



LAC standoff likely to extend: Chief of Defence Staff Gen. Bipin Rawat  
page 9



Not one of our MLAs spoke to BJP leaders, says Sachin Pilot  
page 9



Amid clamour for polls, China extends term of Hong Kong legislature  
page 12



PSG looks to Neymar as it takes on Atalanta in CL quarterfinal  
page 14

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

## NEARBY



### Daughters have equal right on property: SC

NEW DELHI  
The Supreme Court on Tuesday held that daughters have an equal birthright with sons to inherit joint Hindu family property. The court decided that the amended Hindu Succession Act, which gives daughters equal rights to ancestral property, will have a retrospective effect.

NEWS ▶ PAGE 11

### Two men arrested for assaulting cattle traders

GURUGRAM

Two cattle traders from Nuh's Ghasera village were brutally beaten up with sticks, slapped and abused at Begumpur Khatola village here on Tuesday. Two persons – Adesh and Dilbagh – have been arrested in this connection, said the police.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

### MoU signed with IIT-B for smog tower in CP

NEW DELHI

The Delhi government has signed an MoU with IIT-Bombay and Tata Projects Limited to construct a smog tower in Connaught Place following the Supreme Court orders, officials said. The smog tower will be a 20-metre-high structure fitted with several air purifiers.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

### OPPORTUNITIES ▶ PAGE 2

# PM flags need for more testing, tracing in 10 affected States

He says this is the new mantra to contain the virus and help India win the war

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said the fatality rate from COVID-19 in India has to be pushed below 1%. He stressed that 10 States which account for 8% of the cases and 82% of the fatalities need to step up testing, contact tracing within 72 hours of testing and isolation of those infected.

Mr. Modi's observations came during his closing remarks at a video conference with the Chief Ministers of 10 States – West Bengal, Gujarat, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Punjab – with high COVID-19 levels.

"A view has emerged that if we manage to defeat coronavirus in the 10 States that account for over 80% of our cases and 82% of our fatalities, India will win the war against the disease," Mr. Modi said. "We need to follow the new mantra – to step up testing, contact tracing of all those who have come into contact with anyone diagnosed as positive for COVID-19 within 72 hours of diagnosis and isolation of such patients."

"It has emerged from our discussions that there is an urgent need to ramp up testing in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh,

  
**Narendra Modi, Prime Minister**  
Experts now say that if we identify COVID-19 cases within 72 hours, the rate of infection slows down greatly. Our experience so far is that containment, contact tracing and surveillance are the most effective weapons against COVID-19

  
**Y.S. JAGAN MOHAN REDDY  
Andhra Pradesh CM**  
Our aim at any point in time continues to be to identify cases early on, decrease stigma, provide quality care

  
**K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO,  
Telangana CM**  
The recovery rate in the State is 71% and death rate is 0.7%. We have raised the number of tests many fold

  
**CAPT. AMARINDER SINGH  
Punjab CM**  
The cap of 35% in the State Disaster Relief Fund for COVID-19-related expenditure, as per the Ministry of Home Affairs guidelines, makes it difficult to meet the current requirements

Telangana, Gujarat and West

disease, but almost all of them said more funds from the Central government were required as their coffers were empty because of the loss of economic activity and concomitant revenue.

Punjab Chief Minister Capt. Amarinder Singh asked that the current cap of 35% on COVID-19 related expenditure on State Disaster Relief Fund be lifted as it was not sufficient to meet current requirements.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

CITY'S PLASMA BANKS ▶ PAGE 3

Putin declares world's first COVID-19 shot

REUTERS  
MOSCOW

President Vladimir Putin said on Tuesday that Russia had become the first country to grant regulatory approval to a COVID-19 vaccine after less than two months of human testing, a move Moscow likened to its success in the Cold War era space race.

The vaccine, to be called 'Sputnik V' in homage to the world's first satellite launched by the Soviet Union, has, however, not yet completed its final trials.

Moscow's decision to grant approval before the trial has raised concerns among some experts. Only about 10% of the clinical trials are successful, and some scientists fear Moscow may be putting national prestige before safety.

In all, 1,257 new COVID-19 cases were reported in the city in the past 24 hours, taking the total to 1,47,391. The total number of deaths stood at 4,139. Of the total cases, 1,32,384 people have recovered and 10,868 are active cases.

"Doubling time in Delhi at this point is over 50 days compared to the national average, which is around 20 days. The condition is better when the doubling time increases. There was a time when the cases were doubling in seven days in the city," Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain said. He also said that one-third of patients in city hospitals are from outside Delhi.

TRIAL WORRIES ▶ PAGE 12

# Airport fire team averted inferno

Fuel was gushing out, recalls official



Inside view: Mangled seats inside the AI Express aircraft that crashed in Kozhikode last week. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

JAGRITI CHANDRA  
NEW DELHI

A swift response from the fire fighting team at Calicut International Airport was crucial in averting a major tragedy and minimising fatalities after last Friday's crash of Air India Express flight IX-1344.

The Boeing 737 aircraft that overshot the runway and broke up could have exploded as its metal surface

was extremely hot and covered with aviation fuel – a deadly combination that could have led to a fuel-fed inferno within minutes of a crash, an airport official said. "Oil from the wings of the aircraft, where the fuel tanks are located, was not just leaking but gushing out like flood waters," the official said.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

## + Army probing July's Shopian encounter

Three families demand DNA testing

PEERZADA ASHIQ  
SRINAGAR

The Army has started an investigation into the killing of three alleged militants in an encounter in south Kashmir's Shopian on July 18, after three families from Rajouri claimed that the deceased may be their missing kin and demanded DNA testing.

"We have noted the social media inputs linked to the operation at Shopian on July 18, 2020. The three terrorists

killed during the operation have not been identified and the bodies were buried based on established protocols. The Army is investigating the matter," a Srinagar-based Army spokesman said.

However, the families claimed they lost contact with their kin, who were labourers, on July 18 when "they were on the way home and were stationed in Shopian for a night".

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

## J&K to get 4G access in a limited manner

Centre rules out blanket removal

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL  
NEW DELHI

Attorney General K.K. Venugopal informed the Supreme Court on Tuesday that 4G Internet access will be opened up after Independence Day in one district in each of Jammu and Kashmir's divisions.

The Centre, however, said a blanket removal of the 4G ban was not possible now, considering the "overall situation" and "threat perception" to national,

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

border and local security. Appearing before a three-judge Bench led by Justice N.V. Ramana, Mr. Venugopal read out from an additional affidavit that the "carefully calibrated" opening up of 4G access would be on a trial basis. The access will be limited to specified areas that are not adjacent to the international border and have seen "low intensity terrorist activities".

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

## Pranab Mukherjee's health worsens

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The condition of former President Pranab Mukherjee has worsened and he remains on ventilator support, the Army's Research and Referral Hospital said on Tuesday, a day after he underwent a brain surgery.

Mr. Mukherjee was admitted in a critical condition. He was also found to be COVID-positive.

DETAILS ON ▶ PAGE 9

People's poet Rahat Indori passes away

ANUJ KUMAR  
GAZIABAD

Eminent Urdu poet Rahat Indori succumbed to COVID-19-related complications on Tuesday. He was an unwavering light who kept the 'mushaira' poetry alive for generations, a fearless voice who showed a mirror to the establishment.

Known for his sharp visual imagery, the poet worked as an Urdu professor in Devi Ahilya Bai University.

DETAILS ON ▶ PAGE 11

## SHUBHRA RANJAN

Always Ahead

One Stop Solution for Civil Servant Aspirants

### GEOGRAPHY OPTIONAL COURSE

- Comprehensive Coverage of both static and dynamic portions of syllabus.
- Focus on answer writing with regular class tests.
- Regular interactive online sessions for doubt clearance.
- Exam oriented class notes enriching your answers and conceptual understanding

FEE : ₹ 45,000/-

ADMISSIONS OPEN NOW

### GS FOUNDATION TABLET COURSE

- Redefining learning under Mentorship of Shubhra Ranjan & team.
- Having a track record of proven success.
- Online classes during COVID.
- Live doubt clearing sessions with teachers to give the feel of real class.
- Qualitative enriched notes, answer writing practice and test series included.

III & LAST BATCH STARTING : 20<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2020

#### FEE STRUCTURE

GS Foundation 2021 Tablet Course : ₹ 85,700

Geography Optional + GS Foundation 2021 Tablet Course : ₹ 1,10,700

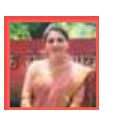
SCAN HERE TO KNOW MORE

UPSC 2019 RESULT : 13% of TOP 300

9 of TOP 100; 22 of TOP 200; 40 of TOP 300

Recurring Facts for the Last 3 CSE Results : 8-10% of the Final List are SRIAS Class Students

#### OUR TOPPERS



delhi@shubhraranjan.com

www.shubhraranjan.com

## March towards success in Defence Exams

Aug 14 • 15 – 2020



Shri  
M. Hamid Ansari  
Former Vice President  
of India



General V P Malik,  
PVSM, AVSM (Retired)  
Former Chief  
of the Indian Army



Lt. Gen. Asit Mistry,  
AVSM, SM, VSM  
Comdt. NDA &  
Colonel of the Maratha LI



Capt. Yashika  
Hatwal Tyagi  
Kargil War Veteran,  
Leadership Trainer, Life Coach

With the free-to-attend Command Summit by Unacademy

Register Now



unacademy.com/event/command



## IN BRIEF

## CAIT demands ban on Chinese companies

NEW DELHI Traders' body—CAIT—wrote to Union IT and Technology Minister, Ravi Shankar Prasad, demanding a ban on Chinese companies in participating in the 5G network rollout in India. The union said apart from being in line with recent government moves to ban Chinese apps, there was an apprehension of surveillance by Huawei technology.

## BJP stages protest over water issues

NEW DELHI The BJP staged a demonstration at the Okhla Jal Board office led by Delhi BJP State Secretary, Vikram Bidhuri, against alleged water problems in different areas of the Tughlakabad Assembly constituency. He alleged that black marketing of water.

## 103 held for illegally running hookah bars

NEW DELHI A total of 103 persons were arrested when three illegally running hookah bars were busted in Rohini on Monday, the police said. DCP(Rohini) P.K. Mishra said information was received that hookah bars were running in Rohini Sector 8 despite lockdown being enforced after which three bars were identified and raids were conducted.

## Rain likely to continue for a few days, says Met

NEW DELHI The Met has forecast rainfall in the city is likely to continue for a few more days and that the maximum and minimum temperatures might also fall.

## DJB V-C oversees construction of reservoir

NEW DELHI Delhi Jal Board V-C Raghu Chadha on Tuesday visited an under-construction 12.4 ML capacity underground reservoir at Mayapuri and directed to issue show cause notice to a contractor as the work has been delayed by over 14 months.

# Strict diet, check-ups and away from family

Police personnel on I-Day duty are in rigorous quarantine

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Around 350 Delhi police personnel, who are part of Independence Day celebrations, are quarantined at Police Colony in Delhi Cantonment to avoid getting infected. They are undergoing round-the-clock monitoring, said a senior police officer on Tuesday.

The officer said that following the protocols for the Independence Day event, all security personnel who are part of marching contingent and guard of honour at Red Fort will remain in quarantine from August 1 till the event concludes.

A policeman in the quarantine centre said that they are under thorough watch with security men deployed at the gate. The entry of any outsider is restricted. "We have strict diet plan and regular medical check-ups are conducted. The vehicle used to ferry us from Red Fort to quarantine centre is sanitised everyday. The drivers and cooks are also staying in the quarantine centre and



A security man keeping vigil at Red Fort ahead of I-Day celebrations, on Tuesday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

maintaining high level of hygiene," said the policeman

## Tight security

Another policeman, who is part of the group, said that after the daily rehearsal ends they come back to the quarantine centre in an official vehicle. They are not allowed to meet outsiders or any family members till the event gets over. "I haven't met my family for more than a week as we have been instructed not to leave the

centre. I regularly see my children and others on video call," he said.

A senior police officer, who is also staying in the quarantine centre, said they keep a strict watch on the policemen. Random COVID-19 tests were conducted recently and all policemen tested negative. All of them have been accommodated as per social distancing rules. Only 20 people are allowed to travel in a single vehicle when going for rehearsals.

## Ahead of I-Day, police issue traffic advisory

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

In wake of the upcoming full dress rehearsal ceremony and the Independence Day celebrations, the police on Tuesday issued a traffic advisory to ensure safe and smooth vehicular movement across the city.

According to the advisory, the traffic around Red Fort from where Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the nation on Independence Day will remain closed for

general traffic from 4 a.m. to 10 a.m. and only labelled vehicles will be permitted. Traffic restrictions for the full dress rehearsal on August 13 and for the Independence Day function will remain the same.

It also stated that eight roads—Netaji Subhash Marg, Lohia Road, SP Mukherjee Marg, Chandni Chowk Road, Nishad Raj Marg, Esplanade Road and its Link Road to Netaji Subhash Marg, Ring Road from Rajghat to ISBT and

Outer Ring Road from ISBT to IP flyover—will be closed for general public from 4 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Routes of buses terminating at Red Fort, Jama Masjid and Delhi main railway station will be curtailed or diverted, it said, adding that normal bus service will be restored after 10 a.m. Alternate routes will remain open to railway stations, bus stations and hospitals near the venue of Independence Day function, the police said.

# INDEPENDENCE DAY 2020



### Invites to the Independence Day 2020 function at the Red Fort are requested not to bring the following prohibited items:

आमंत्रित अतिथियों से अनुरोध है कि लाल किले पर स्वतंत्रता दिवस 2020 के समारोह में निम्नलिखित प्रतिबंधित वस्तुएं साथ में न लाएँ:

#### Prohibited Items

##### Photo/फोटो Particulars / विवरण

	Eatables खाने-पीने की चीजें
	Bag, Briefcase शैला, ब्रीफकेस
	Radio, Transistor, Tape Recorder, CD, DVD, MP3 Players रेडियो, ट्रांजिस्टर, टेपरिकॉर्डर, सीडी, डीवीडी, एम्पी3 प्लेयर
	Camera, Binocular, Handycam कैमरा, दूरबीन, हैंडीकैम
	Thermos Flasks, Water Bottles, Cans थर्मस, पानी की बोतल, कैन
	Inflammable Items, Match Boxes ज्वलनशील पदार्थ, दिवासलाई
	Various Electronic Gadgets, Devices e.g. I-Pad, I-Pod, Palm Top/Laptop, Computer, Tablets, Power Bank etc. विभिन्न इलेक्ट्रॉनिक उपकरणों जैसे आई-पैड, आई-पोड, पाम टॉप/लैपटॉप, कम्प्यूटर, बैटरी बैंक इत्यादि

Any unidentified object, if noticed, may be brought to the notice of the nearest Security Personnel. यदि, कोई लावारिस वस्तु दिखाई दे, तो निकटतम सुरक्षाकर्मी के नोटिस में लाएं।

Please co-operate with the police for searching/frisking. कृप्या तलाशी देने में पुलिस के साथ सहयोग करें।

#### वर्जित वस्तुएं

##### Photo/फोटो Particulars / विवरण

	Cigarettes, Bidies, Lighter सिगरेट, बीड़ी, लाईटर
	Alcohol, Perfumes, Spray शराब, ड्रेस, स्प्रे
	Dagger, Sword, Cutting Material, Sharp/Pointed Edged Material, Screw Drivers नुकील हथियार, चाकू, पेंचकस
	Umbrella, Replica Fire Arms, Toy Gun or Toys छाता, आगेयास्टर, खिलौना पिस्टॉल और खिलौने
	Knives, Scissors, Razors, Blades, Wire, Pluckers चाकू, कैंची, रेजर, ब्लेड, तार, प्लकर
	Arms & Ammunition, Fireworks, Crackers Explosive etc. हथियार और गोला बारूद, पटाखे आदि
	Avoid keeping Mobile Phones, Remote Controlled Car Keys as it may delay your entry due to checking मोबाइल फोन, रिमोट कंट्रोल कार के चाबी रखने से बचें क्योंकि इससे जांच के दौरान आपके प्रवेश में देरी हो सकती है।

Please be alert to your surroundings. कृप्या अपने आस पास नज़र रखें।

Keeping in mind the threat of Covid-19, don't forget to wear face mask/cover and maintain Social Distancing कोविड-19 के खतरे को ध्यान में रखते हुए फेस कवर/मास्क पहनना और दूसरों से उचित दूरी बनाए रखना ना भूलें।

E-mail to CP, Delhi at: cp.snsrivastava@delhipolice.gov.in Write to: CP, Delhi at P.O. Box. No. 171, GPO, New Delhi

FOR IMMEDIATE POLICE HELP CALL 112 TO SHARE INFORMATION CALL 1090

## Mob attacks journalists covering story in N-E Delhi

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Three journalists were allegedly attacked by a mob in north-east Delhi on Tuesday afternoon while covering a story. The matter has been reported to the police.

The journalists identified as Nabila, Shahid Tantray and Prabhjot Singh, reporters with Caravan magazine, were in Subhash Mohalla when the incident took place.

Late evening, Mr. Shahid confirmed the incident and said a police complaint was being lodged.

Hartosh Singh Bal, political editor of the magazine, said in a tweet: "This is to confirm that 3 of our reporters on assignment, working on stories on the anti-muslim violence in north-east Delhi, were surrounded by a mob & manhandled (sic)".

Deputy Commissioner of Police (North-East) Ved Prakash Surya said that an information was received about the incident after which officials reached the spot and rescued the reporters. They were then dropped home by the police around 10:30 p.m.

The DCP said that they have yet to receive any complaint.

A police officer privy to the matter said that the journalists were asking questions to people around a mosque, "which the people didn't like and got annoyed" following which a scuffle took place.

There were seven-eight persons against the journalists, the officer said.

## Journalist Tandon questioned in connection with Delhi riots

Queries were mainly about meetings and WhatsApp groups

HEMAMI BHANDARI  
NEW DELHI

Delhi Police Special Cell on Monday questioned veteran journalist Prashant Tandon in connection with communal riots that broke out in the Capital in February. His mobile phone has also been seized.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Tandon said that he was primarily questioned because he supported the protests against Citizenship (Amendment) Act, National Register of Citizens and National Population Register.

The questioning mostly centred around two meetings and a WhatsApp group,

Prashant Tandon said he was primarily questioned as he supported the protests against CAA, NRC and NPR. ■ FILE PHOTO: SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

added that the officers asked him about how he knew the people who were members of those groups.

"The basic questioning was about that [Rahul Roy's] group".

The journalist said that he wasn't reading all the messages on the group but was shown a chat on the group from February 27—right after the riots—which "the officers found problematic as they gave a hint of possibility of violence".

**'Attended CAA protests'** Mr. Tandon said that he was questioned about two meetings which were held for coordinating the course of action after the CAA came into effect. "I attended protests in Jantar Mantar, and in December two meetings were held to discuss the course of action as activists decided to unite the protests instead of holding scattered protests under different banners. One was at Indian Social Institute and another at Prashant Bhushan's office to formulate the course of action," he said.

According to Mr. Tandon, Mr. Yadav was present at both the meetings and former JNU student Sharjeel Imam in the one at Mr. Bhushan's office. "I didn't know him then. During the meeting, I had suggested that we hold the protests at neutral places and he had suggested that we should also do so after Friday prayers. I had forgotten his name but was reminded when he was arrested in January," he said, adding that police questioned him about Mr. Imam's presence in the meeting and who invited him.

Mr. Imam has been charged by Delhi Police in the riots case on charges of sedition, promoting enmity, spreading rumours and under Sections of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. Mr. Yadav's and Mr. Roy's names have appeared in a few charge-sheets filed by police in connection with riots.

## Students face similar issues on 2nd day of online exams

### DU teacher calls entire system 'farce'

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

On the second day of DU's open book exams on Tuesday, students continue to face issues with uploading answer sheets, lack of time among other problems.

## 'Interface crashed'

Several students complained that the interface crashed towards the end of the examination. Some of them said they were told to submit their papers on the university provided email address but many said they did not receive any acknowledgement of the same.

Tanvir Aejaz, who teaches at Ramjan College, called the system a "farce". "How do you guarantee who is writing the exam...sorting of answer sheets is a gigantic task, will administration do

this?" he asked.

The university had been warned of issues that would arise from the open book exams, said students' group—SFI. It also raised the concern of differently abled students, which it said were having a difficult time attending the exams as they had not been provided scribes.

The second day of the exam has proved to be the continuation of trauma and agony for Delhi University's regular as well as correspondence students, said another students' group, KYS.

The students of the School of Open Learning also faced issues as papers in Hindi were not available, the KYS said, adding that apart from this, problems regarding Internet connectivity were also reported.

## Probe non-payment of salaries in DU colleges'

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

₹121.82 crore in 2012-13, this year, the fund stands at ₹243 crore, said Hansraj Suman of the DTA. The staff of these colleges have been complaining of not being paid salaries for several months.

The teachers' bodies too alleged that adequate funds have not been released to them.

## FIRs filed only against our workers, alleges Congress

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Congress on Tuesday alleged that the police were filing FIRs against its party workers when they were protesting on the streets but took no action when the same was done by the BJP or AAP members.

## OPPORTUNITIES

HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT • JOBS • TECHNOLOGY

## GENERAL



## RECRUITMENT FOR TREASURY DEALERS

The South Indian Bank Ltd. invites applications from Indian Nationals to fill up the vacancies for Treasury Dealers

## ROLE: Dealer&lt;/

**Timings**

DELHI
WEDNESDAY, AUG. 12
RISE 05:50 SET 19:03
RISE 00:00 SET 13:16
THURSDAY, AUG. 13
RISE 05:50 SET 19:02
RISE 00:17 SET 14:11
FRIDAY, AUG. 14
RISE 05:51 SET 19:02
RISE 00:58 SET 15:09

**Delhi Weather**

max min

Delhi City 37 28

Safdarjung 37 28

Palam 37 29

**Delhi Palam Today**

35°C Spells of light to isolated

moderate rain and thunder-

shower with gusty winds

expected.

**Delhi Palam Tomorrow**

31°C Few spells of rain and

thunder shower likely at many

places with cloudy sky.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2019  
All rights reserved.

## HC for transfer of Tablighi Jamaat cases

**STAFF REPORTER**

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday ordered transferring a batch of cases pending against various foreign nationals, who had participated in the religious congregation in Nizamuddin here, to Saket district court for being decided expeditiously.

Justice Anup Jairam Bhambhani ordered that the chargesheets be transferred from different trial courts in the Capital to the Saket district court.

The foreigners said they have already admitted their guilt in the FIR lodged by the Delhi police. However, they are not able to fly back to their respective countries due to look out circulators being opened against them in other FIRs related to the same offence.

# City banks on plasma banks in COVID fight

Facilities have provided around 710 units of convalescent plasma to hospitals, says Chief Minister

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday said that plasma banks established by the Delhi government at the ILBS and Lok Nayak Hospitals had provided convalescent plasma to hundreds of patients across hospitals in the city free of cost. Till now, around 710 units of convalescent plasma had been provided by these banks to hospitals, including those administered by the Central and State governments, private and MCD.

The first plasma bank was started at ILBS by the Delhi government on July 2 followed by another at Lok Nayak Hospital. ■ FILE PHOTO



The first plasma bank was started at ILBS on July 2 followed by another at Lok Nayak Hospital. ■ FILE PHOTO

below 60 years of age. As many as 322 units have been issued to patients above 60, who are at a high risk of getting critically ill. The youngest patient to receive plasma is 18 years and the oldest patient is 94 years. Around 522 males and 188 female patients have been administered plasma therapy, he said.

Experts across the world

had claimed that plasma therapy could aid the recovery of critically-ill COVID-19 patients following which the Delhi government asked for permission to administer plasma therapy in hospitals

The youngest patient to receive plasma is 18 years old and the oldest patient is 94 years old. Around 522 males and 188 female patients have been administered plasma therapy. Various categories of people had come forward to donate plasma

ARVIND KEJRIWAL

Chief Minister

from the Centre, the Chief Minister said.

**All blood groups**

Convalescent plasma has been provided to patients of all blood groups, including the rare group type AB for which 90 units have been issued, he added. Apart from

this, 171 units of A group plasma, 180 units of O group plasma, and 269 units of B group plasma have been provided for the recovery of COVID-19 patients.

According to Mr. Kejriwal, various categories of people had come forward to donate plasma. Recovered patients belonging to different professions like police, doctors, nurses, Army officers, and patients in home isolation have donated plasma at the ILBS Hospital, he said.

A total of 921 recovered patients have donated plasma at the ILBS plasma bank, including 86 healthcare workers, 209 entrepreneurs, eight media persons, 28 police officers, 50 students, 32 government officials, and 508 people including servicemen, self-employed professionals, non-residents of Delhi, etc. Around 14 recovered patients have donated plasma more than once.

Israel AI-based technologies to help tackle COVID-19

High-end equipment shared with AIIMS

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

NEW DELHI

side the COVID-19 departments much more effective and easier.

It also includes innovative products designed to give clinicians constant contact-free access to patient's vitals like heart rate and respiratory rate which improves patient safety with contact-free, continuous patient monitoring, a 12-hour disinfection product called CPD that stays active and continuous to protect the surface against new attacks of contamination.

It also has a non-invasive remote-patient monitoring system which aids as a preliminary screening tool of respiratory indicators of suspected COVID-19 patients and recovering patients and AI-based software for ultrasound use and designed specially to fight COVID-19, as per a release issued by AIIMS.

**Effective work**

The technologies include an AI video-oriented, voice-operated autonomous personal AI assistant robot, an app that can be installed on any mobile phone of the COVID-19 staff which makes the work of the hospital staff in-

## BJP questions nomination of 14 AAP MLAs to corporations

Party says no Opposition legislators have been considered

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

NEW DELHI

Leader of the Opposition in the Delhi Assembly, Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, in a letter to Speaker Ram Niwas Goel on Tuesday questioned the nomination of 14 Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLAs to the three municipal corporations in a break from tradition.

**Rights overlooked**

At least two Opposition legislators are usually part of the total nominees and the

Opposition's rights had been overlooked in this case, Mr. Bidhuri argued.

"Six BJP MLAs belong to the East Delhi Municipal Corporation area. But not one of them was nominated to the corporation. Similarly, no MLA from North Delhi or South Delhi Municipal Corporation was nominated," Mr. Bidhuri wrote.

"It has been an accepted legislative tradition that the post of Chairman of Public Accounts Committee is gi-

ven to the Opposition. Even this tradition was not maintained and this position was also given to the ruling party," he also wrote.

**Legislative traditions**  
Mr. Bidhuri said he hoped the Speaker would "take care" of legislative traditions and rules whether it was a matter of nomination of MLAs in the three municipal corporations or the appointment of the Chairman of Public Accounts Committee.

## MoU signed with IIT-B for smog tower at CP

The 20-metre-high tower, fitted with air purifiers, to be completed in 10 months

**NIKHIL M BABU**

NEW DELHI

The Delhi government has signed an MoU with IIT-Bombay and Tata Projects Limited to construct a smog tower in Connaught Place following Supreme Court orders, officials said.

The smog tower is a 20-metre-high structure fitted with several air purifiers to clean the air. The Supreme Court had last month hit out at the Centre and State governments for missing the deadline of April 13 for com-

pleting the construction of two smog towers in the city.

"The smog tower would be completed in 10 months as per the MoU. The government has identified a 45x40 metre land for the tower and land preparation has also been done," a Delhi government source told *The Hindu*.

The Central government has also signed a similar MoU with IIT-Bombay.

The source said that IIT-Bombay will be the technical consultant, NBCC will be the project management consul-

tant and IIT-Delhi will also assist in the project. Drawings will be provided by the University of Minnesota.

The MoU signed by the Delhi government is similar to the one done by the Central government and the project is expected to cost around ₹19 crore.

**Clean air**

To control air pollution, the Supreme Court on January 13 ordered the Delhi government to build a Smog Tower at Connaught Place by April

13. On the same day, the court also ordered a smog tower to be installed in Anand Vihar by the Central Pollution Control Board in the same time. But work is yet to begin and even the MoU was not signed till the Supreme Court stepped in last month.

On July 29, the SC threatened contempt action against IIT-B on learning that the premier institution has opted to pull out of a court-ordered project to install the smog tower.

## Treat plea against firm selling 'Corona Oven' as representation, says HC

'Product claimed to sterilise items'

**SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH**

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday asked the government to treat as representation a petition seeking to restrain a company from selling its product 'Corona Oven' which claims to sterilise household items and consumables from COVID-19.

A Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice Prateek Jalan asked the government to expediently decide on the representation after giving a hearing to all the parties, including the company.

**Reuse PPE kits**

The petition filed by Green Dream Foundation, an NGO, said 'Corona Oven' claimed to sterilise PPE kits so that they can be reused by medical personnel while treating COVID-19 patients.

'Corona Oven', on its website, claims to use 'chemical-free multi focal UV light exposure covering the item from multiple sides

## Gurugram to open places of worship

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

GURUGRAM

The Gurugram district administration has allowed opening of all religious places from Wednesday onwards, coinciding with the "Janmashthami" celebrations.

In compliance with the directions of Additional Chief Secretary, Home, the district administration has allowed worship in all religious places in Gurugram, subject to operators of shrines complying with certain conditions, including maintaining social distancing, crowd management and enforcing the wearing of face masks among the devotees.

## REGIONAL CANCER CENTRE

### THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

#### ADMISSION NOTICE

Applications are invited for admission to Post M.Sc Diploma in Radiological Physics (Dip. RP) Course at Regional Cancer Centre, Thiruvananthapuram for the academic year 2020-21.

For further details please visit our Website: [www.rccvm.gov.in](http://www.rccvm.gov.in)

Last Date for completing online application: 25-08-2020

RCC/428/2016-AAO  
Dated: 28/7/2020

Sd/-  
DIRECTOR

RO/01216/D3/2020/I&PRD



SHANTI SEWA NYAYA

## PUBLIC NOTICE



### PROHIBITION OF FLYING UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES

- Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UASs), para gliders, para motors, hang-gliders, micro light aircrafts, remotely piloted aircrafts, hot air balloons, small size powered aircrafts, quadcopters have been prohibited to fly till 15.08.2020 vide prohibitory order issued specifically in this regard.
- Any person contravening this order will be liable for criminal prosecution.

FOR IMMEDIATE POLICE HELP CALL 112

TO SHARE INFORMATION CALL 1090

<b>HIMACHAL PRADESH</b> <b>PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT</b> <b>e-Procurement Notice</b>					
<b>INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)</b>					
1. The Executive Engineer, Shimla, Division No.1, HPPWD, Shimla-3, H.P. on behalf of Governor of H.P invites the online bids on item rate, in electronic tendering system, in 2 Cover System for the under mentioned work from the eligible and approved contractors/Firms registered with HPPWD Department.					
Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	EMD	Cost of Tender	
1.	Construction/Improvement on circular road i Shimla Town (SH- C/O Pedestrian path with chequered plate in RD.152/500 to 152/630 and raised PCC foot path safety railings in RD's 150/670 to 151/00, 151/120 to 151/540 & 152/640 to 153/00 and Crash barrier WBM railings in Rds 148/940 to 149/00, 149/020 to 149/390, 150/450 to 150/500, 151/480 to 151/810, 148/00 to 148/110 and 148/500 to 148/640 on MRR via Lakkar Bazar) (Under Smart City in Shimla Town).	19265492/-	348000/-	5000/- 180 days	
2.	Construction/Improvement on circular road i Shimla Town (SH- C/O Breast wall and protection work between RD. 148/301 to 148/310 at Ranjan Hotel , RD. 148/370 to 148/385 and covered drain between RD. 148/310 to 148/405 on both side of panchyat Bhawan)	8000946/-	179000/-	2000/- 180 days	
2. Availability of Bid Document and mode of submission: The Bid document is available online and bid should be submitted in online mode on website <a href="https://ptenders.gov.in">https://ptenders.gov.in</a> . Bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities (CA). "Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-tendering in HPPWD may obtain the same from the website: <a href="https://ptenders.gov.in">https://ptenders.gov.in</a> . Digital signature is mandatory to participate in the e-tendering. Bidders already possessing the digital signature issued from authorized CAs can use the same in this tender.					
3. Key Dates:					
1.	Date of Online Publication	19-08-2020 18.00 HRS			
2.	Document Download Start and End Date	19-08-2020 18.00 HRS upto 04-09-2020 16.00 HRS			
3.	Bid Submission Start and End Date	19-08-2020 18.00 HRS upto 04-09-2020 16.00HRS			
4.	Physical Submission of EMD and Cost of Tender Document	05-09-2020 upto 10.30HRS			
5.	Date of opening of Technical Bid	05-09-2020 11:00 HRS			
6.	Date of opening of Financial Bid				
4. TENDER DETAILS: The Tender Documents shall be uploaded online in 2 Cover. i). Cover 1: Shall contain scanned copies of all " Technical documents/Eligibility information." ii). Cover 2: Shall contain " BOQ / Financial Bid", where contractor will quote his offer for each item.					
5. SUBMISSION OF ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS: The bidders are required to submit (a) original demand draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security/Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and other Technical Documents in the O/o Executive Engineer Shimla Division No-I HPPWD, Shimla-3 as specified in Key dates Sr. No. 4 on Tender Opening Date, failing which the bids will be declared non-responsive.					
6. BID OPENING DETAILS: The Technical bids shall be opened on 05-09-2020 at 11:00 HRS in the office of Executive Engineer, Shimla HPPWD Shimla, H.P. by the authorised officer. In their interest the tenderer are advised to be present along with original documents at the time of opening of tenders. 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. The bids for the work shall remain valid for acceptance for a period not less than 120 days after the deadline date for bid submission.					
8. Other details can be seen in the bidding documents. The officer inviting tender 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 the tender.					
Eligibility criteria:- (i) The bidders must have successfully completed similar nature of one work not less than 40 % of estimated cost during the last five years under Govt. Department State or Central PSUs (without Liquidated damages or compensation). (ii) The executive Engineer reserves the right to accept/reject any tender/application or all tenders without assigning any reason.					
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Shimla Division No. I, HPWD Shimla-3 H.P. HP / 2140/20-21 On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh					

1. Date of Online Publication	19-08-2020 18.00 HRS
2. Document Download Start and End Date	19-08-2020 18.00 HRS upto 04-09-2020 16.00 HRS
3. Bid Submission Start and End Date	19-08-2020 18.00 HRS upto 04-09-2020 16.00HRS
4. Physical Submission of EMD and Cost of Tender Document	05-09-2020 upto 10.30HRS
5. Date of opening of Technical Bid	05-09-2020 11:00 HRS
6. Date of opening of Financial Bid	

<b>NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY</b> (E-Tender Notice)
Divisional Engineer/MWS for Chief Workshop Manager, North Eastern Railway, Mechanical Workshop, Gorakhpur-for and on behalf of President of India invites open tender through on-line (E-Tendering) for the following work:-
S.No.-1, E-Tender Notice No & Name of the work: 03-2020-07-01, Extension of Covered Sheet in West end of Furnishing-II of MWS/NPC. Estimated Cost: ₹ 1,57,64,837.10. Earnest Money Deposit: ₹ 2,28,800/-, Cost of Tender forms: ₹ 5,000/-, Tender submission last date & time 04-09-2020, 15:00 hrs.
The details of above tender are also available on Indian Railway website <a href="http://www.reps.gov.in">www.reps.gov.in</a> .
Chief Workshop Manager, Mech. CPRO/Yantri-54 WS, Gorakhpur About any passenger amenity complaint SMS on Mob. No.: 09794845955 <b>Never travel on roof and foot boards.</b>

<b>TENDERS</b>
For Sale/eAuction: Transit Damaged Pet Resin(Black Grade ) Qty -22,427 MT lying at IVL Dhusner Petrochem Pvt. Ltd. Survey No. -217 Near Panipat Refinery , Village Munak , Tehsil - Ballia Karna (HR). Contact Person for inspection: Mr. Amit Sharma - 822289421 Last Date For Inspection & EMD Deposit -19.08.2020 & Date of eAuction- 20.08.2020, Auctioneer: Meenakshi-9625137014 / M. F. Islam - 9911003339 (Insurance claim material will be sold on 'As Is Where Is', 'Whatever There Is' & 'No Complaint' basis).
For more details: <a href="http://www.SalvageManagers.com">www.SalvageManagers.com</a> support@salvagemanagers.com
<b>PUBLIC NOTICE</b>
This is to inform that the official email address of M/s MG Tools, 'mgtools1@gmail.com' has been hacked by some unknown person and any email sent by any person during August 2020 could be other emails prior to the said date which were sent without knowledge of the concerned person shall be considered as unauthorised and would not incur any liability in any manner whatsoever. Also a complaint has been made to the cyber cell in regards of the same, bearing acknowledgement no. 208020007551.

<b>PUBLIC NOTICE</b>
This is to inform that the official email address of M/s MG Tools, 'mgtools1@gmail.com' has been hacked by some unknown person and any email sent by any person during August 2020 could be other emails prior to the said date which were sent without knowledge of the concerned person shall be considered as unauthorised and would not incur any liability in any manner whatsoever. Also a complaint has been made to the cyber cell in regards of the same, bearing acknowledgement no. 208020007551.
1) C Form No. PB AB C 0412812 Dtd. 21/02/2017 for amount Rs. 63,93,825/- 2) C Form No. PB AB C 039952 Dtd. 19/01/2017 for amount Rs. 78,89,501/- 3) C Form No. PB AB C 039953 Dtd. 19/01/2017 for amount Rs. 79,35,516/-
Rajiv Garg Prop. M/s MG Tools
<b>PUBLIC NOTICE</b>

## NE States wary of reopening schools

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GUWAHATI

Assam and her northeastern neighbours are wary of reopening educational institutions from September as the COVID-19 cases continue to increase in most of the States with the death tally in the region crossing the 200 mark by Monday evening.

Assam led the table with 151 deaths followed by Tripura 43, Manipur 12, Nagaland 9, Meghalaya 6, Arunachal Pradesh 3 and Sikkim 1. Barrington Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Tripura, the number of infected people has been increasing. But the officials prefer to look at the falling "rate of positivity".

## Bajwa accuses Punjab DGP of 'partiality in duty'

Chief Minister comes out in defence of the police chief

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHANDIGARH

Days after the Punjab government withdrew his State police security, Congress MP Partap Singh Bajwa on Tuesday accused Director General of Police Dinkar Gupta of partiality in discharge of his duty.

Chief Minister Amarinder Singh came to the latter's defence, saying Mr. Bajwa's personal attack on the DGP was not only misplaced but also against the culture and ethos of the Congress.

Asking Mr. Bajwa to write to him (as the Chief Minister and the Home Minister) or to the party high command



Partap Singh Bajwa.  
FILE PHOTO.

matter."

Capt. Amarinder also made it clear that withdrawal of the State security to the Congress MP was his decision as the Home Minister, based on the intel inputs from the Punjab police.

"If he (Bajwa) does not have confidence in me or my government, why has he not approached the party high command? Does he have no faith even in them?" he asked.

Earlier, Mr. Bajwa in a letter to the DGP had alleged that it was due to political interference that his security provided by the Punjab police was withdrawn.

## Punjab CM seeks package to fill revenue deficit

'Review UGC decision on exams'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHANDIGARH

With a surge in COVID-19 cases and 50% revenue decline in the first quarter of this fiscal in Punjab, Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Tuesday sought from Prime Minister Narendra Modi a liberal financial package for States to fill the deficit caused by the pandemic, and also flexibility on pandemic-related terms of expenditure in the State Disaster Relief Fund.

During a videoconference the Prime Minister had with some Chief Ministers, Captain Amarinder said the current cap of 35% in the SDRF for the pandemic-related expenditure, as per the MHA

guidelines, is not sufficient to meet the current requirements.

Citing the State's rising cases - 24,891 with 604 deaths - the Chief Minister also urged the PM to review the UGC decision on mandatory exams for exit classes to be held by September 30. Punjab may not be able to conduct exams in September as it may be facing its peak at that time, he said, suggesting promotion on past performance and internal assessment, with an option to take improvement exams later. He also sought the Central government assistance for online school education, especially for poor children of Classes 10 and 12.

## 'Confidential' report on Assam Accord released

People have the right to know, says AASU

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GUWAHATI

Some members of the Centre's high-level committee on implementation of Clause 6 of the Assam Accord on Tuesday made their 'confidential' report public

The AASU had spearheaded the agitation. Some of its leaders are in the 14-member committee on Clause 6 headed by retired judge Biplob Kumar Sharma.

The Clause that ended the anti-foreigners' Assam agitation from 1979-1985 envisages constitutional, legislative and administrative safeguards for protecting, preserving and promoting the cultural, social, linguistic identity and heritage of the Assamese people.

"The government has been sitting idle on the report that we submitted more than five months ago. We finally decided to put it in the public domain as the

## MLA performs surgery to save woman

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GUWAHATI

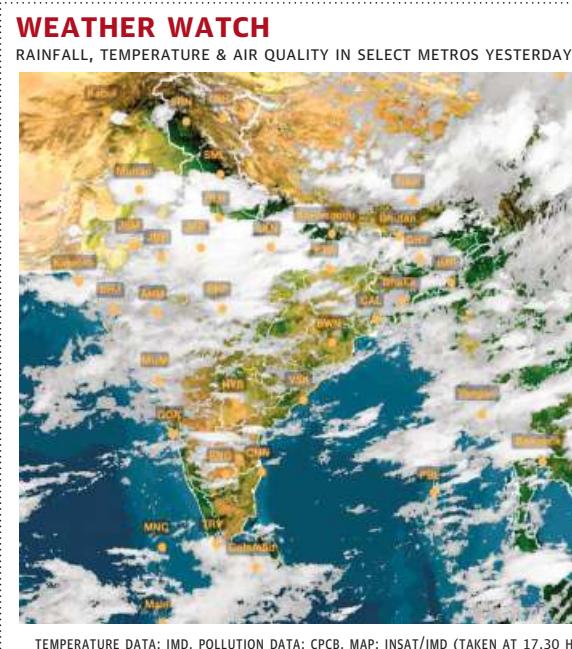
A Mizoram MLA's gynaecological background helped a pregnant woman in Mizoram survive a critical surgery.

C. Lalhmangaihlangi in a Champhai district village was going through labour pain and bleeding on Monday. To make things worse, the only doctor at the district hospital in Champhai town was on leave due to ill health.

"I happened to be in town... I volunteered to help her deliver through the C-section as soon as I heard about her complications," said Z.R. Thiamsanga, a gynaecologist with 30 years of experience who represents the Champhai North for the ruling MNF.

"The woman and her baby are both fine," the MLA said on Tuesday.

Government of India DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY NUCLEAR FUEL COMPLEX Civil Engineering Division, 2nd Floor, Sarath Building, ECIL Post, Hyderabad-500 062 (an ISO 9001, ISO 14001 & OHSAS 18001 Organization).							
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS/TENDER NOTICE (T.N.) NO.C/1229/2020 to C/1231/2020							
Online item rate e-tenders in single/two envelope system are invited on behalf of the President of India by Dy. Chief Engineer (CED/PD&EP) address mentioned above Phone No. 040-27184296 from eligible contractors for the following works.							
S.	Tender Notice No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (EC) (Rs. in Lakhs)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (Rs. in Lakhs)	Dates for tender request up-to 2100 hrs	Last Date online submission of bids up-to 2100 hrs	Date of submission of hard copies at 14.00 hrs



## Aaditya writes to Centre over draft EIA notification

Several environmentally destructive activities are exempted

ALOK DESHPANDE  
MUMBAI

Maharashtra Environment Minister Aaditya Thackeray on Tuesday wrote to Union Minister of Environment, Forests and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar, expressing reservations over the draft environment impact assessment (EIA) notification.

Pointing out that the notification in its present form fails to align with the Paris agreement and poses a big threat to the goal of achieving sustainable growth, Mr. Thackeray said several environmentally destructive activities such as coal prospecting, crushing and screening of ore, and seismic surveys for oil and gas exploration are exempted from the draft EIA.

He claimed, "National parks and wildlife sanctuaries are no longer safe, i.e. appraisal is no longer needed for some B2 category projects to which various hazardous industries (red and



Aaditya Thackeray

orange industries) have been added."

Mr. Thackeray said the draft notification allows granting of ex-post facto environmental clearance to project proponents who are in clear violation of the law (clause 22), and are in direct conflict with protecting environment. "The draft gives power to the Central government to appoint State EIA assessment authorities. State governments are more akin to environmental matters because they possess a better knowledge of ecological sensitivities of their local regions. Such centralisation would only lead to hurdles or clearances without taking into account the local issues."

Mr. Thackeray pointed out that the ecologically sensi-

tive region of the Konkan will be adversely affected if projects are passed without extensive public deliberations. He also turned the spotlight on the Western Ghats, listed in the world's eight 'hottest hotspots' of biological diversity, and said a large part of the Ghats is eco-sensitive areas.

Mr. Thackeray also expressed concern over reducing the role of State governments in decisions related to environment, which could have direct consequences on environment protection efforts.

"The draft gives power to the Central government to appoint State EIA assessment authorities. State governments are more akin to environmental matters because they possess a better knowledge of ecological sensitivities of their local regions. Such centralisation would only lead to hurdles or clearances without taking into account the local issues."

Mr. Thackeray also expressed concern over reducing the role of State governments in decisions related to environment, which could have direct consequences on environment protection efforts.

"The draft gives power to the Central government to appoint State EIA assessment authorities. State governments are more akin to environmental matters because they possess a better knowledge of ecological sensitivities of their local regions. Such centralisation would only lead to hurdles or clearances without taking into account the local issues."

## Delhi High Court notice to Centre

A plea seeks contempt proceedings against MoEFCC

SOBAM ROCKY SINGH  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday issued notice to the Centre on a plea seeking contempt proceedings against the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change for failing to publish the translated versions of the draft Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) notification in all 22 languages of the Eighth Schedule.

Justice Sanjeev Sachdeva asked the Centre to respond to the contempt petition filed by environmental conservationist Vikrant Tongad while posting the case for

hearing on August 17.

Mr. Tongad, in his contempt plea, accused the Ministry of "wilful disobedience and deliberate defiance" of the order of the High Court passed on June 30 to publish the draft EIA in the vernacular languages to enable the general public to give their comments, objections or recommendations.

"Such a meaningful (public) consultation was not only difficult but nearly impossible due to the disruption caused by COVID-9, and the failure of the Respondents (Ministry) in giving wide publicity to the provi-

sions of the draft notification, as well as the failure to translate the draft into the regional Indian languages," the contempt plea said.

Moreover, the Ministry has even failed to upload the draft EIA in the English and Hindi language on the websites of the State Environment Ministries and State Pollution Control Boards, versions of which languages were already available, the contempt petition added.

Previously, the HC had extended the time granted to public for giving opinion on the controversial draft EIA till August 11.

## 20 test positive in ISKCON temple

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GHAZIABAD

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to cast its shadow on Janmashtami celebrations in Mathura as 20 persons tested positive in the ISKCON temple of Vrindavan on Tuesday.

District Magistrate Sarvagya Ram Mishra said, "A couple of days ago a devotee, living in the premises and had gone to Delhi, was tested positive. The health officials

tested 349 persons living in the temple. Out of those, 20 have tested positive."

He told *The Hindu* that the orders were already in place that no devotee would visit the temples in Mathura-Vrindavan till August 13. "The surrounding areas have also been sealed and are being sanitised."

Mr. Mishra refused to comment on the local media reports which suggested that some devotees had gone to

attend the funeral of a priest in West Bengal and had contracted the virus there.

A temple spokesperson said the person who had returned from Delhi was asked to quarantine himself but he didn't. "It spread the virus. The temple has been vacated and those who have tested positive have been asked to stay in isolation. All of them are Indians. None of them is in a serious condition," he said.

## Student dies in road accident

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GHAZIABAD

A 20-year-old meritorious student died in a road accident on Monday in Aurangabad area of Bulandshahr. While the girl's family members alleged that it was a case of harassment that led to the accident, Bulandshahr police said there was no proof of it yet.

Sudiksha Bhati had earned a scholarship and was studying at a prestigious U.S. university. She returned to her home town Dadri in Gautam Buddh Nagar before the lockdown and on Monday was going to meet her maternal uncle on a bike with her uncle Satendra and a cousin on Monday.

At around 9.30 a.m., two men riding a bike indiscriminately overtook them and deliberately applied the brakes in front of their motorcycle.

"Her uncle lost balance and Sudiksha fell down from the bike. She received head injuries and died during treatment," the complaint said.

Earlier Satendra Bhati told reporters that he was driving the motorcycle. "The boys were passing lewd remarks on Sudiksha and were performing stunts," he said.

**Priyanka tweets**  
Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi on Tuesday attacked the Yogi Adityanath government in Uttar Pradesh over women security and called for zero tolerance for crimes against women. "The incident shows the end of fear of the law in UP and a prevailing atmosphere of insecurity for women."

## 'Youth faced several challenges during lockdown'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

A majority of the young women who participated in a recent Population Foundation of India (PFI) survey in Bihar, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh reported that they were not able to sufficiently access sanitary pads during the COVID-19 lockdown.

Facing the additional challenges of economic insecurity, family clashes and increased domestic chores, more than one in five men and women between the ages of 15-24 reported experiencing depression across

the three States during the lockdown.

The rapid assessment survey carried out in May collected responses from more than 800 young people in the three States through a questionnaire on a mobile platform. It aimed to assess the challenges to mental and reproductive health faced by adolescents and young adults due to COVID-19.

About 22% of young people said they experienced depression due to the lockdown, citing factors such as worry about the lack of job opportunities, delay in com-

pleting their studies, family pressure and lack of privacy and isolation away from friends.

Young women faced a "double burden" in many instances, said the PFI report, with 51% of girls reporting an increased workload of household and domestic chores in comparison to 23% of boys.

The closure of schools,

which are a source of menstrual health care for girls, may be a reason why 56% of young women said they had an unmet need for sanitary napkins.

## INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS

### FULL DRESS REHEARSAL ON 13<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2020

## TRAFFIC ADVISORY



Flying of sub conventional aerial platforms like para-giders, para motors, hang gliders, UAVs, UASs, microlight aircrafts, remotely piloted aircrafts, hot air balloons, small size powered aircrafts, quadcopters or para jumping from aircraft etc. are prohibited over the jurisdiction of National Capital Territory of Delhi upto 15.08.2020.



- PROHIBITED AREA [ALLOWED ONLY FOR LABELLED VEHICLES AND SONAPIO RESIDENTS (DURING 4 AM TO 10 AM)]
- ROAD CLOSED FOR GENERAL TRAFFIC (4 AM TO 10 AM)
- ROAD CLOSED FOR CITY BUSES (0000 Hrs. TO 1100 Hrs.)
- DIVERTED BUS ROUTES
- SUGGESTED ACCESS TO OLD DELHI RLY. STATION
- SUGGESTED ACCESS TO KASTURBA GANDHI HOSPITAL
- SUGGESTED CORRIDORS FOR GENERAL TRAFFIC
- METRO STATIONS

### TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS AROUND RED FORT

The following roads will be closed for general traffic from 4.00 AM to 10.00 AM and only labeled vehicles will be permitted:-

- Netaji Subhash Marg from Delhi Gate to Chatta Rail.
- Lothian Road from GPO Delhi to Chatta Rail.
- S.P. Mukherjee Marg from H.C. Sen Marg to Yamuna Bazar Chowk.
- Chandni Chowk Road from Fountain Chowk to Red Fort.
- Nishad Raj Marg from Ring Road to Netaji Subhash Marg.
- Esplanade Road and its Link Road to Netaji Subhash Marg.
- Ring Road from Raighat to ISBT.
- Outer Ring Road from ISBT to IP Flyover i.e. Salimgarh Bypass.

### ROADS THAT MAY BE AVOIDED FROM 04.00 Hrs to 10.00 Hrs:

Those vehicles which do not have parking labels for the rehearsal may avoid C-Hexagon India Gate, Copernicus Marg, Mandir House, Sikandra Road, W Point, A Point Tilak Marg, Mathura Road, BSZ Marg, Subhash Marg, J.J. Nehru Marg and Ring Road between Nizamuddin Bridge and ISBT bridge and Outer Ring Road from IP Flyover through Salimgarh Bypass to ISBT and take the other routes as advised.

### North-South Access

**Alternative-1:** Aurobindo Marg – Safdarjung Road – Mother Teresa Crescent – Park Street– Mandir Marg – Panchkuian Road – Rani Jhansi Flyover – Azad Market – Boulevard Road – Mori Gate – Puli Dufferin – S.P. Mukherjee Marg to reach the Railway Station.

**2. INTERSTATE BUSES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED BETWEEN MAHARANA PRATAP ISBT AND SARAI KALE KHAN ISBT FROM 12.00 mid-night TO 11.00 AM on 13.08.2020.**

### RESTRICTIONS ON MOVEMENT OF CITY BUSES APART FROM RESTRICTED ROADS:

Local city buses including DTC will not move on Ring Road from 12.00 mid-night AM to 11.00 AM on 13.08.2020 between ISBT and Ring Road - NH-24(NH-9) NH 'T' point (Nizamuddin Khatta) and take alternative route available.

Buses ordinarily terminating at Red Fort, Jama Masjid and Delhi Main Railway Station will be curtailed/diverted as below:-

- Opposite Ramila Ground on J.L.N. Marg for buses approaching from South and West Delhi.
- At Mori Gate and Tis Hazari for buses coming from North, North West and East Delhi via ISBT Bridge.
- At Boulevard Road opp. Maharaja Agrasen Park for buses coming from North Delhi side from Ring Road.

Normal bus service will be restored after 10:00 AM.

### How to Approach/Reach Important places:-

- Old Delhi Railway Station:** From West and South Delhi: Mother Teresa Crescent – Park Street – Mandir Marg – Panchkuian Road – Rani Jhansi Flyover – Azad Market – Boulevard Road – Mori Gate – Puli Dufferin – S.P. Mukherjee Marg to reach the Railway Station.

**3. NEW DELHI RLY. STATION :** There is no restriction.

- ISBT Kashmere Gate**: From New Delhi and South Delhi: Mother Teresa Crescent – Park Street – Mandir Marg – Panchkuian Road – Rani Jhansi Road and Rani Jhansi Flyover – Boulevard Road.

**b) From North Delhi:** There is no restriction.

- J.P.N. Hospital :** There is no restriction.

**5. Kasturba Hospital :** Ajmeri Gate – Ajmeri Bazar – Chowk Hauz Quazi – Chawri Bazar – Chowk Barshabull – Urdu Bazar.

### IMPORTANT NOTE

In view of care to be exercised during Covid-19 situation, the invitees are requested to follow guidelines issued by MHA & Ministry of Health & Family Welfare at all times while they are in the I.D.C. function area at Red Fort. In this regard, attention is invited to the following:

- In the event of any invitee experiencing/having a history of any symptoms of Covid-19 within 2 weeks of the Independence Day 2020, which is yet untested or confirmed POSITIVE for Corona (Covid-19), the invitee may consider refraining to attend the event.
- At the entry gates, markings will be available at adequate distance and invitees are requested to position/move on these markings while entering the gate.
- Controlling officers & Ushers will be on duty to assist & guide for sealing inside the designated enclosures.
- Similarly on conclusion of the function at Red Fort, all invitees are requested to remain seated until requested/ guided by the Controlling officers/Ushers of the designated enclosures to proceed to avoid crowding at exit.

E-mail to CP, Delhi at: cp.snsrivastava@delhipolice.gov.in | Write to : Cp. Delhi at P.O. Box No. 171, GPO, New Delhi

BE A TRAFFIC SENTINEL Download App from



24 Hours Traffic Helpline 011-25844444/1095

For immediate Help Call 112 to Share Information call 1090



## Rajasthan lessons

If the truce in the Congress is to endure, both factions must mend their ways

The crisis in the Congress in Rajasthan that nearly brought down the government led by Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has blown over. The group led by Sachin Pilot has reiterated its loyalty to the party, though the stand-off cost him the posts of Deputy Chief Minister and State party chief. The truce is an outcome of the realisation on both sides that their positions had become self-destructive and unsustainable. Mr. Gehlot faced the risk of losing the government, while Mr. Pilot stared at the unnerving prospect of a life outside the Congress. The turmoil in Rajasthan has also been yet another occasion to note with deep concern the tendency of the judiciary to overstep its remit set by law, brazen partisanship of the Governor, and misuse of central agencies to tilt the political balance. The crisis was primarily internal to the Congress, but the Bharatiya Janata Party's maximalist approach to capture power at all costs was evident. The unseemly power struggle had derailed governance in the State in the midst of a pandemic. Now that a settlement has been reached, the Centre and the State, the Bharatiya Janata Party and all sections within the ruling party must come together to combat the pandemic.

The Congress is facing the most severe crisis in its history and it cannot afford any complacency in keeping its house in order. The party is constantly at the receiving end of the Bharatiya Janata Party's relentless onslaught and in March it lost the government in Madhya Pradesh, which it had won in 2018 along with Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh. According to Mr. Gehlot's own admission, there was no communication between him and Mr. Pilot ever since the formation of the government in 2018. That is a sad commentary on the party. Mr. Pilot has said he resorted to rebellion only after his grievances went unheeded. This brinkmanship might have taught them both, and the party's central leadership, some lessons for the future. The resolution of the crisis took the intervention of former Congress President Rahul Gandhi, who commands the loyalty of both. He could have resolved it earlier or even preempted the crisis altogether. There is no single model for running a political party, but the nature, history and character of the Congress impel it to be consultative and deliberative in its internal and external conduct. As Rajasthan demonstrated, Mr. Gandhi has a role to play in facilitating this. Mr. Gandhi has been focused on building a critique of the Bharatiya Janata Party and its government but such politics will be effective only when reinforced by a strong organisation. He has strong opinions on what the Congress should ideally be, but he has no option but to start with what it currently is.

## Just closure

The focus must be on adequate compensation for families of fishermen killed by marines

It may seem pragmatic to keep any pending litigation alive until all dues relating to it are paid and all legal issues are settled. However, it is somewhat puzzling that the Supreme Court of India has said it would keep the Italian marines' case alive until "hefty" and "adequate" compensation is paid by Italy for the killing of two fishermen by its marines on February 15, 2012. The Court has indicated that it would not allow the closure of the trial until such compensation is paid. And it has ordered that the families of the victims be heard on this matter. Once the Union government has declared that it would abide by the ruling of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) at The Hague, which granted immunity to the marines and favoured Italy as the appropriate jurisdiction where they could be tried for the crime, it does not seem proper to delay the process of bringing closure to the matter. For one thing, the PCA, an arbitral tribunal that adjudicates disputes under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), has itself ruled that India is entitled to compensation for "loss of life, physical harm, material damage to property... and moral harm suffered by" the captain and crew members of *St. Antony*, the fishing vessel involved, and mandated negotiations on the quantum. Second, it hardly needs emphasis that the pendency of the matter in court should not become a bargaining point that delays the reaching of a fair settlement. Continuing hearings may also be seen as India being reluctant to cease all criminal proceedings against the marines as per the ruling.

The Court's resolve to obtain adequate and hefty compensation for the families of the victims is welcome, though it would be difficult to have a judicial determination of what quantum would satisfy these requirements. The Centre may have approached the top court for formal permission to close the pending trial proceedings as a matter of abundant caution. But as far as the law goes, it could have approached the trial court itself through the public prosecutor for withdrawal from prosecution under Section 321 of the CrPC. Too many legal tangles have already caused enough diplomatic rupture in the progression of the Enrica Lexie-St. Antony case since 2012. Article 253 of the Constitution, which says Parliament may enact a law to give effect to any international treaty or convention, has been cited to argue that in view of the arbitral court's finding on jurisdiction being in conflict with the Supreme Court's ruling in 2013 that the Union government alone can try the case, a law may be needed before the trial is closed. This is just needless quibbling as the conflict has ceased after India agreed to abide by the tribunal's ruling in keeping with its obligations under UNCLOS. India's focus should now be on negotiating for compensation and ensuring a purposive criminal trial in Italy.

# The future of Indian secularism

It is premature to pronounce the end of constitutional secularism; it has only suffered a setback and can be revived



RAJEEV BHARGAVA

Our public discourse is sounding with triumphalism on the one hand, and lament on the other over the death or defeat of secularism. It seems as if the *bhoomi pujan* has burnt its bodily remains, and if anyone cares to claim it, the ashes of secularism will be buried near a dargah or immersed in the Saryu. As a child of the republic founded in 1950, one part of me wishes to join the lament. But the other part, nudging me to contemplate this moment, asks: does anything in India ever die? Silenced, yes; forced temporarily to go underground, maybe; transmigrate to another bodily form under a different name, possibly. But death? Gone forever? No!

Three years ago, on August 6, 2017, I had written, in this very paper – in the article, "Constitutional or party-political secularism?" – that secularism has paid a heavy price in our country for being at the centre of public and political discourse. It has been persistently misused and abused. Distinguishing it from constitutional political secularism, I called this abused entity, 'party-political secularism'.

### Respect and critique

Constitutional secularism is marked by at least two features. First, critical respect for all religions. Unlike some secularisms, ours is not blindly anti-religious but respects religion. Unlike the secularisms of pre-dominantly single religious societies, it respects not one but all religions. However, given the virtual impossibility of distinguishing the religious from the social, as B.R. Ambedkar famously observed, every aspect of religious doctrine or practice cannot be respected. Respect for religion must be accompanied by critique.

It follows that our state must respectfully leave religion alone

but also intervene whenever religious groups promote communal disharmony and discrimination on grounds of religion (an inter-religious matter) or are unable to protect their own members from the oppressions they perpetuate (an intra-religious issue). Therefore, and this is its second feature, the Indian state abandons strict separation but keeps a principled distance from all religions. For instance, it cannot tolerate untouchability or leave all personal laws as they are. Equally, it may non-preferentially subsidise schools run by religious communities. Thus, it has to constantly decide when to engage or disengage, help or hinder religion depending entirely on which of these enhances our constitutional commitment to freedom, equality and fraternity. This constitutional secularism cannot be sustained by governments alone but requires collective commitment from an impartial judiciary, a scrupulous media, civil society activists, and an alert citizenry.

### Advent of opportunism

Party-political secularism, born around 40 years ago, is a nefarious doctrine practised by all political parties, including by so-called 'secular forces'. This secularism has dispelled all values from the core idea and replaced them with opportunism. Opportunistic distance (engagement or disengagement), but mainly opportunistic alliance with religious communities, particularly for the sake of immediate electoral benefit, is its unspoken slogan. Indifferent to freedom and equality-based religious reform, it has removed critical from the term 'critical respect' and bizarrely interpreted 'respect' to mean cutting deals with aggressive or orthodox sections of religious groups – unlocking the Babri Masjid/Ram temple for puja, and forsaking women's rights in the Shah Bano case. It has even been complicit in igniting communal violence. This party-political 'secular' state, cozying up alternately to the fanatical fringe of the minority and the majority, was ready-made for takeover by a majoritarian party. This was accomplished

by removing the word 'all' and replacing it by 'majority': respect only the majority religion; never criticise it, but recklessly demonise others; and ridding the state of the corrupt practice of opportunistic distance not by restoring principled distance but magically abolishing distance altogether. This is untrammelled majoritarianism masquerading as secularism, one that opposes 'pseudo-secularism' without examining its own equally unethical practices.

Today, Indian constitutional secularism is swallowed up by this party-political secularism, with not a little help from the Opposition, media and judiciary. Yet, I hesitate to pronounce the death of constitutional secularism. Grounded in millennia-old pluralist traditions, it cannot easily be brushed aside. Instead, I prefer the word 'setback'. Brakes have been suddenly applied to this largely state-driven political project of dealing with inter-religious issues such as communal harmony. It has come to a screeching halt, broken down. Does secularism then have a future?

### Two crucial moves

I suggest two crucial moves to kick-start the discourse and practice of secularism. First, a shift of focus from a politically-led project to a socially-driven movement for justice. Second, a shift of emphasis from inter-religious to intra-religious issues. I invoke the name of two great leaders, B.R. Ambedkar and Jawaharlal Nehru, to make my point. B.R. Ambedkar passionately observed that when two roughly equal communities view each other as enemies, they get trapped in a majority-minority syndrome, a vicious cycle of spiralling political conflict and social alienation. This was true in the 1930s and the 1940s. Today, feel-

ing extremely vulnerable, Indian Muslims appear to have opted out of this syndrome. When this happens, the syndrome implodes. The result is neither open conflict nor harmony, simply an exiled existence for Muslims in their own homeland.

B.R. Ambedkar also claimed that when communities view each other as a menace, they tend to close ranks. This has another debilitating impact: all dissent within the community is muzzled, and much-needed internal reforms are stalled. If so, the collapse of the syndrome unintentionally throws up an opportunity. As the focus shifts from the other to oneself, it may allow deeper introspection within, multiple dissenting voices to resurface, create conditions to root out intra-religious injustices, and make its members free and equal. After all, the Indian project of secularism has been thwarted as much by party-politics as by religious orthodoxy and dogma.

### Europe's example

Here, Europe's example helps. The fight against the oppression of the church was as much a popular struggle as it was driven by the state. Europe's secularism provided a principle to fight intra-religious oppressions. Nehru understood this. For him, secularism was not only a project of civic friendship among religious communities but also of opposition to religion-based caste and gender oppressions – an endeavour at the heart of our own socially-driven freedom and equality-oriented reform movements in the 19th century.

For the moment, the state-driven political project of secularism and its legal constitutional form appear to have taken a hit. But precisely this 'setback' can be turned into an opportunity to revitalise the social project of secularism. Since the Indian state has failed to support victims of oppressions sanctioned by religion, a peaceful and democratic secularism from below provides a vantage point from which to carry out a much-needed internal critique and reform of our own respective religions, to enable their compatibility with constitutional values of

equality, liberty and justice. A collective push from young men and women untainted by the politics and ideological straitjacketing of the recent past may help strengthen the social struggle of emancipation from intra-religious injustices. Those who most benefit from upholding these constitutional values, the oppressed minorities, Dalits, women, citizens sick to death with zealotry or crass commercialisation of their faiths must together renew this project.

### Inter-community relations

I am not suggesting that we must hereby ignore inter-religious issues. But having itself produced disharmony, it is surely beyond the capacity of the current state to restore communal harmony. But distance, freedom from mutual obsession, give communities breathing space. Each can now explore resources within to construct new ways of living together. The issue here is not simple retrieval of older, failed modes of religious toleration. The political project of secularism arose precisely because religious toleration no longer worked. Needed today are new forms of socio-religious reciprocity, crucial for the business of everyday life and novel ways of reducing the political alienation of citizens, a democratic deficit whose ramifications go beyond the ambit of secularism.

If a critique of religion is to come at least partly from within, then its idiom must also draw from local religiousities and the multiple languages in which they find expression. A critique purely from outside, one which is not partly immanent, will not work. Nor can popular-democratic struggles be taken over by middle-class vanguardism. However, such struggles too need support from intellectuals. But to be effective, these intellectuals should already have learnt from a wide variety of cultural traditions, both natal and those outside their immediate ambit. Only then will their voice carry weight, and be heard.

Rajeev Bhargava is Professor, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), Delhi

# India's population data and a tale of two projections

The country's demographic future will see peaking and then declining numbers driven by a sharp fertility reduction



SONALDE DESAI

A new study (<https://bit.ly/30JzoKd>), published in the highly regarded journal, *The Lancet*, and prepared by the Seattle-based Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME), has shaken up the world of population policy. It argues that while India is destined to be the largest country in the world, its population will peak by mid-century. And as the 21st century closes, its ultimate population will be far smaller than anyone could have anticipated, about 1.09 billion instead of approximately 1.35 billion today. It could even be as low as 724 million.

Readers who follow COVID-19 projections will remember that in March 2020, the IHME projected U.S. deaths from COVID-19 to be around 81,000 by August. Deaths in the U.S. today are more than twice that number. The underlying assumptions for the initial model were not borne out. The IHME population projections are also subject to underlying assumptions that deserve careful scrutiny. They predict that by the year 2100, on average, Indian women will have 1.29 children. Since each woman must have two children to replace herself and her husband, this will result in a sharp population decline. Contrast this predicted fer-

tility rate of 1.29 for India with the projected cohort fertility of 1.53 for the United States and 1.78 for France in the same model. It is difficult to believe that Indian parents could be less committed to child-bearing than American or French parents.

Until 2050, the IHME projections are almost identical to widely-used United Nations projections. The UN (<https://bit.ly/2PGYALh>) projects that India's population will be 1.64 billion by 2050, the IHME projects 1.61 billion by 2048. It is only in the second half of the century that the two projections diverge with the UN predicting a population of 1.45 billion by 2100, and the IHME, 1.09 billion.

Part of this divergence may come from IHME model's excessive reliance on data regarding current contraceptive use in the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) and potential for increasing contraceptive use. Research at the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) National Data Innovation Centre by Santanu Pramanik and colleagues shows that contraceptive use in the NFHS is poorly estimated, and as a result, unmet need for contraception may be lower than that estimated by the IHME model, generating implausibly low fertility projections for 2100.

### Fertility decline

Regardless of whether we subscribe to the UN's projections, or the IHME projections, India's demographic future contains a peaking and subsequently declining

population driven by a sharp reduction in fertility. In the 1950s, India's Total fertility rate (TFR) was nearly six children per woman; today it is 2.2. Ironically, the massive push for family planning coupled with forced sterilisation during the Emergency barely led to a 17% decline in TFR from 5.9 in 1960 to 4.9 in 1980. However, between 1992 and 2015, it had fallen by 35% from 3.4 to 2.2.

What happened to accelerate fertility decline to a level where 18 States and Union Territories have a TFR below 2, the replacement level? One might attribute it to the success of the family planning programme but family planning has long lost its primacy in the Indian policy discourse. Between 1975 and 1994, family planning workers had targets they were expected to meet regarding sterilisations, condom distribution and intrauterine device (IUD) insertion. Often these targets led to explicit or implicit coercion. Following the Cairo conference on Population and Development in 1994, these targets were abandoned.

If carrots have been dropped, the stick of policies designed to punish people with large families has been largely ineffective. Punitive policies include denial of maternity leave for third and subsequent

births, limiting benefits of maternity schemes and ineligibility to contest in local body elections for individuals with large families. However, as Nirmala Buch, former Chief Secretary of Madhya Pradesh, wrote, these policies were mostly ignored in practice.

**Aspirational revolution**

If public policies to encourage the small family norm or to provide contraception have been lackadaisical, what led couples to abandon the ideal of large families? It seems highly probable that the socioeconomic transformation of India since the 1990s has played an important role. Over this period, agriculture became an increasingly smaller part of the Indian economy, school and college enrolment grew sharply and individuals lucky enough to find a job in government, multinationals or software services companies reaped tremendous financial benefits. Not surprisingly, parents began to rethink their family-building strategies. Where farmers used to see more workers when they saw their children, the new aspirational parents see enrolment in coaching classes as a ticket to success.

The literature on fertility decline in western countries attributes the decline in fertility to retreat from the family; Indian parents seem to demonstrate increased rather than decreased commitment to family by reducing the number of children and investing more in each child. My research with demographer Alaka Basu at Cornell University compares families of different size at

the same income level and finds that small and large families do not differ in their leisure activities, women's participation in the workforce or how many material goods they purchase. However, smaller families invest more money in their children by sending them to private schools and coaching classes. It is not aspirations for self but that for children that seems to drive fertility decline.

**In language of the past**

Ironically, even in the face of this sharp fertility decline among all segments of Indian society, the public discourse is still rooted in the language of the 1970s and on supposedly high fertility rate, particularly in some areas such as Uttar Pradesh and Bihar or among some groups such as women with low levels of education or Muslims. This periodically results in politicians proposing remedies that would force these ostensibly ignorant or uncaring parents to have fewer children.

Demographic data suggest that the aspirational revolution is already under way. What we need to hasten the fertility decline is to ensure that the health and family welfare system is up to this challenge and provides contraception and sexual and reproductive health services that allow individuals to have only as many children as they want.

Sonalde Desai is Professor of Sociology at the University of Maryland and Professor and Centre Director, NCAER National Data Innovation Centre. The views expressed are personal

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

### Part of the steel frame

The more appropriate question to ask in the Indian context is, even if the right type of men and women are inducted into the higher bureaucracy (Editorial page, "The main bricks to use in India's steel frame," August 11), will they be able to retain their best qualities during service? The Indian bureaucracy does not function in a vacuum. On the contrary,

bureaucrats need to survive in strong and powerful situations created for them by some unscrupulous politicians. Further, how can one expect a mid-career review of their performance to be devoid of any political influence? There is no guarantee that even good bureaucrats can keep their honesty and integrity intact, considering the high-level of politicisation of anything

A. VENKATASUBRAMANIAN,  
Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu

**Language policy**  
One is in agreement with the views of a former Vice-Chancellor, E. Balagurusamy, on the two language policy, as they are very relatable. Even an issue such as when the Prime Minister is addressing the nation live on important issues, leaves

M. PRAGASH,  
Bickol, Balacola, The Nilgiris

### many including me very

challenged in understanding the language (Hindi). We have to wait for the translation in the respective local language. Before taking a decision on NEP 2020, the Tamil Nadu government needs to understand reality and the various challenges, and encourage Hindi as a third language.

TIRUCHI, Tamil Nadu

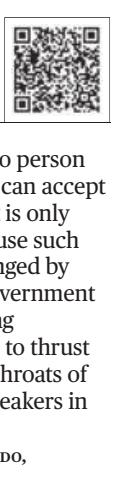
### MP's experience

I refer to a letter in the 'Letters to the Editor' column (August 11), on Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam Member of Parliament Kanimozhhi's recent experience at Chennai airport. It is unfortunate that the reader has turned the arrogant and chauvinistic quip of the CISF officer as 'an off the cuff remark that has been blown out of proportion'.

In my opinion, no person with self-respect can accept such a remark. It is only and clearly because such acts go unchallenged by many that the government of the day is doing everything it can to thrust Hindi down the throats of the non-Hindi speakers in India.

THARICUS S. FERNANDO,  
Chennai

To read more letters online, scan the QR code



# A 'democracy capture'

What happened to Indian democracy? A bad accident? Or the only possible outcome of the system?



YOGENDRA YADAV

Brought up during the heyday of the "Congress system", Yogendra Yadav was first exposed to politics during the Emergency. After several decades as professor, psephologist, politician and activist, he looks back at what he calls India's first republic, 1950-2019. Why is there an acute crisis in Indian democracy, he asks. How did India end up here? His new book, Making Sense of Indian Democracy, provides some answers. An excerpt:

The current state of Indian democracy is neither just a bad accident in an otherwise perfect journey nor its inevitable destination. The rise of Narendra Modi to power was anything but a freak phenomenon. The Ramjanmabhoomi movement had signalled this possibility 25 years ago. That was foreshadowed by Congress' victory in the wake of the Sikh massacre and followed by Modi's victories in the Gujarat Assembly elections, held in the wake of the anti-Muslim pogrom of 2002. We should have known about the dark side of Indian democracy. At any rate, we are no longer now looking at Modi's victory in 2014 as a single incident: his popularity thereafter and even bigger victory in 2019 is enough to make it clear that we are looking at something deeper than one individual, one election, one incident.

At the same time, the victory of a Modi-led BJP was not the only possible outcome of India's political trajectory. The political logic of Indian democracy, the economic logic of a neo-liberal state, the social logic of a caste system under transformation, and the cultural logic of India's own modernity still left open several possibilities. Modi's rise to power in Gujarat, his ascendance within the BJP, and his nationwide electoral victory were not preordained. Plausible counterfactuals come to mind: it is not hard to imagine a very different course of history had the Anna Hazare movement not delegitimised the UPA regime, had the Congress leadership not proved itself so utterly inept, had the Pulwama attack not

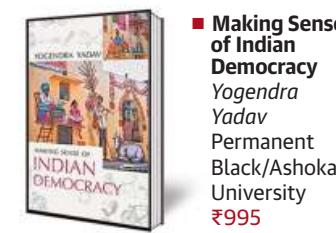


BJP supporters at Prime Minister Narendra Modi's rally at Ramlila Maidan, New Delhi, on May 8, 2019. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA

happened as and when it did. So, I think it is best to see the current crisis of Indian democracy as the outcome of a "democracy capture" that was at once contingent and determined. We need to understand how a political leader seized upon a very difficult chance and converted it into a personal triumph – and how it is that he now manages to do so repeatedly. At the same time, this democracy capture could not have happened without some structural weaknesses within the Indian democratic enterprise. A student of democracy must focus on the conditions that made this kind of capture possible.

#### Challenging old notions

Understanding this democracy capture requires rewriting democratic theory. The dominant orthodoxy on democracy presents us with a neat definition of democracy, a universal normative standard which allows every political regime to be pigeonholed into a democracy/non-democracy binary. This is a highly stylised and selective version of what has in fact been the contingent path that democracy has taken in a tiny but dominant part of the globe. Making sense of democracy in most other parts of the world in the twenty-first century demands that this orthodoxy be challenged on multiple grounds.



■ **Making Sense of Indian Democracy**  
Yogendra Yadav  
Permanent Black/Ashoka University  
₹995

First of all, we need to widen the conceptual apparatus of "democracy" to include diverse ways – languages, idioms, theories – in which democracy has been understood all over the world. Second, it requires enriching the normative standards embedded in the idea of democracy by taking into account the many histories and traditions of democratic thinking across the world. Third, we need to expand the repertoire of institutions, conventions, and practices that go into the making of democracy in societies that are often quite different from each other. And fourth, we need to rewrite the history of actually existing democracies, both in the global north and the global south, to reflect their radically different experiences and trajectories.

While challenging democratic theory is a global challenge today – besides Narendra Modi, we live in the age of Donald Trump, Boris Johnson, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, and Vladimir Putin – the task is certainly essential

Excerpted with permission from the publishers

if we are to make sense of Indian democracy, for the dominant narrative fails to understand both the successes and the failures of our specific variety of this broad template called democracy. If we go by the dominant understanding of the preconditions of democracy – namely, some degree of affluence, and widespread literacy – India should never have been a democracy in the first place. If we insist on oscillations of power within a multi-party competitive framework, the "Congress system" should not be characterised as democratic. If we stick to the idea of an overlap between the cultural boundaries of a nation and the political boundaries of a state, independent India with its deep diversities should never have survived beyond its first decade and made a transition to a democratic nation state. If we believe in a balance between participatory urge and institutional depth, Indian democracy should not have taken off in the 1960s; and having taken off, it should not have suffered the crisis that it did during the Emergency; and, once its institutional fragility had been as exposed as it was during that episode, Indian democracy should not have survived the Emergency. The rise of identity politics – region, caste, and religion-based mobilisation through the 1980s and 1990s – should not have led to a consolidation of democracy. And, once democracy became "the only game in town" and was buttressed by an unprecedented rate of economic growth, Indian democracy should not have faced its worst crisis – the one it faces today.

Clearly, students of Indian democracy need a fresh pair of glasses. We need to see the democratic enterprise in India as an open-ended journey. The formal journey began as a joint enterprise: building a self-reliant and self-governing nation, alongside the building of democratic institutions for the new nation. Alternatively, democracy featured as an impediment, as a road block necessitating consultations, procedures, and consensus-building – all resulting in slowdowns that could ignite pre-existing faultlines and lead to explosions. The democracy capture that we face today is one such danger, always lurking round the corner.

# Whither our view of the world?

The case for non-American voices in international relations debates has never been stronger than now



KRISHNAN SRINIVASAN

At this time when every Indian is a self-proclaimed China expert, it is worth tracing the evolution of international relations as a discipline, now 100 years old. Its origin was in the U.K. after World War I as part of the liberal internationalist reaction that also led to the League of Nations. Three University Chairs in Britain were endowed with funds by entrepreneurs who held the view that if dynastic rulers gave way to democracies, hostile alliances and conflict would come to an end.

#### The subject in the U.S.

The U.S. soon took up the subject of international relations with its characteristic zeal, identifying its solipsistic interests with those of the world. Once it was clear that isolation was no longer a policy option, U.S. administrations looked for professional advice. The presidents needed their Machiavellis, a role filled by George Kennan, Hans Morgenthau and others, establishing the dominance of realism in the field.

Academia in the U.S. post-World War II came up with concepts like conflict resolution, game theory and area studies, multidisciplinary social research focusing on specific geographic regions or ethnically defined areas, drawing on disciplines such as political science, history, sociology, ethnology, geography, linguistics, literature, and cultural studies. Such research provided a fertile field for the development of databases for use of American academics, and for the ever-expanding U.S. intelligence community.

The American obsession to follow the lead of the natural sciences to create a predictive social science of international relations led to a divide between how the subject developed in the U.S. and elsewhere, where the primary aim was to better understand the complexities of international politics rather than attempt to fashion government policy along scientific lines. However, some new concepts emerged, such as non-interference in domestic jurisdiction and internal affairs of other states, and were incorporated into the UN Charter. The end of World War II and the Charter gave liberals a second opportunity to assert themselves, though the Charter also subscribed to the realist view by giving the Security Council prime responsibility for maintenance of peace and its five permanent members a veto.

The field of international relations has in-

creasingly become related to international law, and the current salience of human rights law and humanitarian law renders this necessary. The boundaries of definition have pushed international relations to embrace new territories such as the environment, feminism and post-modernism. The basic question, however, remains: is the concept of a world community a realisable goal or a dangerous illusion? Stanley Hoffman's opinion of 1977 is relevant: rather than pursue certainty or absolute security, "international relations should be the science of uncertainty, the limits of action, of the ways in which states try to manage but never succeed in eliminating their insecurity".

#### Think tanks in India

The case for non-American voices in the debates coursing through the study of international relations has never been stronger than now. In India, the field of international relations has a much shorter history than 100 years and The Indian Council of World Affairs was the first independent institution with Indian roots. There are now international relations disciplines in many universities under nomenclatures such as area studies and peace and conflict studies, which are nevertheless far fewer than our think tanks. The Pennsylvania University *Diplomatic Courier* publishes a league table of think tanks across the world in which the top spot for 2018 is Brookings U.S. While the U.S. tops with 1,871 think tanks, India is second with 509 followed by China with 507. This suggests that in India there is ample funding available for think tanks but not for university departments. When it comes to quality, however, of the first 100 ranked think tanks, the Observer Research Foundation and the Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses are in the top 50. Three more are listed in the next 50 and all five are in Delhi. Such ratings are of dubious value but confirm suspicions about the negligible impact of our think tanks on policy. No nation can compete with the spoils system in the U.S. that enables academics and government officials to move in and out of the decision-making circuit, but the *Diplomatic Courier* ratings reveal the gulf between the Indian government and academic expertise.

Without regard to immediate concerns, the discipline will lose its influence. Raymond Aron and A.J.P. Taylor's impact was due to their public profile. It is important for our international relations specialists to appear regularly in the media to replace the vacuous politicians and the greying tribe of retired diplomats.

Krishnan Srinivasan is a former Foreign Secretary

## From locker rooms to classrooms

Various educational interventions will enable us to move towards gender equality

ERIC FALT

Equal Community Foundation, has already trained over 130 educators across India on how to engage boys to achieve gender equality through educational interventions. At the core of this initiative is a community-based behavioural change programme designed to provide young boys with the skills and knowledge they need to challenge existing gender norms and take action to end violence and discrimination against women and girls.

Many more schools should adopt School-Related Gender-based Violence programmes and curricula, so that conversations can move out of the locker room and emerge as healthy discussions in the classroom. The ground-breaking National Education Policy 2020 provides historic opportunities to shape the educational response to these challenges for decades to come. Ultimately, societies across the world must sensitise children and young women and men towards understanding the repercussions of their choices and guide them towards a more sound actualisation of their own individualities.

#### Message from movements

From Riot Grrrl to #MeToo and other actions, it is fairly evident that the global movements towards gender equality and the eradication of violence against women are here to stay and hopefully to grow. One of the most important lessons to be drawn from these movements is that change can be effected through peaceful means when people come together to confront the dominant social norms. Just as the challenges posed by the COVID-19 crisis demand interconnectedness, the challenge of gender inequality too is a battle that cannot be fought in silos.

The pandemic is hopefully a gateway between the current world and the next and in our quest to get back to normal, let us reconsider which parts of normal are worth rushing back to. It would be a wasted opportunity if we campaign in poetry but conduct ourselves in prose in Year 1 AC: After Coronavirus.

Eric Falt is the Director and UNESCO Representative to Bhutan, India, the Maldives and Sri Lanka



#### DATA POINT

## No green shoots

1. Were you able to harvest your crop on time during the lockdown?

Yes	52.2
No	41.4
No response	6.4

2. Were you able to sow on time during the lockdown?

Yes	37.9
No	42.4
No response	19.7

3. Were you able to sell your crop on time during the lockdown?

Yes	27.8
No	55.3
No response	16.9

All respondents interviewed were the main earners of their households, and were primarily men

About two months into the stringent lockdown owing to the COVID-19 crisis, a significant share of farmers across India were not able to sow their seeds, harvest their crop and sell their produce on time, according to the Gaon Connection and Lokniti-CSDS Covid Rural Survey 2020. Significantly, the distress came despite a slew of exemptions and relaxations for agriculture and allied sectors from the lockdown

By The Hindu Data Team

4. If you were able to sell your crop, then where did you sell it?

Govt. purchasing centre	41.7
Govt. market yard/middleman there	8
Private trader	38.1
Somewhere else	3.1
No response	9.1

HOW TO READ THE TABLES | The survey is based on face-to-face interviews with 25,371 respondents in rural households between May 30 and July 16 this year across 179 districts.

About 26.7% of them were farmers. Only the questions presented to the farmers are compiled here (except Q7 which was posed to all). Even among them, the questions were posed to pertinent farmers. For instance, in Q1, 41.4% of farmers who usually harvest were unable to do so in the period. The % response mentioned excludes those farmers who don't harvest their crop. Figures are in %

5. If you were able to sell your crop, were you able to do so at the government rate or lower?

Same as the government rate	58
Lower than the government rate	31.6
More than the government rate	4.6
No response	5.8

6. If you were able to sell your crop, how much difficulty did you face in taking your crop to the buyer?

Extreme difficulty	30.7
A lot of difficulty	27.5
Some difficulty	23.9
Not much difficulty	10.7
No difficulty at all	4.6
No response	2.7

7. Did you sell any land during the lockdown?

Yes	2
No	79
Didn't sell but mortgaged it	2.7
Don't own land	11.1
No response	5.2



#### FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 12, 1970

#### China strengthens its sea-arm

Peking is boosting the development of its naval and merchant vessels, in the interests of its national defence. Editorials have recently appeared in the Chinese press calling for vigorous efforts in this direction. Whether this is due to the quarrel with Russia or the realisation that the sea offers new opportunities for expansion is not clear. Communist China already has a large number of warships but many of them are obsolete vessels of Russian origin. In recent years, a considerable effort has been made to develop indigenous skills in the building of submarines, torpedo and missile boats for coastal defence. The latter have a capacity to launch surface-to-surface missiles with a range of 15 to 20 nautical miles. They are modelled on the Russian "Komar" and "Osa" class missile boats. In 1967, it was reported that

FROM PAGE ONE

## PM flags need for more testing in 10 States

Capt. Singh also requested that looking at the rising number of cases in the State, the University Grants Commission's (UGC) decision to hold mandatory exams for exit classes by September 30 be reviewed.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister E.K. Palaniswami said his State required more ventilators and at least ₹1,000 crore more from the NDRF for its fight against COVID-19.

The Prime Minister also

lauded Union Home Minister Amit Shah for his intervention to handle the situation in the National Capital Region of Delhi-Haryana-Uttar Pradesh as the situation began worsening in Delhi and surrounding districts in the other two States.

"A new committee was set up and they did very pointed interventions, along the lines mentioned earlier and have managed to bring the situation under control," Mr. Modi said.

## Calicut airport fire team averted inferno

"The four crash fire trucks were able to reach within three to five minutes; had they been delayed, any spark from metal parts rubbing against each other or from the electrical system could have caused a deadly explosion," the official said.

Many rescue personnel who climbed on to the wreckage to bring out survivors also experienced minor electric shocks. The 14 fire personnel who reached the site immediately used foam to cover the fuel tanks as well as well the area on the ground where the fuel had spilled. The foam, or aqueous film-forming foam, helped to cool the aircraft surface and suppress the vapours.

"The circumstances for a sudden deflagration [combustion through a gas or across a surface driven by the transfer of heat] or a sudden explosion were there due to the huge quantity of fuel turning into vapour due to the heat. This happened because the wreckage was extremely hot due to friction produced from different metal parts colliding against each other as well as rubbing

against the runway surface on which the plane landed," an official said on condition of anonymity.

Investigators and aviation experts attribute the timely prevention of fire as the reason why many of the 191 persons on board escaped with injuries.

In a similar accident in 2010 in Mangaluru when the aircraft overshot the runway and plunged into the adjacent gorge, 156 persons lost their lives with only 8 survivors as fire tenders were unable to reach the site on time because of the rough terrain.

According to the eye-witnesses, as the crash fire trucks rushed to the accident site, they saw 10-15 passengers lying on the road, while many others had climbed onto the wings to get out of the stricken aircraft.

"Inside the aircraft, the seats were mangled, and the passengers were crushed under the combined weight of the debris and hand baggage. It was a difficult task to remove many passengers as they were unconscious and secured with seatbelts," sources said.

## Army starts probe into Shopian encounter

The missing youth were identified by the families as Ibrar Ahmad, Imtiyaz Ahmad and Muhammad Yousof, all residents of Rajori.

"We have already lodged a missing report. The families should be allowed to identify the bodies," Hussain Ahmad, a relative of a missing youth, said.

The families have demanded DNA matching. Saleem Ahmad, a relative of Ibrar, said he spotted the face of his cousin in the pictures uploaded online of the slain militants killed in the encounter on July 18.

According to a July 18 police statement, the Army's 62 Rashtriya Rifles started an operation on a specific input about the presence of militants in village Amshipura area of Shopian district.

## J&K to get 4G access in a limited manner

Access will be strictly monitored to protect national, border and local security.

The decision is based on the recommendations made by a Supreme Court-constituted special committee, headed by Union Home Secretary A.K. Bhalla, which met on August 10. The panel will review the situation every week and meet again after two months.

The Centre, in its affidavit, said the restrictions on 4G neither hampered COVID-19 preventions and treatment nor affected business in the Valley. Landline and 2G services were still available.

Senior advocate Huzeifa Ahmadi, assisted by advocate Shadan Farasat, appearing for Foundation for Media Professionals, said the opening up of 4G in select areas was a "good step forward".

The Foundation had filed a contempt petition against Mr. Bhalla and the J&K authorities for not following a

order of the court, which required the committee to meet weekly to review the 4G ban and publish their orders in the public domain.

But Mr. Venugopal submitted that "every single order of the review of the 4G ban by the special committee in J&K has been uploaded on the website. But we surely cannot put out the deliberations made [minutes of the meetings] in the public domain".

The court said the government's move was a "good step forward" and disposed the contempt petition.

"There is no need to keep the contempt pending any more," Justices R. Subhash Reddy and B.R. Gavai, also on the Bench, agreed.

In the last hearing, the court asked the Centre to explain whether 4G network could be restored in select areas of Jammu and Kashmir where there was no trouble.

# Kerala battles monsoon diseases and the virus

As case graph rises, it tackles dengue and leptospirosis; case tally up by 6,257 in Karnataka, 1,896 in Telangana, 9,024 in A.P.

STAFF REPORTER  
HYDERABAD

It was a rise of 1,896 cases in Telangana, pushing up its COVID-19 tally to 82,647 on Monday. Around 18,035 tests were done on August 10 and the results of 959 were awaited. Eight more patients died, taking the toll to 645, in data released on Tuesday.

Of the 1,896 new cases, 338 were from Greater Hyderabad, 147 from Rangareddy, 121 from Karimnagar, 119 from Medchal-Malkajgiri and 95 from Warangal Urban.

Of the total 22,628 were

9,024 new infections and 87 new deaths. The Health department bulletin said total cases stood at 24,549 and the death toll at 2,203.

Recoveries were put at 15,474 including 9,113 during the past day. There were 87,597 infected persons under treatment. The State had tested 25,92,619 samples, with a positivity rate of 9.54%. During the past day, 58,315 samples were tested and 15.47% were positive.

Kerala reported 1,417 new cases on Tuesday.

Again, 90% of new cases - 1,280 out of 1,417 - were locally acquired infections, 105 with no epidemiological link established. Also, 36 health care workers tested positive.

The Health Department added five more deaths - three in Thiruvananthapuram and one each in Ernakulam and Kannur - raising the toll to 120. The cumulative case burden stood at 36,932.

### Serving safely

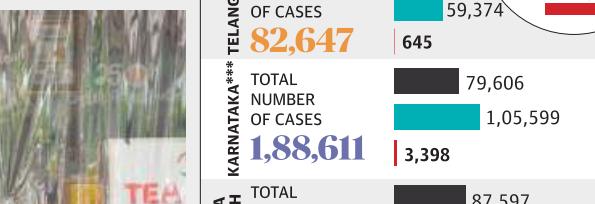
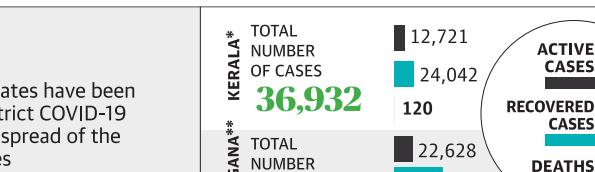
Hotels and tea stalls in most States have been allowed to operate following strict COVID-19 protocol. The graph shows the spread of the pandemic in the southern States



**Protective gear:** A tea stall covered with a plastic sheet, leaving only a small opening to serve customers in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday. ■ K.R. DEEPAK

Thiruvananthapuram with 297 cases and Malappuram with 242 cases topped the list of districts.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan told the media that



\*Kerala has a mismatch of 49 cases due to unaccounted deaths, missing persons, \*\*Telangana numbers are as of 8 p.m. on Monday, \*\*\*Karnataka has 8 non-COVID deaths

with rains intensifying, the State was ramping up measures against dengue and leptospirosis infections also.

He said COVID-19 transmission was continuing in

the coastal belt of Alappuzha in six clusters, at Athiramapuzha and Ettumanoor clusters in Kottayam and Fort Kochi belt in Ernakulam.

In Karnataka, 6,257 new

## 3 more bodies recovered, Idukki landslip toll hits 52

GJII K. RAMAN  
IDUKKI

With the recovery of three more bodies on Tuesday, the death toll in the landslip in Pettimudy, near Munnar, rose to 52.

Two bodies were recovered in the morning and one by afternoon, from the Kanniyar river, a revenue of ficial said.

According to an official estimate, 18 persons are still missing. Devikulam Subcollector S. Premkrishnan said nine of them were children. The administration had shifted 65 families to a camp. Fog and heavy rain were hampering the search operation, he said.

Four estate lanes were completely buried in landslip debris.

More bodies swept into the river were expected to be recovered on Wednesday, Mr. Premkrishnan said.

Earthmovers were used to search the area. Some of the bodies were more than 10 feet beneath the debris.

The body was found



**Tough task:** Rescue work in progress at Pettimudy, near Rajamala, in Idukki on Tuesday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

## Body of Talacauvery temple priest recovered

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MYSURU

The body of the Talacauvery temple priest Narayana Achar was recovered close to Bhagamandala in Kodagu on Tuesday by the search and rescue team of the National Disaster Response Force and the State Disaster Response Force.

The body was found

about 2.5 km from the place where the landslip hit and reduced his house to a rubble, the police said.

He was among the five missing when the landslip from Brahmagiri Hills flattened their house on Thursday, following which a search and rescue operation was launched by the authorities.

## Now, language a criteria for CISF's airport security duty

Move follows incident involving DMK MP

SUNITHA SEKAR  
S. VIJAY KUMAR  
CHENNAI

The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) will deploy more personnel with "working knowledge of the local language" at airports to deal with passengers.

The move follows DMK MP Kanimozhi's complaint that a CISF officer at Chennai airport had asked her if she was Indian after coming to know that she was not conversant in Hindi.

The CISF would try to deploy as many personnel as possible who are familiar with the local language on screening, frisking and other frontline duties. Since the job involves technical and behavioural skills, it would not be possible to achieve 100% deployment on such duties, a senior CISF officer said.

When contacted, Ms. Kanimozhi told *The Hindu* that she had spoken to a senior CISF official in Chennai and

had requested him not to take any stringent action against the woman officer in question, but to sensitise her to the seriousness of the issue.

"We take utmost care to respect the sentiments of passengers and extend due courtesy. For two decades now, we have been involved in providing internal security and compliance with safety protocols at airports. Be it VIPs, elected representatives or others, we deal [with] everybody with dignity while ensuring [adherence to] security norms," Anil Pandey, DIG and Chief Public Relations Officer, CISF, told *The Hindu* on Tuesday.

He acknowledged the possibility of misunderstandings occurring during an interaction between individuals. "We have now taken steps to make sure that there is no such gap in communication, to the extent possible," he said.

## IN BRIEF



**SC-appointed panel visits Mullaperiyar dam**

IDUKKI  
The Mullaperiyar subcommittee created by the supervisory committee under the Supreme Court on Tuesday visited the dam in the wake of increased inflow of water. The water level on Tuesday was 136.85 ft. The maximum storage level fixed by the Supreme Court is 142 ft. A decision on opening the dam shutters would be taken on Wednesday.

### Hotel fire: police on the lookout for hospital MD

VIJAYAWADA  
Special teams have been formed to track down the managements of Ramesh Hospitals and Hotel Swarna Palace, the main accused in the fire at a COVID-19 Care Centre which claimed 10 patients and injured 20 others. "We are searching for Ramesh Hospitals Managing Director P. Ramesh Babu and the Hotel Swarna Palace's proprietor," the police said.

### TDB to ease curbs on darshan from August 17

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM  
The Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) has decided to grant entry for darshan to devotees in all temples under the board, except Sabarimala, from August 17 in line with the COVID-19 protocol. The board decided to permit five persons each to have darshan at a time. Children below the age of 10, pregnant women, those with ailments, and elders above 65 will not be permitted.

### Somu Veeraju takes charge as A.P. BJP chief

VIJAYAWADA  
Somu Veeraju took charge as the Andhra Pradesh BJP president here a programme on Tuesday. Speaking on the occasion, he exuded confidence that the BJP-JSP combine would form the government in 2024.

## 3 A.P. policemen booked in cricket betting case

They illegally detained three persons

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The CBI has booked three police officers of Guntur in Andhra Pradesh on the charge of illegally detaining three persons to extract confession related to a cricket betting racket.

The accused have been identified as Inspector N. Venkata Rao, head constable Sambasiva Rao and constable Veeranjaneyulu.

The agency had earlier instituted a preliminary inquiry into the allegation, following a direction from the Andhra Pradesh High Court

According to the CBI, its inquiry revealed that the three were indeed illegally detained. They were allegedly forced to confess to their involvement and that of their associates in cricket betting.

The money was transferred from the treasury to Mr. Narayanan's bank account in accordance with the December 2019 Cabinet decision to settle the case he

## Former ISRO scientist gets ₹1.3 cr. extra compensation

Nambi Narayanan was victim of the infamous spy case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Nambi Narayanan, former Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) scientist of the infamous ISRO spy scandal case, was given ₹1.3 crore additional compensation on Tuesday.

The money was transferred from the treasury to Mr. Narayanan's bank account in accordance with the December 2019 Cabinet decision to settle the case he

had filed against the State in the Sub-Court in Thiruvananthapuram.

Sources said the additional compensation was made available from the police account. This is in addition to the ₹50 lakh given by the government in 2018.

A three-judge Bench of the Supreme Court had, in September 2018, found Mr. Narayanan to be a victim of trumped-up case. It ordered Kerala to pay him ₹50 lakh as compensation for loss of his fundamental right to live with dignity and self-respect.

&lt;p

# Pilot lands in Jaipur to a rousing welcome

Gehlot leaves for Jaisalmer to preside over CLP meet

MOHAMMED IQBAL  
JAIPUR

Nearly a month after he broke ranks with Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and staged a rebellion, Congress leader Sachin Pilot on Tuesday returned to Jaipur to a tumultuous welcome by his supporters.

Having struck a peace deal with the party leadership in Delhi, Mr. Pilot said he had not demanded any post and there was no scope for "vendetta politics".

Mr. Pilot, accompanied by several dissident MLAs, drove from New Delhi to his official residence in the State capital's Civil Lines, where a large number of party workers gathered and garlanded him, while raising slogans in his support. Firecrackers were also burst outside the Congress office in Tonk, which is Mr. Pilot's Assembly constituency.

**'BJP conspiracy'**  
Even before Mr. Pilot reached here, Mr. Gehlot left for Jaisalmer to preside over



**Back home:** Sachin Pilot being welcomed by his supporters on his arrival at his residence in Jaipur on Tuesday. ■ PTI

A Congress Legislature Party (CLP) meeting at a resort where the MLAs supporting him have been sequestered. While attacking the BJP for "hatching a conspiracy" to topple his government, Mr. Gehlot said it was his responsibility to win back the hearts of the rebel MLAs.

Mr. Pilot's meeting with the top leadership on Monday had led to a truce between the rival factions in the party and signalled an end to the month-long political turmoil ahead of the crucial Assembly session beginning on August 14.

Earlier, Mr. Gehlot told reporters here before leaving for Jaisalmer that the BJP's attempts to topple his government had failed because all the Congress MLAs remained together.

## INTERVIEW | SACHIN PILOT

# 'Not one of our MLAs spoke to BJP leaders'

Congress leader says they raised issues about accountability on promises made to the people

SANDEEP PHUKAN

*With the month-long rebellion in Rajasthan ending in a truce and the announcement of a three-member committee to look into the 'grievances' of the dissidents, Congress leader Sachin Pilot stresses that he has always stood by the party and none of his supporters had engaged with the BJP even as he expressed anguish at the personal attacks he was subject to.*

**What role do you see for yourself in the party now that the truce has been announced?**

■ After I met former Congress president Rahul Gandhi and Priyankaji [Priyanka Gandhi Vadra], the party announced a three-member committee and we have been assured of time-bound resolution of the issues that we raised, including the style of leadership. The issues that we raised and whatever stand we took were principled issues and we didn't have any personal interest.

Going forward, there should not be any vendetta against the MLAs and there should be participation from them in the government as well as the party. As for myself, I have never asked for any position and left it to the party. I have had many posts

and performed many roles. Whatever role the party decides, I am happy to accept it.

Rajasthan is my *karmabhoomi* and I will continue to work for the people.

**You talked about participation in government and party but there are reports that MLAs in the Gehlot camp don't want any sops for the rebel MLAs.**

■ I have not heard anything like this but we have all raised issues related to the people. After all, in three years, we will go back to the people. We had raised issues about accountability on the promises that we made to the people and getting answers. None of us has ever uttered one word against the party. I don't think there can be two views on the question

**In politics, there should not be any place for personal animosity and enmity. We should be able to steadfastly hold our views for the sake of the people who elected us. In my opinion, there is no place for personal attacks and animosity.**

**There is a view within the Congress that you were left with no option but go for a**

of having a more participatory government.

**There have been very bitter exchanges and the Chief Minister once referred to you as nikamma.**

■ When I was called those names, as a human being, I must say I felt very bad. I was deeply saddened and hurt by the language used. Even my fiercest opponent had not used such language for me. I don't think that two wrongs make a right. We must show some dignity of discourse in politics.

**So, will you be able to work together by putting this bitterness behind you?**

■ First of all, there was no 'camp' and all of us were together. Last night, except Bhanwar Lal Sharmaji, all of us met senior leaders and Priyankaji. Bhanwar Lalji told me that he is not going as he had a stomach infection.

**Look, the MLAs were from 14 districts, representing different communities. There**



**C** None of us has ever uttered one word against the party. I don't think there can be two views on the question of having a more participatory government

was a former Speaker, former Cabinet Ministers and people who went to jail in 1977 in support of Indira Gandhi. Do you think they can so easily leave the Congress?

From day one, I have been saying that I am not going to the BJP. In fact, it is from the other side that action started with SOG [Special Operations Group] notice, suspensions and so on. After 27 days, I am vindicated as we are where we were and have raised issues concerning the people and the party.

**You were accused of hobnobbing with the BJP to topple your own government and taking hospitality from their government.**

■ Not one of our MLAs has met or spoken with any BJP leaders. The Opposition [BJP] may have tried to do politics seeing the situation and take advantage of the fault lines. I repeat, not one of our MLAs spoke to them. As far as our hotel bills and legal fees are concerned, we had pooled our resources and paid them.

# Truce offers lessons to Congress

Early action from Delhi crucial to stem factional conflicts, say leaders

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The end of the month-long rebellion in Rajasthan is a strong comeback by the Congress to upset the BJP's "dream" of forming a government in the State despite being in a minority, Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala tweeted on Tuesday.

"Congratulations to the eight crore people of Rajasthan. Mr. Rahul Gandhi's vision and resolve to take everyone along and Ms. Priyanka Gandhi's support bore results. The solution could be found because of the maturity shown by Ashok Gehlot [Chief Minister] and the faith of Mr. Sachin Pilot," Mr. Surjewala tweeted in Hindi.

**Tackling dissidence early**  
For the Congress party, insiders said, there are key takeaways that could help in dealing with factional fights within the party.

Until it blew up and threatened the stability of the go-



Ashok Gehlot

overnment, the central leadership chose to either ignore the friction between Mr. Gehlot and Mr. Pilot or play it down because of the stature of the Chief Minister.

A similar tension is growing in Punjab but the central leadership is yet to adopt a pro-active approach to bring together the warring parties. Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh and Rajya Sabha member and former Pradesh Congress Committee chief Partap Singh Bajwa have been openly trading charges.

"In M.P. too, if Soniaji had met all the MLAs as soon as the first attempt to break them away by bringing them to the Gurgaon hotel took place, our government may not have fallen. We were too

slow to react," said a Rajya Sabha member.

The Congress is said to have "exploited" the divisions in both the BJP as well as the Pilot camp.

While former Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje's reservation about the move to topple the government is believed to have slowed down the BJP's plan, the Congress managed to divide the Pilot camp by persuading eight-term MLA Bhanwar Lal Sharma to break ranks.

Mr. Sharma later met party general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal on Sunday.

That meeting, a senior leader camping in Rajasthan argued, was the turning point to put pressure on Mr. Pilot to resolve the dispute.

Though Mr. Gehlot will continue as Chief Minister, the party is likely to find a mechanism where there is devolution of power and make the governance structure more "participative" to involve the elected MLAs, said another leader.

# SC to hear 'merger' case again tomorrow

BJP MLA had challenged the merger of six BSP MLAs with Congress in Rajasthan

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) said in the Supreme Court on Tuesday that the move of six Rajasthan legislators to "merge" with the ruling Congress "wiped out" the party in the State.

One of the MLAs, represented by senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan, retorted that the BSP "had no control of their own party" in the State.

But a Bench, led by Justice Arun Mishra, stalled the hearing in the top court till August 13. This was done af-

ter it learnt that a Single Bench of the High Court was scheduled to hear and decide Mr. Dilawar's plea on Tuesday.

"Let the High Court proceedings continue. Let the Single Bench hear the case today. All of you can argue your points in the case before the High Court today... We will list this petition before us on August 13," Justice Mishra said.

The Bench, however, allowed the six MLAs to withdraw their plea to transfer

the case from the High Court to the Supreme Court. They had separately approached the top court to shift Mr. Dilawar's case for their disqualification to the SC.

## Shocking, says Salve

Senior advocate Harish Salve, for Mr. Dilawar, said Speaker Joshi, by recognising the "merger", acted in a partisan manner when he was not supposed to take sides. "He had to conduct himself as a tribunal... This is shocking," he submitted.

# Preparing hard for Bihar Assembly poll, says Azad

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
PATNA

Bhim Army chief and Azad Samaj Party national president Chandrashekhar Azad, alias Ravan, announced on Tuesday that his party was preparing hard to contest all the seats in the upcoming

Assembly election in Bihar.

"In view of the upcoming Bihar Assembly election, our party has been making strong preparations... This time, our party will play an important role in the Bihar election," the ASP president told mediapersons.

**CSIR - CENTRAL GLASS & CERAMIC RESEARCH INSTITUTE**  
(Council of Scientific & Industrial Research)  
196, Raja S. C. Mullick Road, Kolkata - 700 032,  
Website: www.cgcrc.res.in

**Advertisement No. GC/R&A/CGCRI-ARCI**

**Project/Consultant/FCBD/2020**

Applications are invited for selection of One position of Consultant in a Collaborative Project on SOFC.

**The persons, who had already applied in response to Advertisement No. GC/R&A/CGCRI-ARCI Project Consultant/FCBD/2020, need not apply again. Interested candidates are requested to log on www.cgcrc.res.in for details.**

**The last date of receipt of application is 21 days from the date of publication of this Advt. in this paper. Controller of Administration**

# Army ready for the long haul at LAC: Rawat

Chief of Defence Staff briefs Public Accounts Committee on the border stand-off with China

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The stand-off on the border with China in eastern Ladakh is likely to go longer and the Army is prepared for the long haul through the winter, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat told the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), a defence source said on Tuesday.

The PAC meeting was held on Monday to discuss issues related to the Siachen glacier.

The PAC had met with the agenda to discuss ac-



**Tough stance:** Army trucks moving towards Leh in Ladakh amid the on-going stand-off with China. ■ PTI

commodation, clothing and ration for troops on the glacier which was dis-

cussed earlier too. One of the members had asked about the situation along

the LAC, the defence source said. The CDS replied that the Army was fully prepared to meet any challenge, the source said.

**Unilateral aggression**  
Last week, the Defence Ministry took down a document uploaded on its website that admitted Chinese transgressions in eastern Ladakh beginning early May.

The report had said that the present situation arising from "unilateral aggression" by China continues to be sensitive, requiring

close monitoring and prompt action based on the evolving situation and that the present stand-off "is likely to be prolonged".

India has demanded that *status quo ante* of pre-May positions be restored along the LAC. China had massed troops all along eastern Ladakh and occupied positions in India's perception of the LAC. With a resolution in sight, the Army has been preparing for extended deployment and stocking up for the harsh winter in the high-altitude region.

# BJP, Oppn. MPs spar over J&K Net curbs

SOHANA K. NAIR  
NEW DELHI

The shut down of hi-speed Internet in Jammu and Kashmir was debated between MPs of the BJP and the Opposition for more than two hours at a meeting of the Standing Committee of Parliament on Information and Technology on Tuesday, sources said.

Mr. Mukherjee was admitted to the hospital at 12.07 p.m. on Monday in a critical condition. "The former President who underwent lifesaving emergency surgery for a brain clot on August 10 has not shown any improvement and his health status has worsened. He remains on ventilator support," the hospital said in an evening health bulletin. He was also found to be COVID-19 positive, it added.

Mr. Mukherjee had tweeted about his infection on Monday afternoon.

com services/Internet and its impact and India's preparedness for 5G.

**Fundamental right**  
Chairman Shashi Tharoor, according to sources, read out the Supreme Court judgment of January this year which said that access to Internet is a fundamental right.

He asked pointed questions on how the country could be prepared for 5G considering that J&K doesn't even have 4G.

He was countered by BJP MP Nishikant Dubey who

pointed out that India got mobile phone by 1995 but it reached J&K only some years later. Mr. Dubey's claim was countered by a Congress MP who said the Committee should concern itself with the present situation alone.

Officials of the Telecom Ministry told the committee that they had written to the Ministry of Home Affairs and the J&K administration on Tuesday.

As per the laid down procedures, the District Collector can take the first call to shut down Internet,

based on the law and order situation. However, the decision has to be vetted by a review committee within five days.

The opposition members pointed out that this review committee entirely consists of bureaucrats alone. They pressed that there was a need for public representatives to be part of such a review committee to ensure public participation in the decision-making process. They also insisted that the review should be held in a time-bound manner.

"We tendered our resignation to protest against the State party leadership," said one of the MLAs.

# Six Congress MLAs resign in Manipur

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GUWAHATI/IMPHAL

Six Congress MLAs in Manipur submitted their resignation hours after the BJP-led coalition government, headed by Chief Minister Nongthombam Birsen, won a trust vote on Monday. Speaker Yumnam Khemchand accepted their resignation on Tuesday.

"We tendered our resignation to protest against the State party leadership," said one of the MLAs.

S.No
------

## IN BRIEF



Deepak Sathé cremated with State honours

MUMBAI Wing Commander Deepak Sathé (retd.), pilot-in-command of the Air India Express plane that crashed in Kerala last week, was cremated here on Tuesday with State honours. Several mourners lined up the road as the funeral procession started from his residence in Chandivali. The number of people allowed to attend the last rites was restricted in view of the COVID-19 outbreak. Earlier in the day, the Maharashtra government decided to accord a State funeral, and said his life shall inspire young pilots.

## Maharashtra reply sought on Saibaba's plea

MUMBAI The Nagpur Bench of the Bombay High Court on Tuesday directed Maharashtra to reply to plea for emergency parole filed by wheelchair-bound G.N. Saibaba, convicted of Maoists links. Saibaba, 50, is incarcerated at the Nagpur Central Jail. Last week, prison authorities rejected his parole application for attending the last rites of his mother. The Bench directed the government to reply to his plea and adjourned the matter to August 18.

**Central govt. releases ₹6,195 crore to 14 States**  
NEW DELHI The Union government on Tuesday released ₹6,195 crore to 14 States as grants-in-aid to cover the deficit on post devolution revenue, as recommended by the 15th Finance Commission. The money will provide the States with additional resources during the COVID-19 crisis, tweeted Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. This is the fifth monthly instalment for the 2020-21 financial year. Kerala got the largest chunk, receiving ₹1,270 crore, followed by Himachal Pradesh, which got more than ₹950 crore.

**112 service in U.P. shut after staff test positive**  
LUCKNOW The headquarters of the Uttar Pradesh police 112 dial emergency services in Lucknow was forced to shut on Tuesday after 12 staff members tested positive for COVID-19. The premises would be shut for 48 hours and sanitised, said Aseem Arun, ADG, of the 112 services. However, the services will operate in a restricted manner, the officer said. Citizens will have to wait for 4-5 minutes when they call the number, the 112 services said, adding that people could also register their complaints on their website. The sub-centres in Ghaziabad and Prayagraj would continue to function.

# Deliver ration in areas hit by floods: Paswan

Minister appeals to States to carry out doorstep delivery

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Union Food Minister Ram Vilas Paswan has appealed to State governments to carry out doorstep delivery of ration to those eligible under the National Food Security Act (NFS) and the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana in flood-affected areas.

"Floods and heavy rain in many States of the country have resulted in catastrophic conditions. People are leaving the village and taking shelter elsewhere and it is not possible for people to reach the ration shops," he said in a series of tweets.

Parts of Bihar, Kerala, Karnataka, Assam and other northeastern States have been affected by severe flooding.

"I urge the State governments to arrange doorstep



Ravaged land: An aerial view of a flood-affected area in Bihar's Darbhanga district in July. ■PTI

delivery of ration for those who are not able to get ration from the ration shop under the flood affected National Food Security Act and the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana," Mr. Paswan said. He stressed that the timely distribution of grains during a calamity became even more critical and that State governments have to step in.

Through the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana and the National Food Security Act, the Central government is giving 10 kg of food grains a month to more than 80 crore beneficiaries of NFS from April to November. This, the Ministry estimates, in case of a family of four amounts to three quintals in eight months.

## Decide Kafeel Khan case soon, says SC

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court requested the Allahabad High Court on Tuesday to decide on the question of the release of Kafeel Khan, who was arrested in connection with the anti-Citizenship Amendment Act protests in December 2019, as early as possible.

"This court has always prioritised personal liberty, even during hard times," Chief Justice of India Sharad A. Bobde, heading a three-judge Bench, remarked.

Dr. Khan's family decided to withdraw from the apex court and approach the High Court. Giving them liberty to withdraw, the CJI Bench asked the High Court to decide Mr. Khan's case within 15 days from the date the parties appeared before it.

Mr. Khan was booked under the National Security Act in December last.

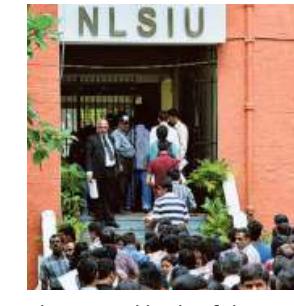
# Law admission exam to be conducted on Sept. 7

It was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic

STAFF REPORTER  
BENGALURU

The Common Law Admission Test (CLAT) for both undergraduate and postgraduate candidates for 2020 will be held on September 7 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., a communiqué from the Consortium of National Law Universities said on Tuesday. The CLAT 2020 was scheduled to be conducted in May earlier this year but was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown.

The general body of the consortium met on Monday and assessed the situation.



The general body of the consortium met on Monday and assessed the situation.

line computer-based test. Medical and safety measures being adopted will be as per those outlined in the consortium's notification on June 30, said the release.

"No candidate will be allowed to enter examination centre without a mask. Appropriate respiratory etiquette will also be maintained at all times. Detailed instructions in this regard will be notified on the con-

sorium website," it read.

## Review locations

The earlier notification on safety precautions included social distance, thermal screening and isolation labs for candidates who show COVID-19 symptoms. The consortium will review centre locations on an ongoing basis to ensure that students and staff are protected at all times.

The consortium is in the process of securing further permissions so that admit cards of candidates can be considered as movement passes by local authorities to allow them to move between containment zones and travel to their examination centres. These admit cards – indicating the roll number and the centre – will be available for download from the website (consortiumofnlus.ac.in) in two weeks.

# ED records statements in Sushant's death case

Actor's sister, former manager appear before agency

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) recorded the statements of two persons on Tuesday in connection with the Sushant Singh Rajput case.



Sushant Singh Rajput

Shruti Modi, former manager of Bollywood actor Rhea Chakraborty, appeared before the ED for the third round of questioning under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. The agency sought some documents from her for verification.

Sushant's sister Mithu Singh, who had reached his residence on the afternoon

wrongful restraint and confinement, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has started its probe and recorded the testimonies of Sushant's father and a few other relatives.

The CBI team is reconstructing the sequence of events leading up to the incident and is also consulting with forensic experts to examine all the evidence. If necessary, the agency may resort to a dummy test to verify the statements of witnesses pertaining to the position in which the body was found. The doctors who had conducted post-mortem

# Strong case for probe by us: CBI

Agency cites claims by both Maharashtra and Bihar in actor's case

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL  
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) told the Supreme Court on Tuesday that both the Maharashtra and Bihar governments make a "strong case" for the Central agency taking over the probe into the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, for the CBI, said Bihar had raised allegations about the "involvement" of the Maharashtra Chief Minister's son in the case while Maharashtra, in turn, had accused Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar of "influencing" his police to file an FIR in the case.

"Both Maharashtra and Bihar have made a strong



Rhea Chakraborty

case for the CBI takeover of the case," Mr. Mehta addressed Justice Hrishikesh Roy on the Bench.

To this, Maharashtra's government counsel, senior advocate A.M. Singhvi, said he had never seen the CBI so interested in taking over a case. "The CBI's interest is itself a rare occurrence," Mr. Singhvi said.

"You may have screaming anchors, screaming reporters, but sensationalism or sensitivity does not change the law ... The kind of sensationalism seen here is alarming. Every reporter, anchor, lawyer has turned judge, jury, executioner. I don't know whether his death was murder or suicide. But I can say the murder of Cr. PC is being attempted here," Mr. Singhvi submitted.

The court was hearing a plea made by actor Rhea Chakraborty to transfer the case to Mumbai.

Justice Roy, at one point, pointed to documents filed by Ms. Chakraborty herself indicating that she too wanted a CBI probe.

The court reserved the

plea for orders after a half-day hearing.

## 'No active probe'

During the hearing, the CBI submitted that there had been no active investigation by the Mumbai police into the death.

"Unless an FIR is registered under Section 154 Cr. PC, there is no investigation in the eyes of the Code ... The CBI investigation will be fair, free and truth-eliciting oriented," Mr. Mehta submitted.

The Bihar government, represented by senior advocate Maninder Singh, said the Mumbai police were acting out a "façade" of an investigation without even having registered an FIR.

The Bihar government, represented by senior advocate Maninder Singh, said the Mumbai police were acting out a "façade" of an investigation without even having registered an FIR.

# Indian, Afghan officials discuss Loya Jirga

Focus on grand assembly's decision to release 400 convicted Taliban and intra-Afghan negotiations

SUHASINI HAIDAR  
NEW DELHI

Indian and Afghan officials in Delhi and Kabul discussed the outcome of the Loya Jirga, or grand assembly, in Afghanistan that advised the release of 400 Taliban militants convicted of serious crimes.

According to officials, the two sides discussed the likelihood of intra-Afghan negotiations in Doha, Qatar, which have been put off to next week, as well as the hopes for a permanent cea-

sefire, in a briefing two days after the Jirga's decision. The intra-Afghan talks could now take place on August 16-17 in Doha, once President Ghani's government releases all the men, bringing the total number of Taliban fighters released to about 5,500.

The officials said the release was conditional, and contingent on a reduction in the level of violence by the Taliban as well as a "humanitarian ceasefire" for civilians to be transported during the coronavirus



Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, centre, on the last day of the Loya Jirga. ■AP

quired to guarantee that none of the men being released will return to combat.

Sources also told *The Hindu* that once the talks in Doha, between government representatives, civil society members and the Taliban take place, another round of talks could be scheduled in Germany, which has offered to host them.

According to an official, talks are also on for the release of the last of the group of seven Indian hostages still held by the Taliban following

their abduction in 2018. Two hostages were released and returned to India last week, while four others had returned earlier.

It is hoped that the release of the Taliban prisoners will include those demanded in exchange for the release of the Indian hostage, who was an employee at a power plant project run by Indian engineering company KEC. He was abducted at gunpoint by Taliban militants in Afghanistan's Baglan province two years ago.

The Talibani is also re-

KASE		
Skill Development Mission of Government of Kerala		
Registered Office: III Floor, Carmel Tower, Vazhuthacaud, Thiruvananthapuram - 695 014, Website: www.kase.in		
No.KASE/1019/2020-Exe2, KASE/1041/2020-Exe2 Dated: 11/08/2020		
KASE/1006/2020-Exe2, KASE/1011/2020-Exe2, KASE/1024/2020-Exe2		
<b>E-TENDER NOTICE</b>		
Projects		
KASE invites tenders from eligible entities for the below projects. Interested parties may submit e-tender through <a href="http://www.etenders.kerala.gov.in">www.etenders.kerala.gov.in</a>		
Sl. No	Name of Work	Tender ID
1	Upgradation of Govt ITI Chalakkudy, Thrissur	2020_KASE_375422_1
2	Upgradation of Govt ITI Kattappana, Idukki	2020_KASE_375530_1
3	Upgradation of Govt ITI Chengannur, Alappuzha	2020_KASE_375682_1
4	Upgradation of Govt ITI Chandanathope, Kollam	2020_KASE_375495_1
5	Upgradation of EK Nayyar Memorial Govt ITI Kayyur, Kasaragode	2020_KASE_375543_1

RO/01218/D3/2020/I&PRD Sd/- Managing Director

SL/- Managing Director

## Ministry of Textiles plans to close 2 PSUs

DAMINI NATH  
NEW DELHI

The Union Textile Ministry has abolished five advisory boards, withdrawn officers from industry bodies and is planning to withdraw its representatives from export promotion councils as well as shut down two public sector undertakings (PSUs) as a part of a rationalisation exercise, according to a top official.

The Ministry wound up the All India Handloom Board on July 27; the All India Handicrafts Board and the Cotton Advisory Board on August 3; and the All India Powerloom Board and the Jute Advisory Board on August 4.

Textile Ministry Secretary Ravi Kapoor said the decisions were a part of a larger Ministry-wide rationalisation exercise.

Two PSUs under the Ministry – the British India Corporation and the Handicrafts and Handlooms Exports Corporation of India Ltd. – have been proposed to be shut down. According to sources, a Cabinet note has been circulated for the same.

Laila Tyabji, founder of the NGO Dastkar, had termed the move to abolish the handicrafts' board 'worrying' as it had been a forum for craftspeople to communicate directly with the government.

Mr. Kapoor said the Ministry was reaching out to craftspeople and weavers through its 100 field offices. He said a special two-month programme was held where officials visited villages near their respective field offices to interact with craftspersons.

## IAF to get 106 trainer aircraft

Part of the ₹8,722.38-crore deals approved by the Defence Acquisition Council

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, on Tuesday approved defence procurements worth ₹8,722.38 crore, including 106 HTT-40 Basic Trainer Aircraft (BTA) for the Indian Air Force (IAF) built by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), the Ministry of India (MoD) said.

"With Hindustan Aeronautics Limited having successfully developed HTT-40 prototypes and certification process underway, the DAC approved procurement of 106 BTA from HAL to address the basic training requirements of the IAF," the



**Training platform:** A Hindustan Turbo Trainer-40 aircraft developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. • AFP

Ministry said in a statement. "Post certification 70 BTA will be initially procured from HAL and balance 36 after operationalisation of HTT-40 fleet in IAF."

The DAC also approved

the procurement of an upgraded version of Super Rapide Gun Mount (SRGM), which is fitted as the main gun onboard Navy and Coast Guard warships from Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited

(BHEL). The upgraded version of SRGM has enhanced capability to perform against fast manoeuvring targets such as missiles and fast attack crafts and increase the maximum engagement range, the statement stated.

In addition, the DAC approved procurement of 125 mm APFSDS (Armour Piercing Fin Stabilized Discarding Sabot) ammunition for the Army as a 'design and development case'. "The ammunition being procured will have a 70% indigenous content," it said. The DAC also gave approvals that are likely to speed up the procurement of AK-203 assault rifles from Russia and Unmanned Aerial Vehicle upgrades.

## Panel to discuss vaccine logistics

Questions on ethical aspects of administration will be debated on August 12

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Health Ministry said on Tuesday that an expert committee on vaccine administration, under NITI Aayog member V.K. Paul, will meet on August 12 to consider the logistics and ethical aspects of procurement and administration of the COVID-19 vaccine.

The committee would engage with all stakeholders, including State governments and vaccine manufacturers, Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said at a press meet. He was replying to a question on Russian President Vladimir Putin's announcement that his country had successfully registered its vaccine.



**A race:** Several vaccine candidates are being tested around the world.

Mr. Bhushan said, "Questions about India procuring vaccine from Russia cannot be answered at this stage." He said three proposed vaccine candidates were currently under trial in India.

Advising State governments not to be "overawed" by the number of positive cases every day, he said the Health Ministry had told various stakeholders that the country had to work towards achieving less than 1% fatality rate.

### Guidance note

"Currently, less than 1% of hospitalised people are on ventilators, less than 3% are on oxygen and less than 4% of active cases are in ICU. A committee under the Health Ministry is formulating guidelines on treatment and protocol for those experiencing complications after recovering from COVID-19. This is after cases of respiratory problems and heart ail-

ments are coming to light after COVID patients are discharged. The guidance note will be made available soon," he said.

Speaking on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's interaction on Tuesday with the Chief Ministers of 10 States that were showing an increasing COVID-19 trend, he said: "States like Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar participated in the discussion, and they were told that they make up for 80% of the cases currently and 81% of fatalities due to the virus. The States have been told that containment, contact tracing and surveillance are the most effective tools."

## NSCN-IM releases details of 2015 pact

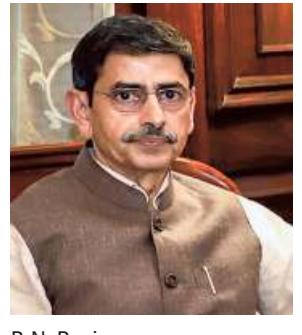
+ It accuses interlocutor R.N. Ravi of removing a key word from the document

VIJAYA SINGH  
NEW DELHI

The National Socialist Council of Nagaland-IM has for the first time released the details of the 2015 framework agreement and has accused interlocutor R.N. Ravi of deleting a key word from the original document and sharing the modified version with other Naga groups.

The agreement released by the NSCN-IM stated "sharing the sovereign power" and provide for an "enduring inclusive new relationship of peaceful co-existence of the two entities".

The NSCN-IM claimed on Tuesday that Mr. Ravi, also Nagaland Governor, "craftily deleted the word new from the original" to justify his own narrative and circulated to the other Naga groups including the Naga National Political Groups (NNPGs).



R.N. Ravi

The NSCN claimed that the word 'new' is politically sensitive as it goes to define the meaning of peaceful co-existence of the two entities (two sovereign powers) and it strongly indicates outside the purview of the Constitution.

The NSCN-IM, one of the largest Naga groups, signed a framework agreement on August 3, 2015 to end the decades old issue.

Mr. Ravi signed the agreement on behalf of the Centre in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The other two signatories were Isak Chishi Swu, who died in 2016 and Thuingaleng Muivah, 86, who is leading the talks. The framework agreement shared as part of a detailed press statement issued by the NSCN-IM on Tuesday said, "Both sides have understood each other's respective positions and are cognizant of the universal principle that in a democracy, sovereignty lies with the people. Accordingly, the Govt. of India and the NSCN, respecting people's wishes for sharing the sovereign power as defined in the competencies reached an agreement on the 3rd August, 2015 as an honorable solution."

As reported by *The Hindu*, the Naga talks have hit rough weather as the NSCN-IM has demanded that he be removed from the position.

### 'Undue advantage'

In Tuesday's statement, the NSCN-IM said Mr. Ravi insulted the NSCN negotiating team by using unparliamentary language when he said "this can be understood even by Class VII students that it means acceptance of the Indian Constitution".

The NSCN said till now it had refrained from publishing the agreement respecting the "tacit understanding reached between the two sides not to release to the public domain for security reasons of India". It said Mr. Ravi took undue advantage and started modifying and manipulating the agreement to mislead the Nagas and the Centre.

The NSCN claimed that the word 'new' is politically sensitive as it goes to define the meaning of peaceful co-existence of the two entities (two sovereign powers) and it strongly indicates outside the purview of the Constitution.

The NSCN-IM, one of the largest Naga groups, signed a framework agreement on August 3, 2015 to end the decades old issue.

As reported by *The Hindu*, the Naga talks have hit rough weather as the NSCN-IM has demanded that he be removed from the position.

The NSCN claimed that the word 'new' is politically sensitive as it goes to define the meaning of peaceful co-existence of the two entities (two sovereign powers) and it strongly indicates outside the purview of the Constitution.

The NSCN-IM, one of the largest Naga groups, signed a framework agreement on August 3, 2015 to end the decades old issue.

The NSCN claimed that the word 'new' is politically sensitive as it goes to define the meaning of peaceful co-existence of the two entities (two sovereign powers) and it strongly indicates outside the purview of the Constitution.

The NSCN-IM, one of the largest Naga groups, signed a framework agreement on August 3, 2015 to end the decades old issue.

The NSCN claimed that the word 'new' is politically sensitive as it goes to define the meaning of peaceful co-existence of the two entities (two sovereign powers) and it strongly indicates outside the purview of the Constitution.

The NSCN-IM, one of the largest Naga groups, signed a framework agreement on August 3, 2015 to end the decades old issue.

The NSCN claimed that the word 'new' is politically sensitive as it goes to define the meaning of peaceful co-existence of the two entities (two sovereign powers) and it strongly indicates outside the purview of the Constitution.

The NSCN-IM, one of the largest Naga groups, signed a framework agreement on August 3, 2015 to end the decades old issue.

The NSCN claimed that the word 'new' is politically sensitive as it goes to define the meaning of peaceful co-existence of the two entities (two sovereign powers) and it strongly indicates outside the purview of the Constitution.

The NSCN-IM, one of the largest Naga groups, signed a framework agreement on August 3, 2015 to end the decades old issue.

The NSCN claimed that the word 'new' is politically sensitive as it goes to define the meaning of peaceful co-existence of the two entities (two sovereign powers) and it strongly indicates outside the purview of the Constitution.

The NSCN-IM, one of the largest Naga groups, signed a framework agreement on August 3, 2015 to end the decades old issue.

The NSCN claimed that the word 'new' is politically sensitive as it goes to define the meaning of peaceful co-existence of the two entities (two sovereign powers) and it strongly indicates outside the purview of the Constitution.

The NSCN-IM, one of the largest Naga groups, signed a framework agreement on August 3, 2015 to end the decades old issue.

The NSCN claimed that the word 'new' is politically sensitive as it goes to define the meaning of peaceful co-existence of the two entities (two sovereign powers) and it strongly indicates outside the purview of the Constitution.

The NSCN-IM, one of the largest Naga groups, signed a framework agreement on August 3, 2015 to end the decades old issue.

The NSCN claimed that the word 'new' is politically sensitive as it goes to define the meaning of peaceful co-existence of the two entities (two sovereign powers) and it strongly indicates outside the purview of the Constitution.

The NSCN-IM, one of the largest Naga groups, signed a framework agreement on August 3, 2015 to end the decades old issue.

The NSCN claimed that the word 'new' is politically sensitive as it goes to define the meaning of peaceful co-existence of the two entities (two sovereign powers) and it strongly indicates outside the purview of the Constitution.

The NSCN-IM, one of the largest Naga groups, signed a framework agreement on August 3, 2015 to end the decades old issue.

The NSCN claimed that the word 'new' is politically sensitive as it goes to define the meaning of peaceful co-existence of the two entities (two sovereign powers) and it strongly indicates outside the purview of the Constitution.

The NSCN-IM, one of the largest Naga groups, signed a framework agreement on August 3, 2015 to end the decades old issue.

The NSCN claimed that the word 'new' is politically sensitive as it goes to define the meaning of peaceful co-existence of the two entities (two sovereign powers) and it strongly indicates outside the purview of the Constitution.

The NSCN-IM, one of the largest Naga groups, signed a framework agreement on August 3, 2015 to end the decades old issue.

The NSCN claimed that the word 'new' is politically sensitive as it goes to define the meaning of peaceful co-existence of the two entities (two sovereign powers) and it strongly indicates outside the purview of the Constitution.

The NSCN-IM, one of the largest Naga groups, signed a framework agreement on August 3, 2015 to end the decades old issue.

The NSCN claimed that the word 'new' is politically sensitive as it goes to define the meaning of peaceful co-existence of the two entities (two sovereign powers) and it strongly indicates outside the purview of the Constitution.

The NSCN-IM, one of the largest Naga groups, signed a framework agreement on August 3, 2015 to end the decades old issue.

The NSCN claimed that the word 'new' is politically sensitive as it goes to define the meaning of peaceful co-existence of the two entities (two sovereign powers) and it strongly indicates outside the purview of the Constitution.

The NSCN-IM, one of the largest Naga groups, signed a framework agreement on August 3, 2015 to end the decades old issue.

The NSCN claimed that the word 'new' is politically sensitive as it goes to define the meaning of peaceful co-existence of the two entities (two sovereign powers) and it strongly indicates outside the purview of the Constitution.

The NSCN-IM, one of the largest Naga groups, signed a framework agreement on August 3, 2015 to end the decades old issue.

The NSCN claimed that the word 'new' is politically sensitive as it goes to define the meaning of peaceful co-existence of the two entities (two sovereign powers) and it strongly indicates outside the purview of the Constitution.

The NSCN-IM, one of the largest Naga groups, signed a framework agreement on August 3, 2015 to end the decades old issue.

The NSCN claimed that the word 'new' is politically sensitive as it goes to define the meaning of peaceful co-existence of the two entities (two sovereign powers) and it strongly indicates outside the purview of the Constitution.

The NSCN-IM, one of the largest Naga groups, signed a framework agreement on August 3, 2015 to end the decades old issue.

The NSCN claimed that the word 'new' is politically sensitive as it goes to define the meaning of peaceful co-existence of the two entities (two sovereign powers) and it strongly indicates outside the purview of the Constitution.

The NSCN-IM, one of the largest Naga groups, signed a framework agreement on August 3, 2015 to end the decades old issue.

The NSCN claimed that the word 'new' is politically sensitive as it goes to define the meaning of peaceful co-existence of the two entities (two sovereign powers) and it strongly indicates outside the purview of the Constitution.

The NSCN-IM, one of the largest Naga groups, signed a framework agreement on August 3, 2015 to end the decades old issue.

The NSCN claimed that the word 'new' is politically sensitive as it goes to define the meaning of peaceful co-existence of the two entities (two sovereign powers) and it strongly indicates outside the purview of the Constitution.

The NSCN-IM, one of the largest Naga groups, signed a framework agreement on August 3, 2015 to end the decades old issue.

The NSCN claimed that the word 'new' is politically sensitive as it goes to define the meaning of peaceful co-existence of the two entities (two sovereign powers) and it strongly indicates outside the purview of the Constitution.

The NSCN-IM, one of the largest Naga groups, signed a framework agreement on August 3, 2015 to end the decades old issue.

The NSCN claimed that the word 'new' is politically sensitive as it goes to define the meaning of peaceful co-existence of the two entities (two sovereign powers) and it strongly indicates outside the purview of the Constitution.

The NSCN-IM, one of the largest Naga groups, signed a framework agreement on August 3, 2015 to end the decades old issue.

The NSCN claimed that the word 'new' is politically sensitive as it goes to define the meaning of peaceful co-existence of the two entities (two sovereign powers) and it strongly indicates outside the purview of the Constitution.

The NSCN-IM, one of the largest Naga groups, signed a framework agreement on August 3, 2015 to end the decades old issue.

The NSCN claimed that the word 'new' is politically sensitive as it goes to define the meaning of peaceful co-existence of the two entities (two sovereign powers) and it strongly indicates outside the purview of the Constitution.

The NSCN-IM, one of the largest Naga groups, signed a framework agreement on August 3, 2015 to end the decades old issue.

The NSCN claimed that the word 'new' is politically sensitive as it goes to define the meaning of peaceful co-existence of the two entities (two sovereign powers) and it strongly indicates outside the purview of the Constitution.

The NSCN-IM, one of the largest Naga groups, signed a framework agreement on August 3, 2015 to end the decades old issue.

The NSCN claimed that the word 'new' is politically sensitive as it goes to define the meaning of peaceful co-existence of the two entities (two sovereign powers) and it strongly indicates outside the purview of the Constitution.

The NSCN-IM, one of the largest Naga groups, signed a framework agreement on August 3, 2015 to end the decades old issue.

The NSCN claimed that the word 'new' is politically sensitive as it goes to define the meaning of peaceful co-existence of the two entities (two sovereign powers) and it strongly indicates outside the purview of the Constitution.

The NSCN-IM, one of the largest Naga groups, signed a framework agreement on August 3, 2015 to end the decades old issue.

# Better by far

The 2020 Tata Nexon facelift boasts an improvement in perceived quality as well as overall fit and finish

SHAPUR KOTWAL

The 2020 Tata Nexon facelift is far more thorough and comprehensive than most. Not only has the front end been heavily revised to give it a completely new look, but the upgrade to BS6 has been accompanied by a power bump for the 1.2-litre turbo-petrol engine. So just what is the updated Nexon like?

The bonnet is now flatter and taller while the grille, headlamps and front bumper are new. Tata has done away with the 'ceramic' highlights on the nose though they still feature on the sides and round the back. The C-pillars have been blacked out and the Union Jack-like tail-lights are an interesting design detail. Also, in an effort to make it look wider, the rear bumper gets faux vents at the bottom.

The cabin is more familiar. The design of the dash, with the free-standing touchscreen, is carried over, and with the neatly executed chrome-lined vents, it works well too. The sporty, flat-bottomed steering wheel is new, and the instrument cluster is now a digital LCD panel.

While the build of the dashboard feels tough, the small but-



**Cruise control** Patchy roads and potholes don't faze the Nexon

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

tons function well and perceived quality is a step up, attention to detail could be better. Open the sliding, shuttered stowage area and the insides are still unclad and full of joints and sharp edges, but the umbrella holders in the doors are a nice touch.

Up front, the seats are wide, placed at a good height and there is a fair amount of space in the footwell. The seats are also well fin-

ished, and what makes the cabin feel airy is the inclusion of the new sunroof.

Legroom is sufficient and headroom is good for six-footers, despite the slight drop in the roof lining.

Moving to the equipment, new features on the Nexon includes new LED DRLs, ESP, traction control, roll-over mitigation and brake assist as standard, auto wipers, auto headlights and a tyre pressure monitoring system.

The new Nexon also gets Tata's IRA connected-car tech and included in the software suite is the

## 2020 TATA NEXON TURBO-PETROL SPECIFICATIONS

ENGINE	1199cc, 3 cyl, turbo-petrol
MAX POWER	120hp at 5500rpm
MAX TORQUE	170Nm at 1750-4000rpm
GEARBOX	6-speed manual
TANK SIZE	44 litres
WHEELBASE	2498mm
GROUND CLEARANCE	209mm
BOOT CAPACITY	350 litres

'what3words' navigational aid. Both the instrument panel and the touchscreen could have been brighter; try to reverse on a bright day and it is difficult to see obstacles on the screen.

Tata's 1.2 turbo-petrol may be a three-cylinder engine, but the only time you can really tell is when you fire it up. Tap the accelerator and it immediately settles down, with refinement levels improving as you press on. The new intake and exhaust manifolds mean it is not quite as throaty anymore, but it has a nice enough snarl at high revs.

The throttle response at low speeds, though, feels snatchy and there are distinct flat spots in the power delivery. The engine has clearly been calibrated with fuel efficiency as a priority, judging by the abrupt 'tip-in' and 'tip-out' for the

three drive modes are also well defined. Eco is actually quite useable and not terminally frustrating, and Sport does give you an extra kick.

While the overall performance is more than acceptable, Tata's BS6 petrol engine still lacks the sophistication and capability of the new breed of turbo-petros.

Coming to the ride, the Nexon excels over broken roads. Stability is great, and you can carry a fair amount of speed over bad patches and gravel roads. There is a hint of stiffness over regular roads, but the Nexon rounds off most bumps nicely.

There is lots to like about the new Nexon – it feels tough, with an improvement in perceived quality and the overall fit and finish. Also, with Nexon prices ranging from ₹6.95 lakh to ₹11.20 lakh for the petrol version, it is still terrific value for money.

If you just love the design and are looking for a tough, yet comfortable compact SUV that won't break the bank, the new 2020 Tata Nexon should be high up on your shortlist.

## Tata Motors introduces subscription plans for Nexon EV

In operation in Delhi-NCR, Mumbai, Pune, Bengaluru



**User friendly** Various subscription plans help make the process easier for customers

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Tata Motors, in partnership with Orix India, has introduced subscription plans for its electric SUV, the Nexon EV.

The plans have been introduced in Delhi-NCR, Mumbai, Pune, Bengaluru and Hyderabad, with a choice of three tenures – 18 months, 2 years and 3 years. Customers can only opt for the Nexon EV in its mid-spec XZ+ trim.

Customers are required to pay a refundable security deposit of ₹50,000 at the time of subscribing to the Nexon EV, before paying fixed monthly fees depending on the plan selected – ₹48,000 for 18 months, ₹45,000 for 2 years and ₹42,000 for 3 years. Putting it in perspective, the shortest tenure would total ₹8.64 lakh, while the 3-year tenure will see a user shell out ₹15.12 lakh – a little more than the ex-showroom cost of the Nexon XZ+.

Orix will also provide a home charger with up to 15 metres of wiring and take care of routine services. Subscribers are allowed to rack up a maximum of 1,500km per month with additional kilometres chargeable at ₹7/km. Total annual usage is capped at 18,000km. In case the user wants to drive to a remote location where charging may be unavailable, Orix will provide a 30% discount on a self-drive, internal combustion engine vehicle.

### Minimum of 18 months

The Nexon EV has a minimum lock-in period of 18 months for the subscription with Orix levying a cancellation charge on returning the vehicle before completion of the lock-in period. The cancellation charge is equivalent to a month's subscription fee, as well as 25 percentage of the pending subscription fees until the completion of the tenure. On request, Orix will also provide a user the option of buying the Nexon EV they're using, outright.

The electric SUV comes equipped with a 30.2kWh lithium-ion battery pack paired with an electric motor that makes 129hp and 245Nm of torque.

The e-SUV has a claimed range of 312km on a single charge and can be charged from 0-80% in just 1 hour via a DC fast-charger (compatible with CCS2). Using a standard 15A AC charger, it will take between 8-9 hours to reach full charge.

## Taking it up a notch

With the switch from a carburettor to a fuel-injection system, the Jupiter is 15% more fuel-efficient than the model it replaced

PIROZE IRANI

The scooter market in India has evolved quite a bit in recent years. Back when the Jupiter was launched in 2013, it was considered to be a premium scooter. Now though, it sits in the affordable 110cc space, while its larger sibling, the Ntorq, takes on the premium 125cc segment. Nonetheless, the Jupiter's mass-market appeal continues to put it at the top of TVS' sales chart. In its latest avatar, the scooter meets BS6 emission norms and here is what is different.

If you missed the little decal that says BS6 on the exhaust shield, you will have a hard time telling this scooter apart from the 2019 model. The model we rode was the standard Jupiter and it sits below the ZX and Classic in the range; its styling and colours remain unchanged. The top-spec Classic, meanwhile, features a new shade of blue. What is nice is that the design has aged quite well and the simple sharp lines on the boxy bodywork still looks contemporary. While we understand the philosophy of not fixing something that is not broken, it would have been nice to at least see small styling tweaks.

The Jupiter's standard var-



### BS6 TVS JUPITER SPECIFICATIONS

Ex-showroom, Delhi -	₹62,062-68,562
ENGINE	109.7cc, fuel-injected, single-cylinder
MAX POWER	7.3hp at 7000rpm
MAX TORQUE	8.4Nm at 5500rpm
WEIGHT	109kg
WHEELBASE	1275mm
GROUND CLEARANCE	150mm
FRONT SUSPENSION	- Telescopic fork
REAR SUSPENSION	- Monoshock
FRONT WHEEL	- 12-inch
FRONT TYRE	90/90-12
REAR WHEEL	- 12-inch
REAR TYRE	90-12

iant is quite bare-boned, but what it does get over the older model is an LED headlight. While the ZX and Classic get the USB charger, it is an optional extra on the standard variant. The standard model also misses out on the digital-analogue speedometer that's exclusive to the ZX, as well as the windspeed that is only available on the Classic variant.

The biggest change is that



### Improving perfection

Externally, there is not much to tell the Jupiter apart from the earlier model

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

the Jupiter has made the switch from a carburettor to a fuel-injection system. The Jupiter's system targets fuel economy and the company claims it is 15% more efficient than the model it replaced. In our tests, the BS6 Jupiter returned 50.4kpl in the city and 57.6kpl on the highway. While those numbers are impressive, the 2020 Suzuki Access 125 remains the most efficient BS6 scooter we have tested.

The BS6 Jupiter accelerates from 0 to 60kph in 10.24sec. This figure is quite decent when you consider that the fuel-injected model now makes 0.5hp less, while peak torque remains the same, at 8.4Nm. The TVS also has a competitive kerb weight figure of 109kg.

It has to be said that the Jupiter doesn't feel lethargic. The throttle response is spot on and, going by memory, the Jupiter seems to build speeds more energetically than its primary rival, the Activa 6G.

However, we can only confirm this when we ride the two back to back.

One of the Jupiter's biggest

USPs were its 12-inch wheels and these continue to inspire a lot of confidence. The scooter feels quite stable even when you have it pinned at 80kph. Like the model it replaced, the ride quality is pliant even over bad patches. What also helps with comfort is the soft and spacious seat, and because the ergonomics remain the same, the Jupiter is one of the most comfortable 110cc scooters for taller folk.

It would have been nice to have a front disc brake as an optional extra on the 2020 Jupiter, but you have to make do with the drum brake setup at both ends. While the Synchronised Braking Technology (SBT) system works quite well, the braking force is limited by the drum brakes and you will also have to periodically tighten the adjustment bolt. Overall performance is acceptable, but not particularly good.

### Should I buy one?

Prices for the BS6 TVS Jupiter start at ₹62,062 for the standard model and go up to ₹68,562 for the top-spec Classic (ex-showroom, Delhi). This positions the standard model at ₹3,000 less than the base variant of the Activa 6G. Both scooters are neck and neck, as far as equipment is concerned, but the Jupiter does have a slight advantage with its larger rear wheel. The engine, coupled with the fuel-injection system, is also hard to fault. As a package, the 2020 TVS Jupiter continues to tick all the right boxes, but the Activa is now a stronger rival and only a comparison review can offer clear answers.

Within the Jupiter family, we would recommend opting for the standard model because the higher-spec variants fall in the price bracket of more powerful 125cc scooters, like the Hero Destini 125 and Suzuki Access 125 in standard trim.

### To buy a Tiago or not

I currently own a Maruti Suzuki Celerio but am looking to buy a Tata Tiago. Please let me know if this is a sound decision?

Abhishek Ballaney

• The Tata Tiago is a good replacement for your Maruti Suzuki Celerio. Some interior parts in the Tiago are of better quality, it has more features, and the sound system is one of the best in its segment. Do keep in mind that its engine performance and efficiency won't be as good as the Maruti's, but that aside, the Tiago is a very likeable package.

### Looking to upgrade

I currently own a 2004 Hyundai Santro and am looking to upgrade to a premium hatchback or compact SUV. I want a car that is safe, reliable and low maintenance. I have a budget of ₹15 lakh and drive roughly 20km a week. The car will primarily be used by me and my parents. Please advise.

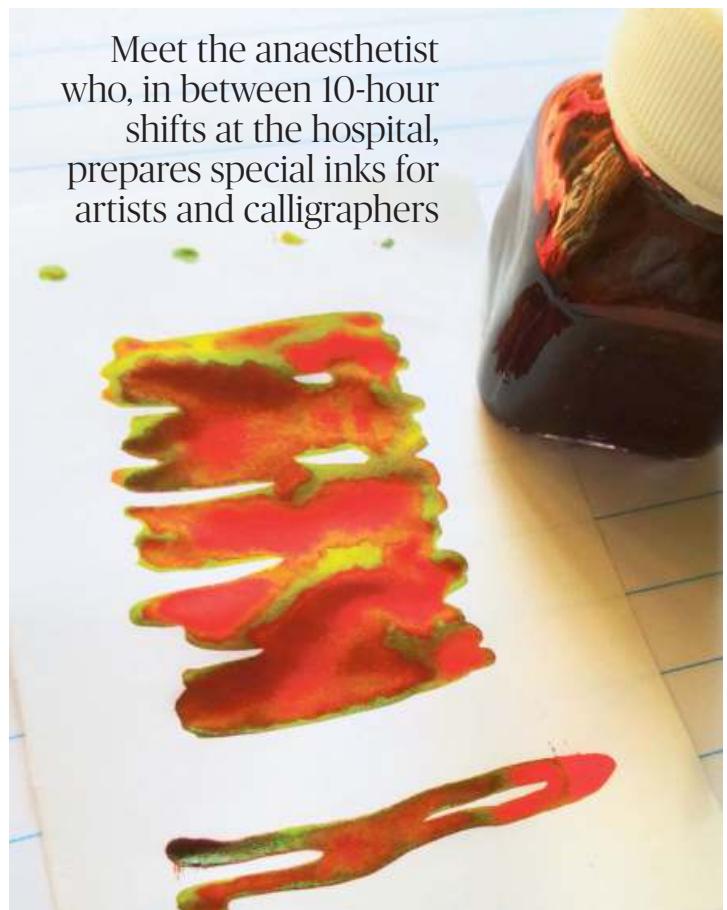
Kamatchi Mayilvahanan

• With a budget of ₹15 lakh, you could consider the 1.5-litre petrol variants of the Kia Seltos or even the Hyundai Creta. If you want something a bit more compact yet premium, the Mahindra XUV300 petrol might just convince you. It is safe, offers decent performance, is adequately spacious and it will easily fit into your budget. Alternatively, you could consider the Tata Nexon.

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

# The doctor who makes ink

Meet the anaesthetist who, in between 10-hour shifts at the hospital, prepares special inks for artists and calligraphers



SWETA AKUNDI

There are days Dr Sreekumar's patients and colleagues know exactly what he has been up to at home, with one look at his fingers. "Green today, doctor?" they ask, glancing at the ink stains on his palms.

An anaesthetist Dr Sreekumar makes inks, ink pens and shapes nibs in the balcony-turned workspace at his Palakkad home. Since 2010, he has been selling his inks



bleach-proof.

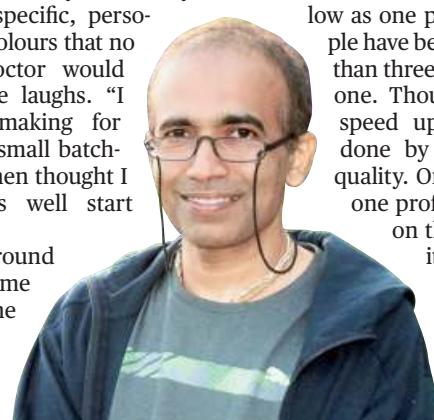
Though his day job requires nearly 10 hours of work at times, especially during the pandemic, he makes sure to give at least two hours to ink making and research every day. Sitting next to his handheld wooden lathe machine, he fine-tunes nibs to suit them for calligraphy, and mixes the colouring pigment and dyes with solvents. After letting the ink filter overnight, he prepares two litres daily for each of the 50 shades. Then, his wife and a staff member help fill the finished inks in pots, to be dispatched.

## A journey in colour

"When we were young, we would only be allowed to write in two colours on notebooks: black or blue," says the inkmaker-doctor. But Sreekumar's world had always known rainbow colours; as a boy in Thrissur, he grew up watching his artist grandfather, paint. The interest in paints took hold then.

"My grandfather was also an art teacher, and I'd go to his studio when he was working. He had all sorts of German-made colour dyes there, which I borrowed for making ink," he says. When he turned 15, he started making his own ink, without relying on his grandfather's dyes. "Later, while doing my MD I found that many doctors were interested in my inks. They wanted specific, personalised colours that no other doctor would have," he laughs. "I started making for them in small batches, but then thought I might as well start selling!"

So, around the same time he started selling his products



Dipped in passion Dr Sreekumar (below) prepares two litres of ink daily for 50 shades

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

on eBay, he marched into the legendary pen shop Kim and Co in Kozhikode and requested to meet the penmaker AC Ramachandran. Ramachandran has been mentoring Dr Sreekumar since.

## The craft of it

"There are three main ingredients to ink making: the dye or pigment, water and, solvent which is a trade secret. Your solvent determines the properties of your ink, whether it can be water resistant or soluble, what kind of paper it can be used on and so on," says Dr Sreekumar.

He goes on to explain the different types that can be made. "Your ink can have sheening, which means it changes hues after drying. If you write with a blue base, after drying it will have a red hue. If the base is black, the hue will be golden. Then there is document ink, which is not washable; you can't even bleach it. For calligraphy, there's shading ink, which starts with a light shade and ends in a darker shade of the same colour."

The man whose inks are now sold, through Penworld, in 21 countries, still remembers his first pen in Class IV: "It was a green-coloured Bismi fountain pen and the second was a Jubilee. For the all-important Class X exams, we upgraded to Hero."

He infact, remembers his life in pens. Flair in MBBS, Camlin Mini Eye dropper and a Rotomac C during his MD days, he recounts, were his mainstays.

Now, due to his hectic schedule, he feels he does not devote enough time to pen making. "The production of these handmade pens is as low as one per month and people have been waiting for more than three years to get hold of one. Though I am trying to speed up, nothing can be done by compromising on quality. One day I might stop one profession to get a grip on the other. Or maybe it will go on like this till the end. Lord Krishna decides everything."

Dr Sreekumar can be reached at 9847637771



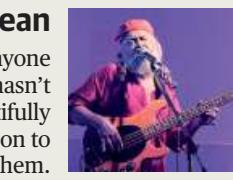
## HOMING IN

In this week's **Playlist**, post modern rock band Aswekeepsearching's bassist **Robert Alex** recalls the songs that charted India's love affair with the indie rock scene

SWETA AKUNDI

### 'Bandeh' by Indian Ocean

I don't think I've come across anyone with an interest in rock who hasn't heard this song. This is a beautifully written song that has gone on to become an anthem.



### 'Voice' by Pentagram

This one became so popular among audiences, that because of it people started delving into the band. It is a

catchy, motivational song that will pump you up within the first listen. The music video was original for its time – they had gotten people from across the country to send in videos of them singing the lyrics and had patched it together.

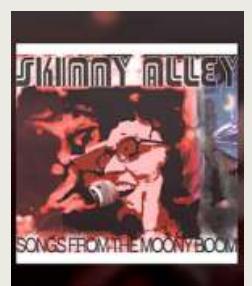


### 'Shaam Tanha' by Agnee

'Shaam Tanha' is soulful and calming. Agnee is an established band, which made quite an impact on their audiences in its time. With talented musicians, it was one of the first few bands – like Indian Ocean – that made music with Hindi lyrics, yet did not sound like the Hindi music we were accustomed to. Back then, Hindi meant Bollywood music, something you're supposed to dance to. And then suddenly there comes Agni's 'Shaam Tanha', a stark difference. It was not like, 'Wow, I love this!' on the first listen. Rather, it was like, 'Wow, this is different, I need to listen to it again.'

### 'Nada, Nada' by Avial

A beautiful song by a beautiful band that composes music entirely in Malayalam. It showed me that language is not a barrier in music. I am from Kerala but I don't speak much Malayalam, and I couldn't understand anything in this song. But that really didn't matter, if anything it made me more curious. I read the translation of the lyrics to understand what the song is talking about, and found out that the vibe I got from it was accurate. For any good band, the emotions are translated through the musicality.



### 'Only Human' by Skinny Alley

Skinny Alley, which also went by the alias Pink Noise, was from Kolkata. This particular sound was not mainstream, but with more upbeat jazz and punk. It was not the sound you expect from a rock band. The instrumentation was more on the technical side, and the more I heard it, the more I wanted to listen to other bands in this realm of music.

(We would love to know how you are keeping busy at home. Tell us what you are listening to at metro@thehindu.co.in)

## It's tough to gauge what is real on social media'

Actor Janhvi Kapoor and filmmaker Sharan Sharma discuss online trolls, misogyny and how Gunjan Saxena's relationship with her father is like that of Simba and Mufasa

KENNETH ROSARIO

Kapoor made her debut in 2018 with *Dhadak*, a Bollywood adaptation of the critically-acclaimed Marathi film, *Sairat*. Earlier this year, she acted in Zoya Akhtar's segment in the Netflix horror anthology film *Ghost Stories*. While her third appearance, *Gunjan Saxena: The Kargil Girl*, was made for the big screen, it was later acquired by Netflix for a direct-to-digital release, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. "Before this recent chatter started, there was a lot of encouragement on social media [for *Gunjan Saxena*], so I've seen the attitude shift on social media, and it's tough to gauge what is real and



High hopes: Filmmaker Sharan Sharma (left) and actor Janhvi Kapoor

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

what's not," says Kapoor. The actor says she challenges the criticism, even if they are unfounded, into enhancing her performances. In the film, she traverses the journey of Saxena from a 16-year-old enthusiast to a 25-

year-old professional. "When I had seen *Dhadak*, Janhvi was this innocent, pure and vulnerable person with big eyes. Someone who wanted to do a lot with her life but was a bit timid. I knew if we cast her as an Air

infrastructural support like women's changing rooms in the all-male Udhampur air force base. "Misogyny is, unfortunately, a part of all our daily lives," says Kapoor. "But the kind of sexism Gunjan ma'am faced or we depicted [in the film], I don't think I have experienced in my own life." In order to evoke emotions, Kapoor relied on her immediate environment on the sets and the support of Saxena, who she could rely on for feedback and insights. "As an actor, I don't derive from my personal memory bank, that's a different kind of approach. I prefer limiting my realm of reality to what's in front of

me and limiting it to the frame," she says.

Saxena's father, played by Pankaj Tripathi in the biopic, was integral to her success and enabled her to break the glass ceiling. "Getting the right actors to portray that energy was important," recalls Sharma. "Pankaj and Janhvi naturally formed that bond and she naturally idolises him and his work. Personally, for me, it was like the chemistry between Simba and Mufasa [in *The Lion King*], because there is mutual respect and understanding but they are not friends."

*Gunjan Saxena* is shot for a theatrical release, visuals and sounds of the fighter jets

in the film is an integral part of the experience. Is she nervous that those aspects may be diluted on a streaming platform? "Sharan told me, 'You don't realise how important sound is and it can make or break a scene'. So I'm hoping people have good sound systems or can connect to speakers," she laughs. "But if not, I still believe in the emotion of the film."

The pandemic has also disrupted her shooting schedule for *Dostana 2*, which she hopes will resume soon.

"Rooh Afza is ready but we are waiting to see how the [release] plays out in terms of the pandemic," says Kapoor.

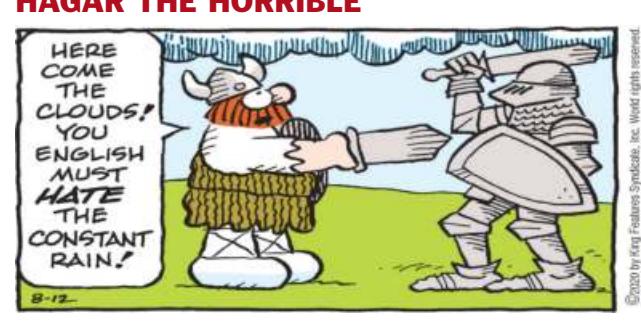
## POOCH CAFE



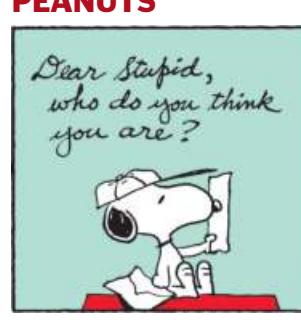
## PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



## PEANUTS



## TIGER



## CALVIN AND HOBBES



# China extends Hong Kong council's term

Decision comes after the elections were postponed; pro-democracy lawmakers want polls in Sept.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

BEIJING

Chinese lawmakers have extended the term of Hong Kong's Legislative Council by at least a year in order to deal with the vacuum left by postponing the city's elections, state media said on Tuesday.

Hong Kong's leader said in late July that local elections planned for September would be postponed because coronavirus cases had surged in the international finance hub, a move which infuriated democracy supporters and drew concern from Western governments.

The city's Legislative Council, known as LegCo, will continue to perform its duties "for no less than one year" until the term of the next council begins, reported Chinese state broadcaster CCTV – although the fate of four opposition lawmakers barred from seeking re-election remains unclear.

Beijing's top lawmaking body, the National People's Congress Standing Committee, had convened a four-day session on Saturday to dis-



**Waiting period:** A pro-democracy legislator being removed after a protest in the Legislative Council on June 4. ■ AFP

cuss whether to extend the term of the current Hong Kong legislature – which will expire on September 30 – or to appoint a new "transitionary body" to govern the semi-autonomous territory.

Election officials had earlier disqualified four pro-democracy legislators, saying their calls for foreign governments to impose sanctions on Beijing and Hong Kong violated the new national security law, which is criticised for eroding the city's politi-

cal freedoms.

Tam Yiu-chung, Hong Kong's sole representative in the top decision-making body of China's parliament, told AFP on Tuesday the resolution to extend the term of LegCo was passed unanimously.

However, the resolution did not mention how the 70 incumbent lawmakers would be handled, including four disqualified from running for re-election last month.

LegCo president Andrew Tam Yiu-chung, Hong Kong's sole representative in the top decision-making body of China's parliament, told AFP on Tuesday the resolution to extend the term of LegCo was passed unanimously.

He dismissed concerns that the resolution would technically allow the Hong Kong legislature, which has been dominated by Beijing loyalists, to work in unlimited extension instead of reshuffling members through election.

In Hong Kong, 42 pro-Beijing lawmakers issued a joint statement supporting the decision.

"The resolution reflects that the NPCSC fully considered the current special situation faced by Hong Kong society and respected the opinion of the Hong Kong government," the statement said.

They also called on "all

lawmakers who get to stay" to cooperate and ensure effective operation of the legislature.

Pro-democracy lawmakers, however, restated their opposition to the postponement of the election, charging that the vacuum was "fabricated" and that the submission to the National People's Congress was "unnecessary," superseding Hong Kong's constitutional system.

## Voting rights deprived'

"Around 4.5 million voters' rights to vote regularly have been deprived. The legislative council... will no longer be authorised by the people," they said in a statement.

Meanwhile, Hong Kongers rushed to buy pro-democracy newspaper *Apple Daily* on Tuesday in a show of support for its owner Jimmy Lai, who was arrested a day earlier as police rounded up critics of China.

A crackdown on dissent in Hong Kong has gathered pace since China imposed the security law in June, with opposition politicians disqualifed and activists arrested for social media posts.

Beijing trying to turn Taiwan into next HK'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

TAIPEI

China is trying to turn democratic Taiwan into another Hong Kong, the island's Foreign Minister warned on Tuesday as he met with a senior U.S. official making a historic diplomatic trip.

A crackdown on dissent in Hong Kong has caused alarm in Taiwan, a self-ruled island that Beijing claims as its own territory.

Foreign Minister Joseph Wu said Taiwan lives under the constant threat of having its freedoms taken away by China, during a rare meeting with U.S. Cabinet official Alex Azar in Taipei on Tuesday. "Our lives have become increasingly difficult as China continues to pressure Taiwan into accepting its political conditions, conditions that will turn Taiwan into the next Hong Kong," he said.

"The people of Taiwan are all too familiar with dealing with threats, be it military, diplomatic or the threats of epidemics."

# Vaccine forms strong immunity, says Putin

Experts raise concern over lack of trial



Vladimir Putin

to observe the vaccine's effect, are normally considered essential precursors for a vaccine to receive regulatory approval.

The Moscow-based Association of Clinical Trials Organizations (ACTO), a trade body representing the world's top drugmakers in Russia, this week urged the Ministry to postpone approval until that final trial had been successfully completed.

In a letter to the Ministry, it said there were high risks associated with registering a drug before that happened.

"It is during this phase that the main evidence of a vaccine's efficacy is collected, as well as information on adverse reactions that could appear in certain groups of patients: people with weakened immunity, people with concomitant diseases and so forth," it said.

Some international experts have also questioned the speed at which Russia approved its vaccine.

"Normally you need a large number of people to be tested before you approve a vaccine," said Peter Kremsner from the University Hospital in Tuebingen, Germany, currently testing CureVac's COVID-19 vaccine in clinical trials.

# Belarusian opposition leader flees abroad after clashes

Re-election of strongman President Alexander Lukashenko is contested

REUTERS

MINSK

Belarusian opposition leader Svetlana Tikhanouskaya said on Tuesday she had fled abroad for the sake of her children, after two nights of clashes following the contested re-election of strongman President Alexander Lukashenko.

Ms. Tikhanouskaya, a 37-year-old former English teacher, emerged from obscurity to mount the biggest



Svetlana Tikhanouskaya

challenge in years to Mr. Lukashenko, taking her husband's place in the campaign after he was jailed.

"You know, I thought that this whole campaign really had hardened me and given me so much strength that I could handle anything," she said, explaining her decision in a sombre video released on her husband's YouTube channel.

"But, probably, I'm still the weak woman I was in the

first place. I have made a very difficult decision for myself."

Both she and the Belarusian authorities said she had not been forced to leave.

There had been concern

about Ms. Tikhanouskaya's whereabouts after her campaign team said on Monday they had been unable to reach her by phone hours after she was known to have left a meeting with Central Election Commission officials.

By Tuesday morning, she had joined her children in Lithuania. The state border committee later confirmed her departure.

"And I know that many people will understand me, many will judge me and many will hate me. But, you know, God forbid being faced with

such a choice the I was faced with," she said.

"So, people, take care please - no life is worth what is happening now. Children are the most important thing in our lives."

Lithuanian Foreign Minister Linas Linkevicius said, "She apparently faced certain pressure and did not have much choice but to leave the country."

At least one person died as police clashed with protesters on Monday after the opposition accused Mr. Lukashenko of rigging the vote amid widespread criticism from

Western leaders.

Helmeted police fired tear gas, rubber bullets and stun grenades and used batons to disperse thousands of people in Minsk in a second night of violence. Protesters set up barricades in several areas and threw petrol bombs.

Local media reported clashes in other towns.

In power for more than a quarter of a century, Mr. Lukashenko has compared the protesters to criminal gangs and dangerous revolutionaries with shadowy foreign backers.

# + Lebanon govt. warned of explosives

PM, President were apprised of the risk posed by chemicals stored at port: report

REUTERS

BEIRUT

Lebanese security officials warned the Prime Minister and President last month that 2,750 tonnes of ammonium nitrate stored in Beirut's port posed a security risk and could destroy the capital if it exploded, according to documents seen by Reuters and senior security sources.

Just over two weeks later, the industrial chemicals went up in a massive blast that obliterated most of the port and swathes of the capital, killed at least 163 people, injured 6,000 and destroyed 6,000 buildings, according to municipal authorities.

A report by the General Directorate of State Security on events leading up to the explosion included a reference to a private letter sent



**Flashpoint:** Firecrackers thrown by protesters exploding in front of riot police in central Beirut on Monday. ■ AFP

to President Michel Aoun and Prime Minister Hassan Diab on July 20.

While the content of the letter was not in the report seen by Reuters, a senior security official said it summed up the findings of a judicial investigation launched in January which concluded the chemicals needed to be secured immediately.

The state security report, which confirmed the correspondence to the President and the Prime Minister, has not previously been reported.

## Risk of terror attack

"There was a danger that this material, if stolen, could be used in a terrorist attack," the official told Reuters.

"At the end of the investigation, Prosecutor General (Ghassan) Oweidat prepared a final report which was sent to the authorities," he said, referring to the letter sent to the prime minister and president by the General Directorate of State Security, which oversees port security.

"I warned them that this could destroy Beirut if it exploded," said the official, who was involved in writing the letter and declined to be named.

The presidency did not respond to requests for comment about the July 20 letter.

A representative for Mr. Diab, whose government resigned on Monday following the blast, said the PM received the letter on July 20 and it was sent to the Supreme Defence Council for advice within 48 hours.

# Virus back in New Zealand after 102 days

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

WELLINGTON

New Zealand's dream run of 102 days without locally transmitted COVID-19 ended on Tuesday, prompting a stay-at-home lockdown order for the country's largest city.

After receiving global praise for successfully containing the virus, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said four cases had been detected in a single family in Auckland from an unknown source.

"After 102 days, we have our first cases of COVID-19 outside of managed isolation or quarantine facilities... We have also planned and prepared for it," Ms. Ardern said.

People received an emergency text that said "if you are in Auckland STAY HOME... and SAVE LIVES".

Mr. Sullivan said the man had claimed he was armed,

# Trump leaves media event after + man is shot near White House

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON

A uniformed Secret Service officer shot and wounded a man during a confrontation near the White House that led to President Donald Trump being abruptly escorted out of a briefing room during a televised news conference Monday, authorities said.

The White House complex was not breached and no one under Secret Service protection was in danger, said Tom Sullivan, chief of the Secret Service Uniformed Division.

The name of the man, 51, and his condition were not released by Mr. Sullivan. The District of Columbia fire department said the man suffered serious or possibly critical injuries.

Mr. Sullivan said the man had claimed he was armed,



Donald Trump

moved aggressively toward the officer, and appeared ready to fire before the officer shot him once. Mr. Sullivan did not address whether the man had indeed been armed.

Law enforcement officials were trying to determine a motive and authorities were investigating whether the man had a history of mental illness.

Mr. Trump had just begun a briefing on the COVID-19

situation when a Secret Service agent escorted him from the briefing room. The President returned minutes later, saying there had been a "shooting" outside the White House that was "under control."

"There was an actual shooting and somebody's been taken to the hospital," he said. The President said law enforcement had fired the shots and he believed the individual who was shot was armed. "It was the suspect who was shot," he said.

Mr. Trump said the agent had escorted him to the Oval Office. The White House was placed on lockdown following the incident.

An internal review of the shooting by the Secret Service was under way, and the Metropolitan Police Department was also investigating, a standard protocol.

# Monsoon rain kills 58 in Pakistan

ASSOCIATED PRESS

KARACHI

Three days of heavy monsoon rain that triggered flash floods killed at least 58 people in various parts of Pakistan. Troops with boats were rushed on Sunday to evacuate people from flood-affected districts in the country's southern Sindh and southwestern Baluchistan provinces.

According to Pakistan's National Disaster Management Authority, 19 people were killed in rain-related incidents in the northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, 12 in southern Sindh province, eight in Punjab province and 10 in the country's scenic northern Gilgit-Baltistan region in the past three days.

Rain also partially damaged about 100 homes.

## ELSEWHERE



### Despite virus surge, U.K. schools are reopening

EDINBURGH

Scottish children went back to school for the first time in five months on Tuesday as leaders across Britain try to kickstart a return to education despite a resurgence in coronavirus cases. Pupils will not be required to wear face masks or maintain distancing. ■ AFP

### At least 81 people killed in South Sudan clashes

Juba

At least 81 people have been killed in the South Sudan's Warrap State following heavy fighting between armed civilians and government forces carrying out a disarmament exercise over the weekend, the military's spokesman Lul Ruai Koang said on Tuesday. ■ AFP



**Casting a spell:** Anti-government protesters taking part in a Harry Potter-themed rally in Bangkok last week. ■ GETTY IMAGES

Benjamaporn Nivas, 15, hardly looks like a rebel. But she is on the forefront of a youth revolt in Thailand against the powerful military's influence in schools and society in general. Earlier this year, students began protesting strict school rules imposed by past military regimes, such as requiring boys to wear crew cuts and girls to crop their hair at their earlobes.

The protests have since grown, taking on graver issues like the disappearance of Thai dissidents. For weeks now, thousands of students, many dressed in demure school uniforms or as pop

culture icons (like a Japanese animated hamster), have staged rallies across the country, urging the armed forces and their allies to withdraw from politics and respect human rights.

What other countries have these kinds of rules, unless they are dictatorships like North Korea?" said Ms. Benjamaporn, referring to the hair regulations. "They want us to be like robots."

Thailand may project an image of a relaxed holiday

destination, where sun, surf and sex intermingle in hedonistic indulgence. But the country is also bound by martial traditions that critics – particularly younger ones – say promote subservience and glorify hierarchies that are ill-suited to modern life.

The Prime Minister, Prayuth Chan-ocha, is a former Army chief who orchestrated a military coup in 2014, the

**MARKET WATCH**

	PRICE	CHANGE
Sensex	38,407	-0.59
US Dollar	74.78	0.16
Gold	54,763	-2.42
Brent oil	45.50	1.31

**NIFTY 50**

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	335.00	3.70
Asian Paints	1789.55	7.20
Axist Bank	448.00	16.90
Bajaj Auto	3007.45	13.65
Bajaj Finserv	6440.35	37.55
Bajaj Finance	3457.40	14.45
Bharti Airtel	551.10	-7.75
BPCL	429.25	14.10
Britannia Ind	3879.55	-63.25
Cipla	778.00	-17.60
Coal India	130.10	0.85
Dr Reddys Lab	4595.90	-95.00
Eicher Motors	2142.65	89.55
GAIL (India)	97.30	0.25
Grasim Ind	624.25	-9.80
HCL Tech	683.80	-8.25
HDFC	1826.75	27.80
HDFC Bank	1066.65	16.00
HDFC Life	608.75	-0.10
Hero MotoCorp	2712.85	10.70
Hindalco	178.95	0.35
Hind Unilever	2210.65	3.90
ICICI Bank	367.35	3.80
IndusInd Bank	522.00	12.65
Bharti Infratel	194.30	-2.70
Infosys	948.45	-2.90
Indian Oil Corp	87.05	-0.05
ITC	203.05	4.20
JSW Steel	253.75	8.55
Kotak Bank	1364.60	4.40
L&T	961.90	1.85
M&M	629.55	0.65
Maruti Suzuki	6649.20	40.30
Nestle India Ltd.	16622.80	-42.95
NTPC	88.25	0.05
ONGC	78.45	-0.60
PowerGrid Corp	176.85	-0.40
Reliance Ind	2133.80	13.95
State Bank	195.05	1.25
Shree Cement	21551.60	-484.80
Sun Pharma	541.05	-2.80
Tata Motors	122.30	-1.55
Tata Steel	416.45	6.25
TCS	2279.90	-2.90
Tech Mahindra	674.80	-7.05
Titan	1066.25	-41.30
UltraTech Cement	3968.75	0.40
UPL	481.90	-12.40
Wipro	279.65	2.25
Zee Entertainment	159.75	17.87
	53.55	53.79

EXCHANGE RATES		
Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on August 11		
CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar.....	74.57	74.89
Euro.....	87.96	88.36
British Pound.....	97.74	98.17
Japanese Yen (100).....	70.29	70.59
Chinese Yuan.....	10.74	10.79
Swiss Franc.....	81.75	82.10
Singapore Dollar.....	54.39	54.63
Canadian Dollar.....	56.11	56.36
Malaysian Ringgit.....	17.78	17.87
Australian Dollar.....	53.55	53.79

Source: Indian Bank

**IN BRIEF**



**Dr. Reddy's starts U.S. sales of generic Ciprofloxacin**  
HYDERABAD  
Pharma major Dr. Reddy's Laboratories has introduced Ciprofloxacin 0.3% and Dexamethasone 0.1% Otic Suspension, USP, in the U.S. market. A therapeutic equivalent generic version of Bayer AG's Ciprofloxacin, the product is indicated for treatment of ear infections. A first-to-market generic product, Dr. Reddy's said the launch follows USFDA nod.

**Hyundai sells 5 lakh Creta SUVs in India**

CHENNAI  
South Korean carmaker Hyundai Motor India Ltd. (HMIL), has sold five lakh Creta SUVs in the domestic market. With this, Creta has reaffirmed its leadership in the SUV segment, said Tarun Garg, director (sales, marketing and service), HMIL. He said all the new Creta had been the best-selling SUV since May 2020. Further, it had received more than 65,000 bookings since its launch in March 2020.

**'Amazon, Flipkart may have done \$1 bn in sales'**

BENGALURU  
E-commerce players Amazon and Flipkart together would have easily done sales to the tune of over \$1 billion during their recent events – Amazon Prime Day/Freedom Sale and Flipkart Big Saving Days – as per a study by LocalCircles, a consumer network in Noida. About 79% of the consumers shopped online as they did not want to step out during the pandemic, while 43% felt discounts were good online.

**Bosch skids to a ₹120-cr. loss during first quarter**

BENGALURU  
Auto-parts maker Bosch Ltd. on Tuesday reported a consolidated net loss of ₹120 crore in the first quarter of FY21 compared with a net profit of ₹282 crore posted in the year-earlier period. Consolidated revenue from operations stood at ₹992 crore, declining 64% from the year-earlier period. The firm said COVID-19 adversely impacted sales across segments during the quarter.

**PC market declines 37%**

# Debt revamp to prolong banks' asset quality uncertainty: Fitch

'Scheme may be designed to give lenders more time to build capital buffers'

**REUTERS**  
MUMBAI

A one-time debt restructuring allowed by India's central bank to help lenders and borrowers amid the COVID-19 pandemic will prolong uncertainty about the banking sector's asset quality, Fitch Ratings said on Tuesday.

The central bank said last week it will allow restructuring of corporate and personal loans to ease debt strains on companies and lenders.

"The policy could open a window for banks to build capital buffers while putting off full recognition of the coronavirus pandemic's impact on loan portfolios, but is reminiscent of a strategy adopted over 2010-2016 that



**Risks ahead:** Indian banks are saddled with more than \$120 billion in bad loans. •REUTERS

delayed and exacerbated problems for the banks," Fitch said.

**Third worst**  
Indian banks are saddled with more than \$120 billion in bad loans and the sector is ranked the third-worst

among 13 major world economies in asset quality.

The central bank's experience with loan restructuring in the past hasn't been encouraging. In several instances the restructuring was used for evergreening of loans, a practice in which

banks provide additional loans to stressed borrowers, often indirectly, to enable them to repay existing loans.

Fitch said it believes that the scheme may be designed to give banks more time to raise capital, which remains challenging in the current environment, to address the impact of the crisis on loan portfolios.

The central bank has set up a committee to oversee restructuring plans involving creditors with more than ₹15 billion of debt, but that is likely to leave out lending to retail and small- and medium-sized firms, which Fitch said is likely to account for a substantial portion of future pandemic-linked asset quality stress.

## Axis Bank mops up ₹10,000 cr. through QIP

Issue got great response, says MD

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
MUMBAI

Private sector lender Axis Bank Ltd. has raised ₹10,000 crore through qualified institutional placement (QIP), the bank said.

"Despite a challenging macro-economic environment, the placement has witnessed strong reception from global and domestic investor community, including several large foreign portfolio investors, domestic mutual funds and insurance companies," it said.

"We have successfully closed our QIP of ₹10,000 crore," said Amitabh Chaudhary, MD & CEO, Axis Bank.

"We have received great

**HDFC raises ₹14,000 cr. via shares, NCDs**

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
MUMBAI

Housing Development Finance Corporation Ltd. (HDFC) has raised ₹14,000 crore through qualified institutional placement (QIP) of equity shares and non-convertible debentures (NCDs), it said in a filing.

It said ₹10,000 crore was raised through equity shares and ₹307.03 crore through warrants.

Besides, HDFC also raised ₹3,693 crore through the issue of redeemable, non-convertible debentures (NCDs), it said.

The proceeds will be used for general corporate purposes and financing business opportunities.

## SC ruling on daughters' rights, a wake-up call to family businesses

Failure to recognise their share may lead to litigation'

**SANJAY VIJAYAKUMAR**  
CHENNAI  
Some businesses have not been welcoming daughters in a traditional sense

**KAVIL RAMACHANDRAN,**  
Indian School of Business

open to recognising the rights of daughters. Otherwise, there is a possibility of them facing litigation claiming right in the wealth," Mr. Ramachandran added.

"The judgment further reinstates faith in the judicial system by making it loud and clear that daughters can no longer be deprived of their rights to ancestral property, no matter when they were born," Valli Arunachalam, Karta of MV Murugappa HUF, said.

Ms. Arunachalam has been fighting for a board seat at Ambadi Investments Ltd. (AIL), the holding company of the 119-year Murugappa Group. She has been demanding that female heirs be given equal opportunity in the family business, post her father M.V. Murugappa's demise in 2017.

He pointed out that some of the businesses have not been welcoming daughters in a traditional sense.

"The joint and large family businesses should be

issue in the case of families that refuse to acknowledge the rights of daughters as per the amendment," he added. The verdict will have an implication on traditional business families, according to Kavil Ramachandran, Thomas Schmidheiny chair professor of family business and wealth management at the Indian School of Business (ISB).

Ms. Arunachalam has been fighting for a board seat at Ambadi Investments Ltd. (AIL), the holding company of the 119-year Murugappa Group. She has been demanding that female heirs be given equal opportunity in the family business, post her father M.V. Murugappa's demise in 2017.

## PC market inflow surges to ₹91,392 cr.

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI

Mutual funds (MFs) focused on fixed-income securities witnessed a multi-fold surge in investment to ₹91,392 crore in July, with short-duration funds contributing a major chunk of the infusion.

Barring credit risk funds, all the individual categories that invest in fixed-income securities or debt funds saw inflows, data with the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) showed.

Given the current interest rate scenario, investors are largely focusing on fixed income categories having a relatively shorter duration profile.

According to the data, MFs that invest in fixed-income securities saw an inflow of ₹91,392 crore in July compared with ₹2,862 crore inflow in June.

## Pandemic to hasten investment in building supply chain resilience'

Firms must avoid complacency, overspending, say experts



not, MIT Deputy Director Jim B. Rice said disruptions mainly lead to a loss of capacity to acquire materials, move products, communicate, conduct internal operations, requisition human resources, access funds and distribute products to customers and consumers.

Pointing out that the disruption due to COVID-19 was

quite distinct, he expected to see an increased focus on resilience post pandemic. And while such efforts had already been underway since 9/11, Mr. Rice said the process would be accelerated, with a shift towards risk balancing the supply chain also on account of the trade war.

Director of IIM Udaipur Janat P. Shah said the geopolitical situation had already triggered the changes towards making supply chains resilient.

In building more resilience, companies need to ensure against wasteful investment and ask themselves whether the customer will pay for the resilience that was built, he said.

## Tighter norms to keep bank loan rejig under check: ICRA

Lower slippages to reduce capital requirements of lenders

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
MUMBAI

Relatively tighter norms could lead to loan restructuring of only about 5-8% of the overall loan book of banks, credit rating agency ICRA said on Tuesday.

Stating that regulations such as eligibility of only SMA-0 (special mention accounts-0) borrowers as on March 1, 2020, independent credit assessment of the resolution plans (RP) and a higher upfront provisioning requirements would come into play, ICRA said the proportion of loans under moratorium is expected to decline to 10-15% of the overall system-wide loans by end of Q2 FY21 from about 10-60% levels across various lenders during moratorium phase II.

The system-wide SMA-1 and SMA-2 stood at 6% of the loan book of the banks as on March 31, 2020, and ICRA said a large portion of these loans are expected to be part of the moratorium loan book and will be

# PSG looks to Neymar

Brazilian ready to fire the side past Atalanta

**O**PSG has never won a match against an Italian opponent in the Champions League (CL) in six attempts, drawing four and losing two. It has also never kept a clean sheet against Italian sides.

**1** Atalanta is the first Italian debutant, since Lazio in the 1999/00 season, to reach the CL quarterfinals.

**3** Atalanta has scored at least three goals in its last three CL fixtures.

**6** PSG has kept six clean sheets in the CL this term, more than any other club left in this season's competition.

## The battle begins

The climactic phase of the Champions League kicks off on Wednesday. A look at how PSG and Atalanta, who meet in the opening quarterfinal, stack up



I think I'm having my best time since I came to Paris

NEYMAR

25 Years since PSG last made it to the CL semifinals. It had lost 3-0 to AC Milan in the last-four stage in the 1994/95 season

COMPILATION BY ANANTAAJITH RA.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
LISBON

Paris Saint-Germain has once again been hit by a flood of injuries going into a crunch Champions League knockout tie, but this time Neymar is fit and seemingly ready to live up to his status as the world's most expensive player.

PSG faces Atalanta on Wednesday in the first quarterfinal of the 'Final Eight'.

There will be no fans in the Estadio da Luz, but the French champion coped just fine behind closed doors when it beat Borussia Dortmund in its last-16, second leg in March.

That night Neymar scored the opener in a 2-0 win as it

overturned a first-leg deficit.

After the game, the Brazilian sat on a step high up in the stands at the Parc des Princes and shed tears of joy. After all, his first two seasons in Paris following his 222 million-euro (\$264 million) transfer from Barcelona were marred by injuries at the worst possible moments.

Neymar seems to be in fine shape to lead his team as it looks to progress to the CL semifinals for the first time since the Qatari takeover in 2011.

The other superstar forward, Kylian Mbappe, battles to shake off an ankle injury.

Atalanta reached the last eight winning 8-4 on aggregate against Valencia.

ed while Edinson Cavani left at the end of June when his contract expired.

But as long as Neymar is fit, PSG will remain hopeful.

### Emotional Atalanta

Meanwhile, Atalanta is playing with anger in its eyes and pain in its heart and that emotion could help propel the team from Bergamo beyond expectations.

The small city of Bergamo saw more than 6,000 people die due to COVID-19.

The Atalanta players have talked about bringing the smiles back on the faces of their supporters.

Atalanta reached the last eight winning 8-4 on aggregate against Valencia.

Angel di Maria is suspend-

## TV PICKS

**Champions League:** Sony Ten 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 12.30 a.m. (Thursday)  
**NBA:** Sony Six (SD & HD), 6.30 a.m. & 4 a.m. (Thursday)  
**Magnus Carlsen Chess Tour Finals:** Eurosport (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.

## IN BRIEF



**Booker on fire as Suns make it six in a row**

Orlando Devin Booker scored 35 points as Phoenix Suns made it six wins in a row since the NBA's restart with a 128-101 win over Oklahoma City Thunder on Monday.

**Other results:** Dallas Mavericks bt Utah Jazz 122-114; LA Lakers bt Denver Nuggets 124-121. AFP



**Kuznetsova decides to give US Open a miss**

New York Svetlana Kuznetsova, the 2004 US Open champion, added her name to the growing group of players withdrawing from the Grand Slam tournament because of the coronavirus pandemic. AP

**Inaugural Lanka Premier League postponed**

Colombo Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) has postponed the inaugural edition of the Lanka Premier League due to unavailability of top foreign players who would have had to undergo 14-day quarantine owing to rising cases of COVID-19 in the island nation. The league was to start on Aug. 28. PTI



**Veteran sports journalist G.K. Menon passes away**

Mumbai Veteran sports journalist G.K. Menon passed away here on Tuesday. He was 93. Besides working with The Times of India and The Indian Express in a career spanning four decades, Menon was involved in the administration of the prestigious Shivaji Park Gymkhana.

## Carlsen, Ding in quick draw

RAKESH RAO  
NEW DELHI

Ding Liren made a sedate start to the third set by taking a short draw with white pieces against Magnus Carlsen following a three-fold repetition of moves in their semifinal clash of the \$300,000 Magnus Carlsen Chess Tour Finals on Tuesday.

The 22-move draw came after Carlsen sacrificed a pawn early in the game.

Ding chose not to be flamboyant by sacrificing his rook for a bishop and an additional pawn.

### Bouncing back

Carlsen, who made a remarkable recovery following the loss of the opening set by racing away to a 2.5-0.5 triumph in the second set on Monday, will have white pieces in two of the next three rapid games.

In the other semifinal, Hi-

## Bruno Fernandes puts United in the last four

Lukaku excels as Inter also advances

### EUROPA LEAGUE

REUTERS  
COLOGNE

Manchester United reached the Europa League semifinals as midfielder Bruno Fernandes scored a 95th-minute penalty to secure a hard-fought 1-0 win over FC Copenhagen after extra time on Monday.

Copenhagen dominated the opening half and missed several chances before United moved up a gear in the second, hitting the woodwork twice and forcing a string of superb saves from keeper Karl-Johan Johnsson.

### Winning strike

Fernandes settled the contest when he drilled his spot-kick past Johnsson after Anthony Martial was fouled by Andreas Bjelland. Copenhagen came forward in search of an equaliser but United's defence, which



Decisive kick: Bruno Fernandes drills in the penalty. ■ REUTERS

## Nieva wants seven more boxers at the NIS camp

Approval has been sought and we are assessing things'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Resumption is done and expansion can now follow, said Indian boxing's High Performance Director Santiago Nieva, revealing that addition of seven more boxers has been proposed at the ongoing national training camp for the Olympic-bound in Patiala.

Nine male boxers and a few of their women counterparts are training at the National Institute of Sports (NIS) in Patiala, taking the first step towards a restart amid the COVID-19 pandemic. These include world silver-medallist and top Olympic medal hope Amit Panghal.

"We are looking to add seven more boxers, two coaches and a support staff member to this list in the next few weeks. Approval has been sought (from SAI). We are assessing things one month at a time," Nieva said.

"The boxers who are here are training under the strict health safety protocol given to us and things have been



Santiago Nieva. ■ FILE PHOTO

smooth. I can't give you names but the ones we want included next are second in rankings of their respective categories," he said.

### Protocols followed

The camp started in the first week of this month after boxers, willing to take the trip to Patiala were quarantined, tested and then allowed to enter the NIS.

In between, a controversy

flared up when the Olympic-bound duo of Vikas Krishan and Satish Kumar "unknowingly" broke the quarantine protocol.

The two have since made Ballari's Inspire Institute of Sports (IIS) their training base and won't be coming back, despite getting a SAI go ahead, due to the travelling involved.

"We are currently able to do 70% of the things that we used to do," Nieva said of the training regimen in Patiala.

**Enough for now**  
"As per the SOP (Standard Operating Procedure), we cannot enter the ring or do sparring or pad work. But we can do running, strength training, and lot of (punching) bags. That's enough for now," he added.

A boxer not able to access the ring, does it feel weird?

"Not as of now. May be another three-four weeks and it will begin to feel weird but what to do. We have to be patient. Like the rest of the world, we have to adjust and adapt," Nieva said.

## Emirates CB gets BCCI nod to host IPL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
DUBAI

The Emirates Cricket Board (ECB) on Tuesday said it has received the official clearance from the BCCI to host the IPL in the UAE from September 19 to November 10.

"We feel extremely privileged to host what could be considered the pinnacle event of our favourite sport," said the ECB chairman Sheikh Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahayan.

"The magnitude of being in a position to bring the IPL to the vast cricket-loving global community, during current events which have greatly impacted our daily lives, is one we take with extreme importance," he added.

"This is undoubtedly the highest-profile cricket show to be held in the UAE and our team will continue to support all facets (of the tournament) and work toward delivering a successful event for the enjoyment of all sports fans; here in the UAE, in India and across the world," said Al Nahayan.

The IPL will be held at Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Sharjah.

## UTT unlikely to be held this year

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

The fourth edition of Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT), proposed to be held from August 14 to 31, is unlikely to take place this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

With sporting events yet to start in the country and the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) not certain about the resumption of professional tour, it was not possible for the organiser Itsports to go ahead with the proposed plan.

"You need permissions from the State and central government, check players' availability and discuss with the ITTF. I see none of that happening in near the future," said former player and Itsports director Kamlesh Mehta.

## IPL teams to fly out their own net bowlers

Move eliminates hassle of finding options in the UAE



Job on hand: Franchises have earnestly begun to put things in their place ahead of the IPL. ■ FILE PHOTO: K.R. DEEPAK

### IPL 2020

SHAYAN ACHARYA  
MUMBAI

Most Indian Premier League (IPL) franchises have decided to travel to the United Arab Emirates with their own net bowlers.

However, Chennai Super Kings and Kolkata Knight Riders are looking to pick eight to 10 bowlers to stay with the team during the tournament.

"We want to take a set of our own bowlers, but we are still trying to figure things out. We will take a call soon," CSK CEO K.S. Viswanathan said. "If we are carrying a group of selected bowlers,

chairman Brijesh Patel told Sportstar that it is not mandatory for teams to travel with an exclusive set of net bowlers. "It's left to the franchises," Patel said. "But if they want, they can take the services of the local bowlers as well."

Rajasthan Royals, Mumbai Indians, Royal Challengers Bangalore and KKR – all of whom run academies – will likely have an advantage in terms of the options at their disposal.

The net bowlers will be tested regularly before their departure and upon arrival in the UAE.

## Captaincy: the most intriguing aspect of the game

### BETWEEN WICKETS

SURESH MENON

There is an old debate in cricket. Is it such a specialised job that you pick a player for captaincy alone? Or do you pick the best team and then appoint the captain from within? England seemed to believe – as did India – that captaincy required special skills available only to a few, so traditionally the captain was picked first. But this was essentially a class issue, as it was in India when Maharajahs who could barely play were chosen to lead.

Australia, more egalitarian, picked the team first. Former England captain Mike Atherton was a believer in the Australian approach, but England and Australia have occasionally borrowed the other's method. Before the tour of

India in 1979-80, for instance, Australia appointed Kim Hughes captain ahead of the team.

Mike Brearley, by common consent the greatest captain of all, was seen as a 'specialist' choice, picked for his captaincy. Perhaps, on and off Nasser Hussain too, although that might be unfair to Hussain who in nearly 60 Tests more than Brearley, averaged over 15 runs more per innings. In his last series, Tiger Pataudi was chosen purely for his captaincy – he was finished as a batsman by then.

**Captain's focus**  
All these players led when the captain was king, being responsible for everything from net sessions to coaching drills and planning the sharing of hotel rooms. Today teams travel with a big support staff, with batting, bowling and fielding coaches, a chief coach or team director and sundry others. The captain's focus is exclusively on tactics on the field.

Just how power is shared between the captain and his off-field team depends on the relationship between the two. The decisions on the field, however, are the captain's and if he is poorly advised, then he has to take the blame. The captain's role might have diminished, but he will rise or sink by the calls he makes on the field.

"A captain must instil the will to win; which means both ramming him an advantage and clinging on desperately when up against it," wrote Brearley in his classic *The Art of Captaincy*. By apparently failing on both counts in the first Test against England, Pakistan's captain Azhar Ali has reopened the captaincy debate. For the greater part of the match, Pakistan were ahead. They set England 277 runs to win, not an easy task.

Pakistan's bowling lacked experience. Fast bowlers Naseem Shah and Shaheen Afridi together were younger than England's Jimmy Anderson. The leg spinners Yasir Shah and Shadab Khan were not handled well – the former kept away from the attack for too long as the final innnings progressed, and the latter barely used at all. Still, the best captains rise above such handicaps.

stamp their mark on the game. It is when things are going wrong that captaincy skills reveal themselves. Azhar was defensive for too long, refusing to harry the later batsmen with aggressive bowling, seemingly disappointed when there was no sign of reverse swing. Plan B was absent.

"Or maybe we do him an injustice. What was former skipper and now coach Misbah-ul-Haq and his team doing? Surely during the breaks, they could have passed on messages to Azhar? Or maybe we over-simplify, picking a single thread over the many that went into the tapestry of the match.

**Measurable?**  
This is an intriguing aspect of cricket, a game where most things are measurable, but no one has worked out how to compute captaincy. Cricket ratings are popular, but captaincy ratings do not exist. We look for intuition, tactical acumen, ability to get the best out of the players – none of which can be quantified. As often in cricket, the simple calculations do not always

tell the full story. The best batsman in a series or over a period is not necessarily the one with the highest average, nor is the best bowler the one with the best strike rate. These are indicative, but not conclusive (Don Bradman's average of 99.94 being an exception, of course).

Captaincy, like leadership anywhere, admits of, as Brearley said, "an incalculable mix of qualities in tension with each other." In one player the proportions might work to perfection, in another not at all