



Modi speaks with Biden, reiterates commitment to strategic partnership

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Leaving RCEP is a short-sighted move: Shyam Saran interview

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RBI mints DBS takeover as LVB faces moratorium

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Thiem overcomes Nadal for second straight win at ATP Finals

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NEARBY



Two JEM terrorists arrested in Delhi

NEW DELHI
The Delhi Police's Special Cell on Monday night arrested two suspected Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorists from south-east Delhi. DCP (Special Cell) said they have been identified as Abdul Latif Mir, 22, from Baramulla, and Mohammed Ashraf Khattan, 20, from Kupwara district.

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OPPORTUNITIES ▶ PAGE 5

Changing colours



Sea of orange: A man walks under a canopy of Chinar trees, which are shedding leaves as winter sets in, at Nishat Bagh in Srinagar on Tuesday. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

CBI arrests man in child sex abuse case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The CBI has arrested a person suspected to be involved, along with a few others, in the sexual abuse of children in different parts of Uttar Pradesh. The accused, it is believed, filmed their acts and sold them through the dark web to paedophiles in various countries.

Rambhawan, a junior engineer in the Irrigation Department and a resident of Chitrakoot in U.P., is said to have gifted mobile phones and cash to several of his victims to buy their silence. In the past decade, he had allegedly targeted about 50 minors.

DETAILS ON ▶ PAGE 10

What mechanism do you have against fake news, SC asks govt.

'Create one if an authority doesn't exist or we'll give the job to an outside agency'

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the Centre to explain its "mechanism" against fake news and bigotry on air, and to create one if it did not already exist.

Inability on the government's part may well see the job go to an "outside agency," the court said.

"Why should we ask private entities like NBSA, etc., when you have the authority? If such an authority does not exist, create one... If you cannot, then we will hand it over to an outside agency," Chief Justice of India Sharad A. Bobde told Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre.

Chief Justice Bobde, head-

We are disappointed with your affidavit... We want to know how you are employing the Cable TV Act. We want to know the quantum of applicability of the Act... What is the legal remedy when there are complaints?

We want to know if the government has any power to question or ban TV broadcasting signals

SHARAD A. BOBBE
Chief Justice of India

ing a three-judge Bench, said the court was "disappointed" with the contents of the latest government affidavit, filed by Information and Broadcasting Secretary Amit Khare, in the Tablighi Jamaat case. The case is based on petitions, including by Ja-

miat Ulama-i-Hind, against the communal colour given by certain sections of the electronic media to the holding of a Tablighi Jamaat event in the National Capital during the lockdown.

The affidavit said media coverage "predominantly

struck a balanced and neutral perspective" in the past few months. It explained that as a "matter of journalistic policy, any section of the media may highlight different events, issues and happenings across the world as per their choice." It was for the viewer to choose from the varied opinions offered by different media outlets.

Mr. Khare said the petitions in the court contained vague assertions against the media based on "fact-checking news reports".

Besides, the government had already blocked 743 social media accounts and URLs spreading fake news on COVID-19.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

M.P. planning law against 'love jihad', says Minister

It will have provision for 5-year jail term

STAFF REPORTER
BHOPAL

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in Madhya Pradesh is planning a law that will have provisions for five-year imprisonment for "love jihad". This was stated by State Home Minister Narmottam Mishra on Tuesday.

The government would table the Madhya Pradesh Freedom of Religion Bill, 2020, in the next Vidhan Sabha session, Mr. Mishra told reporters in Bhopal.

Non-bailable offence

"We are deciding that the use of inducements, seduction, fraud or duress for marriage and religious conversions will invite five

years' imprisonment," the Minister said.

The Bill would propose the offence to be cognisable and non-bailable.

"Similarly, we are making a provision to declare marriages for religious conversion based on inducements, duress, fraud and seduction as null and void," Mr. Mishra said.

In the Bill, those abetting the offence would be considered culprits just as the main accused. "For action, it will be necessary for those bound by the religious conversions or their parents or siblings to file a complaint," he said.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

CM seeks Centre's permission to shut markets

Kejriwal also proposes reducing guests at wedding functions to 50 from 200



Festival rush: Deepavali shoppers flouting social distancing norms at Sarojini Nagar market in Delhi. ■ FILE PHOTO

The Congress termed the move a "knee jerk reaction".

"Following the Central government's guidelines and considering the marriage season, the Delhi government earlier allowed 200 guests at marriage functions. Considering the recent spike in the number of coronavirus cases, the Delhi government has decided to withdraw this relaxation," Mr. Kejriwal said.

The Opposition BJP, while welcoming the proposal to reduce gatherings, argued against shutting city markets.

Only 50 people will be al-

lowed at marriage ceremonies now, the Chief Minister said, adding that a proposal to this effect has been sent to Lieutenant-Governor Anil Baijal for approval.

Blaming "massive crowds" at popular city markets before Deepavali for the "significant surge" in the number of COVID-19 cases in the Capital, Mr. Kejriwal said his government had sought permission to temporarily shut

down such markets if the need arose.

"In the last order passed by the Central government, it was noted that permission to impose local lockdowns in the State should be taken from the Centre. In view of the recent situation and considering the last order of the Central government, we have requested the Centre to permit shutting down market places if necessary," Mr. Kejriwal said.

"I do believe that such harsh measures would not be required. But, if any marketplace has become a coronavirus hotspot because of non-compliance of guidelines, we will have to impose a local shutdown there as a precautionary measure," he said.

SEE ALSO ▶ PAGE 3

Minor rape survivor set ablaze by accused's kin in U.P.

Three of seven persons named in FIR arrested

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GHAZIABAD

A minor Dalit rape survivor was allegedly killed in Uttar Pradesh's Bulandshahr district on Tuesday by the relatives of the accused, police said.

The girl was set on fire with petrol. She was referred to Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital with 65% burns where she died in the evening.

By late evening, three of

the seven accused named in the FIR were arrested. In a video, purportedly recorded in the government hospital, the girl could be heard naming Sanjay, one of the accused named by the girl's father in the FIR, for assaulting her on Tuesday morning outside her residence.

Police sources said the girl was raped on August 14 allegedly by Harish, alias Chaita, a caretaker of an orchard. An FIR was filed under Section 376 of the IPC and relevant sections of the POCSO Act and SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989 and the

accused was sent to jail.

In his complaint, the girl's father said that he and his wife were not at home when the incident took place. The uncle and aunt of the accused, accompanied by five others, forced their way into the house, poured petrol on their daughter and set her on fire.

The police have registered an FIR against the seven named persons.

Santosh Kumar Singh, SSP Bulandshahr, said it had come to his notice that the family of the accused was pressuring the victim's family. "The

accused is in jail and his bail application was rejected. Vivek Sharma, the SHO of Jhansi police station, has been sent to the police lines. Sub-inspector Vinayak and beat constable Vikrant Tomar have been suspended," said Mr. Singh.

Victim kills herself
In a separate incident, a 19-year-old gang-rape survivor in Bulandshahr ended her life on Monday, the police said. In her suicide note, the student of law held the police inaction and lack of family support as reasons for tak-

ing the extreme step. She said she had to die to prove that she was being truthful.

Santosh Kumar Singh, SSP, Bulandshahr, has suspended the investigating officer. According to the police, the three accused, identified as Kamruddin, Munib and Abrar, have been booked for abetment to suicide. Kamruddin was nabbed from Haryana's Faridabad on Tuesday.

Suicide prevention helpline: Sanjivini, Society for Mental Health; telephone: 011-40769002, Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-7.30 p.m.

Gupkar Alliance an unholy global gathbandhan: Shah

Mehbooba, Omar, Cong. hit back at Union Home Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI/SRINAGAR

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday termed the Gupkar Alliance, a coalition of Jammu and Kashmir political parties, an "unholo global gathbandhan" against the national interest.

Asked if the Congress, reported to be in informal seat adjustment arrangements with the People's Alliance of the Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) for the District Development Council polls, endorsed what the alliance leaders had said on Article 370 restoration.

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti and National Conference (NC) vice-president Omar Abdullah were quick to criticise Mr. Shah.

The Congress said it was not a part of the PAGD and asked the BJP to explain its 2015 alliance with the PDP.

In a series of tweets, Mr. Shah said the "Indian people will no longer tolerate an unholy 'global gathbandhan' against our national interest. Either the Gupkar Gang swims along with the national mood or else the people will sink it."

He accused the parties of trying to collude with foreign powers and showing disrespect to the Tricolour.

Questioning the BJP's

The Gupkar Gang is going global! They want foreign forces to intervene in J&K. They also insult the Tricolour. Do Soniaji and Rahulji support this?

AMIT SHAH,
HOME MINISTER

BJP can stitch as many alliances in its hunger for power but somehow we are undermining national interest by putting up a united front

MEHBOOBA MUFTI, PRESIDENT, PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC PARTY

The Congress is neither part of the Gupkar Alliance nor the PAGD... Will Mr. Shah explain why did the BJP form a coalition with the PDP that he is now attacking?

RANDEEP SURJEWALA, CHIEF SPOKESPERSON, CONGRESS

criticism of the PAGD, Ms. Mufti said fighting elections in an alliance "is also anti-national now".

Mehbooba hits back

In a tweet, Ms. Mufti said, "Old habits die hard. Earlier BJP's narrative was that the 'tukde tukde' gang threatened India's sovereignty and they are now using 'Gupkar Gang' euphemism to project us as anti-national. Irony died a million deaths since its BJP itself that violates the constitution day in and day out."

She said, "BJP can stitch as many alliances in its hun-

ger for power but somehow we are undermining national interest by putting up a united front". The BJP's tactic of dividing India by projecting itself as a saviour and political opponents as internal and imagined enemies was far too predictable now. "Love jihad, tukde tukde and now Gupkar Gang dominates the political discourse instead of rising unemployment and inflation," she observed.

Mr. Abdullah also took to Twitter to respond to Mr. Shah's tweets.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Varavara Rao's medical report an eyewash

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Varavara Rao's lawyer informed the Bombay High Court on Tuesday that the 81-year-old lodged at the Taloja jail was medically examined through videoconferencing by doctors from

Nanavati Hospital for 15 minutes and the report submitted was an "eyewash".

Advocate Indira Jaisingh told a Division Bench of Justices S.S. Shinde and M.J. Jamdar that the report was given to her at 12.45 p.m. on WhatsApp for the hearing

that was scheduled at 3 p.m. She urged the Bench to read the report along with the previous report of an examination conducted by the same hospital, which mentions Mr. Rao's ailments.

DETAILS ON ▶ PAGE 10

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IN BRIEF



IPU starts new course in health management

NEW DELHI IP University on Tuesday announced that it has started a new academic programme – PG diploma in healthcare management – from this academic session. The one-year long weekend programme will be run under the University School of Management Studies in collaboration and support of the Association of Health Providers. The programme aims at upgrading skill and knowledge of practising healthcare professionals.

Fire breaks out at Kidwai Bhawan, no one injured

A fire broke out on the sixth floor of the Kidwai Bhawan in Central Delhi's Janpath Road on Tuesday, Delhi Fire Service official said, adding that no injuries were reported in the incident. The DFS said that the call was received at 10 a.m. after which 15 fire tenders were pressed into service.

New virtual hearing rules for lower courts in Delhi

'Free to proceed with case on urgency'

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI The Delhi High Court on Tuesday tightened the rules on videoconferencing hearing, which has become the norm since the outbreak of the pandemic, for its subordinate courts in the Capital.

The High Court notified that if an advocate or litigant stays away from virtual proceedings after being intimidated that the case would be taken up on a particular date, the district courts are free to proceed with the case depending on the urgency and other attending circumstances.

G.B. PANT NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HIMALAYAN ENVIRONMENT (NIHE)

(Formerly Known as G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment & Development)
Kosi-Katarmal, Almora - 263643, Uttarakhand

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Please refer to Institute Tender notice No. GBPNIHE/In House Project-04/water Purification system/IDB/2020-21/12 published in "The Hindu" (Delhi edition) dated 26.09.2020 for supply of Water Purification System (by back system) under In House Project-04. The last date of receiving of Tender for equipment is hereby extended upto 23.11.2020 at 03.00 p.m.

The documents shall be submitted online at website <https://moefcc.euniwizade.com>. The full details of equipments and documents are available in the Institute Website <https://gbpihed.gov.in>

Administrative Officer
Email: ao@gbpihed.nic.in

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY Auction Notice No. 07/2020-21

Email: cons@ner.railnet.gov.in Website: www.ner.indianrailways.gov.in Fax No. 0551-220721

E-Auction Program for the Month of December-2020

All prospective bidders are invited to participate in the on-line public auctions being conducted for sale of scrap material.

E-Auction Dates	Jurisdiction of lots	Contact No.
9, 19 & 29 December 2020	Dy. CMM/GSD/Gorakhpur	0551-2283558
8, 17 & 30 December 2020	Dy. CMM/GSD/Izzatnagar	0581-2518138
11, 22 & 30 December 2020	Sr. DMM/Lucknow	0522-2233113
8, 16 & 24 December 2020	Sr. DMM/Varanasi	0542-224819
9, 18 & 29 December 2020	Sr. DMM/Izzatnagar	0581-2518104

Type of material : Scrap Rail, Cast Iron, Melting, MS, condemned Rolling Stock (Coaches, Wagons and Locomotives), Turning & Boring, Non-Ferrous such as copper, Aluminium, Batteries etc., In the event of Auction not being completed on the same day, Auction December be continued on the subsequent days also. Details of Auction catalogue, Procedure and Conditions of Sale are available at www.reps.gov.in. This auction programme is also available on North Eastern Railway website www.ner.indianrailways.gov.in.

CPO/S-37 Principal Chief Materials Manager, Gorakhpur

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GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE					
SR. No.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE / CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT / NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	PWD B&R, SONEPAT	IMPROVEMENT BY PROVIDING STRENGTHENING ON KHAKHEDA TO TURUKPURA VIA THANA KAKAN-THANA KHUR ROAD (ROAD ID-6233) & RE-CONSTRUCTION ON KHERI DAHIA TO KHANDA VIA NAYA KHANDA ROAD (ROAD ID-9652 & 9658) IN SONEPAT DISTT. UNDER NABARD SCHEME-RDF-XXV.	CLOSING DATE 01.12.2020	396 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in 0130-2244690 pwd-eepd1.sonepat@hry.nic.in
2	PWD B&R, SONEPAT	IMPROVEMENT BY PROVIDING WIDENING AND STRENGTHENING OF CHIDANA SAMRI BAJANA ROAD UPTO MOI MAIRI ROAD IN SONEPAT DISTT. (ROAD ID-6216) UNDER NABARD SCHEME-RDF-XXVI (RE-INVITED) + 2 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 27.11.2020	1188.08 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in 0130-2244690 pwd-eepd1.sonepat@hry.nic.in
3	PWD B&R, KAITHAL	UPGRADATION OF ROAD FOR PROVIDING WIDENING AND STRENGTHENING OF HARYANA STATE BOUNDARY TO CHIRANA AGRIAN ROAD IN KAITHAL DISTT. (ROAD ID-7027) (UNDER NABARD SCHEME-RDF-XXVII) (RE-INVITED) + 6 OTHER WORKS	CLOSING DATE 03.12.2020	2134.17 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in 0174-234087 eepd2.pwd.kt@hry.nic.in
4	PANCHAYATI RAJ, PANCHKULA	CONSTRUCTION OF STREET AT VILLAGE DEVRI, SAYUN, RUNJA, SAKHBAYAN G.P., BHOKIOTI BLOCK, MORIN DISTRICT PANCHKULA	23.11.2020 07.12.2020	40.67 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in 0172-2576698
5	IRRIGATION & W/R DEPARTMENT, KURUKSHETRA	CARRYING OUT SURVEY, FEASIBILITY STUDY, LAYOUT & PREPARATION OF GADS, COLLECTING HYDRAULIC AND OTHER RELEVANT DATA, GEOTECHNICAL INVESTIGATION AND DETAILED DESIGNING, WORKING DRAWINGS, DETAILED ESTIMATES WITH BOQ/DNIT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF VR BRIDGE AT RD 41.90 KM OF SARASVATI RIVER. + 10 OTHER WORKS	13.11.2020 07.12.2020	41.94 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in 0174-238590 xensaravati@dnitrk@gmail.com
6	DIRECTOR GENERAL, SUPPLIES & DISPOSALS, HARYANA	POLY PALLETS	04.12.2020 14.12.2020	NIL	http://etenders.hry.nic.in , dsndharyana.gov.in 0172-2570121- 124,2584125,2585125 supplies@hry.nic.in
7	GOVT ITI GANAUJ	TO OUTSOURCING FOR MAN POWER SERVICES OF SWEEPER CUM MALLI AND WORKSHOP ATTENDANT/PEON CUM CHOWKIDAR WORK IN GOVT ITI GANAUJ	16.11.2020 27.11.2020	20000	http://etenders.hry.nic.in 9416033600/ sonipat.gti@gmail.com
8	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGG FATEHABAD	PROVIDING AND CONSTRUCTION OF INDEPENDENT CANAL BASED WATER WORKS VILLAGE SHAHIDANPUR & DISTRICT TEHRIKA (UNDER JAL JEEVAN MISSION) AND OBM FOR FIVE YEARS AFTER 12 MONTH DURING DEFECT LIABILITY PERIOD 3 MONTHS TRIAL RUN AND ALL OTHER WORKS CONTINGENT THERETO*	17.11.2020 08.12.2020	162.45 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in TENDER NO 2020_HRY_150773-1 eefatchabab@phedharyana.gov.in 01667-220224
9	PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING KAITHAL	ESTIMATE FOR PROVIDING LAYING OF TRENCHLESS SEWER LINE AGAINST DAMAGED SEWER LINE FROM KULWANT NAGAR TO HAFED ROAD TEHSIL KALAYAT AND DISTRICT KAITHAL	16.11.2020 26.11.2020	120.94 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in ee2kaithal@phedharyana.gov.in
10	FOREST DEPARTMENT SONEPAT	CONSTRUCTION OF PATH OF DIVISION OFFICE SONEPAT	13.11.2020 21.11.2020	6 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in TENDER NO 2020_HRY_150695_1 0130-2222933

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'Have to wait 4-5 hours to get plasma'

Finding a replacement donor is difficult, say family members of people infected with COVID-19

NIKHIL M BABU
NEW DELHI

Many people who approached the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS) to get plasma for their family members or friends infected by COVID-19 said that the process at the hospital was smooth but they had to spend about "four-five hours" to get the alleged life-saving fluid.

They further said that finding a replacement donor to get plasma of required blood group from the ILBS is difficult.

Relatives of patients said that the government should step in and help them find replacement donors.

Delhi's first adolescent plasma bank for COVID-19 was started at the government-run ILBS over four months ago and the institute has since issued more than 3,000 units of plasma.

If a person needs plasma for a friend or a family member who is suffering from COVID-19, then he/she has to find a replacement donor of any other blood group and

Who can donate plasma?

- Any person who has been infected by COVID-19
- Has tested negative and recovered from virus over 14 days prior to donation
- Is between 18-60 years of age

Ineligibility criteria

- Weight less than 50 kg
- Women who have ever been pregnant
- Diabetic on insulin
- Cancer survivor
- Chronic kidney/heart/lung or liver disease



People wait to collect plasma outside ILBS Hospital in the Capital on Tuesday. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

ma for her.

"The process is not bad here, they are very helpful. But finding replacement donors is difficult. We are still lucky as my cousin works at a hospital and she helped us."

The box was to carry blood samples of the patient to ILBS and also take back the plasma.

Dheeraj Gureja, 40, from Ghaziabad, who was sitting on a raised platform outside the emergency ward, said that he has been waiting for about two and a half hours and the process has to be made quicker.

"I have come from Ghaziabad and my father is in the ICU. There should be more counters to manage the process here and more manpower too," he said.

Others also said that the process was smooth but it was time consuming.

Few voluntary donors

"Many times, people come to us for plasma of rare blood groups such as AB, which is difficult as our stocks are also not so high. Voluntary dona-

tions are very low and its mostly replacement donors that come to us. For every 30-40 replacement donors, there are only 2-5 voluntary donors," ILBS director S.K. Sarin told *The Hindu*.

Voluntary donors are people who donate plasma without the requirement of plasma of another blood group for a patient.

When asked about the wait time of about five hours at ILBS to get plasma, Dr. Sarin said: "First, we test the donor's blood for diseases. Then we test his blood for antibodies (against COVID-19). That is why the process takes time."

Though conditions say a replacement donor is needed to get plasma, Mr. Sarin said that they had got the first plasma unit for the patient from ILBS without a replacement donor, after giving an undertaking that they will bring a donor later on.

"Today, we have come for a second unit of plasma and we are trying to arrange two donors as we have given an undertaking," he said.

DU conducts webinar for PG aspirants

Admissions to begin from today

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi University's admission branch conducted a webinar on Tuesday for postgraduate aspirants on the admission process, which is set to begin from Wednesday.

"We are aware of the challenges posed by the pandemic. We would like to reassure our applicants that we are looking into all issues so that no meritorious student is left out of the admission process. We will try and accommodate all concerns," Ms. Bagai said.

"All applicants whose final-year results have been declared by the university must update their marks on their dashboard," said Ms. Bagai.

"Students have to upload the marks by the date specified by DU. For those who haven't received marks, they will have to upload an undertaking stating that they understand that admission

will be cancelled if they don't meet the basic criteria as specified by the university," added Dean of Admissions Shobai Bagai.

Grievance form
Officials said that a grievance form will also be made available on the online portal for aspirants.

"We are aware of the challenges posed by the pandemic. We would like to reassure our applicants that we are looking into all issues so that no meritorious student is left out of the admission process. We will try and accommodate all concerns," Ms. Bagai said.

DU has also specified that admissions to MA psychology and MA English courses have been kept on hold as final-year results have not yet been declared by the university for these subjects.

Ms. Bagai added that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, interviews and viva voce will also not be held this year except at St. Stephen's College.

Man beaten to death by stepsons

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

A 45-year-old man was beaten to death allegedly by his stepsons and their accomplices following a quarrel in Sangam Vihar, the police said on Tuesday.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (South) Atul Thakur said that the victim has been identified as Ajay Tiwari who was attacked by his stepsons – Raman (22) and Omprakash (24) along with their accomplices Yogen (26), Neeraj Gupta (26) and Arjun Solanki (20) on the intervening night of Saturday and Sunday. While the four have been arrested, efforts are being made to arrest Raman, the police said.

According to the police, Ajay and his stepsons often quarrelled following his marriage with their widowed mother in 2007.

The police said that Ajay was taken to AIIMS after being thrashed where he was declared brought dead. A case was registered under sections of the IPC, Mr. Thakur said.

Ajay's sister allegedly told the police that he and his stepchildren often had minor quarrels over his drinking habits and on that day too, they had a quarrel.

Later, around 10 p.m., the accused came and beat the victim up

Timings
DELHI

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 18
RISE 06:46 SET 17:27
RISE 10:01 SET 20:28
THURSDAY, NOV. 19
RISE 06:47 SET 17:27
RISE 11:00 SET 21:30
FRIDAY, NOV. 20
RISE 06:48 SET 17:26
RISE 11:51 SET 22:31

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	26	13
Safdarjung	26	13
Palam	25	14

Delhi Palam Today
26°C Shallow fog/mist likely in a cool morning with dry cool winds. Pollution condition would remain unhealthy.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
26°C Cool morning with shallow fog and comfortable sunny afternoon. Pollution level would remain same.

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THE HINDU
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A multipronged approach to tackle COVID surge in Delhi

Centre arranges for more ICU beds, bolsters manpower and testing capacity

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Union Health Ministry on Tuesday said it will augment Delhi's ICU bed capacity from 3,500 to 6,000 over the next few days, bring in 325 doctors and paramedical staff to address manpower shortage, and double COVID-19 testing capacity in the city, which has seen a surge in infections and deaths over the past few weeks.

Speaking at a press conference, NITI Aayog Member (Health) Dr. V.K. Paul said that several important decision were taken during the November 15 high-level meeting chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah to review the situation in Delhi.

"We have arrived at a multipronged approach to tackle the situation in Delhi. Existing capacity of about 3,500 ICU beds will be increased to over 6,000 in the next three-four days in cooperation with the Delhi government



A Covid Care Centre in Chhatarpur. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

as well as the private sector," he said.

Dr. Paul said that 537 new ICU beds have been arranged at a DRDO facility, the Delhi government will procure additional beds and capacity will also be bolstered at Central government-run hospitals. "The Railways has provided a large number of beds by repurposing coaches, about

nounced it will double COVID testing capacity to ensure that over one lakh tests are conducted in Delhi every day. "For this, we are roping in institutions that have research labs. Ten mobile test labs are also being arranged," said Dr. Paul.

Strict implementation
Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan noted that Delhi currently has over 4,000 containment zones where all safety guidelines and protocols will be strictly re-enforced.

"We have also stressed on aggressive contact tracing and isolating. Our strategy for Delhi includes doubling testing to 1-1.2 lakh per day with the right mix of RT-PCR and antigen tests, augmenting home care support, mobilising doctors and nurses, enforcing quarantine of contacts, and ensuring compliance of COVID-appropriate behaviour."

800 beds have been arranged in Delhi," he added.

Around 75 doctors and 250 paramedics from central forces are also being roped in. "Half of them have already joined and the rest will be in soon. This will ensure that there is no shortage in trained manpower to tackle the COVID situation in Delhi," he said.

The Centre has also an-

AAP accuses BJP of doing 'shameful politics' over Chhath

Deputy Chief Minister Sisodia issues order stating that Chhath puja this year will be a public holiday

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party government said the decision to not allow Chhath puja celebrations in public came after the Centre issued a set of guidelines. It added that if Home Minister Amit Shah allows the celebrations, the city government will ensure that the order is followed.

Meanwhile, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia has issued an order stating that Chhath puja this year will be a public holiday.

At a press meet, AAP leader Durgesh Pathak, said: "The guidelines issued by the Central government's Home Ministry have imposed several restrictions on celebration of Chhath puja and this is why in Delhi, and in many other States, the puja will not take place in public. But it is unfortunate and shameful that



Devotees offering prayers on the occasion of Chhath in Delhi.
■ FILE PHOTO: V.V. KRISHNAN

the BJP on one side is stopping the celebration and on the other side are politicising the issue." He added that this kind of politics by the BJP is "shameful".

"Today, AAP demands

that the BJP should immediately get the permission for celebrating Chhath puja from the Home Minister. The Delhi government will coordinate in the process to ensure the celebrations."

Mr. Pathak said. AAP MLA Sanjeev Jha said that earlier there were only 72 places in Delhi where Chhath puja used to take place, but after the AAP government came to power, they increased the number of Chhath ghats to 1,200 by 2019.

Protest outside CM house

Earlier in the day, the BJP staged a demonstration outside Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's residence demanding a rollback of the 'Delhi government's decision' to ban the observance of Chhath puja at public places within 24 hours.

Delhi BJP Poorvanchal Morcha president Kaushal Mishra led the protest with scores of party cadre.

State general secretary Dinesh Pratap Singh said Mr. Kejriwal had allowed the opening of weekly mar-

kets, malls, liquor shops, and running of e-rickshaws and DTC buses with full capacity. "Even on Diwali, he performed puja at Akshardham temple, then why is he discriminating against lakhs of Poorvanchalis by banning Chhath Mahaparva?" This mistreatment of Mr. Kejriwal and the Poorvanchalis is unbearable," Mr. Singh said.

Demands by Congress

Delhi Congress Chief Ch. Anil Kumar also demanded that the Delhi government allow people from the Poorvanchal region to conduct their Chhath puja festival while strictly adhering to the COVID-19 guidelines.

He said the religious sentiments of Poorvanchalis would be gravely hurt if they were prevented from holding the Chhath puja at public places.

Two stabbed in Azadpur

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

An 18-year-old youth and his friend were stabbed allegedly by a group of men in north-west Delhi's Azadpur, the police said on Tuesday. Two of the accused have been arrested.

The incident was captured on CCTV. The injured have been identified as Shivam and Mohit, both from Azadpur. They are undergoing treatment at a hospital and are stable.

The victims were allegedly attacked following an altercation on Diwali over sitting on a seat at a park.

The police said the CCTV footage shows a man being attacked by a group. After being stabbed and thrashed, he is dragged to a narrow bylane, and when his friend tries to save him, he also gets stabbed.

An officer said passers-by can be seen as mute spectators in the video.

Daily infections drop as testing dips

Govt. to start door-to-door survey from Nov. 20, say officials

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Delhi recorded 6,396 new COVID-19 cases in 24 hours, taking the total to 4,95,598, according to a health bulletin released by the Delhi government on Tuesday.

The daily cases are lower than recorded over the past few days as only 49,031 tests were done in the past 24 hours—much less compared to last week, when daily tests were as high as 64,000.

The death toll has reached 7,812, with 99 more fatalities recorded in 24 hours.

Of the total cases, 4,45,782 people have recovered and there are now 42,004 active cases. Also, out of the total 16,889 beds available for COVID-19 treatment, 55.07% are



New cases in the past 24 hours
6,396

Source: DELHI GOVERNMENT HEALTH BULLETIN

survey from November 20 in areas where the cases are high, said officials.

The move comes after Union Home Minister Amit Shah held a meeting on Sunday and gave a set of directions to tackle surge in cases in Delhi.

An official order on the survey, however, was not issued till Tuesday evening by the Delhi government.

Directions have been given to start the survey. Thermal scanning of all people living in areas where cases are high will be done so that people with symptoms can be tested and isolated," a Delhi government official told *The Hindu*. During the survey, the residents will also be required to answer a questionnaire, the official added.

Shut down markets to deal with spike: Maken

'Close offices and public transport too'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI Senior Congress leader Ajay Maken on Tuesday called for a complete lockdown of markets, offices and public transport in the Capital to deal with the rising number of COVID-19 cases and warned that if projections given by experts come true the health infrastructure of the city is set to crumble.



Ajay Maken

save lives.

The former Union Minister also hit out at Delhi Heath Minister Satyendar Jain for saying that the "third wave" was past its peak and that cases would come down now. "Such statements give people the impression that all is well, leading to people not taking adequate precautions," said Mr. Maken.

Meanwhile, the Delhi Congress said that daily tests should be ramped up to two lakh per day. "The Delhi government has failed in checking the COVID spread and making adequate infrastructural arrangements. It is now asking the Centre for help when the situation has become bad," said party unit Chief Ch. Anil Kumar.

Random tests for people going from Delhi to Noida

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NOIDA

People coming from Delhi to Noida will be randomly tested for COVID-19 from Wednesday, the Gautam Buddha Nagar administration said on Tuesday.

The decision came during an online meeting of senior officials with District Magistrate Suhas L.Y. amid a spike in cases in Delhi.

There will be no restriction on free movement of people between Noida and Delhi, Mr. Suhas added.

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THE HINDU

India's National Newspaper

Testing times



Passengers waiting in a tent put up at the Anand Vihar railway station in Delhi on Tuesday. Thousands of people are heading back to their hometowns for Chhath puja, which will be celebrated on November 20 this year. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA

IN BRIEF

Strict action against favouritism: Sisodia

NEW DELHI

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Tuesday directed labour department officials to ensure that workers receive benefits of various labour welfare schemes within 72 hours of filing an application. "If there are cases wherein a few select files are favoured and the rest are stopped in the system, strict action will be taken against the officers engaging in such activities," said Mr. Sisodia.

Police may seal banquet halls with large gatherings

Teams to ensure implementation of COVID norms ahead of wedding season in Gurugram

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

Ahead of the wedding season and a sudden spurt in COVID-19 cases, Gurugram Police has formed teams to identify places hosting large gatherings, including banquet halls, and to monitor them to ensure that guidelines are strictly being implemented.

The police said such plac-

es could be sealed in case of violation of norms. The move came after directions were issued by Gurugram Police Commissioner K.K. Rao.

Comply with guidelines
The team members would also create awareness among the owners of such places to comply with the guidelines – maintaining so-

cial distance, wearing mask and frequently washing hands – to prevent the spread of infection.

The teams would also, en-

sure that the number of guests is not more than the limit fixed by the government.

The owners of banquet halls have also been directed to inform the local police stations about the upcoming events and comply with the guidelines.

events at their premises.

Any violation of guidelines or the failure to inform the police station about upcoming events could invite strict legal action, including the sealing of the premises, the police said.

Also, tent owners are be-

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- WAZIRPUR A-5, Near Richi Rich Banquet (Opp. Shalimar Bagh)
- JANAKPURI B-1/2, Main Najafgarh Road, Opp. Metro Pillar 543
- NOIDA, Nirula's Sec-2, Near Metro Station, Sec-15, Noida, UP
- LAJPAT NAGAR, 49, Main Ring Road, Adj. Haldi Ram, Near Moolchand Crossing

2 Bangladeshis arrested in Saharanpur

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GHARANPUR

The anti-terror cell of the Uttar Pradesh Special Task Force arrested two Bangladeshis who were illegally residing in Saharanpur, an official release said.

Mohd. Iqbal and Mohd. Farooq were originally residents of Chittagong district in Bangladesh.

They were in touch with foreign nationals and were allegedly conspiring against India, the release said.

They have been booked under sections 120B, 121A, 420, 467, 468, 471 of IPC and relevant sections of Foreign Exchange Management Act the Passport Act.

The brothers crossed over to India in 2007.

Central govt. not sympathetic to Sikhs, says Akal Takht chief

Beware of those trying to destabilise the religion from within: Harpreet Singh

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Giani Harpreet Singh, chief priest of the Akal Takht – the highest Sikh temporal seat – on Tuesday said the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) was presently facing similar challenges like it did in 1984.

"The Sikh body is being targeted by the authorities because they feel that the SGPC is like a state within a state. Even the present Central government is not sympathetic to the Sikhs," Mr. Singh said, adding, "The Indian State does not like this independent nature".

Mr. Singh was addressing a

SGPC presently facing similar challenges like it did in 1984

GIANI HARPREET SINGH
chief priest of the Akal Takht

religious function to commemorate the first centenary of the SGPC in Amritsar.

He said the Sikhs have always faced challenges since Independence, which continue to this day.

The chief priest said in 1984 the then Congress government wanted to break the SGPC, but thanks to the then SGPC president Gurcharan Singh Tohra, who did not let the conspiracy succeed.

Mr. Singh urged the 'sangat' to be aware of those trying to destabilise the "Panth" (Sikh religion) from within.

At the function, Shiromani Akali Dal president Sukhbir Singh Badal said there was an urgent need to ensure and safeguard "security, equality and dignity" of the minority communities. He called for more concrete and credible steps to stop insecurity and alienation in the minds of the minorities.

Mr. Badal cautioned that 'mischievous elements' were again attempting to undermine the unique, separate and sovereign religious identity of the Sikhs.

The Khalsa Panth takes deep pride in its unique separate religious identity. The Khalsa never interferes in the religious affairs of others but nor does it tolerate interference in its own religious affairs," he said.

Badal flays Congress

Mr. Badal hit out at the Congress party and described it as "the worst enemy of the Sikhs".

Describing the SGPC as a unique achievement and a mini-religious parliament of the Sikhs, Mr. Badal said that Sikhism is the only religion in the world which runs its religious affairs democratically.

13 gas survivors died of COVID-19 at Bhopal hospital, says RTI reply

BMHRC mislead M.P. government on deaths, alleges NGO

SIDHARTH YADAV
BHOPAL

The Bhopal Memorial Hospital and Research Centre (BMHRC) in reply to an RTI query has admitted 13 survivors of the gas tragedy have died of COVID-19 in March-October on its premises.

The Indian Council of Medical Research-run hospital gave the reply on November 9 in response to a query by Rachna Dhingra of the Bhopal Group for Information and Action who had asked for the death count at the main hospital and its isolation ward.

While accusing the hospital of misleading the State government, Ms. Dhingra pointed to a letter dated October 1

in which the hospital's Acting Director informed the Chief Medical and Health Officer (Gas relief) that nine COVID-19 deaths had occurred at the hospital until October. "Sources have confirmed just one-two deaths in November have occurred there," she contended.

'Undermining deaths'

She has written to the Additional Chief Secretary, Public Health and Family Welfare, exhorting the State government to hold the hospital accountable for reportedly providing misleading information and thereby "undermining" the deaths of gas survivors owing to COVID-19 pandemic.

Further, Ms. Dhingra claimed the hospital didn't report COVID-19 deaths to the local authorities. And in response to her RTI query requesting copies of the duty roster of full-time doctors posted at the hospital's isolation ward, the hospital said doctors from all departments provided services to patients admitted under them to isolation ward, but didn't provide their roster.

"The hospital didn't disclose any duty roster of doctors at the isolation ward because none is posted there. The institution needs to be held accountable for callously responding to the concerns of the gas tragedy survivors," she said.

Nagaland groups spar over 'Indian' security

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Security cover sought for a few of their leaders has provided ammunition for two extremist groups in Nagaland to engage in a war of words.

The Neiphiu Rio government had a week ago sought the view of the Minister of Home Affairs on Nagaland Governor R.N. Ravi's direc-

tive to the State police to provide security to the leaders of the working committee of the Naga National Political Groups (NNPGs), a conglomerate of seven extremist groups.

'Move justified'
The NNPGs justified the move saying security of a negotiating team and its leaders

"is paramount during any negotiation involving a nation and people's destiny".

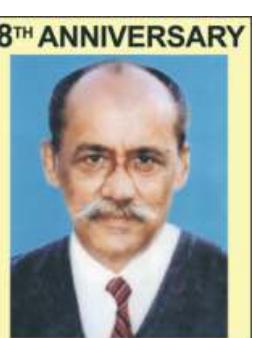
The NNPGs took a swipe at the rival Isak-Muivah faction of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland, or NSCN (IM), for asking why the conglomerate was demanding protection from Indian security forces.

"This question is best an-

swered by those who were being provided with 24-hour Z category security by Indian security forces and with India MP status and residence in New Delhi," the NNPGs said.

Reacting to the barb, the NSCN (IM) said its leaders neither asked for security nor MP status from the Indian government during negotiations in New Delhi.

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES



8TH ANNIVERSARY
WORK OF FERERE ROB
Divisional Railway Manager (WA), Western Railway, 6th floor, Engg. Deptt., Mumbai Central, Mumbai - 400 008. Invites E- Tender Notice No. BCT/20-21/27 dt. 16-11-2020 Work and location: Charni Road - Grant Road- Strengthening of return wall of approaches etc. and raising of approaches of Road Over Bridge at km 3-9 (Ferere ROB). Approx. cost of work in ₹ : 5,63,43,376.67 EMD ₹: 4,31,700.00 Date & Time of submission: On 08-12-2020 till 15.00 hrs. Date & Time of opening: on 08-12-2020 at 15.30 hrs. Regarding more details about above tenders please visit www.ireps.gov.in Manual offers will not be considered.

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APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

Unknown
During treatment he was declared dead on 10.11.2020. The dead body has been preserved in safdarjung Hospital mortuary, Delhi. In this regard a case FIR No. 328/20, dt. 09.11.2020 U/s 279/304-A IPC has been registered at PS Patparganj Industrial Area, Delhi. Any person having any information or clue about this deceased may kindly inform to the following.
S.H.O.,
P.S. Patparganj Industrial Area, Delhi
Ph.: 011-22146490, 22146491
DP/259/ED/2020

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person Namely : Unknown R/o Unknown Age : about 72 years, Height : 5'6", Complexion : Wheatish, Face: Long, Identification : Scar mark on forehead, Wearing : Cream colour shirt and Light Black colour pant has been found in unconscious condition at Ajmeri Gate side in front of Metro Gate No. 5 Footpath, Delhi on 06.11.2020. He was admitted in L.H.M.C. Hospital, Delhi where doctor declared him dead on 06.11.2020. In this regard a case vide DD No. 04A dated 06.11.2020 has been lodged at P.S. New Delhi Railway Station, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved for 72 hrs at LHMIC Hospital Mortuary, Delhi.

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

SHO :

P.S. New Delhi

Railway Station, Delhi

Tel. No. 011-23744073, 23363622
DP/13/RLY/2020

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person (1) Nitin, S/o: Dorilal, R/o: H. No. M-28, Street - 13, Brahmputri and (2) Shiva, S/o: Ramjeevan, R/o: M-30, Street-13, Brahmputri, Delhi have committed (or are suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 134/20 U/s 147/148/149/308/188 IPC & 25/27 Arms Act has been registered at P.S. New Usmanpur, Delhi and it have been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said (1) Nitin and (2) Shiva cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said (1) Nitin and (2) Shiva have absconded (or are concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said(1) Nitin and (2) Shiva accused of FIR No. 134/20 U/s 147/148/149/308/188 IPC & 25/27 Arms Act has been registered at P.S. New Usmanpur, Delhi are required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 23.12.2020

By order
Sh. Purshotam Pathak,
CMM,
KKD Court, Delhi
DP/419/NE/2020

Bru refugees demand immediate implementation of settlement pact

'Rehabilitation process already delayed due to pandemic'

SYED SAJJAD ALI
AGARTALA

Leaders of the Mizoram Bru refugees have demanded commencement of their permanent rehabilitation in Tripura in the light of the quadripartite agreement signed in New Delhi in January.

They made the demand during a meeting with Chief Secretary Manoj Kumar in the presence of the State's royal scion and activist Prajyot Kishore Debbarman.

"We have urged the Chief Secretary to start our settlement work within two weeks," one of the Bru leaders told newsmen on Tuesday. He said the rehabilitation process was already delayed by six months due to the COVID-19.



Bru refugees in Tripura. ▶

Mr. Debbarman, who played a key role in the signing of the pact, discussed the issue with Chief Minister Biplob Kumar Deb. He expressed displeasure over the delay in the rehabilitation work.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah had presided over the signing of the accord by the MHA with the State

governments of Mizoram, Tripura and the leaders of the refugees to permanently settle some 35,000 evacuees in Tripura.

Officials said the State government had selected 12 places including the Kanchanpur subdivision in north Tripura where the Brus have been housed in six makeshift camps since 1997. However, the decision to settle some of the refugees is facing protests from a local forum called Joint Movement.

Indefinite strike
The Joint Movement has enforced an indefinite strike in Kanchanpur from Monday to press the State government to give up plans to rehabilitate the Brus in the area.

Package for Swabhiman Anchal hiked

STAFF REPORTER
BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha government on Tuesday said the development package for Swabhiman Anchal, which remained cut-off from mainland for decades due to Balimela dam project, was increased from ₹100 crore to ₹215 crore.

Swabhiman Anchal in Malkangiri district got its first road connection to rest of Odisha in July 2018 when Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated the Guru-priya bridge.

Reviewing the progress of the area with officials and people through videoconferencing here, Mr. Patnaik said every village would have concrete roads. He also announced to make smartphones available for every family in the area.

A Business Initiative

ing (AGM) of Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) held today at India International Centre, New Delhi. Annual accounts for financial year 2019-20 were adopted at the AGM. Addressing the Directors and Shareholders, Shri Pradip Kumar Das, CMD, IREDA highlighted the performance of FY 2019-20 and informed that gross income of the company increased to Rs. 2,372.38 Crore, registering a growth of 17.32%. IREDA has sanctioned the loan of Rs. 12,696 crore and disbursed Rs. 8,785. Loan sanctioned during the year including co-financed projects/ take over loans would support capacity addition of 5673 MW as against 3266 MW in last year. Speaking about future strategies, CMD emphasized that Green Energy portfolio of the country is consistently growing in terms of both quantity and quality.

HSCL- a Subsidiary of NBCC, Signs MoU with NESTS

Shri Asit Gopal, Chairman, NSTDC & Commissioner, National Education Society of Tribal Schools (NESTS), Union M/o Tribal Affairs, on behalf of NESTS and Shri Rajendra Chaudhari, Managing Director, Hindustan Steelworks Construction Ltd. (HSCL), a Subsidiary of NBCC, on behalf of HSCL, signed an MoU on 9 Nov 2020. The MoU has been signed for construction of 58 No. Eklavya Model Residential Schools by HSCL in the States of Odisha, Jharkhand and Dadar & Nagar Haveli.

IRCTC does strategic alliance with Kerala Tourism Development Corporation (KTDC)

Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation limited (IRCTC), a Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Railways and tourism arm of Indian Railways which provides a range of tourism products and services across the country has decided to join hands with M/s Kerala Tourism Corporation Ltd (KTDC), a public sector undertaking under Government of Kerala operating hotels and restaurants across Kerala and other places. For best utilisation of their strengths and resources both the organizations have decided to work jointly. IRCTC, partnering with KTDC has launched a bouquet of tour packages within Kerala. These packages, primarily aimed to encourage domestic tourism within the state are being offered from various cities across the state. The packages exclusively use the luxurious properties of KTDC at all exotic locations to explore the greenery, serene beaches, backwaters and other natural beauties of Kerala at a very pocket friendly price.

IRED holds 33rd Annual General Meeting

The 33rd Annual General Meet-

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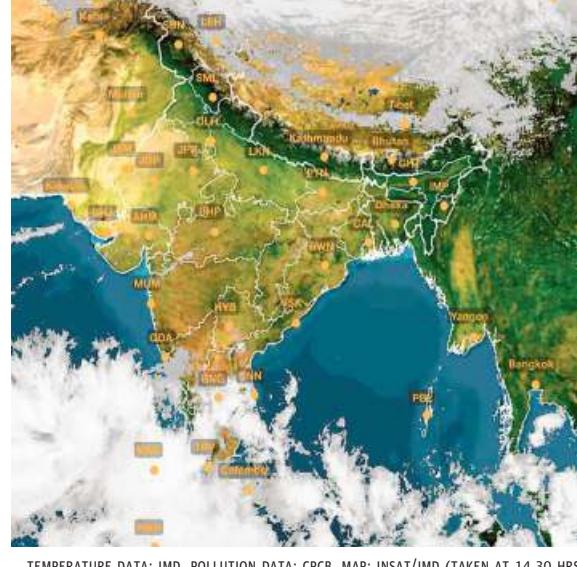
4.NPA Case Release 8.Project Loan & Property Loan

9786666312 / 9786666315

<a

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD; POLLUTION DATA: CPCB; MAP: INSTAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 14.30 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Kerala, Mahe and Lakshadweep. Thunderstorms with lightning likely at isolated places over coastal & south interior Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Lakshadweep

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	... 31.4	18.7	11.5	Kozhikode	42.7	33.8	24.5
Ahmedabad	... 32.8	17.9	11.5	Kurnool	1...	33.0...	23.2
Aizawl...	... 26.1	14.9	11.5	Lucknow	0.2	28.0...	16.3
Allahabad	... 30.3	16.4	11.5	Madurai	60.5	28.2...	22.6
Bengaluru	21.2	26.5	19.4	Mangaluru	0.4	34.1...	23.6
Bhopal	... 31.5	15.6	11.5	Mumbai	... 36.0	23.8	11.5
Bhubaneswar	... 33.7	21.4	11.5	Mysuru	12...	28.0...	21.0
Chandigarh	2.2	26.1	12.1	New Delhi	... 26.0	13.0	11.5
Chennai	39...	30.1	23.6	Patna	... 28.0	17.0	11.5
Coimbatore	34.2	29.0	22.0	Port Blair	... 31.3	26.2	11.5
Dehradoon	... 26.7	9.8	11.5	Puducherry	23.8	28.4...	22.5
Gangtok	... 18.6	11.6	11.5	Pune	... 31.3...	20.4	11.5
Goa...	... 35.4	25.4	11.5	Raipur	... 34.5...	18.5	11.5
Guwahati	... 31.8	18.4	11.5	Ranchi	... 30.8...	17.5	11.5
Hubballi	... 30.0	21.0	11.5	Shillong	... 19.9	10.1	11.5
Hyderabad	... 31.2	19.9	11.5	Shimla	1.7	20.0...	8.4
Imphal...	... 25.4	10.0	11.5	Srinagar	... 10.7	2.8	11.5
Jaipur	... 25.4	16.1	11.5	Thiruvananthapuram	5.6	30.2...	23.8
Kochi	... 31.4	25.2	11.5	Tiruchi	14.6	29.7...	23.4
Kohima	... 24.2	10.2	11.5	Vijayawada	... 31.4...	23.6	11.5
Kolkata	... 30.6	19.8	11.5	Visakhapatnam	... 31.4...	24.8	11.5

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

Yesterday

CITIES	SO ₂	NO _x	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	19	71	31	152	140	GREEN
Bengaluru	16	37	70	30	40	GREEN
Chennai	24	47	55	13	12	GREEN
Delhi	15	80	65	224	190	RED
Hyderabad	5	85	11	115	130	ORANGE
Kolkata	26	22	10	324	198	RED
Lucknow	12	49	90	173	122	ORANGE
Mumbai	11	18	36	244	159	RED
Pune	... 39	27	69	69	69	GREEN
Visakhapatnam	.8	25	40	122	105	GREEN

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)
SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

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

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

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

Cong. to submit petition against farm laws

STAFF REPORTER
MUMBAI

The Maharashtra Congress on Tuesday said that it would not allow the farm Bills to be implemented in the State. The party has collected 60 lakh signatures from farmers, agricultural labourers, and workers opposing the laws, which will be sent to Delhi.

"We will not allow the laws that destroy the green revolution brought by Indira Gandhi to be implemented in the State. The present BJP government has continuously worked to weaken the farmers and the agricultural systems of the country. The State government will soon take a call," State Congress president Balasaheb Thorat said.

A petition against the laws along with the 60 lakh signatures will be handed over to Congress president Sonia Gandhi and on November 19, they along with signatures from farmers across the country will be presented to President Ram Nath Kovind. H.K. Patil, State in-charge of the party, said that these 60 lakh signatures showed farmers' opposition.

Pawar cancels tour after Khadse quarantines self

Senior BJP leader Jaysingrao Gaikwad resigns from party

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar on Tuesday temporarily called off his two-day tour of north Maharashtra after former Maharashtra minister Eknath Khadse, who recently joined the NCP, quarantined himself after his daughter, Rohini, tested positive for COVID-19.

This was to be Mr. Pawar's first visit to the region after Mr. Khadse, hitherto an influential force in the BJP, switched his political colours following months of disenchantment with the saffron party. According to sources, Mr. Pawar was due to visit Jalgaon, Dhule and Nandurbar districts on November 20 and 21.

importance, given that Mr. Khadse was working to get several of his supporters into the NCP fold.

"As my Covid-19 test has returned positive, I have been admitted to a hospital as a precautionary measure. However, my health is perfectly fine," Ms. Khadse tweeted earlier.

A rumoured meeting with Mr. Khadse in his stronghold in Muktainagar was also on the cards. The much-anticipated tour was considered to be of significant political



According to sources, NCP chief Sharad Pawar was due to visit Jalgaon, Dhule and Nandurbar districts on November 20 and 21.

Instead, the BJP brass had given ticket to his daughter.

However, following her defeat in the election, Mr. Khadse has been vocal about his disenchantment with the BJP. Since the conclusion of the Assembly polls, a schism had emerged within the State BJP leadership, with the brass fearing a possible intra-party revolt by its notable OBC leaders led by Mr. Khadse, former ministers Pankaja Munde and Prakash Mehta, and other leaders who were either denied ticket or suffered upset defeats in the election.

Meanwhile, senior BJP leader and former Union minister Jaysingrao Gaikwad Patil resigned from the party on Tuesday for being reportedly sidelined by the State BJP brass despite having served at both the Centre and the State government. The Aurangabad-based Mr. Gaikwad, who wields influence in the Marathwada region, sent his resignation letter to the State BJP president Chandrakant Patil in the morning.

Devotees' delight



Nearing normalcy? (Top) Devotees offer prayers at Siddhivinayak temple in Mumbai on the first Tuesday after it was reopened for public on Monday after eight months since the lockdown was imposed in view of the COVID-19 pandemic; and devotees pray at a church in Mumbai on Monday. ■ EMMANUEL YOGINI ■ AFP

Used hand gloves case: Kochi hospital says key accused was not its employee

RAINA ASSAINAR
NAVI MUMBAI

Two months after the Navi Mumbai Crime Branch, probing the used hand gloves case, arrested the main accused, Dheeraj Rishikesh (28), supervisor of waste management of the Kochi-based Amritha Institute of Medical Science and Research Centre, the hospital claimed that Mr. Rishikesh was not an employee, but a devotee.

The police had written to the hospital seeking details of employment of Mr. Rishikesh and about others from the hospital who were associated with him.

"We had sent two letters. The hospital finally responded stating that Mr. Rishikesh was not their employee but a devotee of 'Amma'.

The hospital said that they had no idea how he was disposing of the used gloves which he used to collect from the hospital," assistant police inspector Rahul Rakh from the Crime Branch said.

Meanwhile, Mr. Rishikesh told the police that he was the waste management supervisor with the hospital. He also said that he was not aware that used gloves were being recycled, as he was made to believe by the other accused who took

the gloves from him that they would be used for making rubber chappals.

On August 18, as per the information received by Mr. Rakh, the Crime Branch Unit I seized around four tonnes of used hand gloves at unit in Gami Industrial Park, Panwane MIDC, Navi Mumbai, which were being washed and repacked for selling them further.

In the raid, Prashant Ashok Surve (38), a resident of Belapur, who ran the unit, was arrested. Mr. Surve led the police to Vipul Shah (52) from Malad, and Nazeem Khan (30), who ran a go-down in Bhiwandi.

No relief for power consumers: govt.

BJP to bring breach of privilege motion against Power Minister

STAFF REPORTER
MUMBAI

Contrary to its earlier claims, the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government on Tuesday clarified that it would not be able to extend any concessions in power bills. Domestic consumers in Maharashtra have been complaining of inflated electricity bills during the lockdown period.

In the raid, Prashant Ashok Surve (38), a resident of Belapur, who ran the unit, was arrested. Mr. Surve led the police to Vipul Shah (52) from Malad, and Nazeem Khan (30), who ran a go-down in Bhiwandi.

State Power Minister Nitin Raut said, "Mahavitaran (the State government company) is also a consumer. It buys electricity from different sources and provides it to consumers. At present, the corporation has a debt of over ₹69,000 crore and we cannot go further down. We did try to extend benefits to the affected consumers for which we approached the Centre, but no help came our way."

The Opposition was quick to react. Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLA Atul Bhatkalkar said he would be introducing a breach of privilege motion against the minister. "The minister had earlier assured of a relief package. He had even said that the matter was discussed in a State Cabinet meeting and a proposal regarding the same had also been prepared. But today's statement from the minister is nothing but backstabbing people's trust," he said.

ज्ञारखण्ड सरकार स्वास्थ्य, चिकित्सा शिक्षा एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग

प्रेस विज्ञप्ति

ज्ञारखण्ड सरकार स्वास्थ्य सेवा के गैरे शैक्षणिक चिकित्सा पदाधिकारियों की ४०८००१० / डी०४०८००१० की स्थीरता के क्रम में कठिनपूर्ण अपेक्षित असिलेखों के अभाव में वित्तीय उन्नयन (४०८००१० / डी०४०८००१०) की कार्रवाई किये जाने में कठिनाई उत्पन्न हो रही है। चिकित्सकों की सूची दिया गयी वेबसाइट www.jharkhand.gov.in के health, medical education & family welfare पर उल्लब्ध है।

अतः निदेशक प्रमुख, स्वास्थ्य सेवाएँ / सभी असेंटिक शल्य चिकित्सक-सह-मुख्य चिकित्सा पदाधिकारी एवं उनके अधिनस्थ ज्ञारखण्ड स्वास्थ्य सेवा के गैरे शैक्षणिक संवर्ग के चिकित्सकों को प्रेस विज्ञप्ति के माध्यम से सूचित किया जाता है कि लैंबिट वित्तीय उन्नयन (४०८००१० / डी०४०८००१०) के स्थीरता निमित्त चिकित्सकों के सूची (स्वास्थ्य चिकित्सा शिक्षा एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग के वेब साईट पर उपलब्ध) के कॉलम-८ से संबंधित वाचित असिलेख / सूचना एवं पक्ष के अंतर्वालीय विभागों के माध्यम से विभाग को निश्चित रूप से उपलब्ध कराना सुनिश्चित करें।

(प्रभुनाथ शर्मा) सरकार के अवकाश सचिव स्वास्थ्य चिकित्सा शिक्षा एवं परिवार कल्याण विभाग

PR 235889 (Health Med Edu and Family Welfare)20-21#D



Shot in the arm

Every vaccine candidate that passes a significant hoop is a win for the world at large

Close on the heels of the multinational, Pfizer, announcing promising results from its ongoing phase-3 trial of a potential COVID-19 vaccine, Moderna, the U.S.-based biotechnology firm, has indicated similar news from human trials (again phase 3) of its mRNA vaccine. An analysis of 95 of the nearly 30,000 volunteers – they are exclusively from the United States – who tested positive, revealed that 90 had only got a placebo and five the double-vaccine shots. This led to the vaccine being declared as ‘94.5% effective’ and well past the U.S. FDA’s requirement that a potential vaccine must be at least 50% effective. Encouragingly, the company also said that 11 volunteers manifested moderate to severe disease and all of them were those who did not get the real vaccine. This is a sign that the vaccine is successful in its primary job of protection though its efficacy at curbing disease transmission is still to be evaluated. The results were announced as a company news release and not in a scientific journal, implying that a review by independent experts is pending.

Moderna’s results, like Pfizer’s, are a boost for a new approach to vaccine design. The mRNA class of vaccines are a synthetic construction of a piece of genetic machinery that viruses need to replicate. There are twin advantages. No physical part of a virus is introduced, reducing the odds of adverse reactions, and the number of doses can be quickly scaled up as they do not need mammalian cells. The cons are that such vaccines have never been commercially produced and require sub-zero refrigeration facilities, which is a rarity in most of the world. In the case of Moderna, there is more optimism as the company claimed that the vaccine was able to survive for 30 days – and not the supposed seven – in a refrigerator and could last 12 hours at room temperature. Its vaccine is primarily for the U.S. However, this vaccine, unlike Pfizer’s, was developed with support from the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations and other global alliances. Under this arrangement, member-countries, and this includes India, are in line to get a minimum number of doses, however few, to cover a fraction of their population on priority basis. Moderna says it can ready 20 million doses by the year end. By late next year, this can be ramped up to the billions but by then it is expected that several more vaccines that are in large trials, including those in India, will be available. India does not stand to directly and immediately gain significantly from Moderna. However, every vaccine candidate that passes a significant hoop is a win for the world as it opens the way to new practices and ways of applying science that would have been otherwise implausible in the pre-pandemic world.

Fragile ceasefire

Armenia and Azerbaijan need a political solution to their dispute if the truce is to hold. The six-week-long war over Nagorno-Karabakh has come to a halt following a Russian-brokered ceasefire agreement between Armenia and Azerbaijan, but only after altering the balance of power in the region. Before Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev went to war in late September, Nagorno-Karabakh and its surrounding villages connecting the enclave with mainland Armenia were controlled by either Armenian troops or their proxies. Armenia had captured the mountainous region within Azerbaijan – populated by ethnic Armenians – in the earlier war in the 1990s. But tensions continued even after the 1994 ceasefire. When he launched the offensive, Mr. Aliyev, backed by Turkey, vowed to capture Nagorno-Karabakh. Last week, when the ceasefire was announced, Azeri troops had captured several areas around Nagorno-Karabakh from Armenia, including the strategic Shusha, a city just 16 km from Nagorno-Karabakh’s capital, Stepanakert. If Armenia was seen as the victor in the 1991-94 war, Mr. Aliyev has claimed triumph this time. On the other side, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan is facing a political backlash. Yerevan has seen protests against the troops’ withdrawal, Foreign Minister Zohrab Mnatsakanyan has quit over the ceasefire and the country’s President has asked Mr. Pashinyan to resign and hold a snap election.

Even if the direct conflict was between Armenia and Azerbaijan, two bigger powers had high stakes – Russia and Turkey. While Turkey strongly supported Azerbaijan, reportedly with armed drones and military advisers, Russia, which has a security agreement with Armenia, tried to remain neutral. While Azerbaijan made military progress, Russia resisted calls to back Armenia and continued with its push to bring the conflict in its backyard to an end, which it managed to do, finally. Vladimir Putin is the only signatory to the agreement besides the leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan. While Armenia was forced to pull back from several villages and Shusha, it avoided defeat in Nagorno-Karabakh. Russia would send 2,000 peacekeepers to protect the remaining Armenian population and patrol the corridor that links the enclave with the Armenian mainland. While the ceasefire has reinforced Russia’s influence in the region, the war itself pointed to its declining clout in its backyard. Turkey did not only help Azerbaijan fight a war against Moscow’s wishes but also made sure that the Azeris prevailed in the conflict. So now, there is a triumphant Azerbaijan, a wounded Armenia, a cautious Russia and an ambitious Turkey, with a fragile truce over an unresolved dispute. For peace to prevail, Armenia and Azerbaijan must find a lasting settlement to the status of Nagorno-Karabakh. The ceasefire in 1994 did not resolve the conflict. And unlike 1994, when Russia was the only big power, now, the South Caucasus is open for contest between Russia and Turkey, which makes the crisis even more dangerous.

Under Biden, security empathy, liberal antipathy

Earlier, India had the empathy of the liberals while there was some antipathy in the American security establishment



VIVEK KATJU

After telephonic conversations with a few European leaders last week, U.S. President-elect Joe Biden told the media, “I’m letting them know that America is back. We’re going to be back in the game.” Mr. Biden has signalled that he will revert to the traditional norms and patterns of American foreign policy and, more so, its diplomacy. The abrasive turbulence of the Donald Trump era will give way to calmer and predictable American policies and postures as Mr. Biden will seek to re-establish, in large measure, American involvement in the critical issues of our times. Like Mr. Trump, he will manage China’s aggressive rise but in a sober diplomatic style.

What New Delhi can expect
How will Mr. Biden impact Indian interests? In particular, how will India handle what can be anticipated to become a strand in Mr. Biden’s, the Democratic Party’s and the American liberal community’s agenda, namely, an emphasis on civil and human rights and freedoms? Specifically, will the Narendra Modi 2.0 government continue to ignore, as it did last year, the concerns expressed in American liberal circles about some of its decisions? Or, will it in the wake of Mr. Biden’s victory, purposefully engage this opinion?

There is no doubt that there is bipartisan support for the Indian-American partnership; it is based on a congruence of interests especially in the security and economic spheres. Mr. Biden is part of the

American consensus supporting a deepening of bilateral ties in these areas. India’s political and security elites have shed their inhibitions of a closer relationship with America. China’s actions since April this year along the Line of Actual Control have strengthened the case of India-America defence and security cooperation. India’s signing of all the foundational agreements and its full participation in the Quad did not attract domestic criticism; this would not have been so in the past. It can also be expected that bilateral trade and immigration issues will positively move ahead from an Indian viewpoint under a Biden administration.

It is ironic that at a time when Indian and American interests are becoming increasingly congruent in the security sphere, there is a growing perception among American liberals that India is moving away from its foundational moorings. In the earlier eras, while the security interests of the two countries diverged, the American system acknowledged a commonality in national values. India’s democratic order was held as a good example for emulation by the developing world. India then had the empathy of the liberals while there was antipathy in sections of the American establishment dealing with security. Now, the opposite may happen.

The Obama phase
The Narendra Modi 1.0 government dealt with the Obama administration for the first half of its term and the very different Trump administration in the latter half. Reflecting the American interest in India adhering to its commitment to the values of freedom, including religious, and equality, Mr. Obama laid emphasis on these aspects in his Siri Fort address on January 27, 2015 (<https://bit.ly/2KaYRGx>). He said, “Our nations are strongest



when we see that we are all God’s children – all equal in His eyes and worthy of His love.” He went on to recall, “Our freedom of religion is written into our founding documents.” The context of these remarks was obviously some incidents of lynching that had occurred in the name of cow protection. The Narendra Modi government did not really react to Mr. Obama’s words.

Security, economy for Trump
The Trump administration was not concerned about human rights not only during the Narendra Modi 1.0 government but also after Modi 2.0 began. It focused on the security and economic spheres though its officials made a few ineffectual noises on the administrative steps taken after the constitutional changes in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) on August 5, 2019. It largely and correctly implied that the constitutional changes were within India’s domestic jurisdiction. However, some members of the Democratic Party and the liberal sections of the American media were deeply concerned with the detentions and other steps taken by the government to ensure peace in J&K. These concerns grew with the Citizenship (Amendment) Act.

Secure in the support of the Trump administration, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar decided to ignore the more trenchant critics of the government’s decisions on J&K. This included

Congresswoman Pramila Jaypal who is of Indian origin and is a left of centre Democratic party member from Washington state. She had introduced a resolution in the House of Representatives criticising the administrative steps taken in J&K after August 5 last year. Mr. Jaishankar said that he was not interested in meeting her and went to the extent of cancelling a meeting with the leaders of the House Foreign Relations Committee because Ms. Jaypal would have been present at the meeting. Significantly, the U.S. Vice-President-elect, Kamala Harris, defended Ms. Jaypal and tweeted that she stood with her.

Rights issues on the horizon
The refusal to not engage American critics of the government’s decisions on J&K and the Citizenship (Amendment) Act because they had ‘closed minds’ was also reflected in Mr. Jaishankar’s comment to a well-known Indian commentator on foreign policy on the lack of diligence in the reporting of “really top line publications” on these issues (<https://bit.ly/3kFnAPO>). Mr. Jaishankar also asserted, “My reputation is not decided by a newspaper in New York.”

It may not be as easy under the Biden dispensation to ignore American liberal opinion as it was during the Trump years. They will bring a degree of pressure to bear on the administration to more vigorously pursue the issues of rights including minority rights with the Modi government. The Biden administration will no doubt be partially responsive to these pressures and some lecturing can be expected. Will the Modi government, on its part, continue to ignore the likes of Ms. Jaypal especially because of the certainty that on account of the Chinese challenge to world order, India-U.S. cooperation in security and de-

fence will not slow down?

The question though is should an Indian government abandon the path of engagement with foreign critics even if they are prejudiced? The disengagement policy being pursued with Pakistan is valid because dialogue with a country which uses terrorism as a part of its security doctrine should be unacceptable. But American liberals do not promote violence. Should not correct perspectives be provided to even biased critics among them? Of course, it is only for the Indian people and government to take sovereign decisions, and while doing so, reject any and all intrusiveness. But such rejection is also best done through engaging critics.

Reaching out

It is sad that Mr. Jaishankar’s interlocutor did not probe him on his ideas regarding what he would like India’s reputation to be. Also, on the values and systems that have gone into the making of India’s reputation. The Sangh Parivar puts a premium on India being recognised as Jagadguru. The Modi government has sought to spread India’s soft power with some success. The path to recognition as a guru for India lies through becoming a strong but humane state and achieving the constitutional aspiration of an inclusive and just society. Indeed, these objectives animate Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision of *sabkaasaa, sabkaavikas, sabkavishwas* not only for the country but the world.

Indian diplomacy must realise that it cannot promote these ideas without engaging the country’s foreign critics even those with seemingly closed minds. And is not opening closed minds the ultimate test of diplomacy?

Vivek Katju is a retired member of the Indian Foreign Service

Changing the discourse on victim jurisprudence

The system needs to account for victims at the pre- and post-crime levels; remedies have been more a judicial initiative



G.S. BAJPAI & ANKIT KAUSHIK

Wed in the driver’s seat, the engine of our criminal justice system runs full throttle in the name of justice; but onboard only the accused and the functionaries. The primary victims – mere witnesses in the eyes of the law – are side-lined and left to their own resources. The victims, for no fault of their own, are frequently left without remedy where the institutions geared towards securing justice to them fail to deliver. Any reform in criminal laws would be incomplete without accounting for these concerns.

While several steps have been taken to come up with remedies, progress has been piecemeal and marked by judicial initiative rather than legislative enterprise. While the Supreme Court has led the movement for recognition of victim rights to access to justice, compensation and assistance, little has changed in terms of both the black letter of the law and the ground realities. There is an overwhelming need to re-conceptualise the institutions of our criminal justice system to account for victims both at the pre- and post-crime levels. As opposed to post-crime mitigation and rehabilitation, a pre-crime conceptualisation of victimisation is geared towards prevention.

Crime prevention is an oft-cited

but least studied aspect of our criminal justice system. Examination of crime-prevention from the victim’s perspective is even rarer. Among other methods, situational crime prevention through risk-mapping and vulnerability-mapping stands out in terms of viability and efficacy. A truly effective criminal justice system can identify potential victims and to put measures to protect them in place – before the incidence of crime itself. Capacity building and effective implementation are key to such endeavours.

Victim’s rights and needs
In a post-crime scenario, however, there is a need to shed the image of the victim as a mere witness and to institutionally recognise their rights and requirements. The same thing can be achieved through a legislative recognition of the following points. First, the conceptualisation of access to justice for victims requires viewing such access less in terms of Directive Principles of State Policy under Article 39A, and more as a fundamental right under Articles 14 and 21. There is an urgent need to strengthen the complaint mechanism for non-registration of FIR u/s. 154(3) Code of Criminal Procedure, and extension of Section 166A(c) in the Indian Penal Code to all cognisable offences. Further, access to justice also requires the creation of victim-friendly procedures that are aimed at reducing their inconvenience.

Second, it is imperative to recognise the need for effective victim participation. Currently, the victims and their counsels are entitled to extremely limited participation

In line with the global trend, there is a need to recognise the right of victims to be heard at all appropriate stages of a trial. Victim Impact Statements can help accord this right. Moreover, substantive access to justice also requires access to legal aid. Such legal aid has the potential to culminate in effective victim participation if provided to the victim from the stage of reporting to the stage of sentencing and appeal.

Right to information
Third, such legal aid to victims is also imperative for fruition of their right to information. The right to information, in turn, enables their access to all other rights. Ergo, victims must be entitled to information regarding their role in the criminal justice process, what they can expect from the criminal justice system, status of the trial, and also their other rights and entitlements as a victim of crime.

Fourth, the right to information can also go a long way in securing the right to protection. The victim must be kept abreast of all developments in the trial process which may potentially compromise their security. This would require intimation of the victim in connection with any hearing changing the nature of the accused’s custody including his release

on bail or parole. The framework for such intimation is already available to specific victims in Section 15A of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. Other measures for witness protection such as relocation and change in identity, as provided for in the Witness Protection Scheme, too need to be reviewed and enforced effectively.

Fifth, the concept of assistance as envisaged in the 1985 UN Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power needs to be recognised as a right, not merely for victims of rape and acid attack, but for all victims of crime in general. The state must play the role of a facilitator in providing to the victims all such assistance as is necessary – medical, psychological, financial and material. The same would require institutional capacity building, through ramping up of infrastructure such as one-stop centres, training of existing functionaries, and by engaging with and promoting the non-governmental organisations involved in providing such assistance to victims.

Compensation and restitution
Sixth, the right to compensation, recognised to a limited extent under our current laws, is lacking in many respects. Primarily, the political will for its enforcement at a state level has been found to be wanting. Additionally, the Victim Compensation Scheme provided for under Section 357A of the Code of Criminal Procedure must be revitalised by revising it in terms of accessibility and adequacy.

Finally, the right to restitution must be separated from the right

to compensation. Both terms have been used interchangeably in our criminal justice system, leading to a large degree of confusion. But if the scheme of the 1985 Declaration is adopted, restitution can be differentiated from compensation in that the first right is enforceable against the accused while the second right is enforceable against the state.

In this sense, the right to restitution is already present to some extent in Section 357A of the Code of Criminal Procedure, but has been mis-termed as ‘compensation’. Section 357 provides that where the court imposes a sentence of fine, the court may use the same, in whole or in part, for paying compensation for any loss or injury. The Supreme Court has repeatedly that the provision should be used liberally. The same must be made mandatory wherever appropriate.

The global discourse on victim jurisprudence has now matured enough to be incorporated directly into our laws. In his seminal piece, Herbert L. Packer stressed that a criminal justice system focuses on two values – of crime control and due process. But in line with Douglas E. Beford’s addendum to Packer’s models, there is a need to introduce a third value – victim participation. Without such a value, the aim of justice will remain unfulfilled; always just a little out of reach.

G.S. Bajpai is a Professor and Chairperson of the Centre for Criminology and Victimology at the National Law University Delhi, where Ankit Kaushik is a Research Associate. The views expressed are personal

■ In his heyday, he was often compared to the then reigning matinee idol of Bengali cinema, Uttam Kumar. Their acting styles were however as different as chalk and cheese. While Uttam Kumar was more flamboyant, Soumitra Chatterjee was rather subdued, preferring to underplay characters and investing them with just the right amount of histrionics.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:
Error in graph: The right-axis in the graph titled “Dropping diaspora” that accompanied a story headlined “Indian students in U.S. dropped 4.4% last year” (Nov. 17, 2020) had erroneously been labelled as the yearly growth in numbers. Actually, it was the percentage growth.

The Readers’ Editor’s office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-28418297/28576300; E-mail: readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

Like the late Satyan in Malayalam cinema who could convey a nuance with just a raise of his eyebrows, Soumitra Chatterjee too could encapsulate a whole gamut of emotions in a single glance. He will be sorely missed by his legion of fans and admirers.

C.V. ARAVIND,
Bengaluru

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.

India's RCEP stance

Although there is no denying the grim truth that through its past trade agreements, India unwittingly allowed other countries unfair trade and manufacturing advantages leading to deindustrialisation of some sectors and a gaping trade deficit with them, it should not put the clock back now by embracing protectionism. India chose to join the globalisation bandwagon in 1991 and has significantly benefitted from it as the growth indicators indicate. As Japan, South Korea, Australia and many ASEAN

nations have joined RCEP by setting aside their differences with Beijing to pick up the post-COVID economic threads, New Delhi too should consider rejoining the trade bloc after some tough bargaining. As RCEP members have waived a key 18-month cooling period for interested applicants, New Delhi can first test the waters before taking the plunge by joining the negotiating table as an observer and also in economic cooperation activities undertaken by the signatory states. Meanwhile, to narrow

down the gaping trade deficit with many ASEAN nations, India should spruce up its industries with more economic reforms and ensure strict quality control to be able to withstand the healthy competition once trade barriers are lifted.

NALINI VIJAYARAGHAVAN,
Thiruvananthapuram

Soumitra Chatterjee
Soumitra Chatterjee was one of those rarest of rare actors in the history of Indian cinema who excelled in critically acclaimed “arthouse” films as well as “mainstream” vintage cinema (“Feluda is no

more, Apu has said goodbye. Farewell, Soumitra”, November 16). He was one of the most malleable actors, portraying a wide range of characterisations with utmost conviction. From urban sleuth to rural teacher, struggling swimming coach to top-end doctor, romantic hero to unscrupulous villain, comedy to all seriousness, Chatterjee was at ease with any challenge. He was an integral part of Bengali life, completed by his impeccable humility and dignity.

KAJAL CHATTERJEE,
Kolkata

CM YK



A ND-NDE

Shifting sands for Asian economies

India faces an uphill task in maintaining its viability against highly competitive countries



M. SURESH BABU

Discussions on the post-pandemic global economy have often predicted that China's appeal as a business destination would fade, losing favour as the global manufacturing hub. Arguments have been made that production would be dispersed to other appealing locations mostly in Asia, and even to those outside. It was expected that this relocation of production would benefit emerging labour-abundant economies. The reality, however, is more nuanced.

Some labour-intensive industries, such as textiles and apparels, have been moving to Bangladesh and Sri Lanka as labour costs in China are increasing. But trends in other industries show that businesses have mostly remained in China.

China's importance

Yossi Sheffi, professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and an expert in systems optimisation and supply chain management, points out in a recent article that the combination of the trade war and the COVID-19 crisis has resulted in firms establishing relatively small-scale operations elsewhere. This is perceived as a buffer against being completely dependent on China, referred to as the 'China +1' strategy.

There are three reasons for firms to remain in China and pursue this strategy: First, starting an enterprise and maintaining operations in China are much easier than elsewhere. Second, Chinese firms are nimble and fast, which is evident from the quick recovery of Chinese manufacturing after the lockdown. Third, many global companies have spent decades building supply chains in China. Hence, getting out would mean moving the entire ecosystem, which involves time and expenditure. This strategy of global firms has led to an intensification of competition among Asian economies to be that 'plus one' in the emerging manufacturing landscape.

In 1968, Swedish Nobel laureate Gunnar Myrdal published the monu-



Larger view: Recalibrated policies must focus on making exporting activity favourable for all firms. ■ AP

mental 'Asian Drama - An Inquiry into the Poverty of Nations', which, focusing on South and Southeast Asia, was pessimistic about their development prospects. Half a century later, there has been remarkable growth in the very region in which 'Asian Drama' was set. Openness and trade exploded, and these newly industrialised economies rode the wave of exporting goods to the rest of the world, while raising their own levels of living.

A new 'Asian Drama' is likely to unfold with the formal launch of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). Asia's growth would hinge on the role of trade and investment flows into these economies, and this would again be the centrepiece of global growth, as the 15 member countries account for nearly 30% of the global GDP. This largest free trade agreement in the world includes provision to cover the entire gamut of trade and commerce. Unlike the portrayal in 'Asian Drama', these economies have spruced up their institutional and infrastructural settings, which would be the deciding factor in the new edition of 'Asian Drama'.

A host of challenges

The RCEP and the 'China +1 strategy' is likely to impact investment flows into Vietnam, India, Bangladesh and Indonesia, which have emerged as key investment destinations.

India faces three challenges in this

race. First is the task of increasing domestic public investments, which have a central role in economic activity, for both demand and supply sides. According to the International Monetary Fund, "increasing public investment by 1% of GDP could boost GDP by 2.7%, private investment by 10%, and employment by 1.2%, if investments are of high quality and if existing public and private debt burdens do not weaken the response of the private sector." In India, even before the pandemic, the growth in domestic investments had been weak, and this seems to be the opportune time to bolster public investments as interest rates are low globally and savings are available. Private investments would continue to be depressed, due to the uncertainty on the future economic outlook, which underscores the need to undertake high-quality public investments.

Second, India needs a major overhaul in her trade policy, as in the pre-COVID-19 era, world trade had been rattled by tendencies of rising economic nationalism and unilateralism leading to the return of protectionist policies. A revamped trade policy needs to take into cognisance the possibility of two effects of the RCEP: the 'Walmart effect' and a 'switching effect'. The first would sustain demand for basic products and help in keeping employee productivity at an optimum level, but may also reduce wages and competition due to sourcing from multiple vendors at competi-

tive rates. Switching effects would be an outcome of developed economies scouting for new sources to fulfil import demands, which requires firms to be nimble and competitive. Trade policy has to recognise the pitfalls of the present two-track mode, one for firms operating in the 'free trade enclaves' and another for the rest. A major fallout of this 'policy dualism' is the dampening of export diversification. The challenge is to make exporting activity more attractive for all firms in the economy.

Third is to increase women's participation in the labour force. While India's GDP has grown by around 6% to 7% per year on an average in the recent years, educational levels of women have risen, and fertility rates have fallen, women's labour force participation rate has fallen from 42.7% in 2004-05 to 23.3% in 2017-18. This means that three out of four Indian women are neither working nor seeking paid work. Globally, India ranks among the bottom ten countries in terms of women's workforce participation. When Bangladesh's GDP grew at an average rate of 5.5% during 1991 and 2017, women's participation in the labour force increased from 24% to 36%. India could gain hugely if barriers to women's participation in the workforce are removed, for which the manufacturing sector should create labour-intensive jobs that rural and semi-rural women are qualified for.

A new approach

India's approach to the changed scenario needs to be well-calibrated. The intensity of competition is evident from the fact that after India passed three labour code Bills on September 23, Indonesian Parliament on October 5 passed a legislation that slashes regulations contained in more than 70 separate existing laws, to open up the country to more foreign investment. Bangladesh on its part plans to start negotiations with a dozen countries, including the U.S. and Canada, for signing preferential trade agreements.

Thus, the stage is set for a new 'Asian Drama'. What will be India's role in it? Well, it will not be on the basis of past accolades, for sure.

M. Suresh Babu is Professor of Economics at IIT, Madras

T-cell immunity and COVID-19

Immunity observed even without detectable antibodies highlights the need to study T-cell response



M.S. SESHADRI & T. JACOB JOHN

Our immune system responds to virus infections with a first-line defence called 'innate' immunity, followed by the second-line called 'adaptive' immunity. Innate immunity is like first aid – an immediate response, not strong enough to prevent pathology if the virus is highly virulent or the 'inoculum' (infected virus load) is heavy. Innate immunity then passes the baton to adaptive immunity, which takes several days to develop and become effective.

Adaptive immunity has two arms – antibodies and T-cell immunity. Antibodies are protein molecules that recognise and bind to viral antigens. Some among them tend to neutralise viruses from infecting fresh host cells. Some viruses then adopt other mechanisms to infect host cells, and that is when T-cell immunity may come to the rescue. In most viral infections, the presence of antibodies in the blood is sufficient to classify individuals as immune. But unlike them, antibodies for COVID-19 wane fairly soon. In persons with asymptomatic infections or mild COVID-19, nearly half will have no detectable antibodies after two months. This phenomenon of short-lived antibodies and consequent re-infection is also seen in some other respiratory tract viruses. Generally, re-infections are mild or asymptomatic, presumably due to protection afforded by T-cell immunity.

Does disappearance of antibodies for the COVID-19-causing virus mean that protection after one infection does not last? Knowing that reinfection with symptoms has so far been proven in only about ten cases among millions infected, protective immunity after the first infection is probably durable. The observed protection in the face of non-detectable antibodies highlights the need to study T-cell immunity.

More long-lasting

In COVID-19 infection, T-cell immunity is more long-lasting than antibodies. It resides in a subset of white blood cells called T-lymphocytes, or T cells. However, the test for assessing T-cell immunity is complicated and expensive. Researchers from Cardiff University have come up with a simplified and rapid T-cell immunity test, called 'T-SPOT test', that can be done in many laboratories. Serial evaluation of T-cell immunity can help

determine its durability after vaccination. Therefore, it is no surprise that vaccine trials have started testing for T-cell immunity too.

In a recent study from Karolinska Institute, there were many surprises. About 25% of blood donors in 2019, prior to the outbreak of COVID-19 infection in Sweden, had T-cell immunity against it. This increased to 50% in 2020 after the pandemic had entered the country. These observations imply that prior exposure to some other coronavirus(es) had evoked "cross-reacting" T-cell immunity towards the COVID-19 coronavirus. In the same study, many contacts of proven COVID-19 patients had T-cell immunity, even though antibodies were undetectable. This indicates that in those exposed to the COVID-19 virus, T-cell immunity occurs even without a detectable antibody response.

The Karolinska investigators found that the immune T cells had 'stem-cell' like characteristics – indicating their long-term survival and potential of quick multiplication. A study from Birmingham confirmed that in COVID-19, T-cell immunity is durable and lasts for more than six months.

Four coronaviruses causing common cold are widely prevalent in human communities. Two of them are Beta-coronaviruses, the phylogenetic group to which the COVID-19 coronavirus belongs. The prevalence of cross-reacting T-cell immunity from the common cold coronaviruses is likely to vary from country to country, depending partly on population density and the frequency of recurrent viral infections of the respiratory tract. Countries with high population densities, where such infections spread quickly, may be expected to have a higher proportion of the population exposed to them. This may explain the relatively lower impact of COVID-19 (in terms of number of cases and deaths per million population) in countries like India and many low-income countries.

Obviously, T-cell immunity is a better and more durable marker than antibodies of past infection for this novel virus. If India's vaccination policy, when made, recommends that vaccines may be conserved for priority use for non-immune subjects, then, a rapid T-cell immunity test, such as the one developed in Cardiff, will be better than antibody tests. Therefore, developing simple and rapid assays for T-cell immunity should be a priority for Indian scientists to work on, quickly. Those with T-cell immunity may need no vaccine, or only a single dose of a two-dose vaccine regimen.

M.S. Seshadri retired as Professor of Medicine and Clinical Endocrinology, Christian Medical College (CMC). Dr. T. Jacob John retired as Professor of Clinical Virology, CMC.

Constitutional fault lines

T.N. Governor's inaction on advice to free Rajiv case convicts warrants judicial intervention

MANURAJ SHUNMUGASUNDARAM

interfered when an inordinate delay to perform a constitutional function was brought to its notice.

For long, Governors, like Speakers, considered themselves to be unanswerable for their actions. However, the apex court has clarified that constitutional functionaries are not exempt from judicial scrutiny. In the recent case of *Keisham Meghachandra Singh v. Hon'ble Speaker* (2020), the Supreme Court was asked to examine the Speaker's inaction with regard to disqualification proceedings. It was hitherto believed that the powers of the Speaker, holding a constitutional office and exercising powers granted under the Constitution, were beyond the scope of a 'writ of mandamus'. However, the apex court, recalling an earlier judgment in *Rajendra Singh Rana v. Swami Prasad Maurya* (2007), had confirmed its view that the "failure on the part of the Speaker to decide the application seeking a disqualification cannot be said to be merely in the realm of procedure" and that it "goes against the very constitutional scheme of adjudication contemplated by the Tenth Schedule".

Consequently, breaking years of convention, the SC, in the Keisham Meghachandra Singh case issued a judicial direction to the Speaker to decide the disqualification petitions within a period of four weeks. By doing so, the Supreme Court has indicated that it would only exercise caution when it comes to providing injunctions in *quia timet* actions, but would not be precluded from issuing directions in aid of a constitutional authority "arriving at a prompt decision".

In the present case, there has been a substantial delay at the hands of the Governor. The fifteenth Legislative Assembly of Tamil Nadu and consequently, the Council of Ministers, will end in May, 2021. This calls for the immediate interference of the Supreme Court, for it otherwise would render the resolution passed by the Council of Ministers and words contained in Article 161 of the Constitution meaningless.

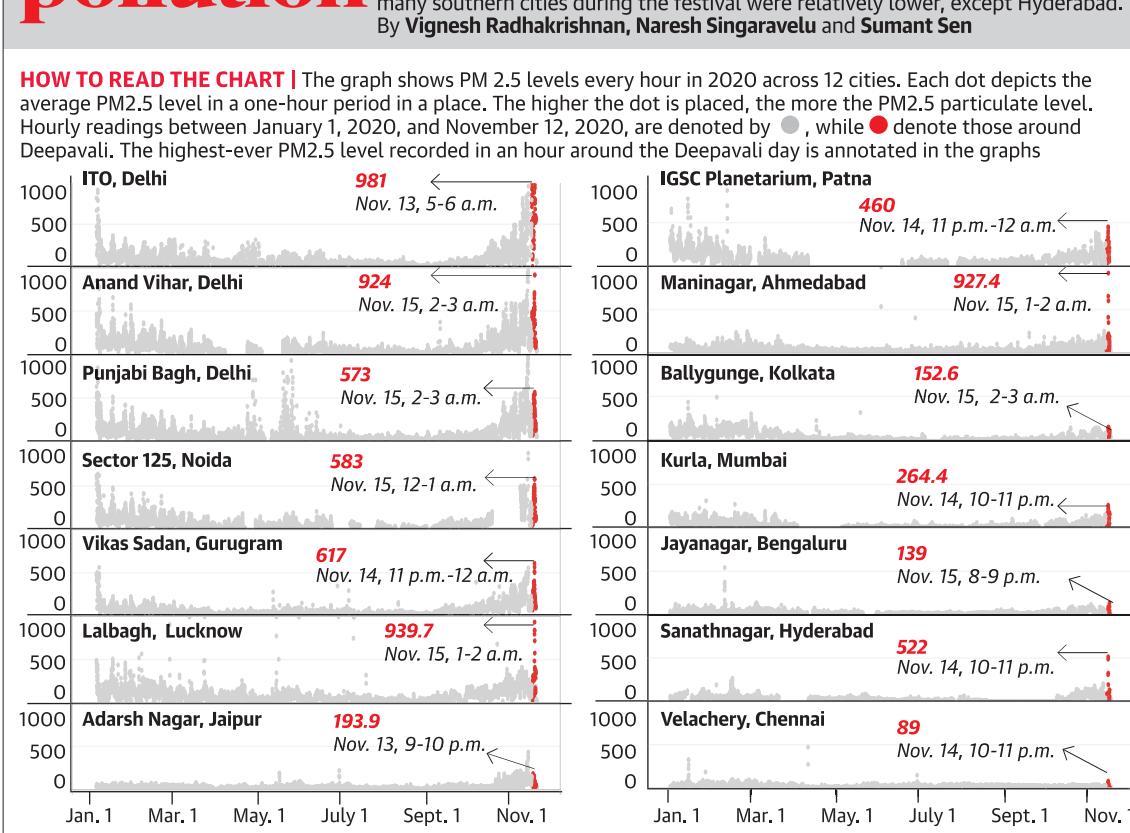
The author is an advocate and spokesperson for the DMK



DATA POINT

Diwali-day pollution

An analysis of particulate matter levels in 2020 shows that pollution levels crossed the severe limit (PM 2.5 level >250) during many hours around Deepavali (Nov. 13, 14, and 15) in the four northern cities considered – Delhi, Noida, Gurugram and Lucknow. However, as northern cities were already going through a highly-polluted winter, the levels during Deepavali were not an anomaly. The levels in many southern cities during the festival were relatively lower, except Hyderabad. By Vignesh Radhakrishnan, Naresh Singaravelu and Sumanth Sen



The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 18, 1970

Swatantra Party ends alliance with DMK

The Swatantra Party has broken away from the electoral alliance it had entered into with the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam at the time of the last general elections. Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, founder-leader of the Swatantra Party, has said that his party had to break away from the D.M.K. on account of the latter's resolve to support the "Indira Congress-cum-communist regime". Commenting on this, the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, Mr. M. Karunanidhi, said to-day [November 17] that just as Dronacharya had all his affection and sympathy for the Pandavas though he was fighting them from the side of Kauravas in the Kurukshetra war, he expected that the D.M.K. would have the sympathy and affection of Rajaji – even though he had gone to the other side. Mr. Rajagopalachari has asked his partymen not to support the D.M.K. in the elections to 10 municipalities coming off next month, but to back the party candidates and those of the Congress (O) wherever they oppose the D.M.K., the new Congress and the C.P.I.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 18, 1920

The Middle East. New policy. The Egyptian question.

London, Nov. 16- All signs show the British are on the point of inaugurating a policy of immediate heavy reduction in the Indian and British troops in Middle Asia. If that surmise proves correct the Northcliffe Press and other forces in the opposition may congratulate themselves on a great success. For months they have been persistently agitating against the Government policy in Mesopotamia and Persia which is imposing a heavy burden upon the British tax-payer. The public is so worked up that Government would be unwise to introduce supplementary estimates asking the Commons to sanction more money for expenditure incurred upon recent operations in Middle Asia without first issuing an authoritative statement assuring the people that future British commitments in that region will not involve such heavy outlays in future.

It is quite possible the forthcoming reduction in the forces in Middle Asia is partly due to Indian agitation against the employment of Indian troops there though the British Press has not put forward the Indian view, the "Times" being the only prominent exception.

FROM PAGE ONE

It is an unholy global gathbandhan: Shah

"I can understand the frustration behind this attack by the Home Minister. He had been briefed that the People's Alliance was preparing to boycott elections. This would have allowed the BJP and newly formed king's party a free run in J&K. We didn't oblige them," he said.

It was only in Jammu & Kashmir that leaders could be detained and called anti-national for participating in elections and supporting the democratic process. "The truth is all those who oppose the ideology of the BJP are labelled 'corrupt and anti-national,'" he stated.

Legitimate alliance

Mr. Abdullah asserted, "We are not 'gang' Amit Shah ji, we are a legitimate political alliance having fought and continuing to fight elections, much to your disappointment".

Mr. Shah had tweeted, "The Gupkar Gang is going global! They want foreign forces to intervene in Jammu and Kashmir. The Gupkar Gang also insults India's Tricolour. Do Sonia Ji and Rahul Ji support such moves of the Gupkar Gang? They should make their stand crystal clear to the people of India".

In New Delhi, Congress

What mechanism do you have against fake news: SC

The court rejected the affidavit as inadequate. "We are disappointed with your affidavit... It does not contain a whisper about what you have done under the Cable TV Act... We are not satisfied... We want to know how you are employing the Cable TV Act. We want to know the quantum of applicability of the Act... What is the legal remedy when there are complaints?" Chief Justice Bobde asked Mr. Mehta.

Court's poser

For the past two months, the court has been asking the government to give a clear answer to whether the regulatory provisions of the Cable TV Network (Regulation) Act of 1995, meant for cable networks, would apply to TV broadcasts.

"We want to know if the government has any power

chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said in a statement, "The Congress is neither a part of the Gupkar Alliance nor is it a part of the PAGD... Will Mr. Amit Shah bother to explain why did the BJP form a coalition government with the PDP that he is now attacking?"

The Congress said it didn't need any lesson in nationalism from parties that were 'slaves or stooges of the British Empire'.

It claimed that the national still remembered the sacrifices of its leaders, including Mahatma Gandhi, former Prime Ministers Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi.

Mr. Surjewala said, "Maybe Amit Shah and the Narendra Modi government need new lessons in patriotism and nationalism, as their parent organisation, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), never hoisted the Tricolour for 52 years".

Past events

The Congress also delved into some past events. It asked the BJP to explain why it allowed Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence to visit the Pathankot airbase following the terror attack and released Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Maulana Masood Azhar, among others.

In New Delhi, Congress

M.P. planning law with 5-year jail for 'love jihad'

As for those indulging in religious conversion for marriages, they should inform the District Magistrates at least a month in advance, along with religious persons organising the conversions.

Recently, the Allahabad High Court repudiated the idea of religious conversion solely for the purpose of marriage.

The announcement comes after similar plans

to question or ban TV broadcasting signals." Chief Justice Bobde had asked the government in the previous hearing in October.

Mr. Mehta referred to the power to prohibit transmission of certain programmes under Section 19 of the 1995 Act.

'Elaborate affidavit'

However, he agreed to file an "elaborate" affidavit, which would be the third in a row from the government side.

The CJI had termed the first one, filed by an under-secretary, "evasive" and even "nonsensical."

The Jamiat petitions has sought a direction from the court to the Ministry to identify and take strict action against sections of the media that communalised the Tablighi incident.

Study highlights online education woes

Inadequate number of smartphones, difficulty in using apps important reasons

STAFF REPORTER

BENGALURU

A field study by the Azim Premji University on the efficacy and accessibility of e-learning has found that more than 60% of the respondents who are enrolled in government schools could not access online education. The study, titled "Myths of Online Education", was undertaken in five States across 26 districts and covered 1,522 schools. More than 80,000 students study in these government schools.

The study examined the experience of children and teachers with online education. The researchers noted that non-availability or inadequate number of smartphones for dedicated use or sharing, as well as difficulty in using apps for online learning, were the most important reasons why stu-



Tough task: A file photo of a student attending an online class in Bengaluru. ■ SUDHAKARA JAIN

dents were not able to access classes.

Children with disabilities in fact found it more difficult to participate in online sessions.

The researchers pointed out that 90% of the teachers who work with children with disabilities found their stu-

dents unable to participate online.

The study also found out that almost 90% of parents of government school students surveyed were willing to send their children back to school. However, they said it would be a feasible option if the health of their

children was taken care of when schools reopen.

Almost 70% of the parents surveyed were of the opinion that online classes were not effective and did not help in their child's learnings.

'No emotional connect'

Teachers, too, expressed frustration with online classes. More than 80% surveyed said they were unable to maintain emotional connect with students during online classes, while 90% of teachers felt that no meaningful assessment of children's learning was possible.

Another significant finding was that nearly 50% of the teachers reported that children were unable to complete assignments shared during the online classes, which had led to serious gaps in learning.

D.J. Halli riots: ex-Bengaluru Mayor held

He was absconding since mid-October after being accused of conspiracy and instigating the mob

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU

A local court on Tuesday remanded former Bengaluru Mayor R. Sampath Raj in the custody of the Central Crime Branch police for two days, where he will be interrogated on his role in the violence at D.J. Halli and K.G. Halli on the night of August 11.

Raj, who has been accused of conspiracy and playing a part in instigating the mob to set fire to Pulikeshinagar MLA Akhanda Sreenivasamurthy's house that night, was absconding since mid-October.

His arrest comes barely three days after the High Court of Karnataka directed the CCB on November 13 to take steps to trace and arrest him. A special team tracked him down to a friend's house in Benson Town, Pulikeshinagar, on Monday.

"He had returned to the city after we arrested his aide Riyazuddin, who had driven him to a farmhouse in Nagarahole," said a police official.

The former Mayor had been trying to evade the police net since mid-October after he was discharged from a private



In the net: Central Crime Branch police taking the former Mayor of Bengaluru R. Sampath Raj into custody in Bengaluru on Tuesday. ■ SUDHAKARA JAIN

hospital, where he was undergoing treatment for COVID-19. "He has been on the run for over 20 days, and even hid in Tamil Nadu and Kerala to evade arrest," said a CCB official.

Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai said, "There will be further probe. His arrest will expose the conspiracy."

Congress MLA Akhanda Sreenivasamurthy thanked the Chief Minister and the Home Minister for "ensuring justice". "A detailed inquiry will reveal his intentions behind the violence, and I request the authorities concerned to ensure that strict punishment is meted out," he said.

He added that he had approached Karnataka Congress president D.K. Shivakumar twice in the past. "I'll meet him again," he said, reacting to Mr. Shivakumar's comment that he had not approached him.

He also took a dig at Mr. Shivakumar asking him why he was not supporting his case, and thanked Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah and MLA B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan for taking his side, exposing factionalism within the party.

However, Mr. Shivakumar said the ruling BJP was trying to unfairly target the Congress. "I have seen the chargesheet. Where is the evidence that the Congress is involved?" he told mediapersons on Tuesday.

He also reiterated that Mr. Murthy had to date not approached him. "He is free to come and meet me. I am also with Sreenivasamurthy," he said.

NCB takes custody of Bineesh

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU

Barely a week after he was remanded in judicial custody by a special court, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Tuesday took custody of Bineesh Kodiyeri for three days till November 20 to question him on his role in a drug peddling case and his ties with accused Mohammed Anoop.

Bineesh, son of Kerala CPI(M) State secretary Kodiyeri Balakrishnan who stepped down recently, is being investigated by the Enforcement Directorate in the same case. He was in the ED's custody since his arrest and was remanded in judicial custody by a special court last week.

The NCB had arrested Anoop during a series of raids in the city. "He said that Bineesh would visit his apartment in Kalyan Nagar, where he consumed some drugs," said a source.

Sivasankar's appeal for bail rejected

ED denies pressuring him to name politicians

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

KOCHI

The Principal Sessions Court, Ernakulam, on Tuesday rejected the bail plea of M. Sivasankar, former Principal Secretary to Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, in the diplomatic baggage gold smuggling case.

The suspended bureaucrat will remain in the Kakkanad jail here till November 26, the end of the remand period.

Kauser Edappagath, special judge for Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) Cases, said in his order that it was not possible at this stage to believe that the petitioner was not guilty of the alleged offences.

An investigation was on and it was at a crucial stage,



No relief: M. Sivasankar leaving a special court for cases under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act in Kochi.

he said. The court pointed out that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) may require more time to collect all materials related to the alleged nexus of the petitioner with the crime.

ED's objection

Earlier in the day, the ED filed an objection against the argument note presented by

Sivasankar's counsel on Monday, alleging that the agency had exerted pressure on him to name political leaders in the gold smuggling case.

The agency said the allegation was made with *mala fide* intention. Sivasankar had never raised this at the time of custody or at the time of argument in the court. This was only an after-

thought, it said.

The ED said investigations had revealed that Sivasankar was in the know of the gold being smuggled through the diplomatic channel, and he was a beneficiary of the kickbacks received from Unitac Builders for the LIFE Mission and Kerala Fibre Optic Network projects. Sivasankar had shown keen interest to award some subcontracts in these projects to Unitac Builders, it alleged.

The agency said its investigation into the kickbacks allegedly received by Sivasankar in other projects, such as Smart City Kochi and Taurus Downtown, were progressing.

The agency said its investigation into the kickbacks allegedly received by Sivasankar in other projects, such as Smart City Kochi and Taurus Downtown, were progressing.

On Tuesday, the Health department added another 27 deaths to the COVID mortality list.

Telangana recorded 952 cases on Monday, testing 38,245 people. Three more patients died.

Karnataka reported 1,336 cases and 16 deaths on Tuesday. Of the new cases, 729

were tested, 13,392 of them rapid antigen tests.

The number of those who tested positive for COVID-19 on Tuesday in Tamil Nadu stood at 1,652, taking the total number of persons who tested positive till date to 7,61,568. At the same time, in a day 2,314 persons were discharged.

The State also recorded 18 deaths in the past 24 hours.

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

IN BRIEF



KSRTC starts special services to Pampa

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM The Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has commenced long-distance special services to Pampa and chain services on the Nilakkal-Pampa-Nilakkal corridor for Ayyappa devotees visiting the Sabarimala temple during the Mandala-Makaravilakku season. The KSRTC has pressed into service 40 buses pooled from various depots.

'Grama panchayat polls tentatively in February'

VIJAYAWADA Taking a cue from the elections conducted in various States during the pandemic, the Andhra Pradesh State Election Commission has decided to conduct the gramapanchayat elections in February 2021.

State Election Commissioner N. Ramesh Kumar has said in a release that the actual schedule will be finalised in consultation with State government. The notification and schedule will be notified thereafter.

Kothamangalam church: HC adjourns hearing

KOCHI A Bench of the Kerala High Court on Tuesday adjourned to next week the hearing on an appeal filed by a few Jacobite faction leaders against a single judge's directive to the Ernakulam District Collector to take over the Kothamangalam Marthoma church and its assets and hand over them to the vicar of the Orthodox faction. The appeal was filed by Mathai M.K. and others.

Nizam's grandson moves police against two cousins

Row over £35 million Nizam's Fund lying in a U.K. bank

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD

A grandson of the last Nizam Nawab Mir Osman Ali Khan, Nawab Najaf Ali Khan, has lodged a complaint with City Commissioner of Police Anjani Kumar seeking registration of an FIR on a few other Nizam's heirs alleging that they have used false documents to lay claim to the £35 million Nizam's Fund lying in a U.K. bank.

Mr. Najaf Ali Khan met the Police Commissioner here on Tuesday and submitted the complaint along with supporting documents. He alleged in the complaint that another grandson of the Seventh Nizam, Prince Mukarram Jah alias Barkat Ali Khan, his ex-wife Esra Birgen Jah, who is also the General Power of Attorney (GPA) holder of Prince Mukarram Jah, his son Azmet Jah and his brother Prince Mu-



Nawab Najaf Ali Khan giving the complaint to Police Commissioner Anjani Kumar.

faham Jah had used false documents in the U.K. High Court to lay claim to the £35 million Nizam's Fund lying in the NatWest Bank there.

After the meeting, Mr. Najaf Ali Khan said he had explained to the Kotwal (the City Police chief) that by laying claim to the Nizam's Fund, the four members had not only deprived the remaining family members of the Seventh Nizam their legitimate right, a huge financial loss, but it also amounted to violation of Article 363-A of the Constitution.

He said his two cousins and two of their family members were liable to be prosecuted for laying claim to the Nizam's Fund with the help of an invalid document.

Inadequate number of smartphones, difficulty in using apps important reasons

STAFF REPORTER

BENGALURU

A field study by the Azim Premji University on the efficacy and accessibility of e-learning has found that more than 60% of the respondents who are enrolled in government schools could not access online education. The study, titled "Myths of Online Education", was undertaken in five States across 26 districts and covered 1,522 schools. More than 80,000 students study in these government schools.

The study examined

Confront sponsors of terror, says Modi

Addressing 12th BRICS summit, Prime Minister also raises the need for reforms in the Security Council

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Terrorism is the biggest problem facing the world, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday.

Addressing the 12th BRICS summit, he said there was a need to confront the countries that supported and sponsored terror. "We have to ensure that terrorists and those who support and sponsor terrorists should be held guilty, and this problem is addressed in a collective manner," he said.

Russian strategy

Mr. Modi acknowledged the Russian support to the BRICS counter-terrorism strategy, which has acquired a definite shape. India would continue supporting this strategy, he said, and in an intervention at the summit suggested the National Security Advisers of all BRICS countries meet and discuss a counter-terrorism action plan.

In a speech that touched



Call to action: Modi addressing the 12th BRICS summit via videoconferencing on Tuesday. • ANI

upon India's global and regional concerns, Mr. Modi raised the issue of "credibility and effectiveness" of the institutions that were necessary for global governance.

It is India's assessment that the United Nations Security Council requires reforms urgently. We expect support on this from our BRICS partners. Apart from the UN, there are several international institutions that are not working according to

the contemporary reality," he said.

India, which will begin a two-year stint as a non-permanent member of the Security Council next year, has been at the forefront of seeking expansion of the permanent membership of the council.

Referring to the post-COVID-19 economic hardships of the world, Mr. Modi highlighted the importance of BRICS in that scenario.

"BRICS countries will play a significant role in the recovery of the post-COVID-19 world. 42% of the world's population resides in the BRICS countries and our economies are the major engines of the world. There is a lot of scope of increasing the trade among the BRICS countries," he said.

The Prime Minister introduced "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" to the BRICS members. He pointed out that this was a campaign that amounted to a "reform process". "This campaign is based on the subject that a self-reliant and resilient India can become a force multiplier for the post-COVID-19 world order," he said.

A self-reliant India would make solid contribution to the "global value chains," Mr. Modi said in Hindi.

Vaccine cooperation
The Prime Minister addressed the issue of cooperation among the BRICS coun-

tries on the production of vaccine for COVID-19. India is in talks with Russia for the field trial of Sputnik V that is expected to begin in Uttar Pradesh next week. India has led regional collaboration in South Asia for ensuring vaccine access to countries such as Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

Chinese President Xi Jinping, in his speech, also called for collaboration between Beijing and New Delhi. As we speak, Chinese companies are working with their Russian and Brazilian partners on Phase III clinical trials of vaccines, and we are prepared to have cooperation with South Africa and India as well," said President Xi.

Mr. Modi said the New Development Bank would help in financing support for research in COVID-19. Mr. Modi said, "Our production and ability to deliver the vaccine to millions will also help humanity."

He sought cooperation among the BRICS countries to defeat the pandemic.

Modi speaks with Biden, affirms importance of ties

Discussed our shared priorities: PM

SIRIRAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he spoke with U.S. President-elect Joe Biden on Tuesday evening (India time).

"Spoke to U.S. President-elect Joe Biden on phone to congratulate him. We reiterated our firm commitment to the Indo-U.S. strategic partnership and discussed our shared priorities and concerns, COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region," Mr. Modi wrote on Twitter.

Mr. Modi had already sent a congratulatory message via Twitter to Mr. Biden last week on his "spectacular victory" in the U.S. elections which concluded on November 3.

Mr. Modi and President Donald Trump shared a publicly close relationship, appearing together at rallies in Houston and Ahmedabad in



Joe Biden

2019 and 2020, respectively. The Trump campaign used this bonhomie in its campaign messaging to woo Indian American voters.

The India-U.S. relationship has had broad support on both sides of the aisle in the U.S. with Democrats and Republicans bringing different challenges and opportunities for the relationship in the spheres of democracy and human rights, regional policy, trade and immigration.

Nitish allocates portfolios

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PATNA

A day after taking oath as Bihar Chief Minister, Nitish Kumar on Tuesday allocated portfolios to the 14 Ministers, while keeping Home and General Administration to himself. His two deputies in the Cabinet, Tarkishore Prasad and Renu Devi, have got multiple Ministries.

A controversial induction into the Cabinet was that of Mewal Choudhury, a two-time JD(U) MLA from Tarapur in Munger district. In 2017, he was accused in a recruitment scam.

Mr. Tarkishore Prasad has been given Finance, Forest and Environment, Commercial Taxes, Information Technology and Disaster Management.

Ms. Renu Devi has been put in charge of Backward Caste and Extremely Backward Caste Welfare, Panchayati Raj and Industry.

Two JeM terrorists arrested in Delhi

Semi-automatic pistols and 10 live cartridges were seized from them, say police

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police's Special Cell on Monday night arrested two suspected Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) terrorists from southeast Delhi's Sarai Kale Khan area.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) Sanjeev Kumar Yadav said the suspects had been identified as Abdul Latif Mir (22), resident of Doru village in Baramulla district, and Mohammed Ashraf Khatana (20), resident of Hat Mulla village in Kupwara district.

The police said Ashraf was studying in a madrasa in Sopore where he came in touch with Abdul. They claimed that the duo were "highly radicalised" and had



Investigation on: The two suspected militants at the Anti-Terror Cell in New Delhi on Tuesday. • PTI

planned to cross the border to Pakistan for training.

The police said they got a tip-off that a particular group of newly recruited terrorists of the JeM would be coming to Delhi for their onward journey to Uttar Pradesh for imparting basic

training. "On the basis of the information received, manual surveillance was mounted and a trap was laid near Millennium Park, Sarai Kale Khan, and the two suspected terrorists were apprehended around 10.15 p.m.," Mr. Yadav said. "Two

semi-automatic pistols, along with 10 live cartridges, have been recovered from them."

Contrary to the claims made by the police, the families of the arrested duo said they had no links with militancy. "My son is getting married soon. He had gone to Delhi in the first week of November to buy stuff for the wedding. He is innocent. His arrest has come as a shock to us," Bashir Ahmad Khatana, father of Ashraf, said. Sanaullah Mir, Abdul's father, said, "He left for Delhi on November 4. He is a religious person. It is unbelievable that he has been shown as a militant associate."

(With inputs from Peerzada Ashiq in Srinagar)

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INTERVIEW | SHYAM SARAN

'RCEP is not just a trading arrangement; leaving it is a short-sighted move'

Whatever concerns there may have been, it may have been better to address those within the tent than outside, says former Foreign Secretary

ANANTH KRISHNAN

The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), a trade bloc of 15 countries, was signed on November 15 without India, which was part of the long-running negotiations until it withdrew last year. Shyam Saran, former Foreign Secretary, says the decision to opt out was "short-sighted" and will have broader strategic implications for India.

The RCEP agreement has left the door open for India to join. Does that prospect seem likely to you?

■ Well, it is reassuring to see there continues to be a strong sense among RCEP members that it is only India that can provide a degree of a countervailing kind of presence in the arrangement. This is not just a trading arrangement – it has a strategic dimension as well. It is a positive point that the door is not closed. Having said that, my view has not changed. To

share, become all that more problematic.

It's been suggested India doesn't lose out because we already have FTAs [free trade agreements] with some of RCEP's members, including ASEAN and Japan. Would you agree?

■ No. A bilateral arrangement does not take preference over a regional arrangement. It is also being said that one reason we didn't join RCEP was because those same FTAs were not working for us. Now, trying to rationalise staying out by saying we have FTAs, that is contradictory.

Is it accurate, in your view, to say those FTAs didn't work for us?



We are effectively now on the margins of the regional economy as well as the global economy

■ In the last Economic Survey [2019-2020], the Chief Economic Adviser said there had been benefits brought by FTAs; saying it has entirely not been to our advantage does not seem to be completely true. There has been an expansion in trading rela-

tions with all our partners. Yes, there has been less in terms of how much we have been able to get, and in some of the work we did, we found we did not make much of an effort to try and use the FTAs to expand our market share. For example, there is a commitment by Japan to assist the Indian pharma industry through the regulatory and registration process, so that the Indian pharma products which are competitively priced can have access to the market. That requires industry bodies to take that up and the government to have persuaded them that there is an opportunity here to access the market. This wasn't used at all.

How much is China a factor in India staying out of RCEP?

■ My sense is the China factor only reinforced existing sentiments against regional trading arrangements and FTAs. China has certainly been an important factor, but the decision to not go into RCEP [last year] predates the current tensions.

What will be the broader implications for India's 'Act East' strategy?

■ There is inconsistency of some of our recent moves, with the 'Act East' policy. One, not joining RCEP. Two, if you look at the latest East Asia Summit (EAS), only India and the U.S. were not represented at a summit level [India was represented by the External Affairs Minister]. Why was that? In the preceding Foreign Ministers'

meeting, our Minister of State was present, not the External Affairs Minister. And the EAS was something we pushed membership for, having not been able to get into APEC, for giving us a foothold in the region. So why should you do something like this?

What will the RCEP mean for China's regional ambitions?

■ For China to be part and parcel of RCEP when it is not part of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) is a big thing. What it does is it formalises its economic network in this part of the world. When people are talking about re-shoring and looking at alternative supply chains, this ensures that will not have much trac-

tion. If we are looking at the TPP and a Biden administration in the U.S. perhaps coming back in some way, this becomes all the more important. You will have a symmetric situation, with China becoming part of one trading arrangement with the U.S. out of it, and the U.S. part of one arrangement with China out of it.

And where would that leave India?

■ That will leave India out in the cold. There is this assumption that the Indian market is so huge that people have to come to India on our terms. But that, to my mind, is a fairly optimistic assessment.

Full interview at <https://bit.ly/SaranRCEP>

IN BRIEF



Bangladeshi cricketer issues apology

KOLKATA

Bangladeshi cricketer Shakib Al-Hasan on Tuesday issued an apology after he received a death threat on social media for taking part in a ceremony as part of a Kali puja in Kolkata. "I consider myself a proud Muslim, I offer my apology if I have hurt your sentiments," the Bangladeshi all-rounder said.

Indigenous QRSAM successfully tested again

NEW DELHI

The Defence Research and Development Organisation on Tuesday successfully tested the indigenous under development Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile (QRSAM) system for the second time in five days, off Odisha coast. The test was carried out against unmanned aerial target 'Banshee', which simulates an aircraft.

Kanpur violence: two more arrested

KANPUR

Police arrested two more persons in connection with the clash between two communities at Wajidpur's Chakeri locality here as no fresh incident of violence was reported from the area, a senior officer said. A youth was killed and several hurt in the clash that erupted after a man was accidentally splashed with water.

11 arrested in Assam for posing as IAF personnel

GUWAHATI

At least 11 people were arrested on Tuesday for posing as Air Force personnel and patrolling near the Lokap Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport, police said. A mobile team of Azara police station noticed the group near the airport wearing military camouflage, they said.

BJP MP says not allowed to attend jawan's funeral

KOLKATA

A BJP MP on Tuesday alleged that he was prevented from attending the final rites of martyred jawan Subodh Ghosh at Palasya crematorium in West Bengal's Nadia district on Monday. Jagannath Sarkar, who represents Ranaghat, said district officials stopped him but allowed Trinamool MP Mahua Moitra to attend it.

IRCTC to suspend operation of 2 trains

Low occupancy reason behind decision

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) on Tuesday said it has decided to suspend operations of two corporate trains – Lucknow-New Delhi Tejas Express and Ahmedabad-Mumbai Tejas Express – next week onwards, due to low occupancy.

"...due to low occupancy levels resulting from CO-

VID-19 pandemic, all de-

Lack of consent won't vitiate CBI probe: SC

Case cannot be set aside, says court

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

NEW DELHI

overnment grants its consent. This arrangement, it said, is in tune with the federal character of the Constitution.

The judgment came in appeals challenging a judgment passed by the Allahabad High Court in August 2019 against the Fertico Marketing and Investment Private Limited and others.

A Bench of Justices A.M. Khanwilkar and B.R. Gavai said the cognisance and trial in a CBI case against public servants "cannot be set aside unless the illegality in the investigation can be shown to have brought about miscarriage of justice".

Thus, if the State had given a general consent to CBI investigation in a corruption case and cognisance has been taken by the court, the case cannot be set aside unless the public servants plead that prejudice has been caused to them on account of non-obtaining of prior consent under Section 6 of the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act.

However, in its observations, the court underscored that the CBI cannot extend its powers to any State unless the State go-

The top court upheld the HC order. .

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Sight for sore eyes



The new i20 comes across as an upmarket hatchback with a fun side, rather than an all-out sporty hatchback

NIKHIL BHATIA

The third-gen i20 arrives in India just months after making its debut in global markets, featuring a dramatic design and a choice of five engine-gearbox combinations.

With its tipped-forward stance, prominent frameless grille and proliferation of cuts and creases on the chin, the new i20 has loads of visually interesting bits. But while the shoulder line and unconventional C-pillar get your attention, the detail that is likely to define this car are the 'Z' shaped LED tail-lights.

Inside, the cabin is well thought out and user-friendly. The low-set dashboard allows a good view out, the touch-screen and digital instrument cluster are in clear sight, and frequently used buttons are also within easy reach. The horizontal slats that extend

from the air-con vents enhance the visual width of the dashboard and feeling of space inside.

The 10.25-inch touchscreen is the largest in its class. It is slick to use, packs in Hyundai's BlueLink connected car tech and is paired with a nice sounding Bose audio system. Sadly, the all-black cabin can look dull; the plastics on the glovebox lid and windowsill feel scratchy, and there is no use of fabric or soft-touch materials on the door pads either. Front seat comfort is good but cushioning at the lower back is a touch soft on versions with fabric upholstery. Leatherette upholstery is unique to the Turbo version and it does help uplift the ambience inside.

Where the new i20 feels vastly superior to its predecessor is in rear seat space. There is ample kneeroom and headroom for six footers, and fitting in a third passenger is not much of a squeeze either. The seatback is nicely reclined, and the centre armrest is also well positioned. There



SPECIFICATIONS

ENGINE 1197cc, 4-cyls, naturally aspirated petrol; 998cc, 3-cyls, turbocharged; 1493cc, 4-cyls, turbocharged

MAX POWER 83hp at 6000rpm; 120hp at 6000rpm; 100hp at 4000rpm

MAX TORQUE 115Nm at 4200rpm; 172Nm at 1500-4000rpm; 240Nm at 1500-2750rpm

GEARBOX 5-speed manual; 7-speed dual-clutch automatic; 6-speed manual

WHEELBASE 2580mm

BOOT CAPACITY 311 litres

TANK SIZE 37 litres

TYRES 195/55 R16



is plenty of other equipment too – LED projector headlights, an onboard air purifier, ambient lighting, and a segment-first tyre pressure monitoring system, among other things.

Clean throttle

There are five engine-gearbox configurations to choose from starting with an 83hp, 1.2-litre naturally aspirated petrol, offered with either a manual or CVT auto gearbox. Next is a 120hp, 1.0-litre turbo-petrol, which is offered with either an iMT or a 7-speed dual-clutch auto. Rounding out the line-up is a



100hp 1.5-diesel, offered solely with a 6-speed manual.

Hyundai's 1.0 Turbo GDI engine is not the liveliest engine at low revs but the i20's DCT does a good job of masking the weak bottom end. Part-throttle responses are good and there is a nice tug from about 2,000rpm or so; the engine pulls cleanly in the mid-range. Drive with verve and you will note the 7-speed dual-clutch gearbox is not as quick and snappy as you would expect of a DCT. Sport mode does speed things up to an

extent and the gearbox is also nice and responsive to manual shifts via the gear lever but, sadly, there are no paddleshifters.

Coming to the diesel, Hyundai's 1.5-litre unit is not an outright punchy engine but what you will like is its flexibility. The build of speed from low RPMs is rather nice. There is a slight bump in power around 2,000rpm and that power stays with you till about 4,000rpm. The standard-fit 6-speed manual is slick, and the clutch is also well weighted. The 1.2-litre petrol in comparison is rather humdrum, with meek low-speed responses. You will find yourself hunting for lower gears in stop-start traffic, something made easier by the light clutch and slick gearbox.

Upmarket appeal

The i20 steering is smoother than its predecessor's and handling is quite tidy. True to Hyundai tradition, it is the diesel that is the best setup of the i20s. The car tends to wash wide and while there is grip from the chassis, the tyres don't hold on gamely enough. Still, it is a pleasant car to drive. In terms of ride comfort, the i20 rounds off the bumps well. Ride quality is well judged and the suspension is nicely damped.

As a product, the i20 takes a step up, especially in the areas of space, comfort and driving manners, with the diesel being the nicest to drive. The turbo-petrol DCT has its appeal as an upmarket hatchback with a fun side, rather than as an all-out sporty hatchback.

The i20's prices start at ₹6.8 lakh for the 1.2 petrol-manual while the fully-loaded 1.0 Turbo DCT costs ₹11.18 lakh. The best-specified diesel costs ₹10.6 lakh, which makes the i20 pricier than all its rivals.

Whether buyers will see the new i20 as a no-compromise premium hatchback will determine if the latest i20 can build on the success of its predecessor.

Q AND A WITH HORMAZD



A car for daily use and travel

I can't decide between the Maruti Suzuki WagonR, Renault Kwid and the Hyundai Santro. I want a strong car within ₹5 lakh that is safe to drive in the ghats, and is good for long trips. Shivani Yadav, Gandhinagar

We would choose the WagonR for several reasons. Firstly, it has the strongest engine, which is a big help in hilly regions. The ride is not as good as the Kwid's but the WagonR tackles bad roads quite well. The Santro feels the most solid, but the WagonR is the nicest car to drive. Also, Maruti's service network has an edge.

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



Campaign launched to help mechanics and garages

The Big Biking Commune, an aggregator platform in the motorcycling community in India and Southeast Asia, has launched the My Mechanic, My Friend campaign to help mechanics and garages across the country. The initiative is supported by the All-India Two-Wheeler Mechanic Federation, the Maharashtra Two-Wheeler and Mechanic Federation, and the Tamil Nadu Two-Wheeler Welfare Association, which represent over 48,000 mechanics in India. "As one of the largest aggregator platforms in the motorcycle community, we want bikers to go on more rides which will boost the businesses of workshops and garages. Mechanics have always had our back, and now it is time we show them our support. During the pandemic, motorcycles are the safest way to travel," says Arun Kumar, chief convener, Big Biking Commune. As part of the campaign, bikers can register, nominate a mechanic, go on a ride and share a picture on social media, which will encourage more bikers to support their mechanics. India is the world's largest market for two-wheelers with over 200 million of them on the roads. The campaign is ongoing and is expected to reach over 10,000 bikers across India including bike clubs. To register, visit mymechanicmyfriend.com, or call 7337657740 for details.

The unseen Porsches



Check out eight of 13 Porsche concept cars the world has never seen before

AMAAN AHMED

Porsche recently shed light on 15 concepts – 13 of which were never revealed – as part of its new 'Porsche Unseen' book. The list includes several wild ideas classified under four segments: spin-offs of production cars, hypercars and Little Rebels, focussing on minimalism and a vision for the future.

Vision 916 (2016)

The stunning Porsche Vision 916 concept was penned by an intern in the Porsche design team, bringing to life the idea of a low-weight, modern-day, minimalist Porsche sportscar. Envisioned to have four wheel-hub electric motors, the Vision 916 was inspired by the Porsche 916 prototype from the 1970s.



911 Vision Safari (2012)

Paying tribute to the 911 SC Safari that made its mark on the East African Safari Rally in the 1970s, the modern-day 911 Vision Safari is based on the seventh generation of 911s. To make it rally ready, Porsche gave the 911 a jacked-up suspension, reinforced wheel housings, bigger bumpers and a stripped-out interior with race seats and a roll cage. It even has a helmet cooler installed behind the seats.



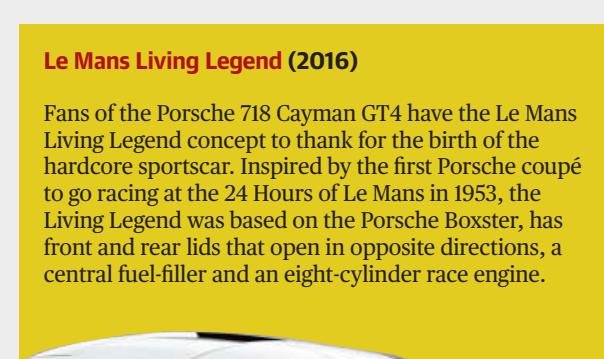
Vision Renndienst (2018)

Most purists would scoff at the idea of a Porsche people-mover, but believe it or not, Porsche's designers have flirted with the idea of such a practical vehicle. Named the Vision Renndienst (Race Service), the six-seater derives inspiration from the Volkswagen race service van of the past. It has a fully electric powertrain, a central driving position and a modular interior.



906 Living Legend (2005)

Inspired by the Porsche 906, the 906 Living Legend was envisioned as the future of Porsche's super-sports cars. Its body was designed to look like two separate parts inserted into each other, with the gap between the two sections serving as a ventilation duct for the engine.



Le Mans Living Legend (2016)

Fans of the Porsche 718 Cayman GT4 have the Le Mans Living Legend concept to thank for the birth of the hardcore sportscar. Inspired by the first Porsche coupé to go racing at the 24 Hours of Le Mans in 1953, the Living Legend was based on the Porsche Boxster, has front and rear lids that open in opposite directions, a central fuel filler and an eight-cylinder race engine.



919 Street (2017)

How does the idea of having a road-legal LMP1 race car sound? Well, Porsche did have a go at the idea and the result was this concept – the 919 Street. Powered by a 900hp hybrid powertrain derived from the race car, Porsche did consider putting the 919 Street into production in limited numbers, but decided against it because of 'extraordinarily complex' racing technology (a team of mechanics need 45 minutes to just start the LMP1-spec engine).



The red dunes of Visakhapatnam

Experts call for protection of geological sites such as Erra Matti Dibbalu that can drive tourism through Nature trails and guided tours

NIVEDITA GANGULY

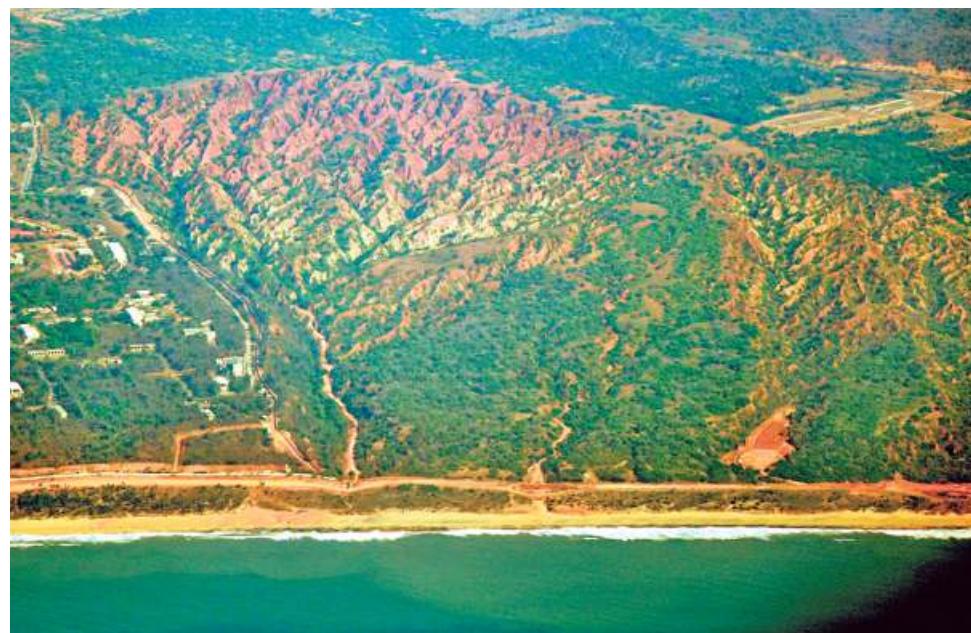
Not too long ago, a drive from Visakhapatnam to Bheemunipatnam in Andhra Pradesh along the coastline would throw open vast expanses of virgin beaches that kept many secrets of the geological world.

Silently lying on the sand and sea bed, they are a reminder of the million years of geological processes. One such marvel is the natural arch at Mangamaripeta beach opposite the Thotlakonda Buddhist Site.

Once a secluded beach, the recent incident of overcrowding and reckless acts of visitors endangering the natural arch has raised concerns among geologists and heritage activists on the need to safeguard the sites of the region and establish a geo park.

"Geological sites are a record of important geological phenomenon that are a key to trace the evolutionary history of earth and its changing processes," says D Rajasekhar Reddy, advisor to Geo Heritage Cell of INTACH and retired professor of Geology, Andhra University. The natural arch, for instance, is likely to date back to the period after the last Ice Age around 10,000 years ago and is similar to the natural rock arch of Silathoranam in the Tirumala Hills.

Globally, geo parks are sustained through geo tourism activities like excursions, Nature trails, guided tours, hiking and academic meets. Adequate signage and interpretation centres are set up in the area to create awareness among tourists. While there are 147 UNES-



Blast from the past The sand dunes have an important and interesting history of evolution; such deposits have been reported only from three low latitude tropical regions in South Asia ■ K R DEEPAK

CO Global geo parks spread across 41 countries, India is yet to have one of its own. The scope in India is immense – Visakhapatnam alone is replete with many unique sites.

Creating awareness

In July 2019, INTACH organised a campaign along with the Department of Tourism, Archaeology and Visakhapatnam Metropolitan Region Development Authority to create public awareness on geo heritage spots in the region.

"We are pushing to get recognition of a geo park for Visakhapatnam consisting of Erra Matti Dibbalu (red sand dunes), natural rock formations at Mangamaripeta, million-years-old Borra Caves and volcanic ash deposits said to have originated from the volcanic eruption of Toba in Indonesia 73,000 years ago near Araku," says Mayank Kumari, Convener of INTACH Visakhapatnam Chapter.

Among the 34 notified National Geological Heritage Monument Sites of India by the Geological Survey of India, the Erra Matti Dibbalu or coastal red sediment mounds located between Visakhapatnam and Bheemunipatnam. This stretch of sandy red dunes is a gift of Nature. The width of the dunes vary from 200 metres to two kilometres, spread across five kilometres along the coast.

"Besides being unusual, the rare sand dunes have an important and interesting history of evolution. Such sand deposits have been reported only from three low latitude tropical regions in South Asia – the Teri Sands of Tamil Nadu, the Erra Matti Dibbalu in Andhra Pradesh and Red Coastal Sands of Sri Lanka," says Rajasekhar Reddy.

According to researchers, the significance of the place was discovered by William King, a geologist from the Geological Survey of India more than a century ago. He described them as badlands to represent the remnants of denudation of great sand banks or isolated banks formed around sunken or depressed hills".

History narrator Jayshree Hantagadi describes Erra Matti Dibbalu as "one of the most beautiful natural formations"

which can be best seen in a dramatic dusk view from the West tower (30 feet height) looking eastwards.

Man-made interference

Jayshree recently conducted two heritage walks. What however came to light in one of the excursions was the way the red sands were being exploited

WHAT IS GEO HERITAGE?

The term geological heritage is used for natural geological or geo-morphological features that have aesthetic, intrinsic or scientific and educational value, that provide unique insight into geological processes affecting the formation or evolution of Earth. Culturally significant geo heritage sites are places in which geologic features or landscapes played a role in cultural or historical events. Aesthetically significant geo heritage sites are landscapes that have a visual appeal because of their geologic features or processes. Geological Survey of India (GSI) declares geo heritage sites for protection and maintenance.

for construction activity. "We were appalled to see three lorries full of red sand being carried away extremely close to the site. There were huge proclaimers digging deep," adds Jayshree.

According to her, the way forward is to engage the local community in becoming the custodians of this heritage site by making them understand the geological value. A gate, proper security, illumination, tourist safety team and guides are some of the measures that should be implemented, she says.

The red sand sediments of Erra Matti Dibbalu are unconsolidated and loose. "Every monsoon the sediments are washed away, turning the sea a bright red. Further degradation due to human interference such as digging, climbing, littering are affecting their stability and exacerbating erosion. As such, we face the danger of losing a rare and picturesque record of Nature," says Rajasekhar.



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Man-made interference

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Sangeeta says the show at Bengaluru's gallery g is dedicated to celebrate Raja Ravi Varma. "Every artist is inspired by his work. He has been instrumental in giving gods and goddesses a human face. I wanted to do something where his work could reach even the common man's house. That is where the idea of clocks came from," adds the artist. Working on Timeless Masterpieces she adds, also gave her the "opportunity to study Raja Ravi Varma's works in detail".

Catch glimpses on YouTube

SILPAA ANANDRAJ



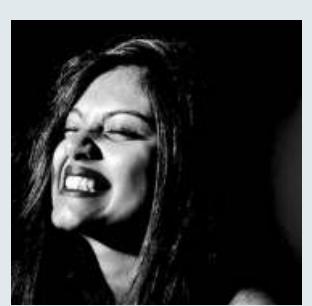
Ravi Varma, on the clock

Maharashtrian artist Sangeeta Abhay presents 16 clocks featuring some of Raja Ravi Varma's iconic works

Artist Sangeeta Abhay's works celebrate not only the triumph of good over evil but are also a tribute to the legendary painter, Raja Ravi Varma. Her works, titled Timeless Masterpieces, recreate some of Ravi Varma's iconic paintings in a limited edition of 16 clock pieces, currently on display at Bengaluru's gallery g.

Sangeeta, who started off working in advertising, gives credit to Gitanjali Maini, who "Saw my artwork and inspired me to take it full time".

Catch glimpses on YouTube



Alone in the big city

Madm and Ten Purr's new release 'Electric Flu' is one for the times, singing about loneliness over a surprisingly upbeat arrangement

MEGHNA MAJUMDAR

'Electric Flu', by Sanjana Rajnayyan aka Madm and Purnet Moirangthem aka Ten Purr, stems from a place of loneliness and isolation. But it has nothing to do with the strings of lockdown and social isolation that the world has been grappling with these past few months. Madm's lyrics have a simpler genesis.

"I had titled this around November or December 2019, when I was spending a lot of time making music in my tiny Mumbai flat. I did not have much company, and the song encapsulates that emotion, coming from that space of solitude, of loneliness," she says over phone from Mumbai.

Madm "had the beat sitting in my laptop ever since," and it might still have remained just there, had she not met guitarist Ten Purr on her Mumbai campus. The singer-producer, who had left her Chennai home in 2018 to study music at Mumbai's True School of Music, put the song together with fellow student Ten Purr.

The guitarist took an instant liking to what he heard, and thereon began the collaboration. Now, though Madm finished her course a while ago and Ten Purr continues to attend classes, their joint project has seen light of day.

The slow, groovy piece has an

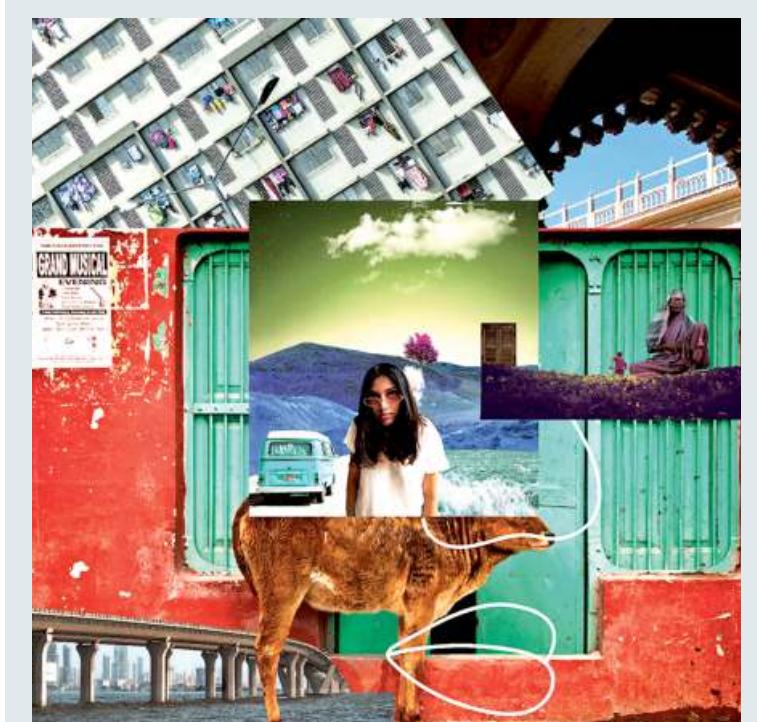
oddly calming impact despite its catchy rhythm and electronic treatment. The arrangement seems complex, but the song nevertheless leans heavily on the lyrics as well. Pensive words and origin story notwithstanding, the overall number is surprisingly upbeat. Deliberately so.

Explains Madm, "The lyrics are about wanting validation from people who don't give it to you, and at the same time pushing away the people who really love you. The arrangement, on the other hand, is a lot more hopeful than melancholic." Listeners have given her varied reactions to the piece because of this dichotomy, she adds.

Solitude, its gloomier partner loneliness, and the not-so-simple dynamics involved in forging human connection are what the duo has explored in this number, coincidentally releasing it at a time when much of the world is dealing with similar struggles. While the lyrics lean into this, ironically, the music arrangement is layered and intriguing enough to form a distraction unto itself.

The duo is working on separate projects as well – Ten Purr has an EP coming up with his band Peach Envy, besides a number of solo numbers slated for release.

'Electric Flu' can be streamed on Spotify, YouTube and other music streaming platforms.



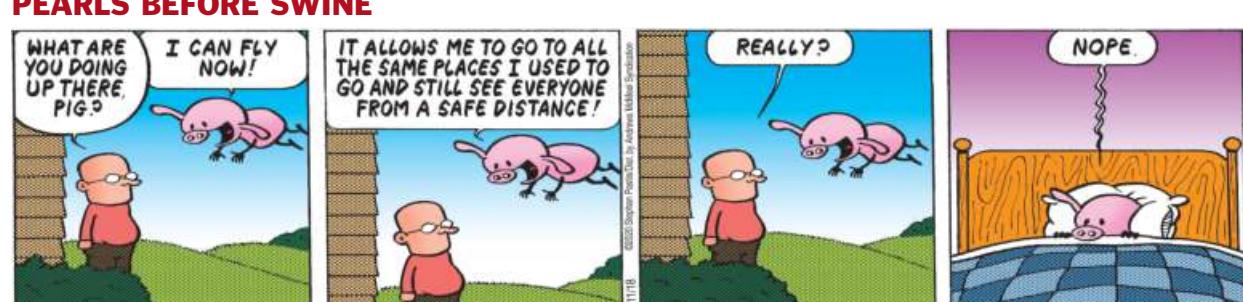
Mind and heart (Clockwise from top left) Ten Purr, Madm and the song art

■ VENKAT BALAJI, JOSEPH RAJINI ASIR AND SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

POOCH CAFE



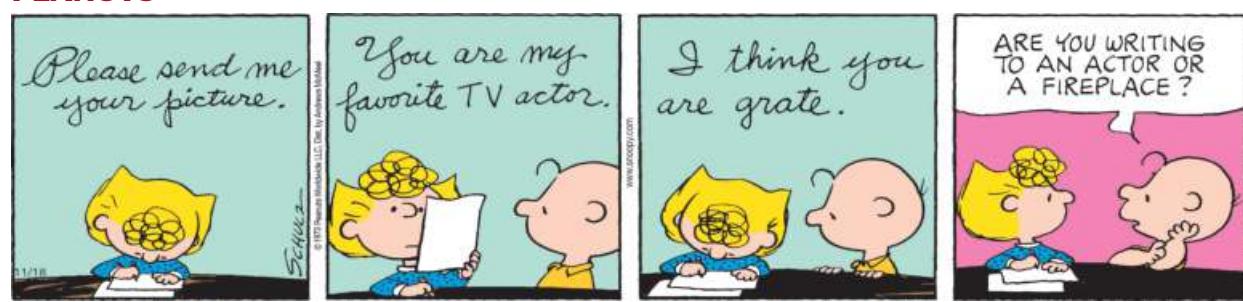
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



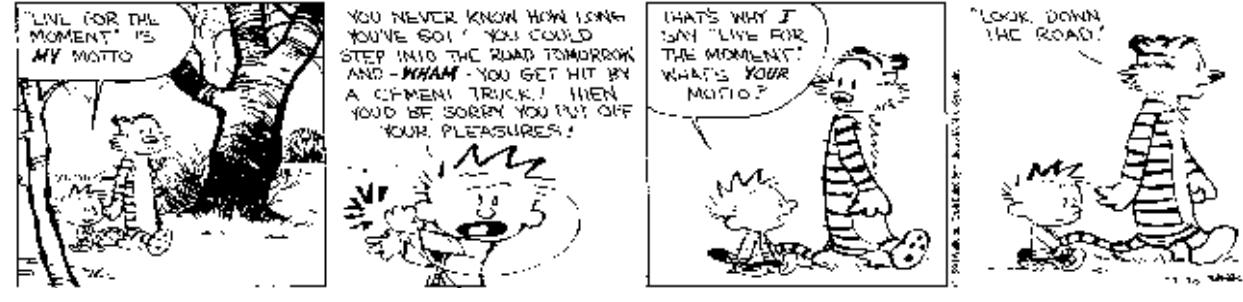
PEANUTS



TIGER



CALVIN AND HOBBES



Trump sought options for attacking Iran nuclear site

Aides dissuaded President from launching a strike, warning of a broader war

ERIC SCHMITT
MAGGIE HABERMAN
WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump asked senior advisers in an Oval Office meeting on Thursday whether he had options to take action against Iran's main nuclear site in the coming weeks. The meeting occurred a day after international inspectors reported a significant increase in the country's stockpile of nuclear material, four current and former U.S. officials said on Monday.

A range of senior advisers dissuaded the President from moving ahead with a military strike. The advisers – including Vice-President Mike Pence; Secretary of State Mike Pompeo; Christopher C. Miller, the acting Defense Secretary; and Gen. Mark A. Milley, chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff – warned that a strike against Iran's facilities could easily escalate into a broader conflict in the last weeks of Mr. Trump's presidency.

NATANZ ON THE RADAR

Any strike – whether by missile or cyber – would almost certainly be focused on Natanz, where the International Atomic Energy Agency reported on Wednesday that Iran's uranium stockpile was now 12 times larger than permitted under the nuclear accord that Mr. Trump abandoned in 2018. The agency also noted that Iran had not allowed it access to another suspected site where there was evidence of past nuclear activity.

Mr. Trump asked his top national security aides what options were available and how to respond, officials said.

After Mr. Pompeo and Mr.



Points of view: U.S. Vice-President Mike Pence and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo warned President Trump against a strike on Iran and described the potential risks of military escalation.

Milley described the potential risks of military escalation, officials left the meeting believing a missile attack inside Iran was off the table, according to administration officials with knowledge of the meeting.

Mr. Trump might still be looking at ways to strike Iranian assets and allies, including militias in Iraq, officials said.

A smaller group of national security aides had met late on Wednesday to discuss Iran, the day before the meeting with the President.

White House officials did not respond to requests for comment.

The episode underscored how Mr. Trump still faces an array of global threats in his final weeks in office. A strike on Iran may not play well to his base, which is largely opposed to a deeper American conflict in West Asia, but it could poison relations with Tehran so that it would be much harder for President-elect Joe Biden to revive the 2015 Iran nuclear accord, as

he has promised to do.

Since Mr. Trump dismissed Defense Secretary Mark T. Esper and other top Pentagon aides last week, Defense Department and other national security officials have privately expressed worries that the President might initiate operations, whether overt or secret, against Iran or other adversaries at the end of his term.

The events of the past few days are not the first time that Iran policy has emerged in the final days of a departing administration.

During the last days of the Bush administration in 2008, Israeli officials, concerned that the incoming Obama administration would seek to block it from striking Iran's nuclear facilities, sought bunker-busting bombs, bombers and intelligence assistance from the U.S. for an Israeli-led strike.

Cyber options

Vice-President Dick Cheney later wrote in his memoir that he supported the idea.

President George W. Bush did not, but the result was a far closer collaboration with Israel on a cyberstrike against the Natanz facility, which took out about 1,000 of Iran's nuclear centrifuges.

Ever since, the Pentagon has revised its strike plans multiple times. It now has traditional military as well as cyber options, and some that combine the two. Some involve direct action by Israel.

The report from the IAEA concluded that Iran now had a stockpile of more than 2,442 kg of low-enriched uranium. That is enough to produce about two nuclear weapons, according to an analysis of the report by the Institute for Science and International Security.

But it would require several months of additional processing to enrich the uranium to bomb-grade material, meaning that Iran would not be close to a bomb until late spring at the earliest – well after Mr. Trump would have left office. *NY TIMES*

With over 300 tweets, Trump attacked poll integrity

LINDA QIU

President Donald Trump has posted more than 300 tweets attacking the integrity of the 2020 election since election night, unleashing a cascade of false and misleading claims.

Just hours after polls closed on November 3, Mr. Trump began sowing mistrust in the vote counting process, as he tweeted ominously about "surprise ballot dumps," "finding Biden votes" and "miraculously" disappearing leads.

What he was describing was simply vote counting. Election officials warned for months that counting ballots might take days or even weeks to complete, given the prevalence of absentee ballots this year.

Mr. Trump has repeatedly and falsely claimed to have "won" the election or predicted that he will win after recounts in Georgia and Arizona and lawsuit verdicts. In reality, he has virtually no chance of winning, given the large margins held by President-elect Joe Biden in those States.

About two dozen of Mr. Trump's tweets included broad allegations of "widespread voter fraud," "illegal votes" and "a stolen election."

Election officials across the country said there was no evidence that irregularities affected the outcome of the election.

In a few instances, the President gave specific examples of what he suggested amounted to fraud, but those claims lacked context, were disputed or were flat-out wrong. He claimed that military ballots in Georgia were "missing." They were not, according to election officials. *NY TIMES*

'Will work with democracies on trade to counter China'

We're going to invest in American workers, says Joe Biden

SIRIRAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON

Joe Biden's economic and trade policies, outlined by him for the first time since he became U.S. President-elect, appeared to blend some themes from President Donald Trump's "America First" policy with some traditional pre-Trump American multilateralism.

Mr. Biden, speaking with reporters on Monday, said America would work with other democracies on international trade to ensure China does not set the rules of the game.

However, he also said government contracts would not go to companies making their products abroad.

Responding to a question on whether America would

join the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), an Asia-Pacific trade deal signed last week by 15 countries, including China, Mr. Biden said he had told several world leaders that he could not get into detail until he becomes President but signalled a multilateral approach to trade to counter China.

Set the rules
"I've talked with a number of world leaders and told them under the law I'm not able to begin to discuss with them, there's only one President at a time," Mr. Biden told reporters in Wilmington, Delaware, following a discussion he and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris had held with union and business leaders.

"But here's what I can say. We make up 25% of the world's trading capacity, of the economy of the world. We need to be aligned with the other democracies – another 25% or more so we



On the job: U.S. President-elect Joe Biden receiving a virtual briefing on the economy on Monday. ■ REUTERS

can set the rules of the road instead of having China and others dictate outcomes because they are the only game in town," he said.

Mr. Biden also warned of severe consequences due to the coronavirus pandemic if President Trump – who is yet to concede the election and provide Mr. Biden with official transition support – continues to stonewall the transition process.

Lives at risk

"More people may die if we don't coordinate," he said. Waiting till January 20 would delay things by 1-1.5 months," he said. More than 247,000 people have died of the virus and some 11.3 million have been infected in the country.

Mr. Biden said getting a vaccine and vaccination [i.e., mass administration of the vaccine] were two different things and called for access to the Trump administration's vaccine distribution plan.

He said the county was heading into a "very dark winter" and urged Congress to pass a COVID-19 relief package along the lines of what the House of Representatives had passed earlier this year.

Amid protests, Peru gets its third President in a week

Congress chooses Francisco Sagasti as new leader

REUTERS
LIMA

Peruvian lawmaker Francisco Sagasti is set to be sworn in as interim President on Tuesday after being voted for by Congress in a bid to help calm anger on the streets amid deadly protests and the departure of two Presidents over the past week.

Mr. Sagasti, a legislator from the centrist Purple Party, will be sworn in to fulfil a government mandate until July next year, which would include holding a new presidential election scheduled for April 11.

The Andean nation has been shaken since the



Francisco Sagasti

abrupt ouster in an impeachment trial of popular leader Martin Vizcarra last Monday. His successor, Manuel Merino, resigned on Sunday after two young people died in protests against his government.

Mr. Sagasti's appointment appeared to calm tensions, though a deep mistrust of the country's politicians still remains and on Monday

night hundreds of people marched in the capital Lima, with calls for a new Constitution and "justice for the fallen".

Mr. Sagasti, 76, an engineer and former World Bank official, said on Monday night that he was considering names for Ministers in his government and did not rule out including members of the Cabinets of his predecessors. "If they are people with experience, integrity and the desire to work, I think we would do wrong to leave them aside," Mr. Sagasti told local television station Canal N.

Mr. Sagasti will be Peru's fourth President in less than three years, after the departures of Mr. Vizcarra and Mr. Merino, and the resignation of Mr. Kuczynski in 2018 on allegations of corruption.

"I expect to present to Parliament a new legal fra-

Sri Lanka to open up Chinese-backed 'port city'

It will offer tax concessions: Mahinda

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
COLOMBO

A mega Chinese real-estate development in Sri Lanka will open early next year offering tax concessions to attract investors and revive the struggling economy, the government said on Tuesday in its first budget.

Colombo Port City – a \$1.4 billion land reclamation project beside the capital's port which started in 2014 – has doubled the size of Sri Lanka's current financial district. The development – the largest single foreign investment in Sri Lanka so far – is one of several massive Asian infrastructure projects funded by China as Beijing increases its footprint in the region.

"I expect to present to Parliament a new legal fra-

mework conducive to promote commercial services and investment in this Special Economic Zone in January," Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, who is also the Finance Minister, told Parliament in his budget address.

He said the Port City – an area of 269 hectares reclaimed from the Indian Ocean – will offer tax concessions to attract trade, banking and foreign exchange transactions. He did not give further details.

Mr. Rajapaksa also said Sri Lanka will aim to cut its fiscal deficit to 4% over the medium-term, without specifying an exact time period, from the 9% forecasted in 2021. "This is a development budget presented to elevate an economy that has been shattered," he said.

Protesters were marching towards Parliament

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BANGKOK

Thai democracy activists vowed on Tuesday to return to the streets after the police fired water cannon and tear gas on demonstrators in the most violent clashes seen since the protest movement erupted in July.

Forty-one people were injured as protesters forced through police barricades towards Parliament in Bangkok, where lawmakers were debating possible changes to the military-scripted Constitution.

Student-led rallies have rocked Thailand for months, demanding a constitutional overhaul and the removal of



Taking cover: Demonstrators using inflatable rubber ducks to protect themselves from water cannons in Bangkok. ■ REUTERS

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha, who took power in a 2014 coup. Some in the movement have also called for reforms to the monarchy.

Tuesday's demonstrations, with stone-throwing clashes between pro-democracy and hardline royalist protesters, saw a marked rise in violence.

Prominent student leader

Parit "Penguin" Chiwarak called off the rally around 9 p.m., urging protesters to regroup at a major intersection in Bangkok's shopping district on Wednesday afternoon.

"We will no longer be dust on anyone's feet," he said, wearing a bulletproof vest and speaking with a megaphone from a truck.

'Price of hasty Afghan pull-out could be high'

Obama writes in memoir that he ruled out involving Pakistan in the Osama raid

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BRUSSELS

A hasty pull-out of U.S. and allied troops from Afghanistan could see the country become a "platform for international terrorists" again, NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg warned on Tuesday.

His blunt message, given in a statement, was in response to reports that U.S. President Donald Trump is planning to accelerate the withdrawal of American forces from Afghanistan, where they support a NATO mission, and from Iraq.

"The price for leaving too soon or in an uncoordinated way could be very high," Mr. Stoltenberg said.

Mr. Trump reportedly wants to cut U.S. troop numbers in Afghanistan to around 2,500, from more than 5,000 currently.

Elements in Pak. military had Qaeda links

Obama writes in memoir that he ruled out involving Pakistan in the Osama raid



In the book that hit the stands globally on Tuesday, America's first Black President described the various options of killing bin Laden once it became increasingly clear that the elusive al-Qaeda chief was living in a safe hideout on the outskirts of a Pakistani military cantonment in Abbottabad.

"Based on what I'd heard,

the slightest hint of our lead on bin Laden leaked, we knew our opportunity would be lost," he said.

"We had one other constraint: Whatever option we chose could not involve the Pakistanis," he wrote.

Strategic asset

"Although Pakistan's government cooperated with us on a host of counterterrorism operations and provided a vital supply path for our forces in Afghanistan, it was an open secret that certain elements inside the country's military, and especially its intelligence services, maintained links to the Taliban and perhaps even al-Qaeda, sometimes using them as strategic assets to ensure that the Afghan government remained weak and unable to align itself with Pakistan's number one rival, India," Mr. Obama revealed.

Johnson raises ire over remarks on Scotland

'Devolution of powers was a disaster'

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has inflamed Scottish discontent with his Conservative government by reportedly saying that giving governing powers to Scotland had been a "disaster."

Mr. Johnson reportedly made the remarks during a video meeting with Conservative Party lawmakers on Monday evening, in which he also said Scottish devolution had been former Prime Minister Tony Blair's "biggest mistake."

The Scottish National Party, which wants Scotland to become an independent country, leads the government in Edinburgh. It is strongly critical of the decision to leave the European Union.

Scotland has an Edinburgh-based government and Parliament, set up in 1999, with broad powers in areas including health and education. Wales and Northern Ireland also have their own legislatures and regional administrations.



Twitter, Facebook defend election rules

WASHINGTON

Facebook chief Mark Zuckerberg and Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey defended their handling of U.S. election misinformation at a congressional hearing on Tuesday. Mr. Zuckerberg said Facebook removed false claims about polling conditions and displayed warnings on more than 150 million pieces of content flagged by independent fact-checkers. Mr. Dorsey, meanwhile, said filtering at Twitter was not a result of bias, despite claims to the contrary by conservatives. In filtering content, "all decisions are made without using political viewpoints, party affiliation, or political ideology," Mr. Dorsey said in his testimony. AFP

IN BRIEF



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MARKET WATCH

	17-11-2020	% CHANGE
Sensex	43953	0.72
US Dollar	74.46	0.21
Gold	50114	0.05
Brent oil	43.42	1.49

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	379.65	13.55
Asian Paints	2187.65	3.05
Axius Bank	628.80	15.65
Bajaj Auto	3045.15	3.25
Bajaj Finance	7365.35	29.80
Bharti Airtel	484.55	3.05
BPCL	394.65	-18.20
Britannia Ind	3509.80	-17.55
Cipla	742.55	-3.20
Coal India	128.70	1.60
Divis Lab	3427.00	-17.95
Dr Reddys Lab	4784.15	-87.90
Eicher Motors	2541.70	1.15
GAIL (India)	93.55	0.05
Gasim Ind	842.90	4.30
HCL Tech.	815.00	-15.50
HDFC	2349.00	37.75
HDFC Bank	1408.45	38.75
HDFC Life	670.05	33.95
Hero MotoCorp	3031.30	-84.40
Hindalco	213.55	4.25
Hind Unilever	2177.60	-10.10
ICICI Bank	486.40	-0.50
IndusInd Bank	784.15	13.70
Infosys	1123.70	-9.75
Indian Oil Corp	84.95	-1.70
ITC	187.35	-1.25
JSW Steel	340.95	-1.00
Kotak Bank	1796.65	26.10
L&T	1080.90	21.70
M&M	637.25	5.90
Maurti Suzuki	6981.45	129.20
Nestle India Ltd.	16982.85	144.70
NTPC	88.70	-2.20
ONGC	71.30	-1.35
PowerGrid Corp	186.80	-1.20
Reliance Ind	1993.25	-9.05
SBI Life	863.15	22.70
State Bank	240.20	10.55
Shree Cement	23989.75	626.50
Sun Pharma	518.40	4.40
Tata Motors	158.00	9.15
Tata Steel	522.70	30.50
TCS	2666.05	-4.30
Tech Mahindra	845.25	5.10
Titan	1301.95	15.15
UltraTech Cement	4909.05	0.85
UPL	429.65	0.40
Wipro	348.70	3.25

EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	74.26	74.58
Euro	88.24	88.62
British Pound	98.49	98.92
Japanese Yen (100)	71.27	71.58
Chinese Yuan	11.34	11.39
Swiss Franc	81.63	81.99
Singapore Dollar	55.30	55.55
Canadian Dollar	56.79	57.04
Malaysian Ringgit	18.09	18.18
Australian Dollar	54.42	54.65

Source: Indian Bank

IN BRIEF



Pfizer sues Aurobindo, DRL over cancer drug

HYDERABAD
Pfizer Inc. and its group companies have filed a petition in a U.S. court against Aurobindo Pharma Ltd. and Dr. Reddy's Laboratories alleging that the Indian drug makers were planning separately to come out with generic versions of its blockbuster multi-billion dollar drug Ibrance (palbociclib) before expiration of its patent. PTI

GST shortfall: Telangana accepts Centre's proposal

NEW DELHI
Telangana has accepted the Centre's proposal to meet the revenue shortfall arising out of GST, on Tuesday, making it the 23rd State to come on board. The State has accepted the first of two options proposed by the Finance Ministry, under which part of the shortfall is met through a special borrowing window. It is also entitled to get unconditional permission to borrow 0.5% of GSDP.

Flipkart buys augmented reality firm Scapic

BENGALURU
Flipkart Group on Tuesday announced the acquisition of Scapic, an augmented reality (AR) company, to enhance its immersive shopping experience capabilities. Scapic is a cloud-based platform which enables creation and publishing of AR and 3D content. Flipkart Group said it would acquire 100% stake in the company and absorb the team of developers and designers.

ADB allocates \$20 mn for COVID-19 vaccine access

NEW DELHI
The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Tuesday said it had allocated \$20.3 million in aid to developing member countries to access COVID-19 vaccines and establish systems to enable equitable distribution. The technical assistance will also support identification and promotion of innovative cold chain and vaccine-tracking technologies. In April, ADB had approved a \$20-billion package to support members' COVID-19 response. PTI

ONGC doubles down on capex to make up for COVID-19 delays

PSU oil explorer sees spending reaching close to ₹32,500-crore target this fiscal



Turning tide: The worst is behind the company and things will improve, says ONGC director Subhash Kumar. •REUTERS

so, facilities like rigs are operated by foreign crews.

Resumption to aid
However, with the gradual resumption of economic activity globally, ONGC is hopeful of making up for the lost

time, Mr. Kumar said.

"We had in April-May re-calibrated capex spending to ₹26,000 crore on the assumption of a long-drawn impact of the pandemic on economic activity. But with things opening up, we will even go beyond them."

On the outlook for coming quarters, Mr. Kumar said "the worst is behind and things will improve".

be able to achieve spending of close to ₹32,000 crore... maybe ₹29,000 crore or ₹30,000 crore or ₹32,000 crore," he said.

India's top oil and gas producer had budgeted ₹32,501 crore of capital expenditure for the year to March 2021.

PSU capex as stimulus

The government is looking at increased public spending to give a boost to the pandemic-hit economy. It is pushing public sector companies to not just meet the stated capital expenditure targets but even go beyond them.

On the outlook for coming quarters, Mr. Kumar said "the worst is behind and things will improve".

The nation's oil and gas output has been stagnant for years, forcing it to raise reliance on imports to meet rising fuel demand.

'Get global oil partners to raise output'

REUTERS

NEW DELHI

Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan asked exploration companies to consider farming out their acreages to global players with advanced technology to expedite development and raise oil and gas output.

India, the world's third-biggest oil importer and consumer, depends on foreign purchases for more than 80% of its oil needs.

The nation's oil and gas output has been stagnant for years, forcing it to raise reliance on imports to meet rising fuel demand.

The government will grant petroleum mining lease rights but the companies should consider a farm-out (of a stake) to get global technology players," Mr. Pradhan suggested.

RBI moots DBS takeover as LVB faces moratorium Withdrawals capped at ₹25,000

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Tuesday proposed a draft scheme of amalgamation that entails the Indian unit of Singapore's DBS Bank taking over the capital-starved Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB), within hours of the Centre imposing a one-month moratorium on the Karur-based lender that temporarily capped withdrawals at ₹25,000.

Executive Chairman of Canara Bank, as Administrator. Observing that DBS Bank India Ltd. (DBBL) was 'well capitalised', the RBI said, "it will bring in additional capital of ₹2,500 crore upfront, to support credit growth of the merged entity".

"The Reserve Bank assures the depositors of the bank that their interest will be fully protected and there is no need to panic," it said.

cessity," he said.

While the use of videoconferencing had helped him hold many more meetings, it also posed an interesting question for the post-COVID-19 world.

"Will we continue with the learnings of COVID times like videoconferencing or will we travel across continents to participate in a conference? Reducing stress on urban systems will depend on our choices," he noted.

Inviting investors to consider the 'exciting opportunities' in urbanisation, mobility, innovation and sustainable solutions, Mr. Modi said India was set to achieve its target to build 1,000 km of metro lines and provide 10 million urban housing units by 2022.

'Cities need a reset as pandemic exposed frailties'

COVID-19 has provided an opportunity to develop more sustainable and resilient cities, says PM Modi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The pandemic had exposed the vulnerabilities of cities that served as the world's growth engines till now, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday, calling for a post-COVID-19 change in protocols, similar in scale to the post-war rebuilding efforts, to develop more sustainable and resilient cities.

"Many cities around the world declared themselves on the brink of the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression. The very things which represented living in a city, are facing a question mark. Things like community gatherings, sports activities, education and recreation are not the

same as before. The biggest question before the entire world is how to restart," Mr. Modi said, in an address to the Bloomberg New Economy Forum.

Mindset reset

Stressing that the restart would not be possible without a reset of mindsets, processes and practices, he said the historic reconstruction efforts after the two World Wars offered several lessons.

"Post the World Wars, the entire world worked on a new world order, new protocols were developed and the world changed itself," he said, adding that COVID-19 had provided a similar opportunity to develop new approaches in every field.

Making a pitch to rejuvenate



Narendra Modi

cities that were now home to half the world's population, Mr. Modi said urban development should focus on ensuring better housing and working environment as well as shorter and efficient travel options for citizens.

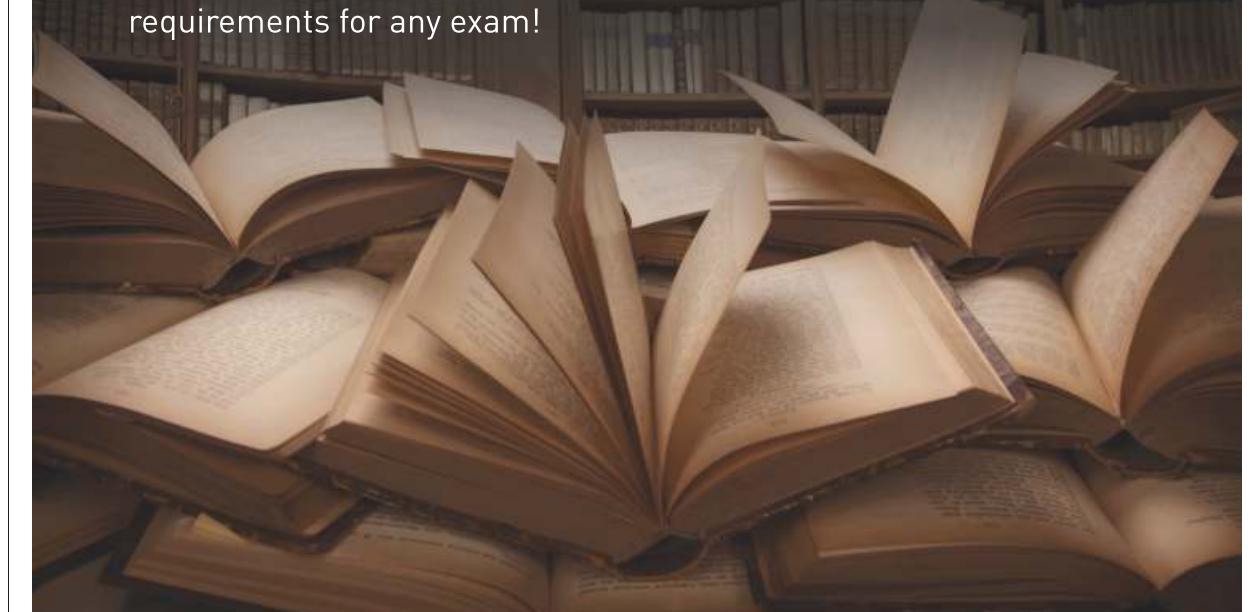
During the lockdown, many cities saw cleaner lakes

SSC, UPSC, IBPS, PSC...

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Sugar mills in three States begin production

Estimated surplus to drive exports'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

COIMBATORE

Sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka have started production for the current sugar season – from October 2020 to September 2021 – having produced 14.1 lakh tonnes till November 15.

The Indian Sugar Mills Association said in a release that 274 mills in Uttar Pradesh, 117 sugar mills in Maharashtra and 49 units in Karnataka had started operations so far this season. Only about 4.84 lakh tonnes of sugar had been produced by the mills in the year-earlier period.

With an estimated production of 310 lakh tonnes of sugar this year, India is expected to have another surplus season and will have to export

Thiem overcomes Nadal in a high-quality duel

Medvedev cruises past Zverev, registers maiden win at the tournament after three losses on debut in 2019

ATP FINALS

REUTERS
LONDON

Austria's Dominic Thiem produced a stunning display of attacking tennis to beat Rafael Nadal 7-6(7), 7-6(4) in a high-quality duel at the ATP Finals and seize control of their group on Tuesday.

World No. 3 Thiem saved a couple of set points in the first tie-break before whipping away a forehand to take an opening set in which there was barely anything between the two.

Stunning reply

Spaniard Nadal, bidding to win the only big title to elude him, engineered the first break of the match at 3-3 in the second set only for Thiem to reply in stunning fashion.

Nadal was on the brink of defeat when he slipped 0-40 behind serving at 4-5 after a wayward smash, but the 20-time Grand Slam champion dug himself out of a hole, saving three match points.

U.S. Open champion Thiem was unshakeable, ho-



Cashing in: Daniil Medvedev took advantage of Alexander Zverev's error-prone display to begin his campaign in style. *AFP

wever, and forced his way to a 6-3 lead in the day's second tiebreak.

Nadal clawed one point back, but Thiem finished it off when his opponent dragged a backhand wide, a rare unforced error.

Daniil Medvedev's ATP Finals debut last year proved to be a chastening experience as he suffered three defeats, but on Monday, the Russian made his mark with a 6-3, 6-4 win against 2018 champion Alexander Zverev.

"I actually didn't know that he (Djokovic) was 0-3 in his first appearance," said Medvedev, who had beaten Zverev to win the Paris Masters.

The opening games against Zverev were curious.

Medvedev gifted up his first service game with a double-fault, then Zverev served three double-faults in succession to hand the break back.

Medvedev, initially struggling with his forehand, then survived a break point in the

third game, winning a brutal rally with some incredible court coverage.

Zverev worked overtime trying to stay level at 2-3, only to throw away the game with consecutive double-faults. From then on, Medvedev was too solid, taking the first set with an ace and breaking in the seventh game of the second set as Zverev again wavered.

Underarm serve

Medvedev, one of the sharpest thinkers on a tennis court, threw in an underarm serve at 4-3, 30-30 but served out in more conventional fashion at 5-4 to seal the win.

The results:

Group London 2020: 3-Dominic Thiem (Aut) bt 2-Rafael Nadal (Esp) 7-6(7), 7-6(4).

Group Tokyo 1970: 4-Daniil Medvedev (Rus) bt 5-Alexander Zverev (Ger) 6-3, 6-4.

Doubles: **Group Mike Bryan:** 3-Kevin Krawietz & Andreas Mies (Ger) bt 8-Lukasz Kubot (Pol) & Marcelo Melo (Bra) 6-2, 7-6(5).

Group Bob Bryan: 1-Mate Pavic (Cro) & Bruno Soares (Bra) bt 7-Jurgen Melzer (Aut) & Edouard Roger-Vasselin (Fra) 6-7(6), 6-1, [10-4].



Mithali Raj.



day, with the Women's T20 Challenge, India-A and Emerging Teams, the BCCI has taken so many initiatives to get the girls going," said Mithali.

"When I started playing, we did not have these platforms. Back then, players would take two or three years to find their feet in the international arena. But to-

day, with the Women's T20 Challenge, India-A and Emerging Teams, the BCCI has taken so many initiatives to get the girls going," said Mithali.

Watch the full interview on [youtube.com/watch?v=TTTSUNF_8Kgg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TTTSUNF_8Kgg)

MPL Sports is Team India kit sponsor

AMOL KARHADKAR
MUMBAI

MPL Sports, an arm of an online gaming platform, has been announced as the official kit sponsor and merchandise partner of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

The jersey sponsor's three-year association starts with the tour of Australia.

According to a statement issued by the BCCI on Tuesday, besides the senior men's national team, the deal will be extended to the women's and under-19 teams as well.

All the top batsmen and bowlers, from all three squads, took part in the practice session.

Kohli will feature only in the opening day-night Test, starting on December 17 in

Indians train under simulated Test match conditions

Prepare for the series which begins with Day-Night game

INDIA IN AUS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SYDNEY

Adelaide, before flying back to India for the birth of his first child.

'Love Test sessions'

Senior pacer Mohammed Shami and the 26-year-old Mohammed Siraj were seen bowling to Kohli in a video posted on Twitter by the captain himself. "Love Test cricket sessions," read Kohli's tweet.

The video showed the players using the centre strip of the ground, employing a Test match field and a batsman at the non-striker's end.

The 30-year-old Shami is part of all three squads and

India will rely heavily on him during the four-match Test series.

Siraj, who is only in the Test squad, sent down a few deliveries even as the other seniors watched him bowl.

"The master and his apprentice. When @MdShami11 and Siraj bowled in tandem at #TeamIndia's nets. Fast and accurate!" the BCCI tweet read.

On Monday, the star student batting line-up was seen gearing up for the lively Australian pitches with the traditional tennis ball training after competing on the slow UAE tracks during the IPL.



Knocking it around: Kohli geared up for the Test series, facing the red and pink balls at the practice session on Tuesday. *FILE PHOTO

Natarajan will be the X-factor: Laxman

SRH mentor says left-arm pacer has many variations in addition to the yorker

Success formula: V.V.S. Laxman feels T. Natarajan will do well in Australia if he bowls the right line and length. *BCCI/IPL

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM
HYDERABAD

Sunrisers Hyderabad mentor V.V.S. Laxman believes left-arm pacer T. Natarajan can be the X-factor in the Indian attack in the future.

"I am not surprised by his selection for the Australian tour, for which he was originally named as a net bowler. Being a left-armer, Natarajan will be the X-factor. Probably that is the reason the selectors wanted him and drafted him as a full-time member of the squad," said Laxman.

The 29-year-old Natarajan was one of the standout performers for SRH this season, with 16 wickets.

"I am sure he will succeed against the Aussies after the way he performed in the IPL, which is like any international tournament featuring the best from across the

world. He will do well if he reads the surface and bowls the right line and length," Laxman told *The Hindu*.

"Natarajan has been known for sending down the yorkers very well. But I must say he has got a lot of variations which he didn't use in the IPL. He has the sharp bouncer, slower one, off-cutter and wicket-taking ability with the new ball," Laxman said.

"Natarajan has the mindset and the confidence to bowl yorkers, which we generally believe are the toughest to deliver. His dismissal of Royal Challengers Bangalore's A.B. de Villiers was the pick of the lot. It showed the kind of confidence he now has as a bowler."

Laxman's message to Natarajan: take care of the body and workload.

Australians airlifted to 'save series'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SYDNEY

Cricket Australia on

Tuesday airlifted players,

including Test skipper Tim Paine and star batsman Marnus Labuschagne, to New South Wales from Adelaide in an attempt to

'save the series' against

India as a coronavirus

outbreak in South Australia threatened the upcoming summer.

"CA has taken a proactive

approach and mobilised a

number of people across

Queensland and Tasmania closed their borders to

South Australia on Monday,

the country over the past 24 hours to shore up our men's

domestic and international

schedules," CA's interim

chief executive Nick

Hockley was quoted as

saying by *ESPNcricinfo*.

"I would like to thank the players and staff for their understanding regarding the changes to their travel schedules and for their commitment to ensuring the summer of cricket is a huge success."

Sudeep Tyagi calls it a day

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Former India pacer Sudeep Tyagi on Tuesday announced his retirement from all formats of the game.

The 33-year-old played four ODIs, taking three wickets, and one T20 International. He last played for India in 2010.

He also featured in 14 IPL matches for Chennai Super Kings and Sunrisers Hyderabad.

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to puzzle 13095

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

R	A	N	C	I	D	I	N	N	U	E	N	D	O
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FAITH

Pandavas' messenger

Sita is worried about how the monkey army will reach Lanka, for how can they cross the ocean? Only Garuda, Vayu—the wind god—and Hanuman are capable of crossing the ocean, she says. Hanuman very humbly says, "I am the least significant in Sugriva's army, and if I could cross the ocean, then the rest of the army can easily do the same." Hanuman says the very fact that he is sent as a messenger shows his insignificance, for the mighty are not sent on such errands.

The incident is indicative of Hanuman's way with words, said V.S. Karunakarachari in a discourse. What he tells Sita is not strictly the truth, for none of the monkeys can accomplish what he has. And yet, what is needed here is for him to drive away Sita's fears. Had he not given her this answer, she would have been depressed again. Hanuman's humility is evident in the manner in which he refers to himself as being inferior to the rest of the army, for which reason he has been sent as a messenger.

While Hanuman thus plays an important role in the *Ramayana*, the other *Ithihasa*, *Mahabharata*, has the Supreme One being a messenger. Lord Krishna volunteered to be a messenger of the Pandavas. For the Paramatma to be a messenger seems unbelievable. Why would One who is unsurpassed in power be someone's messenger? His Paratva (Supremacy) is like an elephant in a rage. The goad that can control this elephant is His sauseelya. It

TV PICKS

ATP Finals: Sony Six (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Thursday)
UEFA Nations League: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD) & Sony Ten 3, 8.30 p.m. onwards; Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 1.15 a.m. (Thursday).

IN BRIEF



Documentary a 'tribute to all women': Serena

MUMBAI
Serena Williams has said the five-part documentary series *Being Serena*, which started airing on Discovery Plus on Tuesday, is a tribute to all the women who have gotten back to work after becoming a mother. "It has captured my life during some of the most unforgettable and challenging moments in a really honest way. It is a tribute to all of the women who have gotten back to work," ANI



Luis Suarez tests positive for COVID-19

MADRID
Luis Suarez has tested positive for COVID-19, the Uruguayan Football Association (AUF) confirmed on Monday. It added that the Atletico Madrid striker is currently following self-isolation guidelines. Suarez will miss Uruguay's World Cup Qualifying match against Brazil and Atletico's match against Barcelona in the La Liga on Saturday. Goalkeeper Rodrigo Munoz and backroom staff member Matias Faral have also tested positive. ANI

Tests show Arsenal's Elneny is asymptomatic

CAIRO
Arsenal midfielder Mohamed Elneny has tested positive for coronavirus, the Egyptian Football Association (EFA) announced on Monday. The association has said that Elneny is asymptomatic and is in good condition. The midfielder will be taking another test as confirmation, Goal.com reported. Earlier, Elneny had tested negative on Sunday following Egypt's 1-0 win over Togo. ANI



Semenya to approach Human Rights court

JOHANNESBURG
South Africa's Olympic 800m champion Caster Semenya is taking her battle with World Athletics to the European Court of Human Rights, her lawyers said Tuesday, in a bid to overturn the hormone-drug rule. The two-time Olympic gold medallist had previously unsuccessfully appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport and the Swiss Federal Tribunal. ANP

Kadhe in quarterfinals

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU
SHARM EL SHEIKH (EGYPT)
Top-seeded Arjun Kadhe and Vladislav Orlov of Ukraine beat Remy Bertola and Erik Crepaldi 6-1, 3-6, 10-6 to move into the quarterfinals of the \$15,000 ITF men's Futures tennis tournament here on Tuesday.
The results: \$15,000 ITF, Sharm El Sheikh: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Men: Vladislav Orlov (Ukr) & Arjun Kadhe bt Remy Bertola (Sui) & Erik Crepaldi (Ita) 6-1, 3-6, [10-6]; Aman Mchugh (GBR) & Siddhant Banthia bt Miljan Zekic & Arsenio Zlatanovic (Srb) 6-4, 6-1; Kelsey Stevenson (Can) & Sidharth Rawat bt Bekhwan Atanglao & Maxim Krapivin (Rus) 6-3, 6-3.
Women: Larisa Bekmetova (Uzb) & Saumya Vig bt Midori Castillo Meza (USA) & Amelie Claire Montalvo Lundy (Mex) 6-4, 6-4; Jelena Stojanovic (Aus) & Ashmittha Eswaramurthy bt Amira Badawi & Aya El Sayed (Egy) 6-0, 6-4.

Athletes won't be forced to get vaccinated'

IOC chief Bach feels it will be better for their health and would be a show of solidarity with Japanese

TOKYO OLYMPICS

REUTERS

TOKYO
International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Thomas Bach said on Tuesday that athletes would not be forced to get COVID-19 vaccinations ahead of the Tokyo Olympics, but added they should as a "demonstration of solidarity" with the Japanese.

Bach visited the Athletes' Village on Tuesday before concluding his two-day Tokyo trip with a visit to the National Stadium.

"We will encourage athletes that whenever possible they have the vaccination because it is better for their health, and it is also a demonstration of solidarity with their fellow athletes and also the Japanese people," said the German.

Tokyo 2020 organisers are holding a project review meeting this week and hope to decide on a range of COVID-19 counter-measures, including whether spectators will be allowed in venues next year.



Taking stock: Bach visited the National Stadium and Athletes' Village in Tokyo on Tuesday. ■ AP

First priorities

"We made it clear from the very beginning that the first priorities are for the nurses, medical doctors and everybody who keeps our society alive, despite the coronavirus crisis," Bach told reporters at the National Stadium.

"These are the people who deserve to be the first ones to be vaccinated."

Bach, on his first to Japan since the decision to postpone the Games in March, has been upbeat throughout and he has spoken about the great impact a vaccine could

Encouraging return for Prajnesh

Coach Balachandran feels the recent run has given him confidence

TENNIS

KAMESH SRINIVASAN

NEW DELHI

It has been an encouraging return for Prajnesh Gunneswaran after tennis' post-lockdown revival.

Reaching the semifinal of the Ismaning Challenger (Germany) on carpet, and following it up with a final last week in Cary (USA) on hard courts, hinted at the left-hander getting into his groove.

Impressive
Coach Balachandran Manikath was impressed by Prajnesh's ability to eke out wins from tight situations.

"Against a big server like Jack Sock, Prajnesh was able to win the third set tie-break. In fact, he was up 5-2 in the third set and [was] serving for the match at 5-3. To be able to win at the end was special. In the next round,



Positive vibe: Prajnesh's performances have come in for praise from Balachandran. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

he was down 1-5 in the third set tie-break but won 7-5. Learning to win is a skill," observed Balachandran.

Prajnesh flew into New

York for the US Open but wasn't able to play, despite being first on the alternate list, owing to the restrictions of the bio-bubble.

Yet, the 31-year-old was able to achieve quite a lot in the season and reach a rank of 137. "It was hard to miss the US Open like that. But, he got into the qualifying draw of Kitzbuhel in Austria and won his first match on return. That was a positive," said the coach.

Boosting confidence

Balachandran, who has coached Prajnesh since his junior days, felt that once the left-hander got into his serving rhythm, he would hit a different level and win many more matches.

Prajnesh had gained with every outing in recent weeks, the coach said, and that winning matches had cleared a lot of self-doubts and given him clarity and confidence.

By setting high standards for himself and measuring his game against the best in the world, Prajnesh is keen to keep improving.

REGIONAL ROUND-UP



Triumphant Warriors! The Sahara team, winner of the Sir Pratap Singh Cup polo tournament. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

It's Pratyushraj vs Arav

NEW DELHI: Top seed Pratyushraj Goel booked a summit clash with Arav Chawla in the AITA Talent series under-14 tennis tournament on Tuesday.

The results: Boys: Under-14:

Semifinals: Pratyushraj Goel bt Kunsh Kakkar 9-2; Arav Chawla bt Viraj Chawla 9-5;

Quarterfinals: Pratyushraj Goel bt Eshan Patra 9-1; Kunsh Kakkar bt Dhruveer Grover 9-3; Arav Chawla bt Mayank Ujjainwal 9-1; Viraj Chawla bt Vishesh Kumar Singh 9-7.

Girls: Under-14: Semifinals:

Anisha Sivakumar bt Nafeesa Zafar 9-5; Anya Gupta bt Stuti Kumar 9-4; **Quarterfinals:**

Nafeesa bt Mannika Sansanwal 9-3; Anisha bt Tanvi Arora 9-1; Stuti Kumar bt Khushi Gaur 9-6; Anya bt Khushi Gaur 9-6.

Sahara Warriors lifts trophy

Daniel Otamendi and Padmanabh Singh scored 11

goals between them to power Sahara Warriors to a 14-9 victory over Sona Polo in the final of the Sir Pratap Singh Cup 14-goal polo tournament on Tuesday.

The result (final): Sahara

Warriors 14 (Dael Otamendi 6,

Padmanabh Singh 5, Kuldeep Singh Rathore 2, Gaurav Sahgal) bt Sona Polo 9 (Jack Richardson 7, Angad Kalaan, Sunjay Kapoor).

Prashant sizzles

NEW DELHI: Prashant Bhandari scored 55 and took

two wickets to help Telefunken Club beat

Sporting Club by three

wickets in the 5th Shanti Devi memorial tournament.

The scores: Sporting Club 185

in 39.3 overs (Rajesh Sharma 50; Sikander Kumar 3/19,

Prashant Bhandari 2/48) lost to Telefunken Club 188/7 in 20

wickets (Bharat Sindwani 59 not out, Prashant Bhandari 55, Yash Dabas 32; Vission Panchal 3/37, Yogesh Kumar 2/33).

Dagar and Dixit shine

Sunil Dagar and Vikas Dixit took three wickets apiece as Delhi Cricket Hub beat CAF Academy by five wickets in the All India Unique T20.

The scores: CAF 107 in 20

overs (Money Grewal 26; Sunil Dagar 3/13, Vikas Dixit 3/28,

Ganesh Vashishth 2/11) lost to DCH 108/5 in 17.5 overs (Hitendra Dalal 30, Pradeep Malik 24; Gaurav Gaur 2/05).

Abhishek, Shresth star for Rohtak Road Gymkhana

Abhishek Kumar's four

wickets and a half century by Shresth Yadav saw Rohtak Road Gymkhana beat GR Academy by four wickets in the third Vicky Bandey memorial tournament.

The results: Boys: Under-16:

Semifinals: Aditya Chauhan bt Rakshit Dhankar 9-6; Arush Sharma bt Arnav Bishnoi 9-2;

Quarterfinals: Aditya Chauhan bt Anirudh Sangra 9-4; Rakshit Dhankar 9-5; Arush Sharma bt Rishi Dahiya 9-3; Arnav Bishnoi 9-2; Keshav Dangi 9-5.

Girls: Under-16: Semifinals:

Harleen Kaur Dhanda bt Vanya Arora 9-3; Radhika Vasudeva bt Harnoor Kaur Sidhu 9-4;

Quarterfinals: Harleen Kaur Dhanda bt Riya Kaushik 9-5; Vanya Arora 9-3; Harnoor Kaur Sidhu 9-5; Radhika Vasudeva 9-4.

Amir, Saksham scalp three

Aamir Khan and Saksham Negi took three wickets each as Telefunken Club beat

When India ignored Bradman's advice, and other Aussie matters

BETWEEN WICKETS

SURESH MENON

When, soon after Independence, India toured Australia under Lala Amarnath, rival skipper Don Bradman advised them to play the matches on covered wickets, saying "it would be more advantageous". It was a gesture from an established cricketing nation to one making its first tour of that country. But for some reason, India insisted on playing on uncovered wickets.

"The Indians suffered grievously through being caught on wet wickets," Bradman recorded in his autobiography. The final result – of the four Tests Australia won, three were by an innings and one Test was drawn – might not have been too different, with or without covered wickets but, as Bradman said, "the end was expedited."

India were not able to send their best team, with Vijay Merchant, Mushtaq Ali, Rusi Modi and Fazal Mahmood withdrawing for one reason or another.

Bradman was not too far off the mark when he wrote, "...it must have been obvious to experienced observers that the Indian tour would make very little if any profit..."

Popular tourists
That was seven decades ago. It is interesting how things have changed. Thanks to television and a large audience at home, Indian cricketers are the most popular tourists wherever the game is played.

The Indian diaspora in and around cricket-playing countries has ensured that almost every ground they play on is

ISL to bring the fans closer to the game

It will feature technological innovations, including 'Fan Wall'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MUMBAI

The seventh edition of the Indian Super League (ISL) will feature a series of technological innovations, including a 'Fan Wall', in a bid to bring supporters closer to the action.

The franchise-based event, starting on November 20, will be staged behind closed doors in three venues across Goa due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Broadcasters will connect fans, through two LED screens mounted in the stadiums, to soak in the experience.

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additional mix of cameras and access to the players through pre- and post-match shows which will ensure that fans remain close to all the action even beyond the field.

A few select fans will also get the opportunity to interact with experts and special guests during the pre- and post-match shows.

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FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup taking place in India in 2022 comes as a delightful silver lining," said Praful Patel, AIFF president and chairman, Local Organising Committee (LOC). The Women's U-17 World Cup was originally scheduled to be held in India November this year. It was later postponed to February-March next year due to the coronavirus crisis.

Club WC in Feb. 2021
Qatar will host the coronavirus-delayed Club World Cup, an important test event ahead of the 2022 World Cup, in February, FIFA said. The tournament, scheduled to be held in Doha in December, will now be staged from February 1 to 11, 2021.

The Indian connection with Australia was established long before the first Test series between the two. Frank Tarrant, an all-rounder for Victoria and Middlesex, had served as cricket aide both to the Maharajahs of Cooch Behar and Patiala.

"A canny adviser and an astute lobbyist with impeccable connections, Tarrant helped lay the foundations of Indian cricket," wrote Mike Coward whose book on Tarrant has just been published. Some reckon Tarrant was probably the finest player not to have played Test cricket. He umpired the first two Test matches played on Indian soil in 1933-34.

Some months later, he organised a private tour of Australian cricketers to India, led by Jack Ryder, Bradman's first Test captain and having in their ranks Charlie Macartney. Writing in *The Hindu* after the tour, Macartney said, "We have done our best to please... Maybe our work has been of some little instruction to some and if so then that will give us