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Amarinder tells Centre  
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## NEARBY



Fresh COVID-19 cases  
again cross 1,000 in Delhi

NEW DELHI  
As many as 1,374 new COVID-19 cases were reported in Delhi in the past 24 hours, taking the total to 1,54,741. Also, 12 more deaths were reported, pushing the toll to 4,226, said a health bulletin released by the Delhi government.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

SC approves elevation of 6 advocates as HC judges

NEW DELHI  
The Supreme Court has approved the names of six advocates to be elevated as judges of the Delhi High Court. This will increase the strength of judges at Delhi High Court from current 32 to 38. The apex court collegium approved the proposal in its meeting on August 17.

CITY ▶ PAGE 2

Metro announces 50% cut in perks, allowances

NEW DELHI  
The Delhi Metro, which has not been operating since March 22, on Tuesday announced 50% cut in perks for all employees with effect from August till further orders. All sanctions for house building advance, multipurpose advance etc. will be kept on hold.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

OPPORTUNITIES ▶ PAGE 5

## No need to audit PM CARES: SC

Bench refuses to direct transfer of funds to NDRF, says they are separate entities

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday endorsed the PM CARES Fund as a "public charitable trust" to which donors contribute voluntarily.

There is "no occasion" for the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) to audit a public charitable trust independent of budgetary support or government money.

The court said that it is "not open" for a PIL petitioner to question the "wisdom" that created the fund in an hour of need.

"At this need of the hour no exception can be taken to the constitution of a public charitable trust, namely, PM CARES Fund," a Bench, led by Justice Ashok Bhushan, observed in a 75-page judgment.

**No public scrutiny'**  
NGO Centre for Public Interest Litigation, represented by advocate Prashant Bhushan, had argued that the PM-CARES Fund was not subject to CAG audit. It was not under "public scrutiny". Contributions to it were "100% tax-free".

The court dismissed the idea that the PM CARES was constituted to "circumvent" the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) – the statutory fund already in existence under the Disaster Management Act of 2005 to receive contributions to the NDRF. It said they were two separate entities.

### Points of view

A look at some of the observations made by the top court

- PM CARES Fund is a public charitable trust. Funds are voluntarily given
- There is no occasion to direct the transfer of PM CARES funds to NDRF
- Donors can also contribute to the National Disaster Response Fund

■ Existing guidelines under Section 12 for minimum standards hold good

### Blow to Rahul, says Nadda

The BJP on Tuesday termed the verdict a "resounding blow" to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. BJP president J.P. Nadda said it "shows that the truth shines despite the ill-intent and malicious efforts of the Congress party and its associates". ▶ PAGE 9

larity. "Outbreak of COVID-19 in India as well as other countries of the world required immediate enhancement in the infrastructure of medical health and creation of a fund to contain COVID-19," the court reasoned.

The Bench refused to direct the transfer of funds from the PM CARES Fund to the NDRF. It said they were two separate entities.

### It got ₹3,076 cr. in five days

The PM CARES Fund collected more than ₹3,076 crore in the first five days of its formation, according to data available on its website. It does not provide any information on contributions made from April onwards. ▶ PAGE 9

"The funds collected in the PM CARES Fund are entirely different funds, which are funds of a public charitable trust. There is no occasion for issuing any direction to transfer the funds to the NDRF," Justice Bhushan wrote. Besides, who is stopping potential donors from contributing to the NDRF, the court asked.

"Any contribution of any

individual or institution is not prohibited to be credited into the NDRF," Justice Bhushan noted.

**'No need for fresh plan'**  
The court rejected the need for a fresh national disaster management plan to take on the COVID-19 challenges.

"National plan and guidelines is by its very nature prior to the occurrence of any disaster. It is a measure of preparedness. It is not conceivable that a national plan would be framed after the disaster has occurred," the court reminded. It said there was already a plan uploaded on the government website since November 2019. The authorities have been supplementing it with various orders and measures, leaving no occasion for a new plan.

Justice Bhushan also found no reason to interfere with the "minimum standards of relief" the government should provide in relief camps during the pandemic.

The Disaster Management Act lists these "minimum requirements" under Section 12 as shelter, food, drinking water, medical cover and sanitation, among other things. "There being already guidelines for minimum standards in place even before COVID-19, the said guidelines for minimum standards holds good even for those who are affected by COVID-19," the court said.

## Curbs on China FDI hit GM car plant sale

Deal with Great Wall Motors in a spot

SUHASINI HAIDAR  
LALATENDU MISHRA  
NEW DELHI

Continuing tensions with China at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) could impact the government's decision on a major U.S.-China auto plant deal in Maharashtra, with thousands of jobs on the line.



At stake: Thousands of jobs at GM's Talegaon plant near Pune are on the line.

of SUVs and EVs in India.

The MEA and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry did not comment on the status of the application (5339/2020). Sources said the application for the investment proposal had been submitted to the Department of Trade Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) by GMI and GWM on July 9 and forwarded to the MEA, the MHA and the RBI for clearances on July 13. According to the application, GMI would be acquired by GWM's Wholly Owned Subsidiary (WOS) Billion Sunny Development of Hong Kong.

The spokesman said the Army was "committed to ethical conduct of all counter terrorist operations". "Cases where doubts are raised are investigated under due process as per the law of the land. Since the case is under investigation, further details will be shared periodically, as appropriate without affecting due legal process."

## Army begins probe into J&K encounter

PEERZADA ASHIQ  
SRINAGAR

The Army has initiated a court of inquiry (CoI) into the July 18 encounter at Shopian in south Kashmir, where three alleged militants were killed.

"A high-level CoI into Operation Amshipora, Shopian, is under progress. Statements of key witnesses are being recorded and progress is being monitored closely," an Army spokesman said on Tuesday.

The encounter came under a cloud after three families from Rajouri district claimed that the three killed were their kin and were labourers by profession.

"Additional civil witnesses are being asked to de- pose before the CoI. Currently, DNA samples have been collected from Rajouri under the aegis of the J&K police and sent for matching with the terrorists killed on July 18, 2020," the Army said.

The spokesman said the Army was "committed to ethical conduct of all counter terrorist operations".

"Cases where doubts are raised are investigated under due process as per the law of the land. Since the case is under investigation, further details will be shared periodically, as appropriate without affecting due legal process."

## Madhya Pradesh govt. jobs reserved for locals, says Chouhan

Resources of M.P. for children of M.P., he says in video message

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BHOPAL

He further said, "From today, the youth of Madhya Pradesh will have the first right over its resources. All government jobs will be reserved for its youth only. Our aim is to include the State's talent in its development."

Calling it an "important decision", Mr. Chouhan, in a video message, said, "We are making the required legal provisions for it. Resources of Madhya Pradesh are for the children of Madhya Pradesh."

Mr. Shah was discharged from a Gurugram hospital last week after testing COVID-negative. ▶ FILE PHOTO

Mr. Shah, who was earlier undergoing treatment for COVID-19 infection at the Medanta Hospital in Gurugram, was discharged last week after testing negative for the virus.

The Minister had tweeted on August 14 that he would be in home isolation for a few more days on the advice of his doctors.

Mr. Shah was admitted to AIIMS for post-COVID care

He had complained of fatigue, body ache

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah was admitted to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi, at 2 a.m. on Tuesday with a complaint of fatigue and body ache", said a statement issued by the hospital authorities.

The Minister is currently under observation and is being admitted for post-COVID care. He came with a complaint of fatigue and body ache for the past two to three days. He is comfortable and is continuing his work from the hospital," AIIMS media and protocol division chairperson Aarti Vij said.

**Doctors' advice**  
Doctors advised that the Minister be shifted to the hospital after he felt uneasy at his residence, sources said.

The Minister had tweeted on August 14 that he would be in home isolation for a few more days on the advice of his doctors.

Mr. Shah was discharged from a Gurugram hospital last week after testing COVID-negative. ▶ FILE PHOTO

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SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

**AAP to protest outside Civic Centre today**

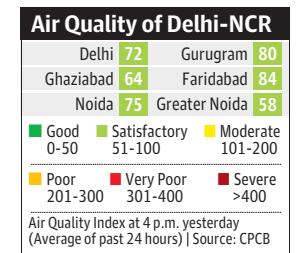
STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party on Tuesday said that they will stage a protest outside Civic Centre on Wednesday against the BJP-ruled North Delhi Municipal Corporation's proposals to introduce professional tax, 34% increase of house tax, increase in property transfer tax and electricity tax.

The AAP called for immediate roll back of the proposals.

"In 2017, when the BJP fought the Delhi municipal elections, they decided not to give ticket to all the sitting councillors. Then Delhi BJP chief Manoj Tiwari gave a slogan that 'naye chahere nay udan'. But these new councillors are more corrupt. The second promise the BJP made was that they will not hike taxes. But the BJP has completely failed in both these promises and they have betrayed the people of Delhi," said AAP leader Durgesh Pathak.

The SDMC had also increased three taxes last month, the party said.



# Amit Shah and other BJP leaders behind Delhi riots, claims AAP

Bharadwaj's allegation comes after some Shaheen Bagh protesters joined BJP

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Tuesday alleged that Union Home Minister Amit Shah and other BJP leaders were behind the north-east Delhi riots earlier this year.

"Each person who understands Delhi will say that the Manthara and Shakuni of Delhi riots were those BJP leaders who made poisonous statements – Anurag Thakur, Parvesh Sahib Singh, Giriraj Singh, Yogi Adityanath, Amit Shah, Kapil Mishra. All these people made communal remarks in Delhi and created hatred for one community," AAP chief spokesperson Saurabh Bh-



Saurabh Bharadwaj

ravaj said.

He claimed that now when the people of Shaheen Bagh protest have joined the BJP, it was clear that the party was instigating the Hindus on one side and the Muslims on the other side.

Mr. Bharadwaj said it should be found out as to which BJP leaders the Shaheen Bagh leaders, who have joined the BJP, were in touch with and "what directions they got from BJP leaders and what were their role in the Shaheen Bagh protest".

## BJP polarisation

"In February, the people of Delhi witnessed how the BJP polarised two different communities. Now, all the independent observers, citizens and others agree that in a very well-scripted manner, the BJP communalised and polarised the situation during and before the Delhi As-

sembly polls. The polarisation was such that a riot-like situation was created," he said.

"After the Delhi elections, in which the BJP lost, a sit-in protest was held on February 22 near Jafraabat metro station by anti-CAA protesters. Next day, senior BJP leader Kapil Mishra made a hate speech along with pro-CAA protesters. He delivered the speech in front of the local DCP, threatening the protesters that if they do not withdraw the protest then the BJP will take the law in their hands.

From that afternoon, various clashes started taking place across north-east Delhi," Mr. Bharadwaj said.

# BJP pushes back against AAP over allegations

'Sisodia had said he is with protesters'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

"Why are they [the AAP] so rattled of our Muslim brothers and sisters joining the national mainstream?" he said. Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta was unavailable for comment on the issue despite repeated attempts.

Party insiders, however, said it was in the process of preparing an all-out attack against AAP in relation to the allegations against its senior leadership over the coming days.

Several residents of Shaheen Bagh, which had served as ground zero for anti-CAA and NEC protests beginning mid-December last year, had joined the BJP at its State headquarters on Sunday triggering a political row.

# SC approves elevation of 6 advocates as HC judges

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has approved the names of six advocates to be elevated as judges of the Delhi High Court. This will increase the strength of judges at Delhi High Court from current 32 to 38.

The apex court collegium, in its meeting held on August 17, approved the proposal for elevation of the six advocates – Jasmeet Singh, Amit Bansal, Tara Vitasta Ganju, Anish Dayal, Amit Sharma and Mini Pushkarna – as judge of Delhi High Court.

Ms. Singh is currently in the panel of Central government Standing Councils in the Delhi High Court. Advocate Mini Pushkarna is a panel counsel for the Delhi municipal corporation. Ms. Pushkarna is also a panel counsel for Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board, and Land and Building Department, Delhi government. Advocate Anish Dayal specialises in commercial litigation and arbitration, media, entertainment and sports law, policy and legislation. He also writes regularly about broad range of developments relating to the law.

The collegium, which is helmed by Chief Justice of India S.A. Bobde and top four senior-most judges of the court, has also approved the proposal for elevation of advocate Rakesh Kumar Bhardwaj as judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

# High Court to partially resume physical hearing from September 1 on trial basis

Bar Council appeals to lawyers to cooperate with process

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH  
NEW DELHI

With Delhi High Court scheduled to partially resume physical hearing from September 1, after a hiatus of about five months due to outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, the Bar Council of Delhi (BCD) on Tuesday appealed to the city's lawyers to fully cooperate with the process.

BCD Chairman K.C. Mittal said that though "a section of colleagues in the profession are against resumption

of physical hearing", it is not the appropriate time for raising voice in favour or against physical hearing.

## All bases covered

"The model which is going to be implemented is on experimental basis and we hope it will protect the interest of all the stakeholders in the system," Mr. Mittal said.

The High Court had suspended its physical hearing from March 23 this year following the nationwide lockdown in view of the CO-

VID-19 outbreak. It has since then restricted the hearings, which are now conducted through videoconferencing, to cases which are of urgent nature only.

On August 15, the Delhi High Court Registrar General Manoj Jain announced that subject to complete availability of public transport and the situation in Delhi remaining stable, a plan will be evolved for gradual opening of physical courts from September 1 onwards.

## Resolve financial crisis of civic bodies'

HC asks authorities to call meeting at earliest to discuss issue

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

convened at the earliest". It listed the matter for further hearing on September 8.

## Grant-in-aid pending

The order came on an application moved by the North Delhi Municipal Corporation alleging that ₹90.60 crore payable as grant-in-aid under the sanitation/urban development head, for the first quarter ending June 30, has not been released yet and ₹181 crore under the same

head for the second quarter is also due.

The North Corporation has said that the funding was meant for payment of salaries of "safai karamchaaris" and sanitation activities.

The application was filed in a pending writ petition by one Rahul Birla seeking directions to the Delhi government and the municipal corporations to pay the salaries with arrears of sanitation workers employed by them.

The Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice Prateek Jalan said, "We expect that this meeting shall be

## Corrigendum Notice

**Subject: Tender No. OP2/17/2020-21 – Appointment of Consultant as Project Development and Management Agency (PDMA) for Smart Grid Project for whole city Chandigarh.**

The subject cited tender due to be opened on dated i.e. 18.08.2020 at 16.00 Hrs. is hereby extended upto 19.08.2020 at 14.00 Hrs. for uploading and opening date i.e. 19.08.2020 at 16.00 Hrs. due to some administrative reason.

--Sd--

Executive Engineer,  
Electricity (OP) Division No. 2  
Chandigarh, U.T.

## Expression of Interest

### "Appointment of Independent Auditor (APFS) for F.Y. 2019-20"

Dated: 19-08-2020 HPKVN/1(136)/2015-20

Himachal Pradesh Kaushal Vikas Nigam invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from Chartered Accountants firms having their registered office in the state of Himachal Pradesh for their appointment as Independent Auditor (APFS) for the Financial Year 2019-20.

For further details please visit to HPKVN website.

General Manager, HPKVN

## HARYANA STAFF SELECTION COMMISSION

BAYS NO. 67-70, SECTOR-2, PANCHKULA- 134151  
Website www.hssc.gov.in

### Corrigendum

Reference Haryana Staff Selection Commission's Advt no. 12/2019, dated 20.07.2019 & others connected corrigendum/notifications, which were published in the various newspapers and also available on HSSC Website i.e. www.hssc.gov.in, vide which online application forms were invited for various posts of Skill Development and Industrial Training Department, through the URL address i.e. <http://adv122019.hryssc.in/StaticPages/HomePage.aspx>.

It is notified for the information of candidates regarding advt No. 12/2019, as per clarification given by the Skill Development & Industrial Training Department vide memo No. TE/114/15/Recruitment Instrument Mech./Estt.-III/6883 Dated 04.06.2020, the break-up of the posts has been changed and the same may be read as under:-

### Cat No. 81, Instrument Mechanic Instructor (Theory) (Re-Advertised)

Category	Total	Non-ESM/ESP	ESM	ESP
General	3	3	-	-
SC	1	1	-	-
BCA	1	1	-	-
BCB	-	-	-	-
EWS	1	1	-	-
Total	6	-	-	-

### Cat. No. 84, Instrument Mechanic Instructor (Practical) (Re-Advertised)

Category	Total	Non-ESM/ESP	ESM	ESP
General	2	1	1	-
SC	1	1	-	-
BCA	-	-	-	-
BCB	-	-	-	-
EWS	-	-	-	-
Total	3	-	-	-

-Sd-

Under Secretary,

for Secretary,

Haryana Staff Selection Commission, Panchkula

Place: Panchkula

Dated, 18<sup>th</sup> August, 2020

Samvad 82318

Director General

## APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person namely Umrao about 45 years of age whose residence and family is unknown had been found unconscious near Jajoria Park, Pyare Lal Road, Vishnu Mandir Marg, Karol Bagh. The unidentified person was declared dead at LHMCH Hospital, Delhi. In this regard a vide has been registered with DD No: 38-A dated 08.08.2020 at P.S. Karol Bagh, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to identify the deceased person but no clue has come to light so far.

If anyone has any information about his relatives, kindly inform the SHO/Karol Bagh, Delhi.



Umrao

## HIMACHAL PRADESH JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Division, Baggi invites tenders on behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh from approved eligible contractors for the following works(s) through e-tendering process:-

Sr. No. 1:-

Name of work:- Providing Lift Water Supply Scheme to Rewalsar Town (Urban) in Nagar Panachayat Rewalsar Tehsil Rewalsar Distt. Mandi (HP) ( Providing, Laying, Jointing and testing of GI pipe in distribution system, P/F Fire Hydrants, Providing house service connection & Mscs. works etc.

Estimated cost:- Rs. 2,69,86,351/-, Cost of Tender Form:- Rs. 3,02,334/-, Time of Completion :- One Year.

Last date of filling/uploading the tender through e-tendering: 28/08/2020 upto 05.00PM.

The tender form and other detail and condition can be obtained from the website <https://hpitenders.gov.in> or from office of Jal Shakti Division Baggi upto the date specified above.

Executive Engineer,

Jal Shakti Division,

Baggi.

Date: 22/08/2020-21

[www.jamtutourism.gov.in](http://www.jamtutourism.gov.in)

dirtsmjmu@gmail.com

Ph: 0191-2548172

Fax: 0191-2548358

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR DIRECTORATE OF TOURISM, JAMMU

SUBJECT: EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR CONCEPTUALIZING, DESIGNING, DEVELOPMENT AND PRINTING OF COFFEE TABLE BOOK.

E-NITNO - 19 OF 2020 DATED:13/08/2020

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Directorate of Tourism, Jammu invites Expression of Interest (EOI) for Conceptualizing, Designing

## Timings

DELHI

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 19
RISE 05:53 SET 18:57
RISE 05:48 SET 19:28
THURSDAY, AUG. 20
RISE 05:54 SET 18:56
RISE 06:55 SET 20:09
FRIDAY, AUG. 21
RISE 05:54 SET 18:55
RISE 08:02 SET 20:48

## Delhi Weather

max min

Delhi City 35 27

Safdarjung 35 27

Palam 34 28

34°C Light to moderate rain and thundershower with cloudy sky and gusty winds may affect.

Delhi Palam Today  
32°C Few spells of rain and thundershower are likely at many places with gentle breeze.Copyright Skymet Weather 2019  
All rights reserved.

## IN BRIEF

## DJB V-C inspects construction of reservoir

NEW DELHI

Delhi Jal Board Vice Chairman Raghav Chadha on Tuesday inspected an under construction 26.80 ml underground reservoir (UGR) in Sonia Vihar and directed to expedite the works. On commissioning of the UGR, approximately 6 lakh residents of unauthorised colonies like Shiv Vihar, Ankur Enclave, Mahalaxmi Enclave, Ambika Vihar, and other places will be benefited, the DJB said.

## Provide treatment to Sengar's brother: HC

NEW DELHI

The High Court on Tuesday asked the jail authorities to provide adequate medical treatment to expelled BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar's brother Atul, who was sentenced to 10 years for his role in the custodial killing of Unnaro rape victim's father. The court gave the direction after it was informed that the convict, Atul Singh Sengar, has been diagnosed with oral cancer and requires extensive treatment.

## WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE &amp; AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



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

Forecast for Wednesday: Thunderstorm accompanied by lightning likely at isolated places over Jammu &amp; Kashmir and Muzaffarabad. Heavy/very rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Rajasthan, central Maharashtra, Telangana and coastal Karnataka,

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	0.9	32.2	25.4	Kozhikode	19.4	31.4...	24.2
Ahmedabad	80.2	31.5...	25.0	Kurnool	7.1...	32.3...	23.2
Aizawl...	—	25.2...	—	Lucknow	—	37.0...	27.2
Allahabad	—	34.8	26.8	Madurai	—	40.4...	25.2
Bengaluru	1.1	26.4	20.6	Mangaluru	29.6	28.1...	23.5
Bhopal	4.2	26.8	24.8	Mumbai	89.4	26.5...	21.5
Bhubaneswar	—	32.7	27.0	Mysuru	2...	28.0...	21.5
Chandigarh	—	34.9	28.9	New Delhi	23.6	30.0...	27.1
Chennai	0.5	34.3	28.2	Patna	—	33.6...	26.6
Coimbatore	—	32.6	23.0	Port Blair	—	31.3...	25.3
Dehradun	7	31.2	24.4	Puducherry	1...	36.5...	27.0
Gangtok	1.7	22.4	18.9	Pune	—	28.4...	22.4
Goa	9.7	30.8	24.7	Raipur	3...	27.5...	25.0
Guwahati	7.3	33.8	25.7	Ranchi	—	31.5...	24.5
Hubballi	—	26.0	22.0	Shillong	0.1...	26.6...	19.1
Hyderabad	1.6	29.5	22.6	Shimla	—	27.6...	21.0
Imphal	2.8	28.0	22.6	Srinagar	—	31.4...	18.2
Jaipur	0.8	33.9	27.1	Tiruvananthapuram	—	31.7...	25.2
Kochi	9.4	30.6	24.4	Tiruchi	—	30.8...	26.4
Kohima	15.6	24.8	18.0	Vijayawada	8...	34.1...	25.4
Kolkata	8.8	31.8	26.8	Visakhapatnam	0.3...	29.7...	26.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

## Pollutants in the air you are breathing

## As tests pick up, fresh COVID-19 cases again cross 1,000 in city

Govt. starts handing over two oxygen concentrators each to over 200 dispensaries

NIKHIL M BABU

NEW DELHI

As many as 1,374 new COVID-19 cases were reported in Delhi in the past 24 hours, taking the total to 1,54,741, according to a health bulletin released by the Delhi government on Tuesday.

Also, 12 more deaths have been reported in the same period, taking the total number of deaths to 4,226.

Of the total cases, 1,39,447 people have recovered and there are 11,068 active cases.

Compared to the last two days – when the number of cases was less than 1,000 – more number of tests were done in the past 24 hours (20,266) and thus the number of new cases has also gone up.

After the Independence Day announcement made by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, the Delhi govern-

Migrants show their COVID-19 antigen test report at Anand Vihar Bus Terminal in New Delhi.  
• R.V. MOORTHY

ment has started distributing two oxygen concentrators to each of the over 200 Delhi government dispensaries, according to officials.

No eligibility criteria yet The oxygen concentrators will be made available to COVID-19 patients who are out of hospital but still need oxygen support. The con-

## Virus spread

Total number of COVID-19 cases

1,54,741

New cases in the past 24 hours

1,374

Total deaths

4,226

New deaths

12

SOURCE: DELHI GOVERNMENT HEALTH BULLETIN

"We also found some patients who, after coming home fully recovered, lost their lives because their oxygen levels dropped even after being corona negative. We are going to send oxygen concentrators to the homes of the patients," the Chief Minister had said during his Independence Day address.

Padmini Singla, Secretary of Health and Family Welfare Department of Delhi government, did not respond to calls and messages seeking information about when an SOP would be released.

The government, however, is yet to come out with a standard operating procedure on how citizens can access the oxygen concentrators, which can be used by people whose oxygen levels are low. "We are yet to be told on who will be eligible to access the oxygen concentrators. We are waiting for an official order on it," a district health official said.

The result is expected to be made public this week.

## Police officer succumbs to virus; wife, son attend funeral via video

As family tested positive, his brothers performed last rites

HEMANI BHANDARI

NEW DELHI

A 51-year-old Delhi Police Inspector died of COVID-19 on Tuesday morning after testing positive on August 15. His wife and son, who also tested positive, attended the funeral from a lonely house on video call while his brothers performed the last rites.

Inspector Sanjay Sharma, who was posted in the Police Control Room unit, was admitted to the ICU unit of the Indian Spinal Injuries Centre in Vasant Kunj after he felt breathlessness on August 15.

The next day, plasma therapy was given to him, but the doctors couldn't rescue him.

Meanwhile, the result of the second serological survey done in Delhi – to find out the percentage of people who have developed antibodies against COVID-19 – was submitted to the Delhi government by the Maulana Azad Medical College on Tuesday, officials said.

The officer's wife, Aruna Sharma, recalled the night he returned from work and fell sick. "Being in the force is a tough job and all officers feel exhausted and overworked. My husband was extremely dedicated and was patrolling the city ahead of the Independence Day. On

August 15, he felt uneasy when breathing, after which he was rushed to the



Inspector Sanjay Sharma with wife Aruna. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

told me that he had spoken to a few civil defence officers deployed outside a red zone. That night, he complained of headache and uneasiness.", Ms. Aruna said.

On Tuesday, the mother and son were confined to their home as they too tested positive. Neither the mother nor the son, who studies in IIT-Delhi, could see the officer for one last time.

She said that the next two days were Saturday and Sunday, due to which they couldn't visit the dispensary. However, between Monday and Friday, Sharma visited the dispensary thrice for check-up. "The dispensary staff also didn't ask us to get tested. It's strange. Everything went wrong," she cried.

On August 15, he felt uneasy when breathing, after which he was rushed to the

ICU and tested for COVID-19. The result came positive. "I lost my best friend," Ms. Aruna said.

Married in 1997, the couple from Kota made a life together in Delhi. "The last conversation we had was on video call on Sunday night. He sounded positive and asked me to hold myself. He was my strength and I was his. He also gave me a thumbs up," she said.

On Tuesday, the mother and son were confined to their home as they too tested positive. Neither the mother nor the son, who studies in IIT-Delhi, could see the officer for one last time.

She said that the next two days were Saturday and Sunday, due to which they couldn't visit the dispensary. However, between Monday and Friday, Sharma visited the dispensary thrice for check-up.

The last rites of Sharma were performed by his brothers. Ms. Aruna's only wish is that her husband's ashes are preserved so that her son can do the final rites when he gets better.

## DUTA hits out at Sisodia over graft charge

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The Delhi University Teachers' Association (DUTA) on Tuesday hit out at Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia over his allegations of corruption among DU colleges funded by the Delhi government, and demanded the release of dues to the colleges.

It is obvious this is another ploy for their callous and inhuman act of furnishing a provisional certificate, the Delhi University ought to e-mail such a request to the university concerned on behalf of the student in question as it would "carry more weight".

On Monday, the HC had directed Delhi University to commence the physical examination for those final-year students who have not opted for the online mode of open book examination (OBE) from September 14.

The union claimed that for about a year, sanction of grants to these 12 colleges, which are fully funded by the government, had been sporadic and inadequate. Delays in release of funds had led to a crippling effect on the institutions.

The DUTA rejected claims of corruption arguing that three audits were carried out, and increase in required funds was on account of hike in minimum wage.

## Expedite results of DU students who are going abroad to study

Create separate ID to enable them to submit requests: HC to DU

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday ordered Delhi University to make efforts to expedite the result of such courses for students who have obtained admissions in postgraduate courses in foreign universities.

A Bench of Justice Hima Kohli and Justice Subramonium Prasad further asked the varsity to create a separate e-mail ID to enable students to submit their requests and relevant details of the foreign university.

Provisional admission The Delhi University could then send a request letter to the foreign university for granting provisional admission to the student concerned with an assurance that the results

to postgraduate courses in foreign universities, if their results are not declared in time, the students are likely to suffer irreparable loss.

It said that instead of the students writing individually to the foreign university concerned, seeking further time for furnishing a provisional certificate, the Delhi University ought to e-mail such a request to the university concerned on behalf of the student in question as it would "carry more weight".

On Monday, the HC had directed Delhi University to commence the physical examination for those final-year students who have not opted for the online mode of open book examination (OBE) from September 14.

The HC observed that in the context of those final-year students who would have obtained admission

between the two parties.

Former Delhi Education Minister Kiran Walia said that Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia had, shockingly, justified withholding of funding to these college alleging corruption.

The budget allocation of these colleges had gone up over the last five years due to annual increments, dearness allowance as well as the implementation of the 7th Pay Commission, and starting of new courses after getting due approval from the Delhi government, and not due to corruption," Ms. Walia said.

The Delhi Congress demanded immediate payment of salaries to the employees as it is their basic right and should not be linked to the power struggle

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

## PUBLIC NOTICE

General Petition I hereby noted that my client Mr. Manohar Lal S/o Dinesh Kumar Verma, R/o. H. No. 13, 14, Third Floor, Block A, Pocket I, Sector 6, Rohini, Delhi-85, have disintegrated and dissolved his wife Mrs. Swati Verma W/o Sh. Himanshu Verma S/o Sh. Dinesh Kumar Verma, & Mrs. Swati Verma W/o. Sh. Himanshu Verma from her line of succession and have broken her son and her daughter in law. My client is neither responsible for any hazard nor responsible for any acts, Deeds or things done by her said son and daughter in law or any other person (s) dealing with him or her shall be dealing so on his risks, costs and consequences.

Hasmuddin Raza &amp; Khalid Rana (Advocate)

Bar Room No. 3, Near D.B.A. Office, Civil Wing, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi

## PUBLIC NOTICE Change of Name

I, Drakshayani legally wedded spouse of No. 14668861, Rank NK, Name Baburao Sankpal presently residing at Padhalil Village, Padhalil Post, Belgaum Dist. Karnataka, Pin-591211, have changed my name from DRAKSHAYANI (as per NOK in record) to **DRAKSHAYANI BABURAO SANKPAL**. (Proposed new name of spouse) due erroneously declared name of wife in all documents at the time of publication of marriage Part II order (Reason for change)

## PUBLIC NOTICE Change of Name

I, Mahendra Kumar Namdev my son Army No. 15702062X Rank NK, Trade: DTMN Name: Surendra Kumar Namdev of 16 Corps of Sig. Regt. C/o 56 APD want to correct my name in my son army records as **MAHENDRA KUMAR NAMDEV** (Correct name) instead of MAHENDR KUMAR NAMDEV (Incorrect name). Objections if any may be conveyed to concerned authorities within 7 days.

## LEGAL NOTICE

## BEFORE THE ADDITIONAL MOTOR ACCIDENT CLAIMS TRIBUNAL-II MAVELIKARA

I.A.NO. 2555/2019  
in  
O.P.(M.V.) No. 693/2015Petitioner/3rd respondent:  
The New India Assurance Co., Ltd.,  
Rep by its Assistant Manager,  
Divisional Office, Kollam  
Cr.Petitioner/1st respondent:  
Joi Khan, S/o Khadi Khan, Lekhshangram, Kajota Village, Alwar District, Rajasthan. Pin-321 633.

## NOTICE

Where the 3rd respondent in the above petition filed a petition u/s 169(2) of the M.V.Act 1988 as I.A.No. 2555/2019 to give a direction to the 1st respondent to produce his driving licence if in existence. The case stands posted to 25/8/20 at 11 a.m to answer the petition and you are directed to produce on that day the licence if in existence, and in default of your appearance on the day above mentioned, the petition will be heard and determined in your absence.

Dated this 10th day of August 2020

ADVOCATE: K.S.LEKHA

## PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE  
Be it known to all that my client Manita Chhabra W/o Late Sh. K.L. Chhabra, Rio CC-112-C, Sharmaji Bagh, New Delhi-110088, have severed all their relations with their son Mr. Ashok Chhabra and his wife Meenakshi and have disowned and disintegrated them from all of their movable and immovable properties since they have not been obedient and under the control of my client. My client shall not be responsible for any of their acts, conduct, omission or commission whatsoever from the immediate effect from the date of its publication.  
Rohit Puri, (Advocate),  
Office: D-107, Basement, Colony, New Delhi

## ENTERPRISE CONNECT

## Sustained performance by Rites in Q1FY21

RITES Ltd, the leading Transport Infrastructure Consultancy and Engineering firm, reported its standalone and consolidated financial results for the quarter ended on 30th June, 2020.

Highlights for Q1FY21 Standalone Financials

- Total Revenue stands at ₹366 crore against ₹553 crore in Q1FY20
- EBITDA stands at ₹111 crore with margin of 30.4% against ₹151 crore in Q1FY20
- Profit After Tax stands at ₹60 crore with margin of 16.4% against ₹93 crore in Q1FY20
- Revenue and Profits got impacted due to pandemic-induced disruptions and less exports scheduled for this period.

Commenting on the results, Mr. Rajeev Mehrotra, Chairman and Managing Director, RITES Limited said, "Despite pandemic conditions, the results of the company for the quarter are satisfactory. We quickly resumed operations at various locations which enabled us to maintain revenue streams and margins." RITES total standalone revenue has decreased by 33.9% to ₹366 crore on account of less exports scheduled for the quarter and impact of restrictions & supply chain disruptions due to pandemic. Margins were sustained as a result of remote working during lockdown, quick resumption of most of operations and implementation of cost control measures. RITES total consolidated revenue decreased to ₹379 crore as against ₹573 crore in Q1FY20.

Consultancy business continued to provide highest revenue to the company and achieved a revenue of ₹185 crore, down by 20.7% over Q1FY20. During this period, in addition to securing more than 60 new projects/contracts including enhanced scope of work, RITES Ltd signed an MOU with Coal India for providing railway infrastructure technical services for 5 years. During this period they have been shortlisted for allotment of work by Indian Railways for railway electrification, civil works, signalling & telecommunication etc. on competition basis among PSUs, for which we will be submitting financial bids by mid of August 2020.

Commenting on the outlook, Mr. Mehrotra said, "Despite tough times, we continued to focus on the inclusive growth of the company and our stakeholders. The company is set to regain momentum with further easing of the restrictions."

## DJB underground reservoir in Mayapur to benefit 1.5 lakhs

Honble VC: DJB, Sh. Raghav Chadha along Hari Nagar Vidhan Sabha MLA Rajkumar Dhillon and with senior officers & officials visited the project site to inspect the progress of the construction of UGR/BPS in Mayapur, West Delhi which was delayed to complete in 18 months, but is delayed by over 14 months. The Under Ground Reservoir at Mayapur was inaugurated in 2018 to keep pace with the growing water demands of the area and ensure proper equitable and supply to all.

The awarded cost of the project is approximately Rs.14 cr. Remarking the contractor for delaying the project by over 14 months, Shri Raghav Chadha said "Show cause notice is issued to the concerned contractor as delay in completion of the project and laxity in work is posing a problem

## for residents of the command area. An undertaking of detailed timelines with regard to the completion of this work be also sought from the contractor, apart from invoking contractual liability for failing to conclude the work in the agreed time frame.

To rationalize the water distribution system of Delhi a study was conducted, according to this study a proposal for constructing this UGR was formulated. Proposed UGR of 12.4 ML capacity UGR/BPS was proposed to be constructed at Mayapuri.

On commissioning of this Mayapuri UGR/BPS a population of 1.50 lakh will be benefited with equitable water distribution with increased pressure. At present these areas are getting water from Subhash Nagar UGR, online booster Tilaknagar and from Naraina Main.

## Haryana Police felicitated

On the eve of Independence Day, 12 Police Officers and officials of Haryana Police have been selected for President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service and Police Medal for Meritorious Service.

Arshinder Singh Chawla, ADGP Administration, Police Headquarters has been selected to be awarded with the President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service whereas 11 others have been selected to be decorated with Police Medal for Meritorious service.

The Director General of Police (DGP), Haryana, Sh Manoj Yadava congratulated all the Police Officers and officials who have been selected to be decorated with Police Medals on the occasion of Independence Day. "It is a great honour for the entire Police force. The recognition of their tireless and relentless efforts at national level would go a long way to further boost their morale as well as of others," added the DGP."

## E-Parivahan Vayastha in Shimla to aid public services through online portal

Transport Minister reviewed the works of Transport Department and Rope-Way and Rapid Transport System Development Corporation in Shimla. On this occasion, he directed the officers to make the public services smooth, simple, easy and convenient.

He said that the Transport Department has taken ambitious steps to realize the Swarnim Himachal vision of the State Government. The public services being provided by the department have been made online to make them timely and efficient. He said that dedicated efforts were being made to provide easy and comfortable means of transport to the people. This has led to increased transparency and efficiency.

The new e-Parivahan Vayastha was being started by the department to make public services available online. This system has been started on a pilot basis in Shimla and Dharamshala. Under this, services like to pay token tax, pay SRT, No objection certificate, vehicle fitness certificate, application for permit, driving license related services, book special registration mark, pay national permit authorisation fee, book appointment for fitness etc. are being provided.

The use of modern information technology is being ensured by the Transport Department to further strengthen public services. It has also planned to start vehicles location tracking device (VLTD), Monitoring Centres Services. The proposed system envisages to enhance the safety of the women and

## the girls' children by equipping all the public passenger transport vehicles with locations tracking device and emergency buttons for raising and alert in case of emergency.

## ICSI honors Corona Warriors

On the occasion of the 74th Independence Day of India, The Institute of Company Secretaries of India, organised a special Webinar on 15th August 2020, to honour the Company Secretary Professionals and Officials from the Ministry of Corporate Affairs for their relentless efforts throughout the Covid-19 lockdown.

Shri Rajesh Verma, IAS, Secretary MCA and Shri Manoj Pandey, IRS, Joint Secretary MCA were the chief guest and special guest on the occasion.

Acknowledging the services rendered by both ICSI and its Member Company Secretaries during the pandemic, Shri Rajesh Verma said "Company Secretaries are playing an immensely important role that has increased many folds, during these trying times, in building the nation. The Company Secretaries working round the clock at CRC, with the MCA officials, have been the real torch bearers, leading from the front".

Shri Manoj Pandey urged the Company Secretaries and the MCA Officials to take a pledge to continue with their contribution and exemplary show of commitment, work ethics and professionalism in building a self-reliant India.

In his admiration for his fellow professionals, CS Ashish Garg, President ICSI, placed these Company Secretary Professionals and the MCA Officials in the same category as the frontline workers of the country and addressed them as "Corona Warriors". A Certificate of Appreciation was given to each one of them in the benign presence of Shri Rajesh Verma and Shri Manoj Pandey.

## PNB launches 'Digital Apnay'

The nation's second largest public sector bank, Punjab National Bank (PNB), celebrated 74th Independence Day at its corporate headquarters in New Delhi. Shri CH SS Malikarjuna Rao, Managing Director & CEO of the Bank (MD & CEO). On the auspicious occasion, he announced the launch of the PNB's new and innovative digital campaign, named as "DIGITAL APNAYEN", an initiative to encourage customers to move to digital banking channels for their banking needs.

As per the campaign, the Bank will contribute ₹5.00 towards the PM CARES Fund on behalf of each customer conducting 'first financial transaction' to activate their RuPay Debit card either on PoS or E-commerce platform, activation of AePS account through fund transfer, activation of AePS account through BHIM Aadhaar Merchants payment, and activation of UPI service. Download and Registration for UPI facility shall also be eligible for contribution. The period of the campaign shall be from 15th August 2020 to 31st March 2021.

Highlighting the increasing importance of "self-dependence" on the occasion of the Independence Day, Shri CH SS Malikarjuna Rao said that PNB would continue to play an integral and indispensable part in the country's journey towards economic progress and urged all employees to help fulfil the dreams of an economically vibrant and inclusive India.

## A Business Initiative

The reorganisation of the Rajasthan Medical Education Society (RAJMES) is set to create 210 new posts, as it will run the medical colleges opened recently in several districts of the State.

The revamp will also facilitate the society's control over academic and administrative tasks, construction works and management of financial resources of medi-

cal colleges.

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot gave approval to a proposal for reorganisation of RAJMES here on Tuesday in view of an increase in its workload.

Only 27 posts were earlier approved in the society, which was operating seven medical colleges. After the revamp, RAJMES will operate 15 new medical colleges as well as the colleges to be opened in future.

Experts engaged by exploration major Oil India Limited (OIL) had begun killing Well No. 5 after capping it by placing a blowout preventer on Monday. Two earlier attempts to place the preventer, vital for stopping the outflow of gas, had failed.

Killing is a technical term for injecting a viscous mud-cement mixture at high pressure through an inlet in the blowout preventer at very high pressure to stop the pores at a depth of 3.5 km underground from where the natural gas and associated condensates have been spewing since the blowout on May 27.

Officials said capping a blowout-affected well was a major success 83 days after the disaster took place.

"Injecting the killing fluid can be done at a stretch for up to 10 hours.

"The killing operation

was unsuccessful due to the blowing out of a valve on the well casing pipe. Mud pumping was stopped and now the gas is escaping through the blowout preventer riser as earlier," an OIL spokesperson said, adding that the foreign experts would suggest the next course of action.

Officials said capping a blowout-affected well was a major success 83 days after the disaster took place.

"Injecting the killing fluid can be done at a stretch for up to 10 hours.

"The well will help us stop the uncontrolled

outflow of gas as well as the fire," the spokesperson said.

The well had burst into flames on June 9. The disaster affected more than 1,500 families living in the vicinity besides endangering wetlands and the Dibrugarh-Saikhowa National Park close by, government and private agencies engaged in studying the impact said in their reports.

OIL had flown in three disaster control experts from Singapore before the Baghjan well caught fire.

## SYL issue can disturb nation's security, Amarinder tells Centre

If you decide to go ahead, Punjab will burn and it will become a national problem'



VIKAS VASUDEVA  
CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Tuesday asked the Central government to be cautious on the contentious Sutlej-Yamuna Link (SYL) canal issue – the focal point of a water-sharing dispute between Punjab and Haryana, saying it has the potential to disturb the nation's security.

A meeting was held on the SYL issue through video-conferencing on Tuesday in which Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal and Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat participated. It was decided that the Chief Ministers of Punjab and Haryana will meet in Chandigarh, on a date to be fixed later, for further talks on the issue, and will then go to the Union Minister again, said a Punjab government statement.

Mr. Shekhawat was of the view that carriers could be constructed and SYL could also be completed and kept ready while discussions on water sharing continue and the final formula could be decided later, the statement added.

## SC direction

The meeting was convened following the Supreme Court's direction to the Centre on July 28 to mediate between the two States to resolve the issue.

The Punjab Chief Minister during the meeting reiterated the need for a tribunal to make a fresh time-bound assessment of the water availability, even as he sought full share of water for his State.

"You have to look at the issue from the national security perspective. If you decide to go ahead with SYL, Punjab will burn and it will become a national problem, with Haryana and Rajasthan also suffering the impact," said Captain Amarinder. He later described the meeting as "positive and cordial".

Pointing out that Punjab remains at risk from all ends, Capt. Amarinder said Pakistan had been making continuous attempts to foment trouble and to try and revive the separatist movement through the banned Sikhs for Justice organisation. "The water issue could further destabilise the State," he said.

## Different issues

As regards the claim of the Punjab Chief Minister that availability of water has gone down, Mr. Manohar Lal said the construction of SYL canal and availability of water were two different issues and completely unconnected and should not be confused.

"Allocation of water between States shall have to be pro rata depending on current availability of water as provided in the 1981 agreement. In fact, in its judgement of January 15, 2002, the Supreme Court had clearly mentioned that its decision is to complete construction of the SYL canal," Dr. Sarma said as the COVID-19 fatality neared the 200 mark in the State.

The COVID-19 positivity rate has been inching toward 6% after dipping to 3.2% on August 12. Positive cases in Guwahati and the Kamrup district have also been increasing over the past few days.

Many people have not been wearing masks and maintaining social distancing since the Unlock 3 from August 16. If the situation gets out of control, the government may consider another lockdown," Dr. Sarma said as the COVID-19 fatality neared the 200 mark in the State.

The situation in Cachar, Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts was also a cause for concern, the Minister said.

Barring a few activities,

## Lockdown may return to Guwahati: Minister

'People not following safety norms'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GUWAHATI

Guwahati and some other parts of Assam may see a

# OPPORTUNITIES

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## The job search after the layoff

Here are a few platforms to help those rendered out-of-work by this crisis

LIFFY THOMAS

**W**ith layoffs happening across sectors and new jobs hard to come by, new platforms have sprung up to ensure these unfortunate professionals have a new work card, as quickly as possible. These services are offered on a *pro bono* basis.

### Support for techies

Over 400 professionals have listed themselves on 'Support and Survive IT', a public spread sheet that unites those laid-off due to COVID-19 and potential employers. A talent identification number is assigned to each professional to ensure privacy. Support and Survive IT is an initiative by

TechnoPark Today, a techies collective that is creating a pool of jobs at IT parks in Kerala. Since its launch, this platform has seen to it that 34 IT professionals have been placed in companies. And offer letters have been sent to another 20. Renjith Ramachandran of Technopark Today says small and medium-sized organisations have requirements and don't always rely on big platforms to post their needs, and that is where such platforms help.

### Listing of 'HR Jobs'

Recently, National Human Resources Development Network (NHRDN), a not-for-profit, started a new section on its website 'HR Jobs', encouraging employers to volunteer in-

formation about openings in their organisation. The requirements by companies will also show up in NHRDN's social media platform.

Smita Saha, president, NHRDN – Bengaluru chapter points out that the organisation's core competency is capacity building, but when there is need such as this, it has to roll up its sleeves and meet it.

SourcingAdda, a resource-sharing platform for recruiters, has similarly taken on an additional role.

"All these years we have largely been a platform for recruitment professionals to share ideas on new technology trends in recruitment. With the pandemic robbing many people of their jobs, we creat-

ed a platform that is as simple as a Google form. Through this, the job seeker's details are shared among the recruiters in our network," says Mitchell Dudani, co-founder, SourcingAdda. Digital marketing consulting firm Markvis Pvt. Ltd recently launched MondayJoining.com, a recruitment portal, for the same reason.

Amit Khanduja, CEO, Markvis, says till the end of the year the service will be free for both employer and employee. To make sure job-seekers joining the platform are serious about their search, the platform has a few checks in place.

For example, the platform allows only those people to register with it who are prepared to join an organisation within 14 days of getting the job offer.

## Working out the diversity puzzle

Corporates can use remote work to increase women's participation in the workforce

PRINCE FREDERICK

**A**lmost always, opportunities are seized only when established systems go terribly skew-whiff.

With the pandemic upsetting the apple cart in terms of work, corporates now pay closer attention to opportunities that predated the crisis.

One example: sourcing remote talent and increasing women's workforce participation. Post-COVID, corporations have to link these two elements and work out the diversity puzzle.

Neha Bagaria, founder

and CEO, jobsforher.com, a jobs portal for women, discloses that July 2020 witnessed a huge spike in the offer of job positions with work-from-home as a key specification.

The demand from employers for professionals to handle WFH job roles shot up by 60 percent in July, when compared to

ha, adding that through the pandemic, many sectors persisted with their hiring plans for tech roles, as the focus is on increased digitisation. –

If the corporate world had WHF job roles coming out if its ears, that would be an opportunity to promote diversity, and increase women's participation in the workforce.

"In leadership, women's participation is less than 10 percent. At mid-level jobs, it is between 17 percent and 20 percent. In the Indian context, women's careers often suffer disruptions on account of family commit-

ments. Offer of remote-work can check these disruptions," explains Lohit Bhatia, president of Indian Staffing Federation.

Neha points out that 70 percent of Indian women go through a change of location on account of marriage. She elaborates: "Women who are well-qualified are shut entirely out of the work environment because they have moved to a tier-2 and tier-3 city and are short on employment options. Now, if remote working becomes a well-entrenched norm, they wouldn't find their career rudely truncated."

## GENERAL

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• The applications in the prescribed proforma should reach through email address [search.vc.bgsbu@gmail.com](mailto:search.vc.bgsbu@gmail.com) and a hard copy be sent through post in an envelope clearly marked "Application for Vice Chancellor's position, Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University, Rajouri (J&K)" so as to reach latest by 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020 to Sh. Sunet Gupta, Joint Registrar (on behalf of Search Committee), BGSBU University Camp Office, Bypass Road, Opposite Channi Himmat, Jammu, Jammu & Kashmir, Pin Code- 180015.  
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## Tussle in Tamil Nadu

The leadership debate in the AIADMK hides faultlines in the party and in its ties with BJP

The raging debate that Tamil Nadu's ruling AIADMK witnessed last week over its choice for the office of Chief Minister for the 2021 Assembly election might have been premature, but it highlighted the sharp divide between the camps of CM Edappadi K. Palaniswami and Deputy CM O. Panneerselvam. For now, the leaders have decided not to address the issue and asked party functionaries not to discuss it in public. The debate, apart from the timing, was strange as Tamil Nadu, with a history of personality cult politics, is not known to have the tradition of principal parties declaring Chief Ministerial candidates. Until the debate erupted, Mr. Palaniswami and Mr. Panneerselvam, who was briefly CM three times in the last 19 years, gave the impression of having worked out a successful cohabitation arrangement, in the party and the government. But, Mr. Palaniswami must be wondering why the issue came up. As the incumbent CM, he could have reasonably expected to be projected as the party's nominee.

Also, the controversy has much to do with the AIADMK's relationship with its ally, the BJP. While Mr. Panneerselvam appears to be upset over the lack of prominence given to him in government events and the delay in the constitution of a steering committee for the party, his son, O.P. Raveendranath Kumar – the only AIADMK candidate elected during the 2019 Lok Sabha election – was not nominated to the Union Council of Ministers. To date, the Union government has no AIADMK representative. Mr. Palaniswami was evidently cautious, keeping in mind the presence of seniors in the parliamentary party and also of the advisability of sending his party's nominees to the Centre when the popular mood in the State is not favourable to the BJP. There is a view within the AIADMK that any tie-up with BJP for 2021 would be as disastrous as it was in 2019. Besides, their differences on policy matters seem unending. In recent months, the Palaniswami regime has made known its opposition unequivocally, be it on the issue of the three-language policy, or free power for agriculturists or revision of norms for determining the creamy layer among OBCs, eligible for quota in education and jobs. The BJP's State unit too has been adopting aggressive posturing, especially on Hindu deities and religious matters. Its leaders are aggrieved that even though the police have taken action on a row over 'Kanda Sashthi Kavasam', a compilation of Tamil hymns, the AIADMK leadership chose not to comment on the matter, but Mr. Palaniswami was quick to condemn an incident in Puducherry, of the statue of AIADMK founder MGR being draped in a saffron shawl. Whether or not the alliance survives this phase, the signals from the ground are not encouraging. Before taking a call on its alliance with the BJP, the AIADMK should set things right and settle the issue of the Chief Ministerial candidate for 2021.

## Troubled waters

EU and Turkey should not let tensions in the eastern Mediterranean lead to open conflict

Tensions in the eastern Mediterranean soared last week, with Turkey sending an exploration vessel, accompanied by a Navy fleet, to the disputed waters and France despatching warships to assist Greece. The trigger for the recent hostility between Turkey and Greece, which have historically shared troublesome relations, has been the discovery of gas in the Mediterranean waters. The EU's plans to transport the gas to its mainland, which would help reduce its dependency on Russia, have raised the region's geopolitical profile. Turkey and Greece have overlapping maritime claims. But when EU members and its allies in West Asia and North Africa made plans to build a gas pipeline from the Mediterranean to Europe's mainland, they kept Turkey out of it, which infuriated Ankara. Earlier this year, the EastMed Gas Forum was formed by Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan and Palestine, and Turkey was again excluded. But Turkey challenged the pipeline project and reached an agreement with Libya's Tripoli-based government, which Ankara is backing, to form an exclusive economic zone (EEZ) from its southern shores to Libya's northern coast across the Mediterranean. Greece claimed the Turkish zone violated its maritime sovereignty. Later, Greece announced its EEZ with Egypt, which clashes with Turkey's zone. Immediately thereafter, Turkey sent its survey ship over.

The highly complicated issue now has the potential to involve Europe, West Asia and North Africa. It is difficult to demarcate the maritime boundaries in the eastern Mediterranean, which is dotted with Turkish and Greek islands. Cyprus is physically divided with the southern part ruled by the internationally-recognised government and the northern part controlled by Turkey. Turkey's survey ship plans exploration activities around Greece's Crete Island, which lies just outside the Turkish-Libya economic zone, and Greece and Cyprus call it a violation of their sovereignty. France, the EU's most powerful military force, has thrown its weight behind Greece and Cyprus. Now, an alliance is emerging among Greece, Cyprus, Italy and France, which is backed by Egypt, Israel and the UAE. Turkey stands almost isolated, but remains a key power in the Mediterranean, which requires the EU to tread cautiously. If the EU wants to transport gas from the coast of Israel to Europe via Cyprus and Italy, an open conflict with Turkey cannot help. What is in everybody's interest is to dial down tensions and find a diplomatic and mutually acceptable solution to the gas contest. Excluding Turkey, which has a long Mediterranean coast, is unwise. Allowing a resurgent Turkey to bully smaller powers in the region would be strategically disastrous. The EU has to strike a balance between these two options.

# Time for India and Nepal to make up

The mending of the most exemplary inter-state relationship of South Asia must be as dramatic and rapid as the rupture



KANAK MANI DIXIT

**W**hen the Nepal-India dispute over the Himalayan territory of Limpiyadhura flared up in May, New Delhi opinion-makers presented it as the doing of an upstart nation run by a renegade Prime Minister thumbing its nose at India, that too at Beijing's instigation. Kathmandu's polity bristled at the accusation and the entire political spectrum came together in nationalist climax to adopt a new map which included Limpiyadhura.

There has been much blood-letting over the past four months, with one side (India) petulant, the other angry. New Delhi pointedly says it will sit for talks only after the COVID-19 pandemic and some north Indian TV channels have targeted Nepal's Prime Minister K.P. Oli with revolting coverage. In turn, he abandoned diplomatic decorum to question India's commitment to 'satyameva Jayate' and then claimed the true birthplace of Lord Ram was situated in present-day Nepal.

This tailspin must be halted so that the most exemplary interstate relationship of South Asia may recover. De-escalation must happen before the social, cultural and economic flows across the open border suffer long-term damage.

### Fear of abandonment

Right off the bat, New Delhi analysts must try and understand why Nepal does not have an 'independence day'. It would help them in unravelling the Limpiyadhura tangle and accepting the need to go back to the archival papers (and misdemeanours) of the East India Company and the successive Vice-roys and Governors General – right down to the imperious present.

From the Kathmandu perspective, Indian diplomacy seems increasingly unresponsive under the centralised control of the Prime Minister's Office. As geopolitical capacity dwindled, Indian commentators have returned to lambasting hapless Pakistan while ig-

noring China, the true would-be adversary.

With regard to China, New Delhi has nurtured a paralysing paranoia regarding the Himalayan range that goes back to the 1962 debacle, a condition now worsened by the Galwan intrusion. Nepal, Bhutan and India's own Himalayan tracts are regarded merely as strategic buffers under this ossified policy. In addition, there is the constant preoccupation with neighbours who have supposedly 'sold out' to China. A confident nation-state without fear of abandonment would have behaved differently on Limpiyadhura.

The cause of the chasm that has opened up between Kathmandu and Delhi relates to the disputed ownership of the triangle north of Kumaon, including the Limpiyadhura ridge-line, the high pass into Tibet at Lipu Lek, and the Kalapani area hosting an Indian Army garrison.

New Delhi's position on the dispute is based on its decades-long possession of the territory, coupled with Kathmandu's implied acquiescence through its silence and the omission of Limpiyadhura on its own official maps.

Nepal's claim is centred on the Treaty of Sugauli (1815), whose language reads the "Rajah of Nepal renounces all claim to the countries lying to the west of the River Kali". No agreement has superseded that treaty, and so no subsequent cartographic chicanery by the Company Sarkar or successor governments can undermine the 1815 document. Essentially, Nepal wants to stay with what was considered the upstream Kali at the time of the treaty's signing 205 years ago.

While the colonised parts of South Asia have had to deal with western surnames that pervade their maps and frontiers, such as Radcliffe, McMahon and Durand, a historically evolved country such as Nepal would tend to rely more on proof of continuous state administration.

Journalist Bhairab Risal (who celebrated his 93rd birthday on August 13) was the government of official conducting the 1953 national census in the Limpiyadhura villages, whose citizens also voted in the first democratic elections of 1959.

Land records were kept in Nepal's district headquarters of Darchula and Prime Minister Sushil Koirala.



and Baitadi until access was blocked in the 1960s by the Indian base at Kalapani.

Kathmandu responded with sensitivity to Indian strategic concerns before and after the 1962 China-India war by allowing the Indian army post to be stationed within what was clearly its territory at Kalapani and not publicly demanding its withdrawal. However, following the advent of democracy in 1990, the demand for evacuation of Kalapani gained momentum.

Kathmandu's diplomats deny the accusation of passivity over the decades, saying that as the weaker power, Nepal preferred quiet diplomacy and that Kalapani had never been off the table since talks began in the early 1980s. As for the 'possession' argument, if control of a disputed region were to confirm ownership, then what of China's continuous hold over Aksai Chin since Independence? Regarding the suggestion of Nepal acting on China's 'behest', in fact Kathmandu considers China complicit on Lipu Lek, and has lodged strong protests with Beijing regarding its joint plans with New Delhi on use of the high pass.

### Road to Lipu Lek

From the time when a joint communiqué was issued in 1997 during I.K. Gujral's prime ministership down to the present time of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the two governments have agreed that a territorial dispute exists on upstream Kali and have assigned negotiators. A border demarcation team was able to delineate 98% of the 1,751 km Nepal-India frontier, but not Susta along the Gandaki flats and the upper tracts of the Kali.

In 2014, India's External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj agreed to the establishment of a Border Working Group, which was announced by Prime Minister Modi and Prime Minister Sushil Koirala.

It too failed to make headway. In August 2019, India's Minister for External Affairs S. Jaishankar and Nepal's Minister of Foreign Affairs Pradip Gyawali assigned the task to the two Foreign Secretaries. That was where matters rested, with India dragging its feet on the Foreign Secretaries' meeting, when things went awry.

Nepal has been keen to sort out the matter away from the lime-light. It was after India published its new political map in November following the bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh that the pressure arose for Kathmandu to put out its own map incorporating the Limpiyadhura finger. The government cartographers got busy.

Knowing full well the dangers of taking on the Indian lion, Prime Minister Oli held off on the map release while waiting for New Delhi to come to the table. But diplomacy did not get a chance, with the Ministry of Defence evidently having kept even South Block in the dark until India's Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, with much fanfare, digitally 'inaugurated' the unfinished track to Lipu Lek on May 8.

Prime Minister Oli's position became untenable, and he proceeded with the constitutional amendment to certify the new map. Indian diplomats lobbied to keep Nepal's Parliament from adopting the amendment, but Kathmandu needed it for the sake of cartographic parity with India in future talks.

Truth be told – that the Limpiyadhura triangle exists now on the maps of both countries should not obstruct negotiations, when you consider that the smaller area of Kalapani, too, has remained on the maps of both countries for decades. And, life has gone on.

### Dousing the volcano

The ice was broken on August 15 when Prime Minister Oli called Prime Minister Modi on the occasion of India's Independence Day, but that is just the beginning. Talks must be held, for which the video conference facility that has existed between the two Foreign Secretaries must be re-activated.

Delay will wound the people of Nepal socially, culturally and economically. As the larger country, India may think it will hurt less, but only if it disregards its poorest

citizens from Purvanchal of Bihar and Odisha, who rely on substantial remittance from Nepal.

India does have experience of successfully resolving territorial disputes with Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and even Pakistan bilaterally and through third-party adjudication. Given political will at the top-most level, it should be possible to douse the Limpiyadhura volcano just as quickly as it has erupted.

One difficulty is the apparent absence of backchannel diplomacy between the two capitals, which helped in ending the 2015 blockade. Today, India's Prime Minister's Office exercises such exclusive power that all channels have dried up. The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh leadership might have been approached, but that was the very category Prime Minister Oli relied with his Ayodhya-in-Nepal claim.

There is an immediate need to de-escalate and compartmentalise. The first requires verbal restraint on the part of Prime Minister Oli and India's willingness to talk even as the pandemic continues. While India's Foreign Office has thankfully remained restrained in its statements, India is required to maintain status quo in the disputed area. This means halting construction on the Lipu Lek track, which is the immediate cause of the present crisis.

With the Prime Ministers setting the tone, the negotiating teams must meet with archival papers, treaties and agreements, administrative records, communications, maps and drawings. The formal negotiations should begin with *ab initio* public commitment by both sides to redraw their respective maps according to the negotiated settlement as and when it happens.

Not to prejudge the outcome, if Nepal were to gain full possession of Limpiyadhura, it should declare the area a 'zone of peace and pilgrimage'. The larger area must be demilitarised by both neighbours to ensure security for themselves, while the Kailash-Manasarovar route is kept open for pilgrims. The idea is certainly worth a thought: a Limpiyadhura Zone of Peace and Pilgrimage.

Kanak Mani Dixit, a writer and journalist based in Kathmandu, is founding Editor of the magazine, 'Himal SouthAsian'

# Empowered circles, impatience and injustice

There is flawed logic in the reactions of those who mistrust an institution of power but accept the 'solution' it puts forth



TABISH KHAIR

**T**he weirdest thing about mainstream Indians today is that, often, the very people who legitimately critique a police force for being corrupt, incompetent or unaccountable, turn around and demand that any 'suspect' rounded up by the same police force, should be summarily lynched or 'encountered'.

### Background and response

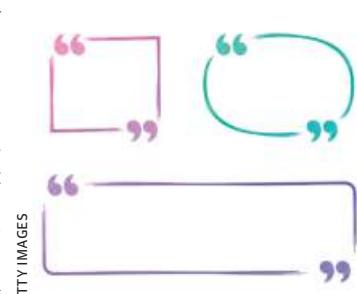
Take the sad case, in July, of journalist Vikram Joshi, who was shot in the head in Ghaziabad, presumably by men he had accused of molesting his niece. It was reported that the local police had ignored a complaint by Mr. Joshi about the molestation. Social media was understandably incandescent with righteousness over the crime. A journalist, shot in open daylight, with a prior complaint ignored by the police: there were good reasons for protest. But soon, the same police announced that they had arrested the 'culprits' and the people who had been criticising the police force started tweeting about the press-

ing need to decapitate, grievously torture, lynch or 'encounter' the suspects.

These were educated people. Their blithe twittering on social media – Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and the rest – indicated that they were educated people. So, one assumes, they had the intelligence to notice a logical flaw in their posture: how can you trust a police force that you consider incompetent, corrupt or apathetic to arrest the right 'culprits'? That is why, in law, the people arrested are never 'culprits'. They are only suspects, and their guilt needs to be proven by due process of law.

I disagree with people who put absolute trust in any institution of power, but I understand it only if one sees it in the light of right and wrong, accountability and power, justice and injustice, law and crime. Because, even though its adherents think it is about these matters, it is about something else altogether.

But that does not mean one cannot understand it. One fails to understand it only if one sees it in the light of right and wrong, accountability and power, justice and injustice, law and crime. Because, even though its adherents think it is about these matters, it is about something else altogether.



rupt or incompetent in its approach to a crime and then accept it as having honestly and competently arrested the right 'culprits'? There is obviously no logic in such a position.

But that does not mean one cannot understand it. One fails to understand it only if one sees it in the light of right and wrong, accountability and power, justice and injustice, law and crime. Because, even though its adherents think it is about these matters, it is about something else altogether.

### What it is about

First, it is about impatience. Then, it is about self-righteousness. And third, it is about 'getting it over with.' These are all dominant ingredients of our age, particularly in circles with some degree of empowerment – perhaps best indicated in a country such as India by the index of twittering literacy.

All three are 'human' tendencies,

but then everything done by human beings is a human tendency. Human beings do not have the tendency to flap their arms and fly in the air, or grow their feet as roots into the earth. But when we talk of mercy, fairness, good, evil, tolerance, xenophobia, forgiveness, hate, love, trust, distrust, generosity, selfishness, etc., we can always talk of some human tendency or the other.

Take patience, for instance. One can claim that patience is a trait of many complex organisms. When a cat crouches by the hole of a mouse, waiting to strike, it is being patient. By the same token, one can talk of a cat that gives up the crouching earlier than another cat as less patient. But 'impatience' might well have a more human dimension.

For instance, certain lifestyles might breed impatience. Farmers, who depend on agricultural seasons, are characteristically seen as patient people – though often the derogatory word, 'slow', is attached to them – compared to city dwellers. Neoliberalism, with its focus on short-term profit, arguably breeds an even more impatient lifestyle than classical industrial capitalism.

'Getting on with it' is an aspect of this lifestyle: most of us recognise it in the empty lamentation that we occasionally offer about

the withering away of human relations, the 'abandonment' of aged parents, the shrinking 'attention span' of younger people, etc. And finally, self-righteousness is a particularly human tendency, because of our complex awareness of our self.

### A complexity

Other animals can be said to be aware of their self in certain ways – obviously always in the present and, to a reduced degree, in the past and future (as is indicated by squirrels that hoard nuts). But the complexity of human self-awareness is unmatched on this earth: among other things, it consists of ethical issues that can only be encountered by a species with a highly developed, abstract language. One natural danger of this is self-righteousness, which is further exacerbated in an unequal world – where we need to justify our own privileges to ourselves.

And hence, when we legitimately criticise a police force for corruption or incompetence but then want to lynch any 'suspect' arrested by the same force, without due process of law, we are not motivated by justice. We want to get it over with, and return to our zones of comfortable twittering.

Tabish Khair is an Indian novelist and academic who teaches in Denmark

## 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.

### Kamala Harris

There is a palpable excitement, bordering on frenzy, in India on the nomination of Kamala Harris as the running mate of Joe Biden in the November U.S. elections. Her South Indian ancestry gives us all a sense of pride but how far is it a tool of convenience in fostering India-U.S. relations is a question to which an answer should wait for another day. Multiple issues are involved in the political churn of any

country and America, by virtue of being the conscience-keeper of the entire world, needs to balance numerous factors – the positives and the negatives of an earlier administration, the ugly rise of racial issues, keeping immigration matters under check, lifting the economy by its bootstraps, providing a sturdy defence against a predatory virus, demonstrating the economic and military power to quell aggressive intentions of other

countries, and showing diplomatic skill in aligning with supporting nations. Kamala Harris is no doubt eminently qualified to handle all these issues in the background of her very successful stint as a Senator and Attorney General of California. She would do best for her country, as any of us in a similar position would, but she will always pay homage to her ancestry that brought her to this position. We should, therefore, not judge her by her off-the-cuff remarks on

India and give her due as a woman of substance. R

# Aiming to decolonise through colonial logic

The Committee for Reforms in Criminal Law locks subjugated groups out of the consultation process



ARUSHI GARG &amp; RISHIKA SAHGAL

In July, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) constituted the Committee for Reforms in Criminal Law to undo the "colonial foundations of our criminal law". The precise mandate of the Committee has not been put into the public domain, but it is apparent that the Committee aims to recommend an overhaul of the Indian criminal justice system. Among others, judges, lawyers, and activists have voiced their concerns about the composition and operation of the Committee.

Reforms based on the Committee's recommendations will have serious ramifications for every person who is subjected to the criminal justice system. A smoothly functioning legal system determines our freedom to live authentic lives as full citizens in a democratic polity. The (mal)administration of criminal justice shapes the boundaries of whom we love, what we say, whether we complain about violence, how we respond to hate, and many other foundational aspects of our lives. Despite the pervasive ways in which criminal laws interact with our most intimate decisions, the scope of these laws is now going to be determined by a process that is exclusionary for most of the Indian citizenry.

If the aim is to decolonise the law, by disabling democratic deliberation, the Committee has set itself up for failure from its very inception. Decolonisation was not a moment in 1947. Decolonisation is an ongoing process, which requires a commitment to undoing the colonial logic of domination governing citizen-state relations. The Committee's methods, on the other hand, entrench structures of oppression. As we analyse below, they treat a majority of the population as having nothing valuable to offer to the reform process.

#### Disabling participation

The Committee's procedures are designed to disable broad-based participation. The exclusive route to participation is the Committee's website. However, only about 40% of the population actively uses the Internet. In-



ternet usage itself is linked to structural barriers. For example, women are less likely to have Internet access; and in Kashmir, Internet services that were suspended in August 2019 are yet to be fully restored. Further, all the Committee's documentation and background resources, including 89 reports of the Law Commission of India (LCI), are in English. The most reliable estimates suggest that only 10% of the Indian population speaks English, and most such persons reside in urban areas.

Moreover, the life cycle of the Committee coincides with the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has wrought havoc on people's lives and livelihoods. With several marginalised groups struggling to secure even rudimentary healthcare, education and employment, it is inconceivable that they could participate meaningfully in a reform exercise of this scale at this moment in time.

Finally, there appears to be no representation on the Committee from subaltern caste, gender, sexual, or religious groups. As far as we can tell, there is no representation from working class or disabled communities. Let alone fraught areas of conflict, there are no members on the Committee based outside of a limited geographic region in north India. It is crucial for a Committee tasked with transforming criminal justice to be more representative. It must include members who can speak to the experience of the many publics governed by the criminal law.

Oppressed communities across India are over-policed and under-protected. Religious minorities as well as the impoverished Dalit and Adivasi communities bear the brunt of crimi-

nal laws through police violence, long periods of undetrial detention, harsh punishments and poor legal representation. Women, transgender people, and sexual minorities, who overwhelmingly experience gender-based violence, are frequently let down by the criminal justice system. The Committee's composition and operation render democratic participation from these groups impossible.

#### Disabling deliberation

Opacity has characterised the Committee's mandate and working from the outset. There are no published Terms of Reference. There is nothing to explain why an ad hoc Committee was set up for a task of this relevance and magnitude when such questions of law reform are typically entrusted to the LCI, which has established procedures to ensure inclusion and transparency. The Committee has not undertaken to publish the representations it receives from the public during its consultation process. Nor has it explained the circumstances under which the MHA logo was added to its website and then removed, raising doubts about its autonomy. Why was the membership of the Committee, as originally advertised, altered without explanation? There can be no contestation, debate or deliberation without the Committee communicating openly and honestly with all its interlocutors.

The Committee's procedures also inhibit deliberation. The Committee is carrying out consultations from July to October. Within three months, respondents are expected to form and articulate reasoned opinions on almost every conceivable issue of cri-

minal law, procedure or evidence. In contrast, the Malimath Committee, which had a comparable mandate, took five times as long as this Committee to submit its report. Just the first of the current Committee's six consultative questionnaires contains 46 questions, several of them deploying controversial legal concepts as if they have a neutral or objective meaning. There is no formal documentation explaining the context and relevance of these questions, diminishing the prospects of productive deliberation among stakeholders.

#### Deliberative democracy

A deliberative vision of democracy requires that all members of society are able to participate in collective decision-making, and that decision-making takes place through reasoned deliberation. It recognises that participation in political processes is hindered by structural inequalities produced by interlocking systems of oppression, including caste, patriarchy, disability and communalism. As a response to these hierarchies, deliberative democracy requires that everyone participates in decision-making by giving reasons for why they prefer a particular course of action. This reasoning must be made publicly available for others to contest. Where political decision-making takes place in an open and transparent manner, oppressed groups can influence it through the strength of their reasons. This can mitigate the extent to which a lack of economic, social or political power will otherwise compromise their participation. An inclusive, transparent and meaningful public consultation process for law-making is one practical way to implement a deliberative version of democracy.

Unfortunately, the Committee falls patently short of these ideals. It locks subjugated groups out of the consultation process so that they have no way of challenging the dominant systems of knowledge and governance that currently shape our criminal laws. It is deeply ironic that a Committee underpinned by this colonial logic professes that its primary aim is to decolonise the law.

*Arushi Garg is a Lecturer in Criminal Law at the University of Sheffield and Rishika Sahgal is a DPhil candidate in Law at the University of Oxford*

# Resurrecting the right to know

The All Assam Students' Union has taken a progressive decision to release the High Level Committee report in public interest



MADAN B. LOKUR

A significant development in the right to information campaign has largely gone unnoticed. The resurrection of the right to know is momentous considering that we are increasingly witnessing an unfortunate denial of information while forgetting the right to know.

#### Releasing the report

A High Level Committee (HLC) chaired by a retired judge of the Gauhati High Court and including, among others, the Advocates General of two Northeast States was constituted by the Home Ministry through a gazette notification of July 15, 2019. Its mandate was, among others, to recommend measures to implement Clause 6 of the Assam Accord and define "Assamese People".

The HLC finalised its report by mid-February 2020 and submitted it to the Assam Chief Minister soon after. He handed over the report to the Union Home Minister on March 20. With the Central government apparently "sitting idle" over the report, the All Assam Students' Union (AASU), which was represented in the HLC, released the report on August 11. The proffered reasons for the release were the Central government's inaction on the report and the people's right to know.

Sitting idle over a report is not an uncommon phenomenon. The Vohra Committee report on the alleged nexus between politicians and criminals was kept under wraps for almost two years. It was tabled in Parliament following a public uproar on the murder of Naina Sahni by a prominent politician.

The right to know was recognised nearly 50 years ago and is the foundational basis or the direct emanation for the right to information. In *State of U.P. v. Raj Narain* (1975), the Supreme Court carved out a class of documents that demand protection even though their contents may not be damaging to the national interest. For example, Cabinet papers, foreign office despatches, papers regarding the security of the state and high-level interdepartmental minutes. A pragmatic view was canvassed by Justice Mathew who held that "the people of this country have a right to know every public act, everything that is done in a public way, by their public functionaries. They are entitled to know the particulars of every public transaction in all its bearing. The right to know, which is derived from the concept of freedom of speech, though not absolute, is a factor which should make one wary, when secrecy is claimed for

transactions which can, at any rate, have no repercussion on public security." This view was endorsed in *S.P. Gupta v. President of India* (1981) and a few other decisions. In *S.P. Gupta*, Justice Venkataramiah observed that "the tendency in all democratic countries in recent times is to liberalise the restrictions placed on the right of the citizens to know what is happening in the various public offices. The emphasis now is more on the right of a citizen to know than on his 'need to know' the contents of official documents."

In *Yashwant Sinha v. Central Bureau of Investigation* (2019), the Supreme Court referred to the decision of the U.S. Supreme Court in *New York Times v. United States* (1971) wherein Justice Marshall declined to recognise the right of the government to restrain publication of the Pentagon Papers. Our Supreme Court held that a review petition based on three documents published by *The Hindu* was maintainable since the provisions of the Official Secrets Act, 1923 had not been violated. It held that there is no provision by which Parliament had vested power in the government either to restrain the publication of documents marked as secret or from placing such documents before a court of law which may have been called upon to adjudicate a legal issue concerning the parties. Justice K.M. Joseph referred to Section 8(2) of the Right to Information Act, 2005 which provides that a citizen can get a certified copy of a document even if the matter pertains to security or relationship with a foreign nation, if a case is made out. Therefore, it is clear that the right to know can be curtailed only in limited circumstances and if there is an overriding public interest.

#### Being more transparent

Keeping in mind the view expressed by the Supreme Court over nearly 50 years, it is clear that the Official Secrets Act is not attracted to the disclosure of the HLC report. There is no doubt that a bold and progressive decision has been taken by AASU to release the report in public interest. Hopefully, this will encourage governments to effectuate the citizen's right to know and be more transparent in public interest, as long as the security of the country is not jeopardised. As observed by the Supreme Court in *S.P. Gupta*: "If secrecy were to be observed in the functioning of government and the processes of government were to be kept hidden from public scrutiny, it would tend to promote and encourage oppression, corruption and misuse or abuse of authority, for it would all be shrouded in the veil of secrecy without any public accountability."

*Justice (retd.) Madan B. Lokur is a former Supreme Court judge*

# Erring on the side of caution

The Supreme Court has again declined to weigh in on the legality of sex-selective abortion rules

#### GARIMELLA SUBRAMANIAM

cation, they argued.

In any case, the 25-year jurisprudence around the PCPNDT legislation does not justify a sanguine approach on the enforcement of its various provisions. A case in point is the ongoing litigation regarding the eligibility of medical practitioners to conduct ultrasound procedures. In February 2016, the Delhi High Court struck down the requirement under the 2014 PCPNDT rules of a six-month training period for personnel carrying out ultrasonography. In challenging that ruling in the Supreme Court, the Indian Radiological and Imaging Association (IRIA) stressed the lack of preparation in an MBBS programme to conduct ultrasound procedures, which was part of the discipline of radiology. IRIA also cited the relevant Medical Council of India guidelines based on the law.

The Supreme Court stayed the Delhi High Court judgment in 2018 as an interference in legislative policy intended to further the objectives of the law in the face of grave misuse of pre-natal diagnostic procedures.

#### Adherence to public policy

The Supreme Court last year ruled that the non-maintenance of medical records as per Section 23 of the PCPNDT Act could serve as a conduit in the grave offence of foeticide. The Bench hence dismissed the plea of the Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecological Societies of India to treat inaccuracies in paperwork as clerical errors. In its 2016 judgment, in response to the Voluntary Health Association of Punjab petition, the Court authorised the seizure of illegal equipment from clinics and the suspension of their registration as well as speedy disposal of relevant cases by the States. Many of the court's strictures go back to the litigation in the early years of the legislation spearheaded by the Centre for Enquiry into Health and Allied Themes.

Crucially, the alarming decline witnessed in recent decades in India's sex ratio at birth calls for an uncompromising adherence to public policy, more than is evident from evolving case law.

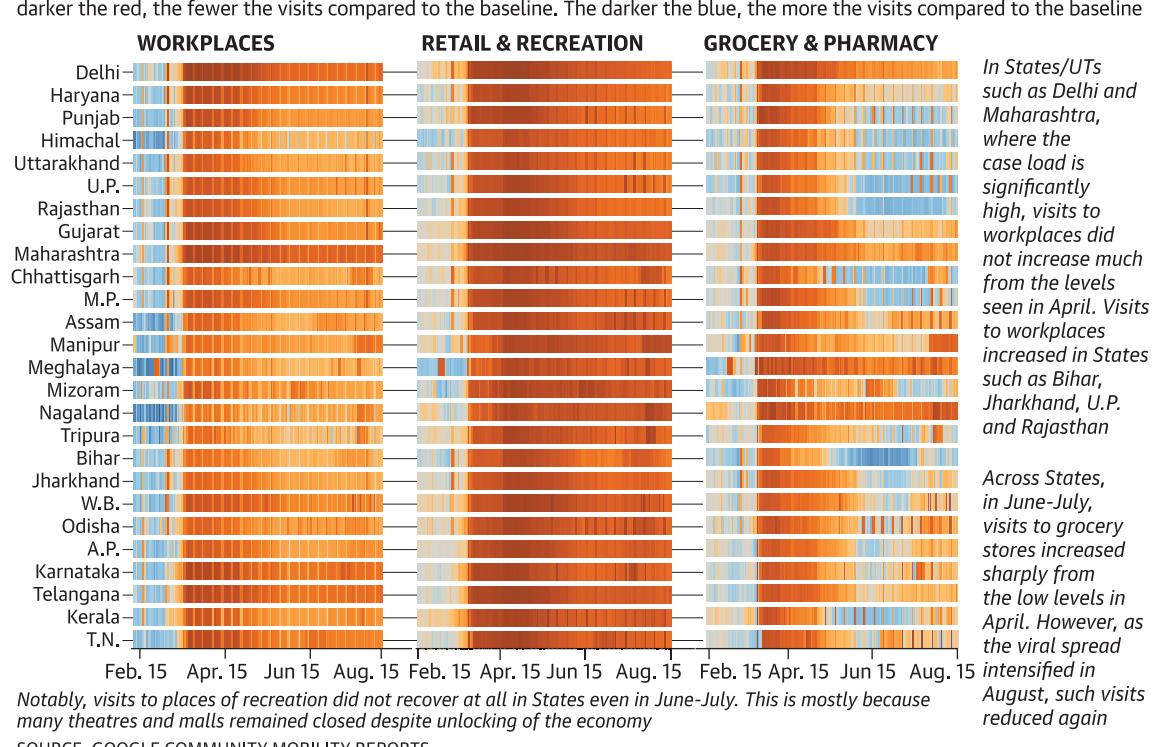
*garimella.subramaniam@thehindu.co.in*



#### DATA POINT

## Staying home once again

After improving in June-July from the very low levels recorded in April-May, public mobility in many States has once again declined sharply in August. Grocery visits increased dramatically in June-July following the unlocking of the economy, but as daily cases started crossing the 50,000-mark in August, people chose to stay home. By **The Hindu Data Team**



#### The Hindu

#### FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 19, 1970

#### Aichi meets PM

The Japanese Foreign Minister, Mr. Kiichi Aichi, who arrived here [New Delhi] last night [August 17] on a goodwill mission, had his first round of talks to-day with the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Swaran Singh, before calling on the President, Mr. V. V. Giri and the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, with special messages of greetings from Emperor Hirohito and Premier, Mr. Eisaku Sato, to them. Mr. Aichi's talks with Mrs. Gandhi lasted 45 minutes. To-day's talks with Mr. Swaran Singh which lasted 2½ hours were in the nature of a tour-de-horizon of South East Asia and the Pacific region – with the accent on what India and Japan could do to bring about a peaceful settlement of the Indo-China war. The two Foreign Ministers and their advisers will get down to detailed discussion on both regional and bilateral issues tomorrow before Mr. Aichi leaves for Pakistan on Thursday morning by the land route from Amritsar to Lahore. He will be the first foreign dignitary to cross the Indo-Pakistan border at the sensitive Wagah-Attari checkpoint after the 1965 conflict.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 19, 1920

#### The Meston Award.

(From an editorial)

Reuter's summary of the Joint Committee Report seems to emphasise the obvious and leave the obscure points as they are, so that we think it better to defer comment on the latter. We shall for the present be content with referring to the Committee's decision regarding the Meston Award. That decision unfortunately is that the Award, which is to be given legislative sanction by Rules 13 to 28 of the Devolution Rules under the Government of India Act, is to stand in all its essential features. This most arbitrary and unjust award, which has evoked the most bitter protest from all the provinces alike, one which has failed to satisfy anybody, neither the Provincial Governments nor the public, is defended by the Committee on the trite and easy grounds that it is inevitable and that it is impossible, "by a stroke of the pen, to remove inequalities which have resulted from long standing historical causes." We are sorry that it did not occur to the Committee that the stroke of the pen which has the audacity and coolness to seek to perpetuate age-long injustices might as well have the power to remedy these injustices, if those who wielded it were so minded.

## FROM PAGE ONE

## Curbs on China FDI hit GM car plant sale

As FDI is allowed in non-critical sectors through the automatic route, earlier these proposals would have been cleared without the MHA's nod.

Announcing the agreement, Liu Xiangshang, V-P, global strategy, GWM, had said in January that the investment in the Talegaon plant, reportedly worth ₹700 crore (approximately \$94 million), would boost the government's "Make in India" programme.

Responding to a detailed email on the progress made on the deal so far, a General Motor official spokesperson said, "We continue to work towards end of production and deal closing."

The Hindu also reached out to GWM India for its comment on the delay in obtaining regulatory permissions, but the company declined to respond. "Thank you for your mail but we would refrain from participating [in the story]," texted an external communication professional working for GWM in India.

In 2017 GM decided to shut down its domestic operations in India, 22 years after it first entered the market. At the time GM sold its Halol plant in Gujarat to another Chinese major, SAIC, which now produces

its Morris Garages (MG) 'Hector' and Electric Vehicles (EVs) cars there. In September 2019, GM also transferred the operations of its Technology Centre in Bengaluru to TCS, which has taken over the facility to run it along with GM India's 1300 employees.

The Talegaon plant is currently used only for 100% exports of Chevrolet 'Beat' cars and engines to Latin America and other markets, as GMI is making its final exit plans from India after failing to make any profit in its country operations.

Significantly, just two months ago, GWM had made a commitment to invest as much US \$1 billion in India, announcing its entry with an MoU with the Maharashtra government on June 16, 2020. Part of the investment would generate employment for over 3,000 people at the car factory and R&D Centre in Bengaluru.

As per the MoU, part of the "Magnetic Maharashtra" initiative, GWM had proposed a total investment of ₹3,770 crore.

With the permissions for the Talegaon plant acquisition still awaiting clearance, the future of the larger commitment is unclear.

(With inputs from Vijaya Singh)

## M.P. govt. jobs reserved for locals, says CM



Jammu and Kashmir Omar Abdullah said on Twitter, "Jobs in J&K and Ladakh for everyone but jobs in MP exclusively for people from MP. No surprise there!"

Former Chief Minister of

Recalling the decisions taken by his government, Mr. Nath said he had made it compulsory to give 70% jobs to the local youth by changing the industrial policy. "The state of unemployment in your 15-year rule is not hidden from anyone. With degrees in their hands, the youth went from pillar to post for jobs. You should also bring to the fore how many youths get jobs under your government," he addressed Mr. Chouhan.

Former Chief Minister of

Jammu and Kashmir Omar Abdullah said on Twitter, "Jobs in J&K and Ladakh for everyone but jobs in MP exclusively for people from MP. No surprise there!"

Officials step up relief efforts in affected areas

RAJULAPUDI SRINIVAS  
POLAVARAM

Flood waters in the Godavari river at Bhadrachalam were receding and had come down to 52 feet at 7 p.m. on Tuesday. The Central Water Commission (CWC) officials withdrew the third warning but the second warning was continuing.

However, flood levels in the downstream in West and East Godavari districts continued to rise and an alarming situation is prevailing in many habitations in the Agency mandals.

The level in the Godavari at Koida was recorded at 29.260 metres, coffer dam 30.720 metres, Polavaram



An inundated village in the flood-affected East Godavari district on Tuesday. ■ PTI

15.650 metres and Old Railway Bridge (Havelock Bridge) in Rajamahendravaram 18.710 metres.

Officials remained on high alert as flood levels were increasing in tribal hamlets and in island villages in East and West Godavari districts. Milk, food and drinking water is being served at the reha-

bilitation centres.

More than 100 villages have been in knee-deep water for the last three days, and Adivasis were taking shelter in hilly areas and rehabilitation centres. Power supply has been disrupted in many habitations in the flood-affected mandals.

Police, Revenue, Integrat-

## Threat of further floods in north Karnataka abates

HUBBALLI With rain subsiding in southern Maharashtra and northern Karnataka districts, the threat of further floods in north Karnataka seems to be fading. However, as a precaution, authorities in several districts are busy evacuating residents from flood-prone villages and localities to relief centres that have been set up at higher altitudes.

ed Tribal Development Agency (ITDA), Irrigation, Medical and Health and other departments officers travelled by boats to supply essentials to the affected people.

"The situation may continue for three more days in the two districts," said a revenue employee.

## In Idukki, a coin box, an astray vehicle remain as untold stories

Possessions from the simple, reclusive life of tea estate workers lie strewn about in the debris of the recent landslip



GJII K. RAMAN  
IDUKKI

What does a coin box found in the debris of a landslip, buried deep under earth and boulders, say? It is among the objects recovered in Idukki's Pettimudy, along with LPG cylinders, utensils, furniture, textbooks, toys and other children's play items, after the landslip.

The human toll of the natural disaster that occurred here on August 7 is estimated at 70,

including the missing.

"It looked like a war zone," said Sebinstine Francis, who was in a search team right from the first day of rescue work after the landslip.

"A vehicle sitting on a huge rock by a nearby river – it is a pointer to the powerful flow of water and debris from the hill, with the landslip carrying huge quantities of debris into the river."

About 10 vehicles, many motorbikes and cars were destroyed in the landslip. That most of the victims were asleep exacerbated the magnitude of the tragedy. Those who escaped said the

landslip occurred around 11 p.m.

The initial search was limited to the area where the estate lanes were located. Later, bodies washed away in the stream were recovered from a distance of over four kilometres. People from the nearby estate lanes were shifted to safer areas and only rescue workers are seen at the abandoned small junction now.

Hadley Renjith, a resident of Munnar, said he found a glass-framed photo of a family intact from the debris. He said it belonged to his friend's, whose body was later recovered.

The coin box and the photograph are indicative of the simple, reclusive life of estate workers, whose travels were limited to their native villages in Tamil Nadu for functions there. They were mostly economically disadvantaged fourth generation workers.

Life in the estate lanes did not change much even though the plantation town of Munnar morphed into a popular hill station over the years.

The practice of community living in the lanes is a part of life here, and became one of the reasons for the high death toll.

## Cheetahs from South Africa reach Mysuru zoo

They are now under 30-day quarantine

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MYSURU

The century-old Mysuru zoo has become the second Indian zoo to house the African cheetah, the fastest land animal, as it managed to get one male and two females from a cheetah conservation centre in South Africa under an animal-exchange programme.

The big cats landed at the Kempegowda International Airport on Monday and were safely brought to the zoo here on the same night. They will remain in quarantine for 30 days under close observation. The zoo claimed it was the country's



The cheetahs that arrived at Mysuru zoo from South Africa. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

first international animal exchange post-COVID-19.

"The animals to be given in return for the exchange are being finalised," said zoo Executive Director Ajit Kulkarni.

## A.P. case ratio higher than Maharashtra, T.N.

Karnataka reports new high of 139 deaths; in steady rise, Kerala records 1,758 new cases; incidence in Hyderabad dips

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Maintaining its trend of growth in COVID-19 infections, Kerala reported 1,758 new cases on Tuesday, its cumulative tally touching 47,898.

With 1,365 more recoveries, active cases or the number of patients under treatment in hospitals stood at

## COVID-19

16,274. The death toll rose to 175, with the Health Department confirming six more fatalities due to COVID-19. Two of these deaths were in Kozhikode, two in Thiruvananthapuram and one each in Palakkad and Wayanad.

Local transmission touched a new high on Tuesday, as 95% new cases - 1,677 of 1,758 cases - were locally acquired infections.

Cases rose in Telangana on Monday, two days after recording lower numbers be-

## The right message

The government has stepped up measures to sensitise people on the need for staying safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. The graph shows the spread of the pandemic in the southern States



\*Kerala has a mismatch of 55 cases due to unaccounted deaths, missing persons. \*\*Telangana numbers are as of 8 p.m. on Monday

\*\*\*Karnataka has 16 non-COVID deaths

Andhra Pradesh became the third State to witness over three lakh infections after Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

The State took only 11 days to detect the third lakh of infections with 5.99 lakh tests

after crossing the two-lakh mark (2.06 lakh) on August 7, while Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu took much longer - 14 days and 16 days respectively - for the third lakh. The State has so far tested 29,61,611 samples.

Andhra Pradesh tested a higher percentage of its population than the other two States. Its tests per million ratio at 55,461, was the highest among major States and third-highest among States and Union Territories after

Jammu and Kashmir and Delhi on Tuesday.

Maharashtra's tests per million ratio was 25,690 and that of Tamil Nadu at 49,075.

Karnataka reported 139 deaths on Tuesday, the highest so far on a single day. The total number of deaths now stand at 4,201. Meanwhile, the new positive cases reported on Tuesday stood at 7,665.

**T.N. toll crosses 6,000**  
Tamil Nadu's overall tally of COVID-19 moved closer to 3.50 lakh as another 5,709 persons tested positive on Tuesday. With 121 more persons succumbing to the infection, the State's toll crossed 6,000.

Till date, 3,49,654 persons tested positive, of which 53,860 were under treatment. A total of 6,007 persons had died, the Health Department said.

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

## IN BRIEF



Phone-tapping: HC asks petitioner to file affidavit  
GUNTUR

A Division Bench of the Andhra Pradesh High Court, headed by Chief Justice J.K. Maheswari, has directed the petitioner who filed a PIL over reports in a section of the media that alleged tapping of telephones of High Court judges, to file a supporting affidavit on Wednesday and postponed the next hearing to Thursday.

The court also asked the petitioner to name the IPS officer, who, according to the petitioner, has been overseeing the alleged operation.

Unaccounted money seized at checkpost  
KALPETTA

The police on Tuesday arrested two persons and seized ₹92.5 lakh from them at the excise checkpost at Thakarappadi, near Muthanga, on the Kerala-Karnataka border. The arrested were identified as P.K. Navas, 55, of Palakkandy House, and N.K. Harun, 44, of Nadukkandy House, at Kuttadi in Kozhikode district. They were taking the cash from Mysuru to Kozhikode in a vehicle, District Police Chief R. Ilango said.

More prisoners to get bail as COVID-19 ravages jails  
KOCHE

Fresh batches of underrtrial prisoners housed in Kerala jails will be released on interim bail shortly as a large number of prisoners in Kollam and Thiruvananthapuram districts have tested positive for SARS-CoV-2. Earlier during the outbreak of the disease, a large number of such prisoners were released to decongest the jail. The second round of interim bail is expected to benefit up to 250 prisoners. The State government is also planning special parole for those above 65 years irrespective of the nature of their crimes.

## Rich harvest



Fresh and ripe: Tomatoes and other vegetables cultivated as part of the Subhiksha Keralam project at the Secretariat garden are ready for harvest. Kerala Minister for Tourism Kadakampally Surendran inaugurated the harvest on Tuesday. ■ S. MAHISHA

## In Idukki, a coin box, an astray vehicle remain as untold stories

Possessions from the simple, reclusive life of tea estate workers lie strewn about in the debris of the recent landslip



GJII K. RAMAN  
IDUKKI

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## Satya Pal Malik is Meghalaya Governor

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

Goa Governor Satya Pal Malik has been appointed Governor of Meghalaya, a statement from the Rashtrapati Bhavan said on Tuesday.

Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari has been given the additional charge of Goa, it added.

Mr. Malik, who was Governor of Jammu and Kashmir when its special status under Article 370 was revoked last August, will replace Tathagata Roy in Meghalaya.

"The above appointments will take effect from the dates they assume charge of their respective offices," the statement said.

## Indian copters fight oil spill in Mauritius

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

The indigenous Dhruv Advanced Light helicopter (ALH) and Chetak helicopters given by India to Mauritius are being used extensively for rescue missions to clear the oil spill in the country, after a Japanese owned cargo ship, MV Wakashio, ran aground 40 km off the capital Port Louis, the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) said on Tuesday.

A 10-member specialist pollution response team of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has also been deployed on the request of Mauritius.

## ₹3,076 cr. in 5 days in PM CARES

Centre releases details on money collected for the fund during 2019-20

**PRISCILLA JEBARAJ**  
NEW DELHI

The PM CARES Fund collected over ₹3,076 crore in the first five days after its formation, according to information available on its website.

"During 2019-20, an amount of ₹3,076.62 crore was collected under PM CARES Fund," says the response to a query on the quantum of money collected last year, as part of the Frequently Asked Questions section of the site. "During 2019-20, an amount of ₹39.68 lakh was collected in foreign currency in PM CARES Fund," it added.

The Fund was registered as a public charitable trust on March 27, 2020, five days before the end of the financial year. It was announced through a Press Information



The PMO has repeatedly denied RTI requests related to the fund.

Bureau press release the following evening, with donors pledging crores of rupees within the first hour. It is not clear when the information about 2019-20 collections was added to the website.

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) has repeatedly denied Right to Information (RTI) requests for details on donations and donors, on

the grounds that the Fund is not a public authority under the Act.

### No info April onwards

The FAQs do not provide any information on contributions made from April onwards. Publicly announced donations include over ₹1,000 crore from public sector oil and gas companies, ₹500 crore from employees of the Defence Ministry and the armed forces, as well as ₹500 crore each from the Tata Group and Reliance Industries.

In early May, a senior official, when asked for details about donations and disbursements, told *The Hindu* that an announcement would be made "once a respectable amount of money" had been collected. As announced by

the PMO on May 13, the FAQs also note that ₹3,100 crore have been sanctioned from the Fund to be spent on ventilators, migrant worker welfare and vaccine development.

The Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF), which is also headed by the PM, also publishes information on contributions and disbursements, including foreign contributions, on a yearly basis. The latest data available on the PMNRF website is for 2018-19, when more than ₹534 crore was collected. It had an unspent balance of ₹3,800 crore as of December 2019.

The two Funds currently share an independent auditor – Delhi-based chartered accountants SARC and Associates.

## 'SC order on PM CARES a resounding blow to Rahul'

Row about the fund a 'smear campaign' by Cong., says Nadda

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Tuesday termed the verdict of the Supreme Court (SC) refusing to transfer funds from PM CARES Fund to the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) a "resounding blow" to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and for his "band of 'rent a cause' activists."

BJP president J.P. Nadda, tweeting right after the court's verdict, said it "shows that the truth shines despite the ill intent and malicious efforts of the Congress party and its associates".

Mr. Nadda's tweet said, "Rahul Gandhi's rants have been repeatedly dismissed by the common man who has overwhelmingly contributed to PM CARES. With the highest court also pronouncing its verdict, will Rahul & his 'rent a cause' activists mend their ways or embarrass themselves further?"

The Gandhi family had, for years, treated the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) as its "personal fiefdom" and "brazenly transferred citizens' hard-earned money from the PMNRF to its family trusts", Mr. Nadda alleged.

"The country very well knows that the orchestrated smear campaign against PM CARES is an attempt by the Congress to wash its sins," he said.

**Subject to audits:** Prasad Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, at a press conference held on the same issue, said the BJP welcomed the Supreme Court's verdict.

"PM CARES is a registered public trust made under Chairmanship of PM Narendra Modi for emergencies like COVID19 whereas PMNRF was made in 1948 by an oral observation of the then PM to serve the needs of refugees," said Mr. Prasad, explaining the differences between various funds, and added that the PM CARES fund was subject to audits.

"Out of the funds collected under PM CARES, ₹2,000 crore has been spent procuring 50,000 ventilators, ₹1,000 crore for relief work for inter-State migrant workers and ₹100 crore as a research grant for COVID-19 vaccine candidates from India. It's all there in the website as well," he said.

On the Facebook row, Mr. Prasad said people whose political base had "shrunk like anything" were seeking



The Gandhi family has, for years, treated the PMNRF as its personal fiefdom

J.P. NADDIA  
BJP president

to dominate discourse on these platforms. He asserted that everybody, regardless of his ideology, had got the right to air his views on these platforms.

"Rahul Gandhi believes that any organisation that does not work to his liking is acting under the pressure of the BJP and the RSS," he stated.

It was for Facebook to decide what to do as far as the story in *The Wall Street Journal* was concerned, the Union Minister noted.

Hundreds of pages of BJP supporters were also removed by Facebook, he said.

"If the platform is public, then every Indian regardless of his ideology and commitment has got the right to convey his view. It is a hard fact we need to know that people whose political base has shrunk like anything seek to dominate discourse on these platforms", Mr. Prasad said.

### Instigating violence'

Mr. Gandhi's comments during the Delhi Assembly polls that youth would hit Prime Minister Narendra Modi with sticks in six months if he did not address the issue of unemployment was a "textbook case of instigation for violence," he said.

"Wasn't it a hate speech," Mr. Prasad asked.

He also referred to Congress president Sonia Gandhi's call for "aar par ki la-dai" at a public meeting to protest against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act in this regard.

## Body blow to transparency: Congress

Activists say court decision on fund is unfortunate

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

Opposition leaders and transparency campaigners criticised the Supreme Court's decision on Tuesday not to order the transfer of contributions from the PM CARES Fund to the National Disaster Response Fund.

"The SC judgment is a body blow to transparency & accountability of Govt to people," Congress spokesperson Randeep Singh Surjewala said in a tweet. He added that it was a sad day for the answerability of rulers to the electorate, speaking of the

**G** It is unfortunate that the SC allows the non-transparent and unaccountable PM CARES fund, set up as a secret trust, to garner money in the name of COVID-19 relief, rather than transferring such funds to the statutory NDRF which is accessible under the RTI and audited by the CAG



need to "remind them that they are not 'Monarchs' but 'servants of the people'".

Senior lawyer Prashant Bhushan said in a tweet, "Unfortunate that the SC allows the non-transparent & unaccountable PM-Cares fund set up as a secret trust to garner money in the name of Covid relief, rather than transferring such funds to

the Statutory NDRF which is accessible under RTI & audited by CAG."

Commodore Lokesh Batra (retd) said, "Now when the nation is going through an unprecedented pandemic situation, additional funds are needed to meet the challenge ... Why is the National Disaster Response Fund not being publicised by the Go-

vernment in campaign mode as was and is still being done for PM CARES Fund, which is being mentioned as a private registered trust?" he asked, noting that the National Disaster Management Authority's website now has details on contributing directly to the statutory fund.

"The PM CARES Fund has amassed huge amounts of money from PSUs, concerned citizens and foreign sources. The government has been stonewalling all attempts at accessing information regarding the utilization of the fund, claiming that it is not a public authority," said Anjali Bhardwaj, co-convenor of the National Campaign for People's Right to Information.

"The country very well knows that the orchestrated smear campaign against PM CARES is an attempt by the Congress to wash its sins," he said.

**Subject to audits:** Prasad Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, at a press conference held on the same issue, said the BJP welcomed the Supreme Court's verdict.

## Cong. writes to Zuckerberg on 'bias'

Party calls for a thorough investigation into Facebook India's operations

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

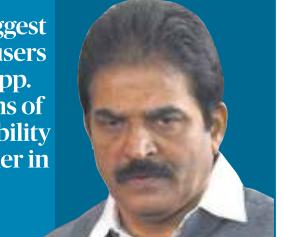
The Congress on Tuesday made an official complaint to Facebook (FB) CEO Mark Zuckerberg on the social media company's "bias", and asked for a "thorough and impartial investigation and inquiry into the Facebook India operations and practices".

Separately, former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi tweeted, "We cannot allow any manipulation of our hard-earned democracy through bias, fake news & hate speech. As exposed by @WSJ, Facebook's involvement in peddling fake and hate news needs to be questioned by all Indians."

Congress general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal wrote to Mr. Zuckerberg on behalf of the party, and cited *The Wall Street*

**G** India is one of the biggest markets in terms of users for Facebook and WhatsApp. Therefore, the expectations of social and moral responsibility of Facebook are even higher in nations such as ours.

K.C. VENUGOPAL  
CONGRESS GENERAL SECRETARY



*Journal's* report, which said Facebook India officials provided the ruling BJP with "favorable treatment on election-related issues".

Mr. Venugopal asked FB to "publish and make transparent all instances of hate speech posts since 2014 that were allowed on the platform".

Mr. Venugopal said, "As you are well aware, India is one of the biggest markets in terms of users for Facebook and WhatsApp. Therefore, the expectations of social

months," he said. "Until the completion of the internal investigation and submission of the report, please consider to lead Facebook India operations by a new team so as to not influence the investigation."

### Willing participant'

The company, Mr. Venugopal stated, may be a "willing participant" in interfering with India's electoral process, and asserted that the issue of bias was raised by them as well as other Opposition parties in different forums, including Parliament.

"Separately, the Congress party has also demanded a Parliamentary Committee probe in India to be initiated to probe this very serious issue of Facebook's interference in the world's largest electoral democracy," he said.

### GREATER CHENNAI CORPORATION Storm Water Drain Department

S.W.D.C.No.B1/0662-12/2020

**INVITATION OF BIDS**  
E-Tenders under single stage two envelope system are invited for the following works by Superintendent Engineer, SWD Department.

**S.W.D.C.No. B1/0662-12/2020**

Integrated Urban Flood Management for Chennai Kosasthalaiyar Basin Project, under ADB fund Construction of Integrated Storm Water Drain in Kosasthalaiyar Basin in the extended areas of Greater Chennai Corporation (18 Nos. of Packages).

**Contract Period:** 24 Months to 36 Months, EMD: Rs.23.00 Lakhs to Rs.152.00 Lakhs

**Pre-Bid Meeting:** on 04.09.2020 at 3.00 pm at office of the Superintendent Engineer, Storm Water Drain Department, Greater Chennai Corporation, Anna Maaligai, Chennai 600 003.

**Tender Last Date & Time of Submission:** 23.09.2020 upto 3.00 PM

**Bid documents are available website in [www.tntenders.gov.in](http://www.tntenders.gov.in) in the slot Greater Chennai Corporation - ADB Tenders**

**Technical Bid open date & time:** 23.09.2020 at 3.30 PM

**DIPR/3108/Tender/2020** **Superintendent Engineer /SWDD**

### Centre for Brain Research

An Autonomous Centre of Indian Institute of Science Bangalore 560032

### Admission for Ph.D. Program-2020

Centre for Brain Research (CBR) invites applications from eligible and highly motivated applicants for admission to full time Ph.D. Program beginning on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020. CBR promotes interdisciplinary research in basic and clinical neuroscience to understand disorders of the aging brain.

CBR is a recognized research centre for Ph.D. program by Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE), Karnataka. The degree will be awarded by MAHE.

Last date for online submission of application is 4<sup>th</sup> September 2020. For areas of research at CBR, admission process and other information, please refer the webpage [www.cbr.iisc.ac.in](http://www.cbr.iisc.ac.in)



**SOUTHERN RAILWAY**

### MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

#### AUCTION PROGRAMME

NOTICE NO.03/2020

e-Auction will be conducted for disposal of Ferrous scrap, Non-Ferrous scrap, other Misc Scrap, condemned Wagon, Coaches & Locos, Scrap, Rails and other Permanent Way scrap material.

**SI. No.** **e-auction conducted by** **Date of auction for the Month of September 2020**

1.	Dy. CMM/GSD/PER	03.09.2020	—	17.09.2020
2.	Dy. CMM/CSSD/GOC	01.09.2020	—	15.09.2020
3.	Dy. CMM/SSD/PTJ	07.09.2020	—	21.09.2020
4.	Sr. DMM/MAS	08.09.2020	—	22.09.2020
5.	Sr. DMM/TCV	—	—	29.09.2020
6.	Sr. DMM/TCV (for PGT Divn.)	—	—	30.09.2020
7.	Sr. DMM/TPJ	14.09.2020	—	—
8.	Sr. DMM/TPJ (for MDU Divn.)	10.09.2020	—	23.09.2020
9.</td				

SC to look into issue of land use change for Central Vista

## LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI  
The Supreme Court on Tuesday said it will first look into the allegation of 'change of land use' in connection with the Central Vista project.

A Bench led by Justice A.M. Khanwilkar said it will then go into charges of violation of municipal and environmental laws raised in a batch of petitions filed on the project.

The court scheduled the hearing for Thursday.

Advocate Shikhil Suri, for petitioner Rajiv Suri, has alleged that the government is "churning out approvals" for the project regardless of pendency of the challenge in the apex court. Senior advocate Sanjay Hegde, appearing for another petitioner, said clearances have been sought and obtained continuously.

The petitions have challenged a notification issued by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs on March 20 authorising the change of land use.

# 'Vaccine candidates progressing well'

But there is no 100% guarantee that they will succeed, says NITI Aayog Member

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

## Viral tracker

"We cannot afford to relax and lower our guard against COVID-19 as this can prove to be dangerous for India," NITI Aayog Member V.K. Paul warned on Tuesday. The fight is far from over, he said.

At a press conference organised by the Health Ministry, he said that "while our vaccine candidates are progressing well, there is no 100% guarantee that they will succeed".

India then needed to remain strict about its containment and surveillance efforts, he said.

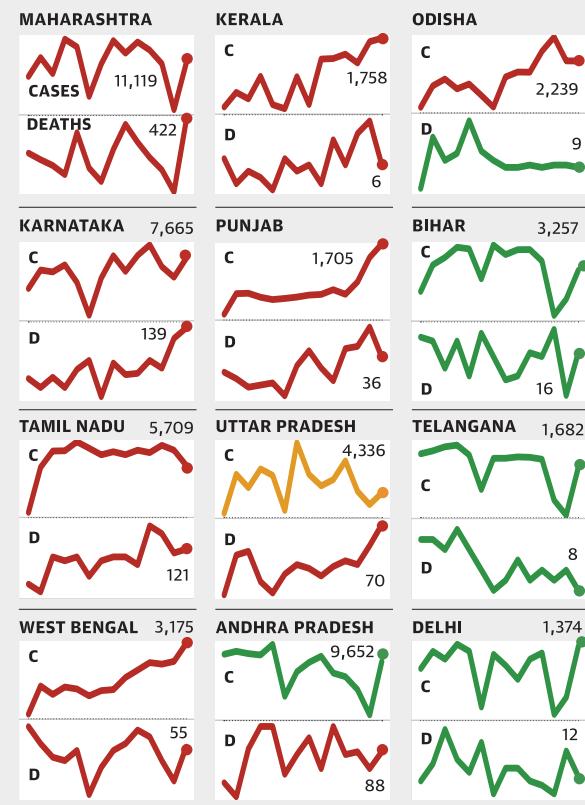
"India on Tuesday conducted a record high of 8,99,864 COVID tests in a single day – the highest tests per day so far. With this, the cumulative tests have reached 3,09,41,264," the Ministry said.

"Even with such a high level of testing, the positivity has remained low at 8.81%," Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said.

He said India had recorded the highest single-day recoveries of 57,937 in 24 hours.

"This is higher than the

new cases and deaths recorded in the respective states on Tuesday. Data as of 10:40 P.M.



confirmed cases added during the same period [55,079]. With more patients recovering and being discharged from hospitals and home isolation [in mild and

moderate cases], the total recoveries have reached nearly 20 lakh [19,77,779]. With this, the gap between the recovered patients and the active cases has crossed 13 lakh to-

day [13,04,613]," Mr. Bhushan said. Replying to a question on whether India is now in a stable position and has contained the virus, Mr. Bhushan said that with the

continuous increase in average daily recoveries, India's recovery rate is now touching 73.18%, and "we have a low case fatality rate [CFR] of 1.92%".

**No room for laxity**

"But there is no room for laxity. This number has been seen for a very small window of time right now and cannot be taken as a trend. We still have to be alert against the devastation that this virus can cause. The collaborative efforts by the Centre and State/UT government continues to be on test, track and treat. Aggressive testing leads to early identification and isolation of positive cases. This, coupled with efficient clinical treatment, has ensured a fall in fatality rate. The actual case load of the country – the active cases [6,73,166] – is only 24.91% of the total positive cases. This figure is also exhibiting a steady downward trajectory," Mr. Bhushan said.

The Ministry said that the country currently had a national network of 1,476 operational labs with 971 labs in the government sector and 505 private labs.

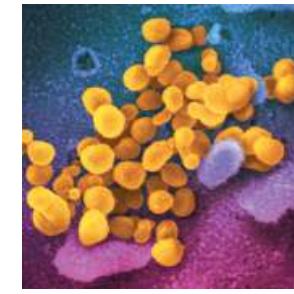
# 'Eastern U.P. funeral was a super spreader event'

COVID-19 victim infected family: study

## JACOB KOSHY

NEW DELHI

The first COVID-19 death in eastern Uttar Pradesh sparked a "super spreader event", according to a study published in the Indian Journal of Medical Research (IJMR) by scientists of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).



The ICMR study also warns of the potency of "asymptomatic carriers".

transmission, that is who infected how many others and whom, but could trace 16 RT-PCR (rapid polymerase chain reaction test) cases to the index case who had died.

"The index case had associated co-morbidities and succumbed to death. Most of the cases were asymptomatic except two individuals, who developed mild symptoms," say the scientists in their article that appeared online Monday, ahead of print, in the peer-reviewed journal.

All of them were swabbed to check for presence of the virus as well and case histories of family members, who had been tested by district authorities, were also extracted.

## Transmission chain

The deceased had infected three others in his seven-member family and at his funeral, that was attended by 50 people from where seven were confirmed positive. The scientists couldn't establish the exact chain of

# Integrate depression and diabetes treatment: study

'Collaborative care model delivered in diabetes clinics lowers depressive symptoms and improves cardio metabolic health'

## RAMYA KANNAN

CHENNAI

A joint Indo-U.S. research study found that integrating depression and diabetes treatment ('INDEPENDENT') improved parameters for both conditions. The study was published in a recent issue of the peer-reviewed journal *JAMA*.

The study, performed over a one-year period and followed up at the end of the second year, found that a low-cost one-year collaborative care model delivered in diabetes clinics can lower depressive symptoms and improve cardio metabolic health at the same time.

The study was a collaboration between Emory University, Atlanta and the University of Washington, Seattle; the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi; Madras Diabetes Research Foundation (MDRF), Chennai; Diacon Hospital, Bengaluru, and Endocrine and Diabetes Centre, Visakhapatnam, and was funded by the National Institutes of Health, U.S.

Researchers compared an integrated care model with regular care among 404 patients with diabetes and moderate-to-severe depressive symptoms. These patients were attending four diverse diabetes clinics (one government and three private) in India over a two-year period.

V. Mohan of the MDRF, explained: "The key takeaway from the study was that we should not work in silos. Depression and diabetes have a bi-directional relationship. Depression causes counter regulatory hormones to be secreted – adrenaline and noradrenaline – which nullify the effect of insulin on the body." This study has shown that treating both together has an ameliorative impact on both diabetes and depression among patients.

Due to the shortage of psychiatrists in India, the researchers worked with care coordinators who were specially trained to screen and provide counselling for depression. Everyone who came to the clinic was screened for depression using a standard questionnaire, Dr. Mohan said. That helped identify if people were depressed.

"We developed a simple electronic health record with decision-support prompts [based on evidence-based guidelines] to assist clinicians in prescribing interventions," he said. Attesting to the support provided by this e-health record, G.R. Sridhar of the Endocrine and Diabetes Centre, said it made sure that the intervention was low cost and would be

sustainable. "There was definite improvement in both depression and metabolic scores at the end of one year of active intervention," he said. The difference in reaching the intended target between the control arm and intervention arm of the trial was at least 16%, marking a significant impact of the latter, Dr. Mohan added.

However, researchers found that improvements in cardio metabolic parameters waned after the active one-year period which thereby suggested the need for continued support for blood sugar, blood pressure and cholesterol levels.

year-old legislator from Ghaziabad asked those who came in contact with him from August 16 to get tested.

Around 20 employees of the Assembly recently tested positive. Assembly Speaker Hriday Narayan Dixit said all preparations had been done to convene the session from August 20.

All legislators would have to get tested before the session.

# Report predicts 12% rise in India's cancer burden

Cancer cases in the country to be at 15.6 lakh by 2025

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Cancer cases in the country are likely to increase to 15.6 lakhs by 2025 – a 12% increase from current estimated cases – based on current trends, according to the National Cancer Registry Programme Report 2020. The figures were released by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and National Centre for Disease Informatics & Research (NCDIR), Bengaluru, here on Tuesday.

The report also found that in 2020, tobacco-related cancers are estimated to contribute to 27.1% of the total cancer bur-



By 2020, cancer cases will be at 13.9 lakh.

den, and highest in the northeastern region of the country. Cancers of the lung, mouth, stomach and oesophagus were the most common cancers among men. Cancers of the breast and cervix uteri were the most common cancers among women, the report said.

# Naga row: Assam Minister, Nagaland CM met Muivah

Meet comes amid signs that talks may collapse

## VIJAYITA SINGH

NEW DELHI

Earlier this month, Assam Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio reached Delhi to meet Nationalist Socialist Council of Nagaland (Isaka-Muivah) chief T. Muivah amid indications that the Naga peace talks were on the verge of collapse, *The Hindu* has learnt.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah directed Mr. Sarma, the North-East Democratic Alliance (NEDA) convener, to speak to Mr. Muivah, who has been camping in Delhi since July.

Mr. Sarma did not res-



cusing him of creating an "imbroglio".

Mr. Ravi has been heading the talks with Naga groups for the past five years to end the decades-old insurgency and he was appointed as Nagaland's Governor last year.

Last week, the group released a copy of the original 2015 framework agreement, which stated that the Centre had agreed on "sharing the sovereign power".

After the NSCN (I-M) issued statements accusing Mr. Ravi of derailing the peace process, the Centre deputed Intelligence Bureau (IB) officials to keep the talks going.

<b>ANNA UNIVERSITY</b>	
CHENNAI - 600 025	
<b>TENDER NOTICE</b>	
Tender Ref No. 6105/CDE/Online Cell/2020	
On-line Tenders in Two Bid System are invited for the "Appointment of an Agency for Video Production, Multimedia, Color Audio E-Book and Post Production Job Work for the Courses of the M.B.A. Online Programmes - which consists of a maximum of 25 courses", for the Online Cell of the Centre for Distance Education (CDE), Anna University, Chennai.	
The tender documents can be downloaded by registering in the website <a href="https://tntenders.gov.in">https://tntenders.gov.in</a> from 05.30 pm on 19.08.2020. The filled-in tender documents can be submitted by uploading in the website up to 03.00 pm on 22.09.2020 and will be opened at 03.00 pm on 23.09.2020. Other detailed tender conditions, future corrigenda etc., please visit the website ( <a href="https://tntenders.gov.in">https://tntenders.gov.in</a> ).	
DIPR/3100/Tender/2020	

## REGISTRAR

<b>PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT</b>	
Buildings (C&M) Circle, Tirunelveli- 627 002.	
TYPE OF CONTRACT : LUMPSUM (Pre Qualification Two Cover System) & Rate Tender system	
Tender Notice No : 14/ 2020-2021, Dated: 18.08.2020	
For and on behalf of Governor of Tamil Nadu sealed Tenders are invited from the contractors registered in Public Works Department in the appropriate class to the office of Superintendent Engineer, PWD, Buildings (C&M) Circle, Tirunelveli upto 3.00PM on 22.09.2020. Received tender will be opened at 3.30 PM on the same day in the reference to the contractors of their authorized representatives who chose to be present at time. The tender schedule can also available in office at 20.08.2020 to 21.09.2020 upto 5.45PM.	
PACKAGENO: 1: Tirunelveli District	
Slice No.1 : Construction of 6 Class Rooms, 1 Laboratory, 1 Girls Toilet, Drinking Water Facilities in Govt, Hr. Sec. School at Gangai kondaan.	
Slice No.2 : Construction of 10 Class Rooms, 1 Laboratory, 2 Toilet Block for (1 Boys & 1 Girls), Drinking Water Facilities and compound wall in Govt, Hr. Sec. School at Vadakku selaiyallur	
PACKAGENO: 2 : Thoothukudi District	
Slice No.1 : Construction of 6 Class Rooms, 1 Laboratory, 3 Toilet Block for Girls, Drinking Water Facilities in Govt, Hr. Sec. School at Kovai kottai	
Slice No.2 : Construction of 10 Class Rooms, 4 Toilet Block for (2 Boys & 2 Girls), Drinking Water Facilities in Govt, Hr. Sec. School at Sennottai.	
Package No.1: Total value of Slices Rs. 402.50 Lakhs	
Package No.2: Total value of Slices Rs.338.00 Lakhs	
For further details and tender documents visit the website <a href="http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in">www.tenders.tn.gov.in</a> and <a href="http://www.tntenders.gov.in">www.tntenders.gov.in</a>	
SUPERINTENDENT ENGINEER, PWD, CIRCLE, TIRUNELVELI	

<b>TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATIVE CORPORATION OF ODISHA LTD</b>	
Rupali Square, Bhoi Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751022, Odisha	
Tel No.2542475, 2542617, FAX-2544828, Email : <a href="mailto:admin@tdccodisha.org">admin@tdccodisha.org</a>	

## E-Auction Notification No. 1445 Date - 17.08.2020

For Sale of Tamarind (with Seeds), Harida (With Seeds), Hill Brooms (Loose), Sal Seeds, Mahua Seeds & Chironje Pods with Seeds-2020 Crop procured under MSP Scheme through forward auction platform of NCDEX e-markets limited (NeML).	
1. Tender published on website	18 <sup>th</sup> August 2020
2. Name of Client	TRIBAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATIVE CORPORATION OF ODISHA LTD.
3. Address and Concerned person for correspondence	Customer Service Group-NCDEX e markets limited, 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor, 101&101T, Akriti Corporate Park, near GE Garden, L.B.S.Marg, Kanjurmarg (west), Mumbai-400078. Tel- 022-48810555 or 7575002165. Email - <a href="mailto:askus@neml.in">askus@neml.in</a>
4. Registration Fees	Rs.5,000/- (Five Thousand) only (Non-refundable) + 18% GST
5. EMD for participants	Rs.1,000/- Lakh for each Sal Seed & Seeded Tamarind, Rs.5000.00 for other MFPs as listed in Annexure in shape of Demand Draft favoring the "Managing Director, TDCCOL, Bhubaneswar" from any nationalized bank has to be submitted before 2 working days from the date of e-Auction.
6. Security Deposit for successful bidders.	10% of Bid Value has to be deposited as per the acceptance order of TDCCOL in NeML Escrow Bank Account.
7. Last Date of registration	1 <sup>st</sup> September 2020, 11:00 A.M.
8. Date of Forward auction	1 <sup>st</sup> September 2020, 3:00 PM
1. All eligible Individuals / partnership firm, Registered Company or Co-operative Limited for participation in Forward Auction.	
2. The schedule of e-auction to be conducted will be uploaded on <a href="http://www.tdccodisha.org">www.tdccodisha.org</a> & <a href="http://www.neml.in">www.neml.in</a>	
3. Any changes/modifications in the tender documents will be posted on website.	
Managing Director, TDCCOL	
DIPR/26005/11/002/2021	

Jaishankar calls his Sri Lankan counterpart; Modi had spoken to Rajapaksa on August 6

## MEERA SRINIVASAN

COLOMBO

Continuing New Delhi's high-level outreach with the newly elected government in Colombo, Minister of External Affairs S. Jaishankar on Tuesday called his Sri Lankan counterpart Dinesh Gunawardena, and underscored India's "commitment to taking bilateral ties to greater heights."

Mr. Gunawardena, who served as Foreign Minister in the caretaker government under President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, was re-appointed to the post following the August 5 parliamentary polls, in which the Rajapaksa's ruling party secured an impressive two-thirds majority. Congratulating Mr. Gunawardene



Dinesh Gunawardena

na, Mr. Jaishankar

**IN BRIEF**



**Visva-Bharati varsity blames Trinamool MLA**

KOLKATA  
Accusing Trinamool Congress MLA Naren Bauri and leaders of Bolpur Municipality for the violence on campus on Monday, the Visva-Bharati University on Tuesday sought an inquiry by the Central Bureau of Investigation into the violence. In a statement, the VBU condemned "police inaction" and said that the university would remain closed till the situation improved. The university also called for a 12-hour fast to protest against the violence which erupted over the building of a boundary wall at the Poush Mela ground.

**Visa norms for foreign journalists relaxed**

NEW DELHI  
The Home Ministry has relaxed visa restrictions to allow foreign journalists and their dependents to enter India. As per an August 17 order of the Ministry, in addition to the categories of foreigners who are permitted to enter India, it has also been decided to "permit foreign nationals holding Journalist (J-1) visa and their dependents holding J-1X visa to enter India." If the visas had been suspended, they shall stand restored but fresh visas have to be obtained in case of validity expiry.

**Delhi HC seeks Air India's response on pilots' plea**

NEW DELHI  
The Delhi High Court on Tuesday asked national carrier Air India to respond to a plea by several pilots challenging its decision to terminate their services with effect from August 13. Justice Jyoti Singh gave the direction on a fresh batch of petitions by four pilots challenging the airline's August 13 order. Air India had earlier terminated services of more than 40 other pilots. The HC also orally asked the AI to desist from seeking surrender of the ID cards and other documents of the four pilots till Wednesday, when similar pleas by other Air India pilots are to be heard.

**GST scam mastermind arrested in Odisha**

Bhubaneswar  
The Odisha GST enforcement squad has arrested a person for his alleged involvement in generation of fake invoices worth ₹712 crore and passing of bogus input tax credit (ITC) of ₹129 crore. The accused, Kashmira Kumar Agarwal, Director of Madhumita Steels Industries Pvt. Ltd., was arrested from Sambalpur. He had been under the scanner of State GST Enforcement Squad for long and had been frequently changing his address from Rourkela to Haryana and from Jamshedpur to Sambalpur. The accused had created 14 fictitious firms in the names of rickshaw pullers, plumbers and roadside vendors.

# 'States can't unilaterally cancel exams'

UGC tells Supreme Court that its guidelines have offered multiple options for students

**LEGAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

The University Grants Commission (UGC) argued in the Supreme Court on Tuesday that though its July 6 directive to conduct final-year exams by September-end was not a "diktat," States could not unilaterally cancel the exams citing the pandemic.

"If the State governments had an issue, they cannot change the exam schedule on their own. They should meet with the Centre and consult with the UGC about their apprehensions... There is a statutory supremacy... This is the UGC's domain," Tushar Mehta, Solicitor-General



If the State governments had an issue, they cannot change the exam schedule on their own. They should meet with the Centre and consult with the UGC about their apprehensions... There is a statutory supremacy... This is the UGC's domain  
TUSHAR MEHTA, SOLICITOR-GENERAL

[partly online and partly in the physical format]," he said.

"If the student is unable to appear in the exams for any reason, another opportunity can be given to him even after the September deadline is over," the law officer submitted.

Mr. Mehta said the guidelines for conducting the exams involved multiple options for students. "They can take the exams online, offline or hybrid

courses, and the State authorities could not override the UGC's guidelines. "There is a statutory supremacy... This is the UGC's domain," he said.

**Verdict reserved**

The Bench is hearing the question whether States such as Maharashtra and Delhi could have cancelled the UGC final exams unilaterally while overruling the UGC directive.

The court re-

served the case for judgment. The question came up while the court was hearing a batch of petitions filed by over 30 students, represented by advocate Alakh Alok Srivastava, questioning the validity of the UGC's directive.

The counsel appearing for one of the States argued that not holding final year exam did not lead to dilution of standards and even premier institutions such as the Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) had said that they would give the degree without holding exams.

The UGC questioned the logic of cancelling the final term exams for fear of COVID-19, but at the same time opening up universities and educational institutions for the next academic session.

The UGC said if institutions could be opened up for

the next academic session, there was nothing to prevent the conduct of final exams. "If universities cannot function to hold final examinations, circumstances should then prevent even the commencement of the next academic session," the UGC said.

A separate affidavit by the Union Home Ministry said the decision to open up educational institutions for final exams and evaluation was made in consultation with the Education Ministry after "taking into consideration the academic interest of a large number of students". The UGC reiterated that the "UGC Guidelines on Examinations and Academic Calendar for Universities in view of COVID-19 Pandemic" was revised on July 6 in consultation with the Professor K.C. Kuhad expert committee.

# Ashok Lavasa quits EC, set to join ADB

He was in the running for CEC post

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

Election Commissioner Ashok Lavasa has submitted his resignation to the President, asking to be relieved by August 31, an Election Commission source said on Wednesday. His appointment as a Vice-President at the Asian Development Bank was announced in July.



Ashok Lavasa

"He [Mr. Lavasa] will succeed Diwakar Gupta whose term will end on August 31. He has a long and distinguished career in the Indian civil service... He has extensive experience in public-private partnerships and infrastructure development at the state and federal levels,

However, the Manila-headquartered ADB announced his appointment as the Vice-President for private sector and public-private partnerships.

## Talks on with 13 nations to resume flights

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

India is in talks with 13 countries to resume scheduled flights, Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation Hardeep Puri said on Tuesday.

So far, India has entered into bilateral agreements with the U.S., the U.K., France, Germany, the UAE, Qatar and the Maldives to start flights on a limited basis.

India is exploring tie-ups with Australia, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Nigeria, Bahrain, Israel, Kenya, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, South Korea and Thailand, the Minister posted on Twitter. There are also plans to start scheduled flights to neighbouring countries like Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Nepal and Bhutan.

## ED records statement of Sushant's father

It is probing money laundering angle

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate has recorded the statement of Sushant Singh Rajput's father in connection with the money laundering probe.

"We examined K.K. Singh under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act," said a senior ED official.

Mr. Singh, in his complaint to the Patna Police, had alleged that ₹15 crore was transferred from his son's bank accounts within a short period of time. He suspected a conspiracy involving Bollywood actor Rhea Chakraborty and others.

The ED has already questioned Rhea, her father Indrajit, brother Showik, former manager Shruti Modi and her chartered ac-



Sushant Singh Rajput  
countant. The statement of Sushant's chartered accountant has been recorded.

Financial records of the companies floated in his name are being scrutinised.

The agency also quizzed Siddharth Pithani, who worked for Sushant and lived with him in the house where the actor was found hanging on June 14.

## 'No-Go' forests approved for mining

CSE probe finds software tweaked to clear blocks in dense forests for auction

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

Since 2015, of the 49 blocks cleared for coal mining, nine were in 'No-Go' areas, or regions that were once classified by the Ministry of Environment and Forests and Climate Change as containing very dense forests and hence closed to coal mining.

In 2020, of the 41 blocks put up for auction, 21 feature in the original No-Go list, the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) said at a webinar on Tuesday.

The meeting was organised to present results of an investigation into coal block auctions.

On June 18, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the auction of 41 coal blocks through video-conference. A two stage e-auction is being adopted for the allocation of mines. The decision was

part of the announcements made by the Centre under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

Though new blocks were being auctioned, the CSE investigation, published in the organisation-owned magazine *Down To Earth* (DTE), pointed out that currently India was not utilising its existing capacity fully and that a Right To Information response by the Union Coal Ministry revealed that 67% of the mines auctioned since 2015 are not operational yet. From 2015-2020, the government tried to auction 112 mines, but succeeded in only 42 cases.

Several potential coal reserves are located in dense forests particularly in Chattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh. The government determined which of them were too ecologically important to touch, and which were amenable to be opened up using a 'decision support system software' that rated forest lands on environmental parameters. In some cases, the CSE investigation found that results of the software evaluation were "tweaked" to



Several potential coal reserves are located in dense forests in Chattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh.

and which were amenable to be opened up using a 'decision support system software' that rated forest lands on environmental parameters. In some cases, the CSE investigation found that results of the software evaluation were "tweaked" to

## Railways deploys 'Ninjas' for surveillance

Drones to watch over stations and tracks

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

enhance monitoring of the railway assets and ensure additional safety for passengers," Railways Minister Piyush Goyal tweeted.

**Training given**

An official statement said that the Railway Protection Force (RPF) had planned extensive use of drones for security purpose and had so far procured nine drones at a cost of ₹31.87 lakh at South Eastern Railway, Central Railway, Modern Coaching Factory, Rae Bareli and South Western Railway.

Eye in the Sky: Improving Surveillance System, Railways has recently procured Ninja Unmanned Aerial Vehicles [UAV]. With real-time tracking, video streaming & automatic fail safe mode, the drones will



The drones can also be used at disaster sites for helping in rescue efforts.

been trained in operation and maintenance of drones, of which four have received licences for flying drones.

The Ninja UAV procured by Railways will be able to help inspect safety of railway assets, yards, workshops and car sheds. "It can be used to launch surveillance

on criminal and anti-social activities like gambling, throwing of garbage, hawking etc in Railway premises. It may be deployed for analysis of data collected which may prove to be extremely useful in vulnerable sections for safe operations of trains," the statement said.

In addition, these drones can also be utilised at disaster sites for helping in rescue, recovery, restoration and coordinating efforts of various agencies as well as mapping of railway assets to assess encroachments.

A drone camera can cover a large area which requires 8-10 RPF personnel," the statement added.

## Heroin racket plan may have been hatched in Tihar Jail

**DEVESH K. PANDEY**  
NEW DELHI

The foundation of a network through which heroin in large quantities was being pushed into India via the maritime route was laid in Delhi's Tihar Jail. It was in this prison that two key figures – arrested by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) after the seizure of 191 kg of contraband at Nhava Sheva Port in Mumbai on August 9 – had first met.

Suresh Bhatia and Mohammed Nauman were part of the syndicate that had already pushed three consignments using the same modus operandi, according to the enforcement agencies which are also probing the suspected links of Nauman with some ISI-backed elements in Pakistan.

**Foreign funds**

"Nauman runs a non-government organisation named Jai Hind Sewa Kendra, based in Delhi's Yojana Vihar, which provides legal help to the Pakistan nationals lodged in Indian jails and assists them in deportation. The NGO has been receiving foreign funds despite the

fact that it is not registered under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act for the purpose," an official said.

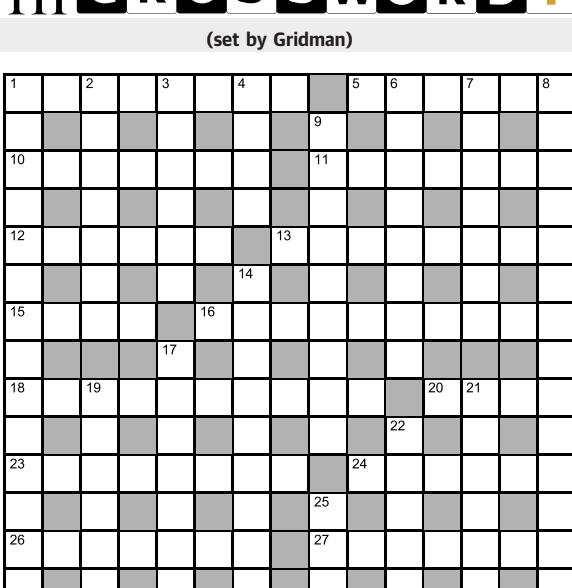
Bhatia was serving a sentence for offences under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and Nauman was in prison in connection with a fraud case when they came in contact with each other a few years ago.

"Bhatia later came out on parole and was on an extended parole, while Nauman was released after he served four years of jail term," the official said.

## TH CROSSWORD + 13018

(set by Gridman)

Are you a cryptic lover or a quick solver? Find out Now! @ <https://qrqo.page.link/jjpTn>



**ACROSS**

- Dates I've crushed act as stimulant? Just the opposite (8)
- Preserve business degree-holder in wood (6)
- One old dictator caught by strange element (7)
- Inside, Tamil leader settles down and writes (7)
- Take rest after minor snatch (6)
- By stupid chance, I'm a garageman (8)

- Born and died in want (4)
- Soft operation around old music instrument (5-5)
- Nobleman reported this change accepting red sleepwear (10)
- Chatter on fabric endlessly (4)
- Hide thus? (4,4)
- Prince and the King are hip (6)
- Urge fee alteration for political exile (7)
- Stop mate as there's shortage in all previous openings (7)
- White munition merchant is more friendly (6)
- Such people have high interest in lending (8)
- DOWN
- Wisecrack's not in? Bad! Hard to accept! (5,2,4,4)
- Shrink, beginning to deny success, led off (7)
- Clan-based Telangana leader's almost coarse (6)
- Virginia parliamentarian to improvise (4)
- Part of vessel where the fashionable may be found? (8)
- Figure's hugged by woman, one feels (7)
- Consortium's representation is happy to hear (5,2,4,4)
- Straight over to railway reference book (9)
- Quick-tempered, he'd catch out heartless chief (3-6)
- Suppress saint's right view (8)
- More brusque gang leader reportedly more abrasive (7)
- Try to fill in this slot! (4,1,2)
- Gobble up Dalit leader's oeuvre endlessly and furiously (6)
- Goddess loses credit in time of anxiety (4)

## SUDOKU

						1	4	
7			5				2	
	4		8			7	5	3
						4	3	1
	3	7		4		8	9	
1	8	4						
2	5	6			8		1	
3					5			8
	7		2					

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★★

**Solution to puzzle 13017**



CYRUS DHABHAR

Launched in 2005, the Innova has cemented itself as the king of MPV segment over the years. In 2016, Toyota upped the ante with the Innova Crysta. The car not only featured new, more powerful diesel engines, but it also came with a 6-speed automatic gearbox with the diesel variant.

Now with the move to BS6, Toyota has rationalised the Innova Crysta's line-up. The 2.8-litre diesel engine option has been discontinued, although the automatic gearbox continues soldiers on and is paired with the less powerful 2.4 diesel mill. So how does it compare with the discontinued 2.8 diesel auto?

To start with, a look at the specifications reveals that the 2.4-litre diesel, when paired with the manual gearbox, continues to make an identical 150hp and 343Nm of torque as the BS4 model. However, with the automatic gearbox, Toyota has upped the torque to 360Nm – identical to that of the larger 2.8-litre engine – although power is still down by 24hp. Start the engine, and it feels a bit more refined at low revs. There is also a healthy amount of grunt at low and medium engine speeds. It doesn't quite leap forward instantly like the old 2.8, but is still quick to respond. The 6-speed automatic is quick to shift gears and responds fairly well to a kickdown.

**Old vs New**  
With its extra torque, the 2.4 die-

## In speed and deed

The BS6 Innova 2.4-litre diesel paired with a 6-speed automatic gearbox is a high quality, dependable package



### SPECIFICATIONS

**ENGINE** 2393cc, 4-cyl, turbo-diesel

**MAX POWER** 150hp at 3400rpm

**MAX TORQUE** 360Nm at 1400-2600rpm

**GEARBOX** 6-speed torque converter automatic

**WHEELBASE (MM)** 2750mm

**WEIGHT (KG)** 1870-1920kg



**An enviable reputation** Very few MPVs can match the Crysta for reliability and dependability

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

sel-auto also pulls forward smartly on open roads. It has a good reserve of performance, especially when you want to overtake at higher speeds. On highways, the Innova doesn't feel out of breath either. However, it doesn't quite push you back into your seat like the 2.8 did; the top-end performance is not the same either.

A quick sprint test on a wet road revealed a 0-100kph time of 13.23sec for the BS6 model, compared to the older model's 11.46sec. Similarly, with in-gear

acceleration too, the old 2.8 remains the faster of the two. The 6-speed auto gearbox has an 'S' mode, which holds on to gears longer, adding to the driving experience on a faster road. Tapping the lever up or down from here activates a sequential manual mode. Once this is done, the gearbox won't shift up automatically at the redline. The Innova Crysta also gets emission control devices like a selective catalytic

reduction (SCR) unit and a diesel particulate filter (DPF). The DPF can get clogged if the engine is only run at low revs, so the Crysta comes with a button that helps clean or 'regenerate' it.

Apart from the updated engine and gearbox, the new BS6 Innova Crysta doesn't really have any cosmetic updates. The exterior is exactly the same as before; inside, we get the same plush seats that come with two colour options on the higher variants. The touchscreen infotainment system still lacks features like Apple CarPlay and Android Auto. In a car that costs nearly ₹30 lakh on road, this is a big miss. As before, a customer can choose between a 7-seat or an 8-seat layout; the former is equipped with comfortable captain's chairs. The ride quality on higher-spec models with 17-inch wheels is on the bumpy side. Also, the steering has a bit of kickback, especially through potholes.

On the whole, however, the BS6 Innova 2.4-litre diesel mated to the 6-speed automatic gearbox is a high quality, dependable package with an overall practicality that is hard to beat. It is a bit expensive at ₹23.63 lakh (ex-showroom) for the top-spec version, but it also enjoys an enviable reputation for its mechanical robustness and reliability that very few cars can match.



### Q AND A WITH HORMAZD



#### It's time to buy a car

We are a family of four – though my elderly parents may join us at times – and require a car primarily for short daily commutes and occasional jaunts to a nearby town. I want a car that is sturdy, easy to manoeuvre, spacious, powerful and offers decent mileage. My budget is ₹12 lakh. I would prefer a petrol vehicle and am looking to strike a balance between a small car and a 7-seater.

**Venkatesh Subramanian**

• If it is a 7-seater you seek, go for the Maruti Suzuki Ertiga. And if you can compromise on that one extra seat for a more upmarket feel, the Maruti Suzuki XL6 is the one for you. The XL6 is a posh version of the Ertiga that's available as a 6-seater, with captain seats in the second row. You could get a decently equipped version within your budget. What's more, the XL6 is nice to drive, and feels just like a taller hatchback. Plus it is very practical, and comes with the peace of mind associated with the Maruti badge.

#### Which SUV should I buy?

I am looking to add a new SUV to my garage. I have narrowed my options down to the Ford Endeavour, Toyota Fortuner and Mahindra Alturas G4. After reading various reviews, I found the Alturas to be a good bargain. However, a serious concern is resale value. I know this depends on a number of factors, but which of the cars I've mentioned would fetch a better resale value? I'd prefer to buy an automatic.

**Varun Anne**

• It all boils down to when you plan to sell your SUV – if it is within five years, then resale value could be a decision maker for you, else it shouldn't matter. The Mahindra Alturas G4 is a value proposition; its interiors feel luxurious and it is substantially cheaper than its rivals. However, as you pointed out, resale won't be as strong, and what you save in purchasing the Alturas G4 upfront will be negated by its (comparatively) lower resale value. The Endeavour is the next best choice.

Hormazd Sorabjee is the editor of Autocar India. Mail your feedback and queries to [roadshow@thehindu.co.in](mailto:roadshow@thehindu.co.in)

## When wanderlust calls

With new drive modes and additional features like cruise control, a long trip down a winding road can be quite comfortable on the new Ninja 1000SX

RISHAAD MODY



The Ninja 1000SX is one of Kawasaki's most popular big bikes in India.

This sports tourer, which has received a fairly substantial upgrade for 2020 including a Euro 5/BS6-compliant motor, has a set of thicker, higher and cushy seats paired with a 19-litre fuel tank; it also weighs in at a hefty 238kg kerb weight. The open riding position and generous turning radius also makes it much easier to live with. There is a half-degree reduction in the steering rake angle, which has resulted in a front end that doesn't feel quite as heavy and requires noticeably lesser effort at the bars.

### Feel the power

The Ninja 1000 SX's motor feels almost electric at low RPMs; at gentle speeds, the Ninja just hums along. The new ride-by-wire throttle system works smoothly regardless of the different riding

modes. Delivering 142hp and 111Nm of torque, the spec sheet still reads pretty much the same as before. But Kawasaki has put in a lot of work – like the addition of new camshaft profiles, redesigned intake funnels and a completely new exhaust system (with one big exhaust replacing the previous dual-exhaust design) – to get the 1,043cc motor Euro 5/BS6 compliant. The re-



dline is set at 10,500rpm and the motor packs a wallop mid-range. It is also really nice to ride a bike that doesn't hide its true speed like many 1,000cc machines tend to do; 100kph feels like 100kph on the Ninja 1000SX.

When you do get hard on the gas, the bike accelerates with ferocity. But no matter how you choose to ride, the new up/down quickshifter is a welcome addition: the upshifts are great but downshifts can occasionally be hesitant.

What also makes this bike



**Romancing the road** Riding the Ninja 1000 is an effortless experience

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



<b>SPECIFICATIONS</b>	
<b>ENGINE</b>	1043cc, in-line four-cylinder, liquid-cooled
<b>POWER</b>	142hp at 10000rpm
<b>TORQUE</b>	111Nm at 8000rpm
<b>KERB WEIGHT</b>	238kg
<b>WHEELBASE</b>	1440mm
<b>GROUND CLEARANCE</b>	135mm
<b>SEAT HEIGHT</b>	820mm
<b>FUEL TANK</b>	19 litres
<b>SUSPENSION (F/R)</b>	41mm USD fork/ monoshock
<b>TYRES (F/R)</b>	120/70-17/R17 / 190/50-R17

damping setup within the fork resulting in a bike that feels truly plush. There is softness to be felt throughout, be it the suspension, seat, quickshifter, or even the initial bite from the twin-disc Nissin front brakes.

Keeping the rider safe throughout is a refined, IMU-aided electronic assist package that now brings three riding modes in addition to the previous three-stage traction control, two power modes and cornering ABS. With the switch to ride-by-wire, Kawasaki has also included a cruise-control feature. A considerable addition, for most customers, is the new 4.3-inch TFT colour display, which can be connected to Kawasaki's Rideology app to access a number of Bluetooth-enabled features. The indicators, switchgear and side fairing have all been redesigned; the mirrors and windscreen, besides the head and tail lamps, are new, too.

At ₹10.79 lakh, the Ninja 1000SX has made a sizable jump in price, but it remains the best VFM proposition in the big bike space.

### AUTO SNIPS



#### Updated Honda Jazz bookings open

Honda has opened bookings for the updated Jazz hatchback ahead of its launch. Interested customers can book the Jazz online on the carmaker's 'Honda From Home' digital retail platform or at their nearest Honda dealership. The booking amount is set at ₹5,000 for online bookings and ₹21,000 for bookings made at dealerships.

The updated Jazz gets minor styling revisions, including a new front bumper, chrome detailing around the gloss-black front grille, a set of full-LED headlamps and LED fog lamps. Power is from a sole BS6-compliant 90hp, 1.2-litre petrol engine.



#### Special edition Ford Freestyle Flair launched

Ford has introduced a new special-edition model based on the Freestyle, called the Freestyle Flair. Priced at ₹7.69 lakh for the petrol and ₹8.79 lakh (ex-showroom, Delhi) for the diesel variants, the Flair is based on the fully loaded Freestyle Titanium+ but features sportier, cosmetic touches such as a gloss-black roof, black alloy wheels, red-finished wing mirrors, roof rails and skid plates. The Flair comes with the same engine options as the standard Freestyle. These include a 1.2-litre, three-cylinder petrol unit which produces 96hp and 119Nm of torque, and a 1.5-litre, four-cylinder diesel engine which is good for 100hp and 215Nm of torque. Ford offers both engines with a 5-speed manual gearbox option.



#### Triumph Street Triple R launched at ₹8.84 lakh

Triumph Motorcycles has launched the Street Triple R in India at a price of ₹8.84 lakh (ex-showroom). The Street Triple R replaces the Street Triple S as the base model in the Street Triple range and is positioned below the range-topping Street Triple RS.

Compared to the Street Triple S, the R is better equipped and comes with a more powerful engine. Notable features include an up-down quickshifter, a fully adjustable Showa suspension, Brembo M4.32 brake callipers and Pirelli Diablo Rosso III tyres.



**Romancing the road** Riding the Ninja 1000 is an effortless experience

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

<b>SPECIFICATIONS</b>	
<b>ENGINE</b>	1043cc, in-line four-cylinder, liquid-cooled
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<b>SUSPENSION (F/R)</b>	41mm USD fork/ monoshock
<b>TYRES (F/R)</b>	120/70-17/R17 / 190/50-R17

gel with our riding environment is the suspension setup. The hardware is the same. So you get a fully adjustable 41mm USD fork and a rebound/preload adjustable rear shock. However, Kawasaki has worked on the

head and tail lamps, are new, too.

At ₹10.79 lakh, the Ninja 1000SX has made a sizable jump in price, but it remains the best VFM proposition in the big bike space.

At ₹10.79 lakh, the Ninja 1000SX has made a sizable jump in price, but it remains the best VFM proposition in the big bike space.



# Celebrating moments frozen in time

On World Photography Day today, let us celebrate some positive photostories of lockdown

SOMA BASU

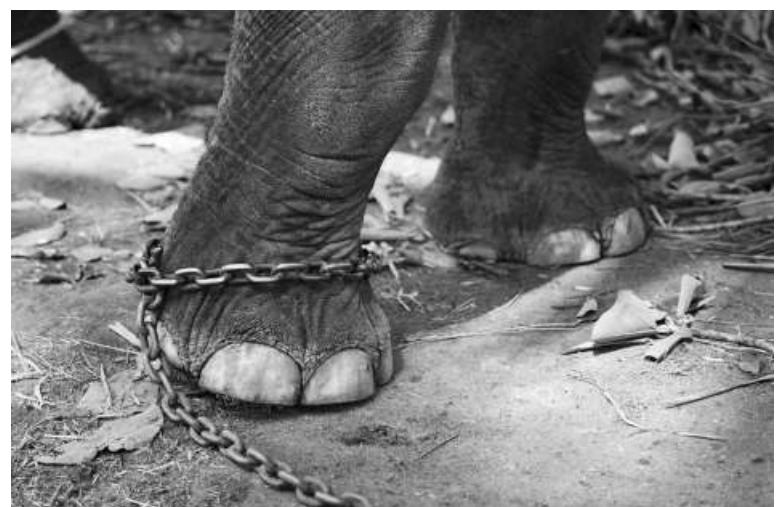
Come Wednesday and thousands of shutterbugs around the world will be putting out their favourite freeze frames across social media platforms. For, August 19 is an annual celebration of the art, craft, science, technology and history of photography.

The idea behind World Photography Day is to encourage people from diverse cultures and backgrounds to enjoy photography as a hobby and upload with the hashtag #worldphotographyday, says Dharma Chandru, Chennai-based candid photographer.

He says that over the last 25 years he has taken hundreds of positive photos. "You will never find a negative element (poverty, dirt, plastic etc) in my pictures because I believe it is that flash of light and a moment that is captured forever to connect us beautifully," he says.

The purpose of World Photography Day (WPD) is to bring together novices, amateurs and professionals and help them appreciate and learn from each other's skills. "No matter what the ups and downs in life are, a photograph is always that one single frame the world sees of the world that you see," says Chandru.

Wildlife photographer Sriram Janak is mood-driven. He says he posts randomly on his social media accounts whenever his mind gives him a nice



caption and on any given day, pachyderms win from his portfolio.

He adds that the importance of WPD is like Independence Day celebrations. "Local clubs organise seminars, honour photographers and galleries host exhibitions. This year everything will be virtual," he says.

Gokul Guru Moorthy freelanced as street view photographer for GoogleMaps for two

**The animal was chained and reminded me of our quarantined state...we are free beings but confined to our spaces**

GOKUL GURU MOORTHY



**The world around us**  
Photographs by Gokul Guru Moorthy (bottom)  
■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



years and then worked with Bengaluru's Lollipop Design Studio. On a visit to his hometown Madurai following the demise of his grandfather four months ago, when the pandemic brought everything to a halt, and the new circumstances made him restless. "I went exploring beyond genres and boundaries whenever possible," he says.

## Stark appeal

Each of Gokul's clicks is an impressive snapshot of life taken for granted before the Coronavirus wreaked havoc. The idea of black-and-white frames struck him when he saw an elephant in the Alagar Koil forests. "The animal was chained and reminded me of our quarantined state... we are free beings but confined to our spaces, now yearning for freedom," says Gokul.

That first lockdown image egged him to make his daily photoshoot a constant amidst the unpredictability.

It took him on empty roads, where an old couple walking signified togetherness. The brimming smile on the face of a *thandatti*-adorned granny in Usilampatti cheered him up because she redefined beauty and fashion in the simplest way. From chasing star-filled skies to a sculptor focussed on chiselling a stone statue of Ganesh in spite of the uncertainty of Vinayaka Chaturthi celebrations this year, each visual gave Gokul a different feel.

The last few months have made him realise how we complain about things we lack and forget to enjoy the many things we have. It now inspires the 23-year-old to develop a new perspective. "My passion for photography enables me to celebrate the world the way I see it," he says.

**The making of a book**  
InKo Centre, in association with Tara Books, presents a series that aims, through storytelling and activity-based interactions, to focus on how we might make sense of books cross-culturally. Working with over half a dozen publishers in Korea, there are currently 12 Tara titles available in Korean. In a series of talks and interactions, four popular titles will be discussed through October. Featured this month is the globally acclaimed *Knock! Knock!* created by Japanese illustrator Kaori Takahashi and published in Korea by Borim Press. The session will take the

audience through the history and making of *Knock! Knock!* – from its inception in a workshop to its evolution into a book. The book's design is interesting: it opens out to form the floors of an apartment building. The presentation will focus on the form and content of the book: on 'book architecture' as well as the multi-faceted depiction of an apartment. Gita Wolf will speak on how the idea for *Knock! Knock!* came about, as illustrator Kaori Takahashi narrates how she created the unusual format for the book; Korean publisher Borim Press will speak on how the book was received in the country. Watch the session on Wednesday, August 19 at 4 pm at youtube.com/tarabooks.

# Made in heaven?

Outrage-centric TRPs of *Indian Matchmaking* aside, here is what millennials have to say about their personal experiences, both good and bad, with the arranged marriage process



**Knot approved**  
Sima Taparia from Mumbai  
■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

AISHWARYA UPADHYE

"Hate *Indian Matchmaking* as much as you want, but that is the true nature of society for many of us. Go through the matrimonial ads in newspapers and you will see that most of them want a 'fair and tall girl'. The show just brings to screen the conversations that usually happen behind closed doors," says P Soundarya, an IT professional based in Bengaluru.

The 37-year-old's family has been looking for a potential groom for her, for almost a decade now. Soundarya says she has met nearly 30 'prospective suitors' during that time but none of them worked out.

"Every rejection made me question my self-worth. I was not fair enough or not a skilled cook, or not talkative. Like Sima Taparia, everyone around me felt compelled to tell me that I had to adjust and for a few years I did try," says Soundarya.

The whole experience, she says, made her go from being happy-go-lucky to a quiet and sad person as everyone just kept telling her she was not good enough. "Six years into the matchmaking

process, I decided not to be a submissive recipient. I decided not to mince words when I told the families that having a child is optional for me, and I would not let my career suffer to 'take care' of the house. Now, I am the girl who has too many expectations, but honestly I am okay with it," she adds.

Indian Matchmaking may seem stereotypical, awkward and conservative, but it is relatable: many millennials who are looking at an arranged marriage realise that the process is deeply problematic.

Shradha Kaswe, a 25-year-old classical singer based in Karnataka's Dharwad, recently created her profile on a popular matchmaking website. "A well-to-do family approached us and I was talking to the guy's father for the first time. In the course of that conversation, the father mentioned that I would have to 'sacrifice' my *riyaaz* for the family. But when asked if his son was willing to do the same, his father thought I was too demanding. While the guys bring pay packets, career and family background to the table, all that is considered about me is good looks and behaviour," she says.

The process is equally harrowing for men. Recalling one of his earlier meet-

ings with a girl's family, Delhi-based Nakul Sethi says, "All that their family wanted to know was my annual package and whether I own a house or a car. They were least interested in knowing me or my family. Tall, dark and handsome aren't just in *Mills and Boons*, even in reality people prefer these type of guys," he says.

## The good ones

Not everyone who is opting for match-made marriages has problematic experiences to share. "Indian matchmaking does not represent all millennials; I have been in this process and barely encountered such situations," says Shruti Taneja, an engineer who is a singer by profession from Delhi. "The families that I met were respectful and considerate about my dreams and career. Of course, there were ideological differences, but they were presented and discussed in a dignified manner," she adds.

Ami Shah, an Ahmedabad-based matchmaker who has been running Parichay Marriage Bureau for 18 years, has been noticing small but significant changes in her clientele.

Matchmakers are initiating some of these changes. For instance, we ask the girl and boy to meet four or five times before getting their families involved. In this way, the girl and boy are more open and the family's expectations do not burden them. Unlike earlier times, today the girl or the boy have the complete say in whether it is a yes or no," she says.

However, there are certain things that are still the same. "Religion, wealth, class, caste and language play a significant role in an arranged marriage. People still prefer matches within their circle. Barely 1% of my clients would want an inter-faith marriage. Young divorcees or people who have called off engagements are still greeted with silence. They are not the first preference while looking for a bride or groom," she adds.

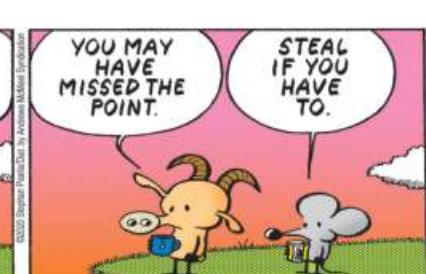
The highlight of *Indian Matchmaking* is the story of Anikta Bansal, an independent business owner who refuses to fit into the moulds set by Sima Taparia. Eventually, she walks away with the note that her business is more fulfilling than a relationship. "But that is one in 10 people, exactly like the show. Not every family is that supportive or progressive," adds Soundarya.



## The making of a book

InKo Centre, in association with Tara Books, presents a series that aims, through storytelling and activity-based interactions, to focus on how we might make sense of books cross-culturally. Working with over half a dozen publishers in Korea, there are currently 12 Tara titles available in Korean. In a series of talks and interactions, four popular titles will be discussed through October. Featured this month is the globally acclaimed *Knock! Knock!* created by Japanese illustrator Kaori Takahashi and published in Korea by Borim Press. The session will take the

## PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



## POOCH CAFE



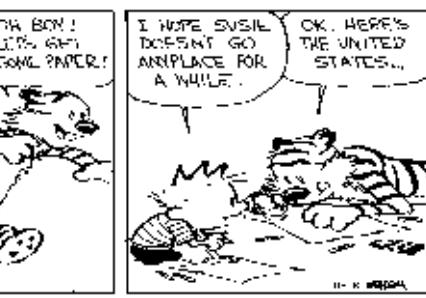
## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



## TIGER



## PEANUTS



## CALVIN AND HOBBES



## CALVIN AND HOBBES



# Trump can't be who Americans need him to be: Michelle Obama

Democrats, ex-Republicans and independents seek votes for Biden at virtual meet

SIRIRAM LAKSHMAN

**O**n the opening day of a four-day Presidential nominating Convention, Democrats of all backgrounds, and some former Republicans, got together virtually on Monday evening under the theme, "We the People", to back the candidacy of the presumptive nominee Joe Biden. The main event of the evening was a speech by former U.S. first lady Michelle Obama, in which she launched a scathing attack on the character of U.S. President Donald Trump, urging voters to exercise their franchise to avoid a relatively low voter turnout as in 2016.

"Donald Trump is the wrong President for our country. He has had more than enough time to prove that he can do the job, but he is clearly in over his head. He cannot meet this moment. He simply cannot be who we need him to be for us. It is what it is," Ms. Obama, who delivered the last video address for Monday's session, said.

Ms. Obama, who has before expressed frustration at the 2016 voter turnout and worked to increase voter turnout in elections, used her air time to tell people to vote.

"But this is not the time to withhold our votes in protest or play games with candidates who have no chance of winning. We have got to vote like we did in 2008 and 2012," she said.

## Shared vision

Like the other speakers at Day One of the convention, she vouched for Mr. Biden's character and his vision, addressing parents, by couch-



In attack mode: Former first lady Michelle Obama speaking during the Democratic National Convention on Monday. ■ AP

ing the vision in terms of what Mr. Biden wanted for America's children.

"Joe Biden wants all of our kids to go to a good school, see a doctor when they're sick, live on a healthy planet... He wants all of our kids to be able to go to a movie or a math class without being afraid of getting shot," she said.

Themes for the session included racial justice, the COVID-19 crisis and the state of the economy. Among the speakers was the brother of George Floyd, an unarmed black man who was killed by a policeman in May.

The evening, significantly, featured progressives, centre-left and centre-right politicians, many of them former Republicans explaining why they had switched from supporting Mr. Trump to supporting Mr. Biden.

## Sanders bats for Biden

Independent U.S. Senator from Vermont Bernie Sanders, who led the progressive vote in the Democratic primaries and was Mr. Biden's main challenger for the nomination, appealed to his supporters to back Mr. Biden.

I'm a lifelong Republi-

can, but that attachment holds second place to my responsibility to my country," Mr. Kasich said, assuring Republicans he was trying to sway that Mr. Biden would not turn "sharp left."

"They fear Joe may turn sharp left and leave them behind. I don't believe that. Because I know the measure of the man – reasonable, faithful, respectful. And you know, no one pushes Joe around," he said.

The programme also featured three other Republicans – another former Governor and two former members of Congress.

## Message from citizens

It was not all politicians and high-profile personalities though. There were video messages from citizens, who had been impacted by the pandemic or Mr. Trump's policies like the trade war with China: a small business owner, a farmer, and a young woman who had lost her father, a Trump supporter, to COVID-19 earlier this year. "My dad was a healthy 65-year-old. His only preexisting condition was trusting Donald Trump, and for that, he paid with his life," said Kristin Urquiza. Ms. Urquiza said her father had ended his social distancing in late May as he had believed that the novel coronavirus was under control.

Also on Monday, Mr. Trump campaigned in person in Minnesota and Wisconsin, promising to build the economy and warning of chaos if Mr. Biden and his running mate, U.S. Senator Kamala Harris, should win.

Ms. Harris and Mr. Biden will formally accept the Democratic nomination on Thursday.

# UN tribunal convicts Hezbollah member over killing of Hariri

No evidence Hezbollah leadership, Syrian govt. were involved

REUTERS  
LEIDSCHENDAM



A man waving a Lebanese flag outside the UN tribunal in Leidschendam. ■ AP

## Belarus protesters rally against President

MINSK  
Several hundred protesters rallied outside a prison in Minsk on Tuesday where blogger Sergei Tikhanovsky, the husband of Belarus' main opposition figure Svetlana Tikhanovskaya, was being held. President Alexander Lukashenko is facing increased pressure to step down and hold fresh elections. ■ AFP

## Israel warns Hamas of war over 'balloon attacks'

JERUSALEM  
Israel warned Hamas on Tuesday it was risking "war" by failing to stop incendiary balloon attacks from Gaza, as fuel shortages in the Palestinian enclave caused by Israel's blockade caused widespread blackouts. Israeli Army earlier said its fighter jets had hit underground Hamas infrastructure. ■ AFP

# Afghan President's guards injured in rocket attack

Attack came after Ghani finished speech

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
KABUL

Six members of Afghan President Ashraf Ghani's honour guard were wounded on Tuesday when a rocket struck his palace compound, officials said.

The rocket was one of a salvo launched into central Kabul just as officials were gathering in the capital to commemorate Afghanistan's 101<sup>st</sup> independence day.

Mr. Ghani had finished speaking outside the famous Arg Palace to mark the event when a rocket landed in the sprawling compound and wounded six members of his honour guard, two palace officials



Police inspecting a vehicle from which insurgents fired rockets in Kabul. ■ REUTERS

# Libya's GNA signs military accord with Qatar, Turkey

Both will send advisers, provide training

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
TRIPOLI

Qatar and Turkey have signed an accord to send military advisers and instructors for the armed forces of Libya's Government of National Accord, the UN-recognised GNA said.

"We have reached an agreement with Turkish Defence Minister Hulusi Akar and Qatar's (minister) Khaled bin Mohammad Al-Atiyah on tripartite cooperation to build a military institute for training," said the GNA's deputy defence minister, Salah al-Namroush.

Both Sheikh Khaled, Qatar's Minister of State for Defence, and Akar were in Tripoli on Monday for

said. The President had already wrapped up his ceremonial duties and was not affected.

Afghan Interior Ministry spokesman Tariq Arian earlier said 14 rockets were fired out of two vehicles in the capital, mostly hitting civilian homes, injuring 10, including four children.

# 'China's provocation is a diversion'

Xi Jinping wants to shift attention from domestic issues: expelled CPC member

ANANTH KRISHNAN



Cai Xia

The border clash between India and China was a result of the Chinese leadership "thinking of ways to divert the attention of the Chinese public", a former professor at the elite Central Party School in Beijing has said.

Cai Xia, who was on Monday expelled from the Communist Party of China (CPC) after a recording of her remarks criticising President Xi Jinping surfaced this summer, had previously served as a professor at the school for years.

The programme also featured three other Republicans – another former Governor and two former members of Congress.

## Outspoken views

Ms. Cai, 68, has been known for her outspoken and liberal views, but her explicit criticism of the Party leadership is rare for an insider who worked within the system for decades.

In the recording, she "called on the seven-member Politburo Standing Committee to replace a top leader" and "called for an overhaul of a wide range of

he will think of ways to divert the attention of the Chinese public, provoking conflict with other countries, for example encouraging anti-American sentiment and the recent clash between China and India," she said.

On her expulsion from the CPC, she said, "My speech is free from any constraints. Now I am responsible only for my own conscience and principles."

## 'Unchecked powers'

Ms. Cai was particularly critical of Mr. Xi abolishing term limits in 2018, which she saw as a turning point for the country's politics. "When no one can oppose him, that means that his power is unchecked," she said. "Since people don't tell him the truth or hide it from him, he doesn't necessarily know the truth... Because people cannot speak the truth, Wuhan's epidemic spread across the country and the whole world and everyone has been harmed."

Stricter disciplinary codes that the CPC adopted in 2016, she added, had further constricted the freedom of expression.

Ms. Cai said a growing number of people within the political elite in China were concerned at recent trends. "I think within [the Party] 70% and among middle and high level officials the proportion may be even higher,"

she said. "For many of these cadres, their thinking was most deeply affected by the reform era under Deng Xiaoping. When China joined the World Trade Organization, we fully entered the global economy. Those within the party have experienced the last 20, 30 years and they understand in which direction is right and which is a dead end. We are among a group of cadres who took up our positions after reform and opening. So that is why I say everyone is very clear about what is happening."

At the same time, China's relatively quick emergence from the pandemic, coupled with continuing troubles in the U.S., has for others burnished the position Mr. Xi and the CPC and deepened anti-American sentiment. Fang Fang, a popular writer in Wuhan who chronicled the trauma suffered by the city in a diary recording the early stages of the pandemic, subsequently faced backlash online for supposedly giving ammunition to China's critics.

Ms. Cai may soon encounter the same response. "When the U.S. is aiming an offensive against the Communist Party," Hu Xijin, the editor of the Party-run *Global Times* was quoted as saying, "she should not, objectively speaking, stand on the side of the attacker."

# Beijing slams U.S. over Huawei sanctions

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
BEIJING

Beijing on Tuesday hit out at new U.S. sanctions against telecom giant Huawei, accusing Washington of an "abuse of national power" to block the rise of Chinese companies.

A U.S. Commerce Depart-

ment statement on Monday barred an additional 38 Huawei affiliates from buying American computer chips and other technology.

Tensions were already high between the two powers, and Washington has claimed that Chinese firms are used to spy for Beijing –

an accusation the Chinese government and the companies deny.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian on Tuesday said there was no evidence that Huawei products contained security loopholes or backdoors.

"The sanctions have com-

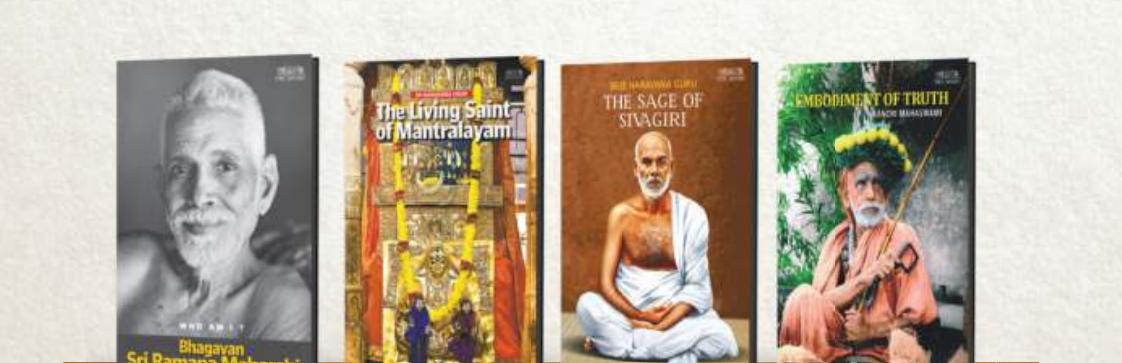
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THE HINDU GROUP

MARKET WATCH

	18-08-2020	% CHANGE
Sensex	38,528	1.26
US Dollar	74.76	0.16
Gold	54,856	2.32
Brent oil	44.97	-0.22

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	357.45	0.00
Asian Paints	1874.10	37.40
Axle Bank	445.80	7.65
Bajaj Auto	3104.80	-10.80
Bajaj Finserv	6343.05	73.95
Bajaj Finance	3419.90	35.10
Bharti Airtel	526.30	4.90
BPCL	402.30	-5.60
Britannia Ind	3914.30	45.65
Cipla	764.85	-6.80
Coal India	136.65	0.65
Dr Reddys Lab	4520.40	1.25
Eicher Motors	21404.70	270.00
GAIL (India)	96.95	-0.70
Grasim Ind	667.10	41.75
HCL Tech	714.45	-4.40
HDFC	1820.70	20.15
HDFC Bank	1056.50	23.75
HDFC Life	597.60	8.50
Hero MotoCorp	2924.15	-3.05
Hindustan	196.00	3.45
Hind Unilever	2214.35	18.30
ICICI Bank	369.55	9.35
IndusInd Bank	521.60	8.45
Bharti Infratel	200.55	0.70
Infosys	967.55	10.05
Indian Oil Corp	87.00	-0.55
ITC	198.55	-0.20
JSW Steel	277.15	7.55
Kotak Bank	1369.35	41.80
L&T	1004.55	3.75
M&M	622.65	-0.95
Maruti Suzuki	6893.10	124.70
Nestle India Ltd.	16554.60	131.70
NTPC	95.05	-0.25
ONGC	80.65	1.35
PowerGrid Corp	177.75	-0.90
Reliance Ind	2118.55	27.20
State Bank	195.10	2.00
Shree Cement	21914.30	401.55
Sun Pharma	526.00	-2.35
Tata Motors	125.60	2.05
Tata Steel	434.50	9.45
TCS	2269.75	16.35
Tech Mahindra	713.05	-8.00
Titan	1145.55	21.70
UltraTech Cement	4168.95	133.35
UPL	500.15	7.80
Wipro	282.70	0.75
Zee Entertainment	173.95	3.85

EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	74.56	74.88
Euro	88.78	89.16
British Pound	98.14	98.57
Japanese Yen (100)	70.61	70.92
Chinese Yuan	10.77	10.82
Swiss Franc	82.36	82.73
Singapore Dollar	54.62	54.86
Canadian Dollar	56.63	56.89
Malaysian Ringgit	17.81	17.91
Australian Dollar	53.94	54.18

Source: Indian Bank

IN BRIEF



**People's Bank of China buys stake in ICICI Bank**  
NEW DELHI  
After picking up a stake in HDFC, Chinese central bank People's Bank of China has acquired a very small stake in ICICI Bank through the ₹15,000-crore share sale by the private sector lender. The Chinese central bank has picked up shares worth ₹15 crore in the qualified institutional placement issue, sources said. At current market capitalisation, the stake in ICICI Bank is about 0.0065%, the sources added. PTI

**Toyota India unveils car subscription programme**  
BENGALURU  
Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) on Tuesday announced a car leasing and subscription programme in India. The auto major also set up a new vertical, Toyota's Mobility Service (TMS), to drive future mobility initiatives in India. To start with, TMS Toyota's Mobility Service will provide leasing and subscription services to customers in Delhi-NCR, Bengaluru and Mumbai and expand them to 10 more cities in a year.

**'India ranks among lowest in Net quality'**  
NEW DELHI  
India ranks among the lowest in the world in terms of Internet quality, an online privacy solutions provider SurfShark said in a research report. As per the "Digital Quality of Life Index 2020," which researches on the quality of digital well-being in 85 countries (81% of the global population), in terms of e-infrastructure, India occupies 79th place, ranking below countries, including Guatemala and Sri Lanka.

**Fino bank unveils digital savings account**  
MUMBAI  
Fino Payments Bank has introduced Jan BachatKhata, an Aadhaar Authentication-based digital savings account for its customers. The primary segment would be low-income household families and beneficiaries of government's direct benefit transfer. Bharat Bhawan, head products and technology, Fino bank said, "we aim to open about a million Jan BachatKhata accounts in FY21."

# Centre targets PSBs' stake sale by March

FM holds meeting with Secretaries to expedite disinvestment in IDBI, three other state-owned banks

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ

NEW DELHI



**Strategic sector:** Apart from four public sector banks, all others would have to be privatised or merged. ■ REUTERS

The Finance Ministry is working to expedite the sale of stakes in four state-owned banks – IDBI Bank, Bank of Maharashtra, Punjab & Sind Bank and UCO Bank – with the aim of completing the disinvestment process in the current fiscal, said an official.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman held a meeting on Tuesday with all Secretaries in the Ministry to discuss this issue, the official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, added.

The government is looking to divest its stakes in multiple public sector companies at a time when its finances have taken a hit from significant shortfalls in tax revenue amid the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic. The four

banks mentioned were the only prospects currently being considered for divestment in the banking sector, added the official.

"Work has started on these four, and the target is to complete it within this financial year, by March 2021," said the official. The Centre holds majority stakes in all four banks through direct and indirect holdings.

The Prime Minister's Office wrote a letter to the Finance Ministry earlier this month asking it to expedite the sale of stakes in these lenders, Reuters reported on Tuesday, citing a government source with direct knowledge of the matter.

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**'Strategic sectors'**

The Centre's Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, announced in May as a stimulus package in the wake of the pandemic, had promised a new Public Sector Enterprise Policy that would notify specific strategic sectors in which no more than four PSU players would be allowed, with the rest being privatised, merged or brought under holding companies.

At the time, some economists had cautioned that the government could struggle to find buyers for its PSU stakes at a time of global recession.

In June, Chief Economic Advisor Krishnamurthy Subramanian asserted that bank

ing would be categorised as a strategic sector, meaning that apart from four public sector banks, all others would have to be privatised or merged.

Earlier this month, a senior Finance Ministry official said that a proposal on strategic sectors was being prepared and would be taken to the Cabinet soon. The official also confirmed that the Centre intended to go ahead with the proposed sale of its stake in IDBI Bank.

The government currently owns about 47% stake in IDBI Bank. In 2019, state-run insurance behemoth LIC completed acquisition of a 51% controlling stake in the lender, and infused ₹21,624 crore into it.

Shares of IDBI Bank rose 2.7% to close at ₹39.65 on the BSE on Tuesday.

# Auto firms urged to cut royalty to parents

Govt. concerned about high outflows

REUTERS

NEW DELHI



domestic production and curbing imports.

While India does not restrict the amount that can be paid as royalty, any payment by a locally listed company exceeding 5% of revenues needs shareholder approval.

Listed companies such as Maruti Suzuki and parts makers including Bosch, Schaeffler India and Wabco India typically pay royalties of between 1%-5% to their foreign owners.

Maruti Suzuki paid ₹38.2 billion as royalty to Suzuki Motor in the fiscal year ended March 31, 2020, amounting to 5% of its revenue.

Hyundai's privately-owned local unit paid ₹150 million, or 2.6% of revenue, as royalties to its South Korean parent in fiscal 2019 and Toyota Motor's India arm paid \$88 million, or 3.4% of revenue, to its Japanese parent.

The markets regulator had suggested imposing caps on royalty payments which spiked after 2009 when foreign investment rules were eased and restrictions on such payments were removed.

The industry has also requested that loans be made more accessible via a long-term moratorium, interest rate reduction and/or longer repayment schedules which could "aid in salvaging an entire industry". It also suggested the use of a 'COVID Passport' for easing travel test certificate acceptance and a common protocol for quarantine among State governments in this regard.

To boost liquidity, the CII suggested that all fixed charges such as electricity, water, LPG and property tax, for the lockdown period be waived. It also sought a 12-month deferment of all statutory dues.

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Recently however, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government has made a renewed push to make the country a major manufacturing hub by encouraging

## RBI unveils framework for retail payments entity

Pan-India body will also frame rules

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Tuesday released a framework for setting up of a pan-India umbrella entity for retail payments systems.

This entity, to be incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013, would need to focus on retail payments systems, the RBI said.

The umbrella entity will be permitted to participate in Reserve Bank's payment and settlement systems, including having a current account with Reserve Bank, if required. The formation of the umbrella entity has been authorised under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.

The entity will operate clearing and settlement systems for participating banks and non-banks, identify and manage relevant risks, monitor retail payments system developments and related issues in the country and internationally.

The RBI said it will be the responsibility of the entity to frame necessary rules and the related processes to ensure that the system is safe and sound, and that payments are exchanged efficiently.

The entity will be permitted to participate in Reserve Bank's payment and settlement systems, including having a current account with Reserve Bank, if required. The formation of the umbrella entity has been authorised under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.

"With the new guidelines issued under Unlock 3.0 by the Government of India, we would be extremely grateful if economic activities and business are allowed to operate as permissible under the MHA guidelines," said Puneet Chhatwal and Deep Kalra, the chairman and co-

chairman, respectively, of the CII National Committee on Tourism & Hospitality, in a letter to Tourism Minister Prahabd Patel.

The letter, dated August 13, requested the Ministry of Tourism to issue an advisory to all State Governments in this regard.

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## Defer statutory dues for pandemic-hit tourism, urges CII

Industry body also wants hotels opened without time curbs

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA

NEW DELHI

To mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the tourism sector, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has made recommendations including waiver of fixed charges, deferment of statutory dues, and allowing all hotels to remain open without time restrictions.

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**Barca sacks coach Setien and Abidal**

**ANI**  
**BARCELONA**  
Barcelona has sacked head coach Quique Setien and Eric Abidal as sporting director after the side endured a trophy-less 2019-20 season.

"The Board of Directors have agreed that Quique Setien is no longer the first-team coach," the club said in a statement. "This is the first decision within a wider restructuring of the first team," it added.

**TV PICKS**

**Champions League:** Sony Ten 2 & 3 (SD & HD), 12.30 a.m. (Thursday)

**NBA:** Sony Six (SD & HD), 6.30 a.m., 11 p.m. & 4 a.m. (Thursday)

**PGA Tour:** Eurosport (SD & HD), 11.30 p.m.

**Magnus Carlsen Chess Tour Finals:** Eurosport (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.

**IN BRIEF**

  
**Raptors, Nuggets, Celtics and Clippers post wins**

**ORLANDO**  
Kawhi Leonard scored 29 points as Los Angeles Clippers held on to beat the Dallas Mavericks 118-110 in the opening game of their NBA playoff series. Donovan Mitchell's 57-point performance was not enough as Utah Jazz went down 135-125 against Denver Nuggets.

**The results:** Nuggets 135 (Murray 36, Jokic 29) bt Jazz 125 (Mitchell 57); Raptors 134 (VanVleet 30, Ibaka 22) bt Nets 110 (Luwu-Cabarrot 26); Celtics 109 (Tatum 32, Brown 29) bt 76ers 101 (Embiid 26); Clippers 118 (Leonard 29, George 27) bt Mavericks 110 (Doncic 42).

  
**Real Sociedad signs David Silva from Man City**

**MADRID**  
Real Sociedad signed former Manchester City playmaker David Silva on a two-year contract and on a free transfer. City said earlier on Monday it would honour the Spaniard with a statue outside its stadium. AP

**Pandemic: Ligue 1 opening game postponed**

**MARSEILLE**  
The first game of the French soccer season between Marseille and St. Etienne was postponed on Tuesday to Sept. 16 or 17. The decision came shortly after Marseille confirmed three positive cases in its first-team. AFP

**Asian boxing meet postponed to 2021**

The Asian Boxing Championship, which was to be held in India in November-December, has been postponed to next year by the national federation's Secretary General Jay Kowli told PTI on Tuesday. PTI

  
**Nortje to replace Woakes in Delhi Capitals squad**

**NEW DELHI**  
Fast bowler Anrich Nortje will replace Chris Woakes of England in the Delhi Capitals squad for the Indian Premier League, the franchise announced on Tuesday. Woakes had pulled out due to family commitments. PTI

**Beresford Williams is CSA acting president**

**CAPE TOWN**  
Cricket South Africa (CSA) has appointed Beresford Williams as the acting president. The decision was taken following the resignation of Chris Nenzani. Williams will be the acting president until the AGM, set for Sept. 5. ANI

# Dream11 is IPL's new title sponsor

Fantasy sports platform wins rights for 2020 edition with ₹222 crore bid

**AMOL KARHADKAR**  
**MUMBAI**

Fantasy sports platform Dream11 has bagged the title sponsorship rights for the Indian Premier League's 2020 edition with a bid of ₹222 crore.

**Three bids**  
IPL chairman Brijesh Patel confirmed to *The Hindu* on Tuesday that Dream11 was finalised after "evaluating the three bids that were submitted during the prescribed window earlier today".

The other bidders were e-learning platforms Unacademy (₹170 crore) and Byju's (₹201 crore).

The eligible entities among those who had submitted their Expression of Interest (EoI) were asked to email their bids between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Tuesday.

The Tata group, despite

## Money matters

The evolution of the IPL's title sponsorship rights over time:



2008-2012: DLF: ₹40 crore per year

2013-2015: Pepsi: ₹79.2 crore per year

2016-2017: Vivo: ₹100 crore per year

2018-2019: Vivo: ₹440 crore per year

2020: Dream11: ₹222 crore per year

submitting the EoI document last week, pulled out of the race.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) was forced last week to invite bids for IPL's title sponsorship rights following Vivo India's withdrawal barely six weeks before the start of the tournament, to be played in the United Arab Emirates

A combination of the Chinese firm seeking a reduction in the sponsorship amount because of the pandemic-caused economic crisis and the public sentiment in India following the border tension with China had led

to Vivo's exit. Dream11, which has been a partner of BCCI and IPL for a couple of years now, also has a minority investment from a Chinese firm – Tencent Holdings.

Vivo India's deal was valued at ₹440 crore per annum.

FanCode, a live-streaming app launched last year by the Dream11 promoters, is under investigation by the BCCI's Anti-Corruption Unit for its alleged links to a match played by locals on the outskirts of Chandigarh, that was passed off as a T20 contest staged in Sri Lanka.

A BCCI official said that since the Punjab Police is investigating the matter and the two sites are different entities, the on-going investigation will not have any bearing on Dream11's bid.

## 'Raina could have scored more up the order'

Dravid says he was a terrific team man

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
**NEW DELHI**

Suresh Raina was a "terrific team man" who could have amassed more runs if he had batted up the order, said Rahul Dravid.

Dravid, who had presented Raina with the ODI and Test caps, on Tuesday paid glowing tribute to the left-handed batsman.

"A lot of success that India had in white-ball cricket, a lot of great moments and memories that India had over the last decade and a half, Suresh has been a really big part of that. I think his contribution in white-ball cricket has been fantastic," he said in a video posted by BCCI on its Twitter handle.

"He is a World Cup winner and Champions Trophy winner. He contributed so much on the field, his enthusiasm he brought, the way he raised the standard of fielding."

"Honestly his numbers could have been a lot better if he had batted higher up the order, that has been shown in the success he had for CSK (Chennai Super Kings) in the IPL where he bats at No. 3."

  
Rahul Dravid and Suresh Raina.  
• FILE PHOTO: K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

gy, the enthusiasm he brought, the way he raised the standard of fielding.

"It is frustrating that another opportunity for our Momentum Proteas to play against top quality opposition has again had to be cancelled but as always the safety of our players and support staff is the prime consideration," Director of Cricket Graeme Smith said in a statement.

## SA women's tour of England cancelled

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
**JOHANNESBURG**

The South African women's tour of England has been cancelled due to international travel regulations put in place for the country's sportspersons in wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The South African women's team was scheduled to play four ODIs and two T20Is in a bio-secure environment in England.

"It is frustrating that another opportunity for our Momentum Proteas to play against top quality opposition has again had to be cancelled but as always the safety of our players and support staff is the prime consideration," Director of Cricket Graeme Smith said in a statement.

## Carlsen and Nakamura stay level

**RAKESH RAO**  
**NEW DELHI**

Magnus Carlsen and Hikaru Nakamura drew the first game of the crucial fifth set in the title-deciding clash of the \$300,000 Magnus Carlsen Chess Tour Finals on Tuesday.

Though Carlsen enjoyed some advantage briefly, Nakamura neutralised the advantage by finding the precise continuation. The game ended in 54 moves.

After four sets, the players are locked 2-2 in their race for the first prize of \$140,000.

**The results:** Final (Set Five, Game One): Hikaru Nakamura (USA) drew with Magnus Carlsen (Nor); Set Four: Carlsen bt Nakamura 2.5-1.5.

## India takes on China in chess Olympiad

**P.K. AJITH KUMAR**  
**KOZHIKODE**

Come August 23, India and China will square off on the chessboard online. The match between the two Asian giants could produce some intense battles at the Chess Olympiad, which opens on Friday.

With the qualification phase coming to an end, the draw has been made for the final phase. India, which is directly seeded into the top division, finds itself in a tough group.

China, the winner of both the open and women's sections at the 2018 Olympiad at Batumi (Georgia), may be the only side stronger on paper than India in Group A, but teams like Iran, Georgia and Germany cannot be taken lightly, either.

## Mariyappan excited about nomination

**K. KEERTHIVASAN**  
**CHENNAI**

Rio Paralympic Games gold medallist Mariyappan Thangavelu is excited to be nominated for the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award, but is not resting on his laurels.

**Working hard**  
The high jumper said he is working hard to repeat his performance in Tokyo next year.

"Due to COVID-19, I am not training every day. I do cycling and gym at home and three to four days a week, I go to the Air Force ground in Bengaluru and

train with my coach Satyanarayana.

"With my training – the coach is giving me a heavy workload – I am confident of retaining the gold," Mariyappan, who hails from Periya Vadagampatti village in Salem, told *The Hindu* on Tuesday.

It has not been all smooth sailing, however.

There have been doubts raised over his qualification for the Khel Ratna in some quarters because of a 2017 case in the Madras High Court concerning the death of a youth.

Among the 15 recommended for the Dhyanchand award are Jincy Phillips (athletics), Trupti Murgunde (badminton), Lakha Singh (boxing), Ajit Singh (hockey), late Sachin Singh (swimming), Nandan Bal (tennis) and Ranjit Kumar (para athletics).

The Rashtriya Khel Protashan Puraskar in different categories will be bestowed on Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), Air Force Sports Board, Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology, Army Sports Institute, Lakshya Institute and International Institute of Sports Management.

Former hockey captain Jude Felix in hockey and star shooter with multiple Asian Games gold medals, Jaspal Rana, were recommended for the Dronacharya award in the regular section.

The Arjuna Awards list

has 29 names including cricketer Ishant Sharma, six-time Winter Olympian Shiva Keshavan, athlete Dutee

In some ways they were similar, although Gavaskar had a far greater range. The late Mike Marqusee's lovely little poem on opening batsmen says at one point: *We play the same percentages/ to different rhythms....* Not written specifically about Gavaskar-Chauhan, it captured their partnership well.

They were the last old-fashioned pair, their job to see off the new ball and protect the middle order. Chauhan played his final Test in Auckland in 1981. Gavaskar's partner in the following Test (in Mumbai) was Krishnamachari Srikkanth. Opening batman was never the same again.

Chauhan played only 40 Tests in a 12-year period when India played 81. It seems lopsided somehow. But he inspired in varied roles as administrator and politician. He will be missed in each of those fields.

If Chauhan was the last in the line of a particular kind of opener, Dhoni was the first in another line: that of a creative wicketkeeper-batsman-captain who grabbed a match by the scruff of its neck and made it do his bidding. There had been attacking keepers before – Farokh Engineer and Budhi Kunderan, for example – but none who led as often or had so many calls on his various talents.

Only five players – Sachin Tendulkar, Mahela Jayawardene, Kumar Sangakkara, Sanath Jayasuriya and Ricky Ponting – played more internationals than Dhoni's 538; only one of them, Sangakkara, also kept wickets, and none of them led in as many matches.

### Significant contribution

It is an incredible record, but Dhoni's significance went beyond that. This Ranchi-born gave the cricketing backwaters of India something to aspire to; he led a democratisation drive that saw the game and its players prosper in unexpected places, beyond the main cities.

There aren't too many cricketing questions he leaves unanswered. There's that business of the hour of retirement, though. 1929 hours. In all these years, we know about Dhoni only what he has allowed us to know.

For someone stingy with personal details, 1929 might have been him having fun. Picasso or Joyce sometimes introduced tricky elements in their work just for the fun of having critics interpret them. Maybe that's Dhoni's intention too!

## Inter enters final

Steamrollers Shakhtar Donetsk

### EUROPA LEAGUE

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Inter Milan is back in a European final for the first time in a decade, and the Italian team is playing like it's never been away.

Lautaro Martinez and Romelu Lukaku scored twice each as Inter demolished Shakhtar Donetsk 5-0 in the semifinals on Monday.

**The result:** Inter 5 (Martinez 19 & 74, D'Ambrosio 64, Lukaku 78 & 84) Shakhtar Donetsk 0.

## Cricket teams need both Simon and Garfunkel

Chauhan played the supporting act twice, but wouldn't have minded either role for he knew his place

for his self-awareness, his self-knowledge; Chauhan had these qualities too. He was not as flamboyant, and was never spoken of as a potential India captain – but his value to the team was not calculated in such currency. He was that often overlooked player, the quiet man who knew what needed to be done, and how to go about doing it quietly.

**Brought calm to the team**  
Just as every team needs fast bowlers, spinners, wicket-keeper and batsmen, every team needs a Chetan Chauhan too; someone who brings a calm, measured quality to it. Both as a player and a person.

The great West Indies teams of the 70s and 80s, with a phalanx of stroke-makers and fast bowlers, had a Larry Gomes; not as celebrated as the Richardses, Greenidges, Lloyds, Marshalls, Holdings, but a crucial balancing factor.

Mike Brearley once wrote that a cricket eleven works only by dint of differentiation. The skills are diverse, but every team looks for balance. Balance is essential in the temperaments too.

When a hot-headed Sunil Gavaskar, then captain, miffed at being given out

wrongly in Australia, asked Chauhan to walk off the field with him, Chauhan knew it would mean conceding the match, but as a disciplined soldier followed his leader. He walked slowly, in order to give Gavaskar time to cool down.

Chauhan said later he knew the price India would have to pay. The situation was defused after Gavaskar crossed the boundary – Chauhan was still inside – and the Indian manager waved for Chauhan back and sent in next man Dilip Vengsarkar.

When he was captain, Dhoni was the calmest player on the field; captains are not always the most composed, as his successor Virat Kohli has shown. But there is Cheteshwar Pujara for balance. Ajinkya Rahane too.

They constitute – as Chauhan did – a version of the 'elders', tasked with (whether consciously