



SC to hear Arnab's plea against Bombay HC decision today
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m-RNA vaccine, made by Pune firm, could be ready by March
page 10



Pompeo promises smooth transition to a 'second Trump term'
page 11



Rohit leads MI to record-extending fifth IPL title
page 13

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NEARBY



Delhi sees biggest COVID spike with 7,830 cases

NEW DELHI
Delhi on Tuesday witnessed the biggest single-day spike in new COVID-19 cases with 7,830 fresh infections reported in 24 hours. The death toll rose to 7,143 with 83 more fatalities reported in a single day. The total number of COVID-19 cases in the city stands at 4,51,382.

CITY ▶ PAGE 4

Seven workers die in roof collapse in Rajasthan

JAIPUR
Seven labourers working at an under-construction factory in Rajasthan's Jodhpur city died and nine others were injured when the roof of the building collapsed on Tuesday. The workers rescued from the site were in a serious condition, while some more were feared trapped in the debris till late in the night. The factory was being constructed in Basni industrial area phase-II.

NORTH & EAST ▶ PAGE 5

Level Up IAS
ANTHROPOLOGY Starting Nov. 16 Nov.
Optional Foundation Batch 23 Nov.
by Karandeep Singh 8826486658, 8826496658

OPPORTUNITIES ▶ PAGE 5

A burning issue



Cause for concern: Stubble being burnt by farmers in a field at Azizpur in Mohali district of Punjab on Tuesday. ■ V.V. KRISHNAN

SC refuses to lift stay on Delhi govt's order to hospitals

Bench tells High Court to hear plea on reserving 80% ICU beds for COVID patients on November 12

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

A Special Bench of the Supreme Court on Tuesday declined the Delhi government's appeal to lift a High Court stay on its directive to private hospitals to reserve 80% of their Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds for COVID-19 patients.

The Bench comprising Justices Ashok Bhushan and B.R. Gavai asked the Delhi government to approach the High Court where the case was scheduled for hearing this month-end. The apex court asked the High Court to take up the case on November 12 as it concerned an urgent public health issue.

The Bench sat exclusively for hearing the AAP government's appeal. The court is

contingency.

Justice Bhushan said it would be better to place the facts before the High Court itself, while agreeing that cases were on the rise in Delhi.

Rising infections

The government argued that it had only instructed 33 hospitals to reserve 80% ICU/HCU (High Dependency Unit) beds for COVID-19 patients owing to the rising graph of infections.

"As a result of this proactive intervention, almost 500 patients were able to secure admission in ICU beds of these private nursing homes and hospitals. The rate charable for these beds has also been capped by the government in the interest of the public," the Delhi government

petition, filed through advocate Chirag M. Shroff, contended in the top court.

A single judge of the High Court on September 22 stayed the government order on a petition filed by the Association of Healthcare Providers (India), which said the order would deprive non-COVID patients of urgent medical care. A Division Bench of the High Court adjourned the case to late November.

"The Division Bench has failed to take judicial notice of the COVID-19 pandemic and the steadily rising graph of infections. Delhi has always been the preferred location for seeking medical treatment by patients even from neighbouring and other States," the government appealed said.

The government said the High Court failed to appreciate that the petition filed against the September 12 order was nothing but a "cloaked attempt by certain hospital managements to guard their financial interests".

The petition said out of the 33 hospitals listed, 28 were already functioning as "partial COVID hospitals".

"Out of those 28 hospitals, 22 were allotted land by the government at concessional rates. Five of the 33 hospitals have already been operating as COVID-19 hospitals. Four out of five hospitals have also been allotted land at concessional rates," the petition contended.

'PROVIDE MORE BEDS' ▶ PAGE 4



The SC Bench sat exclusively for hearing the AAP government's appeal. ■

closed for Deepavali vacations.

Additional Solicitor General Sanjay Jain, appearing for the government, said the festival would see crowds. The national capital would require several thousands more beds to meet the health

NDA has clear edge in tough Bihar fight

BJP-JD(U) combine leads in 125 seats, while *Mahagathbandhan* is ahead in 110 in see-saw battle

AMARNATH TEWARY PATNA

Bihar's electorate kept the National Democratic Alliance and *Mahagathbandhan* parties on tenterhooks for most of Tuesday, but counting trends late at night pointed to a narrow but clear edge for the NDA.

Till 1 a.m., results for 220 of the 243 seats had been declared on the EC website. Votes continued to be counted, with the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leading in 75 seats and the BJP running close at 74. The Janata Dal (United) was ahead in 43 seats, while the Congress (19 leads) and the Left parties with 16 seats made the competition stiffer.

Inching ahead

Overall, the NDA was ahead with 125 leads, while the *Mahagathbandhan* was leading in 110 seats at the time of writing. The number of seats required for a simple majority is 122.

The All-India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) was ahead in five seats, the BSP and an Independent in one seat each.

The CPI-ML (Liberation), a first-time RJD ally, put in a creditable performance, leading in 12 of the 19 seats that were allocated to it.

As counting progressed, "victory celebrations" began at the offices of both the BJP and the JD(U).

"People of Bihar have blessed us again and we're

Neck and neck

With leads/wins in 125 seats, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) was marginally ahead of the majority of 122 in the Bihar Assembly election. The *Mahagathbandhan* (MGB) led/won in 110 seats



Happy faces: BJP workers in Patna reacting to the party's performance in the Bihar polls on Tuesday. ■ PTI

thankful to them for this... NDA under Prime Minister Narendra Modi has done well and we will form the government again in the State," State BJP president Sanjay Jaiswal told reporters.

Later, after a meeting of top Bihar BJP leaders convened at senior State leader Sushil Kumar Modi's residence, both Mr. Modi and party's State in-charge Bhupendra Yadav left to meet Chief Minister Nitish Kumar

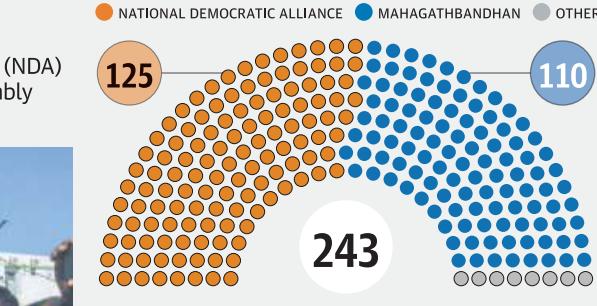
at his official residence.

At the RJD headquarters, party workers remained glued to television screens hoping that the number would turn in their favour.

RJD hopeful

"According to our real-time data, we are ahead on 84 seats. At many places, even postal votes have not been counted. Please don't lose heart till the last minute," the official RJD handle tweeted.

Political fortunes see-



SCORE CARD: The table shows the party-wise wins/leads and their vote share as of 11:30 p.m.

Party	Won/led	Overall vote share (%)	Contested vote share (%)
BJP	74	19.38	42.5
JD(U)	43	15.43	32.81
HAM(S)	4	0.91	32.28
VIP	4	1.62	27.72
NDA	125	37.21	
RJD	75	23.05	38.98
INC	19	9.53	32.89
Left	16	4.62	39.25
MGB	110	37.22	
Others	8		

1 The BJP won/led in 66% of the seats it contested in while the JD(U) managed to stay ahead in 37%

2 The RJD was ahead in 53% of its contested seats while the Congress won/led in 27%

Late in the evening, the RJD alleged that the Chief Minister and Minister in the Nitish Kumar Cabinet, Surendra Kumar Sharma, lost the poll from Muzaffarpur. JD(U) leader Chandrika Rai, the estranged father-in-law of Tej Pratap Yadav, elder son of Lalu Prasad, lost from Parsa in Saran district.

"A change of government is certain. I am convinced that you will see [a] change of government [in Bihar]," RJD leader and spokesperson Manoj Jha told reporters in Patna.

Political fortunes see-

sawed through the day. BJP leader and Minister in the Nitish Kumar Cabinet, Surendra Kumar Sharma, lost the poll from Muzaffarpur.

JD(U) leader Chandrika Rai, the estranged father-in-law of Tej Pratap Yadav, elder son of Lalu Prasad, lost from Parsa in Saran district.

Speaking to reporters in Bhopal, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said: "I have complete faith the BJP will secure a massive victory. Wherever we trail, we are behind only by marginal votes".

Taking to Twitter, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "Powered by the progressive agenda of the government under Chief Minister Shivraj Singh

Advantage BJP

The BJP won or led in 19 of the 28 assembly constituencies in Madhya Pradesh where bypoll was held

BJP WON/LED	19	49.4% VOTE SHARE
CONGRESS WON/LED	9	40.5% VOTE SHARE

Chouhan and the hardwork of the Madhya Pradesh BJP, our party has emerged as the unparalleled choice of the people. I thank the people of MP for blessing BJP in the bypolls held across the State. Their affection is invaluable."

Scindia's popularity

Riding on the popularity of Rajya Sabha member Jyoti Raditya Scindia, who switched over to the BJP from the Congress in March, the BJP has made significant inroads in the Gwalior-Chambal region, his traditional stronghold.

Of the 16 seats in the region, where Mr. Scindia's supporters contested as BJP candidates, the party won six in the Gwalior region, while it won one seat and led in two in the Chambal region.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

'Severe' air pollution for 6th day in city

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The air quality of Delhi and Noida continued to be in the 'severe' category for the sixth consecutive day and that of Gurugram for the fourth day on Tuesday, according to Central Pollution Control Board data.

The newly formed Commission on Air Quality Management, as an interim measure, has given the CPCB powers to operationalise measures under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) on air pollution.

The GRAP is a set of emergency measures to be implemented to control air pollution depending upon the air quality.

Currently, measures under the 'severe' category of GRAP are in place, including a ban on operation of diesel generators.

DETAILS ON ▶ PAGE 3

PM seeks respect for 'territorial integrity'

Modi addresses SCO summit in presence of Xi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

In an indirect reference to the Chinese infrastructure projects in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday urged members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) to respect "territorial integrity" and "sovereignty".

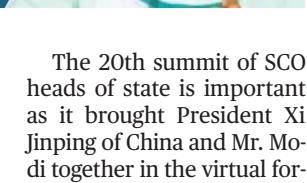
"To further deepen connectivity network (among the SCO members), it is necessary to respect each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity," Mr. Modi said.

He reminded that India has traditionally supported infrastructure and connectivity projects in the SCO region and cited examples of the Chabahar port and the North South Corridor.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

To further deepen connectivity network (among the SCO members), it is necessary to respect each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity

NARENDRA MODI,
PRIME MINISTER



The 20th summit of SCO heads of state is important as it brought President Xi Jinping of China and Mr. Modi together in the virtual format even as both sides are caught in a stand-off along the LAC in eastern Ladakh.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8



Haryane Ka Badhiya Haal Chokha Bitya Pehla Saal

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Extension of **State Model Sanskriti Schools** on block level,
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For the first time **CBSE Board Government schools** in the State

15 new Government Colleges
opened in one year

Decision to open
4,000 play-way schools, work on
1135 schools is under process

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through **DTH and Cable TV**

Haryana Teacher Eligibility Test
(HTET), eligibility duration
increased from **5 years to 7 years**

The process of making passports started in 111 Govt. colleges.
13,624 students submitted their forms,
Out of which 3,089 students'
Passports have been made



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Let's fight together against Coronavirus

Timings
DELHI

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 11	
RISE 06:41	SET 17:30
RISE 02:04	SET 15:04
THURSDAY, NOV. 12	
RISE 06:42	SET 17:30
RISE 03:09	SET 15:42
FRIDAY, NOV. 13	
RISE 06:42	SET 17:29
RISE 04:16	SET 16:19

Delhi Weather	max min
Delhi City	30 11
Safdarjung	30 11
Palam	27 13

Delhi Pilm Today
27°C Wide spread smog in morning and hazy sunshine would prevail. Pollution level will remain severe.

Delhi Pilm Tomorrow
28°C Cool morning with thick smog, marginal improvement in pollution level towards day.

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IN BRIEF

CM moves HC against defamation complaint

NEW DELHI
Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has approached the Delhi HC against a Sessions court order which issued summons to him in a defamation complaint filed against him by Bharatiya Janata Party leader Karan Singh Tanwar.

Jain addresses concerns over industrial policy

A fillip to boon for hi-tech, service sector

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI
Minister of Industries Satyendar Jain on Tuesday convened a meeting with the industrial associations here, seeking to address their concerns regarding the recent notification implemented by the government.

The notice issued by the Centre states that only hi-tech and service industries will be allowed to operate in new industrial areas here. The old industries have the option to switch to the service sector from the manufacturing sector. "As per the amendments in the Master Plan-2021, hi-tech industries will be set up in the new industrial areas, something which we were trying from the past four years. These

Delhi's air quality 'severe' for sixth consecutive day

Emergency steps may be put in place to control pollution

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The air quality of Delhi and Noida continued to be in the 'severe' category for the sixth consecutive day and that of Gurugram for the fourth day on Tuesday, according to Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data.

The newly formed Commission on Air Quality Management (CAQM), as an interim measure, has given the CPCB powers to operationalise measures under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) on air pollution,

The GRAP is a set of emergency measures to be implemented to control air pollution depending upon the air quality. Currently, measures under 'severe' category of GRAP are in place, including a ban on diesel generators.

Measures under 'severe+' category of GRAP include stopping entry of trucks into Delhi, ban on construction, and introduction of odd-even vehicle rationing scheme, among others.

Improvement expected

The necessary conditions for imposition of 'severe+' measures have been met as on Tuesday evening, as per CPCB data. But a decision was yet to be taken as of 9 p.m. on Tuesday.

"Tomorrow [Wednesday], the Air Quality Index is likely

Severe+/emergency protocol

Recommended action as per the Graded Response Action Plan when PM2.5 level crosses 300 micrograms per cubic metre ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) or PM10 level crosses 500 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, and persists for 48 hours or more

- Stop entry of trucks into Delhi (except essential commodities)
- Stop construction activities
- Introduce odd and even scheme
- Task force to take decision on any additional steps, including shutting of schools



■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA
Conditions to implement the measures have been met as PM2.5 level has been above 300 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for over 48 hours (Since 7 p.m. on Sunday) | Safe limit of PM2.5 is 60 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$; PM10 (100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)

to improve to the lower end of 'severe' to higher end of 'very poor' category owing to a forecasted change in transport level wind direction and marginally better ventilation condition," said monitoring agency SAFAR.

Severe air pollution level affects "healthy people" and "seriously impacts" those with existing diseases.

PM2.5 level

The level of PM2.5, a deadly pollutant, in Delhi and NCR has been above 300 micrograms per cubic metre ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) since 7 p.m. on Sunday. Measures under 'severe+' category of the GRAP can be implemented when the

PM2.5 level crosses 300 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ or PM10 level crosses 500 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, and persist for 48 hours or more.

The PM2.5 level in Delhi was 427.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ at 9 p.m. on Tuesday – seven times above the safe limit of 60 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

The 24-hour average AQI of Delhi was 476 on Tuesday. The values for Gurugram and Noida were 427 and 455 respectively.

The number of farm fires in Haryana, Punjab, and neighbouring regions of Delhi dipped to 2,247 on Monday. The contribution of stubble burning in neighbouring States to PM2.5 level in Delhi was estimated to be around 22% on Tuesday.

Rohit alias Lambu, a resident of Gurugram's Kakrola village, was wanted for the

Residents to get 'e-health cards' by 2021: Kejriwal

'It will improve healthcare delivery'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday convened a meeting and directed the health officials to ensure the implementation of the Health Information Management System (HIMS) and the e-health card facility in Delhi government hospitals.

The HIMS will be implemented by August 2021 in all Delhi government hospitals with the system seeking to target the healthcare delivery process. The Delhi government will also issue an e-health card to the people, which will be a QR-based card to identify and track demographic and basic clinical details of every patient.

"By 2021, every resident of Delhi visiting a hospital should be issued a card to avail the benefits of the go-

vernment healthcare services. Post the issuing, we have to ensure that this card is integrated with the HIMS," said Mr. Kejriwal.

The HIMS will be implemented to provide effective healthcare services to the residents of Delhi through technologically empowered healthcare processes, the government said.

Mr. Kejriwal said that with the e-health card, healthcare facilities will be extended to everybody and provide convenience to residents of Delhi seeking treatment in government hospitals.

"It is our duty to ensure that there is no inconvenience to the people of Delhi. This management system should be able to provide all the healthcare facilities to the people," Mr. Kejriwal said.

Teen beaten to death by group after quarrel

Two of five accused apprehended

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

A 17-year-old boy was beaten to death allegedly by a group of five people after a quarrel broke out between them in outer Delhi's Alipur on Tuesday, the police said.

Two of the accused, including juveniles, have been apprehended, they said.

This lead to a fight between them.

The group left the spot but on Tuesday again, a fight broke out between them. The victim was punched and beaten by the group following which he was rushed to a hospital where he was declared dead, a senior officer said.

According to police, a week ago, the boy had a fight with the accused group

following a heated argument over his father's bus. The group, at that time, was returning after attending their computer coaching classes in the area.

They were standing next to Pal's bus. Fearing that they might damage his father's bus, Karan asked them what they were upto.

This lead to a fight between them.

The group left the spot but on Tuesday again, a fight broke out between them. The victim was punched and beaten by the group following which he was rushed to a hospital where he was declared dead, a senior officer said.

According to police, a week ago, the boy had a fight with the accused group

Sharpshooter killed in police encounter

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GURUGRAM

A 23-year-old sharpshooter, wanted in connection with the murder of a Congress leader, was killed and his accomplice injured in an encounter with the Gurugram Police in the early hours of Tuesday. The deceased carried a cash reward of ₹50,000 on his arrest.

Rohit alias Lambu, a resident of Gurugram's Kakrola village, was wanted for the

murder of Congress' Vikas Chaudhary at Faridabad in June last year.

Mr. Chaudhary was shot inside his SUV parked outside a gym in Sector 9.

Faridabad Police had announced a reward of ₹25,000 on Rohit in this connection.

He carried a reward of similar amount announced by the Gurugram Police.

Rohit and his accomplice Satender Pathak alias Gudda

were headed towards Gurugram in a hatchback to allegedly commit a robbery when the police, acting on a tip-off, put barricades on the Taura-Naurangpur Road around 3 a.m. to stop them.

The duo tried to run on foot after their car hit a boulder and came to a halt.

They were then injured in an exchange of bullets with the police, said Assistant Commissioner of Police, Crime, Preet Pal Sangwan.

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- LAJPAT NAGAR, 49, Main Ring Road, Adj. Haldi Ram, Near Moolchand Crossing

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The superintending Engineer, 1st Circle, Public Works Department, Almora invites tender through Short Term E-Tendering (Two Bid System) on behalf of Honourable Governor of Uttarakhand for following works. All other information will be available from dated 13/11/2020 & onwards on website http://www.uktenders.gov.in

S. No.	Name of work	Cost of Tender Form	Earnest Money (In lakh)	Validity of Tender	Time of Completion	Contractor's Category of Registration for tendering
1.	Improvement of riding quality by 30mm B.C. of Almora-Pondhar-Rameshwari Motor Road, L.R. Saha Motor Road, Upper-lower link Motor Road, Almora-Khut Motor Road, Flasima - Talrik Motor Road, Kosi-Hawaliagh Motor Road, Hawaliagh-Basoli Motor Road under Central Special Assistance Scheme (2020-21) in distt-Almora. (Length-23.730)	Rs. 5000.00+ 18% GST	7.80 Lakh	60 Days	2 Months 15 Days	Registered in 'A' & above category in Road works in Central Govt./State Govt./Any Govt. Undertaking
2.	Improvement of riding quality by 30mm B.C. of Bageshwar-Gireechena-Someswar-Dwarhat-Vimandeswar-Eeda-Ranihiket Motor Road (Binta-Someswar-Gireechena portion), Bagwali-Pokhri-Gagas Motor Road, Aartala-Jageshwar-Naini Motor Road, Lohagh-Barakot-Simalkhel-Kaflikhan-Bhanoli Motor Road (Simalkhel-Kaflikhan Portion), N.T.D.-Kafakhan-Dhauhalchini Motor Road under central Special Assistance Scheme (2020-21) in distt-Almora. (Length-14.910)	Rs. 5000.00+ 18% GST	4.25 Lakh	60 Days	2 Months 15 Days	Registered in 'A' & above category in Road works in Central Govt./State Govt./Any Govt. Undertaking
3.	Improvement of riding quality by 30mm B.C. of Pilkha-patya Motor Road Km. 1 & 6, Kherna-Ranikhet-Ramnagar Motor Road Km. 18 to 21, 28 to 32, 38 to 47, 59 to 60, Chillyanaula Motor Road Km. 1 to 6, Lower Mall Road, Ranikhet Km. 1 to 3 under Central Special Assistance Scheme (2020-21) in distt-Almora. (Length-30.400)	Rs. 5000.00+ 18% GST	9.40 Lakh	60 Days	2 Months 15 Days	Registered in 'A' & above category in Road works in Central Govt./State Govt./Any Govt. Undertaking</

Capital witnesses biggest single-day spike with 7,830 fresh cases

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI
Delhi on Tuesday witnessed the biggest single-day spike in new COVID-19 cases with 7,830 fresh infections reported in 24 hours, according to a

health bulletin released by the city government.

The death toll has risen to 7,143 with 83 more fatalities reported in a single day.

Of the total 4,51,382 cases, 4,02,854 people have recov-

ered and there are now 41,385 active cases.

"Prompt and appropriate treatment is the key to save lives and combat COVID-19 complications and deaths. All testing centres are hereby

directed to ensure oxygen saturation. Patients with less than 94% oxygen saturation must undergo a medical examination," Health Minister Satyendar Jain said.

Of the total 16,324 beds

available for COVID-19 treatment in the city, 50.6% were occupied, as per government data. Also, 84.9% of the ICU beds with ventilators are occupied and 83.6% of ICU beds without ventilators are full.

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Notice is given on behalf of my client(s) Mrs. Sweety Sawhney W/o late Sh. Inder Mohan Sawhney and Ms. Ketika Sehgal D/o Sh. Shyam Prakash Chadha that the property as more particularly described in the schedule hereunder and Land bearing address "Sona Boys Hostel Mauja Bidholi, Tehsil Vikas Nagar, Prangana Pachhwadon, District Dehradun" which is in possession of my above mentioned client(s) and who are the True Legal Owners of the said property.

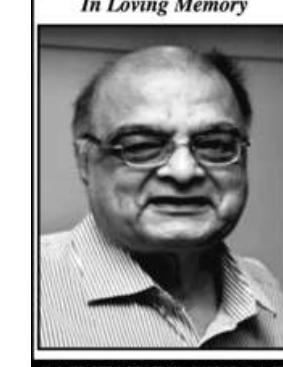
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Place: New Delhi

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OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE
IN MEMORIAM


JAINENDER KUMAR

Our beloved friend left for his heavenly abode on 07-11-2020. He dedicated his entire professional career to BHEL. His sense of humour and friendliness uplifted the spirits of family and friends alike.

Jainy lived a life of dignity and aplomb. We will miss him very much.

With much love,
Kumar Seshan, R.L. Dar,
Prakash Mangani, Mannan,
Rakesh Srivastava, Lalit Mohan,
Rajiv Abhyankar & Prabhu Rajan

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A) (1) 40/SM-Jal-III/ET/20-21, Providing, Laying & Shifting of Feeding D.I. Water line due to construction of Underpass at 2.36 Km Chainage Sector-96, Noida. Cost : Rs. 47.41 Lacs

The above tenders can be uploaded by date **25.11.2020 upto 5.00 P.M.** Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date **26.11.2020 at 11.00 AM.**

B) (1) 26/SM-Jal-III/ET/20-21, M/o Sewerage (Annual P/F Cover Frame & Cleaning of Sewer Manholes in Sector-80, 81 & Phase-II) Noida. Cost : Rs. 47.42 Lacs

(2) 30/SM-Jal-III/ET/20-21, M/o Sewerage (P/F FRC Cover Frame & Cleaning of Sewer line manhole by Portable Re-cycler Jetting cum Suction Machine De-Silting Equipment in Sector-126 & 127) Noida. (AMC with Supply for Two Years) Cost : Rs. 43.94 Lacs

(3) 31/SM-Jal-III/ET/20-21, D/o Village (P/F FRC Cover Frame & Cleaning of Sewer line manhole by Portable Re-cycler Jetting cum Suction Machine De-Silting Equipment in Village-Raypur) Noida. (AMC with Supply for Two Years) Cost : Rs. 38.36 Lacs

(4) 33/SM-Jal-III/ET/20-21, D/o Village (P/F FRC Cover Frame & Cleaning of Sewer line manhole by Portable Re-cycler Jetting cum Suction Machine De-Silting Equipment in Village-Sultanganj) Noida. (AMC with Supply for Two Years) Cost : Rs. 31.86 Lacs

The above tenders can be uploaded by date **19.11.2020 upto 5.00 PM.** Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date **20.11.2020 at 11.00 AM.**

Senior Manager (JAL-III)

Office : Sector-39, Noida

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

Provide more COVID-19 beds: Kejriwal to Centre

Capital is short of 4,900 beds as per official projections

NIKHIL M BABU

NEW DELHI

With new COVID-19 cases in the city showing an upward trend, the Delhi government has requested the Central government to provide at least 1,092 additional beds with manpower as there is a "shortage" of 4,900 beds, as per official projections.

"I request you to issue directions to the authorities concerned to ensure steps to provide at least 1,092 additional beds, including 300 ICU beds with manpower are taken on priority," Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal told Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan in a letter dated November 7, which is seen by *The Hindu*.



A man getting tested for COVID-19 in north Delhi's Jahangirpuri on Tuesday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

"At present, Delhi has a bed capacity of 15,713 for COVID patients... However, the shortfall of around 4,900 beds, as per the projection of Report-III, will have to be met by augmentation in both the Central government and State government hospitals apart from leveraging private sector capacities," the letter said.

these hospitals.

"It is, therefore, requested that Central government hospitals may be directed to upscale their capacities as indicated so that the number of beds are augmented to ensure that hospital capacity for COVID-19 patients in Delhi is adequate in the coming weeks," the letter said.

The letter also said that according to projections made by an expert committee, the number of new cases is expected to rise to 15,000 per day during this third surge in the upcoming weeks due to various factors such as rising pollution, celebration of festivals, wedding season among others.

Civic bodies not giving medical aid to retired employees: AAP

Municipalities collected ₹221 crore for insurance'

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Tuesday alleged that the BJP-ruled municipal corporations had collected ₹221 crore from their retired employees for cashless insurance in private hospitals, but did not pay a "single penny" to the clinics.

+

"This shameful act by the BJP has created havoc among the 34,000 retired employees and they are not getting any medical assistance. These people are suffering due to misgovernance and corruption of the BJP," said AAP leader Durgesh Pathak.

"There are around 34,000 retired employees under the BJP's North Corporation and East civic body. These people have opted for cashless insurance scheme and now they are suffering. The scheme is that the

employee will pay certain amount of money to the corporations by which they will ensure free treatment in any Delhi hospital," he said.

Under the scheme, the BJP-ruled civic bodies took money from every employee and these retirees had deposited around ₹221 crore in the account of the corporations, Mr. Pathak said. He said that the corporations were supposed to pay regular bills to the registered hospitals under the scheme but they did not pay a "single penny" to these hospitals.

"Today, 1.25 lakh civic employees are protesting due to non-payment of salaries. Around 34,000 pensioners have not received money for many months. Now, these retirees are not getting any health benefits," Mr. Pathak said, while demanding that the civic bodies resolve the issues.

IN BRIEF
Ramani damaged my reputation: Akbar

NEW DELHI

Former Union Minister M.J. Akbar told a Delhi Court on Tuesday that journalist Priya Ramani's tweet accusing him of sexual harassment were defamatory and lowered his reputation. Mr. Akbar's statement were made before ACMVishal Pahuj during the final arguments in a criminal defamation complaint filed by him against Ms. Ramani. The next hearing is on Wednesday.

EDMC to de-seal 3,000 properties by Deepavali

NEW DELHI

The BJP-ruled East Corporation will de-seal over 3,000 properties which it alleged were "wrongly" sealed by the Supreme Court-mandated monitoring committee by Deepavali. Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta said a de-sealing drive had been initiated by the EDMC. "The task of the SC panel was to work on the misuse and encroachment of government properties but they started sealing the residential properties itself," he said.

Issue guidelines for Chhath Puja: Bidhuri

NEW DELHI

Leader of the Opposition in the Delhi Assembly, Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, on Tuesday expressed concern over the Delhi government not making any preparations for organising Chhath Puja in the Capital. In a letter to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Mr. Bidhuri asked the government to issue norms regarding the festival, which will be observed on November 20. "It is surprising that this year the government has neither called a meeting so far nor cleanliness has been done at the ghats," he said.

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SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Fatima D/o Ayaub** R/o, 329, Kabir Basti Mandi Ganj, Delhi has been missing/kidnapped since 24.09.2020 from her residence in the area of P.S. Subzi Mandi, Delhi. In this regard, a case FIR No. 341/2020, dated 27.09.2020 has been registered at P.S. Subzi Mandi, Delhi. The description of the missing girl as under.



FATIMA

Age: 15 Years, Complexion: Wheatish, Height: 5', Face: Round, Wearing: Orange colour Suit and Blue colour Salwar. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out her but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the missing/kidnapped girl, then please inform P.S. Subzi Mandi, Delhi at following Tel No./ e-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in and Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

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Road bumps

The Finance Commission's road map is critical amid a stand-off between Centre and States

On Monday, the Fifteenth Finance Commission submitted its report with recommendations on the formula for sharing the divisible pool of tax revenues between the Centre and the States for the next five years to the President. The panel's proposed fiscal road map, up to 2025-26, will only come into the public domain once it is tabled in Parliament, if not in the winter session, at least before the Union Budget for 2021-22 is presented. An action taken report would reveal the government's acceptance or rejection of the panel's prescriptions. When the Fourteenth Finance Commission recommended a sharp increase in their take-home cut from 32% to 42% of the divisible pool of revenues and the Centre accepted it, States had obvious cause to be upbeat. However, their actual shares of total taxes mopped up have turned out to be far lower as the Centre deployed more cesses and surcharges to garner additional revenues in recent years.

There are fresh reasons for the States to be anxious about the Commission's revenue sharing recommendations, not in the least because of their recent stand-off with the Centre on how their GST compensation dues will be paid this year. While 22 States have now come on board with a solution conjured up by the Centre, there are still loose ends as more dues pile up over the next two years. Second, the Centre had tasked the Commission with assessing a few unusual ideas, including the creation of a non-lapsable fund for defence and security spending, and incentivising States for performance on reforms considered desirable by the Centre such as adoption of direct benefits transfer. Southern States are worried that the use of 2011 population data, instead of 1971, will penalise them for managing population growth better. All these have the potential to impact States' actual share. The RBI's assessment of State finances reveals they were already hurting from the slowing economy. The pandemic and the lockdowns have made things worse. Last year, this Finance panel had tabled an interim report for 2020-21 by saying a five-year forecast is tough when the economy is slowing down due to the effects of reforms like demonetisation and GST. Its final report comes at an even more uncertain time, with the pandemic throwing the global economy into a tailspin. That the panel has dedicated a volume entirely to States, analysing the development needs of each, is heartening. The Centre can allay States' fears further by tabling the report soon so that any anxieties can be debated and laid to rest, and States can also plan upcoming Budgets with less uncertainty. Being receptive to States' concerns can help forge a fresh cohesive federal compact for the coming years – a double engine that can hasten India's return to high growth.

Dose of optimism

India must improve its cold chain infrastructure to avail benefits of new vaccines

Multinational drug company Pfizer has announced promising results from its ongoing phase-3 trial of a potential COVID-19 vaccine. However, these early results, of the vaccine candidate being "90% protective" in the trial's volunteers – nearly 40,000 are enrolled – is the only important detail that is public. Pfizer, which is using a vaccine candidate by German firm BioNTech, had disclosed in September that for a vaccine to be judged 60% effective, 164 volunteers would have to contract COVID-19. This includes both the vaccine and placebo groups. The claim of 90% is based on a sample of 94 volunteers but it is not known how many belonged to either group. It is also unclear if those who were eventually infected, manifested mild or moderate severity of disease. Though the results, according to Pfizer, were announced by an expert independent committee, they have not yet been announced by the standard procedure of a peer-reviewed journal. In short, there is still time to be reliably sure that the results actually hold up in a wider population.

Pfizer's announcement may not have an immediate impact for India. Unlike 'Covishield' by the Serum Institute or 'Covaxin' by Bharat Biotech Ltd., there are no large phase-3 trials of the vaccine in India. While there were early discussions with Pfizer, there is as yet no confirmation on whether India can be assured of early access to even a fraction of the vaccine output in the event it is readied. The vaccine candidate is based on an mRNA technology, which eschews the use of an infectious particle, such as a portion of the virus, and uses a piece of RNA that is then made into an antigen by the body's own machinery. This reduces the odds of untoward reactions. It also does not need to be cultured in chicken eggs or other mammalian cells, allowing it to be made faster and more inexpensively. Though it is at the frontier of novel vaccine production methods, there are still no commercially available mRNA based vaccines. They also reportedly need to be refrigerated to nearly minus 70°C and India, with its limited cold chain infrastructure, lacks efficient vaccine storage capacity. However, irrespective of whether and when the Pfizer vaccine is available, there is reason for optimism. For one, it shows that scientists' basic strategy – of developing a vaccine to target the spike protein of the virus – is correct and given that this is an approach most vaccine developers are following, the chances of several encouraging results are high. Given that another firm, Moderna, also employs an mRNA based approach, it is likely that the new vaccine platform may prove to be a breakthrough approach in developing future vaccines. India must keep a close watch on such platform-technology and develop expertise. It must also not lose an opportunity to improve its cold chain infrastructure which currently is developed only for rudimentary vaccines.

In Bihar, the subdued narrative of the silent voter

It has been a decisive influence in the ongoing electoral outcome in the State, along with the primacy of material issues



SAJJAN KUMAR

As the final outcome of the Bihar election remains confusing at the time of writing this piece, with both the political alliances – the Mahagathbandhan and the National Democratic Alliance – competing to attain a majority, there is one factor which reveals the sources of the confusion unambiguously: the status quoism of the silent voter in the State. Here, seen from the vantage point of the silent voter, the status quoism may not be a pejorative term. However, this brings us to the task of defining the social location and the psychology of the silent voter which seem to have a decisive influence in the ongoing electoral outcome in Bihar.

In the electoral arena, generally, it is the non-dominant and vulnerable social groups such as the lower castes and a large section of Dalits that prefer to remain silent when the narrative is championed by the dominant communities in their locality. Their silence becomes all the more profound when a leader who they relate to seems to be at the receiving end. In any electoral analysis, an inadequate factoring in of this silent narrative leads to seeing a wave which was never there in the first place.

In the case of Bihar, while the signs of anti-incumbency were visible against Nitish Kumar, its translation into a vote against him/the Janata Dal (United), or the JD(U), was not as seamless as it seemed to be. Rather, it was layered

around the identitarian lines of castes and communities, the dominance of material issues notwithstanding.

Narratives and players

In hindsight, the social base of the electoral narratives resonating across Bihar had three distinct takers. One, while there was a general sense of disappointment with Nitish Kumar, not every section wanted to desert him. While a significant section of upper castes deserted him, the lower backward castes and Mahadalits did not seem to have shared the enthusiasm of a 'pro-change' narrative. Rather, they remained silent on the question of leadership.

Two, while a majority of upper castes turning their backs on Nitish Kumar ensured the JD(U)'s defeat in as many as 30 seats by voting for rebel candidates from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) fielded by regional parties such as Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) and the Rashtriya Lok Samta Party (RLSP), they

were wary of the prospect of Tejaswi Yadav (of the Rashtriya Janata Dal, or the RJD) becoming the alternative. This is despite the fact that he attempted to consciously shift the prevailing perception of the RJD, from being a particular caste-centric to an umbrella party.

Three, the demographically significant intermediary caste such as the Yadavs were over-enthusiastically consolidated behind the RJD and peddled the pro-Tejaswi narrative fervently. In this backdrop, the anti-Nitish Kumar narrative had a larger support base as compared to a pro-Tejaswi narrative. However, since the anchors of these electoral narratives were primarily the dominant communities from both the upper and intermediary castes, the core support base of Nitish Kumar, the preference of



the non-Yadav Other Backward Classes and Mahadalits got subdued in the process.

Nitish Kumar is still relevant

Irrespective of the electoral outcome, it is unambiguously clear that Nitish Kumar still holds ground despite his dwindling electoral performance.

Let us take a closer look at this election and compare it with the 2015 Assembly election in Bihar.

For instance, in 2015 when the RJD was in alliance with JD(U), the former contested 101 seats and won 81 seats, a colossal improvement from a mere 24 seats in the 2010 election. Now, in 2020, the RJD contested a total of 145 seats and is expected to win around 75 seats, despite the entire electoral narrative revolving around the agenda set by Tejaswi Yadav, wherein he emerged as the biggest crowd-puller. Certainly, Tejaswi Yadav has emerged as a leader to be reckoned with, and yet the strike rate of RJD is poor as compared to the 2015 election.

Similarly, this time, the better strike rate of the BJP within the NDA should be analysed in terms of the additional support base that Nitish Kumar brought to the NDA fold. With the fewer number of seats that the BJP contested in 2020 as compared to 2015, it is winning more seats, despite Prime

Minister Narendra Modi campaigning less intensely than in 2015.

Hence, the centrality of Nitish Kumar in the electoral arena of Bihar remains intact. What has changed significantly in this election has been the political miscommunication that he faced from within the NDA, primarily on account of the silence and milder approach of the BJP leadership vis-à-vis the LJP and its leader, Chirag Paswan.

In the backdrop of the current trend, it is no one's guess that minus the LJP factor, the tally of the JD(U) would have been much better as it is now, and the prime responsibility for the same lies as much with the BJP as with the stubbornness of Nitish Kumar not to accommodate the demands of young leaders.

Key issues

Further, a welcome shift which Bihar has brought to the political realm is the primacy of the material issues dominating the electoral arena. While the context of the novel coronavirus pandemic and the consequent centrality of the issue of jobs and economic security was expected, one must take cognisance of the point that in Bihar, the primacy of material politics has been signified by Nitish Kumar for the last 15 years. Hence, both Tejaswi Yadav and Chirag Paswan were attempting to inherit the developmental mantle from Nitish Kumar.

In a State which has been signified by the assertive masculinised political culture, the presence of Nitish Kumar, a non-polarising personality and an accommodative approach led to the changing political common sense of Bihar so much so that both the RJD and the BJP, and the Left had made the

politics of accommodation their central plank.

The RJD's outreach

To see every party appealing to the youth, women, the vulnerable castes such as Extremely Backward Classes, or the EBCs, and Mahadalits in an aspirational and inclusive language is bound to have the imprint of Nitish Kumar. To the credit of Tejaswi Yadav, the RJD has attempted to adapt itself to the new aspirational plank. For the first time, the party has given significant representation to EBCs, has appealed to every section rather than going to the familiar plank of 'forward versus backward', and shifted to the narrative of economic justice to account for the emerging vulnerabilities among all sections.

Also, the role played by the Left parties has been significant in terms of restoring the primacy of the material and civic issues of everyday life.

The fact that the vulnerable sections constituting the social base of the silent voters chose to support the NDA in significant numbers on account of the Nitish Kumar factor, thereby making it a waveless election, is testimony to the fact that the anchor of political change needs to resonate with the aspirations and anxieties of the vulnerable sections more prominently rather than enthusing the dominant communities supporting them. Hence, it is time to take cognisance of the subdued narratives of the silent voter which tends to get lost in the domineering rhetoric anchored by the politically entitled sections. This is the most desirable takeaway from Bihar.

Sajjan Kumar is a political analyst associated with Peoples Pulse

Strengthening public health capacities in disasters

Disaster legislation can help in this as private sector services are not a dependable option in the Indian context



SOHAM D. BHADURI

Much of Europe today is witnessing a menacing second wave of COVID-19, which is seemingly worse than the first. Infections have waned in India, although some are anticipating another wave around winter. While appearing unlikely, it is impossible to guarantee that a second wave will not be worse for India as well. However, one does not get to witness the sharp reaction today that the early days of the disaster evoked, albeit except for the fresh round of lockdowns imposed in parts of Europe. Neither is a second wave necessarily less dangerous nor is a vaccine freely available, but living with the pandemic for months together has had a desensitising effect on the collective psyche. Owing to such 'desensitisation', disasters that are not sudden and striking tend to be minimised. Unfortunately, the same has characterised India's disaster management framework in writing off many pressing public health issues.

More a reactive approach

In 2005, India enacted the Disaster Management Act, which laid an institutional framework for managing disasters across the country (<https://bit.ly/3eKD9N>). What hitherto comprised largely of reac-

tive, *ad hoc* measures applied in the event of a disaster, was to be replaced under the Act with a systematic scheme for prevention, mitigation, and responding to disasters of all kinds. Disaster management considerations were to be incorporated into every aspect of development and the activities of different sectors, including health. While some headway has indeed been achieved, the approach continues to be largely reactive, and significant gaps remain particularly in terms of medical preparedness for disasters. The Disaster Management Act is one of the few laws invoked since the early days of COVID-19 to further a range of measures – from imposing lockdowns to price control of masks and medical services.

The common theme is that the public health angle in disasters and disaster management has been under-emphasised. Two important lessons emerge, which will be discussed: first, that health services and their continuing development cannot be oblivious to the possibility of disaster-imposed pressures; and second, that the legal framework for disaster management must push a legal mandate for strengthening the public health system.

Drawbacks in private sector

Since the capping of treatment prices in private hospitals in May, many instances of overcharging by hospitals in Maharashtra have surfaced, in some cases even leading to suspension of licences. It illustrates how requisitioning of priv-



ate sector services during disasters can hardly be a dependable option in the Indian context. This is particularly important since the future development of hospital care services is being envisaged chiefly under publicly financed health insurance, which would very likely be private-sector led.

Health systems with large private sectors do not necessarily flounder during disasters. But the Indian private sector landscape, characterised by weak regulation and poor organisation, is particularly infelicitous for mounting a strong and coordinated response to disasters. During disasters, the limited regulatory ability could be further compromised. While publicly financed insurance could be a medium to introduce some order into this picture, a large majority of private hospitals in the country are small enterprises which cannot meet the inclusion criteria for insurance. Many of these small hospitals are also unsuitable for meeting disaster-related care needs. And while requisitioning can be done under law, punitive action against non-compliant hospitals becomes tricky during disasters since health services are already

dy inadequate. Also, development of certain services and competencies that are crucial for disaster response could lag behind. Private hospitals are known to prefer lucrative and high-end 'cold' cases, especially under insurance, and are generally averse to infectious diseases and critical cases with unpredictable profiles. Eric Toner (2017), under the "parking lot conundrum" (<https://bit.ly/3eJdwUI>), describes how disaster preparedness does not make a strong "business case" for hospitals, which prefer to invest in more profitable areas.

Strong public sector capacities are therefore imperative for dealing with disasters. While the Disaster Management Act does require States and hospitals to have emergency plans, medical preparedness is *de facto* a matter of policy, and, therefore, gaps are pervasive. There is a strong case for introducing a legal mandate to strengthen public sector capacities via disaster legislation, including relevant facets such as capacity-building of staff. A desirable corollary will be that it will also serve us well during normal times.

Integration with primary care

Critics have indicated that the Disaster Management Act fails to identify progressive events (which nevertheless cause substantial damage, often more than sudden catastrophes) as disasters, thus neglecting pressing public health issues such as tuberculosis and recurrent dengue outbreaks. Had they been identified as disasters, they would have attracted stron-

ger action in terms of prevention, preparedness, and response. Again here, a legal mandate can contribute to strengthening the public health system at the grassroots level.

There is also scope for greater integration of disaster management with primary care. Primary care stands for things such as multisectoral action, community engagement, disease surveillance, and essential health-care provision, all of which are central to disaster management. Evidence supports the significance of robust primary care during disasters, and this is particularly relevant for low-income settings. Synergies with the National Health Mission, the flagship primary-care programme which began as the 'National Rural Health Mission' concurrently with the Disaster Management Act in 2005, could be worth exploring. Interestingly, the National Health Mission espouses a greater role for the community and local bodies, the lack of which has been a major criticism of the Disaster Management Act. Making primary health care central to disaster management can be a significant step towards building health system and community resilience to disasters.

While the novel coronavirus pandemic has waned both in objective severity and subjective seriousness, valuable messages and lessons lie scattered around. It is for us to not lose sight and pick them up.

Dr. Soham D. Bhaduri is a Mumbai-based physician, public health commentator, and editor of 'The Indian Practitioner'

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.

Bihar votes
It is apparent, going by the information available in the electronic media, that the critical issues of the novel coronavirus pandemic, unemployment and migrant miseries did not make any dent either on the image of Nitish Kumar or the charisma of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Tejaswi Yadav, though for strategic reasons, focussed only on the core issues confronting the common man, appeared to be done in by the family baggage that he had to carry. Whatever be the final outcome in the Bihar Assembly elections, the Congress will be seen with disdain by its partners as it has barely been able to contribute anything to the

success of the alliance it forms. It is a wake-up call again for the party to introspect its electoral strategies thoroughly. A total overhaul of the party is overdue as owing allegiance to one family has not done it any good.

V. SUBRAMANIAN,
Chennai

Vaccine on the horizon
The reported claim of pharma major Pfizer that its vaccine could be 90% effective in preventing COVID-19 should soon open the gates to end this deadly pandemic (Page 1, November 10). Though it might take at least a year for this vaccine to arrive in India, the fact that there could be a proven medical solution brings tremendous

psychological relief. Other leading vaccine candidates should be equally successful and India should be in a position to implement a mass vaccination programme. Till then, it is crucial that every person religiously follows the rules of safety.

A. MOHAN,
Chennai

The American election
It is unfathomable how the post-election result rallies proposed to be held by U.S. President Donald Trump would be helpful in drumming up support for his legal challenge, unless he expects the court proceedings and decisions to be swayed by these rallies (Page 1, "Trump plans rallies to protest

election", November 10). The U.S. judiciary should be wary of such attempts by political parties and uphold the rule of law by all means. While mounting a legal challenge is Mr. Trump's right, he would be doing great service to the nation if he accepts the verdict of the people gracefully and allows a peaceful transition. It is astounding that Mr. Trump is planning to accentuate the deep divisions he created in the last four years even as the President-elect is planning to reunite America.

KOSARAJU CHANDRAMOULI,
Hyderabad

Firecracker sales
Living in these difficult times of COVID-19, it is hardly a surprise that the

National Green Tribunal has linked cracker sales across India during Deepavali to air quality (Page 1, November 10). Crackers that flood the markets are a perfection of the formula, 75% saltpetre (potassium nitrate), 15% carbon, and 10% sulphur, which generate poisonous oxides. Finally, we have the noise which traumatises the young, the old, the sick and even pets. One can no longer buy the argument of children cherishing fire crackers, as the younger generation is aware of the hazards firecrackers pose.

R. SIVAKUMAR,
Chennai

Crossing paths
Of late there has been too many injuries and deaths

due to man-animal conflict in many places in Tamil Nadu, especially in the Nilgiris. With the population of wild animals on the rise, these species such as the Indian gaur, the bear and the leopard can be found straying into houses, on the main roads and busy areas during different times of the day, which poses an enormous risk to the common

The mandate was about Nitish

Even in his personal defeat, he can be the force of course correction in the State



ATUL K. THAKUR



Politics in India never ceases to surprise even seasoned observers. Notwithstanding the ground realities, the mandate of the 2020 Assembly election in Bihar broadly reflects the intense competitive nature of the polity, backroom strategies and political management. This especially holds true for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Bihar, which has increased its seat tally from the previous Assembly election. However, it would be too early for the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) to rejoice given that the NDA and the Mahagathbandhan are neck and neck at the time of writing. At the outset, the Secretary General of the Janata Dal (United), K.C. Tyagi, conceded defeat and attributed the debacle to COVID-19. He probably sensed the imminent losses of his party and leader.

The BJP's goal

It seems like the NDA has safeguarded its social base and has also succeeded in not letting anti-incumbency favour a sweep for the Opposition. The JD(U), though, has lost seats. Did the BJP's apparent electoral arrangement with the Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) work in its favour? LJP president Chirag Paswan's polemical spree against Chief Minister Nitish Kumar seems to have compromised the latter's winning possibility in at least 25 seats. The LJP's cadre support was selectively used in favour of the BJP and fiercely against the JD(U). Mr. Paswan's chosen way did not help boost his party's performance. Without the charismatic leadership of Ram Vilas Paswan, the LJP has turned out a croupier in seat terms. Also, it would be wrong to assume that Mr. Kumar will have an easy ride if the NDA wins the majority. The BJP's offering to Mr. Kumar is likely to be a smaller throne or it may repeat its experiment in Haryana that might mean imposing an ideologically committed candidate to further make Mr. Kumar a redundant force in Bihar. Silently, the BJP has achieved its goal and broken the myth that it can't be the lead force by making the NDA a deeply divided camp.

Will this be acceptable to Mr. Kumar?

Making a choice

The Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), being the lead party in the coalition, made enough space for the Congress – possibly because of the Congress's significant performance in 2015. The RJD's own performance has been satisfactory. In fact, the party's seats are close to what it achieved in 2015 in alliance with the JD(U). There can't be any denying the fact that Tejashwi Yadav has proved himself to be a game changer and the leading political player at the young age of 31. His fight was against the experience and credentials of Mr. Kumar and the popularity and resourcefulness of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He should be credited for coping with the challenges gracefully and leading Bihar towards a refreshing change where 'development' instead of 'identity' was spoken of as the central electoral plank.

Atul K. Thakur is a policy professional and columnist. email: atulmthakur@gmail.com

Providing quick psychosocial support

Community volunteers can be considered, especially for children who are more vulnerable during crises

ANANYA BEHERA

World Mental Health Day was observed in October. The number of people with mental illnesses had been increasing across the world even before the pandemic. Despite mental health issues constituting a significant percentage of the health burden in India, the country does not have enough mental health professionals, especially psychiatrists and clinical psychologists. Though the pandemic has a deep psychological impact on people of all age groups, children are especially vulnerable to adverse mental health conditions during such times. According to a recent review in the *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*, children whose movements have been severely restricted are at a higher risk of experiencing feelings of loneliness, depression and anxiety during the pandemic.

Most governments around the world took the drastic step of closing educational institutions. When schools are closed, children lose their moorings and are likely to get disoriented. If not appropriately addressed at the right moment, the mental health consequences of the pandemic for a generation of children and young people could outstrip the immediate health and economic impacts of the pandemic.

In the early stages of the pandemic, UNICEF had conducted a survey of children, parents, teachers and caregivers in 104 countries on how the event was affecting their lives, particularly their mental health and psychosocial well-being. It pointed out that there is an urgency to work for the mental health and psychosocial well-being of the world's children and lend support to parents and caregivers as well. As the pandemic rages on, it is important to monitor young people's mental health status and provide psychosocial support whenever and wherever necessary.

Psychosocial support in Odisha

Odisha had some experience of psychosocial support in the aftermath of the super cyclone in 1999 and a severe cyclonic storm in 2019. On both occasions, UNICEF, NIMHANS of Bengaluru, and the NGO, Bharat Gyan Vigyan Samiti, made psychoso-

cial support interventions for children traumatised by the unsettling events. In a few hundred coastal villages of Odisha, volunteers were trained in providing psychosocial support. Children were encouraged to participate in various activities like painting, music, storytelling, dance, quizzing, toy-making. They were also encouraged to share their emotions. It was possible, through structured counselling, to improve the coping capacity of disoriented children. These experiments were found to be useful in bolstering their confidence and getting them back to school.

However, all these were not used in mainstreaming psychosocial support in the overall public health system of the State. This can be said to be true for the country as well. In India, where basic health infrastructure is weak, access to mental health services is a far cry. Now that the pandemic has once again exposed this weakness, it is time for greater attention to be paid to the availability of adequate mental health services

both in urban and rural areas.

Community volunteers

Since it is unlikely that the availability of professionals will ever match the requirements of a growing number of people suffering from mental illness, creating a cadre of community volunteers to reduce the burden on health workers can be considered. Some time back, *The Economist* highlighted the inadequacy of mental health professionals in Western countries as a result of which two-third of people with a mental health problem do not receive any treatment. In such a scenario, 'talk therapy', recommended by the World Health Organization, could be the first line of treatment. This can be delegated to community volunteers. The experiences of countries such as Zimbabwe, Canada and New Zealand show that community volunteers with some basic training can supplement regular mental health services. When an adequate number of such volunteers work as frontline workers, the mental health needs of a society can be met not as a one-off event and in sporadic manner but on a sustained basis.

Ananya Behera is an independent researcher based in Bhubaneswar

The Mahagathbandhan's poll promises were in sync with mass aspirations. It re-prioritised the notion of inclusive growth and emphasised on working decisively for deepening the industrial base, creating 10 lakh job opportunities in the government sector, checking the alarmingly high rate of out-migration, ending the contract culture in the government jobs, and serving the last man standing in row.

The Mahagathbandhan should also be hailed for raising the standard of election campaigns, which in recent times has gone lower and lower. The BJP's star campaigner didn't shy away from pursuing a polarising agenda, while the JD(U) showed an obsession with caste arithmetic. Wherever possible, the NDA featured the development narrative but that too was engulfed in poorly presented historical contexts. At no point of time did Mr. Kumar show any inclination to assess his coalition's performance in absolute terms.

With the pandemic and the lockdown, the design and process of the Bihar election have been unusual. Consequently, it should not be shocking to anyone if the suffering due to the lockdown and the public health crisis do not fully influence the mandate. The people of Bihar have not shown a preference for Mr. Kumar as their next Chief Minister. With the status of a junior partner, it would be difficult for him to justify his stay in the coalition. The road ahead for him and his party is foggy. This is a road less travelled by someone like Mr. Kumar. If he stays on, he will be the iconic protagonist of a tragic play that would be performed in Bihar's new political theatre.

Making a choice

It is hoped that Mr. Kumar reads the mandate and makes his choice accordingly. He has to remember that his political existence and relevance are not limited by instantaneous considerations. A seasoned leader, Mr. Kumar should listen to his inner call and give Bihar another reason to stand apart. This is also an occasion for him to give public life a fresh lease of life by chasing larger goals rather than trying to stay in power. The mandate from Bihar was all about Nitish Kumar. Even in his personal defeat, he can be the force of course correction in the State or become a shadow of his own past.

Atul K. Thakur is a policy professional and columnist. email: atulmthakur@gmail.com



DATA POINT

Electoral dichotomy persists

In Bihar, while the BJP increased its seat tally and vote share tally compared to the 2015 Assembly election when it went alone, it suffered a drop of nearly 14% points from the vote share it garnered in the 2019 Lok Sabha election. Both in 2019 and now, the BJP has fought elections in Bihar in alliance with the Janata Dal (United). This follows the trend of the party getting lower vote shares in recent State elections compared to its performance in the Lok Sabha elections. By *The Hindu Data Team*

BEFORE LOK SABHA ELECTION 2019 | The BJP's performance in the States that went to polls just a few months prior to the 2019 Lok Sabha election was not as good as its performance in the Lok Sabha election

State	No of constituencies in which BJP contested	% vote share in Assembly election	% vote share in general election	Vote share difference in the two elections (in % points)
Chhattisgarh	90	32.97	51.42	-18.45
Madhya Pradesh	230	41.02	58.51	-17.5
Mizoram	39	8.29	5.83	2.46
Rajasthan	191	38.97	61.34	-22.37
Telangana	118	7.07	19.75	-12.68

DURING LOK SABHA ELECTION 2019 | In the four States where Assembly elections were held alongside the general election, the BJP registered fewer votes compared to its tally in the same constituencies in the general election

State	No of constituencies in which BJP contested	% vote share in Assembly election	% vote share in general election	Vote difference in the two elections
Andhra Pradesh	167	0.86	1	-0.15
Arunachal Pradesh	57	50.86	57.51	-6.66
Odisha	146	32.49	38.74	-6.25
Sikkim	12	4.06	5.56	-1.5

AFTER LOK SABHA ELECTION 2019 | Bihar followed the trend of reduced vote shares for the BJP in States that have gone to polls after the 2019 Lok Sabha election. The 14% point drop seen in Bihar is not as high as it was in Haryana, Jharkhand or Delhi, but it is more than the nearly 10% point drop in Maharashtra

State	No of constituencies in which BJP contested	% vote share in Assembly election	% vote share in general election	Vote difference in the two elections
Haryana	90	36.49	58.14	-21.64
Maharashtra	100	44.46	54.1	-9.63
Jharkhand	73	34.62	55.59	-20.97
Delhi	67	38.51	56.87	-18.36
Bihar	110	42.51	56.51	-14.0

Employment, finally an election issue

Several myths persist about job creation, which can misguide policymaking



SANTOSH MEHROTRA & J.K. PARIDA



K. K. MUSTAFAH

dy demonstrated this fact.

Although the National Education Policy 2020 is likely to increase the supply of vocational training curricula at the school level, it will have no impact on the labour demand conditions of the industries.

Meanwhile, Bihar saw girls' secondary enrolment rising because the government provided bicycles to girls who got promoted from Class 8 to Class 9. Girls and boys can get jobs, if jobs grow. Hence, supplementary measures including development of infrastructure and local industrialisation are necessary.

As per the 2015-16 NSS survey, more than 99% of Indian enterprises are micro enterprises (based on both investment and employment criteria). Bihar has 22 industrial clusters, 138 handicraft clusters, and 45 handloom clusters of low-level manufacturing, consisting mostly of micro and small enterprises. With appropriate support, these enterprises can grow into small and then medium enterprises. It is the private sector that creates jobs; the government's role is limited.

However, Bihar, like most other States, can provide more jobs in the government. But the new government will have to be careful. The focus will have to be on two kinds of jobs. First, the health and education sectors and the police and the judiciary have too few government staff. These are sectors where the new government can expand government jobs. Second, in all governments, State and Central, the share of Groups C and D jobs is an overwhelming 89%, leaving 11% of jobs for Groups A and B. With such few managerial or professional staff, it is impossible to run any government.

Post-pandemic, most States will need to increase spending on public health. Bihar still has the highest fertility rate of any Indian state (3.4 children per woman of reproductive age), according to 2015-16 data. This is because Bihar's public health system is in a shambles. According to the World Health Organization, there should be one doctor per thousand population. However, in Bihar, one allopathic doctor serves 43,788 people. Bihar also has the lowest bed-population ratio.

Santosh Mehrotra was formerly Chair of the Centre for Labour, JNU, and J.K. Parida, a labour economist, teaches at the Central University of Punjab

The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 11, 1970

General de Gaulle passes away

General Charles de Gaulle, former French President, died here [Colombey-les-Deux-Églises] suddenly last night [November 9], aged 79, of a heart attack. The General slumped over a table in his country home here while playing patience and waiting for the evening television news programme that he seldom missed. General de Gaulle, the man who rallied France in World War II and who was its President from December 1959 to April 1969, died 15 minutes later at 19.30 p.m. (local). Only Mme de Gaulle was present when the former Chief of State was struck with the heart attack. She called a local doctor and the parish priest. The doctor pronounced him dead. He lunched alone with his wife, Yvonne. During the afternoon the man walked alone in the grounds of his house. He returned to his manuscript on the second volume of his memoirs, to be called "The Effort," and then at 7 p.m. joined his wife in the salon, spread a pack of cards on a small bridge table for a round of patience "and was struck by a heart attack." His sudden death stunned the country.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO NOV. 11, 1920

India in 1919

(From an editorial)

The report presented to Parliament on the material and moral progress of India during 1919 is from one point of view a performance creditable to its author, Mr. Rushbrook Williams. In the presentation of the matter, in the general tone of the remarks and the comprehensiveness of the summary, the report marks a mentionable improvement on its predecessors; and Parliament, we may be sure, will give it as speedy a repose on the shelf as previous annuals on the same subject have received. In the essentials, however, the report does not belie its usual character, which, as we have had occasions to point out, is that of a self-righteous master describing his relations with his servant. But the art of whitewash has, in this instance, been practised with a subtler touch, the appearance of impartiality being cleverly sustained. In the events of the year which lend themselves readily to statistical treatment, the lesser scope for exaggeration has led to a closer fidelity to facts, although room has been found, for example, in the accounts of famine relief operations and industrial expansion, to claim more for Government's provision and responsiveness than the public conscience will be prepared to allow.

FROM PAGE ONE

NDA has clear edge in tough Bihar fight

However, Tej Pratap Yadav won from Hasanpur in Samastipur district defeating his nearest rival of the JD(U) Rajkumar Rai by over 20,000 votes.

Senior RJD leader Abdul Bari Siddiqui, however, could not win his seat from Keot. Former MP and Jan Adhikar Party chief Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav, too, lost the poll from Madhepura. Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular) president Jitan Ram Manjhi, an NDA ally, defeated his rival and former State Assembly Speaker Uday Narayan Chaudhury from Imamganj in Gaya district.

Imprisoned bahubali

(strongman), Anant Singh, who contested on an RJD ticket this time, won from the Mokama.

Among other smaller parties who had fought the polls, the AIMIM was leading in five seats in the semi-manchal, or border, constituencies in Kishanganj, Purnia, Araria and Katihar districts. The Plurals Party chief Pushpam Priya lost from Bankipore which was retained by sitting BJP MLA Nitin Navin. Rashtriya Lok Samata Party (RLSP), and another 11 political parties, who had made their debut in the State Assembly polls, failed to win even a single seat.

M.P. bypolls: BJP wins 16 seats; secures govt.

However, the share for Mr. Scindia's supporters, who won all the seats in the region in 2018, appeared to be shrinking by seven seats.

Congratulating the winners, Mr. Scindia wrote on Twitter, "I have complete faith that you will always be ready for public service and the complete development of their Vidhan Sabha constituencies."

In the Chambal region, the Congress won three seats to deal a blow to Minister Aidal Singh Kansana and MLAs Raghuraj Singh Kansana and Ranveer Jatav, supporters of Mr. Scindia who switched over to the BJP in March. Minister Imarti Devi lost from Dabra in the Gwalior region by a margin of 7,633 votes.

State Congress president and former Chief Minister Kamal Nath said he would respect the mandate and thank the voters.

PM seeks respect for 'territorial integrity'

Mr. Xi also hinted at the difficulties among members and said differences should be resolved through dialogue. "We need to deepen solidarity and mutual trust and resolve disputes and differences through dialogue and consultations," he said in his remarks which resonated with the backdrop of the LAC confrontation.

Addressing the meeting, Mr. Modi said bringing changes in the global governance will be the focus of India as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council next year.

"In our civilisation, it is said that *parivartameva sthiramasti* (change is the only constant). From 2021 India will take part in the UN Security Council as a non-permanent member. As a

member of UNSC our attention will be on changing the global rules of governance," he said. Stating that the United Nations had failed to deliver on the vision of the organisation, Mr. Modi said the global body should address the immediate needs of the world that is struggling with the fallout of the pandemic and the economic downturn. "We hope to get support of the SCO members in attaining a reformed multilateralism, which will reflect the global realities of the 21st century and which will meet the expectations of all the stakeholders of the world," he said. Mr. Modi also said in 2021, the National Museum of India will hold an exhibition on the Buddhist heritage of the SCO countries.

HIRAN UNNIKRISHNAN

PATHANAMTHITTA

As the annual Mandalam-Makaravilakku season at Sabarimala begins next week, an unprecedented challenge awaits the Kerala authorities in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Though the number of attendees has been limited to just 1,000 a day, the health authorities regard any loopholes in the proposed health measures for the two-month season may put the State's health care system in jeopardy. Hence, an elaborate plan has been drawn up to offer the pilgrims a range of health services.

According to officials,

since the devotees have been permitted to move only through Swami Ayyappan Road, four casualty units – one each at Nilakkal, Pampa, Charalmedu and the Sannidhanam – will be opened. Additionally, five emergency centres comprising oxygen parlours and ECG units will be set up.

Each of the casualty units, except the one at Charalmedu, will be led by a team of doctors while the emergency centres will be manned by paramedical staff along with volunteers of the Akhila Bharatha Ayyappa Seva Sangham.

Separate teams of doctors comprising cardiologists, or-

thopaedics and anaesthetists will be stationed at the Sanidhanam and in the valley. There is, however, still uncertainty over a proposed expansion of these experts teams by including physicians in view of their huge demand for COVID-19 treatment.

"Doctors will work on a weekly turn of two shifts a day while paramedical staff will be stationed for two weeks. The whole system will run with the Pathanamthitta General Hospital, currently serves as a COVID-19 treatment centre, as the baseline hospital," said A.L. Sheeba, District Medical Officer, Pathanamthitta.



Narrow escape: Captain Shivam Singh, a member of the Tornadoes motorcycle acrobatic team of the Indian Armed Forces, comes out after catching fire while riding his motorcycle through the longest tunnel of fire in an attempt to break the Guinness World Records in Bengaluru. However, the Army confirmed that there were no casualties. ■ SUDHAKARA JAIN

Health measures to keep Sabarimala free of COVID-19

Four casualty units to be opened; five emergency centres with oxygen parlours will be set up



All set: An elaborate plan has been drawn to offer the Sabarimala pilgrims a range of health services. ■ FILE PHOTO

Test positivity in Karnataka, A.P. stays flat

Kerala positivity rate drops below 11%, State hopes for flatter case curve; Telangana records 1,267 cases

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala reported 6,010 new cases of COVID-19 on Tuesday, with testing level of 54,751 samples. The test positivity rate, which was 18.16% on October 13, came down and stabilised between 12-14% after October 25.

The rate had dropped to 10.98%, indicating plateau-

ING

of transmission. However, low level of disease transmission was likely to continue before a perceptible dip. Public health experts cautioned that physical distancing and universal masking were essential to avoid a flare-up.

The Health department, on Tuesday, added 28 more deaths from between October 27 and November 8 to the

official list.

Of the 28 deaths reported on Tuesday, Thiruvananthapuram accounted for six, Kottayam four, Kozhikode, Kannur, Palakkad, Thrissur

and Kollam three each and Pathanamthitta, Ernakulam and Malappuram, one each.

Telangana added 1,267 cases on Monday after testing 42,490 people. The new

cases included 201 from Greater Hyderabad, 109 from Medchal-Malkajgiri, 104 from Rangareddy, 89 from Nalgonda and 85 from Bhadravati-Kothagudem.

From March 2 to November 9, a total of 46,84,766 samples were tested.

Andhra Pradesh's case tally inched closer to 8.5 lakh with 1,886 new infections on Tuesday. Twelve more deaths were reported.

The overall positivity rate of 87.85 lakh samples tested so far was 9.63% while that of the 67,910 samples tested in the past day was 2.78%.

Chittoor and Krishna reported three deaths each. Anantapur, East Godavari, Guntur, Prakasam, Visakhapatnam and West Godavari reported one death each.

Karnataka on Tuesday reported 2,362 new cases and 20 deaths.

The day's positivity rate

stood at 2.15%. Testing was done on 1,09,508 samples, including 78,594 RT-PCR tests.

A total of 2,146 people tested positive for COVID-19 on Tuesday, taking the total number of cases reported in Tamil Nadu so far to 7,48,225.

The number of deaths getting reported daily, which went below the 20-mark on Monday after a gap of almost five months, went up again on Tuesday to 25.

The total number of people recovered stood at 7,18,129 with 2,237 more people recovering on Tuesday. The State had 18,709 active cases.

Three of the twenty five people who were reported dead on Tuesday did not have any comorbidities.

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

Fire breaks out at godown in Bengaluru

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A godown, where around 1,800 cans of chemicals used to manufacture sanitiser and paint thinners, caught fire on Tuesday morning in Bapuji Nagar. It took 200 fire personnel and 15 tenders over eight hours to bring the blaze under control, but not before some of the barrels started exploding, causing panic among residents.

"Fortunately, four employees who were at the godown rushed out to safety before the fire engulfed the entire premises," said a fire official. Six personnel, including three fire officers, were injured while tackling the blaze and are in hospital. Preliminary probe revealed that one of the barrels containing the chemical fell down and caught fire.

ED quizzes MLA in Plus Two case

K.M. Shaji questioned for 12 hours

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOZHIKODE

Officials of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) quizzed Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) legislator K.M. Shaji in connection with the Plus Two bribery case, for more than 12 hours on Tuesday.

It is learnt that he also presented some documents pertaining to his financial transactions and status the past decade. Mr. Shaji arrived at the ED sub-zonal office at Kallai around 9 a.m. The ED had served a notice on him for questioning.

The ED is probing the case registered based on the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. The case was that Plus Two courses were sanctioned after collecting a bribe of ₹25 lakh from the school management at Azhikode in 2014.



On Monday, officials had recorded the statement of K.M. Asha, wife of Mr. Shaji, who is the owner of the house in Vengeri in the limits of the city. The ED wanted to extract details about the source of income in connection with the construction of the 5,500 sq.ft house.

BJP wrests 2 seats in Karnataka

Munirathna gets big margin in R.R. Nagar bypoll; first victory in Sira for BJP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU



Celebration time: BJP supporters celebrating the victory of the Sira candidate Rajesh Gowda.

former Congress Minister T.B. Jayachandra by a comfortable margin of nearly 13,000 votes. While Dr. Gowda polled 74,522 votes, Mr. Jayachandra garnered 61,573 votes. The JD(S) candidate, Ammajamma, whose husband B. Sathyaranayana's death had necessitated the byelection, could get only 35,982 votes.

The swing in Sira in favour of the BJP has been massive, while the JD(S) has lost heavily. The Congress vote share has remained intact here.

The run-up to the elections had seen leaders of the Opposition trading charges of use of money and muscle power, and misuse of government machinery that had been vehemently denied by ruling party leaders.

In Sira, considered part of the Vokkaliga heartland, the BJP opened its account. C.M. Rajesh Gowda, a doctor, political debutant and son of three-time Chitradurga MP C.P. Moodaligiriyappa, defeated six-time legislator and

BJP beats TRS in Dubbak bypoll

Raghunandan Rao wins by 1,079 votes

R. AVADHANI
SIDDIPET

BJP candidate M. Raghunandan Rao won the byelection to the Dubbak Assembly seat in Telangana on Tuesday by a margin of 1,079 votes against TRS candidate S. Sujatha, wife of MLA S. Ramalinga Reddy who passed away about three months ago there necessitating the byelection.

The election was held on November 3.

Mr. Rao polled 63,352 votes against 62,273 of Ms. Sujatha and 22,196 of the Congress candidate Ch. Srinivas Reddy, son of the late Minister Ch. Muthyam Reddy. NOTA got 554 votes.

From the beginning of counting of votes at an engineering college here, it was a see-saw battle between the BJP and the TRS with the

Congress remaining a poor third though the party was expected to offer a tough fight.

Before the announcement of results, EVMs pertaining to Pothareddypet of Dubbak mandal (413) votes, Etigaddakishtapur of Toguta mandal (583), Surampally (314) votes and Areppal mandal (339) could not be opened due to snag, leading to tension. Finally, officials counted votes based on Voter-Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPATs). This resulted in increasing the number of rounds from 23 to 25. The declaration of result was delayed as the officials were forced to take up counting of VVPATs manually.

It was weeks of planning and execution by BJP activists which made the victory possible.

IN BRIEF



Anticipatory bail for dubbing artist, 2 others

KOCHI The Kerala High Court on Tuesday granted anticipatory bail to dubbing artist Bhagyalakshmi and women activists Diya Sana and Sreelakshmi Arakkal, all accused in a case related to assaulting YouTuber Vijay P. Nair in Thiruvananthapuram. The prosecution case was that on September 26, Bhagyalakshmi and the other two assaulted the YouTuber for making derogatory and sleazy remarks about women on his channel.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor declares lock-out

BENGALURU Toyota Kirloskar Motor on Tuesday said it was forced to declare a lock-out until further notice to ensure safety of its personnel after its employees' union resorted to an illegal sit-in strike and unlawfully camped on the company premises compromising the COVID-19 guidelines. "Communication with relevant stakeholders is in progress to try and resolve the issue," said the company responding to a query.

AMAI seeks quashing of Kerala government order

KOZHIKODE The Ayurveda Medical Association of India (AMAI) has approached the Kerala High Court seeking quashing of a State government circular that prevents practitioners of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddhi and Homeopathy (AYUSH) from prescribing medicines to treat COVID-19. The association has urged the Chief Minister to remove the AYUSH Secretary, who issued the circular, from her post.

COVID-19



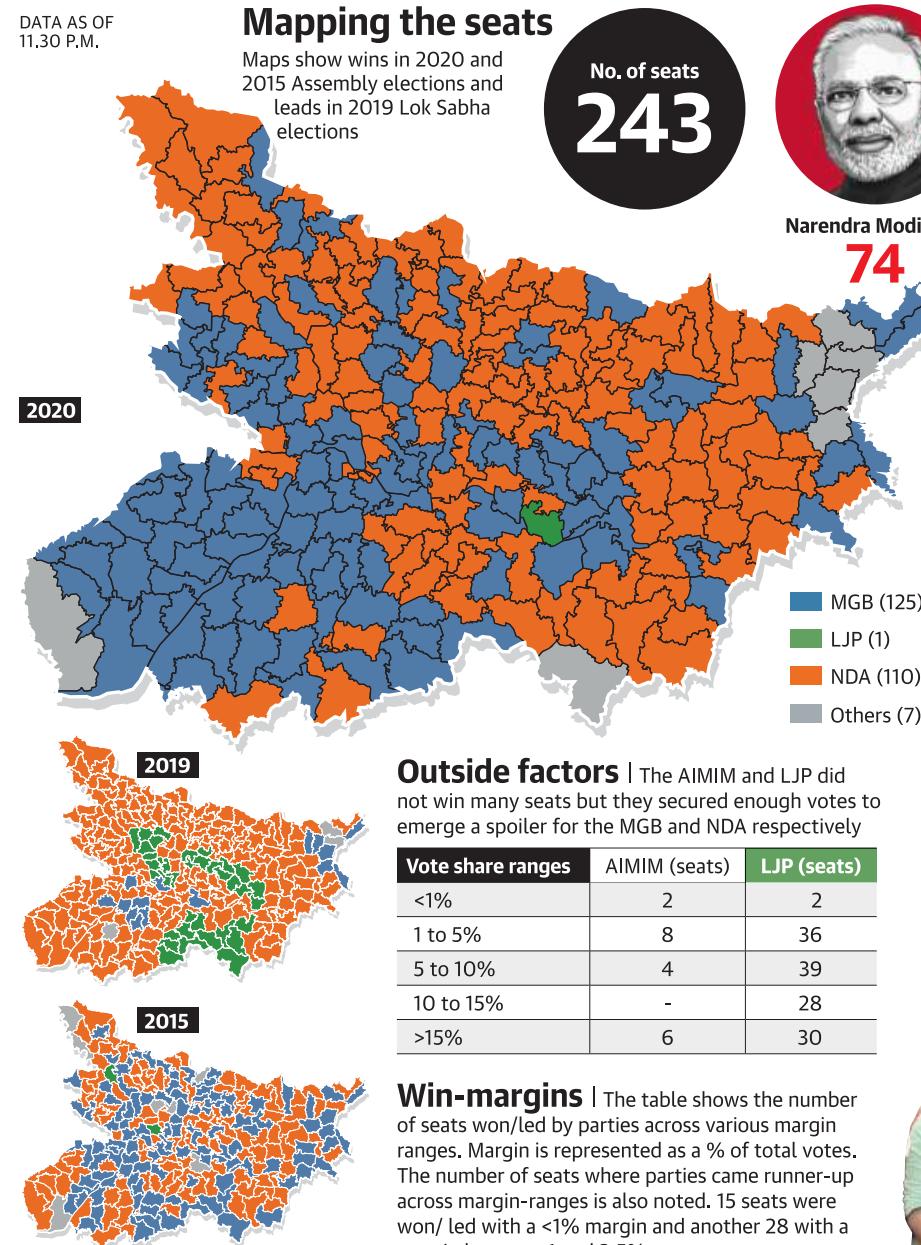
*Telangana numbers are as of 8 p.m. on Monday | **Kerala has a mismatch of 118 cases due to unaccounted deaths, missing persons | ***Karnataka has 19 non-COVID deaths

CM YK

BIHAR ASSEMBLY POLLS 2020

A matter of alliance cohesion

The election turned out to be a close affair between the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance and the RJD-led Mahagathbandhan. The MGB fell short due to the poor performance of the Congress in the seats it contested and also because of the AIMIM's spoiler effect. The JD(U) also fared relatively worse than the BJP in the NDA fold, but the latter's significantly better performance than in 2015 helped the coalition sail through, LJP's defection notwithstanding

DATA AS OF
11.30 P.M.

Narendra Modi, BJP



Nitish Kumar, JD(U)



Tejashwi Yadav, RJD



Rahul Gandhi, INC



Dipankar Bhattacharya, Left



Chirag Paswan, LJP



Asaduddin Owaisi, AIMIM

DATA COMPILED BY: VIGNESH RADHAKRISHNAN, SUMANT SEN, NARESH SINGARAVELU | ILLUSTRATIONS: J.A. PREMKUMAR

Strike rate | Strike rate | BJP's strike rate (SR; seats won as a % of those contested) improved to 66.4% from 33.8% in 2015 while that of RJD and Congress' fell. Left parties' SR improved significantly to 55.2%. The JD(U)'s fell drastically as well

Party	2015		2019		2020	
	Won	SR(%)	Led	SR(%)	Won	SR(%)
BJP	53	33.8	96	92.3	74	66.4
JD(U)	71	70.3	92	89.3	43	37.4
HAM(S)	1	4.8	2	10.5	4	57.1
VIP	0	0	0	0	4	36.4
RJD	80	79.2	9	7.8	75	52.8
INC	27	65.9	5	9.3	19	27.1
Left	3	1.3	1	2.3	16	55.2
LJP	2	4.8	35	97.2	1	0.7
IND/Others	6	-	3	-	7	-

Vote share | The BJP had the best contested vote share and only the CPI(ML)(L) came close to matching it. The Congress dragged the MGB down with a low vote share

Party	2015	2019	2020
BJP	37.5	56.5	42.5
JD(U)	40.7	51.8	32.81
RJD	44.4	32.9	38.98
CPI	3.4	12.8	33.29
CPI(ML)	3.8	14.9	41.33
CPI(M)	3.3	2.9	37.23
INC	39.5	33.6	32.89
LJP	28.8	55.2	10.23

Head-to-head | BJP won 78.4% & 60.7% of contests against Congress & RJD. JD(U) won against the Congress handily but fared poorly against Left & RJD

Head to head	Total seats	NDA win/led	MGB win/led	NDA SR (%)	MGB SR (%)
BJP Vs INC	37	29	7	78.4	18.9
BJP vs RJD	61	37	22	60.7	36.1
BJP vs Left	12	6	6	50.0	50.0
JD(U) vs RJD	71	21	48	29.6	67.6
JD(U) vs Left	16	5	10	31.3	62.5
JD(U) vs INC	28	17	10	60.7	35.7

Rural/urban | The BJP improved its contested vote shares in 2020 across rural/urban areas from its 2015 numbers, except for a minor drop in urban areas while the JD(U) shed vote share across areas with a major drop in urban areas. The RJD & INC also lost ground

Type	BJP		JD(U)		RJD		INC		
	2020	2015*	2019*	2020	2015*	2019*	2020	2015*	2019*
Urban	44.9	-0.3	-15.2	24.3	-13.4	-34.1	38.3	-5.6	+2.2
Semi urban	40.3	+2.5	-16.0	35.5	-4.8	-18.4	37.3	-10.3	+5.6
Semi rural	44.5	+9.2	-13.1	34.9	-7.3	-16.2	41.9	-1.6	+8.9
Rural	41.0	+4.6	-13.5	30.5	-9.2	-20.4	41.6	-0.7	+9.1

(2020 FIGURES IN PERCENTAGE, REST IN PERCENTAGE POINTS) | *INCREASE/DECREASE OF 2020 VOTE % COMPARED TO 2015 AND 2019 VOTE %

Region-wise | Compared to 2015, the BJP increased its vote share across all regions except Bhojpur. The BJP's strongest show came in Mithila while the RJD's came in Bhojpur

Region	BJP			JD(U)			RJD			INC		
	2020	2015*	2019*	2020	2015*	2019*	2020	2015*	2019*	2020	2015*	2019*
Bhojpur	31.7	-3.9	-19.6	25.5	-11.1	-23.6	41.1	-2.4	+4.4	28.6	-7.6	-5.7
East	45.0	+9.3	-8.8	34.7	-5.9	-14.6	36.2	-6.3	+1.3	35.9	-4.5	-1.5
Magadh	39.4	+0.2	-14.2	30.2	-9.7	-18.9	40.4	-5.2	+6.4	33.7	-8.0	-0.4
Mithila	47.4	+12.6	-13.1	39.3	-7.9	-16.6	38.7	-7.6	+9.0	33.3	-7.0	+2.6
Tirhut	44.6	+5.9	-15.2	31.0	-5.5	-24.0	38.7	-4.2	+6.4	30.5	-5.8	+5.7



Festive spirit: BJP and JD(U) supporters celebrating at separate places in Patna. ■ AP, PTI



On his own: LJP president Chirag Paswan conducted a sustained campaign against Nitish Kumar. ■ PTI

No kingmaker, but LJP dented JD(U)

Paswan's party won just a seat in Bihar

SOBHANA K. NAIR
NEW DELHI

Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) president Chirag Paswan wanted to play the role of kingmaker, but won just one seat in the Bihar Assembly election – Matihani by 333 votes. The party secured the second spot in eight of the 243 constituencies.

Mr. Paswan, who had claimed during the campaign that he was the 'Hanuman' of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has hurt the National Democratic Alliance (NDA). There are at least 27 seats where the margin by which the JD(U) lost to the grand alliance is same as the number of votes polled in favour of the LJP.

He roped in 25 former BJP leaders who could not manage to get the ticket.

In Dina, he fielded senior leader Rajendra Singh, an old RSS hand. Mr. Singh lost by nearly 3,000 votes. In Bhagalpur, the LJP got Deputy Mayor Rajesh Verma to contest against the Congress but he too lost.

It is telling that in Hasanpur, Lalit Prasad's son and Tejashwi Yadav's brother Tej Pratap Yadav could win only because the LJP polled nearly 10,000 votes, which is his victory margin against the

Party lost on most of the 70 seats that it contested

Independent, BJP ally win in Nagaland

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI

The Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP), part of Nagaland's ruling coalition, retained the Southern Angami-I Assembly constituency in Nagaland but the Opposition Naga People's Front (NPF) lost the Pungro Kiphire seat on Tuesday.

Byelections were held on November 3 to the two seats following the death of Vikho-o Yhoshu of the NDPP and T. Torechu of the NPF.

According to the State election officials, Medo Yhokha of the NDPP defeated his nearest Independent rival Seyieville Peter Zashimo by 598 votes to win the Southern Angami-I constituency.

For the Pungro Kiphire seat, Independent candidate T. Yangseo Sangtam defeated another Independent, S. Kiusumew Yimchunger, by 1,527 votes.

Prior to Tuesday's results, the NDPP had 19 legislators in the 60-member Nagaland House. The NPF had 25 MLAs.

The NDPP rules in alliance with the Bharatiya Janata Party.

CPI(ML) on song in Bihar fight

Party on course to win 12 of the 19 seats it contested under the grand alliance

SOBHA K. NAIR

NEW DELHI

The Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) on Tuesday registered a big victory in Bihar, with the party being on course to win 12 of the 19 seats it contested, its highest tally in over 30 years.

CPI(ML) general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya said that this result was a victory for the people of Bihar, while he rued that the Left was under-represented in the grand alliance led by the Rashtriya Janata Dal. "The credit entirely goes to the people of Bihar. It is their struggle and we are just the medium," Mr. Bhattacharya said.

The electoral fortunes of the party changed with the lockdown.

"At a time when both the Centre and the State government abandoned and humiliated the people, our comrades were standing with them every day," he said.

Swing in fortunes

In the 2005 February Assembly election, the CPI(ML) won seven seats. Within a few months when the Assembly was dissolved since there was no clear mandate for any party and election



Live updates: People watching the election results on a screen on the counting day of Bihar polls, in Patna on Tuesday. •PTI

was held in October, the party's tally came down to five. In the 2010 election, it drew a blank. In the 2015 election, the party fought independently and won three seats.

In the 2019 Lok Sabha election, the RJD, despite several rounds of talks, kept the Left out of the Opposition alliance.

This time around, however, they decided to join hands with it. Mr. Bhattacharya said the alliance also provided the necessary boost to the CPI(ML) but essentially, he said, it was the situation with an upsurge of youth that contributed to its electoral fortunes.

Asked if the grand alliance could have had an easy win if the Left were given more seats, Mr. Bhattacharya said, "It is a reasonable question to ask and we will have to find an answer. People feel

that the Left was under-represented in the alliance. But for the RJD, from exclusion to 2019 to modest inclusion, it was a long road."

He said while the Congress had underperformed pulling the alliance down with it, the Janata Dal(U) performed better than expected considering it was besieged from all sides, the anti-incumbency factor and the tussle within the alliance.

EC denies RJD charge, says trends in public domain

'More EVMs and postal ballots had delayed counting'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Election Commission officials said on Tuesday that the counting of votes in the Bihar Assembly election, the first general election to be held during the COVID-19 pandemic, was not slow but was taking longer because of the increase in number of electronic voting machines (EVMs) and postal ballots.

Briefing presspersons at 10 p.m., EC officials said the counting process was in the last stages. EC Secretary-General Umesh Sinha said he wanted to make it clear that the EC had never been under any pressure from anyone.

On the allegation by the RJD that its candidates were congratulated by the returning officers in 119 seats but were not given the certificates, Mr. Kumar said the results and trends were in the public domain. Responding to the demand for a recount, which the CPI(ML) raised in three seats, Mr. Kumar said wherever the margin of victory was lower than the number of rejected postal



Keeping tally: Election officers tabulating votes, at a counting centre in Patna on Tuesday. •AP

ballots, the re-verification was mandatory as per a May 2019 direction of the EC.

Addressing presspersons at 6 p.m., Chandra Bhushan Kumar, Deputy Election Commissioner (DEC) in charge of Bihar, said 2.7 crore of the 4.11 crore ballots cast had been counted till 5.30 p.m.

At an earlier press briefing at 1.30 p.m., DEC Ashish Kundra said just over 1 crore votes had been counted and that there was "significant ground to be covered". He said the process had been going smoothly and no is-

sues had been reported since counting began at 8 a.m.

Mr. Kumar said the number of polling stations had increased by 63% after the EC decided to cap the number of electors per location to 1,000 instead of 1,500 to maintain social distancing. The number of polling booths and EVMs had increased from 65,000 to 1.06 lakh, he said.

He said the EC had limited counting tables to seven per hall, from the earlier 14, but increased the counting locations from 38 to 55.

BJP makes big gains in Assembly bypolls in 11 States

Party makes a clean sweep of eight seats in Gujarat

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The BJP was on course to win 40 of the 59 Assembly byelections held in 11 States last week, according to the Election Commission's portal for results and trends at 8 p.m. on Tuesday.

The ruling party has won or was leading in 19 out of the 28 seats for the Madhya Pradesh Assembly, while the Congress was ahead in the remaining nine seats.

In Chhattisgarh, the Congress candidate for the Marwah seat, Dr. K.K. Dhrubo, led with a margin of over 38,000 votes over BJP candidate Dr. Gambheer Singh.

The BJP won all eight seats in Gujarat, with 55.06% of the votes cast compared against the 34.34% of the Congress, according to the EC. The winners are Jadeja Pradhyumansinh Mahipatsinh from Abdasa, Patel Vilaybhai Rameshbhai from Dangs, Kakadiya J.V. from Dhari, Atmaram Makanbhai from Gadhada, Jitubhai Harjibhai Chaudhuri from Karpada, Akshaykumar Is-



Victory beats: BJP supporters bring out the drums in Gandhinagar on Tuesday. •PTI

warbhai Patel from Karjan, Kirtisinh Jitubhai Rana from Limbi and Brijesh Merja from Morbi.

The Congress won the Baroda seat in Haryana with Indu Raj defeating the BJP candidate, former wrestler Yogeshwar Dutt, by 10,566 votes.

The Congress and the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha won one seat each in Jharkhand, with Kumar Jaimangal winning Berma and Basant Soren winning Dumka.

In Manipur, the BJP won

or was leading in four seats, while an independent candidate was ahead in one seat.

In Nagaland, Independent candidate T. Yangseo Sangtam got 31.85% of votes to win the Pungro Kiphire seat and Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party candidate Medo Yhokha won Southern Angami-I seat with 41.1% of votes.

In Odisha, the Biju Janata Dal candidates Swarup Kumar Das and Bijaya Shankar Das won from Balasore and Jharsuguda respectively.

BJP staves off U.P. challenge, wins six seats

Despite facing criticism over law and order, Chief Minister Adityanath's party records convincing win

OMAR RASHID

LUCKNOW

Despite facing questions over his handling of the law and order situation and sensitive caste equations in Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and the BJP on Tuesday retained all the six seats it won in 2017.

The Samajwadi Party won the seventh seat, Malihani in Jaunpur, which it won in 2017, in the byelections in which the Opposition parties failed to make a mark.

The BSP and the Congress failed to open their account despite securing a respectable share of votes in some seats.

Mr. Adityanath had campaigned in all seven constituencies. The bypolls were held at a time when he was facing heat over the mishandling of the Hathras rape case, the aftermath of the Bikru shootout case and killing of wanted criminal Vikas Dubey in Kanpur.

As per the Election Commission, the BJP won in Deoria, Sadar and Bangerua (Unnao), Bulandshahr, Ghazipur (Kanpur), Tundla (Firozabad) and Nauwaganj Sadat (Amroha).



Clean sweep: Uttar Pradesh BJP leaders celebrate bypoll victories, at the party office in Lucknow on Tuesday. •PTI

In Malihani, Lucky Yadav of the SP saw off a strong challenge by former MP and alleged "Bahubali" (strongman) politician Dhananjay Singh, who contested as an Independent, defeating him by 4,632 votes.

In Deoria, where all the four top parties fielded Brahmins, Satyaprakash Mani Tripathi of the BJP defeated Brahma Shankar Tripathi of the SP by over 20,000 votes.

Addressing the media as the trends indicated a positive result for the BJP, Mr. Adityanath said the party had repeated its performance of 2017 and 2019.

Through the bypolls, the BJP had sent a "message"

that it would perform strongly in the Assembly election in 2022, Mr. Adityanath said.

People's faith

The result in U.P. as well as in other States indicated the "common people's faith" in Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his schemes and programmes of public welfare, poor welfare and national security and bringing prestige to the country at the global stage, the CM said.

In Bangerua, Arti Bajpai of the Congress fought hard to secure a second place against Shrikant Katiyar of the BJP, losing by over 31,000 votes. The seat was vacated in controversial circumstances for the BJP after its MLA, Kuldeep Singh Sengar, was convicted in a rape case.

In Tundla, Prempal Singh Dhangar of the BJP saw off a spirited fight from Maharaj Singh Dhangar of the SP by a margin of over 15,000 votes.

With a score of six and one for the BJP and SP respectively, and a nil for the Congress and BSP, the Op-

position parties failed to apply pressure on Mr. Adityanath at a time he was facing criticism over a spate of crimes, alleged perceived discontent among the powerful Brahmin community and anger among a section of Dalits over the Hathras rape and forced cremation incident.

The bypoll in seven seats, though only a tiny fraction of the 403-member Assembly, was not only a test of anti-incumbency against and personal brand of Mr. Adityanath but also a stage for the SP, BSP and Congress to battle out to claim the post of the main challenger to the BJP in 2022 Assembly polls, and to provide a psychological boost to their cadre and supporters.

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's overtures in U.P. over the past year and the party's wooing of Brahmins failed to materialise into poll results. By putting up a poor fight in Bulandshahr, the RLD-SP alliance has also put itself under scrutiny.

In Deoria, the Congress candidate secured just over 3,600 votes.

2 militants killed in Shopian

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

SRINAGAR

Two local Al-Badr militants were killed in a pre-dawn operation in south Kashmir's Shopian on Tuesday.

"On a specific input regarding the presence of terrorists in Kutpora area of Shopian, a joint cordon and search operation was launched. They were given the opportunity to surrender. However, they fired indiscriminately upon the joint search party leading to an encounter," a police spokesman said.

The slain terrorists were identified as Irfan Ahmad Thoker from Kutpora, Shopian, and Umer Ahmad Lone from Naidgam Lone Mohallah. "Both were affiliated with the Al-Badr outfit. They were involved in many terror crime cases, including the looting of ₹60 lakh from a team of the J&K Bank," the police said.

The police said incriminating materials, including arms and ammunition, were recovered from the encounter site. bodies shall be sent to Baramulla for burial and last rites.

SC to hear Arnab's appeal today

HC refused him relief in abetment case

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI



Arnab Goswami

On the plea to quash the FIR registered in the case in May 2018, it said this power should only be used with great restraint in "rare and appropriate cases" to prevent abuse of law.

Case concocted: Salve Senior advocate Harish Salve, for Mr. Goswami, had called the case "concocted" and *prima facie* an act of revenge for his news coverage, which questioned those in power in the State of Maharashtra". Mr. Goswami argued that the case was a "brazen attempt of vendetta politics against him and his channel".

Why urgent listing, asks SCBA chief

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The president of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA), senior advocate Dushyant Dave, shot off a letter to the Supreme Court about the "extraordinary urgent listing" of a petition filed by Republic TV editor-in-chief Arnab Goswami.

The petition was filed at 10.23 a.m. on Tuesday. By evening, the case was listed. The court is closed otherwise for the week for Deepavali vacation.

Mr. Dave said Mr. Goswami seemed to be getting "special treatment" and his petitions were listed "instantly".

"The likes of Shri Goswami get special treatment while ordinary Indians are made to suffer, including imprisonment, which are many times illegal and unauthorised," Mr. Dave wrote in the letter, the contents of which he shared with *The Hindu*. He accused the Supreme Court Registry of indulging in selective listing for the eight months of the pandemic.

Naravane hopeful of reaching 'mutually beneficial' agreement

Commanders are working within guidelines on LAC

DINAKAR PERI

NEW DELHI



Manoj Naravane

to be an overall solution to the entire issue which brought this situation to the fore. Within those guidelines, we are discussing how and what to do to actually achieve it on the ground," he said.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh held talks with his Chinese counterpart, Wei Fenghe, on September 4 in Moscow on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers meeting. On September 10, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met his Chinese counterpart, Wang Yi, in Moscow, where they agreed on a five-point

India's m-RNA vaccine may be ready in March

JACOB KOSHY

NEW DELHI

Were everything to go to plan, India's very own m-RNA (messenger-RNA) vaccine could be ready by March. The novel m-RNA vaccine candidate of the Pune-based Gennova Biopharmaceuticals was approved for funding as early as July by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT). However, being a biological product that requires genetic manipulation, it needs to be cleared by the Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM), a DBT body, before it can approach the Drug Controller General for human trials.

Sanjay Singh, CEO, Gennova Biopharmaceuticals, said he was unperturbed. "Very soon, we will have news to share on our progress. The world needs a billion

RISHAAD MODY

The Meteor 350 heralds a brand-new engine and chassis platform, one that is likely to underpin all of RE's future 350cc motorcycles. It serves as a replacement to the Thunderbird and Thunderbird X (TBX) lines of motorcycles.

Royal Enfield wanted to keep the design familiar and identifiable; this bike does that, however, the curved silhouette at the fuel tank is no longer there. In its place is a wide looking fuel tank that holds 15 litres against the 20-litre unit in the TBX. The side quarter panels have been simplified with just one triangular unit. The seat is now split into two; the halogen headlamp performs well but the small LED ring around it is rather dull. We ride the top-of-the-line Supernova variant with its dual-tone paint, large windscreens, tan seats and pillion backrest. There are plenty of nice touches including the new rotary switchgear that looks cool. The quality of the backrest and windscreens is also very good.

Overall, this motorcycle has a simple yet premium feel to it, amplified by its new instrument console. With an analogue speedometer on the outer circumference and a digital display below, the unit tells you how much fuel is left, what time it is and what gear you are in. On the right, is a small colour display for the new Tripper navigation system.

Fine-tuned sensation

The brand-new motor still feels like it belongs in a Royal Enfield. The bore/stroke dimensions have been changed and the old pushrod-valve system has been replaced by a SOHC two-valve head. A new balancer shaft has been added to increase the usable range of

The Meteor 350 is the first motorcycle based on Royal Enfield's brand-new 350cc platform and it is a big step forward



A touch of star quality



SPECIFICATIONS

ENGINE 349cc, single-cylinder, fuel-injected

MAX POWER 20.2hp at 6,100rpm

MAX TORQUE 27Nm at 4,000rpm

GEARBOX 5-speed

FRONT BRAKE 300mm disc

REAR BRAKE 270mm disc

FRONT SUSPENSION

Telescopic fork

REAR SUSPENSION Twin shock absorbers

torque while simultaneously stamping out the off-putting vibrations.

Start it up and there is a clear thump to be heard. You can also feel the big piston make its lazy oscillation through the foot pegs. The Meteor is never free of sensation in the handlebar and foot pegs but at no point do the vibrations get harsh either. The new 5-speed gearbox is smooth and



slick, and it also has shorter throws than the old one. The clutch is slightly on the heavy side in traffic, but it has good feedback and is easy to modulate. As for heat, there was not much to be felt in the city, but the engine casing on the right side sticks out quite a bit.

At 20.2hp and 27Nm, the specs are not impressive for a brand-new motor but with a 0-100kph time of 17.8secs, it is 7.2secs quicker than the BS6 Classic 350 because the spread of torque is now much more usable. More importantly, 80kph is a calm and enjoyable cruise

on the Meteor and 100kph actually has even fewer vibes to be felt. At this point, the engine is revving quite high. While you can sustain this pace, it does not feel as relaxing. The fuel efficiency is very similar to the BS6 Classic 350.

Comfort factor

The other big change on this bike is the new double-down-tube chassis. The seat height is now down by 10mm to a welcoming 765mm, while the wheelbase has gone up by 50mm. It is also slightly longer and wider than the TBX with ground clearance now increased to 170mm. The bike gets wider tyres at both ends and the brakes are bigger at both ends too. While the performance is good, you need to give the front brake lever a hard squeeze.

Comfort is a priority on the Meteor with an excellent seat and a comfy, upright riding position that places the feet forward, but not excessively so. The bike is spacious enough to carry two 6 feet-tall individuals in comfort. The new suspension balances comfort and control much better than the TBX. Handling is now far more confident, stable and predictable as well.

Clearly, the engine and chassis represent massive improvement, but RE is trying to stand out from the crowd via the Make It Yours programme. Essentially, customers can choose from a list of colours and accessories; RE says up to five lakh custom configurations are possible. Prices start at ₹1.75 lakh for the Fireball variant and goes up to ₹1.81 lakh for the Stellar and ₹1.9 lakh for the Supernova.

Overall, Royal Enfield has produced an authentic feeling, refined and well-rounded product. While the pricing is not sensational, it certainly is competitive, and the future looks bright for RE's 350 range.

AUTO SNIPPETS



TVS Apache RTR 200 4V now gets ride modes

TVS has launched an updated, dual-channel, ABS-equipped Apache RTR 200 4V at a price of ₹1.31 lakh (ex-showroom). The updated variant sees the inclusion of three riding modes, a preload-adjustable front suspension and adjustable clutch and brake levers. At this price, the updated RTR 200 4V costs around ₹1,000 more than the standard dual-channel ABS variant. The single-channel ABS variant, meanwhile, misses out on these updates. The biggest new feature on the RTR 200 4V are the three riding modes – Sport, Urban and Rain.



Honda launches Amaze, WR-V Exclusive Editions

Honda has launched new Exclusive Editions of the Amaze and WR-V, with prices starting from ₹7.96 lakh and ₹9.70 lakh (ex-showroom, Delhi), respectively. Based on the fully loaded VX trims, the Exclusive Editions get additional cosmetic bits and kit at no extra cost. On the exterior, both models feature additional chrome garnish and Exclusive Edition badging with the WR-V also getting body graphics on the doors.

The Amaze Exclusive Edition, additionally, is available with CVT gearbox options with both engines. In this combination, the diesel Amaze is down on power and torque as compared to the diesel-manual, developing 80hp and 160Nm.



Ducati launches new Multistrada 950 S

Ducati has launched the new Multistrada 950 S in India, priced at ₹15.49 lakh (ex-showroom). The 950 S features Ducati's signature Multistrada design language, which is evident in the sleek LED headlamps, the prominent beak and minimal rear. Buyers only get one colour option, the traditional Ducati Red. Powering the Multistrada 950 S is a Euro 5/ BS6-compliant, 937cc, Testastretta L-twin engine that develops 113hp and 96Nm of torque and is paired with a 6-speed gearbox. Ducati has also thrown in a comprehensive suite of electronics to justify the 'S' suffix.

SPECIFICATIONS

ENGINE 2996cc, V6, twin-turbocharged

POWER 390hp at 5500-6100 rpm

TORQUE 520Nm at 2500-5000 rpm

GEARBOX 9-speed automatic

LENGTH 4729mm

WIDTH 1931mm

HEIGHT 1585mm

WHEELBASE 2873mm

FUEL TANK CAPACITY 66 litres



Driver's delight The AMG GLC 43 is an everyday sports car on stilts • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

One for the roads

SAUMIL SHAH

Back in 2017, Mercedes launched the coupe iteration of the GLC SUV in India with the AMG GLC 43 Coupe. This was the sole version of the GLC Coupe on sale in India till 2020 when Mercedes launched the 'tamer' standard petrol and diesel versions of the SUV-coupe, post a facelift in international markets.

Subtle tweaks distinguish this AMG from its lesser sibling. Prominent design elements are an AMG-signature Panamerica front

Brilliant performance, daily usability and a spacious, practical cabin are hallmarks of Mercedes' AMG GLC 43 Coupe

grille, an aggressive-looking front bumper which gets air-scoops to channelise air and reduce drag, and a new rear bumper with a redesigned diffuser and quad exhaust tips. Grabbing centre stage inside is the new 12.3-inch instrument cluster screen with digital dials that now get exclusive AMG display screens. There is a new 10.25-inch infotainment screen, a

sportier steering wheel, part-Alcantara sports seats and red seatbelts.

Switching modes

Seat comfort and visibility are really good and space at the rear is aplenty. There is ample kit to keep you engaged – like a Burmester surround sound system, Mercedes Me connect application and even a button to open up the exhaust valves for a sportier soundtrack. Powering this AMG is the 3.0-litre V6 pe

terol paired to a 9-speed automatic gearbox, transmitting power to all four wheels. Power is up from 367hp to 390hp while torque remains the same at 520Nm.

In our tests, this 1,585kg SUV catapulted to 100kph in just 5.4 seconds. Its in-



Q AND A WITH HORMAZD



Petrol vs diesel Thar

How would you rate the off-road abilities of the new 2020 Mahindra Thar 2.0-litre mStallion turbo-petrol automatic compared to its diesel sibling? Will it be able to match up to the diesel in the wild?

Sidharth Bharadwaj, Jamshedpur

The 2.0 mStallion genuinely impressed us with its smoothness and sharp throttle response. It does not quite have the low-end grunt of the diesel, but is torquey enough for serious mud-plugging and does not compromise the Thar's off-road abilities. We would choose the 2.0 turbo-petrol over the diesel if your drive is a combination of city and weekend off-roading.

Brighter light, better throw

I own a 2016 Maruti Suzuki Ciaz and the headlamp light's focus is very low, and the throw is only a few metres. I want to change the headlight to one that has a brighter light as well

Drupad Bhatt, Bengaluru

You could opt for high-low beam projector fog lamps for your car, which will solve the problem by offering a sharper beam focus and longer light throw during night drives. Projector fog lamps from IPH or XP Micro in the standard 3.0-inch size would be a direct fit in the Ciaz's stock fog lamp housing. The projectors can be paired with HID bulbs, preferably of 4,300 Kelvin or 5,000 Kelvin temperature specification for optimal visibility. The entire setup and installation should cost you between ₹5,000-7,000 and the projectors also support high and low beam functions, which can be directly toggled from the main headlamp stalk of the car.

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

Long-distance tunes (Right)
Raahul with US-based actress-model Madison Trunnell in the song 'Yaadein'; (below) the father-son duo
• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



An equal MUSIC

Musician Raahul Jatin collaborates from across continents with his father, Bollywood composer Jatin Pandit, to create songs of love and hope

NEERAJA MURTHY

Lyrics of hope connected people across the globe during the lockdown. Including the soulful 'Prabhu humko shama kar,' which brought father-son duo Jatin Pandit and Raahul Jatin together, across continents.

In an email interview, Los Angeles-based Raahul says he heard his father's voice waft through the room and felt connected. "The words [written and composed by Jatin] felt healing and I hoped the song would help people get through the pandemic. The phase was emotionally and economically tough; the song addresses these issues," he says.

Father as guru

Raahul got his musical tutelage from his father, and considers him an easy-going dad and inspiring teacher.



Stating that he loves all his father's compositions especially in *Fanaa, Chalte Chalte* and *Hum Tum*, he says that his most cherished memory is going to Jamnabai Narsee School in Mumbai in a carpool, listening to his father's 'Chhaand sifarish' from *Fanna*.

The 22-year-old Raahul made his debut with 'Aankhon ke ishaare' released by Zee Music in April 2019, and followed it up with the prayer song 'Prabhu....'

His third single 'Yaadein aane lagi,' which he conceptualised, composed and sang, features Raahul and US-based actress-model Madison Trunnell. With lyrics by Jatin and music production by Aditya Dev and Raahul, it was shot in one day across

C The idea of music has changed with Raahul's generation, so I was surprised when I heard the tune in its raw form. It took me back to 'Pehla nasha'

JATIN LALIT
Music director

San Francisco, Jamestown, Copperopolis, Bay Area and Sonora in California in October. The music video features beautiful locales of lush green countryside and a vintage house.

Due process

Raahul says the music video was shot with a crew of just four people (including artistes), following safety protocols (wearing masks and gloves when not shooting), physical distancing and getting COVID-19 tests for the crew. He adds that 'Yaadein' was not his first choice. "I wanted to do a peppy song but felt it was not the right time with uncertainty due to COVID-19, and instead composed a ballad."

Directed by Harper Gahunia, the 3.30-minute-long romantic number will be released by Funk Box in Association with Jatin Pandit. Discussing the lyrics, music director Jatin says, "The idea of music has changed with Raahul's generation, so I was surprised when I heard the tune in its raw form. It took me back to 'Pehla nasha', and I offered to help with lyrics. I was tempted to meddle with music a bit, but I refrained because an original composition is always the best."

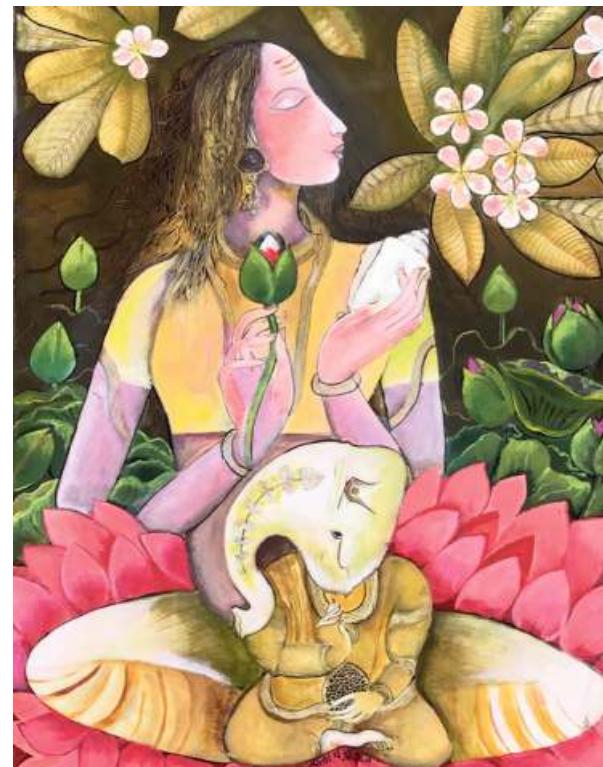
Shaping the medium

InKo Centre, in association with Arts Council Korea, Lalit Kala Akademi, Kalakshetra Foundation, Chayarch Gimhae Museum, Korea and DakshinaChitra, has come up with EarthMatters, a series of Indo-Korean residency projects that brought together 32 ceramic artists, in an effort to provide a platform to celebrate visual art forms of India and Korea.

An e-compendium of the works produced by artists across the three editions between 2012 and 2020, will be available for public viewing from November 12. Till date, the projects have enabled artists to come up with distinctive ideas, interpreting elements of earth, water, fire and their culture impact.

The third edition of EarthMatters concluded in February 2020.

For details, visit: https://www.inkocentre.org/Virtual_Connect_Infotainment.html

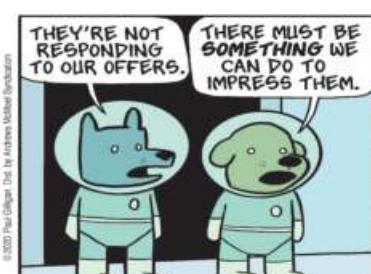


Homegrown art, online

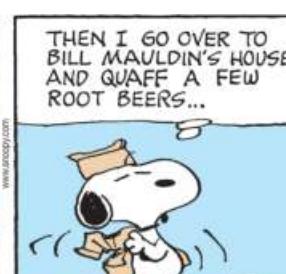
Chennai-based Forum Art Gallery presents A State of Oneness, a virtual exhibition of recent paintings by Indian artist Sarla Chandra. Sarla Chandra's tryst with art and Indian culture has spanned over 40 years. With more than 50 solo exhibitions and 40 group shows to her credit, her paintings have travelled across the globe. Born in 1943, Sarla has a postgraduate degree in Science from St John's College, Agra. However other subjects that have always fascinated her – like Indian philosophy, mythology and the scriptures – have slowly manifested themselves onto her canvas. She has experimented with a variety of media like oils, acrylics, watercolours, etchings, lithographs, but her unique use of 'bhojpatra'-parchment, 'repoussé'-metal embossing and 'varakh'-gold and silver foil are unorthodox techniques that recreate the aura of Indian cultural heritage.

The exhibition will be on view from November 11 at forumartgallery.com

POOCH CAFE



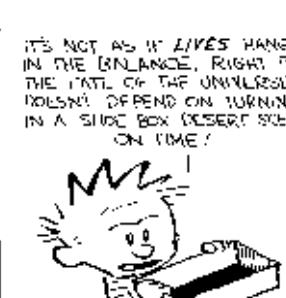
PEANUTS



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



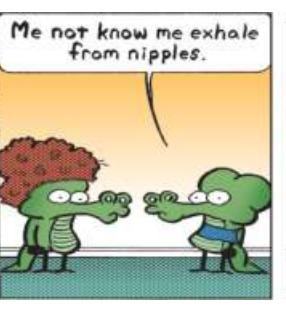
CALVIN AND HOBBES



TIGER



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



The pink of health

Video messages are helping raise awareness on breast cancer, thanks to a Hyderabad-based campaign

NEERAJA MURTHY

According to the World Health Organization, breast cancer accounts for 2.09 million cases and 627,000 deaths globally. "In this scenario, the pink awareness campaign is needed through the year," says Pavan Atukuri of Hyderabad-based Open Face Media, that released 30 videos in 10 Indian languages in the past month, to raise awareness through first-person testimonies.

The campaign, launched in October, Breast Cancer Awareness Month, will see a second chapter this week, with posters and six animation films set to be released from November 13. While Avinash Baghel, a music director based in Raipur, has worked pro-bono for the to-be-released animation films, the ones that are already out feature people like RJ's, fitness coaches and educators spreading awareness in their own words.

With 'Gift a mammogram to yourselves and your loved ones' and 'Make sure you catch it young to cure it' as the taglines, the company had released 30 videos of 30-40 seconds duration each, in multiple languages in October. The team reached out to men and women of all age groups, getting testimonials in Bengali, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Tamil, Odia, Marathi, Gujarati, Hindi and Punjabi.

Losing his cousin to breast cancer spurred Pavan to look at ways to create

awareness. "I realised awareness is the only thing that makes a big difference in understanding the dreaded C-word," he says.

Pavan shot two videos and sent it to friends and people in his broadcast list. With restrictions due to COVID-19, he sent the speakers a document through Google Drive explaining how to face the camera and shoot with indoor lighting. His team members Vinod Nomula, Pranesh Gotipamul, Shashank Nidamarthy, Vivek Reddy colour corrected and edited the videos; a pink wrapper (frame) was designed, music and subtitles added before a release on their social media pages.

RJ Bhargavi, Pushpita Balakrishnan (Indus International School), fitness coach Sunil Menon and Pavan's mother-in-law (with a message in Punjabi) are a few contributors who stepped in to raise awareness. Abhineeta Raghunath, a content professional's powerful message in a song shows women how to check their breasts regularly.

Says Pavan, "We need to take this message to women above 35; like a monthly beauty parlour session, women need to check their breasts on the same day of every month. Breast cancer is completely curable but the key is to detect it in the early stages."

The films can be watched on Open Face Media's social media pages.

Looking back at pan pizza

We have a chat with Pizza Hut as it celebrates the 40th anniversary of its original pan pizza



NAHLA NAINAR

Pizza Hut has been celebrating the 40th anniversary of its iconic Original Pan Pizza with a host of activities and offers in its global chain of restaurants. Among the events organised in October was a virtual tour of its innovation labs and kitchens across the globe, for a behind-the-scenes look at the making of the deep-dish "pan pizza", which the US-based company debuted in 1980.

It was hosted by Ana Maria Rodriguez, chief food innovation and quality officer at Pizza Hut International, and her team around the world. Calling herself a 'food engineer', Rodriguez said that Pizza Hut had people with different skill sets all working towards creating the best product.

The team also answered questions on ingredients like 'fairy dust', a secret mix of herbs that enhances the flavour of the dough. Baked in an oiled deep dish, the pan pizza has a fluffier texture with crisp side crusts and bottom, as compared to hand-tossed versions.

Pizza Hut, which operates in 55 countries, has been in India for over 20 years. Of its 547 stores in the subcontinent, 460 are in India. "We exist for the love of pizza and I am confident that consumers will thoroughly relish the new range," said Merrill Pereyra, managing director, Pizza Hut, India Subcontinent, in a press statement.

The lockdown affected not only the procurement of ingredients and the functioning of restaurants but also the innovation of flavours for the next season, which begins at least a year in advance. To get around this, the team conferred on ideas virtually, and conducted physical consumer research with taste tests in selected areas to get feedback on the new pan pizza flavours. "The COVID situation has expanded our creativity big-time. We now visit restaurants virtually, so we are with them, recognising their effort, and also check the store for quality and ingredients," said Rodriguez.

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Barr orders probe into poll fraud claims

Attorney General authorised federal prosecutors to pursue 'substantial allegations' of irregularities

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON

Attorney-General William Barr has authorised federal prosecutors across the U.S. to pursue "substantial allegations" of voting irregularities, if they exist, before the 2020 presidential election is certified.

Mr. Barr's action comes days after Democrat Joe Biden defeated President Donald Trump and raises the prospect that Mr. Trump will use the Justice Department to try to challenge the outcome. It gives prosecutors the ability to go around longstanding Justice Department policy that normally would prohibit such overt actions before the election is certified.

Mr. Trump has not conceded the election and is instead claiming without evidence that there has been a widespread, multi-State conspiracy by Democrats to skew the vote tally in Mr. Biden's favour.

Mr. Biden holds a sizeable lead in multiple battleground States and there has



Legal pressure: William Barr, left, leaving the office of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell in Washington. •AP

been no indication of enough improperly counted or illegally cast votes that would shift the outcome. In fact, election officials from both political parties have publicly stated the election went well, though there have been minor issues that are typical in elections, including voting machines breaking and ballots that were miscast and lost.

In a memo to U.S. attorneys, Mr. Barr wrote that investigations "may be conducted if there are clear and

apparently-credible allegations of irregularities that, if true, could potentially impact the outcome of a federal election in an individual State."

Mr. Barr does not identify any specific instances of purported fraud in the memo. "While it is imperative that credible allegations be addressed in a timely and effective manner, it is equally imperative that Department personnel exercise appropriate caution," Mr. Barr wrote.

Pompeo vows transition to a 'second Trump term'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

WASHINGTON

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Tuesday promised the world a "smooth transition" after U.S. elections but refused to recognise President-elect Joe Biden's victory, saying Donald Trump will remain in power.

"There will be a smooth transition to a second Trump administration," Mr. Pompeo said at a news conference, when asked about contacts with Mr. Biden's team.

"The world should have every confidence that the transition necessary to make sure that the State Department is functional today... with the President who is in office on January 20 a minute after noon will be successful," he said, referring to the date of the presidential inauguration.



Mike Pompeo

World leaders, including almost all U.S. allies, have congratulated Mr. Biden on his victory.

But Mr. Trump has refused to concede the November 3 election and has alleged massive fraud, calling for recounts and legal action.

Asked if the U.S. can still issue statements calling for free elections around the world, Mr. Pompeo said the question was "ridiculous."

Biden defends Obama-era health care law

Supreme Court mulls the fate of the Affordable Care Act after suit seeks to end it

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WILMINGTON

President-elect Joe Biden is championing the Obama administration's signature health law as it goes before the Supreme Court in a case that could overturn it.

Mr. Biden's speech reflects the importance he is putting on health care as he prepares to take office in January amid the worst pandemic in more than a century. He's launching his transition process this week as the coronavirus surges

across the country. The U.S. surpassed 10 million cases on Monday.

Mr. Biden also focused on health care on Monday as he appealed to Americans to put aside their differences and wear masks to protect themselves and their neighbours from the virus.

"We could save tens of thousands of lives if everyone would just wear a mask for the next few months. Not Democratic or Republican lives, American lives," Mr. Biden said.

"Please, I implore you, wear a mask."

Public option'

The suit challenging the health care law was brought in America's largest conservative state, Texas, and is backed by Mr. Trump and top Republicans. It asks the Supreme Court to declare the law's mandate to buy health insurance unconstitutional because Congress had previously repealed the penalties for noncompliance.

After serving as President

Barack Obama's Vice-President for eight years, Mr. Biden has pledged to build on the Affordable Care Act while championing a "public option" that would allow more people to opt into government-sponsored health insurance even as millions of others could stick with their current, usually employer-based coverage. But such changes could be difficult to enact if Democrats fail to win a Senate majority. Control of the chamber hinges on two runoff races in Georgia

Taliban urges Biden to stick to troop exit

REUTERS

KABUL

Afghanistan's insurgent Taliban on Tuesday called on the U.S. President-elect Joe Biden to stick to the February agreement to withdraw U.S. troops.

The U.S. has been pulling out its troops under the deal which envisages the withdrawal to be complete by May, while the Taliban holds peace talks with the Afghan government in Doha.

Pak. Army suspends officials who arrested Sharif's son-in-law

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's military on Tuesday announced the suspension of a number of intelligence officers and troops accused by Opposition leaders last month of abducting a provincial police chief to pressure him to arrest the son-in-law of exiled former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

The unusual action by the military comes three weeks after Mr. Sharif's son-in-law, Captain (retd) Mohammad Safdar, was briefly detained after Opposition parties held a rally in the port city of Karachi against Prime Minister Imran Khan.

Capt. Safdar was taken from a hotel room, where he was staying with his wife. The arrest came after he visited the mausoleum of Mohammad Ali Jinnah.

Mr. Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League at the time insisted Capt. Safdar was arrested only after troops abducted provincial police chief Mushtaq Mehar to pressure him to sign orders for his arrest. Neither Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence nor the paramilitary Rangers at the time commented and it was unclear how many intelligence agents and troops were suspended.

Armenia, Azerbaijan agree on peace deal

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

YEREVAN

Armenia and Azerbaijan agreed on a deal with Russia to end fierce clashes over Nagorno-Karabakh on Tuesday, after a string of Azerbaijani victories in its fight to retake the disputed region.

Hundreds of Russian peacekeepers were en route to the ethnic Armenian territory, which broke from Azerbaijan's control during a war in the 1990s, just hours after

ceasefire took effect.

But the agreement sparked outrage in Armenia, with angry protesters storming the government headquarters in the capital Yerevan where they ransacked offices and broke windows.

Crowds also entered Parliament and demanded the resignation of Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan. "I have taken this decision as a result of an analysis of the military situation," he said.

BHARAT COKING COAL LIMITED 'A Mini Ratna Company' (A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)

NOTICE

All the tenders* issued by Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on website of BCCL www.bcclweb.in, Coal India Limited (CIL) e-procurement portal <https://coalindiatenders.nic.in> and Central Public Procurement portal <https://eprocure.gov.in>. In addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal <https://gem.gov.in>.

*This is applicable to all Open (Domestic/Global) Tenders issued through e-procurement portal of CIL.

Key Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat dies

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

RAMALLAH

Saeb Erekat, one of the most prominent veterans of the Palestinian cause, died on Tuesday of coronavirus complications at the age of 65, in a death mourned far beyond the occupied territory.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas called the passing of "a brother and friend... a huge loss for Palestine & our people".

Egypt praised Erekat, the Palestine Liberation Organisation's secretary general, as "a steadfast fighter ... who spent his life diligently pursuing the rights of the Palestinian people".

Erekat was a long-time architect of negotiations aspiring to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, a goal he would not live to see.

Born in Jerusalem in 1955, Ere-

kat lived in the biblical town of Jericho in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

An academic and author, Erekat grew up in the shadow of Israel's crushing victory over its Arab neighbours in the Six-Day War of 1967, and dedicated much of his life to seeking a resolution to the conflict. He was part of every team to negotiate with Israel since 1991.



ANNA UNIVERSITY

CHENNAI - 600 025

TENDER NOTICE : Tender Ref No. 63/CPO4/RCC/NWC/RC/2020

Online Tenders in Two Bid System are invited for the following item for the period of one year under Rate Contract Basis to the University Departments/Centres/Constituent Colleges of Anna University, Chennai through e-Tender by the Director, Ramanujan Computing Centre, Anna University, Chennai.

Sl. No.	Tender Ref. No.	Name of the Item	Approx. cost
1.	63/CPO4/RCC/NWC/RC/2020	"Network (Active & Passive) Components"	₹2,00,00,000/-

The tender documents can be downloaded by registering in the website <https://tntenders.gov.in> from 03.00 pm on 11.11.2020. The filled-in tender documents can be submitted by uploading in the website upto 03.00 pm on 30.11.2020 and will be opened at 03.00 pm on 01.12.2020. Other detailed tender conditions, future corrigenda etc., please visit the website (<https://tntenders.gov.in>).

DIPR/4204/Tender/2020

REGISTRAR

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

RURAL WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION ORGANISATION

-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, RWS&S DIVISION, ANGUL:AT:TALCHER

At- Baghuana, P.O., Hatotaka, Talcher, Dist- Angul, Pin- 759100

(Ph. No./Fax-06760-240762, E-mail : eerwssang@gmail.com)

-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-

National Competitive Bidding through e-Procurement

Bid Identification No.04/EER/RWS&S/ANGUL/2020-21 Dt.05.11.2020 (DMF)

The Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Angul:at:Talcher on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Item Rate/Percentage bid through e-procurement in double/single cover system according to norm of e-Procurement system in on-line mode.

Nature of Work : Rural Piped Water Supply Schemes

1. No. of Tenders	: 1 No.
2. Tender Paper Cost	: ₹0,00,000
3. Value of work	: ₹19,28 Lakhs
4. Class of Contractor	: "B" & "A" Class
5. Date & time of availability of bid document in portal	: 11.11.2020 at 13.00 hours to 20.11.2020 upto 17.00 hours
6. Date & time of seeking tender clarification	: 17.11.2020 upto 17.00 hours
7. Date & time of opening of tender & verification of original document	: 21.11.2020 at 15.00 hours in the office of the Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Angul:at:Talcher
8. Time of completion	: 10 (Ten) Calendar Months
9. The bidders have to participate in online bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in .	
10. Corrigendum if any shall be publish in the above website only.	

Sd/- Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Angul at Talcher.

OIPR/25019/11/01/2021

"STOP CORONA - WEAR MASK, FOLLOW PHYSICAL DISTANCING & MAINTAIN HYGIENE"

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (EAP-II)

DELHI JAL BOARD, GOVT OF NCT OF DELHI

O.H.T. ASHOK VIHAR, NEW DELHI 110052

Press NIT NO - 01/2020/21

Pre-bid meeting will be held on 19.11.2020 at 11:00 a.m. in the Conference Hall, Varunala Phase-II, Jhandewalan, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005. The NIT is available with bid forms and other details at <http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>. Any future amendment/corrigendum, pre-bid reply etc, can only be seen on website.

ISSUED BY P.R.O.(WATER)

Advt. No. J.S.V. 222(2020-21)

02.12.2020 up to 3:00 PM

EE(EAP)-III

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Through e-Procurement Portal Only)

BWSSB invites tenders in two stage system from eligible contractors for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer(WWW), 5th Floor , Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.
IFT No.:BWSSB/CE(WWW)/ACE(WWW)-1/TA-1/1627/2020-21 Dt:09.11.2020

Biological Nutrient Removal Process at 248 MLD STP at K&C Valley (4th Call).
Amount put to tender:Rs. 292.63Lakhs, EMD: Rs.4.39 Lakhs.
The Last date and time for submission of completed tenders: 20.11.2020 up to 5.30 p.m.
and the date of opening of Technical bid : 23.11.2020 at 4.00 p.m.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (WWW)

Office of the Chief Engineer(West), 2nd Floor , Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.
IFT No.:BWSSB/EI/CE(WWW)/ACE(W)-1/DCE(M)-1/TA(M)-1/3334/2020-21 Dt:09.11.2020

Providing, Laying of 300mm dia DI water supply line with fixing 300mm dia valves to provide dedicated water supply line to the Baiyappanahalli 3rd Coaching Terminal of South Western Railways coming under Machalibetta Service Station of AEE(C-3) Sub Division.
Amount put to tender:Rs. 115.74 Lakhs, EMD: Rs.1.73 Lakhs.
The Last date and time for submission of completed tenders: 24.11.2020 up to 3.00 p.m.
and the date of opening of Technical bid : 26.11.2020 at 5.00 p.m.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (West)

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement can be obtained by logging on to : <a href="

MARKET WATCH

	10-11-2020	% CHANGE
Sensex	43,278	-1.60
US Dollar	74.18	-0.04
Gold	50,338	-3.54
Brent oil	43.10	1.34

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	366.75	-0.30
Asian Paints	2199.75	-25.45
Avis Bank	583.60	-18.55
Bajaj Auto	2997.50	-4.45
Bajaj Finserv	6687.65	-404.30
Bajaj Finance	4208.55	-343.55
Bharti Airtel	466.40	-5.40
BPLC	382.80	-7.25
Britannia Ind	3508.50	-39.95
Cipla	717.30	-45.90
Coal India	124.80	3.05
Divis Labs	3263.40	-160.35
D Dr Reddy's Lab	4698.60	-181.65
Eicher Motors	2334.85	-42.00
GAIL (India)	90.20	3.70
Grasim Ind	789.50	-2.65
HCL Tech.	809.70	-45.30
HDFC	2272.10	-120.00
HDFC Bank	1393.65	-53.10
HDFC Life	609.65	-16.80
Hero MotoCorp	2951.25	-3.00
Hindalco	192.35	-2.35
Hind Unilever	2136.60	-4.05
ICICI Bank	483.85	-21.15
IndusInd Bank	835.20	-59.75
Infosys	1091.05	-45.50
Indian Oil Corp	84.25	3.05
ITC	178.35	5.55
JSW Steel	334.80	1.70
Kotak Bank	1752.95	-24.80
L&T	1033.70	-67.85
M&M	619.95	3.60
Maruti Suzuki	6793.45	-78.70
Nestle India Ltd.	16604.75	-727.25
NTPC	91.50	2.05
ONGC	70.75	2.30
PowerGrid Corp	185.90	1.85
Reliance Ind	2084.55	-33.85
SBI Life	829.40	-21.25
State Bank	231.70	-12.20
Shree Cement	22762.80	-158.10
Sun Pharma	490.90	-19.25
Tata Motors	146.00	5.00
Tata Steel	441.90	3.60
TCS	2649.60	-77.00
Tech Mahindra	821.30	-51.45
Titan	1305.40	20.35
UltraTech Cement	4719.55	-94.30
UPL	432.80	6.05
Wipro	342.30	9.65

EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	73.98	74.30
Euro	87.22	87.60
British Pound	98.15	98.58
Japanese Yen (100)	70.25	70.56
Chinese Yuan	11.19	11.24
Swiss Franc	80.73	81.08
Singapore Dollar	54.81	55.06
Canadian Dollar	56.78	57.05
Malaysian Ringgit	17.95	18.03
Australian Dollar	53.84	54.09

Source: Indian Bank

IN BRIEF



Audi to increase prices across models by 2%

MUMBAI Luxury car manufacturer Audi India has announced a price increase of up to 2%, starting January 1, 2021, on its entire model range owing to weakening of the rupee and rising input costs, the company said. "While we have tried to absorb the impact at various levels, the current situation necessitates an increase in price for sustainable growth," Balbir Singh Dhillon, head, Audi India said.

Chola finance unveils co-lending business

CHENNAI Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company, the financial arm of the Murugappa Group, has started co-lending business with technology from Nucleus Software, a provider of lending and transaction banking solutions. "Co-lending is a new direction for Chola. This will soon evolve into a very fruitful partnership model for banks and NBFCs," said Executive Director Ravindra Kundu.

Mitsubishi Corp. picks up minority stake in TVS SCS

CHENNAI Mitsubishi Corp., Japan, has picked up a minority stake in TVS Supply Chain Solutions Ltd. (TVS SCS) for an undisclosed sum. The investment is via a secondary market transaction, which will allow existing investor Tata Opportunities Fund (TOF) to secure a partial exit, TVS SCS said in a statement. TOF will however, continue to hold a residual stake and remain a key strategic investment partner for TVS SCS.

SBI nod to divest 8.5% stake in UTI Trustee Co.

NEW DELHI State Bank of India (SBI) on Tuesday said its board of directors had approved a proposal to divest over 8.5% in UTI Trustee Company. "The executive committee of the central board of directors of State Bank of India approved the divestment of 8,510 equity shares constituting 8.51% of the bank's stake in UTI Trustee Company Pvt. Ltd.," SBI said in a regulatory filing on Tuesday. PTI

Banks must not distance customers: FM

Sitharaman urges bankers not to shy away from lending, but take commercially justifiable decisions

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT



Green light: Ms. Sitharaman says bankers no longer need to fear the three Cs – CBI, CVC and CAG. •PTI

Banks must not shy away from lending, especially when the economy is facing major challenges, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Tuesday. Lenders should also offer all Indian customers the Rupay card first, discourage non-digital payments, and link every account with the customer's Aadhaar number by March 31, 2021, she added.

"The pandemic has created distance among us, but I hope it is only that distance to keep the virus away, not our customer[s] away," Ms. Sitharaman said at the Indian Banks' Association annual general meeting. Bankers, she asserted, no longer needed to fear the three Cs (CBI, CVC and CAG) and must not hesitate in taking decisions.

"We are keen that the fear

that was voiced when we came in 2014 about the 3Cs has to go away from your mind. No more fears of the 3Cs... the CVC himself is developing your training courses, so you can take commercially justifiable decisions and you need not fear taking

decisions, that came into your mind during some unfortunate period," she said.

Principal business' Department of Financial Services Secretary Debasish Panda reminded banks that lending is their principal busi-

ness and they must lend after undertaking prudent risk management rather than avoid lending altogether.

"You cannot pay your depositors unless you lend and make money. You cannot enhance the wages of your employees if you don't earn sufficient profits. Your shareholders will have no interest in you if you don't give them dividend," he said.

"A variety of steps have been initiated, including by the CVC, the RBI and the government that ensure there is no reason for you to be worried if there is prudent lending, properly risk-managed," Mr. Panda said, suggesting that banks use more technology so that 'no discretionary scope is available that could be questioned.'

While India now had 42 crore Jan Dhan bank accounts, the Minister told banks that work remained to

widen financial inclusion.

Aadhaar link push

"You still have so many out there who don't have a bank account that is Aadhaar-seeded. I do not want to hear from any bank that they can't do DBT [direct benefit transfer] because the government wants me to do it, but I still cannot tell from that how many accounts are not Aadhaar-seeded," Ms. Sitharaman said.

"This is giving me a feeling that we may have some duplication, some form of unverified accounts and we are not really sure about each of these accounts. I don't think, beyond December 31, I can even be patient to hear that there are accounts in banks that are not yet Aadhaar-seeded," she added, setting March 31, 2021, as the outermost deadline for the process to be completed.

Sensex hits 43,000-mark for first time, rises 1.6%

Promising trials of vaccine spurs index

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MUMBAI

Extending its winning streak for the seventh straight session, the equity benchmark Sensex soared 680 points to scale another lifetime high on Tuesday, tracking a global market rally driven by Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine trials data.

After touching its lifetime peak of 43,316.44 during the day, the 30-share BSE index settled 680.22 points, or 1.6%, higher at 43,277.65.

The broader NSE Nifty touched a fresh intraday high of 12,643.90. It closed 170.05 points, or 1.36%, higher at 12,631.10.

Bajaj Finance was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, surging about 9%, followed by IndusInd Bank, L&T, Bajaj Finserv, HDFC, SBI, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, ONGC and Axis Bank. On the other

hand, Tech Mahindra, HCL Tech, Infosys, Nestle India, Sun Pharma and TCS closed in the red.

"Announcements by BioNTech and Pfizer about successful phase-3 trials of their COVID-19 vaccine instilled confidence among investors and possibility of sustained economic recovery led sharp buying in beaten down stocks," said Arjun Yash Mahajan, head, Institutional Business, Reliance Securities.

NMDC fixes buy-back of shares at ₹105

Mahindra Q2 net drops 88% as provisions surge

Automaker sells 21% fewer vehicles

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Mining major NMDC will buy back more than 13.12 crore equity shares at ₹105 each. The offer price is almost 12% premium to Tuesday's closing price of ₹94 on the BSE.

NMDC said the board had approved the buy-back of not more than 13,12,43,809 shares (of face value of ₹1 each), representing 4.29% of the fully paid-up equity shares, at ₹105 each. NMDC set November 23 as record date.

For the September quarter, the PSU's consolidated net profit rose more than 10% to ₹772.5 crore. Total income stood at ₹2,318.7 crore (₹2,369.4 crore).

Auto major Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. (M&M) and its wholly owned subsidiary Mahindra Vehicle Manufacturers Ltd. (MVML) together reported a 88% drop in second-quarter net profit to ₹162 crore on account of exceptional items.

Exceptional items worth ₹1,49.5 crore represent impairment provisions for certain long-term investments, the company said.

The provisions were made towards the company's investments in its overseas subsidiaries and in Mahindra Finance Ltd., said Anish Shah, deputy MD and CFO. "There would be no

'States may cut capex on infra by up to 40%'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, States are likely to cut capital outlay on infrastructure by up to 40%, rating agency ICRA said.

States account for 37-40% of the total infrastructure capital expenditure. The major States together had budgeted a capital outlay of more than ₹5.7 lakh crore for 2020-21.

"However, with COVID-19 severely impacting revenues of State governments, and additional expenditure towards healthcare and public welfare, the capital outlay on infrastructure by States could decline 10-40% in FY2021," ICRA said in a statement.

Hindalco profit slumps 60%; sees 'strong' H2

Q2 net falls to ₹387 cr. on one-off item

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MUMBAI

Hindalco Industries on Tuesday reported a 60.2% fall in consolidated profit after tax (PAT) to ₹387 crore for the quarter ended September 30, but said it was expecting strong third and fourth quarters as demand had returned in domestic as well as export markets.

PAT declined due to a one-time impact of ₹1,398 crore on account of the divestiture of the Lewisport unit in Aleris in the U.S., Hindalco's Managing Director Satish Pai told reporters.

However, revenue from operations during the July-September quarter rose to ₹31,237 crore, from ₹29,657

SEBI mulls risk control panel for more firms

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

SEBI on Tuesday proposed extending the requirement of constituting a risk management committee to the top 1,000 listed entities from 500 at present.

The risk management committee should meet at least twice a year from the current practice of minimum one meeting, SEBI said in a paper.

Considering the multitude of risks faced by listed entities, the regulator said risk management had emerged as a very important function of the board.

The COVID-19 pandemic had reinforced the need for a robust risk management framework, it added.

Godrej Group forays into home finance

Firm sees 50% growth in festival sales

Fearsome MI breaks DC's resilience, surges to a record fifth title

Rohit's men carve themselves a slice of history after skipper's 68 sets up easy win; Shreyas, Pant drag Delhi out of Boult-created trouble, but their efforts not enough



Men for the big stage: Rohit Sharma and Trent Boult combined to ensure that Mumbai Indians became only the second team after Chennai Super Kings to win back-to-back titles. It was also the side's first triumph in an even year. ■ BCCI/IPL

IPL 2020

SPORTS BUREAU

Mumbai Indians underlined its status as a true powerhouse team, cruising to a fifth IPL title with a five-wicket victory over Delhi Capitals in Tuesday's final at the Dubai International Stadium.

Saving his best for last
MI took the big prize without much fuss, reaching a 157-run target with eight balls to spare. Skipper Rohit Sharma (68, 51b, 5x4, 4x6), not in the best form this season, saved his best for last.

Rohit made his intentions clear early, coming down the track to whack R. Ashwin for a six over long-on off the third ball of the chase. His opening partner Quinton de Kock (20, 12b, 3x4, 1x6) packed a punch too. Their pyrotechnics took MI to 58 for one in five overs, effectively shutting DC out of the contest.

Selfless Suryakumar
The only hiccup came when Suryakumar Yadav and Rohit found themselves at the same end, leading the former to selflessly sacrifice his

wicket. The MI captain was eventually dismissed 20 runs short of the target, but he had done his job. Ishan Kishan (33 n.o., 19b, 3x4, 1x6) ensured that MI's title march would not be stopped.

After choosing to bat, DC rode on a 96-run partnership between Shreyas Iyer (65 n.o., 50b, 6x4, 2x6) and Rishabh Pant (56, 38b, 4x4, 2x6) to post a par score.

The duo came together when the side was in trouble at 22 for three, facing heavy fire from pacers Trent Boult and Jasprit Bumrah.

Boult gave MI the perfect start, dismissing Marcus Stoines with a snorter in the very first ball of the match. Boult got his second when Ajinkya Rahane glanced one down the leg to 'keeper de Kock.

Off-spinner Jayant Yadav, drafted into the eleven to counter the many left-handers in the DC batting line-up, delivered the goods. Jayant tossed one up to Shikhar Dhawan, who failed to connect with a wild slog and lost his stumps.

Shreyas and Pant prevented an embarrassing collapse, displaying great temperament to steady the ship. Pant opened up in the 10th over, bowled by left-arm spinner

Krunal Pandya, striking two big sixes. The young wicket-keeper-batsman notched up his first fifty of the tournament with a clever ramp shot off Nathan Coulter-Nile, but got out a few deliveries later.

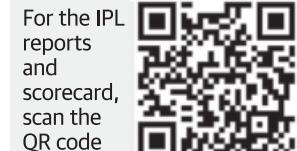
Losing momentum

Pant's dismissal put a halt on DC's scoring rate. Shreyas, Shikhar Hetmyer and Axar Patel could not provide much firepower in the death, managing only 38 runs in the last five overs.

HONOURS BOARD

2008	Rajasthan Royals
2009	Deccan Chargers
2010	Chennai Super Kings
2011	Chennai Super Kings
2012	Kolkata Knight Riders
2013	Mumbai Indians
2014	Kolkata Knight Riders
2015	Mumbai Indians
2016	Sunrisers Hyderabad
2017	Mumbai Indians
2018	Chennai Super Kings
2019	Mumbai Indians
2020	Mumbai Indians

For the IPL reports and scorecard, scan the QR code



STATOSPHERE

1 Rohit Sharma became the first captain to score two half-centuries in an IPL final. In 2015 against CSK, he made 50 off 26 balls

2 Mumbai Indians became only the second team to defend its IPL title after Chennai Super Kings achieved the feat in 2010 and 2011

4 Mumbai Indians defeated Delhi Capitals four times this season, including the final. It had a similar record against Chennai Super Kings in 2019

100%
Rohit has never been part of a losing side in an IPL final. He has won it five times with Mumbai Indians and once with Deccan Chargers (2009)

200 It was Rohit's 200th IPL match, the second player to reach the landmark. Only Dhoni (204) has played more IPL games

30 Rabada is the second bowler to take 30 wickets in a season after Dwayne Bravo (32 in 2013)

TWEETS

Twitter The best T20 franchise in the world and the best captain in the format. Deserving winners, Mumbai Indians. **VIRENDER SEHWAG**

Twitter Without question Rohit Sharma should be the India T20 captain. Fantastic man-manager and leader, and knows exactly how to win T20 games. **MICHAEL VAUGHAN**

Twitter Well done to MI... got better and better as the season went on. Dominated and deserved their fifth IPL title. Six titles to Rohit **SCOTT STYRIS**

The award winners

- Emerging Player: Devdutt Padikkal (RCB)
- Most Valuable Player: Jofra Archer (RR)
- Purple Cap: Kagiso Rabada (DC)
- Orange Cap: K.L. Rahul (KKIP)
- Fair Play: Mumbai Indians
- Game-changer of the season: K.L. Rahul
- Super-striker: Kieron Pollard (MI)
- Most sixes: Ishan Kishan (MI)



SCOREBOARD

DELHI CAPITALS

Marcus Stoines c de Kock b Boult 0 (1b), Shikhar Dhawan b Jayant 15 (13b, 3x4), Ajinkya Rahane c de Kock b Boult 2 (4b), Shreyas Iyer (not out) 65 (50b, 6x4, 2x6), Rishabh Pant c Hardik b Coulter-Nile 56 (38b, 4x4, 2x6), Shimron Hetmyer c Coulter-Nile b Boult 5 (5b, 1x4), Axar Patel c (sub) Anukul b Coulter-Nile 9 (9b, 1x4), Kagiso Rabada run out 0 (0b); Extras (lb-1, w-3): 4; Total (for seven wkts. in 20 overs): 156.

CAPITALS BOWLING
Ashwin 4-0-28-0, Rabada 3-0-32-1, Nortje 2-4-0-25-2, Stoines 2-0-23-1, Axar 4-0-16-0, Pravin 3-0-29-0.

Toss: Delhi Capitals.
Player-of-the-final: Trent Boult.

Mumbai Indians won by five wickets with eight balls to spare .

Innings scan

DC	MI
42	Dots 39
15	Fours 14
4	Sixes 7
41/3	PP 61/1
7.80	RR 8.41

... And the caps go to

ORANGE CAP

K.L. RAHUL (KKIP)
Matches: 14 | Runs: 670
HS: 132* | SR: 129.34

PURPLE CAP

KAGISO RABADA (DC)
Matches: 17 | Wickets: 30
BB: 4/24 | Econ: 8.34

3-0 sweep for Pakistan

Babar replaces Azhar as Test captain

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

RAWALPINDI

Pakistan thrashed Zimbabwe by eight wickets in the third T20I to sweep the series here on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, Babar Azam has replaced Azhar Ali as Test captain for the tour of New Zealand.

Babar, 26, is now skipper in all three formats and his first assignment will be the

World Test Championship fixtures against New Zealand, which will be played in Mount Maunganui and Christchurch from December 26-30 and January 3-7.

The scores: Zimbabwe 129/9 in 20 overs (Chamu Chibhabha 31, Donald Tiripano 28, Usman Qadir 4/13) lost to Pakistan 130/2 in 15.2 overs (Abdullah Shafique 41 n.o., Khushdil Shah 36 n.o.). **MoM & MoS:** Qadir.

Full auction for 2021?

AMOL KARHADKAR

MUMBAI
With the most challenging edition of the IPL ending, the BCCI has seemingly begun preparations for the forthcoming season. In all likelihood, the BCCI is likely to conduct a full auction ahead of the next edition.

The Hindu understands that the BCCI hierarchy has indicated to the

franchises informally that a full auction will be scheduled early next year.

In fact, according to a BCCI insider, the full auction is being planned since "the BCCI has plans to add a ninth team" for the 2021 edition. The move, it is understood, is aimed at striking a financial balance in the aftermath of the pandemic.

IN BRIEF



Spectators permitted for India-Australia matches

SYDNEY

Cricket Australia on Tuesday announced that up to 27,000 spectators, 50% of the capacity, would be allowed at the Adelaide Oval for the first ever day-night Test between

India and Australia, starting on December 17. The Boxing Day Test in Melbourne will see crowds of 25%, third Test in Sydney 50% and the fourth Test at Brisbane up to 75% capacity. PTI

F1 unveils 23-race calendar for 2021

PARIS

Formula One unveiled a 23-race calendar for 2021 on Tuesday, its biggest ever, but the slot that was to be occupied by Vietnam has been left vacant. The season will start in Australia on March 21

and includes the first-ever race in Saudi Arabia on Nov. 28. The Vietnamese organisers said their race originally scheduled for April might never take place. F1 organisers said they expect spectators to return next year. PTI

Mominul Haque tests positive for COVID-19

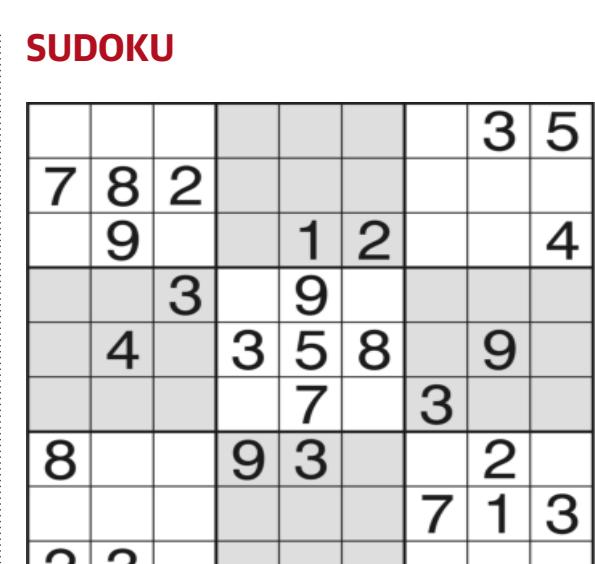
DHAKA

Bangladesh Test captain Mominul Haque has tested positive for COVID-19 and is undergoing home isolation. BCB chief physician Dr. Debasish Chowdhury has

confirmed Haque's test result. His participation in the Bangabandhu T20 Cup later this month is doubtful. Meanwhile, Bangladeshi stars Mashrafe Mortaza, Abu Jayed and Saif Hassan have recovered, while Mahmudullah Riyad is in isolation. PTI

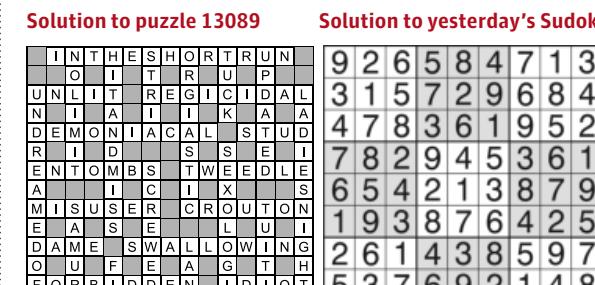


SUDOKU

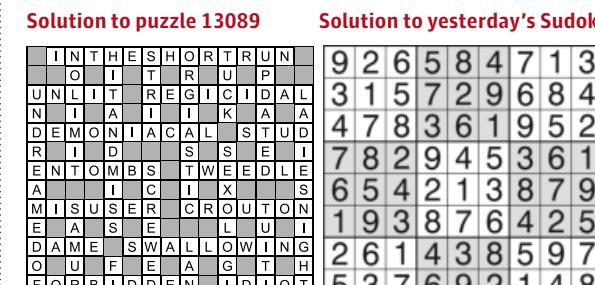


DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to puzzle 13089



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

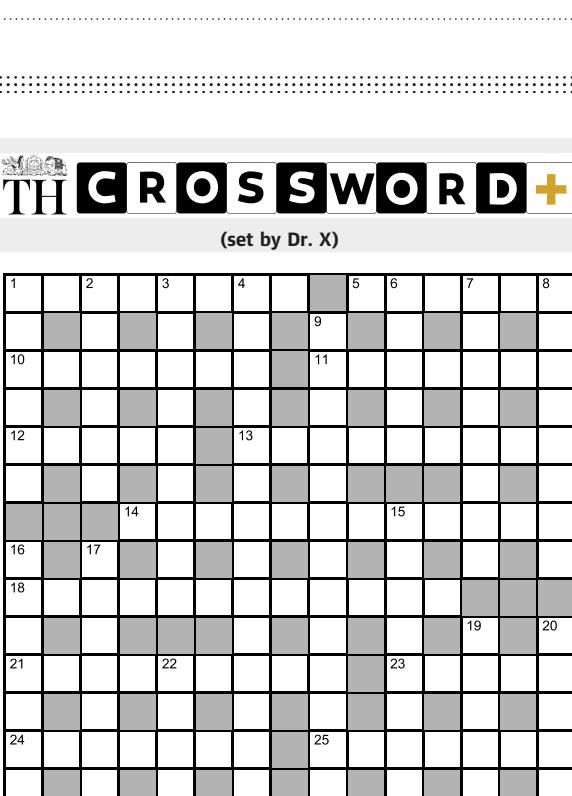


FAITH

Message of Kapila

In this world, every individual succumbs to the pulls and attractions that constantly influence one's life to such an extent that one forgets the purpose of one's birth. While this truth cannot be denied by any one, it is only through some fortunate intervention that some at least are able to be drawn to practise spiritual sadana. This is exemplified in the case of Devahuti who is taught the philosophy of life and existence by her son Kapila who is the incarnation of the Supreme Lord, pointed out Sri R. Krishnamurthy Sastrigal in a discourse.

The Kailopadesa, a crucial section in the Bhagavata Purana, is a compendium of valuable instruction on esoteric matters. It explains the immortal atma as distinct from the body that is perishable. As Devahuti listens to Kapila, she regrets the way she has been involved in the worldly life of senses all these years. Though wedded to Kardama Prajapati, and though hailing from realised ancestry, she has spent her life by being attached to the world. Attachment is the culprit that hides the permanent values one has to seek from one's vision even as darkness can easily eclipse the brilliance of light. The irony is that one spends the most valuable time in wholehearted attachment to the temporary attractions and goals. If this situation has to be reversed, one has to seek satsanga and direct one's desires to God alone. The senses are the root cause for keeping us tied to worldly attractions. They are one's strong enemies that are not easy to control. They nurture the sense of ahamkara and mamakara. All these have to be transcended, says Adi Sankara in the famous stotra Bhaja Govinda. He advocates the company of the pious that alone can provide a suitable environment for the jiva to gain control over the indriyas.



ACROSS
1 Degenerate picked up escort in retro party (2,2,4)
5 Unionist involved in vice? Refuse to respond (4,2)
10 Religious group protecting most prudish offender (7)
11 Messenger smuggling dope for leader of insurgents is more stupid (7)
12 Arbitrary execution of nationalist in Polish city (5)
13 Say sorry when logo is misprinted in copy (9)

The Hindu Crossword 13090 by Dr. X, published on Tuesday, carried misleading enumeration for clues 10 Down (6,5) and 15 Down (7,2). The inadvertent errors are regretted.

IN BRIEF



Garcia tests positive, pulls out of Masters

AUGUSTA
Sergio Garcia, the 2017 Masters champion, withdrew from the 84th Masters on Monday after announcing he had tested positive for COVID-19. Garcia, who took his only Major title at Augusta National three years ago, tested positive on Sunday after missing the cut at the US PGA Houston Open. The 40-year-old Spaniard won his first US PGA title since the Masters last month at the Sanderson Farms Championship. AFP



Masters honours 'first Black player' Elder

AUGUSTA
Augusta National has announced it will honour Lee Elder, the first Black player in the Masters, with two scholarships in his name at Paine College and an honorary tee shot next year. The Lee Elder Scholarship will be endowed for one man and one woman on the golf team. "It's mind-boggling every time I think about it," said Elder, who made his barrier-breaking debut in 1975. AP

Officials raid offices of Benfica, Sporting Lisbon

LISBON
Portuguese authorities raided the offices of soccer clubs Benfica, Sporting Lisbon and Santa Clara as part of an investigation into fraud, corruption and money laundering. All three clubs confirmed the searches and said they were collaborating with the authorities. Part of the investigation is related to the transfer of players. AP

Prannoy working on improving his fitness

The shuttler aims to qualify for the Olympic Games and better his ranking

BADMINTON

M.R. PRAVEEN CHANDRAN
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

With international badminton set to resume early next year, H.S. Prannoy, the former World No.8, has intensified his preparations.

The 28-year-old former National champion has hired a personal trainer and is concentrating on his off-court fitness to stand up to the rigours of the hectic season ahead.

Amal Manohar, the fitness expert who worked with Sanju Samson before this season's IPL, is Prannoy's new fitness guru and the badminton star has been following a tough regime for the past one month.

Customised programme

Amal has chalked up a customised programme for Prannoy to improve his core strength and endurance. It involves a lot of cardiovascu-



Sweating it out: H.S. Prannoy has been following a tough regime with his new fitness expert for the past one month. ■ REUTERS

lar exercises, gym work and beach training.

Prannoy, who will be joining Gopichand's academy

next week, said it was important to improve his fitness during the off-season as he would be left with little time

to work on it once the season gets underway.

"It is going to be a long season with lot of tourna-

ments lined up next year, including the Olympics. There is little scope to work on my fitness once the season begins.

"I will be joining the camp next week in Hyderabad and the focus there will be mostly on improving my game."

"So it is important for me to work on my fitness while I am here in Thiruvananthapuram. Working with Amal was great and I am feeling really good about my fitness," he said. Prannoy said he had closely followed the Danish Open and added that the tournament has set the template for the future.

Fresh challenges

"The pandemic has thrown up fresh challenges for players and organisers."

"Now, after the Danish Open we know what the protocol is and we are mentally prepared," he said.

Prannoy said his aim was to improve his rankings and to qualify for Olympics.

Morikawa up for the Masters challenge

REUTERS

AUGUSTA
Masters rookie Collin Morikawa will take on Augusta National for the first time this week and the PGA Championship winner said on Monday he fully trusts his process and is not intimidated by the challenge that awaits.

"Every course I've pretty much played over the last year and a half, I've never seen," Morikawa said during a news conference at Augusta National Golf Club.

"I'm not afraid of any course out here...I wouldn't say I focus more on certain courses than others because I come out every week, Monday through Wednesday to figure out by Thursday morning, I'm ready to play golf."

I've done my prep work so far to get my game where it needs to be."

NEW DELHI ROUND-UP

Karan smashes unbeaten century

Karan Dagar's unbeaten 60-ball 100 and Tarun Kaushik's 63 run Sporting Club beat Rann Star Club by 100 runs in the fifth Shanti Devi tournament.

The scores: Sporting 266/7 in 40 overs (Karan Dagar 100 n.o., Tarun Kaushik 63, Sameer Rai 47, Bittu Kumar 2/18, Utkarsh Jain 2/44) by Rann Star 166 in 38.1 overs (Yatharth Singh 52, Manish Dhillon 44, Bhuvan Rohilla 3/31, Vision Panchal 2/48).

by nine wickets in the 3rd Vicky Badrey memorial under-16 tournament.

The scores: RCC Academy 131 in 38.1 overs (Suraj Kumar 49, Harsh Dabas 2/19, Pranjal Khatri 2/19, Udit Sehrawat 2/21) lost to MRG Academy 132/1 in 20.4 overs (Deepanshu Sehwag 51 n.o., Paras Kumar 44).

Winning spell by Suraj

Half-centuries by Aditya Sharma and Rohit Thakur and four wickets by Suraj Kumar for just seven runs helped Skillz Academy beat City Cricket Academy by 60 runs in the Satish Sharma memorial tournament.

The scores: Skillz 217/7 in 40 overs (Aditya Sharma 57, Rohit Thakur 51, Shiv Raj Kumar 2/23, Ubaid Malik 2/39) by CCA 157/8 in 40 overs (Tanisha Singh 53 n.o., Suraj Kumar 4/7, Rushil Dev 2/22).

Aryan, Mayank shine

Aryan Bhatia's unbeaten 55 and three wickets by Mayank Kumar saw M-10 Academy beat Uday Gupte Academy by nine wickets in the Turf Youth Cup under-13 tournament.

The scores: UGA 124 in 35.2 overs (Arav Garg 30; Mayank Kumar 3/14, Moksh Anand 2/23) lost to M-10 Academy 126/1 in 17.2 overs (Aryan Bhatia 55 n.o.).

Lovlina fighting to remain focused

Stays afloat in the face of a string of adversities

BOXING

Y.B. SARANGI
KOLKATA

Two-time World championships medal-winning boxer Lovlina Borgohain is relying on meditation to maintain her composure amid adversities as she is looking to bounce back before the Olympics.

Lovlina missed the National boxing team's exposure trip to Italy after testing positive for COVID-19 on October 15.

Her mother's poor health was another cause for concern.

"Refocusing on the

I am just going through everything without thinking too much

strength and conditioning," she said.

The prolonged isolation has been a test of character.

"After the lockdown, I was in quarantine for 23 days in Patiala prior to joining the camp.

"Then I went home (in Assam) to see my mother. Again I was in quarantine and now this.

"I am just going through everything without thinking too much," she said.

About missing the trip to Italy, she said: "Of course, it was disappointing.

"However, I don't think it was a big loss as the Olympics is seven months away. I think I can catch up."



Lovlina Borgohain.
■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Prandelli is Fiorentina coach

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Florence
Fiorentina fired coach Giuseppe Iachini and replaced him with Cesare Prandelli, who returned to the Italian club after a 10-year absence.

Fiorentina has won only two of its seven league matches and is 12th in Serie A, nine points behind leader AC Milan.

Iachini had replaced Vincenzo Montella in December and led Fiorentina to 10th spot last season.

The 63-year-old Prandelli was in charge of Fiorentina from 2005 to 2010, when he left to coach the Italian national team.

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NEXA LAJPAT NAGAR BAIGARIA MOTORS PH: 9810199366	NEXA OKHLA PHASE 1 PREM MOTORS PH: 9599814775	NEXA MG ROAD PASCO AUTOMOBILES PH: 9712900001	NEXA SECTOR 6 VIPUL MOTORS PH: 9599814775	NEXA SECTOR 10 FAIR DEAL CARS PH: 8330000000	NEXA IND AREA GREATER NOIDA ROHINI MOTORS PH: 8740906600	NEXA SECTOR 62 PLATINUM MOTO CORP PH: 9205899706	NEXA IDC SEC 14 GURUGRAM PREM MOTORS PH: 0124-2877000, 7290025353	NEXA SOHNA ROAD PASCO AUTOMOBILES PH: 9899961000	NEXA DELHI ROAD DINCO 4 WHEELS LLP PH: 7082100301	NEXA SOHNA SOHNA PH: 9899961000
NEXA NITI BVA AUTO PH: 1294121212	NEXA BATA CHOWK VIPUL MOTORS PH: 9599814775	NEXA MG ROAD PASCO AUTOMOBILES PH: 9712900001	NEXA RAJENDRA CHOWDHURY RANA MOTORS PH: 9599811111	NEXA SECTOR 29, GURUGRAM TR SAWHNEY AUTOMOBILES PH: 999952740	NEXA SOHNA ROAD COMPETENT AUTOMOBILES PH: 0124-2877000, 7290025353	NEXA SECTOR 62 VIPUL MOTORS PH: 9899961000	NEXA IDC SEC 14 GURUGRAM PREM MOTORS PH: 0124-4440000, 7065074501	NEXA SOHNA SOHNA PH: 9899961000	NEXA DELHI ROAD DINCO 4 WHEELS LLP PH: 7082100301	NEXA SOHNA SOHNA PH: 9899961000
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