020-21 dated 26.08.2020,"PURCHASE OF 33KV OUTDOOR VACUUM CIRCUIT BREAKERS FOR USE AT 33/11KV SUBSTATIONS" detailed as under.

1.	Submission of e-Bid (end) Date and Time	15.10.2020 15:00 Hrs
2.	Submission of Hard Copy (end) Date and Time	16.10.2020 16:00 Hrs in the office of the Chief Engineer P&P wing, PDD Complex, Bemina, Srinagar.
3.	Commercial / Technical Bid Opening Date and Time	17.10.2020 at 14:00 Hrs.

All other terms and conditions as stipulated in the original NIT shall remain same.
Sd/-
Superintending Engineer
Planning (KPDCL)
DIPK-NB-2794/20

DIRECTORATE OF ADMISSIONS OSMANIA UNIVERSITY, HYDERABAD
Notification for Entrance Test for Admission into DBT sponsored P.G. Diploma Promram: 2020-2021

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for entrance test and admission into **Department of Biotechnology (DBT)** sponsored one year Postgraduate Diploma Program in Medical Biotechnology on Genetic Counselling with Special Emphasis on Prenatal and Postnatal Diagnostic offered by **Institute of Genetics & Hospital for genetic Diseases, Osmania University, Begumpet.** For eligibility Criteria, application form, entrance test syllabi and for details information visit the website, www.osmania.ac.in, www.instituteofgenetics-ou.org and www.ouadmissions.com. **The last date for the submission of filled in application is 07.11.2020.**
Hyderabad
Date: 07.10.2020 RO No: 981-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2020-21 Sd/- Prof. N.KISHAN, DIRECTOR

Government of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL HOSPITAL AND CENTRAL HEATING DIVISION SRINAGAR
Telefax:- 0194-2496089, Email ID:- xenmhchdk@yahoo.in

GIST of E -NIT NO: MHCHD/TS /2020-21/143/e-tendering (Short-Term)
Dated:-05.10.2020.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K State e-tenders are invited from registered/reputed/experienced firms with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the below mentioned work:-

Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Position of funds
1	2	3	4	5
Outsourcing of Manpowerfor operationof existing Oxygen Plants/Manifold System at MMABM Associated Hospital, GMC Anantnag.	6.00	500	12000	Available

1. The Tender document Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in from ***05.10.2020 (18.00 hrs).***
2. The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site from 06.10.2020 (10:00 hrs) to 16.10.2020 (15:00 hrs) in two (02) cover.
3. The bids uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on17.10.2020 (15.00 hrs) or any date convenient to the department in the office of Executive Engineer, MHCHD, Srinagar.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
MHCHD, Srinagar
DIPK-6889/20

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR,
SHER-I-KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, SOURA
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL SKIMS MC&H, BEMINA & SKIMS, SOURA. SRINAGAR
Tel: 0194-2402617 Ext; 2159 E-Mail :mechanicalskims@gmail.com

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE
e-NIT NO. 40 OF 20-21 Dated.03.10.2020

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor U.T. of Jammu & Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Mechanical, SKIMS, Soura, Srinagar, invites online e-bids in two (02) cover system from Manufacturer's/Authorized Dealers/Registered/Reputed firms and Experienced firms having expertise as detailed in the tender document for the following works:

S.No.	Name of the Work :-	Estimated Cost (in Lacs)
1	**Providing, fitting, servicing and repairing of Air Compressor Model HX2T-75NP of oxygen concentrator Plant-750LPM in SKIMS, Soura.**	**Rs.7.35 Lacs**

The complete tender document is available at website http://jktenders.gov.in. Interested bidders/tenderers may view, download the e-bid document, seek clarifications and submit their bids online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below. Tender Document contains qualifying criteria for bidders. Specifications, Bills of Quantities, &Terms and conditions of the contract and other relevant details.

I)	Date and time of downloading/Sale of tender documents (Starting Date).	08.10.2020 from 11:00 Hours.
ii)	Date & Time of Bidding Queries/clarification/Pre-bid meet	08.10.2020 at 11:00 Hours.
iii)	Last Date & Time of Bid Uploading	12.10.2020 upto 16:00 Hours
iv)	Date of Submission of hard copies (only Original EMD/DD for Document Fee)	13.10.2020 upto 14:00 Hours
v)	Date & Time of Commercial/technical Bid (Cover-I) opening	14.10.2020 11:00 Hours (or next convenient day) .
vi)	Date & Time of Financial Bid(Cover-IInd) Opening of the qualifying Bidders	Shall be intimated separately.
vii)	Cost of e-bid Document	Rs.500/= (Rupees Five Hundred only).
viii)	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit(CDR/FDR)	Rs. 14700/= (Rupees Fourteen Thousand & Seven Hundred only)
ix)	Completion Time	5 Days.
x)	Budget Head	non-Plan for the year 2020-21

No:-SIMS 139 EX./MECH/2019-20/518/20-23932402-5406-09 Dated :- 03.10.2020
No:-SIMS 5409 Dated:- 05.10.2020
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Mechanical, SKIMS

JAMMU AND KASHMIR POLICE
DISTRICT POLICE HEADQUARTERS JAMMU
0191-2561578 (O), 0191-254780 (F),email: sspjammu@jkpolice.gov.in

LOOK OUT NOTICE

As reported by SDPO City East, Jammu vide communication No. 14375/SDCEJ dated 30.09.2020, that one unidentified male dead body apparently looks like beggar, hit by unknown vehicle near RBI Quarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. Upon this, case FIR No. 251/2020 U/S 279/337 PC registered at P/S Bahu Fort and injured was shifted to GMCH Jammu, but said injured succumbed to his injuries and died, dead body was shifted to mortuary room of GMCH, Jammu.

For the identification of unidentified male dead body below description roll is required to be published on daily newspapers for identification / Public in general, having any clue related to the unidentified dead body, kindly communicate the same on the below mentioned contact / Telephone numbers.

Description Roll :-
Name : Un-known
Age : 65/70 years (Approx)
Built : Lean
Height : 5' 6"
Complexion : Black

Contacts/Telephone Numbers:-
1. DPO, Jammu : 0191-2547807, 0191-2561578
2. SSP Jammu Mail I.D : sspjammu@jkpolice.gov.in
3. PCR Jammu : 0191-2542000
4. SP City South : 0191-2433778
5. SDPO City East : 0191-2474700
6. P/S Bahu Plaza : 0191-22475133
7. SHO P/S Bahu Fort : 9419835599

For
For Sr. Superintendent of Police
Jammu
DIP/J-5434/20

Grapes of wrath

The Yogi regime is trying to stigmatise legitimate outcry on the Hathras murder

The registration of multiple police cases in Uttar Pradesh on charges of conspiracy and sedition is an insensitive, albeit unsurprising, response to the legitimate outrage sparked by the way in which its officials had handled the aftermath of the gang rape and murder of a Dalit girl in Hathras. The State administration is seeking to convert the outcry and political advocacy into a putative conspiracy to foment caste discord. There seems to be inadequate recognition that initial attempts to deny that any rape took place and to prevent political leaders and the media from meeting the girl's family pointed to an administrative posture hostile to the doing of complete justice. It was only to be expected that such an attitude would create a backlash against the State government. The only way to restore its image is to display empathy for the victim and treat protests seeking justice as legitimate. Even though the suspects named by the 19-year-old before her death in a Delhi hospital have been arrested and the FIR includes the charge of gang rape, there are clear signs that the Yogi Adityanath government is adopting dubious tactics to prevent what it sees as the crystallisation of public opinion against itself. Recognising that the formation of an SIT did not help undo the damage to the government's image, the Chief Minister recommended a CBI investigation. However, even that came across as a move to fob off any adverse order from the Allahabad High Court, which has taken *suo motu* cognisance of the matter.

Remarks by senior police officers to the effect that there was no evidence of rape – citing the absence of semen in swabs taken for forensic analysis – indicated an official reluctance to acknowledge the gang-rape part of the offence. Latest reports suggest that a journalist on his way to Hathras and three others have been detained. They are also sought to be linked to the Popular Front of India, an organisation whose name came up in connection with recent riots and anti-government protests. This raises the suspicion of an attempt to control the narrative by resorting to a template of identifying members of a communal organisation as alleged conspirators and instigators of violence. The template includes the use of penal provisions relating to sedition and conspiracy and the projection of a theory that all protests and political activity against it constitute a plot to overthrow the government. A responsive government would have endeavoured to extend a healing touch, reassure the victims, and reserve its wrath for the offenders. Instead, the Adityanath government is focusing on blaming political leaders, pressuring the victim's family and preventing the emergence of a united voice against sexual violence, attacks on the marginalised communities and the devastating effect an unregenerate caste hierarchy has on society.

Vanquishing viruses

The Nobel Prize for Medicine is an inspiration to researchers working on SARS-CoV-2

At a time when the world is faced with multiple assaults from a frighteningly obscure virus, it cannot be mere coincidence that the Nobel Committee decided to anoint three scientists who peeled the layers off another virus that confounded generations of physicians – the Hepatitis C virus (HCV). The 2020 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, to Harvey J. Alter, Michael Houghton and Charles M. Rice, is a stout endorsement of years of work that went towards identifying one of the world's greatest scourges. But to see it shorn of the context it is couched in would be to miss the larger point or purpose it could serve. Choosing researchers who went after a pathogen, and succeeded in unwrapping the whole puzzle at a time when others are fighting fatigue in a daily battle against the SARS-CoV-2 virus, is also a hat tip to the virologists and geneticists burning the midnight oil, for over nine months now.

The accolades went to the three for identifying the viral origin of Hepatitis C. Their work, the Nobel statement said, characterised this form of hepatitis to be a distinct clinical entity, caused by an RNA virus of the *Flavivirus* family, now known as HCV. In fact, it was for the discovery of the Hepatitis B virus (HBV), and the development of the first-generation HBV vaccine, that Baruch Blumberg, whom the young Alter collaborated with, was awarded the 1976 Medicine Nobel. However, even the isolation of the HBV only partially eliminated the risk of contracting this severe liver disease transmitted through blood. The circle was only complete with the discovery of HCV. According to the WHO Global Hepatitis report, HBV and HCV are major causes for mortality and morbidity, with 1.34 million deaths reported in 2015, a 63% increase from 1990, mainly due to HCV. The number of deaths is also comparable to that caused by TB and higher than that caused by AIDS. The discoveries (of HBV and HCV), and the development of effective screening routines, have virtually eliminated the risk of transmission via blood products in much of the world. Also, with the development of effective drugs against HCV, it is possible that the threat of this viral infection will reduce, and hopefully, be eliminated soon. That is what makes this year's Laureates' achievement so tremendous. The Nobel Committee called it "among the most impactful scientific accomplishments of the 20th century". In true lineage of other Nobel Prizes for Medicine, their identification represents "milestone achievements that have revolutionised medicine and substantially improved human health". The triumph of humanity, over the pathogens that debilitate and kill men and women is certainly a singular achievement that is worth celebrating, and showcasing this achievement will send a deeply inspiring message at a time when another virus is holding the world to ransom.

The disintegration of the criminal justice system

A problem-solving system handled by the executive is taking shape; establishing truth through trials has ceased to exist

ABHINAV SEKHRI

A well-established textbook on the principles of criminal law in the United Kingdom painstakingly establishes various theoretical bases for justifying what should be a crime – that it should involve some harm, must carry a certain degree of seriousness, and so on. But then, revealingly, it undoes this edifice in a single section by telling us that at the end of the day, criminal law and crimes are whatever the state says it is. In India, this political nexus is arguably more pronounced: A majority government makes the laws and controls the investigative machinery, which means that not only does it define what a crime is but it can also selectively pursue only those crimes which it cares about and forget about the rest.

In disarray across India

Pursue those crimes to what end, you ask. Ultimately, the idea of "crime" is hollow without the accompanying punishment. The loss of liberty upon imprisonment we are all taught to dread. However, it is often forgotten that this punishment can only arise upon a judgment of conviction at the end of a trial. There is, then, a synergy between the crime, its pursuit by an investigation, and the calling to account of those found guilty, which is colloquially referred to as a criminal justice system. And wherever one looks across India, it is in a shambles.

The morbid happenings in the State of Uttar Pradesh are but one stark example of just how bad things can get. A notorious gangster was involved in a gunfight with police, fled, and was later captured from another State. In the meanwhile, the news was awash with stories alleging corrupt links of the accused to public servants. As his entourage made its way back to Uttar Pradesh, there was an "encounter" and the accused was shot dead.

There was a crime, several crimes in fact. The State police decided to pursue it. However, there was no waiting for a trial to condemn the accused and sentence him; punishment was swiftly meted out by the police itself. So much so, that an erstwhile Supreme Court Judge felt that the State's version of events made it appear as if it did not even care whether the encounter story was believed or not.

Extremes in Uttar Pradesh

If the Vikas Dubey encounter death demonstrated a willingness to punish without condemning an accused through trial, Uttar Pradesh has also demonstrated a willingness to condemn without any trial. It passed a law enabling the publishing of massive hoardings with the names and personal details of persons allegedly involved in the destruction of property caused in riots following the anti-Citizenship Act protests. But, here is the thing: all of this is before a court convicted them for these acts. Rather, the power to condemn was sourced not from a judicial order, but from the power to level allegations, which is wholly executive in scope. In this fashion, the police became judge, jury, and executioner.

Of course, these instances are where the State decided to pursue alleged crime. There are many cases where it turns a blind eye to incidents of violence, either indefinitely or for long enough. A young girl was brutally assaulted and left to die when she was found by her family on September 14 in the village of Hathras, Uttar Pradesh. The same family did what anyone would do – report the incident to the police while they rushed their daughter to a hospital. Only, here, despite the injuries being evident, the police did not register a case for hours, and even then did not include the serious offence of rape. Of course, where the police was not willing to register this single case of rape, it has swiftly registered at least 19 cases regarding an alleged conspiracy to use the incident for political purposes to show the State in a bad light.

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Govt.-judiciary disconnect

There are clear, discernible tendencies which these examples from the State of Uttar Pradesh only serve to demonstrate. These are, first, the growing disconnect between the government and judiciary in matters of criminal justice; second, the bolstering of executive power as a result of this growing disconnect, and third, the unsurprising imitation of executive-mindedness by the judiciary. The result of this, I argue, is a transformation from a criminal justice system, to a problem-solving system.

The Crime in India data for 2019 (https://bit.ly/34pB7VK) confirm a trend that has been on display for decades now: our police are seemingly super-efficient, but our courts are super-slow. Let us continue with Uttar Pradesh as an example. Its police have a pendency rate for cases at just above 15%, but the courts have pendency rates just above 90% (for IPC crimes). And, worryingly, these are not the worst figures. What this means is that as police forces keep adding to the docket every year, the courts are becoming ever slower in their ability to conduct trials and pass judgments.

This exacerbates the natural time-gap between the incident and any potential punishment, and reduces the importance of courts in the criminal justice system. Among other things, this disconnect also reduces whatever value condemnation through trial might have had, as people move on and so does life in almost all cases. Just how severely this tendency is magnified in an era defined by the 24-hour news cycle is anyone's guess.

How does a system fill this gap between incident and eventual judgment? By slowly legitimising the idea of punishments without condemnation or any kind of being called into account. All that matters, is solving the problem, and moving on.

This system where judges lose sway is where the executive gains more power. It is the arrest, and not a conviction, which becomes the seminal moment in the criminal process. Victims do not even think as far as proving anything in court, at times, and all that matters is arrest and an indefinite incarceration, or even an encounter if the allegation is heinous enough. At the same time, the executive tries to legally bolster powers of pre-trial arrest and custody, while also arrogating to itself more powers to punish without condemnation – asset forfeiture being a key power.

Presumption of innocence

The transformation stands complete, when judges try to regain some of their lost footing by trying to imitate the now popular branch. Courts become happy to look at facts, in detail, at the stage of bail itself. What is more, courts also become willing to help arrive at settlements through this stage by using incarceration as a bargaining tool to force errant accused persons to make reparations. In doing so, courts actively replace facts established through cross-examination of a witness with her untested allegations that the police decided to pursue, because even courts no longer have the time for the process either. The presumption of innocence be damned, so long as the problem is solved and a victim can go home satisfied.

Amidst this pandemic and the spiralling chaos that it has brought, there has been a comforting background score that has steadily played on. This is the systematic disintegration of any criminal justice system worth its name across India, and its gradual replacement with a problem-solving system where initial accusations and their handling by the executive branch becomes most critical and values such as the presumption of innocence and establishing truth through trials have long ceased to exist. That certain States are at the vanguard of this progression could, perhaps, cynically be seen as yet another symptom of their development which makes many others envious.

Abhinav Sekhri is a lawyer practising in New Delhi

Coming up trumps in the virus fight

The global COVID-19 response needs to focus on definite preventive measures, universal masking for example

K. SRINATH REDDY

Which country has performed the highest number of COVID-19 tests? The United States. Which country's President said he is safe because everyone who meets him at work or attends a political rally is pre-screened by virus testing? Again, the United States. Unfortunately, U.S. President Donald Trump has now been infected by the novel coronavirus despite all that testing. While wishing him a speedy recovery, we must wonder why that formidable cordon of testing did not prevent the virus from sneaking through. Also, why is the U.S. the global leader in COVID-19 deaths while testing at such high rates? The answers are relevant to other countries.

The 'test' strategy

Despite the belief that tests are the key to control of the pandemic ("Test! Test! Test!"), they are not infallible. They have inaccuracies arising from false negative and false positive results. False negatives mean that tests do not always detect the virus when present. This may be because the virus could not be picked by the swab early or late in the infection or that a defective sampling technique could not grab the virus. 'Sensitivity' is the ability of the test to detect the virus in persons who are truly infected. This is usually assessed in hospital cases where the diagnosis is highly probable on clinical criteria, as compared to persons who are judged to be virus free.

However, such 'technical sensitivity' is often higher than the 'clinical sensitivity' observed in field conditions, as pointed out in a recent paper by McAdam and Pettengill ("Can We Test Our Way Out of the COVID -19 Pandemic?"). Molecular tests such as real time RT-PCR (Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction) have a real world sensitivity between 60-70%. The Rapid Antigen Tests (RAT), when tested against RT-PCR as the gold standard, have a sensitivity ranging from 50-90%, according to different estimates. So, if RT-PCR has a sensitivity of 70% and RAT has a sensitivity of 70% compared to it, we run the risk of missing half the infected persons with RAT.

The other tests

While some manufacturers have claimed higher technical sensitivity with recent improvements, the rapid tests have been widely criticised for low sensitivity in field conditions. Yet, these are the tests that were used for screening officials, visitors and rally attendees who might pose a viral threat to the U.S. President.

AFP

Widespread use of tests for detection and isolation of infected cases, followed by tracing their contacts for testing and quarantine, with treatment of diagnosed cases, was promoted as the 'Test-Trace-Treat' formula by global and national health agencies. While this is conventional wisdom in infectious disease epidemics, the COVID-19 virus proved too tricky for this standard tackle. Asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic persons emerged as persons harbouring and discharging the virus. How many symptomless persons can we test in a large population, and how often?

Even for guiding treatment decisions, the only drug that has emerged so far with life-saving potential in seriously-ill hospitalised patients is dexamethasone. Steroids are not specific to COVID-19 and their use is dictated mainly by clinical state and not the test result.

Have we set too much in store by the testing rates in the population? When neighbouring countries are compared in any geographic zone, with similar socio-demographic and environmental conditions, there is absolutely no correlation between tests per million and deaths per million. Why is the death rate in Canada much lower than in the U.S. which has tested at a much higher rate? Across the world, the scatter is even wider. In contrast to the emphasis on testing rates, the U.S. did not fare well in contact tracing. It failed to mandate masks and faltered in persuading people to wear them, sending mixed political messages and conflicting technical advisories on their use.

Mask use

Some of the delay resulted from global health agencies taking time to unequivocally recommend the universal use of masks, despite the experiential wisdom of East and South East Asian countries in using masks to combat earlier respiratory virus epidemics. Would the world have been in a better place today if the World Health Organization's call in March was "Mask! Mask! Mask!"? Perhaps, the clarion call for testing reflected the understanding at that time. We are better informed now. Yet, many in the U.S. remain impervious to evidence and advice on masks.

The U.S. also paid little heed to social distancing. The fractious political environment bred contempt for public health advice and positioned opposition to masks and physical distancing as a libertarian assertion of personal freedom.

The fact that 'Super Spreader' events promote rapid dissemination of infection from a few infected persons to many others is well known from past epidemics of respiratory viruses. This is akin to the Pareto principle, propounded by the Italian-Swiss economist Vilfredo Pareto that roughly 80% of the effects in many events come from 20% of the causes. We now know that 5-20% of the infected persons are responsible for spreading the virus to 80% of others who are infected. Since this happens mostly in crowded 'Super Spreader' events (where people congregate or travel together), testing is either not always possible or does not pick up the virus in asymptomatic persons.

Yet, indoor crowding can form virus clouds from such persons in confined spaces, endangering many others. Here too, universal masking offers the best protection. If only we could roll the clock back and recommend universal masking in January or February 2020. If only the President of the United States had regularly worn a mask and told others to do so too.

Dr. K. Srinath Reddy, a cardiologist and epidemiologist, is President, Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI). He is the author of 'Make Health in India: Reaching a Billion Plus'. The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Hathras fallout

The strategy by the Uttar Pradesh government to level the charge of a 'conspiracy' by some groups and individuals to instigate caste and communal violence' in the State is nothing but this – a diversionary tactic (Page 1, "U.P. police allege bid to trigger caste violence", October 6). The State government needs to answer these questions: Why was the girl from Hathras, who was practically mutilated, cremated in the early hours of the day and in such a tearing hurry, violating, in the process, the rights of her family? Who ordered the girl's cremation and why? Why was the victim's family isolated? Why were political leaders who wanted to console the victim's family not allowed to meet them initially? It is surprising that most of the very articulate and senior women Ministers in the Union cabinet have not said a word about the incident.

A. JAINULABDEEN,
Chennai

■ It appears that women's safety has become a casualty in Uttar Pradesh. What is worrisome is that the police appear to be hand in glove with the State in attempting to deny justice to the victim and her family. The State administration is in a state of deep slumber while the rest of India is in a state of shock. Ironically, the protectors of the law unabashedly shield the perpetrators of crimes.

P.K. VARADARAJAN,
Chennai

■ It may not be an exaggeration to say the cases of assault against women are on the rise in India, and most of us are reacting only when the degree of injury inflicted on the victim or survivor shakes the human conscience.
It is worrying that crime against women is not being given the attention it deserves. It is akin to inflicting a grievous wound on the nation. Women in India need to be safe anywhere and at all times.

MRITUNJAY PATHAK,
Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh

■ One shudders to think of the pain and the mental agony the victim would have undergone. It is jungle raj in Uttar Pradesh where the perpetrators of crime are safe and where the law of the land appears to be for the upper castes. After Hathras, the BJP's slogan "*Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao*" cannot sound more hollow. People who do not raise their voice against atrocities on women are only silently acknowledging acts of violence.

G.B. SIVANANDAM,
Coimbatore

■ It is clear that there is still a long road ahead of India in purging our culture and its psyche of the deeply embedded toxicity of male dominance. The case mirrors a typical caste-ridden patriarchal set-up that bestows a sense of entitlement on a certain section of men. The horrific act has a familiar script – of lapses by the state. The much tom-tommed laws in trying to ensure better safety for women after the 2012 Delhi case are proving to be ineffective to deterring offenders and predators. . As long as the social prejudice that devalues women is not rooted out, it is not quite a country for women.

N. SADHASIVA REDDY,
Bengaluru

Lesson for POTUS

Not very long ago, the U.S. President, Donald Trump, dismissed the novel coronavirus as another flu and that it would go away. We in India had a more scientific mindset and hence were more respectful to this affliction. Mr. Trump, like a western cowboy, was acting plain macho and is now afflicted. The virus is having its merry course, irrespective of science or geography. An under-treatment Mr. Trump must be wondering if his bravado will now cost him his second term. Should he fortuitously find his way back to the Oval office post November 2020, one can only hope that he revises his assessment of the World Health Organization and underwrites the U.S.'s role as a responsible member in international institutions that promote scientific inquiry into the strange ways of nature and our ability to understand them.

R. NARAYANAN,
Navi Mumbai

Academic year

As a parent of B. Tech and Junior college students, I feel this academic year should be declared a 'zero year' due to the COVID-19 pandemic. So far, it has only been one-sided online classes without practicals and a truncated syllabus. Parents are worried as children are least interested in online classes. Educational institutions are more interested in the collection of fees for their own survival than the fate of students. Without field practicals, especially in engineering and science, one can only imagine the quality of students.

T. KAILASH DITYA,
Hyderabad

Approaching the misinformation storm

Those who use social media must pull in another direction to maintain access to a range of views

SIDDHARTH PAI

ISTOCK PHOTO

Echo chambers have been a defining character of smaller towns for a number of years. When I first went to the U.S. for postgraduate study, I chose a small town in New York state. The university was considered one of the best business schools in the world. The fact that the long since diminished Bausch & Lomb, Eastman Kodak, and Xerox were headquartered in the town meant the university was well-funded. It attracted star faculty despite the town's small size and reputation for long, cold winters.

When I arrived there, however, I was horrified by the paucity of news. The local *Democrat & Chronicle* (derisively called the 'Demagogue and Comical') only covered news from the local county. There was no U.S. news to speak of, let alone global news. Having grown up on a diet of broadly focused Indian newspapers, this was anathema to me.

My indulgent father gifted me a subscription to the international edition of *The Hindu*, which was printed weekly and took at least a further week to arrive by post. It was only six pages in a small pamphlet format that could be folded and stuffed into a regular envelope to save on postage costs. Nonetheless, it gave me a much-needed view of international, Indian, and even U.S. news.

Biased 'news'

In the 1980s, the penultimate decade of U.S. newspaper ascendancy, hundreds of news organisations existed to serve these sorts of towns, much like they still do in multilingual India today. The Internet put paid to all that. One would have thought that democratic access to a large variety of news from all corners of the globe would have opened up the echo chambers in towns and rural areas, but the hard fact is that the Internet has pulled the other way. There are far fewer news outlets now than there were some years ago.

The travesty is that many of these organisations are not news outlets; they are social networks such as Facebook, WhatsApp, and Twitter. These have no journalistic norms. Anyone can say anything at any time about any topic with scant respect for the truth. Everything is an opinion, but not clearly labelled as such. As a result, much of the 'news' available on these platforms is biased. The unscrupulous sale of personal information and meddling by inimical foreign regimes can potentially even influence the outcome of an election. Worse, the spread of false and malicious news can stoke violence at short notice. We have already seen this in India, when WhatsApp came under Indian regulatory scrutiny after a doctored video that originated as an innocent advertisement in Pakistan spread on that medium and stoked violence.

A stark warning

The ascendance of Jio and the response from its competition means that anywhere between 500 million and 700 million people are now newly online, almost all from towns and rural areas. The U.S.'s experience with the Internet should serve as a stark warning to India. Most Americans now get their news from dubious Internet sources. The hardening of political stances on both sides of the divide is plain to see, and the acute polarisation of the average American's viewpoint is painful to watch. For India, the danger is that like the U.S., such extreme polarisation can happen in a few short years.

Also, the echo chamber has been greatly enhanced by the highly targeted algorithms that these companies use. The algorithms were built around making users stay online longer and click through to advertisements. They are likely to bombard users with information that serves to reinforce what the algorithm thinks the searcher needs to know. For instance, if I search for a particular type of phone on an e-commerce site even once, future searches are likely to autocomplete that search by showing that phone when I next open the app. It is the same with news. If I show a preference for right-wing leaning posts, for instance, the algorithms are likely to provide me with ever more right-wing posts from people and organisations.

As they familiarise themselves with the Internet, newly online Indians are bound to fall prey to the echo chamber algorithms that social network firms use, as well as other algorithms that ensure that they spend inordinate amounts of time within the bubble of one social network, therefore becoming easy marks for targeted advertising – both for products and of political viewpoints. Much can be said about how we should approach the impending Internet misinformation storm. I shall attempt to make a beginning here.

Things to do

First, we know that tech firms are already under fire from all quarters. Just as they are struggling to meet calls to contain the online spread of misinformation and hate speech online, they are being accused of suppressing both left-wing and right-wing views. There is no pleasing anyone on this issue. Nonetheless, we need to act.

Second, unlike the U.S., which has now become unlikely to directly regulate such firms, India might need to chart its own path by keeping them under check before they proliferate. In the U.S., these issues were not sufficiently legislated for and have existed for over a decade. Existing legislation has been tested by the American court system which has held that companies like Google and Facebook clearly engage in both free speech and press activities when they display content created by third-parties. Free speech is inherent in the Constitution of many other democracies, including India's. This means that new Indian legislation needs to preserve free speech while still applying pressure to make sure that Internet content is filtered for accuracy, and sometimes, plain decency. Let us remember that our courts do not legislate; they ensure adherence to existing legislation.

The third issue is corporate responsibility. Facebook, for instance, has started to address this matter by publishing 'transparency reports' and setting up an 'oversight board' to act as a sort of Supreme Court for Facebook's internal matters. However, for all these companies' efforts at transparency, we cannot ignore the fact that these numbers reflect judgements that are made behind closed doors. What should be regulatory attempts to influence the transparency of information that members of the public see are instead being converted into secret corporate processes. We have no way of knowing the extent of biases that may be inherent inside each firm. The fact that their main algorithms target advertising and hyper-personalisation of content makes them further suspect as arbiters of balanced news. This means that those who use social media platforms must pull in another direction to maintain access to a range of sources and views. Whether this will be possible as the hinterland of India comes online is doubtful. We need strong intervention now. Else, in addition to the media, which has largely been the responsible fourth estate, we may well witness the creation of an unmanageable fifth estate in the form of Big Tech.

Siddharth Pai is founder of Siana Capital, a venture capital firm focused on Indian Deep Tech and Science

A wake-up call for the Republic

Only the court can withstand aberrations that make the citizen lose faith in the functioning of the state

KAPIL SIBAL

No social contract can eliminate crime in society. History has shown constant hostility between criminals who disturb the social order and those who endeavour to maintain it. Laws dealing with crimes and criminals emanate from power structures, in one form or another, charged with the responsibility of maintaining the social order which allows individuals to go about their everyday lives in the belief that they enjoy the protective cover of those wielding authority. No modern society should tolerate individual rights to be trampled upon and individual liberties to be sacrificed by the state and its machinery collaborating with or aiding those charged with offences that disturb societal peace and tranquility.

Of late, our Republic has witnessed crimes, the sheer barbarity of which has shocked our collective conscience. Perpetrators of such heinous crimes have been emboldened by the manner in which the state investigating machinery has been dealing with them in the recent past.

The colours of violence

Since 2014, caste-based criminal targeting has increased exponentially. Dalits are often victims of upper-caste brutality. The iniquitous caste structure accompanied by unforgiving mindsets allows such crimes to be committed with impunity. The perpetrators believe that the state machinery will come to their aid because of caste affiliations embedded in the power structure. This explains the public lynching of Dalits and the forgotten episodes of their victimisation including sexual assault, with perpetrators going unpunished. Caste and poverty go hand in hand. Those at the bottom of the caste structure are also immersed in poverty. They lack the wherewithal to get justice.

Then there are crimes based on religious predilections. Minorities within a majoritarian state need the protective measure of the state because the prevalent majoritarian culture seeks dominance which often expresses itself in violent retributions. Innocent victims are attacked for not following majoritarian diktats. They are targeted for what they wear and for their physical attributes. They are publicly shamed and made to pay for the perceived sins of their ancestors. The perpetrator is perceived to represent majoritarian nationalist sentiment.

The third aspect is the foisting of an ideology on those who either don't subscribe to it or are openly opposed to it. Here, the politics of violence takes over. The political class, in suppressing the voice of dissent, seeks to use violence as a weapon to instil fear so that the message of conformity percolates downstream to quell all forms of opposition. The Indian state, therefore, has to confront violence which has cultural, religious and political colour.

State of the legal system

For the rule of law to prevail, the legal system must equip itself to meet the expectations of the law. It must investigate fairly, remain unbiased, and punish the guilty. But the legal system seems to have distanced itself from the law by doing the bidding of dominant affiliations. Recent tragedies fuel doubts about the nature of the state and the role of investigating agencies. How then does one explain a crime recognised by a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court to have been committed in public gaze culminating in the court unable to identify both the conspiracy and the conspirators? How does one explain the conduct of an investigating agency which cremates a 19-year-old victim in secrecy at 2:30 in the morning without informing the family? How do we come to terms with the opinion of that agency that the victim was not raped despite the family referring to the condition of the girl and later her dying declaration alleging gang-rape?

The cases relating to lynching of Mohammad Akhlaq and the rape victim in Kathua along with the politics of dominance surrounding such crimes show the state machinery as biased and unforgiving not qua the perpetrators but qua the victims. Any investigating agency has the ability to botch an investigation: manipulate records, fail to record statements of key witnesses, wilfully choose not to collect evidence crucial to the case, and ensure that witnesses incriminating the accused are not produced in court. The court finds itself helpless and occasionally chooses not to help itself and the law. When the nexus among the state, investigating agencies and the accused becomes the norm, the victim is the rule of law.

It is a wake-up call for the Republic. Some of our spineless institutions with their open biases have led to this abysmal state of affairs. The only institution that can withstand such aberrations that make the citizen lose faith in the functioning of the state is the court. Our future will depend on the court's courage to call a spade a spade.

Kapil Sibal is a Rajya Sabha MP and a Congress leader

A champion on and off court

From being a girl of promise, Naomi Osaka has become an icon of hope

PREETHI RAMAMOORTHY

In tennis, it is rare to see an athlete truly grow up. This 'growing up' is not what it often means in sport: usually, the ability of a player to be disciplined, or not throw a tantrum when things don't go right. This is more about finding their own self, a distinct voice; navigating a relentlessly demanding sport they have been trying to perfect since childhood. It may be easy if you are a veteran: all those years of weathering the endless rigmarole of touring, raking up ranking points and navigating sponsors comes with its own lessons. But how does someone young and introverted – almost to the point of being melancholic – like Naomi Osaka manage to find herself standing, barely three years after bursting onto the scene?

Osaka, 22, has often been described as 'shy', 'innocent' or 'awkward'. Two years ago, she would tiptoe into press conferences and counter tough questions with self-deprecating humour. But when summer arrived this year, one saw in a world plagued by despair, a girl of promise become an icon of hope.

Amplifying voices

Osaka, who is the highest paid female athlete according to *Forbes*, was among the first to register her support for the Black Lives Matter movement. She flew to Minneapolis and attended protests surrounding the death of George Floyd. This was a transformed Osaka, someone whose life pivoted around the practice court. Floyd's death at the hands of a white policeman had outraged much of the U.S., and when Osaka chose to stand among those who felt anguished, she was making a clear statement.

On social media, she amplified messages about organisations working for the Black Lives Matter movement and urged her fans to understand what it means to be a person of colour in America. She was, of course, met with the usual lamentations: why was an athlete commenting on issues that do not concern her sport? But Osaka remained unfazed. She became accutely aware of her reach and used the platform to facilitate change. In doing so, she made the sport relevant to issues plaguing the world today.

In what was perhaps the most defining moment in her role as a leader for social advocacy, Osaka announced that she would not be playing her semi-final match at the Western & Southern Open to protest against the police shooting of Jacob Blake, a young Black man, in Wisconsin. It was discernible then that playing good tennis was only going to be a subset of what Osaka stood for. As a result of her decision, the tournament itself paused play for one day.

In 2020, Osaka has redefined what it means to be a tennis player. It is not just about enthralling fans with deft shotmaking, filling up stadium seats and raking up TV views. It is also about making the sport a sanctuary where an athlete can achieve everlasting change.

Masks and the message

She brought seven masks into the U.S. Open with her, each emblazoned with the name of a Black person who was a victim of racially charged, law-enforcement confrontations. But wearing seven masks required playing seven matches, from the opening round to the final. Osaka did just that and more. Standing inside Arthur Ashe Stadium, named after a Black player who spent much of his life fighting prejudice, she won her third Grand Slam title, showing those who doubted her that it was possible to be a champion on and off court.

At the trophy ceremony, she was asked again about what message she wanted to send. The new Osaka, now brave and assertive, responded without missing a beat: "Well, what was the message you got, is more the question."

A few hours and several thousand miles away, a Japanese TV show introduced the story behind each person on her masks. Osaka's message had gone global.

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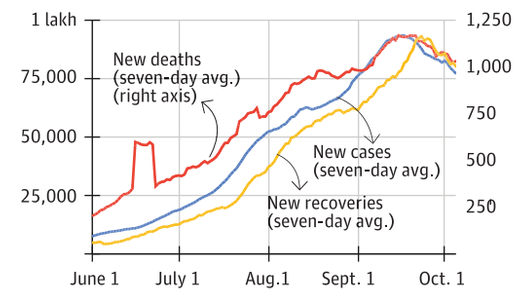
DATA POINT

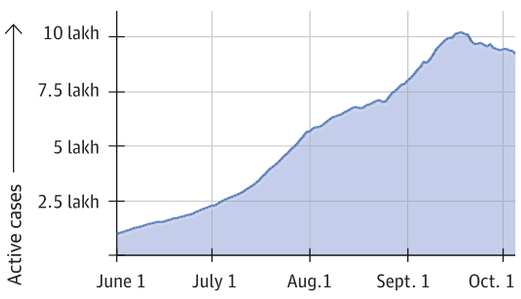
An inflection point

| After peaking with over 98,000 new COVID-19 cases on September 16, infections in India have gradually declined. Initially, this was attributed to a drastic drop in testing; however, cases have lately continued to decline despite increased testing. Daily deaths are on a downward trend too, and new recoveries have surpassed new cases, thereby arresting the steady rise in active cases. However, the further opening up of the economy, especially closed spaces such as cinema halls, could have an impact on the numbers. By **The Hindu Data Team**

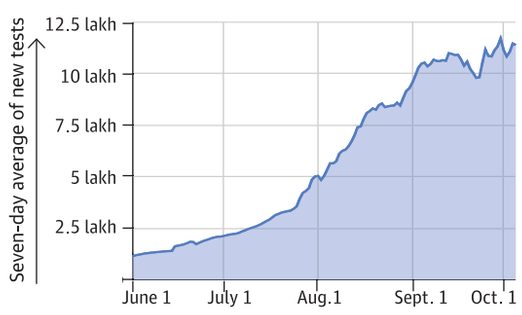
1. FIRST FALL | The number of new cases, deaths and recoveries has been falling since mid-September. Moreover, since September 21, new recoveries have on average surpassed new cases



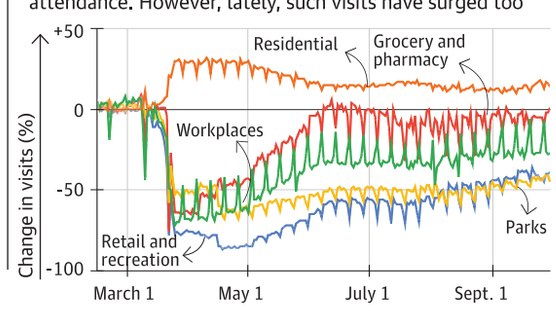
2. ACTIVE DECLINE | After peaking at about 10.2 lakh on Sept. 18, active cases are declining. This is because of a fall in new cases and deaths along with the fact that new recoveries are surpassing new infections



3. MIXED TREND | Daily tests declined rapidly after Sept. 16 - around the same time when cases started to decline. However, after a brief fall, they picked up again after Sept. 24, though inconsistencies remain



4. NEARING NORMAL | The chart shows increases (>0) or decreases (<0) in visits to places compared to a baseline value (0)*. While workplaces saw high attendance by June, retail and recreational places and parks recorded low attendance. However, lately, such visits have surged too



*Median value for the corresponding day between January 3 & February 6. Source: Google mobility report, State Health Ministries

The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO OCTOBER 7, 1970

Sadat nominated to succeed Naseer

Fiercely anti-imperialist Anwar Sadat, one of late President Nasser's oldest and closest revolutionary colleagues, to-day [October 6, Cairo] looked set to become Egypt's new leader following his nomination for the job. His massive endorsement by the people at a nationwide plebiscite fixed for October 15 seemed assured. U.A.R. Presidents are elected for six-year terms. Mr. Sadat, 51, an ex-soldier who helped to plot the 1952 revolution against the monarchy from its earliest stages, last night received the unanimous backing of the 150-member Central Committee of the Arab Socialist Union, Egypt's sole political party. His name will be put to the 360-member National Assembly at a special session to-morrow morning (08-00 G.M.T.-13-30 I.S.T.) and there is no doubt that he will receive the necessary two-thirds backing. Mr. Sadat is expected to be sworn in as President two days after the plebiscite of the eight million qualified A.S.U voters. His nomination for the top post only four days after wild scenes of grief at Nasser's funeral came as no surprise.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO OCTOBER 7, 1920

Indian Medical Service

(From an Editorial)

The recommendations of the Committee which assembled last year under the Presidency of Sir Verney Lovett to examine the question of the reorganisation of the Medical Services in India, a summary of which appeared in our columns on Monday last, are, as was apprehended by some of the experienced members of the Provincial Medical Service and other shrewd critics outside the medical profession, of a reactionary character and they also furnish a striking illustration of "the art of contriving a method of reform which will leave matters exactly as they are". The Public Services Commission recommended that "it should no longer be the case that the civil departments should be the adjuncts of the military services." They also recommended that "Regular Civil Medical Services should be constituted. One should be entrusted with higher duties and should be for the whole of India... The other should be formed separately in each province to carry out the duties of minor importance and should be called the Madras (Bombay, etc.) Civil Medical Services respectively." They conceded that military medical men should also be considered eligible for such posts up to a definite proportion.

FROM PAGE ONE

'Will ensure smooth probe into Hathras case'

"We are not opposing the petition. But there is narrative after narrative about the incident in the public domain. A young innocent girl has lost her life, let us not sensationalise it. We want a fair and free investigation, we want the investigation to appear free and fair... Please ensure that the investigation is supervised by the Supreme Court," Mr. Mehta conveyed the stand of the U.P. government.

An affidavit filed by the government said "false narratives gained momentum at the behest of vested interests". There was a "criminal conspiracy to spread caste conflict and instigate violence".

The affidavit noted that the government has already formed a SIT and even asked the Centre for a CBI probe into the case.

During the hearing, senior advocate Indira Jaising, seeking an intervention in the case, highlighted the manner in which the victim's body was cremated in the dead of the night. She said 27 FIRs had been registered against protesters. It was necessary that the stringent provisions of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act were applied to the four accused.

Ms. Jaising highlighted the need for witness protection. "The situation there is very tense", she submitted. The issue of transfer of the case was wholly within the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, she said.

Mr. Mehta said the witnesses were already under police protection.

Kerala to step up enforcement in public places

Bengaluru records major spike of 5,012 cases; positivity rate in Andhra Pradesh at 8.8%; Telangana records 1,983 cases

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

While 7,871 new COVID-19 cases were reported in Kerala on Tuesday, there was a slight dip, with the test positivity rate at 13% and 60,494 samples being tested.

The number of patients in ICUs rose to 557, and those on ventilator also increased to 171. The State added another 25 deaths to the toll. Nine deaths were reported at Thiruvananthapuram, five at Kollam, four at Malappuram, three at Kottayam, two at Kannur and one each at Alapuzha and Kasaragod.

COVID-19

Over 97% of new cases were locally acquired infections including those reported in 111 healthcare workers.

Thiruvananthapuram district reported 989 cases, Malappuram 854, Kollam 845, Ernakulam 837, Thrissur 757, Kozhikode 736, Kannur 545, Palakkad 520, Kottayam 427, Alapuzha 424, Kasaragod 416, Pathanamthitta 330, Wayanad 135 and Idukki 56 cases.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan told the media the Sate would focus on identifying and isolating symptomatic people and stringently implement the COVID-19 protocol in markets and other public places. All those who tested negative in rapid antigen tests but were symptomatic, would be re-tested using RT-PCR. All districts were asked to take steps to ensure that test positivity was below 10%. Directions had been given to ensure special care for pregnant women, children and those on dialysis who might test positive for COVID-19.

Andhra Pradesh added 5,795 new infections and 33 deaths on Tuesday. Sample testing touched 62,16,240 and the positivity rate was 11.73%. The positivity in the past day was 8.80% from 65,889 samples.

Telangana recorded 1,983 cases on Monday and conducted 50,598 tests. Ten more patients died.

From March 2 to October 5, a total of 32,92,195 samples were tested and 2,02,594 were positive.

Bengaluru's daily cases soared to 5,012 on Tuesday, after a high of 4,868 cases on September 29.

The government attributed it to higher testing.

Overall, the State reported 9,993 new cases and 91 new deaths.

In all, 92,491 more tests were conducted including 48,035 rapid antigen tests.

T.N. records 71 deaths

There was a marginal dip in fresh coronavirus infections in Tamil Nadu on Tuesday with 5,017 persons testing positive for COVID-19.

With the new cases, the State's overall tally climbed to 6,30,408.

The deaths of 71 persons were recorded with Chennai continuing to account for the majority of the fatalities at 25.

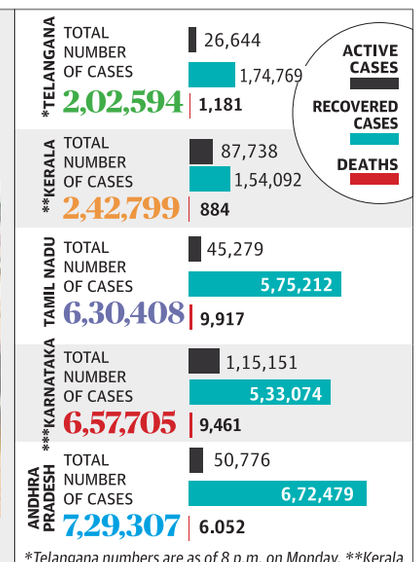
Another 5,548 persons were discharged across the State, taking the total number of persons discharged so far to 5,75,212.

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

Tough times

Testing of a huge number of samples continues to meet the challenge posed by COVID-19. The graph shows the spread of the pandemic in the southern States

All set: Health staff preparing to conduct COVID-19 tests at a health centre in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday. ▪ K.R. DEEPAK



**Telangana numbers are as of 8 p.m. on Monday, **Kerala has a mismatch of 85 cases due to unaccounted deaths, missing persons, ***Karnataka has 19 non-COVID deaths*

Kerala journalist, three others held near Hathras

Mathura police said the car they were travelling in from Delhi was stopped after they found their activities suspicious. The Kerala Union of Working Journalists, in a letter to U.P. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, demanded the release of Mr. Kappan, saying he was trying to perform his duty as a reporter. Mr. Kappan is an elected secretary of the KUWJ.

President of the KUWJ State committee in Thiruvananthapuram K.P. Reji also wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi asking for Mr. Kappan's immediate release.

The Mathura police said "suspicious literature, one that could have an adverse impact on peace," was recovered from the four. However, police are yet to reveal the content or state the laws which the seized literature violated.

In their statement, police did not acknowledge that Mr. Kappan is a journalist and claimed that the four in custody were linked to the Popular Front of India and its related group Campus Front of India.

The Popular Front of India condemned the arrest, terming it deplorable and illegal. The PFI accused the U.P. government of targeting it to hide the failing law and order situation in the State and divert attention from the Hathras issue by creating a "conspiracy theory."

Centre to fix jurisdiction of river boards

Meeting called to resolve differences between A.P. and Telangana on sharing Krishna, Godavari waters

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Centre will determine the jurisdictions of the Krishna and Godavari river management boards (KRMB and GRMB), Union Water Resources Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said on Tuesday.

He was speaking after convening an apex council meeting involving the Centre, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, the second since 2016. The meeting is primarily to resolve the conflict between the two States over executing irrigation projects and sharing water from the Krishna and Godavari rivers.

Crucial talks: Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat at the apex council meeting in New Delhi. Andhra Pradesh CM Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy took part through video conferencing.

The key points on the agenda at Thursday's meeting which was convened via videoconference are: jurisdiction of the KRMB and GRMB, submission of Detailed Project Reports (DPR) of new projects by the two governments for appraisal and sanction by the apex council, establishing a mechanism to determine the share of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana in the Krishna and Godavari waters, and shifting the headquarters of the Krishna River Management Board to Andhra Pradesh.

"The Centre will go ahead with notifying the jurisdiction of both KRMB & GRMB. Telangana Chief Minister dissented on this, but as per the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, no consensus is needed. Both Chief Ministers agreed to submit the DPRs of all the projects taken up by their States. Their technical appraisal will be done in the shortest possible timeframe," said Mr. Shekhawat.

The headquarters of the KRMB would be located in Andhra Pradesh, he added.

With regards to sharing of river waters, the Telangana Chief Minister agreed to withdraw the case filed in Supreme Court, to allow the Centre to refer water sharing issues to the Krishna Godavari tribunal.

Regarding the sharing of Godavari waters, both the States were asked to send in their requests to the Centre so that it could refer them to the tribunal, a statement from the Water Resources Ministry said.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and his Telangana counterpart K. Chandrasekhar Rao had taken tough stands on projects such as the Rayalaseema lift irrigation scheme and enhancement of the carrying capacity of the Pothireddypadu head regulator.

ED questions Kerala CPI(M) leader's son

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Enforcement Directorate (ED) officials questioned Bineesh Kodiyeri, son of Kerala CPI(M) State secretary Kodiyeri Balakrishnan, for over six hours in Bengaluru on Tuesday about his financial transactions with Mohammed Anoop, an accused in a narcotics case.

Mohammed Anoop had been arrested by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) during a raid in the city in August.

Mr. Anoop, in his statement to the ED, which is probing the finances of arrested peddlers, had claimed that Mr. Bineesh had lent him ₹50 lakh. This prompted ED officials to summon Mr. Bineesh.

Documents submitted

Mr. Bineesh reportedly told officials he was into the restaurant business in Kerala and knew Mr. Anoop through friends. He denied any knowledge of Mr. Anoop's dealings in narcotics. He is learnt to have submitted documents to show that he had taken a loan to give money to Mr. Anoop to set up a restaurant in Kammanahalli.

"The loan was given almost three years ago. But there has been no financial transaction to suggest any regular repayment, raising suspicion," sources said.

Mr. Bineesh reportedly told the ED that he would submit more documents to support his case. "His claims will be verified. He may be called again for questioning if need be," a source said.

He was questioned by the ED on September 9 on his alleged links to the accused in a gold smuggling case in Kerala.

Nitish is leader of the NDA in Bihar, says BJP

"Nitish Kumar is the face of NDA in Bihar poll and he will be the CM face as well," Mr. Modi asserted, adding, "I would request the media also that there should not be any confusion over it."

Mr. Sushil Modi, known to be close to Mr. Kumar, further said, "If needed we would request the Election Commission that no other party, except we four – BJP, JD(U), HAM(S) and VIP – be allowed to use pictures of Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the poll."

Hours after the seat-sharing deal was finalised, the BJP released a list of all 27 candidates for the first phase of polling. Ace shooter Shreyashi Singh will contest from Jamui. Ms. Singh, daughter of former Union Minister Digvijay Singh, joined the party in New Delhi on Monday.

The party has renominated most of the other candidates. Senior party leader and State Minister Prem Kumar, Gyanendra Singh Gyanu, and Rajeshwar Raj are in the list.

Thursday is the last date for filing nominations for the first phase for 71 seats.

Committee suggests limiting Sabarimala season crowd

Kerala govt. to consult Tantri on online darshan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Allowing pilgrims only through Pampa, limiting the number of pilgrims to 1,000 on weekdays and 2,000 on weekends, and making COVID-19 negative certificate mandatory are among the recommendations made by a high-level committee for the Mandala-Makaravilakku pilgrimage season that begins on November 16 at the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple.

Online darshan and allowing only pilgrims in the 10-60 age group and those in the 60-65 age group who produce a health certificate stating that they have no health issues are also part of the suggestions made by the committee headed by Chief Secretary Viswas Mehta in its report submitted to the government. The report suggests that 5,000 pilgrims be allowed for Mandala Puja and Makaravilakku.

No entry: The Ayyappa temple at Sabarimala has been out of bounds for pilgrims since the outbreak of COVID-19.

Devaswom Minister Kadakampally Surendran said on Tuesday that a decision on online darshan would be taken only after holding discussions with the Tantri and the temple authorities.

All pilgrims will have to register on the portal www.covid19jagratha.kerala.nic.in and upload COVID-19 negative certificate 48 hours before darshan. Trekking via the traditional path and bathing in the Pampa would not be allowed.

Shivakumar yet to get CBI summons

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president D.K. Shivakumar on Tuesday said he was expecting summons from the CBI that raided him on Monday, but was yet to be summoned for questioning.

D.K. Shivakumar

Terming the raids as "BJP's political vendetta", Mr. Shivakumar said he would "fully cooperate" with the agency in their investigation. While CBI in its statement on Monday had said that they recovered ₹57 lakh (approximately) during the raids on 14 premises linked to the case, Mr. Shivakumar gave a break up of the recoveries made by CBI as per the panchanama.

"The CBI recovered ₹1.77 lakh from my Sadashivanagar residence, ₹3.5 lakh from my office next door, ₹1.57 lakh from D.K. Suresh's residence. No jewellery was recovered from any of our family homes," he said.

He further said ₹51 lakh was recovered from his friend Sachin Narayan's house and ₹1.5 lakh from the residence of Suresh Shetty, an industrialist.

Pompeo slams China for pandemic at Quad meet

Responding to the remarks, Beijing termed the Quad an "anti-China coalition" and an "exclusive clique".

"As partners in this Quad, it is more critical now than ever that we collaborate to protect our people and partners from the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP's) exploitation, corruption, and coercion," said Mr. Pompeo.

Mr. Pompeo also blamed the CCP for a "coverup" of the COVID pandemic, and accused its "authoritarian" regime of "silencing" citizens who raised the alarm.

Within hours of the meeting, the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs responded. "Instead of targeting third parties or undermining their interests, cooperation should be conducive to mutual understanding and trust between regional countries," said a statement issued in Beijing.

Cinemas to allow only 50% seating, no food

Seats that are "Not to be occupied" shall be marked as such during booking [both online and at the box office].

Cinema halls will have to ensure that there is no overcrowding in the common areas, lobbies and washrooms during the intermission. This could even mean no sauntering out of the hall during the interval.

"Audiences may be encouraged to avoid movement during the intermission. Longer intermissions may be used to allow those seated in different rows to move in a staggered manner," the SOPs specify.

Staggered exit

The exit too will be staggered and done row-wise to avoid crowding.

And no more slumping into air-conditioned comfort: theatres have been advised to keep temperature in the 24-30°C range.

Child should learn mother tongue: SC

Court hears A.P. plea on English medium

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A child has to learn his mother tongue to gain a foundation, said the Supreme Court countering Jagan Mohan Reddy-led Andhra government's logic that children, without learning English, get 'isolated'. "For foundation, it is very important that a child learns his mother tongue," Chief Justice Sharad A. Bobde addressed senior advocate K.V. Vishwanathan, for the State government.

The Andhra Pradesh government has approached the Supreme Court challenging its State High Court decision to strike down a government order of November 2019 which made English medium education compulsory from classes I to VI in primary, upper primary and high schools under all managements from 2020-21. It was to be gradually extended to each further class from the consequent academic years.

Mr. Vishwanathan vehemently argued that English as the medium of learning had not been imposed on children. He said Dalits, the oppressed, find the State's move a progressive measure. "Vernacular medium of education has its limits."

But Chief Justice Bobde said there were "huge divergent issues" on the subject that need to be extensively addressed and decided to hear it next week.

'Main conspirators' in gold smuggling case held in UAE

Faisal Fareed, Rabins Hameed are in custody, NIA tells court

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

Faisal Fareed and Rabins Hameed, two "main conspirators" in the diplomatic baggage gold smuggling case, have been arrested in the UAE.

The UAE authorities have informed the National Investigation Agency (NIA) that strict action would be taken against all conspirators as the "accused in the case had attempted to damage the friendly relations between India and the UAE," the NIA submitted before the Special Judge considering the case on Tuesday.

It was while opposing the bail plea of Muhammad Shafi, an accused in the case, that the NIA made the revelation.

The UAE authorities had revealed that the crimes were committed by Fareed and Hameed pursuant to the conspiracy hatched with the other accused who were arrested in India. They were on the run in the UAE.

All the accused had knowingly funded, facilitated and smuggled gold through the diplomatic cargo of the UAE consulate in Thiruvananthapuram by forging or deceitfully obtaining the authorisation certificates from the UAE diplomats, it stated.

The NIA said it had moved the Interpol for issuing Blue Corner notices against the "fugitives," Fareed and Hameed, Siddiqul Akbar, Ahamed Kutty, Raju, and Mohammad Shameer, for securing their presence in India.

The agency submitted that the investigations revealed that Shafi was one of the prime accused who invested, arranged and facilitated the smuggling of gold through the diplomatic baggage on multiple occasions with the other accused.

He had also facilitated the concealment of gold in the baggage in the UAE to avoid detection by customs authorities, the agency submitted.

IN BRIEF

CPI(M) leader's murder: key accused held

THRISSUR

The Kerala police on Tuesday arrested the key accused in the murder of CPI(M) Puthussery Colony branch secretary P.U. Sanoop. He was stabbed to death on Sunday. The key accused in the case, Nandan (in picture), was arrested in Thrissur.

One more detained in drug racket case

BENGALURU

The Central Crime Branch police, which is probing the drug racket allegedly linked to the Kannada film industry, detained Ricky Rai, son of late former underworld don-turned-social activist Muthappa Rai, on Tuesday. A team also searched his house.

IN BRIEF

NCW sends notices to Amit Malviya, 2 others

NEW DELHI

The National Commission for Women (NCW) on Tuesday issued notices to BJP IT cell head Amit Malviya, Congress leader Digvijaya Singh and actor Swara Bhasker for their tweets allegedly revealing the identity of the Hathras gang-rape victim. The three were asked to take down the tweets in question and provide an explanation.

Ex-Minister convicted in coal block case

BHUBANESWAR

Former Union Minister Dilip Ray was convicted by a special CBI court in New Delhi on Tuesday in a two-decade-old coal block allocation case. Mr. Ray, the then Minister of State for Coal; Pradip Kumar Banerjee, then Additional Secretary, Ministry of Coal; and Nityanand Gautam, then adviser (projects), Ministry of Coal, were convicted in the case pertaining to allocation of 105.15 hectares of abandoned coal mining area in Giridih district of Jharkhand. The coal block was allotted to Castron Technologies Limited in 1999.

NCERT material to be provided in sign language

NEW DELHI

The Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC) and the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) on Tuesday signed a memorandum of understanding to make NCERT textbooks available in ISL in digital format for hearing-impaired students.The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, under which the ISLRTC functions, said in a statement that Social Justice Minister Thaawarchand Gehlot termed the MoU a "historic step".

M.A. Ganapathy named BCAS Director General

NEW DELHI

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet on Tuesday announced IPS officer M.A. Ganapathy as the new Director General of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) — the security watchdog for the aviation sector. Mr. Ganapathy, an IPS officer of the 1986 batch, fills the post left vacant by Rakesh Asthana, who took charge as the Director General of the Narcotics Control Bureau in August.

I see in Hathras a major tragedy: Rahul

'Interesting that PM Modi has not uttered a word'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday said it was Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's prerogative to see an "international conspiracy" in the Hathras incident, but he "personally sees in it a major tragedy".

"Yogi Adityanath is entitled to his opinion, he can imagine what he wants, but what I saw was a lovely girl brutalised and killed, and her family threatened and subjugated," he stated at a press conference in Patiala. Mr. Gandhi said he saw a tragedy in the incident and Mr. Adityanath should also have had the decency to do so. He said he found it interesting that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had not uttered a word about the incident, in which "a kid was raped and murdered and her whole family was under attack by the administration".

On FIRs being registered against many Congress workers, Mr. Gandhi said what he and his party workers suffered was minor compared to what the victim's family was going through. "They are the ones who have really been pushed around."

Responding to a question that the Centre was able to take unilateral decisions because of a weak Opposition, he said, "give me free press and other key institutions and this [NDA] government will not last long."

'Institutions captured'

He noted that the Opposition in any country functioned within a framework, including the media, the judicial system and institutions that protected the voice of people. "In India, that entire framework has been controlled and captured by the Bharatiya Janata Party government; the entire architecture designed for giving voice to the people has been captured," he said.

No other country in the world today was faced with a situation where even the media did not question the government when its land had been seized by another nation, he said. "Mr. Modi is not interested in India's people but is only concerned about protecting and promoting his image, which would have got dented had he admitted to China's incursion. The media, by helping promote his image, is also to blame," said Mr. Gandhi.

Speaking out: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi addressing a press conference at Circuit House in Patiala on Tuesday. ▪PTI

'U.P. filed a false affidavit'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday accused the Uttar Pradesh (U.P.) government of 'lying' to the Supreme Court by filing a false affidavit to 'cover up' the Hathras incident.

At a press conference, All India Mahila Congress chief Sushmita Dev, former MP Rajani Patil and spokesperson Supriya Shrinate said the affidavit was "full of white lies" and amounted to contempt of court. "Every step taken by the Uttar Pradesh government was to cover up the entire Hathras episode," Ms. Dev said.

Ms. Shrinate said the affidavit had references to 'black lives', 'American cities like San Diego and Phoenix', and the 'New York police department'. "As they say, even to copy, you need brains," she said.

6-year-old from Hathras dies 20 days after rape

SHO suspended after family protests

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GHAZIABAD

Almost 20 days after she was raped, allegedly by her cousin in Aligarh's Iglas area, a six-year-old girl from the Sadabad area of Hathras passed away in New Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital.

On Tuesday, the family protested by putting her body on the Baldev-Sadabad road in Hathras. The villagers relented only after Aligarh SSP, Muniraj P., suspended the Iglas SHO for laxity in arresting the accused.

The father of the girl said that after his wife's death in January last, he had sent his two daughters to live at her aunt's place in Iglas, on her request. The younger daughter, he said, was raped by her cousin on September 14.

"We came to know about it on September 17, when I was told she had developed an infection in the private parts. I approached the Iglas Kotwali but the SHO refused to lodge a complaint," he said.

'Brother held'

The FIR was finally lodged on September 21, when the condition of the girl deteriorated and she was shifted to the JN Medical College in Aligarh. "Instead of arresting the accused, the SHO held his brother, a minor and mentally challenged boy, for the crime. He was sent to a juvenile home. We demand that the right culprit be put behind bars and my elder daughter restored to me," said the father of the victim.

Local sources said the aunt was absconding. The girl was referred to the JN Medical College and Hospital. When her condition deteriorated, she was referred to the Safdarjung Hospital, where she died on Monday.

The SSP has ordered a departmental inquiry against the SHO, and the district magistrate announced a relief of ₹10 lakh to the family.

Cong. excludes 3 names from Bihar candidates list

'Accused of crimes against women'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Congress panel to select candidates for the Bihar Assembly election has withheld three names, against whom there are 'serious' charges of crimes against women, a senior party leader said on Tuesday.

The decision follows the party's aggressive campaign on women's security and crimes against them post the Hathras incident.

On Tuesday, former Lok Sabha member Sushmita Dev, who heads the All India Mahila Congress, said any person accused of "serious moral turpitude" should never be given ticket to contest any election.

'Veto power'

"As the Mahila Congress president, I have absolutely no hesitation in saying that I am totally against anybody being given a nomination who has been accused of any serious moral turpitude. I feel that we should have a veto power against people like that. I have spoken about it internally in the party," said Ms. Dev at a press conference.

Her comments came before the Congress formally releases its first list of candidates for the Bihar elections.

On Monday, the central election committee discussed 46 names and gave an in-principle approval. Of the 243 seats, the party will contest in 70 in alliance with the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and the Left parties.

The senior leader, who has been cited above, said the panel tasked with the candidate selection process was trying to ensure that "no controversial candidates" found a place in the final list.

Bihar BJP vice-president Rajendra Singh joins LJP

NEW DELHI

Bihar BJP vice-president, Rajendra Singh, joined the Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) on Tuesday in Delhi. He is expected to contest on an LJP ticket from the Dinara constituency in the upcoming Assembly poll. In the last two Assembly elections in 2010 and 2015, the seat was held by JD(U)'s Jai Kumar Singh.

Left leaders demand judicial probe

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GHAZIABAD

A joint delegation of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and the Communist Party of India visited Boolgarhi village in Hathras on Tuesday and met the family of the Dalit gang rape and murder victim.

CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury said the family had told the delegation about the brutal gang rape and hurried cremation of the woman in the middle of the night. "These sorts of things are unheard-of in the 21st century and belie the constitutional guarantees granted to us," he said.

Demanding an independent judicial inquiry, Mr. Yechury added that all the new police allegations about caste conflict and the conspiracy angle could also be examined. "There are laws to deal with them. However, none of this should become an excuse to delay or deny justice," he said.

CPI(M) Polit Bureau member Brinda Karat told presspersons that the family was "feeling insecure in this atmosphere".

'No stand-off between executive and judiciary'

Prasad responds to DMK MP's remark

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said there is no stand-off between the executive and the judiciary over appointment of High Court judges, and whenever a difference of opinion arises, it is mutually reconciled to ensure that only a suitable person is appointed a High Court judge.

Mr. Prasad made these observations in a letter to DMK Rajya Sabha MP P. Wilson, who posted it on his Twitter handle on Monday evening. The Minister, responding to an earlier Zero Hour reference by the MP on shortage of judges in High Courts (HC), said as on September 1, there were 398 vacancies in various HCs. "While every effort is made to fill up existing vacancies expeditiously, they do keep arising due to retirement, resignation or elevation of judges," he said, adding that 48 new judges to various HCs had been appointed as on September 1.

However, the DMK MP, who is a former Additional Solicitor General, tweeted that the functioning of the judiciary has been 'crippled' by the shortage. "Union law minister @rsprasad writes to me in response to my question raised during zero hour speech in Parliament that there is no stand-off between #judiciary and Executive but admits that as on 1.9.2020, 398 HC judges post are lying vacant [of the total strength of 1,079 in 25 High Courts) which means more than 1/3rd posts are lying vacant ! Judiciary is virtually crippled !!" Mr. Wilson tweeted.

The Rajya Sabha member shared a clip of his speech in the Upper House in which he said, "It was time that Parliament resolved the stand-off between the executive and the judiciary over appointment of HC judges".

Ravi Shankar Prasad

KUWJ moves SC against journalist's detention

He was arrested en route to Hathras

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Kerala Union of Working Journalists (KUWJ) urgently moved a *habeas corpus* petition in the Supreme Court (SC) on Tuesday for a direction to the Uttar Pradesh Police to produce its secretary and journalist Sidhique Kappan before the court and release him from illegal detention.

Mr. Kappan was arrested en route to Hathras, where a 19-year-old was brutally raped and murdered. His whereabouts are not known. Mr. Kappan, who is based in Delhi, has not been able to contact his family and colleagues, the KUWJ said. Efforts to reach him have been futile so far.

The petition, filed by advocate Shweta Garg and settled by advocate Wills Mathews, has arraigned the Centre, the U.P. government, the Director General of Police of U.P. and the Delhi Police Commissioner as respondents. "Media is the breath of democracy. The ultimate test of democracy is freedom of speech and expression," the petition said.

The petition submitted that denial of access to journalists to the place of news affects the fundamental right of ordinary citizens to gain information. Journalists require a "dignified and democratic working atmosphere", it said.

Ex-Assam DIG detained at India-Nepal border

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

A former Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of police of Assam, one of the main accused in a scam involving the recruitment of unarmed sub-inspectors, has been detained on the India-Nepal border on Tuesday.

A statement issued by the State police headquarters in Guwahati said Prasanta Kumar Dutta was detained on the basis of a look-out circular issued by the Crime Investigation Department. "Now, [he was] handed over to West Bengal police. The Assam police would take him into custody in due course and bring him to Assam," the statement said.

The State Level Police Recruitment Board had scheduled the exam for appointing 597 S-Is on September 20. But it was cancelled while some 66,000 candidates were writing their answers after a copy of the paper was leaked on social media. A probe revealed that 50 candidates had sat for a "written test" based on handwritten copies of the question paper at a guest-house near the Assam Assembly on September 19. Copies of the question paper were allegedly sold for up to ₹4 lakh.

The SLPRB rescheduled the exam on November 22 after retired IPS officer Deepak Kumar quit as its chairman, owning moral responsibility for the question paper leak.

BJP leader's involvement

The CID also found the involvement of Mr. Dutta and Diban Deka, a BJP leader, who was arrested after he surrendered at a police station in western Assam's Bajali district on September 30.

Tripura State Rifles team to be deployed in Delhi

CORRESPONDENT
AGARTALA

The 3rd battalion of the Tripura State Rifles (TSR) will be permanently based in New Delhi for deployment in law and order-related duties. Four more platoons would reach the capital this month, a senior official said on Tuesday. The State government had recently made IPS officer Jal Singh Meena as its commandant and posted him in New Delhi.

TENDER NOTICE

Kerala State IT Mission invites tenders for the following items:

1. Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Storage Solution at Kerala State Data Centres (2020_KSITM_389638_1)
2. Supply, Installation, and Commissioning of Storage Backup software and Tape Library at Kerala State Data Centre (Tender Id: 2020_KSITM_389660_1)

Bids shall be accepted only through online_and no manual submission of the same will be entertained. Detailed Notification and RFP documents may be downloaded from **http://etenders.kerala.gov.in/nicgep/app**

Kerala State IT Mission (KSITM)
Department of Electronics & Information Technology, Government of Kerala.
Website: **http://www.itmission.kerala.gov.in/**
Tel: **+91 471 2726881, 2314307, 2725646**
RO/01563/D3/2020/I&PRD

BHARATIYA RESERVE BANK NOTE MUDRAN (P) LIMITED
(WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF RESERVE BANK OF INDIA)
Note Mudran Nagar, Mysuru-570 003, Karnataka, India
Tel : +91 821 2582905/15/25, Fax : +91 821 2582099

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING / OPEN TENDER ENQUIRY

BRBNMPL invites bids from eligible bidders for following tenders:

1. **Tender No. 053/MYS/CIVIL/2020-21** – Annual Maintenance Contract for Maintenance of Garden and Horticulture Works at Plant Area, BRBNMPL Mysuru.
2. **Tender No. 056/MYS/IMU-14/2020-21** – Design, Manufacturing, Testing, Supply, Installation, Commissioning, Training, Performance Testing & AMC of Automatic Process Control and Dosing System for Ink Manufacturing Unit at BRBNMPL, Mysuru.
3. **Tender No. 066/MYS/MMD/2020-21** – Supply and Installation of 60KVA UPS at BRBNMPL, Mysuru.

Please visit our website **www.brbnmpl.co.in** to download the tenders and submit the bid on or before due date and time. Any corrigendum / amendments to these tenders, if issued in future, will be notified on the Company website only.

General Manager

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU / PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
BUILDING ORGANISATION, BLDGS (C & M) CIRCLE, CHEPAUK, CHENNAI - 5.
(RE-TENDER) SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE No. 34 BCM / 2020-21 / DATED : 05.10.2020.
FORM OF CONTRACT : LUMPSUM : ITEMWISE RATE

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, Sealed tender are invited from eligible registered contractors by the Superintending Engineer, PWD., Bldgs (C&M) Circle, Chepauk, Chennai-5 for the following work:-

Sl. No.	Name of work and EMD	Approximate value of work	Period	EMD in favour of
1.	**Two Cover System** - Construction of Office and Warehouse complex for Tamilnadu Consumers Co-operative Federation Limited, at 29/2, Arcot Road, Saligramam, Chennai-93. (II Call) **EMD Rs. 3,47,000/-**	**Rs. 673.50 Lakhs**	**11 Months**	Executive Engineer, PWD., Buildings (Construction) Division-I, Chennai - 5.

Tender schedule can be Downloaded at free of cost from the Website "**https://www.tenders.tn.gov.in (or) https://www.tntenders.gov.in" and also available in the O/o the undersigned at a cost of Rs. 15000/- + Rs. 1800/- (GST).** Tender schedule will be made available from **08.10.2020 to 21.10.2020.** Last date of receipt of tender is **22.10.2020 upto 03.00 P.M.** and opened on the same day at **04.00 P.M.** by the undersigned. Contractors Eligibility conditions and all other conditions are available in the above Website.

DIPR/3726/Tender/2020 **Superintending Engineer, PWD., Buildings (C & M) Circle, Chepauk, Chennai - 5.**

TNPL TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Kagithapuram – 639 136, Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu
Phone : 04324-277001 (10 Lines). Extn. 4278/4404. E-mail : pmd4@tnpl.co.in

NOTICE INVITING BIDS FOR
PROCUREMENT OF PACKAGES FOR MEP AT TNPL UNIT-II

Sl. No.	Description	Due date
1.	Supply of Stainless Steel Pipes (OSBL) - Phase II	28.10.2020
2.	Supply of Stainless Steel Pipe Fittings (OSBL) - Phase II	
3.	Supply of Carbon Steel Pipes (OSBL) - Phase II	
4.	Supply of Carbon Steel Pipe Fittings (OSBL) - Phase II	

Bidders may request the tender document at the above address by Post/Mail. Detailed NIB may be viewed in websites: **www.tnpl.com/ www.tenders.tn.gov.in**

DIPR/3734/Tender/2020 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

KOZHIKODE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
PREQUALIFICATION TENDER NOTICE

No:- EG 21/61457/17 Dated: 05.10.2020

Name of work : Kozhikode Municipal Corporation - Decenteralized sewerage system Zone A.

Tender ID : **2020_LSGD_388843_1, 2020_LSGD_388870_1, 2020_LSGD_388916_1, 2020_LSGD_388935_1.**

Details can be had at websites -
tender.lsgkerala.gov.in, etenders.kerala.gov.in

(Sd/-) Superintending Engineer
Kozhikode Municipal Corporation

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, (Traffic Engineering Cell), Ground Floor, Annexe Building-3 (Opp: Dr. Rajakumar Glass House), N.R. Square, Bengaluru-02.

No: EE/TEC/PR/402/2020-21 **Date: 06.10.2020**

CORRIGENDUM-1

Sub: Extension of Time for the Tender
Ref: This office Tender Notification NO. EE/TEC/TEND/08/2020-21, Dated: 30.09.2020.
With reference to the above subject and reference, due to Technical reasons the Calendar of Events of Tender is extended as below. All the terms and conditions remain same.
Calendar of Events: 1) Availability of Tender Documents in e-procurement portal from **06.10.2020** onwards. (2) Last Date for Submission of Pre-Bid Queries is **12.10.2020** upto **11:30** am. (3) Pre-Bid Meeting on **12.10.2020** at **3:30** pm. (4) Last Date for Submission of Tenders is **19.10.2020** upto **4:00** pm. (5) Opening of Technical bid is on **21.10.2020** at **4:30** pm. (6) Opening of Financial Bid **Will be intimated to the Tenderers.**

Sd/-
Executive Engineer (Traffic Engineering Cell)

Pay Development Charges - Help to Develop Bengaluru

KISHORE VAIGYANIK PROTSAHAN YOJANA
किशोर वैज्ञानिक प्रोत्साहन योजना
KVPY
NATIONAL FELLOWSHIPS FOR STUDENTS INTERESTED IN RESEARCH CAREERS

KVPY Fellowship-2020

- **Stream SA**: Students enrolled in XI Standard (Science Subjects) during the academic year 2020-21 and aspiring to join an undergraduate program in basic sciences (B.Sc /B.S./B.Stat./B.Math. / Int. M.Sc./ Int. M.S.) during the academic year 2022-23.
- **Stream SX**: Students enrolled in +2 / XII standard (Science Subjects) during the academic year 2020-21 and aspiring to join an undergraduate program in basic sciences (B.Sc./ B.S./ B.Stat./ B.Math./ Int. M.Sc./ Int. M.S.) during the academic year 2021-22.
- **Stream SB**: Students enrolled in First Year B.Sc. / B.S. / B. Stat. /B. Math./ Int. M.Sc./Int. M.S. in basic sciences during the academic year 2020-21.

1	Start of online submission of Application	6th September 2020
2	Last date for closing of online Application	30th October 2020
3	KVPY Aptitude Test	31st January 2021

For more detail please visit: http:// www.kvpy.iisc.ernet.in
Convener, KVPY, IISc, Bengaluru-560 012

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY
KANKE, RANCHI-834006 (JHARKHAND)

WALK IN INTERVIEW

It is proposed to fill up the following Group 'A' posts at Central Institute of Psychiatry, Kanke, Ranchi on contract basis for a period of on year or till the post is filled up on regular basis whichever is earlier. Accordingly applications are invited from the eligible and desirous candidates fulfilling the qualifications for the posts mentioned below. Applications on plain paper either typed or handwritten along with two passport size photograph, photocopy of the certificates of educational qualification, experience etc., may be submitted to the undersigned on or before 27.10.2020. After submission of application candidates have to turn up alongwith their original certificates on the date of interview. No Interview letter will be issued separately. In deserving cases maximum age limit may be relaxed upto 62 years.

The interview shall be held at Central Institute of Psychiatry, Kanke, Ranchi-834006, Jharkhand, on 28.10.2020 at 09.30 a.m.

Sl. No.	Name of Post	Consolidated pay per month in 1st year	No. of post
1.	Asst. Prof. of Psychiatry	Rs 95,000/-	11 (UR-7, EWS-1, OBC-2, SC-1)
2.	Asst. Prof. of Neurology	Rs 95,000/-	3 (UR-3)
3.	Asst. Prof. of Neurosurgery	Rs 95,000/-	2 (UR-2)
4.	Asst. Prof. of Anesthesiology	Rs 95,000/-	1 (UR-1)
5.	Asst. Prof. of Radio-diagnosis	Rs 95,000/-	2 (UR-2)
	Total		**19**

Details of qualifications and age limit of the above posts are available on our website **www.cipranchi.nic.in**

Sd/- Director
CIP, Ranchi

Digital platform to track vaccine supply

Health Secretary says India is yet to cross COVID-19 peak, vaccines will be available from early 2021

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Union Health Ministry said on Tuesday that it was expecting COVID-19 vaccine supplies to be available from early next year.

At a press conference, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said: "If all goes well, we are looking at vaccine supplies coming in the first quarter of next year. There is a digital platform that is being enhanced to track on real-time basis the vaccine movement, from procurement, storage to distribution and administration."

Discussions were under way on the Russian vaccine, Sputnik V, he said.

Balram Bhargava, director-general, Indian Council of Medical Research, said at the press conference that its studies had found no benefit of plasma therapy.

Viral tracker

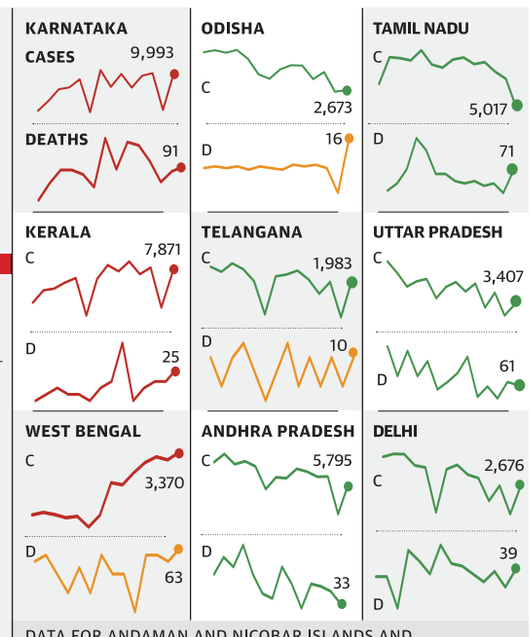
With 69,090 COVID-19 cases recorded on Tuesday, India's tally stood at 67,51,155. As many as 989 deaths were added, taking the toll to 1,04,596. A total of 8.1 crore samples have been tested as of October 5, according to the ICMR

NEW CASES AND DEATHS

CASES 69,090 — 7 DAY-CHANGE -14.2%

DEATHS 989 — 7 DAY-CHANGE -16.4%

The graphs depict the new cases and deaths in the last 14 days in select States. If average cases and deaths in the last seven days are higher than the previous seven days, then the cases and deaths are rising; if they are lower, then dropping; if they are similar, then cases and deaths are flatlining in that State



DATA FOR ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS AND CHHATTISGARH WERE NOT RELEASED AS OF 10 P.M.

Combined trials

Sources said an expert panel at the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) had asked Dr. Reddy's Laboratories to submit a revised protocol for conducting Phase 2 and 3 human clinical trials in India for the Russian vaccine.

The Hyderabad-based pharmaceutical company had applied to the Drugs Controller-General of India late last week for permission to conduct Phase 3 trials. The Subject Expert Committee on COVID-19 at the CDSCO, which held its meeting on Monday, discussed the application, and asked the firm to submit a revised protocol stating that it will have to conduct trials for combined phases, sources said. The firm has been asked to provide some other information as well.

"It means that Dr. Reddy's Laboratories will have to submit a new application. According to the Subject Expert Committee, it has to conduct both Phase 2 and 3 clinical trials and cannot directly hold Phase-3 trial," a source said.

Dr. Reddy's has collaborated with the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) to conduct trials of Sputnik V vaccine as well as for its distribution. Upon regulatory approval in India, the RDIF shall supply to Dr. Reddy's 100 million doses of the vaccine, the firm had said last month.

884 deaths in 24 hours

Dismissing reports of India having reached and crossed its COVID-19 peak, Mr. Bhushan said that with the festival season round the corner, this was no time to lower the guard.

The Ministry said that 48% of COVID-related deaths were being reported from 25 districts in eight States, including Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, adding that the Ministry was in talks with these States to control the deaths.

"The target is to bring down the overall fatality below 1%," Mr. Bhushan said. He added that 884 case fatalities were reported in 24 hours.

"India continues to report a trend of steadily declining active cases as a percentage of the total positive cases. Presently, the active cases comprise 13.75% of the total positive cases of the country, standing at 9,19,023. The declining trend of the percentage of active cases is commensurately supported by the rising percentage of recovered cases. The total recovered cases stand at 56,62,490. The gap between recovered cases and active cases has crossed 47 lakh (47,43,467). Higher number of recoveries has aided the national recovery rate to further improve to 84.70%," he said.

The Ministry noted that 75,787 patients got discharged in 24 hours, whereas the new confirmed cases stood at 61,267. "74% of the new recovered cases are concentrated in 10 States/Union Territories, namely Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Delhi, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal. Maharashtra alone has contributed the maximum with nearly 13,000 single-day recoveries," said Mr. Bhushan.

On the insurance claims of deceased healthcare workers, Mr. Bhushan said that in 95 cases of deaths of healthcare workers engaged in COVID-19 duties, insurance had been claimed for ₹50 lakh each. A total of 176 claims are in process. In addition, 79 claims are yet to be received from different States.

Vaidya Rajesh Katoch, Secretary (AYUSH), who was present at the press conference, said the Ministry had released the National Clinical Management Protocol based on ayurveda and yoga for COVID-19 management. He added that this protocol, which could be followed along with the standard treatment protocol, used common herbs and formulations such as Guduchi, Ashwagandha and AYUSH-64, in treating mild and asymptomatic COVID cases.

(With PTI inputs)

Festive events only outside containment zones: Centre

Health Ministry releases safety norms for gatherings

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

No festive events will be allowed in the containment zones, and persons above 65 years, those with co-morbidities, pregnant women and children below 10 are advised to stay at home, the Union Health Ministry says in the "Standard operating procedures on preventive measures to contain spread of COVID-19 during festivities" released on Tuesday.

The rule applies to event managers and staff as well.

The document notes that October, November and December witness large gatherings in specified locations for religious worships, fairs, rallies, exhibitions, cultural functions, processions etc., which may last a day or a week or more.

"Following the protocol is essential to prevent the spread of COVID-19 infection," says the Ministry.

The document says that organisers/staff/visitors from the containment zones shall not be permitted in areas where festive events are organised.

"Keeping in view the physical distancing norms, event sites should have adequate floor area and proper markings at all locations, which are likely to be visited by the public. Adequate manpower shall be deployed/ arranged by the organisers to ensure observance to physical distancing norms and other preventive measures at all times, appropriate arrangements for personal protection gears like face covers/masks, and other logistic like hand sanitizers, soap, sodium hypochlorite solution for sanitizing frequently touched surfaces etc. shall be made available by event organizers/business owners for their staff as per requirements. Adequate number of ticket counters shall be planned to facilitate compliance with physical distancing norms and event organizers/business owners may make suitable provisions for contact less payment," it says.

Busy days: People shopping in the New Market area for the upcoming Durga Puja festival in Kolkata. • PTI

Doctors write to Bengal CM on health risks during puja

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Doctors in West Bengal have written to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee asking her to take strict measures to check crowding during Durga Puja as they feared a 'tsunami' of COVID-19 cases after the festival.

"The noticeable rise in the number of cases after Mahalaya and Vishwakarma Puja is an indication of things to come. Therefore, any laxity in maintaining health protocols during Durga Puja can be suicidal. There will be a tsunami of cases and the situation will spiral out of control," said the letter signed by Dr. Hiralal Konar and Dr. Punyabrata Gun.

BMS to hold protests over labour laws

It says policies are 'anti-worker'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh-affiliated trade union, the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS), on Tuesday announced that it would hold protests on October 28 against the "anti-worker" provisions of the recently passed labour codes and threatened a national strike if the Centre does not address its demands.

At its three-day national conference held virtually from October, the BMS elected new office-bearers and passed six resolutions regarding demands of workers, the outgoing general secretary Virjesh Upadhyay said at an online press conference. Former BMS vice-president Hiranmay Pandya was elected as the union's national president, he said.

Continuous agitation

BMS had decided to carry out a continuous national agitation against the "anti-worker" provisions of the labour codes, three of which were passed by Parliament last month, newly-elected BMS general secretary Binay Kumar Sinha said.

In its first resolution, the BMS demanded that the government immediately withdraw the provisions, including those curtailing the right to strike in the Industrial Relations Code, that would be detrimental to workers, he said. The government should hold a consultation with all unions to make the labour codes more beneficial to workers, he said.

Virjesh Upadhyay

The BMS would observe October 10-16 as a "warning week" and to educate workers about the changes, he said. Protests would be held on October 28 and if the "voice of workers" is ignored by the government, then national level strikes would be organised, he said.

The BMS also passed resolutions against the Centre and States amending labour laws through ordinances and called for a single pension system in the country which provides a pension not less than 50% of the last salary and a minimum pension of ₹5,000 for the unorganised sector.

The national conference was inaugurated by RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat and Labour Minister Santosh Kumar Gangwar also participated, a statement said.

Rafale to fly in Air Force Day parade

The jet would lead the 'Vijay' formation, with Jaguars and Mirage 2000 fighters

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The recently inducted Rafale fighter jet will make its flypast debut in the Air Force Day parade at the Hindon airbase on October 8.

The full dress rehearsal of the parade was held on Tuesday.

One Rafale jet would lead the 'Vijay' formation, accompanied by two Jaguars and two Mirage 2000 fighters, in the flypast, an IAF officer said. The Rafale would also carry out asynchronous manoeuvres with other aircraft during the parade to mark the 88th Air Force Day.

Centre stage: The Rafale jet was the cynosure of all eyes at the Air Force Day dress rehearsal on Tuesday. • R.V. MOORTHY

There would be a total of 56 aircraft in this year's parade, including 19 fighters, 19 helicopters, seven transport aircraft, seven aircraft of the Suryakiran aerobatic team and two vintage aircraft. In addition, 19 aircraft would be airborne and on standby for any requirement, the officer said.

On the ground, 11 aircraft and two air defence systems, Rohini and Akash, would be on static display.

For the first time, there would be an 'Eklavya' formation comprising Mi-35 and Ah-64 Apache attack helicopters.

The IAF formally induced five Rafale jets in September and will induct another 3-4 jets in November.

The first squadron will be fully ready by end 2021 and will have two squadrons fully operational by 2023.

ED files chargesheet in railway bribery case

Former Board member under scanner

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has filed a charge sheet against a former Railway Board Member (Staff), former Railway Minister Pawan Bansal's nephew Vijay Singla and nine others in connection with a bribery case.

Among those named are N. Manjunath, Sandeep Goyal, Ajay Garg, Rahul Yadav, Sameer Sandhir, Sushil Daga, C.V. Venugopal, M.V. Murali Krishna and Venkateshwara Rail Nirman Private Limited. The ED has also requested the confiscation of the assets attached in the money laundering case, which is based on an FIR registered by the CBI.

"At the relevant time, Mr. Pawan Bansal was the Railway Minister and his nephew Vijay Singla was caught red-handed while accepting a bribe of ₹89.68 lakh for the favourable appointment and posting of Mr. Kumar, a 1975-batch officer of Indian Railway Service of Signal Engineers, as Member (Electrical), Railway Board," said the agency.

BJP leader's guard, militant killed in J&K

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

A BJP district functionary's personal security officer (PSO) and a militant were killed in a shootout in central Kashmir's Ganderbal on Tuesday evening.

An official said militants made an unsuccessful bid to kill BJP leader Ghulam Qadir at his residence in Ganderbal in the district's Nunar area. "The attack was repulsed and the BJP worker escaped unhurt. However, the PSO, constable Altaf Hussain, was injured and died on the way to a Srinagar hospital," the official said. A police spokesman said Mr. Qadir "is safe now".

"One unidentified militant also got killed in the PSO's retaliation," the police spokesman added.

Attack condemned

BJP spokesman Altaf Thakur condemned the attack. "Such attacks will not deter the party leaders' resolve to work for the welfare of people," Mr. Thakur said.

Meanwhile, a gunfight broke out between militants and the security forces in Sugan village of south Kashmir's Shopian on Tuesday evening during a cordon and search operation, which is still on.

Rahul's rally stopped at Haryana border

Police say chaos occured on Punjab's side

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

After his three-day rally in Punjab, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday took the party's "tractor rally" to neighbouring Haryana to extend support to agitating farmers against the Centre's agriculture sector legislation.

A high-voltage drama was witnessed at Haryana's border with Punjab when the Congress's 'tractor-rally' (Kheti Bachao Yatra) was stopped for a while, with Haryana Congress chief Kumari Selja accusing that the Haryana police didn't allow the party leaders and workers to enter the State.

Farmers sitting on tractors participating in Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's 'Kheti Bachao Yatra' in Patiala on Tuesday. • PTI

The police, however, dismissed the charges. "Our jurisdiction starts from half way through the Markandey bridge from where we were supposed to provide carcade to Mr. Gandhi as per norms of Z plus security. Our carcade was ready on the bridge on our side of the border. Mr. Gandhi was on a tractor and people who were along with him had surrounded and didn't let it to proceed. Whatever chaos happened, it occurred on the other side of the border," Rajesh Duggal, SP, Kurukshetra, told *The Hindu*.

After wrapping his public rally at Sanaur in Patiala district, Mr. Gandhi along with youth party leaders and workers from Punjab Congress moved towards Haryana. As the procession stopped at the border, Mr. Gandhi tweeted, "They have stopped us on a bridge on the Haryana border. I'm not moving and am happy to wait here. 1 hour, 5 hours, 24 hours, 100 hours, 1000 hours or 5000 hours."

Meghalaya police to look at child safety

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

The Meghalaya police have begun investigating allegations of "institutionalised harassment" of non-tribal women and children in areas bordering Bangladesh.

The alleged incidents were connected to the February 28 violence in East Khasi Hills district's Ichamati. The probe followed a directive from the National Commission for Protection of Child

Ishrat Jahan case: CBI court reserves order on discharge plea

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
AHMEDABAD

A local CBI court in Ahmedabad on Tuesday reserved its order on discharge pleas moved by four police officials of Gujarat accused in the Ishrat Jahan fake encounter case.

The court is likely to pronounce its order later this month.

The CBI court had earlier discharged key accused D.G. Vanzara, N.K. Amin and P.P. Pandey and two others in the encounter case in which Ishrat Jahan and three others were allegedly gunned down by a team of Gujarat police in 2004.

Ishrat Jahan

The police had claimed that the four persons were affiliated with Pakistan-based terror outfits and were on a mission to carry out terror activities in Gujarat.

The accused who moved the application seeking discharge from the trial are IPS officer G.L. Singhal, retired Deputy Superintendent of Police Tarun Barot, retired Deputy Superintendent of Police J.G. Parmar and sub-inspector Anaju Chaudhary. Parmar passed away last month.

The Gujarat government had refused to give sanction to prosecute Vanzara and others.

UPA took decision on buying two VVIP planes, govt. sources say

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Procurement of two VVIP planes was started under the UPA regime, said government sources after Congress leader Rahul Gandi raked the issue of "luxury planes worth ₹8,000 crore" for Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The sources said the UPA held 10 meetings over a span of a year to decide on the acquisition of the two VVIP planes between 2011 and 2012 and the NDA-1 and 2 merely brought their decision to a logical conclusion.

"The process of acquisition of two new aircraft for the travel of VVIPs commenced in 2011 when upon direction of Group of Ministers (GoM), a meeting of Committee of Secretaries (CoS) was held wherein it was decided that an Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) would examine the available options for long term arrangement of VVIP aircraft," a source said.

Following that, an Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) coordinated by the Cabinet Secretariat was set up to decide on acquisition, management and utilisation of the aircraft.

The IMG also considered two options before it – either convert an existing B777 ER or use one of the new ones ordered by Air India.

According to sources, the Cabinet Secretariat recommended transfer of the aircraft to the Indian Air Force as early as August 2013.

The first of the two Boeing 737-ERs arrived in India on October 1 after undergoing retrofit in the U.S.

Lone firm on Gupkar Declaration

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

The Sajad Lone-headed J&K Peoples Conference (PC) on Tuesday reiterated its support to the Gupkar Declaration. It said there was a need to "have an organisational form and structure to the collective mechanism", which was putting up a joint fight for the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's special status. The party convened a meeting of its senior leaders on Tuesday.

The quick and the red The Nios Turbo is the fastest hatchback around
▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

As fast as it gets

SAUMIL SHAH

Launched last year, the Hyundai Grand i10 Nios comes across as a practical, sophisticated and well-rounded hatchback for your everyday use. Hyundai has added some zing into the mix with an all-new turbo variant. So, is the Nios Turbo exciting enough?

There are a few minor details that help you tell the Nios Turbo apart from the regular hatchback. The trapezoidal grille is blacked out and features a 'Turbo' badge which is besides the one on the tailgate. The projector headlamps, LED DRLs, and 15-inch alloys are shared with the fully-loaded Asta variant.

In the Turbo, the reverse gear is positioned besides the first gear, as opposed to being besides the fourth gear in the standard Nios. As with the standard car, the interiors are spacious and nicely put together with high-quality plastics; it remains a practical cabin with a very user-friendly layout. In terms of equipment, the Turbo packs in auto climate control, a part-digital instrument cluster, an 8.0-inch touchscreen with Android Auto and Apple CarPlay, reverse camera, projector headlamps, and wireless charging. However, it misses out on some features like a push-button start and keyless entry.

The performance-oriented turbo version of the Nios is a lot more capable and effortless, but lacks the driving manners and looks that would have made it a compelling proposition

Speedy Gonazales

Moving to the engine, the Nios Turbo uses the same 998cc, three-cylinder turbo-petrol engine as the Aura Turbo, and makes an identical 100hp and 172Nm of torque. With a sub-1-tonne kerb weight, power-to-weight and torque-to-weight ratios are better than any other affordable petrol hatchback in the market today. The engine is smooth and refined, but it isn't completely vibration-free when compared to its 1.2-litre four-cylinder naturally aspirated counterpart. When spun faster, this motor does get a bit thrummy, although the sound isn't excessively loud.

Those used to driving non-turbo cars will need to get accustomed to this turbo petrol engine since on-tap responses are not as sharp as a naturally aspirated engine. It is above 1,800rpm where the turbo starts singing, and there is a nice second wind of power once the tachometer needle crosses 3,000rpm. Between 2,000-5,000rpm, the engine feels very gutsy and far more capable than the 1.2-litre petrol. While it isn't as free-revving as Volkswagen's 1.0-litre TSI motor, it will spin to 6,600rpm in the first three gears, maxing out at 101kph in second gear and at 164kph in third gear, which goes to show how tall-geared this version is. Flat-out, it will even go on to hit a top speed of 183kph.

The Nios Turbo is currently the fastest accelerating mass-market hatchback on sale in India. It out-accelerates the Volkswagen Polo 1.0 TSI (the previous fastest) to 100kph and it even reaches 160kph a full second quicker.

Justified premium?

Even through the gears, the Nios is quicker. The 5-speed manual gearbox is an absolute delight to use with butter-smooth shifts. The clutch and steering is light, too. However, road grip from the skinny tyres isn't very confidence inspiring. Like the standard car, the Turbo's brakes offer a strong initial bite.

Despite being a spruced-up version, this car retains all of Nios' strengths like its sophisticated but practical interiors, an absorbent low-speed ride quality, and its easy-to-drive nature.

But those who love to drive will be left wanting for a more engaging driving experience to match the added performance, and the ₹95,000-1,00,000 premium that this turbo version commands over a comparable 1.2-litre petrol variant seems a bit too hard to justify. Sharper driving manners and sportier looks would have made the Nios Turbo a purer hot hatch, and a more compelling proposition.

SPECIFICATIONS

LENGTH (MM)	3805mm
WIDTH (MM)	1680mm
HEIGHT (MM)	1520mm
WHEELBASE (MM)	2450mm
ENGINE	998cc, 3-cyls, turbo-petrol
POWER	100hp at 6000rpm
TORQUE	172Nm at 1500-4000rpm
GEARBOX	5-speed manual
TANK SIZE (LTS)	37 litres
TYRES (F|R)	175/60 R15

AUTO SNIPPETS

Honda reveals new H'ness CB350; bookings open

Honda is set to foray into the 300-350cc modern classic segment with the new H'ness CB350. The motorcycle will be available in two variants — DLX and DLX Pro — with bookings currently open. The H'ness' styling is inspired by yesteryear Honda CB motorcycles, which is evident in the round LED headlamp, the shape of the tank and the large 'Honda' badge that runs across. Honda has stated that the bike will be priced around ₹1.9 lakh, though exact prices are awaited.

Renault Kwid Neotech launched

Renault has launched a special edition of its entry-level hatchback called the Kwid Neotech. With a starting price of ₹3.40 lakh (ex-showroom, Delhi), the Kwid Neotech costs about ₹30,000 more than the Kwid RxL and is available with the 0.8-litre and 1.0-litre engine options, the latter is also available with an AMT. Unique to the Kwid Neotech is a dual-tone blue and silver paint scheme.The Kwid Neotech is available with both the 54hp, 0.8-litre petrol engine and the larger 68hp, 1.0-litre mill. Both come with a 5-speed manual gearbox; the larger 1.0-litre unit also gets an AMT option.

New Mahindra Thar launched

Mahindra has launched the second-gen Thar with prices starting at ₹9.80 lakh (ex-showroom, India). The new Thar is available in two derivatives — AX and LX. The AX is geared more at off-road enthusiasts while the LX is targeted at lifestyle buyers. Mahindra has officially started accepting bookings for the new Thar. A big change for the second-gen Thar is the option of both petrol and diesel engines. Both engines get 6-speed manual and 6-speed automatic gearbox options. Mahindra will begin deliveries of the new Thar from November 1, 2020 onwards. Mahindra held an online auction for the Thar's first unit, with all proceeds going to charity.

Q AND A WITH HORMAZD

Which is the better diesel car?

I have shortlisted the Ford EcoSport Titanium and Hyundai Creta E, but I can't decide as their on-road prices are similar. Should I go with the EcoSport's Titanium variant that is loaded with features or with Creta's base E variant that has all the basic features?
K Saran Prasadh, Coimbatore

● If you are driving yourself and don't need the extra space, a fully-loaded EcoSport will be better. It is overall a nicer car to drive thanks to its nimble handling and strong performance. The Creta has smarter interiors and more space, but the E version misses out on some basic features and doesn't even have an infotainment system. Since you will be driving the car, you need these basic niceties, which the EcoSport has.

On the lookout

I have shortlisted the Audi Q3, Audi Q5, BMW X3, Porsche Macan. I am also looking at the E-class to replace my BMW 525i. My mother has arthritis and I want a car for her with easy and low entry. The budget for that is ₹10-20 lakh. I am looking at an electric car as well, in a budget of up to ₹20 lakh.
Amit V Ramsinghani, via email

●None of the SUVs that you have listed have audio controls at the rear, so we suggest you choose between the Audi Q5 and the BMW X3. You could also consider the Jaguar F-Pace.The E-class is an excellent chauffeur-driven vehicle with a tablet for rear-seat passengers to control audio, climate and more in the E200/E220d Exclusive variant. For your mother, you could consider the Maruti XL6 – being a tall car, getting in and out should be very easy. The only electric car within ₹20 lakh is the Tata Nexon EV. It is zippy, spacious and you can expect a decent 150-180km range from its battery.

Hormazd Sorabjee is the editor of Autocar India. Mail your feedback and queries to roadshow@thehindu.co.in

Amazing race

FIROZE IRANI

The 125cc scooter segment was impacted in a big way after the TVS Ntorq arrived. It wasn't perfect, and while the Ntorq was renowned for its fun factor, it achieved this by compromising in other areas. Has the latest update taken care of this?

The scooter still uses the same 124.8cc, aircooled, single-cylinder, three-valve engine. It even makes the same 9.4hp and 10.5Nm of torque, although peak power is made 500rpm earlier than the BS4 model. The big change for BS6 is the fuelling method: the scooter now uses fuel injection. Enthusiasts will be happy to know that the reworked catalytic converter has not affected the Ntorq's throaty exhaust note. What they won't be happy to know, though, is that the scooter is now slower by a small, but noticeable amount. In our tests, 60kph comes up nearly 1sec slower than the BS4 model (at 9.06sec) while 80kph takes 2secs longer on the BS6 Ntorq.

With a significant improvement in fuel-efficiency, impressive handling and high-speed stability, the TVS Ntorq is a fun and well-equipped scooter

Eye catcher The updated Ntorq still sports sharp looks and great features
▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The BS4 Ntorq had an exciting urgency to its power delivery that the BS6 unit lacks. The acceleration now seems a little more linear and the scooter no longer surges at 50kph like it used to.

High mileage league

We spent a year with the BS4 Ntorq and found it could be quite inefficient if ridden aggressively. Our official BS4 fuel-efficiency test figure was 45kpl in the city where we maintained an average speed of around 25kph; on the highway, the older scooter gave 49.1kpl. The BS6 scooter now returns 52.6kpl in the city and 57.6kpl on the highway.

At 118kg, the BS6 Ntorq 125 weighs 2kg more than the model it replaces. It has large, 12-inch wheels at both ends, shod with wider rubber than its rivals, and this results in really impressive handling and high-speed stability. The Ntorq sits at high speeds comfortably and will outperform most of its rivals in twisty sections. The scooter also doesn't compromise on ride quality with the suspension having a soft and supple feel.

The scooter, however, continues to be really spacious. The tall handlebar and low seat height give even riders above 6ft enough room. The seat, however, continues to be a little too soft for our liking, and isn't long enough towards the rear. The brakes continue to impress, and the large front disc offers good feedback as well.

Best in class

Not much has changed when it comes to styling since its launch. What TVS did do is add a 'Race Edition', which is essentially a unique colour scheme. Available in red or yellow, it gets sporty-looking graphics and body-coloured panels. The Race Edition is also the only one that gets the impressive LED headlight, which features a unique T-shaped DRL. The beam is stronger than the halogen-powered headlight. You will also find an OBD port under the seat mainly for diagnostics at the service centre.

What continues to deserve special mention is the Ntorq's digital dash. It is the same as before and displays a lot of information, thereby continues continues to remain the best in its class.

The Ntorq continues to be a fun and well-equipped scooter that comes at a fair price. At ₹74,365, the Race Edition costs around ₹2,500 more than the standard disc-brake-equipped variant. If you are okay with the loud colour scheme, it's the variant we recommend.

SPECIFICATIONS

ENGINE	124.7cc, single-cylinder, fuel injected
POWER	9.4hp at 7000rpm
TORQUE	10.5Nm at 5500rpm
WEIGHT (KG)	118kg
WHEEL BASE (MM)	1285mm
GROUND CLEARANCE (MM)	155mm
FUEL TANK CAPACITY (LTS)	5.8 litres
FRONT WHEEL (INCH)	12-inch

Don't stop Shwetambari Shetty, who works with Cure Fit, has an experience of nine years in the fitness space
▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Desk potatoes, gather round

Fitness trainer Shwetambari Shetty's new book is an appeal and guide to bring more functionality to our daily movement

SWETA AKUNDI

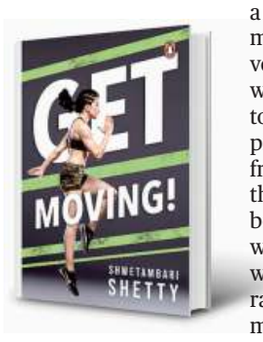
Shwetambari Shetty has been pacing the room for the entirety of this phone interview. It is part of the fitness trainer's motto to bring more beneficial movement and activity into life, and that is the subject of her latest book, *Get Moving* (Penguin Random House).

Get Moving is strictly for beginners. It is a foray into different aspects of fitness, which includes 15-minute daily workouts revolving around strength, mobility, flexibility and so on. Separate chapters introduce how to work on cardio, muscle gain, and the right nutrition needed for each. "The book was to help people start being more active, given how sedentary our lives have become," says Shwetambari, who currently works with Cure Fit and has been training for almost a decade. This movement, she emphasises, need not necessarily come from a dedicated gym membership, but just by a concentrated effort to increase your activity levels even while going about your daily work.

Edited excerpts from the interview:

***Get Moving* seems like a beginner's guide to fitness. Was that the idea?**

● I wanted to introduce how basic movements can be more functional. Your body has certain functionalities. So this book is about letting your body move the way it is designed to move. You don't have to go to the gym five times a week for that. Just 15 minutes of focussed activity daily can help you increase your longevity. Of course, the pandemic forced a lot of us to do more work around the house.



What are these basic movements that you refer to, that we can make more functional?

● I come from a village where we knew nothing about exercise until a few decades ago. Still, my ancestors would be very active. Even today, when my mom sits down to do some work, like picking something out from the lower shelf of the fridge, she won't bend down. Instead, she will do a deep squat, which is such a high range of mobility. It makes your ankles, your joints stronger. You can remain that active even with desk jobs. For every two hours of sitting down in front of your laptop, get up and walk for 10 minutes, and trust me, by the end of the day, you easily hit 8,000 steps. Walk while you're on a call. Make those trips to the washroom longer by walking more on the way to and back from the pot.

How important is it to track your level of activity?

● If you are someone who is already pretty active, you get to know how many steps you have taken without tracking it. But if we have jobs which require us to sit in front of desks for a long time – if that's our lifestyle – it is important to start tracking using apps and smart watches. People with 9-to-5 desk jobs get about 3,000 to 4,000 steps a day. I gave my parents a smartwatch and they clicked about 15,000 steps – at that age, at 68 and 74. Compared to that, our bodies are hibernating!

To move more seems like a simple idea. What is the most common excuse you hear against it?

● One is that people ask if they really need the exercise. Until a few years ago, people looked at working out as something you needed to lose weight, or to combat a lifestyle disease. But now that has changed, we know we need it to age gracefully.

Another excuse I hear is that they don't have the time for it, which is debatable. It's based on how much you want to do it. I started my physical activity from day four of my post-partum. It was as simple as starting to walk again, but my body felt good because of it. And if I feel good, so will my child.

Catch Shwetambari Shettty's Instagram Live with us, @thehindumetroplus, on October 7, 6 pm.

A cart of one's own

Self-reliance comes in all shapes and sizes. For Project Dignity, it takes the form of a pushcart

Support on wheels Project Dignity aims at 100 carts by the end of 2021; (below) a plate of idlis
▪ M SAMRAJ AND SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

MEGHNA MAJUMDAR

"I don't want to give temporary charity to transwomen. I think they deserve better than that," says Apsara Reddy, a day after the launch of the latest phase of her Project Dignity. Including this phase, the project has set up 11 functional small-business carts, offering – among other things – *idlis* and other foods, and a tailoring service.

The idea is self-reliance, particularly since many formal employment opportunities are still not within reach of many in the community, points out Reddy. "For this project, we are picking transwomen from the low income bracket, and those who are a little older and need to be able to not be dependent," she adds.

But is it easy for someone to cook, sell and manage money at the same time, particularly if they have not done so before? Explains Apsara, "Before we launch such carts, we spend three weeks training them on running the business: on things like how much to charge for an item and when to restock on raw materials. We go through the whole thing explaining how much they can make, based on what they are given."

What each businesswoman-in-the-making is given, besides the pushcart, is the first batch of all raw materials required – be it ingredients for dosa batter or spools of thread – as well as equipment like pans and sewing machines. Beyond that, how to procure fresh raw material from their earnings is yet another lesson to be learnt. Project organisers are also in talks with local businesses in the area to help create a client base.

There are other phases being planned after this one, wherein Project Dignity will be spread to other towns and cities of Tamil Nadu. Says Apsara, "Our target is 100 carts by the end of 2021. After Chennai, the next stops planned for now are first Salem, then Madurai. We are in talks with local businesses in Salem for tie-ups."

Tie-ups and corporate sponsorships, she explains, play an important role in projects such as this one. In Chennai, she is warm in her gratitude to some NGOs and corporations, particularly the Radiant Group, and social welfare organisation RCC Diva Foundation. All of it, she says, is towards the same end.

Because everyone, after all, "is worthy of owning a business, of earning a sustainable and meaningful livelihood."

Staying true to Marathi flavours

YouTuber Madhura Bachal talks about focussing on Maharashtrian food and ingredients, for her four million subscribers

PRABALIKA M BORAH

Mumbai-based Madhura Bachal started her digital journey when YouTube was launched in India. Madhura who is a banker, says, "In 2009, I was only beginning to look at what YouTube offers us."

At the time, her digital knowledge was limited to browsing, recording and camera basics. She did not foresee retiring from her bank job when she created her cookery channel and posted her first video. Now, Madhura who has over four million YouTube subscribers and six million followers on social media platforms, feels it is her responsibility to keep the recipes rolling.

Madhura claims she is the first Maharashtrian woman to start her own Maharashtrian cuisine channel on YouTube; that was in 2009. "My main objective in starting this channel was to post traditional Maharashtrian recipes and spread it across the world," she says. "When YouTube was launched in India, there was no dearth of recipes for all kinds of cuisine, but I couldn't find anything on authentic Maharashtrian cuisine which is so diversified. I wanted to leverage the platform to popularise authentic recipes from all regions of Maharashtra. The focus was on keeping it less complicated and with simple ingredients."

Thwarting misconceptions Madhura (left) started her YouTube channel in 2009
▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The first recipe she posted on her channel was for *misal pav*. Traditionally, the elaborate recipe involves roasting of spices and several other steps. "I decided to simplify it with easy solutions to make it less laborious, even though it meant skipping some steps. That recipe is still popular, and to date receives comments. I want Maharashtrian food to be understood correctly. It is a misconception that Marathi food uses a lot of groundnuts. A popular saying about Marathi food goes: 'Whatever is easily found in the region and can be ground, is made into food,' says Madhura.

She adds, "I try to dig into recipes that are forgotten, and simplify them for contemporary use. Most of the time we turn to our grandmothers for old favourite recipes; I went deeper and did lots of research, including visiting various places in Maharashtra, to understand the use of spices, ingredients and procedures." To date, she has posted more than 3,000 recipes on her channel and website; in 2018, she also published her first recipe book *Madhura's Recipes* in Marathi, that is on the bestseller list on Amazon.

"I also launched Madhura's Recipe Masala, a range of authentic Maharashtrian spices like Goda Masala, Kanda Lasun and Byagdi chilli. The spices are in demand because they can be used easily with vegetarian and non-vegetarian food," she says.

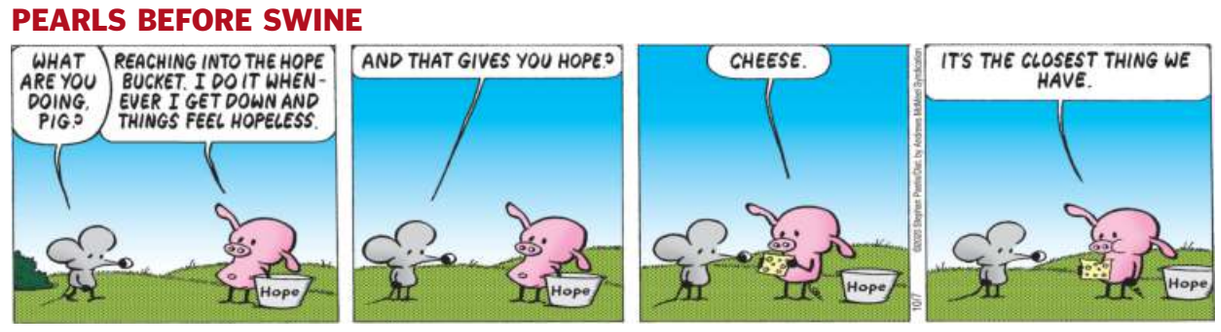
Being a vegetarian does not stop Madhura from cooking dishes with fish and chicken. "I test all my non-vegetarian dishes on my husband's family. They don't complain and I am happy to get honest feedback," she laughs.

She recently came up with a new concept: Angat Pangat, a food festival focussed on Maharastrian cuisine. This festival invites homemakers to cook traditional Maharastrian food at a venue.

Any advice for beginners? "Start with easy dishes. Look for many recipes of the same dish and try the simplest one. That will help you get a hang of what went right and what could have been better," she says. Also, "Food is all about knowing the ingredients and using authentic spices."

POOCH CAFE

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

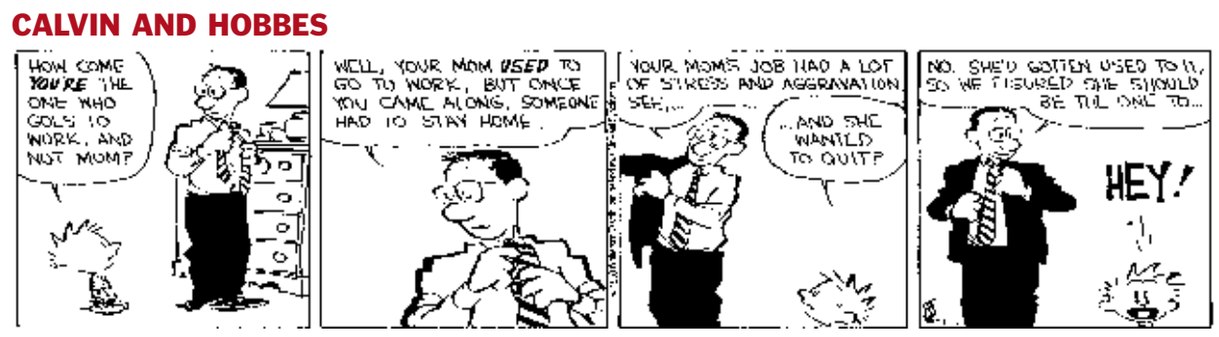


HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

PEANUTS

TIGER

CALVIN AND HOBBES



Trump returns to White House from hospital, plays down virus

'Don't be afraid, do not let COVID-19 dominate your lives,' President tweets

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON

Just three nights after he was hospitalised for COVID-19, U.S. President Donald Trump, who likely is still contagious, left the hospital and returned to the White House. As the national death toll from the virus reached 2,10,000, Mr. Trump told Americans not to be "afraid" of the virus and let it "dominate" their lives.

Mr. Trump, who was restless – as to a normal life – through most of his stay at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, released vidoes, took a ride in his limousine and sent out a tweet storm of campaign style messages before he was discharged on Monday evening. Just before he left the hospital, Mr. Trump announced on Twitter that he would be back on the campaign trail soon.

The President's treatment includes a drug that can cause temporary boosts in energy levels – the steroid dexamethasone – in addition to remdesivir and a cocktail of monoclonal antibodies.

Mr. Trump – who was given special access to this experimental antibody cocktail – told other Americans, many of whom are told to recover at home if they have the disease, that they should not be scared of the disease: messaging that was criticised widely.

Differing views: U.S. President Donald Trump taking off his mask after arriving at the White House. ▪ AFP

'Great drugs'

"I will be leaving the great Walter Reed Medical Center today at 6:30 pm. Feeling really good! Don't be afraid of Covid. Don't let it dominate your life. We have developed, under the Trump Administration, some really great drugs & knowledge. I feel better than I did 20 years ago!" Mr. Trump tweeted on Monday.

"...Many people of privilege have options in deciding how much they worry about COVID. But the vast majority of worse-off people does not have this luxury. COVID-related unemployment, illness and death are much higher among worse-off people, and especially minorities," Harald Schmidt, a professor of health policy and medical ethics at the University of Pennsylvania, told *The Hindu*. "Belittling peoples' justified worries, or encouraging them to let their guard down is the last thing we need right now," Mr. Schmidt said, citing the COVID-19 death toll.

Alighting from the presidential chopper, Marine One, after his 10-minute flight back home, the President took off his mask as he posed for photos between American flags on the balcony of the White House, which has itself become a hotspot for the virus.

"The scientific evidence is clear, masks save lives. The President certainly has a sense for effective photo-ops, but the signal is exactly the wrong one," Mr. Schmidt said.

In addition to First Lady Melania Trump and a number of others in Mr. Trump's circle, White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany announced on Monday that she had tested positive for the coronavirus. Two of her aides have also been infected, as per CNN. Three journalists of the White House Press Corps had also been infected. A number of Mr. Trump's inner circle, including the First Lady Melania Trump, have tested positive since last week.

Later on Monday evening, Mr. Trump released a video that reiterated his message about not letting the virus dominate life. "I stood out front, I led," Mr. Trump said about his experience of the past few days. "Nobody that's a leader would not do what I did. I know there's a risk, there's a danger, but that's okay," he said.

On Sunday, while still hospitalised and infectious, Mr Trump – wearing what appeared to be a cloth mask – took a short ride in the presidential limousine with secret service agents in the vehicle and the windows up. The President was criticised by doctors as well as former secret service agents for needlessly exposing agents to the virus.

Pressure builds for ceasefire as Karabakh fighting rages

Western powers urge Turkey to use its influence with Baku

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
STEPANAKERT

Battles raged between Armenian and Azerbaijani forces over the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region on Tuesday, with both sides vowing to pursue the conflict despite increasing international pressure for a ceasefire.

Western powers are urging Turkey, a long-standing ally of Azerbaijan, to use its influence with Baku to restore calm after 10 straight days of clashes that have claimed more than 260 lives. Russia, the United States and France on Monday called for an "unconditional" halt to the fighting.

The battles began on September 28 in a long-simmering territorial dispute over Nagorno-Karabakh, an ethnic Armenian enclave that broke away from Azerbaijan in the 1990s.

However, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu downplayed the need for a ceasefire and called for the world to back Azerbaijan in the conflict.

"To put these two countries on equal footing means rewarding the occupier," the Minister, who is on a visit to Baku, said. "The world must be on the side of those who are right, namely on the side of Azerbaijan."

Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov told mediapersons after a meeting with Mr. Cavusoglu that there was no hope of a ceasefire until Armenian troops withdraw from Karabakh.

At risk: People walking past an unexploded rocket in Nagorno-Karabakh region's main city of Stepanakert on Tuesday. ▪ AFP

"Armenian armed forces must leave Azerbaijan's occupied territories," he said. "We will be fighting until the end."

Neither side has shown any inclination to slow hostilities despite a mounting civilian death toll. Azerbaijan's Defence Ministry and Karabakh's Foreign Ministry both said fighting was continuing on several fronts on Tuesday

The conflict has expanded in the past few days with shelling on big cities, including the regional capital Stepanakert and Azerbaijan's second-largest city, Ganja.

Armenian Health Minister Arsen Torosyan told reporters near the border that he had seen a rocket landing very close to Stepanakert's main hospital. "I'm not ruling out they are deliberately targeting medical facilities, which is a war crime," he said.

Christian-majority Armenia is in a military alliance of former Soviet states led by Russia, which has a permanent base in the country but has not shown any appetite for a military escalation of the conflict.

Turkey is a loyal ally of Azerbaijan, a fellow Muslim and Turkic country, and has been accused of dispatching mercenaries from Syria and Libya. Moscow and leaders in several Western capitals have condemned the deployment of foreign fighters and instead urged Turkey's leadership to work towards a political settlement.

Pak. Oppn. to hold anti-govt. rally on Oct. 16

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's Opposition parties will hold their first combined rally against the Imran Khan-led government on October 16, weeks after launching an alliance to seek the "selected" Prime Minister's resignation and an end to the role of the powerful military in the country's politics.

On September 20, the leaders of 11 major Opposition parties formed the Pakistan Democratic Movement to launch a three-phased anti-government movement under an action plan starting with countrywide public meetings, protest demonstrations and rallies before a decisive long march towards Islamabad in January 2021.

The Opposition parties have agreed to hold their first anti-government rally on October 16 in Gujranwala city in Punjab province, Opposition leader Ahsan Iqbal said. They also issued a 26-point declaration in the form a resolution containing various demands, including the "end of establishment's interference in politics, new free and fair elections after formulation of election reforms with no role of armed forces and intelligence agencies".

They also demanded the release of political prisoners and withdrawal of cases against journalists.

Kyrgyzstan cancels poll result after night of chaos

Unrest over allegations of vote-buying

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BISHKEK

Kyrgyzstan's electoral body said on Tuesday it was cancelling the results of a disputed parliamentary vote that plunged the Central Asian nation into violence and political chaos.

The ex-Soviet nation's Central Electoral Commission said in a statement that it had "invalidated the election results" which saw parties close to pro-Russian President Sooronbay Jeenbekov score big wins amid accusations of mass vote-buying campaigns.

The results sparked a tumultuous night of protests and clashes in the capital Bishkek, with protesters seizing government buildings and freeing high-profile politicians, including ex-President Almazbek Atambayev. The clashes left dozens injured.

Opposition politicians said they had formed a "coordination council" to restore stability and "return to the rule of law".

Ahmed Adeeb jailed 20 years for corruption

Former Maldives Vice-President pleads guilty

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MALE

Maldives former Vice-President Ahmed Adeeb has been sentenced to 20 years in prison after pleading guilty to graft, money laundering and abuse of power, court officials said on Tuesday.

Adeeb was a close ally of ex-President Abdulla Yameen until Adeeb was jailed for allegedly trying to assassinate the strongman former ruler with a bomb on board his yacht in 2015.

Ahmed Adeeb

The Criminal Court in an overnight decision also imposed a fine of two million rufiyaa ($129,000) for Adeeb's role in siphoning money from the state tourism promoter during the former administration.

He was accused of causing a loss of about $260 million to the state in leasing islets for resort development and receiving kickbacks from tourism companies.

Adeeb's then boss, Yameen, is already serving a five-year prison sentence for money laundering during his tenure between 2013 and 2018.

"Adeeb cooperated with the state in the investigation and entered a plea deal," a court official said adding that the 20-year sentence was a "light punishment" for the crimes he admitted to.

In July, Adeeb had been cleared of the charges by the Criminal Court, but prosecutors appealed to the High Court which ordered a fresh trial.

Adeeb was initially Tourism Minister and promoted to Vice-President by Yameen, but the two later fell out. He was jailed for 15 years after being accused of trying to assassinate Yameen following a September 2015 explosion aboard the presidential yacht. However, Adeeb was cleared of the attempted assassination charge after Yameen's defeat at the 2018 re-election bid.

Adeeb left the country illegally in August last year but was arrested in India.

Pak. man held in killing of Ahmadi professor

The shooting took place in Peshawar

ASSOCIATED PRESS
PESHAWAR

The Pakistani police said on Tuesday they have arrested a man who acted as an accomplice to a Sunni Muslim college professor in the shooting of a colleague from the country's minority Ahmadi community.

The shooting took place in the northwestern city of Peshawar on Monday, a day after the two professors allegedly had a heated discussion over a religious matter, the police said.

The assailant, Professor Farooq Maad, remains at large. He and his accomplice, opened fire on the car of Professor Naeem Khattak as he was driving to work.

The arrested man, identified as Mubashar, was being questioned, the police said.

Ahmadis make a tiny minority of the 220 million Muslim-majority Pakistan. Pakistan's Parliament declared Ahmadis non-Muslims in 1974, and they have repeatedly been targeted by extremists.

ELSEWHERE

Court to rule on Google vs French media case

PARIS

A court will rule on Thursday on whether France's competition authority overstepped its jurisdiction in ordering Google to negotiate with media groups in a dispute about digital copyright. News outlets have been demanding payment for content displayed in search results.

Kim orders 80-day 'battle' to boost economy

North Korea has been battered by pandemic, floods

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SEOUL

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has ordered a nationwide drive to boost the ailing economy ahead of a key party congress in January, state media reported on Tuesday.

The decision was made during a meeting of the ruling Workers' Party and comes as the coronavirus pandemic and recent floods have added yet more pressure on the isolated country's flagging economy.

Kim Jong-un

Mandatory mass mobilisation drives, featuring extra-long work hours and additional duties, are commonplace in North Korea in the lead-up to major events.

Measure of loyalty

The efforts have usually been dubbed "Battles" – the North often embraces militaristic terminology and notions of struggle – but while the official KCNA news agency described it as such in Korean, in its English version it used the more diplomatic term "campaign".

"We have performed historical feats with our costly efforts, boldly overcoming unprecedentedly grave trials and difficulties this year, but we should not rest on our laurels," it said.

"We still face the challenges that cannot be overlooked and there are many goals we have to attain within this year."

Participation in the exhausting "battles" is rigorously monitored and used as a measure of loyalty to the regime, with past campaigns denounced by rights groups as exercises in forced labour.

As peace talks continue, Afghans fear return of Taliban

With U.S. planning to withdraw, people worry Taliban has changed little since darkest days of its regime

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KABUL

Almost two decades after the United States launched air strikes against Afghanistan's ruling Taliban regime and started what would become America's longest-ever war, the hardline group is in a stronger position than ever.

The invasion that followed those October 7, 2001 strikes quickly toppled the militants, who had harboured the Al-Qaeda, the group behind the September 11 attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people in America just weeks earlier.

Now, 19 years since the collapse of their brutal Islamist regime, the Taliban is pushing for a return to power, having signed a landmark troop withdrawal deal with Washington in February and currently holding peace talks with the Afghan government.

In the shadow of the gun: A March 2 photo of Taliban militants and villagers in Alingar district of Laghman province. ▪ AFP

Fearful that the Taliban has changed little since the darkest days of its regime – when it killed women accused of adultery, attacked minority religious groups and barred girls from going to school – many Afghans worry about a new era of Taliban influence.

"I remember the Taliban regime like a nightmare. We are scared for our future and my daughter's future," said Kabul resident Katayoun Ahmadi, a 26-year-old mother.

She recalled seeing severed hands and fingers on Kabul's streets following amputations for petty crimes under the Taliban's strict interpretation of Sharia law.

Enduring improvements

The 2001 invasion heralded some enduring improvements for young Afghans – particularly girls – and ushered in a Constitution guaranteeing certain freedoms, including the right to education.

But so far in peace talks in Doha, which started last month, the Taliban has said little about issues such as women's rights or freedom of expression.

Ms. Ahmadi's husband Farzad Farnood, 35, a researcher for the Afghanistan Institute for Strategic Studies, said a rise in Taliban violence since a deal was signed between the hardline group and Washington shows the militants have not changed. "Is this creating hope for Afghans? No, it is not," he said.

As a teenager, he witnessed the Taliban stoning a woman to death and public executions and floggings in Kabul's football stadium. His family had to hide their black-and-white television's antenna in a tree when the Taliban banned music and entertainment. "All the achievements we have made in the last 18 years did not exist in the Taliban era."

Zia-ul-Rahman, a former insurgent, said the Taliban was pushing for "the establishment of an Islamic system", even though the Constitution already gives primacy to the religion. "We have no problem with girls getting an education or women working, but they have to wear a hijab," he added.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

DAM REHABILITATION AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PHASE II
(FOR ITEM RATE/ ADMEASUREMENT CONTRACTS IN CIVIL / HYDRO MECHANICAL WORKS)
REQUEST FOR BIDS (RFB)
(Single cover Two - Envelope Bidding Process)
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING
Name of Project: Dam Rehabilitation And Improvement Project (PHASE - II)

Contracts Title : Rehabilitation and improvement to Sathanur Dam in Thandarampattu Taluk of Tiruvannamalai District under DRIP Phase-II. (Civil Package)

RFB Reference No.: 09/PBC/T.V.Malai/2020-2021/F.187/JDO.4/Dated : 06.10.2020
(SECOND CALL)

1. Through the Government of India the Government of Tamilnadu has applied for financing from the World Bank towards the cost of Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement project and intends to apply part of the proceeds towards eligible payments under the contract for construction of works as detailed below.
2. Bidding will be conducted through national open competitive bidding using a Request for Bids (RFB) as specified in the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers, July 2016, Revised August 2018" ("Procurement Regulations"), and is open to all Bidders as defined in the Procurement Regulations.
3. Bidders from India should, however, be registered with the Government of Tamilnadu or other State Governments/Government of India, or State/Central Government Undertakings. **Bidders are advised to note the clauses on eligibility (Section I, Clause - 4) and minimum qualification criteria (Section III Evaluation and Qualification Criteria), to qualify for the award of the contract.** In addition, please refer to paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 of the World Bank's Guidelines setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest. (For Civil Works)
4. The **Water Resources Department, Government of Tamilnadu, for and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, the Superintending Engineer, PWD., WRD., Pennaiyar Basin Circle, Tiruvannamalai 606 603, Tiruvannamalai District, Tamil Nadu** now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the rehabilitation of works detailed below in the table. The bidders may submit bids for any or all of the works indicated therein. Interested bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding document at the address given below during office hours. **Bidders are advised to note the clauses on eligibility (Section - I Clause - 4) and minimum qualification criteria (Section III Evaluation and Qualification Criteria), to qualify for the award of the contract.** In addition, please refer to paragraphs 3.14 and 3.15 of the "Procurement Regulations" setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.
5. Bidding documents (and additional copies) may be purchased from the office of **the Superintending Engineer, PWD., WRD., Pennaiyar Basin Circle, Tiruvannamalai 606 603 from 07.10.2020 to 28.10.2020 upto 17.45 hours (IST)** for a non-refundable fee (three sets) of Rs.15,000/- cost of bid documents + Rs.1800/- (GST @12% on cost of Bid documents) Total Rs.16800/- in the form of cash or Demand Draft on any Scheduled bank payable at **Tiruvannamalai** in favour of the **Executive Engineer, PWD., WRD., Middle Pennaiyar Basin Division, Tiruvannamalai 606 603** for the work mentioned in the table. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address. Bidding documents requested by mail will be despatched by registered / speed post on payment of an extra amount of Rs.500/- The **Superintending Engineer, PWD., WRD., Pennaiyar Basin Circle, Tiruvannamalai 606 603** will not be held responsible for the postal delay if any, in the delivery of the documents or non-receipt of the same. Bidding documents may also be downloaded from in website **"www.tenders.tn.gov.in"** at free of cost. In such case the bidder will be responsible for ensuring that any addenda available in web site, it is also downloaded and incorporated.
6. Bid comprise two parts, namely the Technical part and the Financial part, and both parts must be submitted simultaneously **on or before 12.00 hours (IST) on 29.10.2020** at the office of the Superintending Engineer, PWD., WRD., Pennaiyar Basin Circle, Tiruvannamalai 606 603, Tiruvannamalai District, Tamilnadu. The 'Technical part' of the bids will be publicly opened at **12.30 hours (IST)** in the presence of the bidders designated representatives who wish to attend. The "Financial part" shall remain unopened. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
7. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security of the amount specified for the work in the table below, drawn in favour of the **Executive Engineer PWD., WRD., Middle Pennaiyar Basin Division, Tiruvannamalai 606 603, Tiruvannamalai District, Tamilnadu.** Bid security will have to be in any one of the forms as specified in the bidding document and shall have to be valid for 45 days beyond the validity of the bid. Procedure for submission of bid security is described in Para 8.
8. The bidders are required to submit the bid along with bid security in approved form **the Superintending Engineer, PWD., WRD., Pennaiyar Basin Circle, Tiruvannalamalai 606 603. Tiruvannamalai District, Tamil Nadu** before the bid submission deadline, either by registered post/speed post/courier or by hand failing which the bids will be declared non-responsive and will not be opened. If the office happens to be closed on the date of receipt of the bids as specified, the bids will be received and opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.
9. A pre-bid meeting will be held on **19.10.2020 at 11:00 hours** at the office of the **Superintending Engineer, PWD., WRD., Pennaiyar Basin Circle, Tiruvannamalai - 606 603, Tiruvannamalai District, Tamil Nadu** to clarify the issues and to answer questions on any matter that may be raised at that stage as stated in ITB Clause 7.4 of 'Instructions to Bidders' of the bidding document. Bidders are advised to download the bidding document prior to the pre-bid meeting in order for bidders to have a good understanding of the scope of work under this contract for discussion and clarification at the pre-bid meeting.
10. Other details can be seen in the bidding document. The Employer shall not be held liable for any delays due to system failure beyond its control. Even though the system will attempt to notify the bidders of any bid updates, the Employer shall not be liable for any information not received by the bidder. It is the bidders' responsibility to verify the website for the latest information related to this bid.
11. The address for communication is as under:
    a. Name & Designation of officer : **Er. N. Suresh, B.E.,** Superintending Engineer, PWD., WRD.
    b. Official Address : **Office of the Superintending Engineer, PWD.,WRD., Pennaiyar Basin Circle, Tiruvannamalai -606 603.**
    c. Email : **sepbctvmalai2007@rediffmail.com / sepbc52@yahoo.co.in**
    d. Telephone : **04175 236921**
    e. Facsimile : **04175 237361**

TABLE

Sl. No.	Package No.	Name of work	Approximate Value of work (Rs.in Lakhs)	Bid Security (Rs.in Lakhs)	Cost of documents (In Rs.)	Date and Time of Bid Opening	Period of completion (Including Rainy season Period)
1	Civil Package	Rehabilitation and Improvement to Sathanur Dam in Thandarampattu Taluk of Tiruvannamalai District under DRIP Phase-II	3394.00 Lakh (including GST)	Rs. 67.88 Lakh	15000 + 1,800 (GST)	29.10.2020 @ 12.30 hours. (IST)	18 months

Index Plan : Refer Section 6 of Bid document
Period of rainy season (Approx): 3 Months per year

DIPR/3744/TENDER/2020

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, PWD., WRD.,
PENNAIYAR BASIN CIRCLE, TIRUVANNAMALAI - 606 603. TAMILNADU, INDIA.

MARKET WATCH

	06-10-2020	% CHANGE
Sensex	39,575	1.54
US Dollar	73.46	-0.23
Gold	51,879	1.34
Brent oil	42.78	3.16

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on October 06

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	73.25	73.57
Euro	86.25	86.63
British Pound	95.08	95.53
Japanese Yen (100)	69.41	69.71
Chinese Yuan	10.78	10.84
Swiss Franc	80.09	80.44
Singapore Dollar	53.87	54.11
Canadian Dollar	55.22	55.48
Malaysian Ringitt	17.61	17.71
Australian Dollar	52.44	52.67

Source:Indian Bank

IMF chief says global economy less dire but long climb ahead

Fund will make a 'small' upward revision to its earlier forecast, says Georgieva

REUTERS
WASHINGTON

The global economy is looking 'less dire' than it did in June and the International Monetary Fund will make a 'small' upward revision to its 2020 global output forecast, IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said on Tuesday.

"My key message is this: The global economy is coming back from the depths of this crisis," Ms. Georgieva said in remarks to a London School of Economics event. "But this calamity is far from over. All countries are now facing what I would call 'the long ascent' – a difficult climb that will be long, uneven, and uncertain. And prone to setbacks," she added. The IMF had in June forecast that the coronavirus shutdowns would shrink global GDP by 4.9%, marking the sharpest contraction since the 1930s Great Depression, and called for more policy support. The IMF will publish its revised forecasts next week.

Seismic shocks: Emerging markets face a precarious situation with high external debt, Ms. Georgieva said. • AP

But $12 trillion in fiscal support, coupled with unprecedented monetary easing has allowed many advanced economies, including the United States and the euro zone, to escape the worst damage and start to recover, she said.

'China recovery faster'

China also has recovered faster than expected.

Emerging markets and low income countries face a precarious situation with weak health systems, high external debt and dependency on sectors most exposed to the pandemic such as tourism and commodities as well as high external debt, she said. "In low-income countries, the shocks are so profound that we face the risk of a lost generation."

Services PMI shows slump easing, but job losses swell

Sept. reading shows activity contracted for a seventh month

REUTERS
BENGALURU

The pace of contraction in services sector activity eased considerably in September after the government lifted some COVID-19 restrictions, but demand continued to shrink, prompting firms to cut more jobs, a business survey showed on Tuesday.

Signs of stabilisation in services are likely to provide more comfort to policymakers after a sister survey last week showed India's manufacturing expanded at its fastest pace in over eight years, suggesting business conditions were gradually returning to normal in Asia's third-largest economy.

The Nikkei/IHS Markit Services Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) bounced to 49.8 in September from August's 41.8, a touch below the 50 mark that separates expansion from contraction on a monthly basis.

But September was the seventh straight month that activity had contracted, the longest such stretch since a 10-month run to early 2014.

"The relaxation of lockdown rules helped the service sector move towards a recovery in September," Pollyanna De Lima, economics associate director at IHS Markit, said in a release. "Participants of the PMI survey signaled broadly stable business activity and a much softer decline in new work."

The services sector accounts for about 55% of India's economy and almost a third of its jobs.

Although improved from August, sub-indexes tracking domestic and foreign demand remained firmly in contraction territory, leading firms to cut their workforce for the seventh straight month, the longest streak.

Powell warns of incomplete U.S. recovery

REUTERS

The U.S. economic recovery remains far from complete and could still slip into a downward spiral if the coronavirus is not effectively controlled and growth sustained, Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell warned, in a call for more help to businesses and households.

"The expansion is still far from complete," Mr. Powell said, describing how even if the recovery slows too much it could lead to 'tragic outcomes for the less well-off.' In that situation, he said, officials should risk doing too much for those that need it rather than too little, an implicit call on members of Congress and the Trump administration to aim high in their still-stalemated deliberations over how much more to spend for households and businesses.

Govt. clears ₹11,000-cr. of PLI proposals by Samsung, others

Projects to generate almost 2 lakh direct jobs, says Meity

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Electronics and IT said it had approved 16 proposals by electronics manufacturers, including Samsung, Foxconn, Lava and Micromax, entailing an investment of ₹11,000 crore under its Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme.

The firms include five international mobile phone makers and five domestic firms. Additionally, six proposals have been approved under Specified Electronic Components Segment that include AT&S, Ascent Circuits, Visicon, Walsin, Sahasra and Neolync.

Ravi Shankar Prasad

Among the international firms approved, Foxconn Hon Hai, Wistron and Pegatron are contract manufacturers for Apple iPhones. The Ministry, in a statement, noted that Apple (37%) and Samsung (22%) together account for almost 60% of global sales revenue of mobile phones.

IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said, "We are optimistic and looking forward to building a strong ecosystem across the value chain and integrating with the global value chains."

The official statement added that the companies would bring additional investment in electronics manufacturing to the tune of ₹11,000 crore and generate more than two lakh direct employment opportunities in the next five years, along with the creation of additional indirect employment of almost three times the direct employment.

ADIA to invest ₹5,512.5 cr. in RIL retail arm

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) and Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd. (RRVL) on Tuesday announced that a wholly owned subsidiary of the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) will invest ₹5,512.50 crore into RRVL, a subsidiary of RIL.

The investment values RRVL at a pre-money equity value of ₹4.285 lakh crore. ADIA's investment will translate into a 1.2% equity stake in RRVL on a fully diluted basis. "With this investment, RRVL has raised ₹37,710 crore from leading global investors including Silver Lake, KKR, and ADIA in less than four weeks," RIL said in a filing with the exchanges.

RBI's reconstituted policy panel to meet Oct. 7-9

'New members may lend dovish tilt'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank has scheduled the next meeting of the MPC for October 7-9.

This follows the appointment of three new external members to the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC).

The meeting, originally scheduled for September 29-October 1, had to be postponed as the term of the previous external members ended on September 30.

The government on Monday appointed Ashima Goyal, Jayanth R. Varma and Shashanka Bhide as new external members of the panel. Nomura said in a note that Dr. Goyal and Dr. Varma were from academia and specialised in macroeconomics and the financial sector, respectively, while Dr. Bhide came from a think-tank and had worked on real economy issues, but that his policy views were not yet known. With the fresh nominations, the MPC had developed a more 'dovish tilt' it added.

"The new external MPC members appear to be more neutral-to-dovish in their policy views. They are likely to be vocal on liquidity, credit market dynamics, and may not shy away from advocating for the RBI to look at unconventional or untested measures. They are likely to look through the current phase of elevated inflation and find space to lower rates further," Nomura said.

Dinesh Khara

Dinesh Khara appointed as SBI chairman

REUTERS

The Centre on Tuesday appointed Dinesh Khara as chairman of the State Bank of India (SBI), the country's top lender, for three years, effective October 7. Mr. Khara, one of the bank's four managing directors, replaces Rajnish Kumar who is due to step down on October 7 after being at the helm for three years.

IN BRIEF

Lupin gets U.S. FDA nod for MS relapse drug

NEW DELHI

Lupin said it has received approval from the U.S. health regulator to market generic Dimethyl Fumarate delayed-release capsules used for treatment of relapsing forms of multiple sclerosis (MS) in adults. Lupin has received approval from the United States Food and Drug Administration (U.S. FDA) to market Dimethyl Fumarate delayed-release capsules, Lupin said in a statement.

MMTC-PAMP to exchange, buy back gold

CHENNAI

MMTC-PAMP on Tuesday rolled out a buy-back and exchange offer for gold to assist individuals, families or jewellers planning to sell their jewels. "This scheme has been rolled out in 12 centres in major cities today. It will be expanded to three more centres in the next three months," said Vikas Singh, managing director and chief executive officer, MMTC-PAMP.

McDonald's to restart dine-in in Maharashtra

NEW DELHI

Westlife Development, which operates McDonald's restaurants in the southern and western regions in India, said it was restarting dine-in operations in Maharashtra that were shut for more than six months due to COVID-19. Last week, the Maharashtra government issued COVID-19-related standard operating procedures for restaurants that are set to re-open from October 5. PTI

Amazon ramps up infra for Great Indian Festival

BENGALURU

E-commerce firm Amazon on Tuesday said it had ramped up its delivery infrastructure by adding about 200 delivery stations and thousands of delivery partners ahead of its annual Great Indian Festival set to begin on October 17. It also added 60 fulfilment centres in 15 States to create an additional storage capacity of over 32 million cubic feet, Amazon said.

'Tough time for banks as stressed loans set to rise'

Quick recovery key to limit losses: Fitch

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Fitch Ratings on Tuesday said Indian banks face a tough operating environment in the near term as stressed loans and write-offs increase due to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Indian banks face a tough operating environment in the near term, as stressed loans and write-offs increase as a result of the economic fallout from the coronavirus pandemic, but a swift economic recovery will be critical to limiting loan losses in what is likely to be a protracted period of weakness in the asset-quality cycle," Fitch Ratings said.

Banks have been permitted by the Reserve Bank of India to undertake a one-time restructuring exercise of loans affected by the pandemic, which will provide relief in terms of bad loan recognition and provisioning, Fitch said.

"However, the exercise could leave the sector saddled with a high bad loan burden over the next few years if restructured loans do not perform according to agreed milestones," it added. Fitch said the central bank's data showed that Indian banks wrote off almost $85 billion over FY14-FY19.

Axis Bank to raise salaries by 4-12%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

The country's third-largest private sector lender Axis Bank has offered a salary increase of up to 12% for its more than 75,000 employees, sources said on Tuesday.

The bank had already given the yearly bonuses to officials below a certain rank and now the bonuses will be given to all, they added.

"We have been informed individually about the salary hikes and bonuses," a source said, adding that the raises ranged from 4-12% as per individual performances.

The increases are applicable from October 1. Generally, hikes are given with effect from April 1 every financial year. An e-mail sent to a bank spokesperson remained unanswered.

'Gold imports plunge 59% to 4-month low'

REUTERS
MUMBAI

India's gold imports in September fell 59% from a year earlier to the lowest level in four months, a government source said on Tuesday, as a drop in prices from a record high failed to lure buyers, who were postponing purchases anticipating a bigger drop.

The world's second-biggest consumer of the precious metal imported about 11 tonnes of gold in September, down from 27 tonnes a year ago, the source said.

The source asked to remain anonymous since he is not authorised to speak to the media. Silver imports in the month plunged 93% from a year ago to 20 tonnes, he said.

Torrent Gas to invest ₹8,000 cr. in distribution

Eyes 500 CNG pumps by March 2023

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Torrent Gas Ltd. on Tuesday said it will invest ₹8,000 crore over the next five years in expanding its city gas operations with a target to set up 500 CNG dispensing pumps by March 2023.

Torrent Gas, the city gas distribution (CGD) arm of Gujarat-based $3-billion Torrent Group, holds a city gas licence for selling compressed natural gas (CNG) to vehicles and piped cooking gas (PNG) to industries and households kitchens in 32 districts across seven States.

Within 18 months of its operations, Torrent Gas has set up 100 CNG pumps, its director Jinal Mehta said at a virtual event organised to announce the commissioning of 42 CNG stations.

"Torrent Gas intends to make a total investment of ₹8,000 crore ($1.1 billion) over the next five years towards the creation of CGD infrastructure in the country, of which ₹1,050 crore has already been invested," Mr. Mehta said.

Despite the constraints presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, Torrent Gas has been able to set up 100 CNG stations within a relatively short span of time.

"We are now working towards our near-term goal of setting up 200 CNG stations by March 2021 and medium-term goal of setting up 500 CNG stations by March 2023, apart from making PNG widely available to industries and residences."

Dominant Mumbai outclasses Rajasthan to go top

Suryakumar's 79 n.o. powers the defending champion; Boult, Bumrah and Pattinson derail Royals' chase

IPL 2020

SPORTS BUREAU

In addition to having a battery of reliable all-rounders, one of the features of Mumbai Indians' consistent success in the Indian Premier League over the years has been its all-round performance on the field.

This was on full display at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi on Tuesday, as a well-oiled MI machine reversed its adverse recent head-to-head record against Rajasthan Royals with a stylish 57-run win.

Suryakumar Yadav's personal best in the IPL (79 n.o., 47b, 11x4, 2x6), supported by captain Rohit Sharma (35, 23b, 2x4, 3x6) at the top and Hardik Pandya (30 n.o., 19b, 2x4, 1x6) at the death, helped MI pile on a formidable 193 for four after electing to bat.

Fizz out of the chase

Trent Boult and Jasprit Bumrah – the Indian pace spearhead using the new ball for the first time this season – then reduced Royals to 12 for three in the third over to take the fizz out of the chase.

And just when Jos Buttler (70, 44b, 4x4, 5x6) started to cut loose, Kieron Pollard pulled off a stunner on the boundary line. Despite misjudging the ball for a split second, Pollard leapt high and caught the ball on the second attempt.

Superman-like dive

This effort was as spectacular as the Superman-like dive from substitute Anukul Roy – fielding in place of Suryakumar, who was hit on the helmet – to dismiss Mahipal Lomror.

Bumrah then ran through the tail to end Royals' innings for 136, handing MI a comprehensive win.

It also helped the defending champion regain the top position, although it has played a match more than second-placed Delhi Capitals.

Earlier, Suryakumar, having driven leggie Shreyas Gopal inside-out with panache, suffered a painful blow on his helmet in the penultimate over of MI's innings, bowled by Jofra Archer, who consistently clocked speeds of 150kmph.

But it was Suryakumar's response – gliding a near-perfect wide yorker over third-man for six – that underlined that it was his and MI's night.

Terrific trio: Suryakumar, Hardik and Bumrah fashioned MI's thumping win over RR. ▪BCCI/IPL

SCOREBOARD

MUMBAI INDIANS

Quinton de Kock c Buttler b Tyagi 23 *(15b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Rohit Sharma c Tewatia b Shreyas 35 *(23b, 2x4, 3x6)*, Suryakumar Yadav (not out) 79 *(47b, 11x4, 2x6)*, Ishan Kishan c Samson b Shreyas 0 *(1b)*, Krunal Pandya c Shreyas b Archer 12 *(17b, 1x6)*, Hardik Pandya (not out) 30 *(19b, 2x4, 1x6)*; Extras (b-5, lb-2, w-5, nb-2): 14; Total (for four wkts. in 20 overs): 193.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-49 (de Kock, 4.5 overs), 2-88 (Rohit, 9.1), 3-88 (Kishan, 9.2), 4-117 (Krunal, 13.6).

ROYALS BOWLING

Rajpoot 3-0-42-0, Shreyas 4-0-28-2, Archer 4-0-34-1, Tyagi 4-0-36-1, Curran 3-0-33-0, Tewatia 2-0-13-0.

RAJASTHAN ROYALS

Yashasvi Jaiswal c de Kock b Boult 0 *(2b)*, Jos Buttler c Pollard b Pattinson 70 *(44b, 4x4, 5x6)*, Steve Smith c de Kock b Bumrah 6 *(7b, 1x4)*, Sanju Samson c Rohit b Boult 0 *(3b)*, Mahipal Lomror c sub (Anukul) b Rahul Chahar 11 *(13b, 1x4)*, Tom Curran c Hardik b Pollard 15 *(16b, 1x4)*, Rahul Tewatia b Bumrah 5 *(6b, 1x4)*, Jofra Archer c Pollard b Bumrah 24 *(11b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Shreyas Gopal c de Kock b Bumrah 1 *(2b)*, Ankit Rajpoot c Rohit b Pattinson 2 *(5b)*, Kartik Tyagi (not out) 0 *(0b)*; Extras (lb-1, w-1): 2; Total (in 18.1 overs): 136.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-0 (Jaiswal, 0.2), 2-7 (Smith, 1.4), 3-12 (Samson, 2.5), 4-42 (Lomror, 8.1), 5-98 (Buttler, 13.3), 6-108 (Curran, 14.4), 7-113 (Tewatia, 15.2), 8-115 (Shreyas, 15.5), 9-136 (Archer, 17.6).

MUMBAI INDIANS BOWLING

Boult 4-0-26-2, Bumrah 4-0-20-4, Pattinson 3.1-0-19-2, Rahul Chahar 3-0-24-1, Krunal 2-0-22-0, Pollard 2-0-24-1.

Toss: MI. **MoM:** Suryakumar.

MI won by 57 runs.

Innings scan

MI		RR
44	Dots	46
18	Fours	11
8	Sixes	6
57/1	PP	31/3
9.65	RR	7.48

Points table

Team	M	W	L	PTS	NRR
Mumbai Indians	6	4	2	**8**	1.488
Delhi Capitals	5	4	1	**8**	1.060
Royal Challengers	5	3	2	**6**	-1.355
Kolkata Knight Riders	4	2	2	**4**	-0.121
Chennai Super Kings	5	2	3	**4**	-0.342
Sunrisers Hyderabad	5	2	3	**4**	-0.417
Rajasthan Royals	5	2	3	**4**	-0.826
Kings XI Punjab	5	1	4	**2**	0.178

After the MI-RR match on Oct. 6

Next assignment

RR: Oct. 9 vs. **DC**
Sharjah, 7.30 p.m. IST

MI: Oct. 11 vs. **DC**
Abu Dhabi, 7.30 p.m. IST

'First and final warning'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
DUBAI

Delhi Capitals spinner R. Ashwin said he wouldn't be giving any more warnings after he resisted resorting to a controversial 'Mankad' run out in the Indian Premier League under orders from coach Ricky Ponting.

Ashwin, who famously 'Mankaded' England's Jos Buttler in last year's competition, stopped his run-up and warned Royal Challengers Bangalore opener Aaron Finch when the Australian ventured out of his crease at the non-striker's end.

"Let's make it clear !! First and final warning for 2020. I am making it official and don't blame me later on. @RickyPonting #runout #nonstriker @AaronFinch5 and I are good buddies btw #IPL2020," Ashwin tweeted after Monday's game.

Warning this time, next time... R. Ashwin checks himself from 'Mankading' Aaron Finch. ▪TWITTER/WISDENINDIA

I wasn't expecting this call, says Prithvi Raj

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM
HYDERABAD

Left-arm pacer Y. Prithvi Raj, who was named by Sunrisers Hyderabad as a replacement for the injured Bhuvneshwar Kumar on Tuesday, said he would try to keep things simple and give his best whenever he gets a chance.

"Honestly, I was not expecting this call. I did not have any expectations. I came here as a net bowler to show what I am capable of," Prithvi told *The Hindu*.

"Being the net bowler for SRH ever since the team landed in UAE has definitely helped me. The support staff comprising some big names of world cricket always taught me one thing – to stick to my strengths," he said, revealing that his stock ball is the one that comes into the right-hander.

"The atmosphere in the team is amazing and I feel like one of the family members," he said.

KKR faces stiff test against resurgent CSK

Karthik's star-studded side has underperformed while Dhoni's men seem refreshed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ABU DHABI

Facing criticism for a below-par show despite a star-studded line-up, skipper Dinesh Karthik needs to find quick answers when Kolkata Knight Riders faces a resurgent Chennai Super Kings here on Wednesday.

KKR has England's World Cup-winning skipper Eoin Morgan, but the management reposed faith in Karthik to be the leader. But a few decisions, apart from his own poor run with the bat (37 runs from four matches), have raised questions.

Narine's struggles

Promoting himself ahead of the star duo of Morgan and Andre Russell, and preferring Sunil Narine in the opening slot over Big Bash sensation Tom Banton – who has been compared to Kevin Pietersen – has put the 35-year-old Karthik under the scanner. Narine has especially looked woefully out of sorts, managing only 27 runs from four matches.

KKR has plenty of bowling resources but Pat Cummins' up-and-down performances have added to the team's woes. Karthik will need to back his bowlers, especially Indian lead spinner Kuldeep Yadav, who seems to have been under-utilised. He had bowled just nine overs before being dropped against Delhi Capitals.

CSK, on the other hand, snapped its three-match losing streak with a rousing ten-wicket win over Kings XI Punjab. Not known to tweak his side much, M.S. Dhoni persisted with Shane Watson, and the Aussie veteran finally found his touch with an unbeaten 83 and, along with Faf du Plessis, stitched together a record 181-run unbeaten stand.

With the top-order regaining form, CSK seems to have got just the right impetus ahead of the game against a struggling KKR.

Shubman Gill. ▪BCCI/IPL

Watson, du Plessis. ▪BCCI/IPL

TODAY'S MATCH

KOLKATA Knight Riders vs. CHENNAI SUPER KINGS

ABU DHABI, 7.30 P.M. IST

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Played: 20
CSK **13** | KKR **7**

In 2019
Played **2** | CSK **2** | KKR **0**

STAR SPORTS 1 & SELECT 1 (SD & HD)

Highlight reel

A statistical look at the first third of IPL 2020 **(20 matches; Sept. 19 to Oct. 6)**

Highest total:
DC **228/4** vs. KKR, Sharjah
Result:
DC won by 18 runs

Lowest total:
RCB 109 vs. KXIP, Dubai
Result:
KXIP won by 97 runs

K.L. Rahul

Kagiso Rabada

Rahul Tewatia

Trent Boult

Batting:

Most runs: K.L. Rahul **302** (5 innings), KXIP

Highest: K.L. Rahul **132*** (KXIP vs. RCB, Dubai)

Best strike rate: Kieron Pollard **208.97** (163 runs, 78 balls, 5 innings), MI

Most 100s: K.L. Rahul (1) and Mayank Agarwal (1), KXIP

Most sixes: Sanju Samson **16** (RR)

Most impactful innings: Rahul Tewatia **(53, 31b, 7x6)**, RR vs. KXIP

• With RR needing 51 off 18 deliveries,Tewatia turned the match on its head, smashing Sheldon Cottrell for five sixes in the 18th over. RR went on to win by four wickets with three balls to spare. This was the biggest chase in IPL history, eclipsing RR's own record of 217 for seven against Deccan Chargers (214 for five) in 2008

Note:
Batting: Best strike rate (min. 75 balls)

Bowling:

Most wickets: Kagiso Rabada **12** (5 matches), DC

Best bowling: Jasprit Bumrah **4/20** (MI vs. RR, Abu Dhabi)

Best economy rate: Axar Patel 4.57 (14 overs, 64 runs conceded, 4 matches), DC

Best strike rate: Rabada 10.0 (12 wickets, 20 overs)

Most dot balls: Bumrah 69 (24 overs, 6 matches)

Most impactful spell: Trent Boult 4-0-28-2 (MI vs. SRH, Sharjah)

• Defending 208 on a run-filled Sharjah wicket, Boult bowled 11 dot balls and also took two wickets (Jonny Bairstow and Kane Williamson) as MI won by 34 runs

Note: Bowling: Best strike rate, Best economy rate (min. 60 balls)

Going down to the wire

Two contests finished in Ties before the tie-breaker was applied (Super Over)

DC vs. KXIP, Dubai. **Winner: DC**

RCB vs. MI, Dubai. **Winner: RCB**

• It was the first loss for bowler Bumrah in a Super Over. He had featured in two victories earlier for MI (vs. Gujarat Lions, 2017 and vs. SRH, 2019)

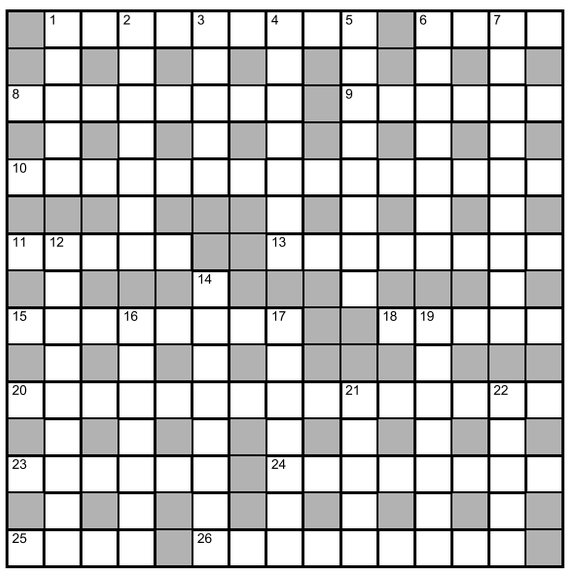
COMPILED BY **R. NARAYANAN AND G. PRASAD**

TH CROSSWORD + 13060

(set by Skulldugger)

Are you better with numbers or with words? Try our Crosswords site and find out! @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



ACROSS

1 Lady friend whisked to a marina (9)
6 Warm club closing early on fourth of July (4)
8 Foolishly tackle a bishop in Darjeeling, perhaps (5,3)
9 Propositions he's set on dismantling (6)
10 Woods, farm closed off by imminent danger (5,2,8)
11 Poetry's not as good when read aloud (5)
13 Idea professor's aide snuck into writing system (8)
15 Cadet misbehaved! (5,3)
18 Plumb vertically (5)
20 Mischievous person, liar, smuggled fentanyl; ultimately, it ended up at gallows (15)
23 Bones, antlers left out carelessly (6)
24 Doing a volte-face on issue? Never mind (2,6)
25 Dynamism amidst lugubriousness (4)
26 Captivated with heated CNN ruckus (9)

DOWN

1 Heartily find flaws in relative (2-3)
2 Grants contracts (7)
3 Transcend alfresco party (5)
4 Recklessness with live music? (7)
5 Matt's pet, Goofy, has a go (8)
6 Team laid off in shock transformation strategy (4,3)
7 Dock worker's severed toe almost fixed (9)
12 You might get a rise out of it! (9)
14 She sort of left homesteader convulsing in chair (8)
16 Obstruction business scholar passed through consequently (7)
17 Huge mongrel in attic (7)
19 Slightly overwhelmed by bowler, perhaps in home turf (7)
21 Magma formation that's found just before delta (5)
22 Deplorable men do somewhat improve (5)

SUDOKU

		2	3					
			4		2	8		7
	3			9	8			2
			9					4
1				4				9
7					3			
6			2	3			5	
4		5	7		1			
					9	2		

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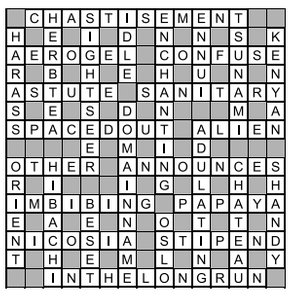
Solution to puzzle 13059



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

6	9	7	1	2	8	5	4	3
5	1	8	3	9	4	6	2	7
3	2	4	6	7	5	9	8	1
8	3	1	2	5	6	4	7	9
9	6	2	7	4	1	8	3	5
7	4	5	9	8	3	2	1	6
1	7	9	8	6	2	3	5	4
2	5	3	4	1	9	7	6	8
4	8	6	5	3	7	1	9	2

FAITH

Purpose of incarnations

An Acharya should not only have jnana, but must also follow Sastraic rules. Jnana is just one of the primary qualities an Acharya must have. In addition, he must also have anushtana. Lord Narayana came to the earth assuming various avataras because He wanted to show us how life should be lived, said M.A. Venkatakrishnan in a discourse.

He had already given us the Sastras to guide us. But this was not enough, because we sometimes resent advice, and often ignore it. Our attention wanders the moment someone starts telling us about the higher things in life. In this respect, adults are no different from children. But there is one way to engage the attention of children, and that is by telling them stories. And at the end of a story, we can give them a message, which they will remember because they will associate it with the story. That is how the Panchatantra stories came into existence. It is believed that they were written by Vishnu Sharma. Called upon to instruct a king's sons, he taught them using stories, each with a message at the end. And the messages are not forgotten because of the stories that precede them.

The Lord gave us messages , but we did not learn from them. So, He decided to take avataras. His avataras, filled with incidents illuminating dharma, help us understand the important tenets of the Sastras better. To understand the Vedas better, we need to study the Itihasas and Puranas, which are records of the Lord's deeds. The Lord's dasavataras are well known, although He took more than ten avataras. Even among the ten, only the Rama and Krishna avataras are considered poorna avataras, because in both cases the Lord was born after having been in the womb of mortal women. He lived on the earth for many years during these two avataras.

TV PICKS

NBA Finals: Game 4, Sony Six (SD & HD), 6.30 a.m.

IN BRIEF

Edinson Cavani joins Manchester United

LONDON

Manchester United signed Uruguayan international striker Edinson Cavani on Monday. "Manchester United is delighted to announce the signing of striker Edinson Cavani," the Premier League club said in a statement. "The Uruguay international joins on a one-year contract with the option to extend for a further year." AFP

Walcott rejoins Southampton

LONDON

Theo Walcott has rejoined Southampton after the Everton winger sealed a season-long loan move back to the club where he started his career. Walcott opted to return to Southampton after making just two appearances for Everton this season. The 31-year-old England international is back on the south coast 14 years after leaving to join Arsenal. AFP

Liverpool's Shaqiri tests positive for COVID-19

ST. GALLEN (SWITZERLAND)

Switzerland and Liverpool forward Xherdan Shaqiri has tested positive for COVID-19, the Swiss soccer federation said on Tuesday. Shaqiri joins Liverpool teammates Thiago Alcantara and Sadio Mane in testing positive. Switzerland hosts Croatia in a friendly here on Wednesday and the 28-year-old Shaqiri was due to play for his country for the first time since the Nations League finals in June 2019. AP

THE DAY IN PARIS

1 Podoroska is the first women's qualifier in the Open Era to reach the semifinals of the French Open. The last qualifier to reach the last four at any Slam was Alexandra Stevenson at Wimbledon in 1999

1 World No. 5 Svitolina was Podoroska's first-ever top-20 opponent

4 Svitolina has been a top-5 seed in Paris in three of the last four editions (including 2020), but hasn't gone past the last-eight stage

30 Winners that Podoroska hit to Svitolina's eight

Lots of things didn't go my way. I wish I could have handled it differently. She played a really great match and I wasn't 100% mentally in it
SVITOLINA, after her defeat to Podoroska

QUARTERFINAL PICKS

MEN
1-Djokovic vs. 17-Busta
5-Tsitsipas vs. 13-Rublev

WOMEN
4-Kenin vs. Collins
7- Kvitova vs. Siegemund

PLAY STARTS AT 3.30 P.M. IST LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 2

It's a little bit difficult to speak [immediately] after the match. My English is not so good, but thank you everybody. I did a very good job with my coaches during quarantine, I think that's why I'm here today. I'm very, very happy
PODOROSKA, after her quarterfinal win

Podoroska's dream run continues

Stuns Svitolina to become the first woman qualifier to reach the semifinals

FRENCH OPEN

REUTERS
PARIS

Argentine Nadia Podoroska became the first qualifier to reach the French Open semifinals in the women's singles draw when she downed Ukrainian third seed Elina Svitolina 6-2, 6-4 on Tuesday.

The World No. 131, on her second appearance in the main draw of a Grand Slam, emulates Belgium's Filip Dewulf, the only qualifier in either of the singles draws since tennis turned professional in 1968 to make it to the last four at Roland Garros, in 1997.

"It's a little bit difficult for me to speak after the match, thank you everybody for your support, I'm very very happy," Podoroska said on court Philippe Chatrier. "We did a very good job with my coaches during quarantine. That's why I'm here today."

Svitolina, one of the pre-tournament favourites after winning the Strasbourg International last month, was on the back foot throughout, failing at the last-eight stage for the third time at the clay-court Grand Slam.

Coming into Tuesday's match, the 23-year-old Podoroska had won seven matches in a row at Roland Garros, and she kept that momentum going against Svitolina.

Match evenly poised

- The quarterfinal between Dominic Thiem and Diego Schwartzman was tied with Schwartzman winning the first and fourth sets 7-6(1) and 7-6(5) and Thiem taking the second and third 7-5, 7-6(6).

Turning it on

The Ukrainian broke her serve in the first game, but then Podoroska turned on the engine and bagged five games in a row to move to 5-1. Having converted all of her four break points while Svitolina converted only two of six, Podoroska found herself one set up after 37 minutes.

Perfectly mixing power and a gentle touch with drop shots, Podoroska proved too skilful for Svitolina, who looked nothing like the player who reached the semifinals at Wimbledon and the US Open last year.

Six consecutive games went against serve in the second set until Podoroska held for 5-4 before wrapping it up on Svitolina's serve on her second match point with a forehand winner.

Collins stops Jabeur

Earlier in the day, unseeded Danielle Collins battled past 30th seed Tunisian Ons Jabeur 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 to reach the quarterfinals for the first time in her career.

In the men's section, German wildcard Daniel Altmaier's impressive run was ended by Spain's Pablo Carreno Busta as the 17th seed claimed a 6-2, 7-5, 6-2 victory late on Monday. Carreno Busta had to weather a second-set fightback by the 22-year-old but proved too experienced as he reached the quarterfinals for the second time. His reward is a clash with top seed Novak Djokovic in a repeat of their US Open fourth round when the Serbian World No. 1 was defaulted for hitting a line judge with a ball.

Match-fixing probe

French prosecutors on Tuesday said they have opened an investigation on Oct. 1 into alleged match-fixing in a women's doubles match.

The prosecutors' office said the investigation into "fraud in an organised group" and "active and passive corruption", was related to a match between Romanian pair of Andreea Mitu and Patricia Mari and Russian Yana Sizikova and American Madison Brengle.

THE RESULTS

Women: Quarterfinals: Nadia Podoroska (Arg) bt 3-Elina Svitolina (Ukr) 6-2, 6-4.
Fourth round: Danielle Collins (USA) bt 30-Ons Jabeur (Tun) 6-4, 4-6, 6-4.
Men: Fourth round: 17-Pablo Carreno Busta (Esp) bt Daniel Altmaier (Ger) 6-2, 7-5, 6-2.

Manpreet and Reid want to return to full momentum gradually

HOCKEY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BENGALURU

After training was severely affected by COVID-19 restrictions, the Indian men's hockey team's chief coach Graham Reid and skipper Manpreet Singh say it will be a deliberately slow progress towards the players attaining pre-lockdown fitness levels.

Six players of the men's team, including Manpreet, had tested positive for COVID-19 at the team's training base here in August after they arrived for the national camp following a month's break.

"...we slowly started the procedures of getting back to play. The coaches have created a plan so that we gradually return to full momentum and I am happy to be back practising again," Manpreet said in a release issued by Sports Authority of India (SAI).

Working smart: Captain Manpreet Singh and coach Graham Reid said the road towards pre-lockdown fitness levels will be deliberately slow. ▪ FILE PHOTO: BISWARANJAN ROUT

Skills training

Reid said the emphasis is on skills training, especially individual basics, which allows the players to practice in small groups with adequate social distancing in place.

"...we have been able to gradually increase the workload and intensity of the training to the point where we are able to have the majority of the squad up to pre-COVID levels by the end of the next camp," Reid added.

"This has been a slow and deliberate process designed to produce maximum output while minimising the risk of injury."

The players are also happy with the safety protocols in place at SAI's Bengaluru centre. "It feels good that we have started training after such a long time," Rani Rampal said.

Royals set up academy in Dubai

Boys and girls between six and 19 will receive training

P.K. AJITH KUMAR
KOZHIKODE

Rajasthan Royals is setting up an academy in Dubai, one of the host cities of the on-going IPL.

The academy, the first in UAE for an IPL franchise, will be launched on October 12.

This is the second international academy for Royals, having established one in England last year.

Former Zimbabwe captain Graeme Cremer is the director of the academy, which is being run in partnership with the UAE-based sports consulting firm RedBear Sports.

Boys and girls between six and 19 will receive training at the Sevens Stadium, the facilities of which have been used by the international and the IPL teams.

Hub of activity: Rajasthan Royals during a practice match at the Seven Stadium where the academy will be based.

"The large subcontinent population makes the UAE a great place for cricket to grow and expand and we are delighted to support this process and to strengthen the already rapidly improving UAE national side," said Jake Lush McCrum, COO, Rajasthan Royals.

Will Kitchen, co-owner, RedBear Sports LLC, said: "We believe that (with) the combination of their expertise, our knowledge of player development... we will be able to offer young players in Dubai an unrivalled experience, and for those with potential, the opportunity to progress towards the IPL."

Tarakai passes away

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KABUL

Afghanistan's top order batsman Najeeb Tarakai died of the injuries he sustained in a road accident last weekend, Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) said on Tuesday. He was 29 and represented the national team in 12 T20Is and one ODI.

The Board had tweeted on Saturday that Tarakai was "severely injured in a car accident" suffered on October 2 and had undergone a surgery.

"ACB and Afghanistan Cricket Loving Nation mourns the heart breaking & grievous loss of its aggressive opening batsman & a very fine human being Najeeb Tarakai (29)," the ACB tweeted.

Indian women can create history in Tokyo, says Dhanraj Pillay

'The team is working really hard'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

Dhanraj Pillay believes that with Rani Rampal at the helm and Savita Punia under the bar, the Indian women's hockey team has the ability to spring a surprise in next year's Tokyo Olympic Games.

"We have one of the best captains in Rani. I think Rani and goalkeeper Savita can take the team to a podium finish. The team is working really hard, preparing for the Olympics and I am confident of a good show," Pillay said on *In The Sportlight* show hosted by paddler Mudit Dani.

Rani had led India to the podium at the 2018 Asian Games and also guided the team to Olympics for the second successive time.

Dhanraj Pillay. ▪ FILE PHOTO

Savita, who is one of the most experienced campaigner in the team, has also played a crucial role in the Olympic Qualifier.

Physical abilities

A four-time Olympian, Pillay also believes hockey has come a long way, especially when it comes to stamina and physical abilities.

We have one of the best captains in Rani. I think Rani and goalkeeper Savita can take the team to a podium finish

"What hockey I played and what these players have been playing for the last 10-15 years, there is no match. The current players are playing based on their fitness abilities. Fitness has changed Indian hockey and also the players are very serious about their physique and endurance abilities.

"Today the Indian team can be compared with Australia or Netherlands or Germany. They can give a tough fight to any team in the world," added Pillay.

Plans afoot to simplify Tokyo Games

ASSOCIATED PRESS
TOKYO

The IOC and local organisers are trying to "simplify" the postponed Tokyo Olympics, promising to save money.

The executive board of the International Olympic Committee is expected to review the proposed cuts on Wednesday. It includes about 50 changes to fringe areas that leave the number of athletes – 15,400 for the Olympics and Paralympics – and all sports events untouched for next year.

Some of the proposed cuts listed in a detailed document include: fewer decorative banners; a 10-15% reduction in "stakeholders" delegation sizes; five fewer international interpreters from a staff of 100; fewer shuttle buses and reduction in hospitality areas.

I-League likely to start only in December: CEO

Dhar says many club owners have made a request in this regard

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The start of this season's I-League is likely to be postponed by a month from the planned November date as the clubs are finding it difficult to begin their pre-season due to the pandemic, League CEO Sunando Dhar said on Tuesday.

"We had a meeting with the club owners. Many of them said the situation in some parts of the country is still grim and it has been impossible to start pre-season training. The arrival of the foreign players has also been a problem," Dhar said. "They wanted to start in December and finish in March."

Dhar said the AIFF will discuss the matter with host Bengal association (IFA) and the State government before taking a decision.

Bio-secure bubble

He said that the AIFF is learning about life in a bio-secure bubble during the qualifying tournament beginning in Kolkata on Thursday. "We are learning everyday about life in the bio-secure bubble and want to take experience into the I-League. The qualifying round will last just a few days but the I-League and ISL will run for more than 100 days."

Mediapersons will not be allowed to cover the I-League qualifiers from the venue, the AIFF informed on Tuesday. The qualifiers, to be held at two West Bengal venues from October 8 to 19, will kick off the season.

Saina, Kashyap pull out of Denmark Open

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM
HYDERABAD

Saina Nehwal and her husband P. Kashyap have pulled out of the Denmark Open to be held in Odense (Denmark) from Oct. 13.

"One of the main reasons is that we were not sure about the COVID-19 threat and the safety measures in place in Denmark where cases have been on the rise," World No. 24 Kashyap told *The Hindu*.

"Secondly, with no ranking points at stake for the Olympic qualifiers, we thought it was not worth the risk. I also had some niggle in the right leg for three days though I am feeling much better," said Kashyap.

"Saina and I felt that it would be better to start our international campaign early next year."

No ambivalence here — all is fair in love and T20 cricket

BETWEEN WICKETS

SURESH MENON

We no longer use the racially offensive term 'chinaman' in cricket. Instead we say 'left-arm wrist-spinner'. Perhaps it is time we found another term for 'mankading', the act of a bowler running out a non-striker who backs up too far and thus gains time and space. For long, the act has been considered disreputable.

After Vinoo Mankad, the great Indian all-rounder, ran out Australia's Bill Brown thus, Don Bradman defended him. So did the batsman himself. Sunil Gavaskar has suggested that a batsman dismissed in this perfectly legal manner should be said to be 'browned'; after all, the onus is on him to ensure he does not gain an unfair advantage.

And yet. And yet.

Spirit of the game

Every season, someone somewhere does a 'mankad' or a 'brown' (depending on your preference), and old debates are given a fresh airing. What is legal, however, need not necessarily be moral. There is something called the 'spirit' of the game – somewhat ambiguous and undefined, but clearly recognisable when one sees it being breached on the field.

"Giving houseroom to our ambivalence is part of our human complexity," writes the sage of the game, Mike Brearley in his new book, *Spirit of Cricket*. The spirit, he says, is usually spoken of in a patronising tone: "I felt it had been enlisted by snobbery."

When the MCC World Cricket Committee discussed the issue of 'mankading', sympathy was almost entirely with the fielding side.

All the arguments in support of the bowler are valid, of course. Legally, that is. After all, bowlers, up against flat wickets, powerful bats, and shortened boundaries often struggle, despite the rule-makers' attempts to right the balance now and then. The batsman does not need extra help.

One of the charms of cricket is that it is a game played on parallel lines – within the laws and within the spirit. If everything were written out, every situation anticipated, something of its soul would be lost. Should a batsman walk when he knows he has snicked the ball or wait for the umpire's call? Should a catch be claimed when a fielder knows the ball has touched the ground? Cricket is a team game with significant individual moments; the overall ethics a team displays might be different from an individual's personal ethics.

The Decision Review System (DRS) has taken some of the individual's decisions out of his hands, yet players show us who they are and what they stand for in the manner in which they react when faced with a choice between being right and being ethical.

Following instructions

When R. Ashwin decided not to 'mankad' Aaron Finch in the IPL, was he following his coach Ricky Ponting's advice? Ponting had told the bowler before the start of the tournament to desist. Had the team lost the match thanks to a big score from Finch, how would bowler and coach have reconciled ethics with pragmatism?

Last year, when Ashwin ran out Jos Buttler in similar fashion, there was an element of entrapment, and that put off even supporters of the 'it's legal, after all' school. Ashwin paused in his bowling action – the law doesn't focus just on the batsman backing up, but also on 'the instant when the bowler would normally have been expected to release the ball..' That is sometimes a close call.

Brearley admits in his book after discussing many cases: "I had changed my mind. I was no longer inclined to view ('mankading') as unethical or against the spirit of cricket." That pronouncement has as much authority as anything Bradman said.

But it is not a stand I find easy to take. Perhaps it is because I have played just enough cricket to be starry-eyed but not enough to be sensible! When I see a bowler 'mankading' a batsman, I feel bad. Maybe it's the snobbery Brearley talks about, a cousin of the kind of condescension that leads to a feeling of superiority.

But there is a bridge that can be thrown across the two points of view. It stems from the conviction that T20 is not a shorter form of First Class or Test cricket, but a sport that despite being created from a rib of the longer game, is quite different.

Shift in perceptions

Approaches are different, techniques are different, 'success' means different things to the individual batsman or bowler.

Morals can be different too. What is looked down upon in the longer formats need not be so in T20. Thus 'mankading', which might be against the spirit in a First Class match, would be not just welcome, but actually necessary in a T20 game.

But what of the term 'mankading'? As Brearley writes, "Perhaps there is something subliminally racist (in it): named after an Indian, the action was felt to be un-Christian." Let us run it out of the lexicon.