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THE HINDU

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2020

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

DELHI
CITY EDITION
16 pages • ₹10.00

Karnataka seeks to cut use of firecrackers during Deepavali

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Lalu's bail hearing in Dumka treasury case deferred till Nov. 27

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Two militants, civilian killed in Pulwama encounter

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Williamson, Holder power SRH past RCB in Eliminator

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NEARBY

Daily COVID-19 cases in Delhi cross 7,000 mark

NEW DELHI

The Capital saw the highest number of new COVID-19 cases since the pandemic began with 7,178 fresh infections reported on Friday. The tally now stands at 4,23,831. The death toll has reached 6,833 with 64 more fatalities reported in 24 hours. This is the first time that the number of daily cases in the city has crossed 7,000.

CITY ▸ PAGE 3

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8826486658, 8826496658

Police file chargesheet in Nikita murder case

FARIDABAD

The Faridabad police filed a 700-page chargesheet here on Friday in connection with the Nikita murder case. The report was prepared and submitted in record time — 11 days after the 20-year-old was shot point-blank allegedly by her former schoolmate Tausif on October 26. The police have listed 60 witnesses.

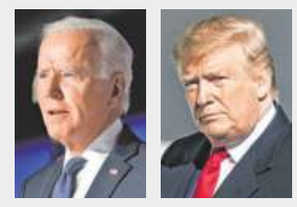
CITY ▸ PAGE 3

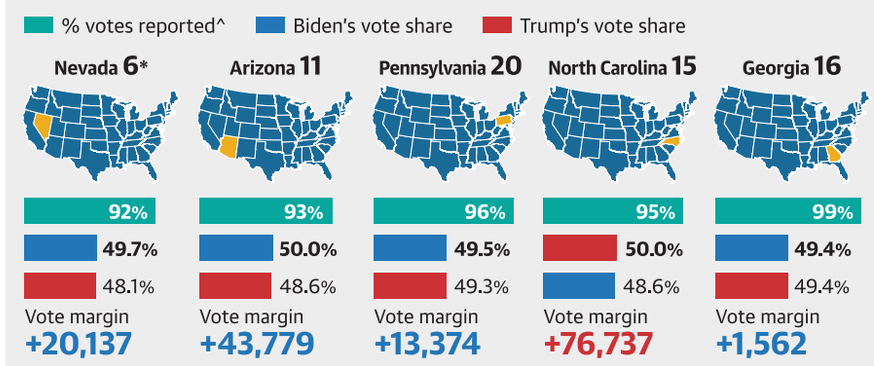
Pennsylvania lead gets Biden closer to victory

Trump repeats claims of 'stolen election'; recount in Georgia

Biden ahead in four States

Democratic nominee Joe Biden inched closer to victory on Friday by pulling ahead of incumbent Donald Trump in four out of five key undecided States. On Friday, Biden secured lead in Georgia and Pennsylvania. Having already picked up 253 Electoral College votes, a win in any two States or a win in Pennsylvania will help him cross the 270 mark





* Electoral College votes ^Results as of 12.15 a.m. IST

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON

As the counting of mailed-in ballots continued across the U.S., Democratic candidate Joe Biden appeared to be on the edge of victory, as he pushed past incumbent President Donald Trump in the crucial swing State of Pennsylvania on Friday morning. A win would make Mr. Biden's running mate, Kamala Harris, the first woman Vice-President of the U.S. and the first Indian American and African American person in that position.

In addition, Mr. Biden had also moved ahead in Georgia.

On Thursday evening, Mr. Trump addressed the media, making several unsubstantiated claims that procedural irregularities and fraud were responsible for his precarious electoral position.

Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensberger announced on Friday morning that there would be a recount due to the slim margin between the candidates. Candidates can request a recount as per State law if the margin is within 0.5%.

Prize catch

Mr. Biden's lead in Pennsylvania came as he performed strongly with postal ballots in counties such as Philadelphia and Bucks, giving him over a 13,000-vote lead over Mr. Trump in the State by early Friday afternoon.

Bucks County is the most conservative among Democratic counties (i.e., Mr. Trump is competitive there).

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 13

India won't accept shifting of LAC: CDS

'Tactical military actions can spiral into larger conflict'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India will not accept any "shifting" of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and the possibility of unprovoked tactical military actions "spiralling into a larger conflict cannot be discounted", Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat said on Friday, as India and China held the 8th round of Corps Commander-level talks at Chushul in an attempt to resolve the ongoing stand-off.

Bipin Rawat

"Our posturing is unambiguous. We will not accept any shifting of the LAC. In the overall security calculus, border confrontations, transgressions, unprovoked tactical military actions spiralling into a larger conflict therefore cannot be discounted," Gen. Rawat said at a webinar organised by the National Defence College as part of its diamond jubilee celebrations.

'Strong response'

Speaking on the situation in eastern Ladakh, Gen. Rawat said it remained tense and the People's Liberation Army (PLA) was facing "unanticipated consequences" of its "misadventure" because of the firm and strong response by the Indian forces.

The Corps Commander-level talks began at 9.30 a.m., a defence source said. The Indian stand remained firm for disengagement across the entire eastern Ladakh, the source said.

Following the developments on the south bank of Pangong Tso (lake) in August, when the Indian Army occupied several dominating features that were lying vacant, China has been pressing for discussing the south bank first and other friction areas later.

This is the first round of talks with the Indian side being led by Lt. Gen. P.G.K. Menon, who took over as the 14 Corps Commander on October 13. He attended the last two rounds of talks.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

SC relief for Arnab in privilege case

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday took *suo motu* cognisance and issued a contempt notice against the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Secretary for browbeating Republic TV editor-in-chief Arnab Goswami for approaching the court in connection with an alleged breach of privilege motion.

The court ordered that Mr. Goswami will not be arrested in the privilege case.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8
HEARING TO CONTINUE ▸ PAGE 9

Finance panel warns of rising GST dues for States

Gap could balloon to ₹7 lakh cr. by 2022

VIKAS DHOOT
NEW DELHI

The gap between GST cess collections and the revenue shortfall faced by the States for implementing the Goods and Services Tax (GST) could snowball to anywhere between ₹5 lakh crore to ₹7 lakh crore by June 2022 from the ₹2.35 lakh crore estimated for this year, the Fifteenth Finance Commission is learnt to have projected in its report.

The Commission, which finalised its report proposing a framework for sharing revenues between the Centre and the States for the next five years on October 30, is learnt to have recommended a unique fiscal glide path for each State for the period 2020-21 to 2025-26, in a separate volume dedicated to the States.

Given the uncertainty created by the pandemic and the economic slowdown that pre-dated the COVID-19 outbreak, the panel has had to rely on variable growth projections for each of the five years rather than assuming a steady trend.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

Delhi govt. nod to prosecute Umar Khalid

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government has granted Delhi Police sanction to prosecute former Jawaharlal Nehru University student leader Umar Khalid in a case related to the north-east Delhi riots.

Mr. Khalid is booked under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

"We have given prosecution sanction in all Delhi riots cases registered by the police. Now, it is up to the courts to see who are the accused," a senior Delhi government official said.

Basic needs

Awaiting their turn: People line up for food near Kashmiri Gate in Delhi on Friday. ▪ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Severe pollution continues to choke Capital

Delhi govt. forms panel to assess impact of Pusa bio-decomposer on farm fires

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Delhi's air quality improved slightly but remained in the 'severe' category for the second consecutive day on Friday, with farm fires accounting for 21% of the pollution in the Capital.

According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the 24-hour average Air Quality Index (AQI) of Delhi was 406; the AQI on Thursday was 450 – the highest so far this year. Noida, Greater Noida, Ghaziabad and Faridabad were also in the 'severe' category on Friday, while Gurugram settled in the upper end of the 'very poor' category.

Stubble burning

The SAFAR bulletin stated there were 3,225 stubble fires on Thursday in Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and neighbouring areas – the highest so far this season. "The boundary layer wind direction is northerly, partly favourable for fire-related intrusion. Stubble burning share in PM2.5 in Delhi's air is estimated at 21% on Friday," read the bulletin.

Toxic air: Thick smog hangs over National Highway 24 in Delhi on Friday evening. ▪ R.V. MOORTHY

SAFAR has forecast a slight improvement in air quality unless more that estimated fire-related emission takes place. "Not so calm surface winds are forecast for the next two days favouring dispersion of pollutants. AQI is likely to improve and stay within the middle-end of the 'very poor' category, deterioration is expected by late night on November 8 towards the higher end of 'very poor'," the bulletin stated.

Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai said the Aam Aadmi Party government is working to combat local sources of air pollution and has formed a 15-member Pusa Bio-decomposer Impact Assessment Committee to study the impact of the stubble burning solution that the Delhi government has tried out, so that next year other States may use it as a cheap and viable alternative to stubble burning.

"The committee will submit a report within seven days. We will then submit it to the Supreme Court where a hearing on pollution is going on," Mr. Rai said.

He added that the Delhi government has so far received around 2,300 complaints through the 'Green Delhi' app and has resolved around 1,346 complaints.

The Minister added that from November 9, 14 teams of the environment department will visit spots mentioned in the complaints. Teams will also be formed to implement the cracker ban.

SEE ALSO ▸ PAGE 2

Should Hathras DM continue in post, HC asks U.P. govt.

Court cites pendency of investigation into the case of alleged rape and 'hurried' cremation of victim

OMAR RASHID
LUCKNOW

The Allahabad High Court has asked the Uttar Pradesh government if it is "fair and reasonable" to allow the District Magistrate (DM) of Hathras to continue in his post during the pendency of the investigation into the case of alleged rape, and 'hurried' cremation of the victim, as he was in "the thick of things."

A Lucknow Bench of Justices Rajan Roy and Pankaj Mithal said, "...when he [Hathras DM Praveen Kumar Laxkar] was in the thick of things... would it not be appropriate to shift him elsewhere during pendency of these proceedings without there being any stigma attached to such an action only to ensure fairness and transparency in the matter."

Protesters in Ranchi, Jharkhand, demanding justice for the Hathras rape victim. ▪ PTI

On October 12, the court said it was not satisfied with the government explanation on why it had taken action against the district police chief but not the DM on the alleged rape and "hurried" cremation of the victim, though it was admittedly a "collective decision".

On November 2, government counsel S.V. Raju assured the court that he would convey it (question of transferring the DM) to the government and come back with a reply on the next date of hearing, November 25.

Vikrant Vir, the suspended SP of Hathras, appeared before the court and submitted his version and filed an affidavit. It was the DM and he (Mr. Vir) who had taken the decision to cremate the victim's body in the night, he said.

The court asked the Central Bureau of Investigation to file a status report on the investigation before the next date and indicate approximately how much time would likely be taken to complete it.

Family's plea

Seema Kushwaha, counsel for the victim's family, submitted that the family wanted to be shifted from Uttar Pradesh to Delhi as it was apprehensive about its safety once the court proceedings were over. Ms. Kushwaha also apprised the court of an alleged promise made by the State government to provide employment to one member of the victim's family that had not been fulfilled as yet.

She stated that although a part of compensation had been received by the family, some pressure was being exerted for returning it in view of an alleged statement made by some family members that they did not want it.

Ms. Kushwaha referred to a letter of the DM but could not place it on record.

The government advocate, however, refuted her contention and stated that there was no such move at all.

The Bench directed that a responsible officer of the CRPF file an affidavit indicating the nature of security provided and measures taken in this regard for the victim's family before the next date.

Will start NRC afresh after polls if apex court allows: Assam Minister

State has been pushing for 10-20% re-verification of names

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Assam will go for a fresh exercise to update the National Register of Citizens (NRC) after the 2021 Assembly election if the Supreme Court gives the nod, Assam Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has said.

His assertion follows Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal's meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah, where the former reportedly sought 10-20% re-verification of the names figuring in the complete NRC draft published on August 31, 2019.

The Bharatiya Janata Party-led coalition government in the State had rejected the NRC, alleging that former NRC State Coordinator Prateek Hajela had manipulated it. The list had excluded 19 lakh of the 3.3 crore applicants for failing to provide admissible documents establishing their citizenship.

Addressing rallies in Udalguri district of the poll-bound Bodoland Territorial Council on Friday, Dr. Sarma said the BJP was firm on starting the NRC exercise afresh to weed out people of doubtful citizenship.

On Thursday, he told presspersons that if given the opportunity, correcting the "fundamentally wrong" NRC over another five years would be enough to defeat the "modern Mughals," a term the BJP has been using since the Congress and the Muslim-dominated All India United Democratic Front have been working on a pre-election alliance.

"If the Supreme Court, which had monitored the NRC exercise, allows us, we will go for another exercise for an error-free list. We have already sought the apex court's permission for re-verification of the names in the NRC," Dr. Sarma said.

The Assam government in July 2019 petitioned the Supreme Court for re-verification of 20% of names in districts bordering Bangladesh and 10% in the other districts. The court did not accept the plea as Mr. Hajela told the court that 27% of the names had already been re-verified before the publication of the complete draft.

Former Delhi chief secretary appointed chairperson of Air Quality Commission

First meeting of the body likely to be held next week

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

Former Chief Secretary of Delhi M.M. Kutty was appointed chairperson of the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) on Thursday, according to a gazetted notification from the Environment Ministry on Friday.

Other full-time members include Mukesh Khare of IIT-Delhi and Ramesh K.J., Ex-Director General, India Meteorological Department (IMD) and A.K. Nautiyal, joint secretary in the Ministry.

Ajay Mathur, Director-General of The Energy Resources Institute and Ashish Dhawan of the Air Pollution Action Group were also appointed as representatives of members from non-government organisations. Chief Secretaries or Secretaries, who deal with pollution from States of Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and a representative from Niti Ayog as well as from the Central Pollution Control Board and the Indian Space Research Organisation would also constitute the Commission.

There was no representation from the Ministry of Agriculture. The latter was in charge of funding farmers to adopt subsidised farming equipment in Punjab and Haryana particularly to dissuade them from burning rice paddy stubble. A member of the commission told *The Hindu* that the first meeting of the body was likely next week.

The CAQM was formed on October 28 after dissolving several pollution-monitoring bodies, including most prominently the 22-year-old EPCA that has so far addressed air pollution in the Delhi NCR. "This body will perform the job of coordinating activities between the States," Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar said on Friday.

Encompassing Delhi, Punjab, Rajasthan, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, the all-powerful body assumes several powers to coordinate action among States, levy fines – ranging up to ₹1 crore or five years of prison – to address air pollution. It was brought in via an ordinance.

'Panel starts work to check stubble burning'

There are many Commissions working but they have to be effective, says Chief Justice of India

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Union government informed the Supreme Court on Friday that the new Commission to check stubble burning by farmers in the adjoining States of Delhi would start functioning this day.

"The Commission will start functioning from today [November 6] itself," Solicitor General Tushar Mehta informed a three-judge Bench led by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sharad A. Bobde.

Chief Justice Bobde said, "There are many Commissions working, but at the end they have to be effective".

The Commission for Air Quality Management in the National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Ordinance of 2020 was promulgated by the Centre recently.

It is meant to both prevent and monitor stubble burning by farmers of Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana. The air pollution caused by the indiscriminate burning of fields is choking Delhi.

"We have representation from NGOs. They are experts in the field," Mr. Mehta submitted. During the hearing, Chief Justice Bobde reminded that it was for the government to take timely steps to stop pollution. The government had the resources and money. "Ultimately we are a court of law. A court of law has limitations, not of power, but functionality", he remarked.

Scene on a smoggy day in New Delhi on Friday.
▪ SANDEEP SAXENA

Air quality of Delhi-NCR

Delhi	406	Gurugram	392
Ghaziabad	433	Faridabad	415
Noida	406	Greater Noida	421

Good 0-50 | Satisfactory 51-100 | Moderate 101-200 | Poor 201-300 | Very poor 301-400 | Severe >401

AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M. YESTERDAY (AVERAGE OF PAST 24 HOURS) | SOURCE: CPCB

'Pollution has worsened

Senior advocate Vikas Singh, appearing for petitioners, said the pollution had worsened in Delhi. "Something drastic needs to be done," he submitted. The court agreed to hear the case after Deepavali vacation – the whole of next week. On October 16, the apex court-appointed its former Judge, Justice Madan B. Lokur, to a one-man committee to monitor/prevent stubble burning in U.P., Haryana and Punjab.

But the decision was put on hold shortly thereafter when Mr. Mehta informed the Bench about the ordinance. On October 16, the court asked Justice Lokur with the help of student volunteer forces deployed from the National Cadet Corps, National Service Scheme and Bharat Scouts and Guides, to protect Delhi NCR from air pollution caused by stubble burning in Punjab, Haryana and U.P. this winter.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
SUBARNAREKHA IRRIGATION CIRCLE, AT/PO-LAXMIPOSI, DIST-MAYURBHANJ.
Government of Odisha "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE
Bid Identification No.- 04/2020-21 of S.E. S.I.C, Laxmiposi

i	Name of Work	Construction of water courses of Mukteswar Pani Panchayat including all structures.
ii	Estimated Cost (Lakh)	Rs.110.95 Lakh
iii	Period of Completion	08 (Eight) Calendar Months
iv	Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal.	16.11.2020 at 10 A.M.
v	Last date/time for receipt of bid in the portal.	01.12.2020 up to 5.00 PM.
vi	Name & Address of the O.I.T .	Superintending Engineer, Subarnarekha Irrigation Circle, Laxmiposi, Mayurbhanj.

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal : "https://tendersodisha.gov.in" .
A-282: Superintending Engineer, Subarnarekha Irrigation Circle, Laxmiposi, Mayurbhanj
OIPR-32120/11/0005/2021

WORKS DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, EASTERN CIRCLE (R&B), BALASORE
e-mail:- seec_bls@rediffmail.com
Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice
Bid Identification No. SEEC-04/2020-21
No.5293 / Dt.28.10.2020

Nature of work :- Building Works
Number of works :- 07 (Seven) Nos
Amount put to Tender :- Rs.212.34 Lakh to Rs.224.07 Lakh
Class of Contractor :- "B" & "A" Class.
Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal. :- Dt.12.11.2020 at 10.00 AM
Last Date / Time of receipt of bid in the portal :- Dt.26.11.2020 up to 05.00 PM
Date of opening of bid :- Dt.27.11.2020 at 11.00 AM
Name & address of the Office inviting bid :- Superintending Engineer, Eastern Circle (R&B), Balasore.

The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "http//tendersodisha.gov.in" .
All future corrigendum will be available on ONLINE mode only.
B-381: Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Eastern Circle (R&B), Balasore
OIPR-34026/11/0005/2021

NOTICE INVITING BID
Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited (OSMCL)
In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit-III, Bhubaneswar-751001
Tel.:(0674) 2380950; Website: www.osmcl.nic.in ; Email: logistics.osmcl.od@nic.in
Bid Ref.No.: OSMCL/2021-22/DRUGS-DHS-GEN-GR-I/01 Date: 09/11/2020
Online Bids through e-Tender portal (https://tendersodisha.gov.in) are invited from eligible bidders for supply of Drugs & Medical Consumables (Group-I) as per the particulars mentioned below:

Sl. No.	Particulars	Date and time	
1.	Date & time of release of bid	09/11/2020, 3 PM	
2.	Date & time for submission of queries by E-Mail id - logistics.osmcl.od@nic.in	13/11/2020, up to 5:00 PM	
3.	Date & time of Online bid submission	Start Date & Time	End Date & Time
		18/11/2020, 3 PM	07/12/2020, 6.00 PM
4.	Date & time for submission of Tender Documents, Tender Document Fee and EMD amount as per section-IV of tender document	Start Date & Time	End Date & Time
		08/12/2020, 10 AM	15/12/2020,11.00 AM
5.	Date & time of Online Technical bid Opening	15/12/2020, 11:30 AM	
6.	Date of opening of Price Bid	To be informed to the qualified bidders	

The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including cost of bid document, EMDs, Prequalification criteria and terms & conditions are available in the websites: www.osmcl.nic.in and https://tendersodisha.gov.in . The Authority reserves the right to accept / reject any part thereof or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof.
CAD-702 Sd/- Managing Director, OSMC Ltd., Odisha
OIPR-10112/11/0034/2021

BJP delegation visits Chandni Chowk to take stock of redevelopment

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A BJP delegation visited Chandni Chowk here on Friday to take stock of the ongoing redevelopment work of the 1.5 km stretch between Red Fort and Fatehpuri area.

North Delhi Municipal Corporation, in presence of its Mayor Jai Prakash and former MP Vijay Goel, imposed a fine of ₹50,000 against the Public Works Department (PWD), which is executing the project for allegedly violating dust-related construction norms.

"This is a symbolic fine. The Delhi government should subject its own departments to the same scrutiny it subjects others to when it comes to dust-related construction norms. The Delhi government is completely irresponsible when it comes to controlling pollution. They have stationed Home Guards with slogans against pollution at traffic intersections as if that itself is a solution," Mr. Gupta alleged.

400 kg firecrackers seized, two arrested

This comes a day after govt. imposes ban

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A day after crackers were banned by the government in the Capital, police seized over 400 kg of firecrackers from west and outer Delhi with the arrest of two persons, police said on Friday.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (West) Deepak Purohit said that an information was received stating that one Sanjay has a huge stock of illegal firecrackers at his shop for sale in Raghubir Nagar. Acting on the tip-off, a team was formed and raid was conducted.

"The team apprehended Sanjay Kumar, and a total of 19 cartons containing 414.6 kg of firecrackers were recovered," the DCP said.

He was also found involved in four cases, out of which two are related to Explosive Act, police said, adding that his family has been informed.

Sale on footpath

In a similar development, police officers patrolling in outer Delhi's Alipur area found a man selling crackers on footpath. The man identified as Vishnu Datt (60), a resident of Nawal Park, was arrested and 9.2 kg of crackers were recovered from his possession, police said.

Man held for staging robbery of gold chain

He sold ornament to repay debt: police

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 38-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly staging a robbery of his gold chain and mobile phone because he was scared to inform his family that he had sold the ornament, the police said on Friday.

DCP (Dwarka) Santosh Kumar Meena said information was received at Bindapur police station regarding a person being admitted to a private hospital. The police identified him as Parvesh Mohan from Uttam Nagar.

Mohan allegedly told police that he is working in a DUcollege and on November 2, when he was going home after dropping his colleague in Matiyala, he was stopped by three men, who robbed him of his gold chain and mobile phone. He said the accused attacked him with a sharp object, leaving him injured.

During probe, the complainant's behaviour was found suspicious. He was questioned at length following which he confessed to the crime. Mohan said he taken a loan of ₹55,000 from his colleague and as he was unable to pay, he was upset and sold his gold chain for ₹1,05,000. "He threw his phone and harmed self with minor cut to mislead the police," Mr. Meena said.

Day after fire, DCW inspects GB Road area

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A day after fire broke out in GB Road, Delhi Commission for Women (DCW) chief Swati Maliwal on Friday inspected the area.

The women's panel has also issued notices to the North Delhi Municipal Corporation and the Delhi Fire Services raising questions on the legality and safety arrangements at the brothels. Authorities have been asked to respond by November 11. In its letter to the DFS, the DCW sought details on whether appropriate safety measures are in place in the area.

Three minors raped in Capital

Two of the accused are suspected to be minors

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A four-year-old girl was allegedly raped in outer Delhi, police said on Thursday. They have apprehending the accused and is verifying his age to ascertain if he is a minor.

According to the police, the incident took place on Tuesday night, when the girl had gone to a temple with her mother. While her mother was offering prayers, the girl started playing outside the temple. Taking advantage, the accused took the girl to an isolated place and allegedly raped her. He then left the girl outside the temple, police said.

The accused, who is a vagabond, was apprehended on Thursday, a senior police officer said.

In another incident, police said a six-year-old girl was allegedly raped by a 52-year-old man in north Delhi on Tuesday. The incident took place when the girl was playing near the park.

The accused lured the girl with toys and took her to his house, a senior police officer said. The girl sustained injuries in her private parts and after returning home, she narrated the incident to her aunt, police said.

The accused was identified and arrested the same day.

In another case, a seven-year-old girl was allegedly raped by a minor boy in north Delhi. The police said that they were neighbours. The incident took place on Thursday near her home. The accused juvenile, 11, was apprehended, police said.

HC seeks Centre's response on security to Neelam Katara

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Friday sought Centre's response on an application by Neelam Katara, mother of murdered business executive Nitish Katara, seeking to grant her protection in Uttarakhand.

2002 incident

Justice Vibhu Bakhru while issuing notice to the Centre asked it to assess the threat perception and take a decision.

The Judge said since Ms. Katara was already provided security here, she has to be provided there also. Ms. Katara said she will be shifting to Dehradun from Delhi at the end of November. She has been provided security in the Capital since 2002. The court listed the matter for further hearing on November 20.

Central Government's Standing Counsel Gaurang Kanth submitted that it was a State's matter and she should give representation to the Uttarakhand authorities to provide her security.

On October 3, 2016, the Supreme Court had awarded a 25-year jail term without any benefit of remission to Vikas Yadav and his cousin Vishal for their role in the kidnapping and killing her son.

Union Territory Of Jammu & Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD(R&B) DIVISION KATRA
(Tele- Fax No. 01991-232043 E-mail address eewdkatra@gmail.com
CANCELLATION OF TENDER
Name of the work:- Extension of dates for:-
(1) Remodeling of Darshani Deodi W.No. 7 at Katra.Tender ID No. 2020_PWDJK_107266_1
(2) Repair of lane and drain from House of Sh. Rajinder Pandit to House of Sh. Surinder Abrol, ward no 2 Municipal Committee Katra.Tender ID No. 2020_PWDJK_107266_3
(3) Repair of lane from Bhawana Mandir to house of late Sh. Laxmi Pandit W.no 4 at Katra. Tender ID No. 2020_PWDJK_107266_4
(4) Construction of R/wall near house of Subash S/o CharanDass and repair of nallah bed from house of Sandhokh Singh to house of Kushal Singh in ward no -13 Katra.Tender ID No. 2020_PWDJK_107266_5
(5) Repair of lane from house of Sh. Sardari Lal Main bazar w.no 4 at Katra.Tender ID No. 2020_PWDJK_107266_6
Reference:- This office e-NIT No. 23 of 2020-21 dated 17-10-2020 communicated under endorsement No. 3110-29 dated 17-10-2020.
Due to poor response, the above noted works may treated as cancelled and fresh shall be invited shortly.
Sd-
[Er. Rajesh Kumar Gupta]
Executive Engineer,PWD (R&B) Division,Katra
DIP/J-6827/20

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
SHER-I-KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF MATERIALS MANAGEMENT (Imports Section)
SOURA, SRINAGAR, JAMMU & KASHMIR 190011
E-mail: ammoimports@skims.ac.in Fax No: 0194-2403404
NIT NO: SIMS-324-eNIT 19 (Imports) of 2020
DATED: 03.11.2020
Subject: - Abbreviated Notice inviting e-tenders for hiring of teletherapy unit agent.
For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir union territory, e-tenders under single cover system are invited through Director Sher-I-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences from teletherapy unit agent registered with Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB), Government of India for decommissioning & transportation of the existing Cobalt-60 source from SKIMS to BRIT facility and transportation of the new Cobalt 60 source from BRIT facility to SKIMS and its installation.
The detailed tender document is available on www.jktenders.gov.in & on SKIMS website www.skims.ac.in & the NIT schedule is as following:

Tender Fee	Rs. 1,000.00
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Rs. 40,000.00
Last Date for submission of online bids	16/11/2020 till 6:00 PM
Opening of technical bids	17/11/2020 at 02:30 p.m.

Complete bidding process will be online on e-tender portal www.jktenders.gov.in & the tenders should be submitted strictly in accordance with the provisions of the detailed NIT.
No.: SIMS-5611, Dated: 05.11.2020
Sd/
Asstt. Materials Management Officer, (Imports)

HIMACHAL PRADESH
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMNET
CORRIGENDUM
In partial modification to this office NIT No. PW-JDT-CB-Tender-State-E-P/Ment/2020-702 dated 19-10-2020, the starting date for downloading bid will be 6/11/2020 instead of 24/10/2020 and ending date for submission of Bid will be 21/11/2020 instead of 16/11/2020 upto 11.00AM.
Executive Engineer,
Jhandutta Division,
H.P.PWD.Jhandutta
HP/4210/20-21 HIM SUCHNA AVAM JAN SAMPARK

No.SE/NRC/TB/NIT/44/2019-20/103
PRESS NOTICE INVITING Re-TENDER
The Superintending Engineer, PWD, Nagaon Road Circle, Nagaon on behalf of the Governor of Assam invites bid from Assam PWD registered contractors for 1 (One) no. of work under SOPD (G) for the year 2020-21 under Rupahihat LAC in Nagaon District amounting to Rs.106.176 Lakhs (approx.). Details may be seen at website http://assamtenders.gov.in and also at the office of the undersigned during office hours.
Sd/-
Superintending Engineer, PWD
Nagaon Road Circle, Nagaon.
Janasanyog/CF/2509/20

GOVERNMENT OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE
ITANAGAR
No. PHQ/WT/PP-168/2019 Dated Itanagar,the 29th Oct' 2020
TENDER NOTICE
On behalf of the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, Director General of Police, Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar invites Sealed Tender under two Bid systems (Technical & Financial Bid) from the Manufacturers, Authorized Agents / Dealers / Suppliers of reputed firms for entering into contract for supply of various WT equipments for SP (Telecom) Office, Chimpu, Arunachal Pradesh. For details please visit our web site – www.arunpol.nic.in.
Sd/-
Director General of Police
Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar.
DIPR/ARN/13745-47/20

ARMY COLLEGE OF DENTAL SCIENCES (ACDS)
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Applications with Bio-Data are invited from Retired Colonel for the post of Registrar & Head of Administration for ACDS.
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Application / CV to be sent by Post or Email by 21 Nov 2020
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Tele : 044-25381725, Email : awes.antitank@gmail.com
Note : 1. Consolidated pay of Rs.75,000/- per month with annual increment of 3% after successful completion of every year of service.
2. It is mandatory to reside at College Campus in accommodation allotted.

01892-265028
e-mail : ee-kan-hp@nic.in
HIMACHAL PRADESH
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
The Executive Engineer, HPPWD Kangra Distt. Kangra H.P. on behalf of Governor of H.P. invites the item rate bids, in electronic tendering system from the eligible class of contractors registered with HPPWD for the works as detailed in the table.

Sr. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost	Starting Date for downloading Bid	Earnest Money	Deadline for submission of Bid	Time Limit
1.	C/O Additional Accommodation for Newly upgraded 100 Bedded Hospital building at Shahpur Distt. Kangra (HP) (SH – C/O Building portion, providing WS & SI, C/O Septic Tank & C/O Rain water harvesting system).	3,86,48,301/-	12.11.2020	4,25,000/-	26.11.2020	One year

The bidders are advised to note other details/Terms and conditions of tender from the department website www.hptenders.gov.in
The contractors/firms should be submit the hard copy of document as required in the bid of the above mentioned works. The contractors/firms should be submit all the documents a/w original FDR & Demand Draft before opening the technical bid, otherwise no document will be entertained after opening the technical Bid, So that the same can be open well in time Please Note.
The undersigned has right to extend or cancel the bids without declaring any reasons thereof.
HP / 4149/20-21 HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAMPARK

Case against YouTuber Wasan for cheating

NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police on Friday registered a case against YouTuber Gaurav Wasan for allegedly misappropriating funds received as donation for the owner of 'Baba Ka Dhaba', an eatery in Malviya Nagar. The case was registered on a complaint received from Kanta Prasad on October 31 against Wasan.

17 held for duping 2,000 foreigners

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Seventeen people have been arrested for allegedly cheating foreign nationals by running a fake call centre, the police said on Friday.

A total of 2,268 people were duped between October 11, 2019, to November 5, 2020, of over ₹8 crore (USD 1,081,365) by the accused.

The police received a complaint stating that an illegal international call centre was being operated from Rajouri Garden and people residing in foreign countries are being cheated in the name of providing technical support by Microsoft Inc, a senior officer said.

"A raid was conducted and the accused were found operating a fake call centre," said DCP (CyPAD) Anyesh Roy. At the time of the raid, the accused were trying to dupe a female doctor residing in the U.S. Dilavari is the main accused and has been operating the fake call centre for the last three years.

Timings
DELHI

SATURDAY, NOV. 07		
RISE	06:38	SET 17:32
RISE	22:56	SET 12:18
SUNDAY, NOV. 08		
RISE	06:39	SET 17:32
RISE	23:57	SET 13:05
MONDAY, NOV. 09		
RISE	06:39	SET 17:31
RISE	00:00	SET 13:47

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	31	11
Safdarjang	31	11
Palam	29	14

Delhi Palam Today
29°C Thick smoke haze during morning. Marginal further inprove ment in pollution level at day. A clear sky.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
30°C Hazy sunshine with variable winds. Pollution would remain severe over many parts of the city.

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Daily COVID-19 cases in Delhi cross 7,000 mark for first time

Till the time we have a vaccine, consider your mask as one, says Chief Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Capital recorded its highest number of daily COVID-19 cases on Friday since the pandemic began, with 7,178 new cases being recorded in 24 hours, a Delhi government health bulletin said. This was the first time that the number of cases has crossed the 7,000 mark.

The total number of cases in Delhi stands at 4,23,831, with 6,833 deaths and 3,77,276 recoveries. The bulletin said that 64 deaths and 6,121 recoveries were also reported during the period. The government also conducted 58,860 tests with a positivity rate of 12.19%. There are 39,722 active cases in the city and 3,754 containment zones. The cumulative positivity rate is 8.49% and the case fatality rate 1.61%.

A healthcare worker collects a swab sample in New Delhi on Friday. ▪ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Virus spread

Total number of COVID-19 cases	Total deaths
4,23,831	6,833
New cases in the past 24 hours	**New deaths**
7,178	64

SOURCE: DELHI GOVERNMENT HEALTH BULLETIN

Hospital beds
Health Minister Satyendar Jain said that to deal with the rising number of cases, the government has decided to augment the availability of 685 beds for COVID-19 patients in 14 private hospitals. This takes the total number of beds in these private hospitals from 1,756 to 2,441, which is 50% of the capacity of these hospitals. There are currently 23,679 patients under home isolation and out of 15,781 hospital beds available in the Capital, 8,253 are vacant.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday urged the people of Delhi to consider masks as a vaccine for the virus till an actual vaccine is approved. "What we are facing currently is the third wave. To fight the virus, the only protocol to follow is wearing your mask. Till the time we have a vaccine, consider your mask as the vaccine. There is no other way to fight this virus ," he also said.

He also expressed confidence in the Capital's fight against the third wave of COVID-19. The Chief Minister was speaking at the foundation-laying ceremony for the redevelopment of Rohtak Road."It was a request long due from the people in the area, and ones travelling on it to get the road reconstructed," he said.

COVID-19

Delhi govt. plea to SC to vacate stay on reserving COVID-19 beds

HC had stalled govt. order to 33 hospitals to reserve 80% beds

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government on Friday appealed to the Supreme Court to lift a High Court stay of its direction to 33 hospitals to reserve 80% of their Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds to treat COVID-19 patients.

"As a result of this proactive intervention, almost 500 patients were able to secure admission in ICU beds of these private nursing homes and hospitals. The rate chargeable for these beds have also been capped by the government in the interest of the public," the Delhi government petition, filed through advocate Chirag M. Shroff, contended in the apex court.

The Health and Family Welfare department of the Delhi government had, on September 12, ordered these choice hospitals reserve substantially more ICU/HDU beds for COVID patients owing to the rising graph of infections.

A view of COVID-19 facility in Burari. ▪ FILE PHOTO

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

Amid rising cases
A Division Bench of the High Court, instead of lifting the stay, merely adjourned the case to late November.

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

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

IN BRIEF

Prof. Ramesh Goyal among top 2% scientists
NEW DELHI
V-C of Delhi Pharmaceutical Sciences and Research University, Prof. Ramesh Goyal, has been recently named among top 2% scientists in the world, by a Stanford University study. He has a world rank of 1,652 and 24th rank in India Pharmacology and Pharmacy. A release issued by Delhi Pharmaceutical Sciences and Research University said Stanford University team has created a database of over 1 lakh top scientists of the world on the basis of standardised citation indicators.

5% of admissions should have disabled people: HC
NEW DELHI
The Delhi High Court on Friday told JNU that 5% of the total final admissions should comprise persons with disabilities irrespective of the method it may adopt to reserve seats for the disabled category. JNU's standing counsel assured the court that the 5% induction of disabled students was being met at the end of the admissions.

'Engage GBP students under IP University'
NEW DELHI
Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly, Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, on Friday urged the Delhi government to engage striking students of GBP Engineering College under the IP University. "The Kejriwal government must interact with the agitating students and also include this college in counselling as per their demand and start admission of students in the new semester," he demanded.

Nikita murder case: Faridabad police file 700-page chargesheet

60 witnesses listed include eyewitnesses, doctors, policemen

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
FARIDABAD

The Faridabad police filed a 700-page chargesheet here on Friday in connection with the Nikita Tomar murder case. The report was prepared and submitted in a record time of 11 days after the murder was committed in broad daylight this past month and 60 witnesses have been listed.

The chargesheet has been prepared by experienced police officers involved in the investigation of the case based on digital, forensic and material evidence, said the police. They added that the report was scrutinised by the Police Commissioner and all legal aspects were looked into and discussed in detail with experts. The accused would be sentenced to stringent punishment based on the evidence and the statement of eyewitnesses, said the police.

The witnesses in the case include eyewitnesses, doctors and police officers. The CCTV camera footage, the murder weapon, the car used in the commission of the murder and forensic evidence comprise the main evidence in the case.

Police Commissioner O.P. Singh said that a request was made to the Sessions Judge for trial in the case through a fast-track court. Haryana Home Minister Anil Vij has already announced to set up a fast-track court for day-to-day hearing in the case.

Nikita (20) was shot point-blank, allegedly by her former schoolmate Tausif outside Aggarwal College on October 26. She later died during treatment.

Nikita's father Moolchand Tomar said that the filing of the chargesheet in a record time had given the family the hope of quick justice in the case. He expressed his gratitude towards the administration and the police for their efforts.

Audit of DU colleges reveals irregularities: Sisodia

Minister says govt. considering initiation of legal proceedings based on report

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Friday said that a special audit of five Delhi University colleges funded by the State government revealed serious financial irregularities and violations of UGC norms and the government was considering to initiate legal proceedings based on the report.

"Despite showing a surplus of crores, the salary of teachers and staffers has not been released. This comes after the colleges have repeatedly alleged that the Delhi government was withholding funds," Mr. Sisodia said.

Resistance from colleges
He said that the special audit, when initiated, was obstructed by the colleges. They resisted from showing their accounts books to the audit officers. The books were finally shown when the High Court intervened and directed the colleges.

"Two major issues have emerged in the special audit – unauthorised payments by the college, and surplus funds being stashed," said Mr. Sisodia. The colleges that were audited on the order of the court are Deen Dayal Upadhyaya College, Keshav Mahavidyalaya, Shaheed Sukhdev College, Bhagini Nivedita College and Maharishi Valmiki College. Two institutions, Aditi Mahavidyalaya and Lakshmibai College, refused the audit to be carried despite the order.

Mr. Sisodia said that Delhi govt. makes payment to all the higher education institutions based on the principle of deficit funding."The govt. pays these higher education institutions the net deficit between their total expenditure, and their total income," he said.

'Undeclared income'
He added that these colleges violated this pattern of assistance as large, undeclared incomes in their accounts have been found by the auditors, which were never declared to the government and the colleges kept taking funding from the government on false premises.

Delhi High Court stays East body's decision to disqualify Tahir Hussain

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Friday stayed the decision of the East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC) to disqualify suspended AAP leader Tahir Hussain, arrested in connection with a case related to north-east Delhi riots in February, as councillor of the municipal body.

Justice Najmi Waziri also issued notice to the corporation and sought its stand on the petition by March next year.

Mr. Hussain, through his wife filed the petition challenging the August 26, 2020 proposal of EDMC by which he has been declared as terminated from his membership of the corporation and his seat declared as vacant as per Section 33(2) of the Delhi Municipal Corporation (DMC) Act, 1957.

EDMC, represented by its standing counsel Gaurang Kanth, argued that Mr. Hussain was absent from the meetings of the corporation which was conducted in the month of January, February, June, July and August 2020. No meetings were conducted in March, April and May this year due to the pandemic situation. Mr. Kanth argued that if a councillor is not appearing for three such meetings, then that will invite action under the DMC Act.

EDMC had disqualified Mr. Hussain as a councillor for allegedly being absent from House meetings .

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Will ensure 100% water is recycled and reused: Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Water Minister Satyendar Jain visited the Keshopur Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) here on Friday.

Mr. Jain said that the Delhi government had always strived to support techniques that aid the cause of the environment by focusing on ways to recycle and reuse zero liquid discharge and groundwater recharge.

"We will ensure that 100% water is recycled and reused. No treated water from any STP will be released into the drains. The DJB will fulfil CM's vision of considering treated water as a resource and utilising every drop coming from STPs," he said.

Release teachers' pending salaries keeping in mind festival: Sisodia

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Friday wrote to the Mayors of three BJP-ruled civic bodies and stated that the pending salaries of teachers of schools under its jurisdiction should be released immediately keeping in mind the festive season and the COVID-19 situation.

In the letter, Mr. Sisodia stated that the Delhi government had released ₹960 crore to the three municipal corporations as a grant for education, which it was supposed to pay by December, but chose to pay before.

Despite this release of funds by the Delhi government, Mr. Sisodia said, the BJP-ruled municipal corporations were not paying the salaries of teachers, who were protesting.

'No due from govt.'
"So it is clear that no amount is due from the Government of Delhi. Any other figure and any other amount that the Mayors are demanding... is fictional and an attempt to divert attention from the seep financial mismanagement and corruption inside the municipal corporations," he wrote.

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Virus insurance for staff of tiger reserve

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Pakke Tiger Reserve (PTR) in Arunachal Pradesh has become the first in the eight-State Northeast to provide insurance cover against COVID-19 for "green soldiers".

PTR's Divisional Forest Officer T. Pali said 57 frontline staff of the park had been insured for nine months against health issues due to the infection by the novel coronavirus.

"The insurance coverage is of ₹1 lakh each but a few who would be retiring soon have been insured for ₹50,000," said wildlife veterinarian Panjit Basumatary, who is in charge of the Centre for Bear Rehabilitation adjoining the PTR.

High Court asks CBI to respond to expelled BJP MLA Sengar's plea

He challenges conviction in the death of rape victim's father

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Friday issued notice to the CBI on an appeal by expelled Uttar Pradesh BJP MLA Kuldeep Singh Sengar challenging his conviction in the death of the Unnao rape victim's father in 2018.

Justice Vibhu Bakhru asked the CBI to respond to the appeal while posting the case for further hearing on November 10.

On March 13 last, a special court here sentenced Sengar and six others to 10 years imprisonment in two cases linked to the death.

On March 4, Sengar was held guilty of culpable homicide not amounting to murder under Section 304 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

One of the cases related to the death of the victim's father on April 9, 2018, while the other was for possession of illegal arms.

Death in custody

As alleged, the girl's father was assaulted following an altercation with some of the accused on April 3, 2018. He was taken to the area police station and charges were framed for allegedly possessing an illegal firearm and sent to judicial custody, during which he died.

On December 20, 2019, a court sentenced Sengar to life imprisonment for raping the girl in 2017.

Sengar, in his appeal filed through advocate Kanhaiya Singhal, claimed that the present case was an offshoot of a long-drawn political rivalry and deep-seated animosity existing between two political factions.

The plea claimed that Sengar and the co-accused persons, who are BJP supporters, and one of the primary witnesses and his associates who, Mr. Sengar claimed, owe their allegiance to the Samajwadi Party.

"It would not be preposterous to submit that in the instant case neither the justice was done nor seen to be done", Sengar's plea said.".

Haryana hooch toll rises to 16

14 FIRs filed, 12 arrests made in affected districts of Sonipat and Panipat so far

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

Four persons died in Sonipat and Panipat districts due to consumption of spurious liquor on Friday, taking the death toll in the hooch tragedy in the State to sixteen. Fourteen First Information Reports have been registered in the two districts so far and 12 people arrested.

Superintendent of Police, Sonipat, Jashandeep Singh Randhawa told *The Hindu* over phone that three persons died in the district on Friday taking the death toll to nine. He added that five persons were under treatment in various hospitals, including two in a private hospital. "The autopsy has been conducted in eight cases so far and the viscera sent for further examination. Though all nine deaths are suspected to have been caused due to spurious liquor, the final confirmation can be done only after the viscera reports are received," said Mr. Randhawa.

Sonipat DC Shyam Lal Poonia, SP Jashandeep Randhawa inspecting seized spurious liquor. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Earlier in the week, the media reports had attributed 17 deaths in the districts to spurious liquor, but a four-member committee headed by Additional Deputy Commissioner Munish Kumar has, in its interim report, expressed likelihood that only one of the deaths was caused by consumption of illicit liquor. Later, four deaths related to hooch were caused on November 4 and another man died due to similar reason on Thursday.

Four colonies in the district – Hanuman Nagar, Indian Colony, Shastri Colony and Mayur Vihar – spread across three police station areas of Mohana, City and Kharkhoda have reported most of the incidents of spurious liquor in Sonipat. Mr. Randhawa said 10 people, including a teacher, were arrested in connection with as many cases registered and raids were being mounted for more arrests.

Three police officers, including the Station House Officer of Mohana Police Station, have been suspended for dereliction of duty.

Tour of affected villages

Sonipat Deputy Commissioner Shyam Lal Poonia and Mr. Ranhawa together took rounds of two affected villages and advised people to get their medical examination done in case anyone had consumed spurious liquor.

Deputy Superintendent of Police, Headquarters, Panipat, Satish Kumar, said the death toll in the district in the hooch tragedy rose to seven with one more death on Friday. Mr. Kumar said four cases were registered so far and two persons were arrested.

Reopening of schools put on hold in Odisha

State-level review, chaired by CM Patnaik, warns of second wave of COVID-19

SATYASUNDAR BARIK
BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha government on Friday said there was no chance of reopening schools for higher classes in November even though the process of resuming academic sessions was earlier set in motion.

"We are all aware of the danger of COVID-19 pandemic. The State's Special Relief Commissioner also advises different departments on steps to be taken in the wake of infection. The SRC issued a notification that School and Mass Education department can start the process of reopening schools for Class IX and above classes after November 15," said School and Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Dash.

Mr. Dash said the department accordingly had also started consultations for reopening of schools.

However, a State-level review chaired by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik warned of a second wave of infection as was seen in European countries and in some States of India, he said.

"The health of students is paramount for us. We have temporarily put on hold the process of reopening of schools. We will further issue necessary directions in this regard," said the Minister.

Last week, the government had allowed commencing consultations for reopening of schools for Standard IX to XII classes in a graded manner after November 15.

Since the outbreak of COVID-19 in March, schools have remained closed in Odisha.

DMIC set to be a boon for Rajasthan

Investment zones along corridor to be expedited: CM Gehlot

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

The Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC), a major portion of which will pass through Rajasthan, is set to give a boost to investments, employment generation and development of the State with its construction work being expedited.

Two special investment regions are coming up along the corridor in the project's first phase.

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said here that the investment regions in Khushkheda-Bhiwadi-Neemrana and Jodhpur-Pali-Marwar near the freight corridor would be developed fast to get the project's full benefits.

Bhiwadi township

Mr. Gehlot gave instructions for completion of work at the ground level for establishing the Bhiwadi integrated township and creating facilities in the Marwar region.

He reviewed the project's progress and laid emphasis on tremendous possibilities for planned development of the specific regions by taking advantage of new investments.

The State government has proposed the establishment of a dry port at Rabhana village near Bhiwadi for facilitating business activities in and around the region.

Mr. Gehlot said the town planning and engineering wings would be strengthened to speed up the construction work.

Odisha varsity researchers in top scientist list

STAFF REPORTER
BHUBANESWAR

Seven researchers from a city-based university have found their names in the list of top 2% scientists, drawn up on the basis of a subject-wise analysis conducted by Stanford University.

The researchers from SOA are Prof. Pradipta Dash, Prof. Kulamani Parida, Prof. Lala Behari Sukla, Prof. Ashok Mahapatra, Prof R.N.P. Choudhary, Prof J.C. Misra and Dr. Nihar Bala Devi.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Reg: Plot No. 231, Phase-VI, Udyog Vihar, HSIIDC, Gurugram.

Plot No. 231, Phase-VI, Udyog Vihar, HSIIDC, Gurugram measuring 251.25 sq. meter was allotted by the Corporation to Sh. Amar Nath Bhatt, was resumed by the Corporation on 26.09.2001 on account of non-compliance of terms & conditions of allotment/ agreement. As per terms & conditions of allotment/agreement, cost of the plot after deductions was forwarded to the party by registered post at its Gurgaon address in August 2001 but the same was returned back to the Corporation. Fresh cheque on account of refundable plot cost was again forwarded to the party on 04.05.2009. The same has been received back undelivered with postal remarks 'not met dated 08.05.2009 and unclaimed dated 18.05.2009. Corporation also issued public notice in two leading newspapers on 28.7.2009/29.07.2009 advising Sh. Amar Nath Bhatt to collect the refund cheque from the office of Corporation but the ex-allottee did not come forward to collect the refund cheque. The physical possession of the plot along with structure constructed thereon, was taken back by Corporation on 04.08.2020 under PPA Act.

Through this public notice, ex-allottee Sh. Amar Nath Bhatt is hereby informed and advised i) to provide his bank account details to the Corporation so that refundable amount be transferred in his account through RTGS or he may collect the refund cheque from the office of Corporation with prior intimation and ii) to remove the standing structure from the site within a period of 3 months from the date of publishing of this notice, failing which the same shall vest with the Corporation and ex-allottee shall not be entitled to any compensation in lieu thereof.

Estate Manager For & on behalf of Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Dev. Corpn. Ltd., Vanijya Nikunj Complex, Udyog Vihar, Phase-V, Gurugram

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given on behalf of our client i.e.: **Axis Bank Ltd**, that **Mr. Ramesh Kumar** who intends to mortgage the **House No.1C-6A, admeasuring 238 sq. yds, at NIT Faridabad, Haryana** with our client against the financial assistance. Whereas, out of the chain link documents Original Conveyance Deed dt. 08.10.1987 having Regn. No. 8378 in favour of Mr. Hazara Singh was lost or misplaced, and Mr. Ramesh Kumar purchased the same from Mr. Hazara Singh by way of Sale Deed dt. 24.08.2005.

If any person(s) found the above said document or having objection regarding ownership of above-mentioned claimants or regarding mortgage of the said property is/are requested to intimate in writing to undersigned within 10 days from the date of issue of this notice at below address. In the event no information is received within 10 days from date hereof, our Client i.e. **Axis Bank Ltd.** will proceed with the mortgage process.

DEEPJYOT SINGH, ADVOCATE
A-13, LGF, South Extn-II, New Delhi-49 # 011-26262610, 11, 12

PUBLIC NOTICE

BE IT KNOWN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT MY CLIENT SHRI SAHAB SINGHS/O MAHABIR SINGH& SMT. SUSHILA SINGH W/O SHRI SAHAB SINGHR/O L-95,D,SAKET,NEW DELHI-17, HAVE DISOWNED, THEIR SON NAMELY JIVEK SINGH, FROM THEIR ALL MOVABLE AND IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES AND SEVERED THEIR RELATIONS WITH HIM AS HE USED TO FREQUENTLY QUARREL WITH THEM AND NOT TAKING CARE OF THEM. ANY BODY DEALS WITH THEIR SON, SHALL DO SO AT HIS/HER OWN RISK, AND CONSEQUENCES.MY CLIENTS WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS SON'S ACTS AND DEEDS IN ANY MANNER WHATSOEVER.

RAJESH SHARMA (Advocate)
J-209, Saket, New Delhi 110 017

Public Notice

This is to inform that **Shri Hardeep Singh** son of **Shri Prithvipal singh** Resident of B-45 sector 49 , Gurgaon is no longer an employee of M/s Swift Corporation Limited , Manesar and any one dealing with him will be doing so on his sole risk and responsibility without any liability on M/S Swift Corporation Limited plot no 89 sector 7 IMT Manesar .

BUSINESS OFFER

BECOME A Wellness Coach Flexible time Training provided 9176185606

EDUCATIONAL

UPSC FACULTIES REQUIRED FOR HISTORY, GEOGRAPHY, PUB –AD & AGRICULTURE OPTIONALS BY A REPUTED INSTITUTE. CONTACT: 7838720288

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Smt. Gindo Devi W/o Sh. Prabhati Lal R/o F-08, Sector-56, Noida (UP), intend to Transfer in the my name of Plot No. 08, Block-F, Sector-56, Nodia, Dist. Gautam Budh Nagar (UP) 201301 area 162.00 sq.mtrs. which is at present registered in the name of (allottee) Smt. J.K. Madan W/o Late Sh. K.L. Madan R/o BD-7E, Munirka, New Delhi-110060. Any person who has any claim of any sort with respect to the said property, can lodge his/her objection in the Residential Section of Noida Authority along with proofs within 15 days of this public notice.

Gindo Devi

SEARCH FOR MISSING

Kumari Poonam Raj

General public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Kumari Poonam Raj, D/o: Sh. Ravinder Kumar, R/o: VPO- Shahabad Mohammad Pur, New Delhi has been reported missing since 17.09.2020 from the area of P.S. Dwarka Sec-23, New Delhi. In this regard DD No. 112-A, dated 13.10.2020 has been registered at P.S. Dwarka Sec-23, New Delhi.** The description of missing girl is as under:

Name: Kumari Poonam Raj, Age: 18 Years 04 Months, Height: 5'0", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Hair: Black, ID Mark: Injury mark on Cheek, Wearing: Orange colour suit and salwar.

If anyone have any information about this missing girl please inform P.S. Dwarka Sec-23, Delhi.

Web: http://cbi.nic.in, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639

SHO
Police Station Dwarka Sec-23, New Delhi
Ph: 011-28051583, 8750871021

DP/306/DW/2020

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male **Age:** Approx 45 years, **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Height:** 5'5", **Built:** Thin, **Face:** Long, was wearing White checkdar Shirt, was found at Footpath, T.B. Hospital, Lado Sarai, New Delhi at 11:19 AM. In this regard a **DD No. 36A, dated 25.10.2020, has been lodged at P.S. Mehrauli, New Delhi.**

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

SHO
P.S. Mehrauli, New Delhi
Ph: 011-26645050, 26643200

DP/314/SD/2020

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

FIRST ANNIVERSARY

P.K RAMANATHAN
18.01.1951 to 7.11.2019
A caring family man, a strong leader, a trustworthy friend and a fantastic human being. Your life and work are truly inspirational. You continue to live in our memories forever
Family & Friends
9176625050 / 9930025040

For enquiries on announcements in this section, please contact our office at the following number between 10a.m. and 8p.m.
New Delhi : 011- 43579797
Rate for New Delhi:
(Minimum Rs. 320/- 2 Lines
Extra Line - Rs.160/-)
(B/W Display): Rs.60/Per Sq.cm
(Clr Display) : Rs.70/Per Sq.cm
Log on to
www.thehinduads.com
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In memory of your loved ones
To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:
011-43579797
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For Placing Advertisements Online log on to
www.thehinduads.com
DONATE EYES-GIFT SIGHT

GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS & WILDLIFE
A-BLOCK, 2ND FLOOR, VIKAS BHAWAN, I.P. ESTATE, NEW DELHI-110002.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Concretization around trees is harmful for root aeration and also for percolation of water. It could lead to untimely death of the tree. It is, therefore, brought to the notice of all Govt. Departments under GNCTD. Municipal Agencies, Corporations, Cantonment board, autonomous bodies, all departments & agencies of Government of India, State Governments and General Public that concretization of trees not only damages the tree, but also is an offence under Section 8 of Delhi Preservation of Trees Act, 1994, and also amounts to violation of Hon'ble NGT's orders.

The area within 1 (one) meter radius of the trunk of trees should be left de-concretized around the base of the tree while constructing the pavements or roads to facilitate percolation of water to the roots. The area should be leveled with soil and grass may be planted, if need be.

All Civic Agencies, Govt. Departments, RWAs & individuals may please ensure removal of all the sign boards, names, advertisements, any kind of boards or signages, electric wires and high tension cables etc placed on trees within their jurisdiciton/ control failing which a suitable penalty as per rules shall be imposed upon them for causing damage to trees. The person/ agency/ firm/ company etc whose advertisement or bill board etc is found on the trees shall also be prosecuted and/ or a suitable penalty as per rules shall be imposed upon him.

De-concretization should be done around trees which are already concretized, manually without the use of JCB machines etc so that the roots of trees are not damaged. During fresh construction of roads/ pavements, the Govt. Departments may add a fresh clause in their tender documents that an area within at least 1 (one) meter radius of the trunk of trees shall be left de-concretized/ soil filled.

(Nisheeth Saxena)
DIP/Shabdarth/0409/20-21 **Conservator of Forests**

FISHERIES DEPARTMENT HARYANA

e-auction Notice

It is for information to General Public that e-auction of Fishing Rights of notified waters, rivers, canals and drains of the districts Palwal & Faridabad of Haryana State for the year 2020-21 (From the date of E-auction to 31-08-2021) shall be put to open public e-auction on 12-11-2020 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon online at the e-Procurement portal **https://harfish.sets.co.in**

Before start of the e-auction the interested bidders shall have to deposit earnest money as shown against each District/Districts on dated as given below in shape of offline Demand Draft in favour of Director Fisheries Haryana, Panchkula in order to take part in the e-auction.

Date of E-auction	Date of Deposit of Earnest Money
12-11-2020	10-11-2020 till 4:00 PM
19-11-2020	17-11-2020 till 4:00 PM
26-11-2020	24-11-2020 till 4:00 PM
03-12-2020	01-12-2020 till 4:00 PM
10-12-2020	08-12-2020 till 4:00 PM
17-12-2020	15-12-2020 till 4:00 PM
24-12-2020	22-12-2020 till 4:00 PM

The successful bidders will have to deposit online through RTGS/ NEFT the full amount of contract or 1/3rd of e-auction amount and 5% of the contract amount as security in the bank account of the concerned District FIsheries Officers, as per bank account details given, on the same day of e-auction and the remaining amount within 30 days from the date of e-auction. In case of failure to deposit the remaining 2/3rd amount by the bidder within the stipulated period of 30 days, the 1/3rd amount deposited by the bidder at the time of e-auction and 5% of the contract amount as security and earnest money shall be forfeited.

Other details, terms and conditions can be seen at the **https://harfish.sets.co.in** and Haryana Fisheries Departmental website **www.harfish.gov.in** and details can also be procured from the office of the District Fisheries Officers of the District or Director Fisheries Haryana, Panchkula.

E-auction of those District/Districts which will not be completed on 12-11-2020 shall again be held on 19-11-2020, 26-11-2020, 03-12-2020, 10-12-2020, 17-12-2020 and 24-12-2020 from 09:00 AM to 12:00 noon accordingly.

Sd/-
Director Fisheries Department Haryana,
Bays. No. 31-32, Sector-4,
Panchkula.
PRDH-83653

Office of the Superintending Engineer
Irrigation Works Circle
Haridwar

E-Tender Notice No. 06/SE/2020-21 **Dated. 05.11.2020**

E-Tender Notice

The Superintending Engineer, Irrigarion Works Circle, Haridwar on behalf of Governor of Uttarakhand, invites the item rate bids, in two bids system through electronic tendering, for following work from the eligible contractors registered in authorized/ valid category for the estimated cost of tender in any department of central government/any state government/UT of India.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Earnest Money (In Lac Rs.)	Cost of Tender (In Rs.)	Validity of Tender	Period of Completion	No. of Calling Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Project For Lining of Bahadrabad Distributory under Nabard in Bahadrabad Block of District Haridwar (CM Announcement No. 335/2017) (Reach 0.000 KM to 1.200 KM)	1.74	4000.00 + 720.00 (18% GST)	120 Days	04 month	1st time
2	Project for Lining of Bahadrabad Distributory under Nabard in Bahadrabad Block of District Hardiwar (CM Announcement No. 335/2017) (Reach 1.200 KM to 2.400 KM)	1.73	4000.00 + 720.00 (18% GST)	120 Days	04 month	1st time
3	Project for Lining of Bahadrabad Distributory under Nabard in Bahadrabad Block of District Hardiwar (CM Announcement No. 335/2017) (Reach 2.400 KM to 3.600 KM)	1.74	4000.00 + 720.00 (18% GST)	120 Days	04 month	1st time
4	Project for Lining of Bahadrabad Distributory under Nabard in Bahadrabad Block of District Hardiwar (CM Announcement No. 335/2017) (Reach 3.600 KM to 4.830 KM)	1.74	4000.00 + 720.00 (18% GST)	120 Days	04 month	1st time

Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement **09-11-2020.**

Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement **23-11-2020 upto 05:00 PM**

For further details please log on to **www.uktenders.gov.in**

(Manoj Kumar Singh)
DIPR/UK/13802 **Superintending Engineer**

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY

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

Forecast for Saturday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	–	30.0	16.2	Kozhikode	31.5	33.0	23.8
Ahmedabad	–	33.7	17.8	Kurnool	–	33.5	21.2
Aizawl	–	24.9	16.3	Lucknow	–	30.1	13.1
Allahabad	–	31.1	13.2	Madurai	32.8	30.2	21.8
Bengaluru	15.3	29.2	20.8	Mangaluru	–	32.6	23.8
Bhopal	–	30.7	13.2	Mumbai	–	34.9	21.0
Bhubaneswar	–	32.5	19.9	Mysuru	9	29.8	21.5
Chandigarh	–	31.5	12.2	New Delhi	–	30.9	11.2
Chennai	11	32.1	25.0	Patna	–	29.2	14.2
Coimbatore	9.6	30.8	22.6	Port Blair	–	32.2	25.8
Dehradun	–	29.9	11.6	Puducherry	1.6	32.4	23.6
Gangtok	–	17.1	10.0	Pune	–	30.7	15.0
Goa	–	35.0	21.1	Raipur	–	32.5	13.0
Guwahati	–	30.0	16.0	Ranchi	–	30.8	13.5
Hubballi	–	29.0	18.0	Shillong	–	21.1	9.4
Hyderabad	–	30.6	15.6	Shimla	–	22.5	12.0
Imphal	–	27.8	12.2	Srinagar	–	19.2	1.8
Jaipur	–	32.1	15.3	Thiruvananthapuram	1	32.6	24.3
Kochi	0.4	33.4	25.0	Tiruchi	–	32.2	25.2
Kohima	–	22.4	16.4	Vijayawada	3.6	32.4	25.4
Kolkata	–	31.9	18.6	Visakhapatnam	–	32.4	26.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — **Yesterday**

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	27	115	.54	201	.140	
Bengaluru	.4	.11	.53	202	–	
Chennai	18	.10	.42	39	–	
Delhi	24	156	164	430	.436	
Hyderabad	.6	.91	.11	162	.146	
Kolkata	18	.27	.13	290	.208	
Lucknow	.8	112	.56	480	.451	
Mumbai	13	.87	.27	99	.142	
Pune	17	.23	.53	62	.46	
Visakhapatnam	17	.25	.23	156	.134	

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Fatehabad, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 466 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Mysuru, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 29

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

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

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

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

Khadse, Urmila in list of MVA nominees for Council seats

List of 12 names handed over to Governor for approval

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PUNE

Ending days of suspense and over three months of delayed anticipation, the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government on Friday submitted its list of 12 nominees to the Legislative Council from the Governor's quota to Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari.

Ministers Nawab Malik, Anil Parab and Amit Deshmukh – representing the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), the Shiv Sena and the Congress respectively – formally handed the list to Mr. Koshyari. According to sources, the NCP has nominated estranged former Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Eknath Khadse, who recently entered the NCP fold, as well as Swabhimani Shetkari Sanghatana chief Raju Shetti. The other two NCP nominees are Yashpal Bhinge and noted singer Anand Shinde.

The Sena has nominated actor Urmila Matondkar, Chandrakant Raghuvanshi, Vijay Karanjkar and Nitin Bangude Patil.

Congress's nominees

The Congress has put forth the names of its spokesperson Sachin Sawant, former MP Rajni Patil, Muzaffar Hussain and noted artiste Aniruddha Vankar, an influential figure in the Ambedkarite movement from the Vidarbha region.

Earlier, the three parties had reached an agreement that they would nominate four names each and that the names would be submitted in separate sealed envelopes to Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray.

While the term of legislators (from the Governor's quota) to the Upper House of the State Legislature had expired in June this year, the three MVA partners had deferred sending its list of nominees to avoid friction with the Governor owing to the raging COVID-19 situation.

Mr. Thackeray and the MVA has already had much-publicised run-ins with the Governor. After handing the list of nominees, Mr. Parab hoped that the Governor would approve of the names.

MHRC asks Raigad SP to produce all documents in Arnab arrest case

Certified copy of magistrate's case reopening orders also sought

RAINA ASSAINAR
NAVI MUMBAI

The Maharashtra Human Rights Commission (MHRC) has summoned the Raigad Superintendent of Police (SP) over the arrest of Republic TV chief and news anchor Arnab Goswami.

During the hearing on Friday, the commission asked him to produce all material documents, including the court order of the reopening of the case, for the next hearing.

The MHRC has also asked for a certified copy of the magistrate's case reopening orders from the Raigad SP.

The commission took cognisance of the case after a lawyer, Aditya Mishra, filed a complaint alleging human rights violation pertaining to Mr. Goswami, who was arrested by the Raigad Police after hours of drama at his residence in an abetment to suicide case.

MHRC member M.A. Sayyed on Thursday issued a notice to Ashok Dudhe, SP, Raigad, and ordered him to appear at its office on Friday morning with the records pertaining to the arrest of Mr. Goswami.

The allegation made by Mr. Mishra referred to indiscriminate and arbitrary arrest. "The complainant claimed that due process was not followed while arresting Mr. Goswami. For the same, the notice was issued and a report was expected on Friday by the SP. Instead, a representative attended us with an adjournment application, which we considered and for which gave time till November 10. On the 10th, we have asked for the submission of all the reports pertaining to the arrest," an officer from the MHRC said.

Confirming the summons, an officer from the Raigad police said that Mr. Dudhe would be appearing before the MHRC office and presenting all the required documents. Mr. Goswami is currently at the jail's quarantine centre, which is a school run by the Alibag Municipal Council.

Fr. Swamy files plea to allow use of straw, sipper

83-year-old accused in Bhima-Koregaon case suffers from Parkinson's disease

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Father Stan Swamy, 83, on Friday filed an application before the special court seeking that he be allowed the use of a straw and sipper in Taloja Central Jail as he cannot hold a glass because of he has Parkinson's disease.

The prosecution has sought 20 days to file a reply and the matter will be heard on November 26. Father Swamy is an accused in the Bhima-Koregaon case and is now in the prison hospital.

He was arrested by the National Investigation Agency on October 8 from his residence in Ranchi and brought to Mumbai the next day. He is a Jesuit priest and activist working with tribal people.

The agency did not seek for his police custody and he was remanded in judicial custody from October 9.

On October 22, his medical bail was rejected by special judge Dinesh E. Kothalikar, who relied on the directions of the high powered committee constituted to release undertrial prisoners during COVID-19.

Judge Kothalikar said, "The accused (Father Swamy) is involved in commission of offence punishable under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act cannot be said to be entitled for interim bail."

Father Swamy's medical plea was sought on the grounds that he has been suffering from Parkinson's disease and has almost lost hearing ability in both ears. He has fallen in jail multiple times and has been operated for hernia twice and still has pain in his lower abdomen. He also needs to be protected from COVID-19.

HC reserves order on media coverage of Sushant case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Friday reserved the judgment in matters seeking restraint on the media from covering the case of Sushant Singh Rajput.

A Division Bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice G.S. Kulkarni was hearing a bunch of public interest litigation petitions. One of them, filed by filmmaker Nilesh Navlakha, editor of a regional newspaper Mahibub D. Shaikh, and retired civil servant Subhash Chander, seeks a direction to news channels to ensure that no media trial has the impact of prejudicing the CBI's independent investigation.

Another plea is filed by former directors general of police Parvinder Parsicha, D. Shivanandan, Sanjeev Dayal, Satish Mathur and K. Subramanyam; ex-commissioners of police M.N. Singh and Dhananjay Jadhav; and additional DGP Krishipal Raghuvanshi.

Their PIL was against the 'unfair, malicious and false' media campaign against the Mumbai Police in the death of the actor, represented by senior advocate Milind Sathe

Once a court reserves a judgment, it can take up to three months to deliver it.

APPLICATIONS INVITED FOR CELEBRATION OF Mahaparinirwan Diwas of Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar

Government of NCT of Delhi is iniviting applications of **Mahaparinirwan Diwas of Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar on 06-12-2020 under "Scheme for Celebration of Birth/Death Anniversary of Eminent personalities"**

Government of NCT of Delhi will provide assistance through empanelled agencies to the desirous Organizations in the form of arrangement for tentage, sound system, lighting, banners etc.

Eligibility:-

The following are eligible to apply for assistance under the scheme:-

i.) NGOs, registered under Societies Registration Act.

ii.) Only those NGOs which are registered under Society Registration Act and having audited accounts are eligible.

List of the items for providing assistance to the desirous NGOs are as follows:-

a. Tentage.
b. Chairs.
c. Sofa.
d. Tables.
e. Curtains, Mat etc.
f. Sound System.
g. Light System.
h. Banners/Hoardings.

Procedure for applying:

Organizations interested to apply may submit a detailed proposal, containing:-

i.) Details of such celebrations / activities organized by them in the past.

ii.) The duly filed in applications & recommended by area MLA along with copies of Registration Certificate and audited accounts should be submitted by the registered NGOs/Organization to the Department for the welfare of SC/ST/OBC, GNCT of Delhi, B Block, 2nd floor, Vikas Bhawan, I.P.Estate, New Delhi-02, by 17-11-2020 positively. **Applications received thereafter will not be considered.**

Selected NGOs have to provide photographs of the event organized by them and abide by stipulations of the department for proper organization of the event. Organizers will also be required to submit a declaration to the effect that Govt. guidelines/SOP applicable for organizing religious/cultural functions will be followed scrupulously to prevent spread of Covid-19.

For full details, please visit Department website :- scstwelfare.delhigovt.nic.in

**DEPARTMENT FOR THE WELFARE OF SC/ST/OBC
GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI,
B-BLOCK, VIKAS BHAWAN, I.P. ESTATE, NEW DELHI-02**

DIP/Shabdarth/0406/20-21

KARNATAKA STATE DRUG LOGISTICS AND WAREHOUSING SOCIETY (R)
No.1, Dr. Siddaiah Puranik Road, KHB Colony, Magadi Road, Bangalore – 560079
Phone: +91-80-23283218 Fax: +91-80-23281477, Email: ad.kdlws@gmail.com

No: KDL/TND/N-95 Mask/14/2020-21 Date: 06.11.2020

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Ref:Tender Notification No. KDL/TND/N-95 Mask/14/ 2020-21 dated: 06.11.2020 (IND-745). Nation wide Tender is invited through **e-Tendering system** under KTPP Act 1999 and Rules 2000 for the following tender: **1. Short Term Tender for Supply of N-95 Mask for Covid19 Pandemic for the year 2020-21.** The tenderers who have registered under e-Procurement department may participate through e-tendering system. Details regarding EMD, Terms and Conditions and other information are available in the Tender Document, which can be downloaded from the website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in from 06.11.2020** the eligible tenderers shall submit their e-tenders under e-procurement platform for above mentioned tenders. Further information if any may be obtained from this office.

Sd/- Commissioner, Food Safety and Standards Authority & Director, Karnataka State Drug Logistics and Warehousing Society, Bangalore.

DIPR/DDU/JA/1568/2020-21

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.

Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYATI RAJ
(Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India)
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad - 500030.

NIRDPR invites online applications from qualified and experienced persons for the following posts on contract basis for MGNREGS division of MoRD.

1. Project Officer –GIS 2. Project Officer-NRM
3. Project Officer – ICT

For details, please visit **http://career.nirdpr.in/, www.nirdpr.org.in**

Last date: 30.11.2020

Sd/-
Assistant Registrar (E)

Advt. No.15/2020
(F.No. CWE/Mangt.con/Sr.IT-Const./2017

ANDHRA PRADESH MARITIME BOARD
2nd Floor, Port Admin. Building, Kakinada-533007.

NOTIFICATION FOR e-TENDER CUM REVERSE TENDER

APMB is planning to develop Two Greenfield Ports and Four Fishing Harbours in the State of Andhra Pradesh on EPC & Reverse Tendering basis.

(1) e-Tender cum Reverse Tendering Notice **No. 5/SE/DB/2020-21** for development of Greenfield Port at Ramayapatnam in Prakasam district. **(2)** e-Tender cum Reverse Tendering Notice **No. 6/SE/DB/2020-21** for development of Greenfield Port at Bhavanapadu in Srikakulam district. **(3)** e-Tender cum Reverse Tendering Notice **No. 7/SE/DB/2020-21** for development of Four Fishing Harbours at (a) Juvvaladinne, Nellore District, (b) Nizampatnam, Guntur District, (c) Machilipatnam, Krishna District & (d) Uppada, East Godavari District in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

The Reverse Tender cum e-Tenders can be downloaded from the website **https://apeprocurement.gov.in/** from **07.11.2020** and for further details can be had from the undersigned contact **Ph: 94408 97595.**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Marine), APMB, Kakinada Campus

DIPR 431PP/CL, Dt.06.11.2020

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE

SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	MC HODAL	DOOR TO DOOR COLLECTION, SEGREGATION, TRANSPORTATION AS WELL AS PROCESSING OF WASTE	06.11.2020 27.11.2020	EMD 4.09 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	Executive Officer
2	UHBVN PANCHKULA	A POLICY IN RESPECT OF CMD, MD, DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS LIABILITY OF BOTH THE COMPANIES I.E. UHBVN AND DHBVN FOR THE PERIOD 01.12.2020 TO 30.11.2021.	10.11.2020 17.11.2020	-	www.UHBVN.org.in	saocaoadmn@uhbvn.org.in
3	H.S.A.M. BOARD, PANIPAT	CONSTRUCTION OF BOUNDARY WALL IN NEW GRAIN MARKET AT PANIPAT	18.11.2020 02.12.2020	EMD 1.98 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0180-2661236 xenpnp2019.hsamb@gmail.com
4	MUNICIPAL COUNCIL SIRSA	REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR DOOR STEP DELIVERY OF CITIZEN SERVICES OF MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, SIRSA	05.11.2020 13.11.2020	50000/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01666- 220525 Secymc.sirsa@gmail.com
5	HARYANA LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT BOARD PANCHKULA	A.I. STRAW FOR VETERINARY USE	05.11.2020 19.11.2020	EMD 1.63 LACS	http://pashudhanharyana.gov.in	9416172558 hldb-hry@nic.in
6	HARYANA LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT BOARD PANCHKULA	PURCHASE OF MIST FAN FOR BULL SHEDS FOR VETERINARY USE	05.11.2020 17.11.2020	EMD 1.28 LACS	http://pashudhanharyana.gov.in	9416172558 hldb-hry@nic.in
7	HPGCL,HISAR	NIT NO. 341/RGTPP/MM-ITOE-12544 DT. 28.10.2020 SUPPLY OF MARSHALLING YARD SPARES (RAIL TRACK MATERIAL) FOR RGTPP HISAR, DCRTPP YAMUNANAGAR & PTPS PANIPAT.	CLOSING DATE 27.11.2020	81300/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9315164637 mm1.rgtpp@hpgcl.org.in
8	HSAM BOARD, KAITHAL.	CONSTRUCTION OF 1 NO. COVERED SHED (ABOVE FOUNDATION) OFFICE COMPLEX (GROUND FLOOR ONLY) & KISAN REST HOUSE IN EXT. NGM KAITHAL AT PATTI CHAUDHARY	CLOSING DATE 25.11.2020	EMD 5.72 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01746-222374 xenkaithal1.hsamb@gmail.com
9	MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, KAITHAL	IMPROVEMENT OF AMBALA BYEPASS CHOWK 4 WAY JUNCTION WITH ADVANCE TCD BASED TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AT KAITHAL + 1 OTHER WORK	05.11.2020 11.11.2020	40 LACS	http://etenders.hry.nic.in	96717-90078 himanshu_latka@gov.in
10	CADA SIRSA	22 NO. LINING OF WATERCOURSES EXTENSION/NEW WORKS/UGPL.	Bid opening date: 19/11/2020	As detailed in the NIT published online	https://www.etenders.hry.nic.in	9996759765 xencadsirsa@gmail.com
11	HARYANA SCHOOL SHIKSHA PARIYOJNA PARISHAD	FOR SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF SPORTS ITEMS IN VARIOUS GOVT. SCHOOLS OF HARYANA STATE	09.11.2020 23.11.2020	1500 LACS	www.hsspp.in	pohsspp@gmail.com
12	HVPNL HISAR.	CONSTRUCTION OF ADDITIONAL ODSG FOUNDATION FOR 132/11 KV HOT T/F AT 132 KV SUB-STATION HALLUWAS	CLOSING DATE 16.11.2020	7.69 LACS	https://www.hvpn.org.in	0172-2583789 prohvpn@gmail.com
13	CAD DIVISION, HISAR	LINING/UNDER GROUND PIPELINE OF WATERCOURSES (28 NOS.)	Bid opening Date: 23.11.2020	Detail of amount in the NIT published online	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	99967-59765 xenhisarcad@gmail.com
14	HARYANA WAQF BOARD	OUTSOURCING OF SKILLED/UNSKILLED MANPOWER	CLOSING DATE 12.11.2020	EMD 5 LACS	www.haryanawaqf board.org	0171-2630722 Estabhwb/gmail.com
15	UHBVN, YAMUNA NAGAR.	HIRING OF FOUR NOS. PRIVATE VEHICLE THROUGH OUT SOURCE FOR USE OF UHBVN, YAMUNA NAGAR.	CLOSING DATE 18.11.2020	Rs 6000/- each vehicle	www.uhbvn.com	0172-2565625
16	UHBVN, PANCHKULA	HIRING OF BUILDING FOR OFFICE PURPOSE OF SDO OP S/DIVN UHBVN MADANPUR (PANCHKULA) HAVING CARPET AREA 3500-4500SQ.FIT	CLOSING DATE 25.11.2020	5000/-	uhbvn.org.in	xenoppanchkula@uhbvn.org.in
17	THE ROHTAK CO-OP. MILK PRODUCERS UNION LTD, A UNIT OF HDDCF LTD.	HIRING OF PRIVATE MILK PLANT FOR MANUFACTURING OF SMP FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR + 1 OTHER WORK	09.11.2020 02.12.2020	15 LACS	www.vitaindia.org.in	9896476403 vitarohtak@gmail.com
18	HLRDC LTD;	TRANSPORTATION OF LPG DOMESTIC AND COMMERCIAL CYLINDERS OF HLRDC BHARAT GAS AGENCY AT NARAINGARH DURING 2020-21 (01-12-2020 TO 30-11-2021)	11.11.2020 17.11.2020	1 LAKH	https://etenders. hry.nic.in	caohlrdc@gmail.com

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SAMVAD-83649

New dawn

Biden brings hope, but Trump's regressive politics will certainly outlast his time

After trailing but steadily closing the gap since Election Day, Democrat and former Vice-President Joe Biden has seized the lead in the Republican-leaning swing State of Georgia, and in Pennsylvania, and winning them would guarantee his victory in the 2020 U.S. presidential election. Mr. Biden is now poised to garner more than 270 votes in the Electoral College, with leads in Georgia, Pennsylvania, Nevada and Arizona, and wins in any two of them or in Pennsylvania alone should be enough. However, an obstacle in his path to the Oval Office comes from the scattershot legal action by the Trump campaign to stop the counting of votes after polls closed, on the unfounded allegation that mail-in votes were subject to large-scale fraud. Mr. Biden is also firmly on track to win the popular vote decisively, having secured more than a whopping 73 million, a fact that Democrats will no doubt seize upon in the days ahead to underscore the legitimacy of their potential mandate to govern. The nail-biting denouement of the contest belied earlier hopes on both sides for a landslide victory, with the fiercest contests playing out in the swing States of the Rust Belt, including Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin, and, further afield, Arizona, Florida, and Nevada. Under the shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic, a historically unprecedented surge in mail-in voting contributed to a high overall turnout, likely in excess of 68%.

In normal times, and with a predictable predecessor, Mr. Biden may have relished the prospect of preparing to enter office in January 2021. Yet the pandemic and the legacy of Mr. Trump's administration imply that, should he win, Mr. Biden will have to make plans on an emergency footing, not only in the realms of health care and macroeconomic policy but also in terms of healing the painful divisions that have led to the emergence of two Americas, with radically divergent views on everything from tolerating pluralism to embracing globalisation. On COVID-19, the U.S. will soon touch a grim milestone – 10 million cases; more than 230,000 fatalities have been recorded. This makes it imperative that the next President of the country respects science and advocates the use of masks, social distancing, and lockdowns. Similarly, experts concur that the pandemic-induced tailspin of the U.S. economy will need a pragmatic and bold fiscal policy, not fear mongering tweets denigrating immigrants. Finally, it is likely that "Trumpism" – which includes not only dog-whistles to white supremacists, retrograde views on women's reproductive rights and an instinct to pander to unhinged nativism, but also concern for economically disenfranchised working-class Americans – will certainly outlast Mr. Trump's time at the White House. If the U.S. is to have a hope of holding onto its superpower status, the mammoth task of bridge-building across the bitter polarisation of the partisan divide must be the highest priority for the 46th President.

Alimony guidelines

Early enforcement of maintenance laws is a must to protect dependent women

In India, though more girls are going to school now, for many, the inevitable reality seems marriage before completion of higher education. Girls are married off early and bear children long before they should. This triggers a state of poor maternal health and is one of the root causes of high levels of child stunting and wasting in India. There is also the possibility of a marriage not working out for varied reasons, leaving the girl or young woman in extreme distress because often she is not financially independent. Parliament and the courts have persistently enacted legislation to give women better rights. Article 15(3), which states 'nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making any special provision for women and children', read together with Article 39, which directs state policy towards equal pay and opportunities for both men and women, and protecting the health of women and children, are two key constitutional safeguards. On Wednesday, the Supreme Court leaned on these two Articles, and a host of other laws, while hearing a dispute between a Mumbai-based couple, and set down comprehensive guidelines on alimony. The court ruled that an abandoned wife and children will be entitled to 'maintenance' from the date she applies for it in a court of law.

In a 67-page judgment, a Bench of Justices Indu Malhotra and R. Subhash Reddy, outlined specifics, including "reasonable needs" of a wife and dependent children, her educational qualification, whether she has an independent source of income, and if she does, if it is sufficient, to follow for family courts, magistrates and lower courts on alimony cases. Given the large and growing percentage of matrimonial litigation, some clarity was necessary. Cases are known to drag on and acquire cobwebs, worsening the misery for vulnerable women. The Court laid down that while women can make a claim for alimony under different laws, including the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005 and Section 125 of the CrPC, or under the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, it "would be inequitable to direct the husband to pay maintenance under each of the proceedings", urging civil and family courts to take note of previous settlements. Perhaps keeping in mind the vastness of India and its inequities, the Court also added how an "order or decree of maintenance" may be enforced under various laws and Section 128 of the CrPC. For women in India, especially the poor who are often overlooked in discourses, the top court's words that maintenance laws will mean little if they do not prevent dependent wives and children from "falling into destitution and vagrancy", offer a glimmer of hope.

Biden, India and comfort in the old normal

In general, India could still be in a sweet spot if there is political change and a new administration in the U.S.

SUHASINI HAIDAR

With U.S. Democratic candidate and former Vice-President Joe Biden seizing the lead in the presidential elections that puts him at the cusp of victory, the attention in India turns to what kind of foreign policy changes he will bring to India-U.S. relations. A bit of history may hold some clues. In September 2009, U.S. President Barack Obama had tasked his Vice-President, Joseph Biden, with building an alternative plan to Afghanistan, to present to U.S. Generals who were pushing for the "surge" or an influx of up to 400,000 troops to win the war in Afghanistan. Mr. Biden fought long and hard, building on multiple visits to the region, and suggested that the U.S. did not need more troops; instead it needed to pull out, and focus on a five-point agenda for what he called "Counter-terrorism Plus". The details, as recounted by veteran journalist Bob Woodward in his book, *Obama's Wars*, included a full focus on al-Qaeda, exiting other counterinsurgency missions and dropping the Bush era "nation-building" theme, reducing U.S. bases to just two or three, and fighting the Taliban with a view to bringing them to the table for reconciliation. On Pakistan, a country that gave him one of its highest civilian honours, the Hilal-e-Pakistan, Mr. Biden favoured a policy of engagement in order to deal with the Taliban.

Eventually, Mr. Obama did not go with the Biden plan, and ended up with following the military's plan for a surge of about 33,000 extra troops instead. A decade later, it was President Donald Trump who picked up ideas similar to the Biden plan, when he ordered a large-scale pullout of U.S. troops, limited U.S. presence at bases and its mission in Afghanistan, while appointing Zalmay Khalilzad to build a reconciliation process with the Taliban. While the relative merits of the different American strategies on Afghanistan will be judged in the future, what this shows is that the specific policies of Mr. Biden and Mr. Trump in the international arena may not differ as much as their political styles and their ideologies do.

Roots in the Obama-Biden era

For India, this would mean some comfort in the continuity a Biden administration will show over the U.S. policy with India, strategic and otherwise. While Mr. Trump owned the Indo-Pacific policy later, the policy owes its origins to

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the Obama-Biden administration that first focused on "Asia-Pacific" in order to build a coalition to counter Chinese inroads in the region: during his visit to New Delhi in 2015, Mr. Obama signed the first India-U.S. vision statement on the subject (https://bit.ly/355d8N7).

He may not, however, pursue the head to head, brinkmanship style Mr. Trump and U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo preferred. It is also likely that Mr. Biden will build on the military foundational agreements with India, strengthen military cooperation and push the sale of U.S. military hardware.

When it comes to trade, it is unlikely that Mr. Biden can dial back many of the measures that Mr. Trump has put into motion, but he would have low hanging fruit to pick, if he chooses to be more flexible, in restoring India's Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) status for exporters, and in wrapping up a mini-trade deal that the U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal have been working on, but without success thus far. On visas, Mr. Biden gave Indian-Americans some assurances at a campaign speech last month, and he already has an in-house understanding of the value of Indian immigrants to the U.S., and the importance of India's outsourcing industry to the U.S., through his running mate Kamala Harris.

Friction areas

Where there is likely to be some friction with the Modi government, especially given India's pending review by the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, is where the Democratic Party leadership, including Ms. Harris, Mark Warner, Pramila Jayapal, have been particularly vocal: Jammu-Kashmir, the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, communal and caste-based violence, actions against non-governmental organisations and media freedoms. These are areas Mr. Trump ignored for most part, but are areas where Mr. Biden once said the U.S. "admired" India the most.

In a speech in 2013 during a visit to Mumbai, Mr. Biden had said: "We admire the way you've melded ethnicities, faiths and tongues into a single, proud nation; the way entrepreneurship seems almost hard-wired into Indian society, from rickshaw-wallas to web programmers; and maybe most of all, we admire your democracy and the message that your democracy sends to people everywhere in the world."

International outlook

Above all, Mr. Biden's foreign policy will be watched for just how much he reverses Mr. Trump's pullout from the multilateral world order, including the World Health Organisation, UNESCO, Human Rights Council, agreements such as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, the Iran nuclear deal and the Paris Climate Accord and traditional trans-Atlantic and trans-Pacific alliances. He will also be watched for what concrete measures he takes in order to strengthen the rules-based international order, and to ensure the countries that flout it the most, including China, Russia, and even the United States are held to account.

New Delhi might not miss Mr. Trump's abrasive, transactionalist style that puts a premium on personality over policy, but it had learned to embrace the "new normal" of the Trumpian era, as the two public rallies Mr. Modi invited Mr. Trump to, in Houston and Ahmedabad, showed. The success of the government's dealings with Mr. Biden's administration now depends on how much of the "old normal" the Modi government is able to revert to and find comfort over the next few months.

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Market dictates and a blow against equality

The GST levy on mobility aids places a prohibitive burden on the ability of disabled citizens to lead a dignified life

SUHRITH PARTHASARATHY

On October 27, the Supreme Court of India heard brief arguments on the constitutional validity of the levy of Goods and Services Tax (GST) on mobility aids used by disabled citizens. The petitioner, in *Nipun Malhotra vs. Union of India*, argued that the tax imposed on these products, which included wheelchairs, tricycles for the disabled, braille paper and braille watches, was patently discriminatory. But the Court indicated that the scope of its power to review the levy was slender. A decision to impose a tax, it said, was a matter of policy over which the judiciary ought not to ordinarily interfere. In adjourning the case, it suggested that the petitioner exhaust his options by submitting his grievances to the GST Council, which is the governing body responsible for determining which products are taxed, and at what rate.

Tax and a fundamental right

At first blush, this approach seems reasonable. But should the GST Council reject the petitioner's plea, it would be imprudent of the Court not to test the legitimacy of the levy. Much as it might be keen to ensure that the judiciary does not sit on judgment over matters that fall within the domain of legislative and executive competence, it must recognise that there is nothing inherently distinct about taxing laws; they are in no way plenary and unamenable to judicial review. Quite to the contrary, taxes have a direct bearing on how society is arranged. The nature and rate of tax imposed on a product can impinge both on a person's freedom and on a person's right to be treated with equal care and concern. Therefore, it ought to be well within an independent judiciary's province – as the top courts in Canada and Colombia, among others, have recently held – to examine whether or not an imposition of a tax violates a fundamental right.

Market forces are at play

The GST regime was launched amid much fanfare in July 2017, with the idea of not only simplifying India's complex and multi-layered tax structure but also with a view to fashioning the country into a unified, common market, in which the levy of GST will subsume almost all other extant indirect taxes. To that end, the GST serves as a consumption tax on the supply of all manners of goods and services. But its functioning has proved far from transformative. At the time of its inception, the central government claimed that the causes of liberty and equality would benefit from the States pooling their sovereignty together with that of the Union. But what we have seen since is that with the withering of the States' fiscal autonomy, it is the dictates of the market alone that appear to determine how and what goods are taxed. The levy on commodities used by the disabled is a prime example of this.

Until the advent of the GST, mobility aids were almost entirely immune from indirect taxes. In virtually every State, exemptions were granted on the payment of value-added-tax on such goods.

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The GST did away altogether with this exemption. Indeed, it was only after substantial outcry that the originally proposed 18% tax on these devices was reduced to 5%. But even at that rate, as the petition in the Supreme Court demonstrates, the levy increases manifold the prices of commodities that allow the disabled to perform the most basic tasks – in this case, to walk or to read.

Despite this affront to dignity, the government claims that it cannot relieve mobility aids from taxation, because to do so will disincentivise domestic manufacturers. "The 5% concessional GST rate," the government said in a statement explaining the levy, "will result in a win-win situation for both the users of such devices, the disabled persons, as well as the domestic manufacturers of such goods." This argument is influenced by the GST's structure, in particular the manner in which firms are allowed to claim credit on taxes paid by them in the making of a product.

Under the existing regime, if the maker, say, of a wheelchair has paid taxes on commodities that serve as raw material in the process of manufacturing, it will be entitled to claim credit for the tax paid when it remits the levy collected from the eventual purchaser of the product. So, if the manufacturer spends a sum of ₹100 as taxes towards the purchase of aluminium that goes into the making of a wheelchair and then collects a sum of ₹120 as GST when it sells the wheelchair, it would be entitled to claim the sum of ₹100 as "input tax credit" and would consequently only have to deposit ₹20 to the government. The State's argument is that in the absence of a levy of GST on the final product, the manufacturer will be burdened with input taxes. Since it cannot claim any credit for those taxes paid, the prices of the final product would have to be concomitantly higher, and, as a result, the manufacturer will be placed in a relative position of disadvantage to foreign makers.

Parliament can find a way

This argument, though, suffers from at least two fallacies. First, a reading of the various notifications issued by the GST Council shows that many other products that are essential to human needs are exempt from tax – notably, in July 2018, following a sustained campaign, the levy imposed on female personal hygiene products (tampons and sanitary pads) was removed.

Second, that the grant of an exemption in cases such as these would disentitle manufacturers from claiming input tax credit is a matter of legislative design. Nothing suggests that Parliament cannot find other ways to ensure that domestic manufacturers are granted credit for the taxes that they pay on inputs. A set off against taxes collected from the eventual consumers can scarcely be seen as the only legitimate mechanism available to ensure that a rebate is provided. What is more, the government might well have all manners of other options available – it could, for example, exempt firms from paying taxes on inputs on the condition that such inputs will be used to manufacture mobility aids.

A reasonable classification

Ultimately, a decision taken on exempting goods from taxation is a matter of classification. The Constitution's equality code requires such a classification to be a reasonable one. In the case of mobility aids, the oppressive nature of the levy is evident. The tax places a prohibitive burden on the ability of disabled citizens to access the most basic goods, to lead lives with dignity. Given that the classification rests on a state of disability, it must be seen, on any sensible consideration of our equality jurisprudence, as, at least facially, inequitable. The onus must, therefore, rest on the government to show the Court that it had cogent reasons for treating these goods as distinct from other commodities that are exempt from tax. A failure to discharge this onus ought to render the levy illegitimate.

It need not come to this. The GST Council can take a leaf out of the books of Canada and Australia, and grant a complete exemption on the levy imposed on mobility aids. A fair and just regime ought to demand nothing less. Taxation, after all, is a tool that is intended to augment general welfare. It is time we recognised that an unreasonable levy can deeply compromise fundamental human needs. To free taxing statutes from the ramparts of the Constitution is to risk the entrenching of inequality.

Suhrith Parthasarathy is an advocate practising at the Madras High Court

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.

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America votes

A close finish takes away part of the victor's joy as the loser comes out as a doughty fighter who defied all dire predictions about a likely debacle. The pollsters and the media failed, as they did in 2016, to sense the sentiments at the grass-root level. Donald Trump may leave the White House but Trumpism will survive as a political idiom and as an aspiration. Media narratives have lost the ability to shape public opinion. The mainstream media that treated Mr. Trump as an usurper of the throne got carried away by its powerful narratives that demonised the American President. For Mr. Trump's supporters, he created jobs, showed China its place and saved American lives by not waging wars on foreign soil. Mr. Trump may not fit into the traditional mould of a sophisticated statesman sworn to political correctness, but that cannot be the reason to deny him a fair appraisal.

V.N. MUKUNDARAJAN,
Thiruvananthapuram

The current occupant of the White House began his campaign for presidency in his first term by circulating the line that the then President, Barack Obama, was not born in America. This pattern of misinformation has now taken a new form in the name of "voter fraud" and it being a "stolen election" without any basis, because there is a huge group of the American voting public that is likely to accept such statements. Mr. Trump is a symptom of the deep malaise of hatred and misconstrued "white victimhood" that is deeply inlaid in the social fabric of the American nation.

G. PARAMESWARAN,
Coimbatore

■ Though Joe Biden appears to be in the lead to win the race, it looks as if Mr. Trump too is confident of winning by resorting to the legal route. His rushing to nominate Amy Coney Barrett seems to have been done sensing the mood of the electorate and the outcome. With his quixotic behaviour, he has brought disgrace to a country that has only witnessed its former Presidents relinquishing office and handing over charge to the next President-elect gracefully, thereby upholding the cherished traditions of their nation.

THARCIUS S. FERNANDO,
Chennai

Anchor's arrest

Clearly, the arrest of a well-known television anchor has nothing to do with his profession and has more to do with a case in 2018 on charges of abetment to suicide. This being the case, where and how does the question of calling his detainment as 'stifling free speech' arise? If journalists are arrested on charges unrelated to their professional work, then it is difficult to assert that it is linked to 'freedom of press'. And this is what the Maharashtra government and the police would like us to believe. Though the arrest contains an element of feud, by apprehending the anchor, perhaps the State police would like to believe that it sent a strong message to him. The anchor's arrest will hardly make any difference to the state of media freedom in India. Rather, the episode sends out a strong message that even journalists with allegedly powerful political backers are not immune.

R. SIVAKUMAR,
Chennai

■ By protesting the arrest, certain political parties have only confirmed the perception – of indeed patronising the anchor's channel which is infamous for its jingoism and shrill coverage of what is 'non-news'. The anchor has not been arrested for the TRP scam or for poor journalism; hence alleging that press freedom is at stake and that the event is a reminder of the Emergency are unwarranted.

M.N. MUSAEED,
Mumbai

■ The anchor himself is guilty of violating his journalistic privileges on several occasions by conducting sham media trials, acting like a supreme arbiter of justice in India and pronouncing people guilty on the basis of dubious material and evidence. Perhaps he is getting a taste of his own medicine.

R. RAVICHANDRAN,
Chennai

■ The case is unrelated to the anchor's work. Still one cannot help but comment on his style of functioning. A TV anchor should transact the session in a dignified manner. One has to watch how Stephen Sackur, the anchor of 'Hardtalk' on BBC conducts his shows. His sangfroid pleases all; his speech is intonated; he is unprovocative; and, above all, there are no histrionics by him while confabulating.

K. PRADEEP,
Chennai

Marching on

The dominant display by Mumbai Indians has underlined their supremacy ('Sport' page, "Ruthless MI batters DC into submission, takes quick route to final", November 6). Delhi Capitals could not measure up to their brave pre-match predictions and were blown away by a superior outfit. It is also notable that players like Jasprit Bumrah, the Pandya brothers, Ishan Kishan and Suryakumar Yadav have performed with distinction for their team to reach the finals.

THOMAS PALOCAREN,
Vellore, Tamil Nadu

The price of saying 'no'

Last week, Nikita Tomar was shot dead by her schoolmate, Tausif, who was upset at her refusal to marry him. The case has not only put the spotlight on stalking, but has also led to a communal flare-up in Faridabad. **Ashok Kumar** reports on the distraught family of the victim and the politically connected family of the accused

(Clockwise from top left): Moolchand Tomar, father of Nikita Tomar who was shot dead outside Aggarwal College in Ballabgarh, speaks to the media after attending the funeral in Faridabad on October 27 ▪ AFP; Tomar, his relatives and friends sit outside his house demanding capital punishment for the accused; The spot where Nikita was shot. ▪ R.V. MOORTHY

At around 3:30 p.m. on October 26, Nikita Tomar – 20, studious and ambitious – stood outside the sprawling campus of Aggarwal College in Ballabgarh, soon after writing an exam, and waited for her brother to pick her up. Giving her company were two friends. Winter was just setting in and it was a pleasant day.

But chilling events were to follow within minutes, captured in 23 seconds of closed-circuit television footage that later went viral on social media. Tausif, Nikita's former schoolmate, and his friend and classmate, Rehan, are seen arriving in a Sedan. Tausif, just shy of 21 and his face covered in a white mask, tries to push Nikita into the car, but she manages to free herself from his clutches and hide behind her friend. Tausif pushes the friend aside and catches hold of Nikita. A brief struggle ensues. A man strolls past talking on the phone; another cycles down the road slowly. They see what's going on, but don't intervene. Suddenly, Tausif brings out a gun and shoots her point-blank. The bullet hits Nikita in the nape of her neck and she collapses to the ground. Nikita's friend is transfixed, and then turns this way and that. A motorbike whizzes past, but doesn't stop. Rehan runs towards Tausif and grabs him. Both of them, undergraduate students of physiotherapy at Gurugram University, make a dash for the vehicle, scramble into it, and drive away.

Nikita's grief-stricken father Moolchand Tomar says his daughter had told him that Tausif had called her a week before the incident. "She told me that he wanted her to convert and marry him. I promised that I would talk to his family about it and told her not to worry. But she did not reveal much. She may have been under a lot of pressure. I will never know. After the 2018 kidnapping incident, she did not want to trouble me any more by talking about him," he says.

Nikita Tomar's murder has yet again shocked a nation where cases of stalking are common. However, the outrage this time hasn't always centred on the safety of women in general. Citing this case, the Harayana government is mulling a law against 'love jihad', the communal slur used to target inter-faith relationships in which the man is Muslim.

An exam and a murder

Tomar, 48, is seated on a mattress at a condolence meeting for Nikita on the street outside his Sector 23 Faridabad house in Haryana. On the wall behind him, plastered across a door and a window, is a large banner featuring Nikita's photo and a lamp. It reads: '*Lado hum sharminda hain tere kaatil zinda hain. Haryana sarkaar hosh mein aao. Hatyaro ko phansi do* (My dear, we are ashamed that your killers are still alive. Haryana government, come to your senses. Hang the killers). India wants justice for Nikita Tomar.'

Another banner across another window says Nikita was "shot dead by Tausif in broad daylight for refusing to convert and marry him". Just beneath it, Nikita's photograph with a garland around the frame is precariously balanced on a stool mounted on a grey plastic chair. The chair leans against a wall that has large patches of fresh plaster and fading paint.

Tomar recalls the morning of that fateful day. He says he left for work around 7:30 a.m. Nikita, who had been preparing for the exam till around 2:30 a.m., was still asleep. "I called my wife around 8:30 a.m. She told me that Nikita was studying after taking a bath and eating breakfast. I didn't want to disturb her, so I didn't speak to her over the phone," he says.

Around noon, Nikita's brother Naveen and mother Vijaywati dropped her at the examination centre, the Aggarwal College, and went shopping. Nikita's uncle's house was a stone's throw away from the college. "Nikita came out of the college after the exam and called Naveen to come over and pick her up," recounts Tomar. "A few minutes later, I got a call from her friend saying Nikita had been shot. Since I was far away, I asked my brother-in-law to rush there immediately. Something was terribly wrong, I told him."

Shattered dreams

After Nikita was shot, some students picked her up and took her on a two-wheeler to Manavta Hospital, where she died during treatment. "By the time I reached the hospital, the staff told me that her body had been sent to Badshah Khan Hospital for post-mortem," says Tomar, his voice cracking. "I could not even speak to her one last time."

The killer ruined their lives "in just 20 seconds," he says. "All our dreams are shattered. All her certificates and medals are now useless. Her mother has not even gone to her room since the incident. Her clothes, books... everything reminds us of her. Her mother cannot face it," he says.

"*Hamare liye gudiya thi* (She was our doll). She was a reserved and studious girl. She loved me the most. Nikita would hug me when I returned from work in the evening. Like a little child, she would share all the details of her day with me," Tomar says, surrounded by neighbours and his father-in-law.

A generation ago, the Tomars had shifted from Uttar Pradesh to Faridabad. Tomar sold the ancestral house a few years ago to borrow a loan and construct a new house, the one they live in now. As he wanted a good education for his children, he built the house near the main road where efficient transport facilities could take them to school quickly. "I ensured good education for them even if I had to go without food," says Tomar.

He recalls how Nikita was a motivated woman and always strived to excel. "Inspired by her maternal uncles and grandfather, she wanted to join the Army. Sometimes she dreamt of becoming a civil servant. She would often say that she would be so powerful one day that her orders would be final and binding on all." Tomar hopes that a school or a college is named after Nikita who "laid down her life to protect her dignity".

Allegedly kidnapped earlier

Nikita was around 17 years old when she first met Tausif, a resident of Gurugram's Sohna. Tausif comes from a family of politicians in Nuh, located about 70 km from Delhi. Nikita and Tausif met while studying at the Rawal International School, Nangla, in Faridabad. Tausif was a year senior to her. Nikita was a day scholar and Tausif stayed in the hostel. Nikita's family vehemently denies that she liked Tausif. "I have no clue how he entered my daughter's life," says Tomar.

Tausif's maternal uncle, Islamuddin, was arrested four years ago in connection with a spate of robberies across several States. He was also involved in the 2016 abduction of Inspector Surender Singh Phogat, who was then Station House Officer of Sector 29 police station. Phogat was kidnapped, robbed and dumped in Mathura district of Uttar Pradesh. Islamuddin, lodged in Gurugram's Bhondsi Jail, is now out on parole for a family function. Tausif's stepcousin Aftab Ahmed, a former Haryana Transport Minister, is a Congress MLA from Nuh. His uncle Javed Ahmad has contested twice, albeit unsuccessfully, on a Bahujan Samaj Party ticket from Sohna.

The two families got involved in their teenaged children's personal lives for the first time two years ago when Tausif allegedly kidnapped Nikita from outside Aggarwal College. The matter reached the police. The First Information Report of the incident, accessed by *The Hindu*, says Nikita was about to board an auto-rickshaw to her house on the evening of August 2, 2018, when Tausif kidnapped her. Nikita informed her friend Abhishek about it, who in turn called up her father. A case was registered under Section 365 of the Indian Penal Code at the Ballabgarh City police station.

The Tomars were later forced to withdraw the complaint owing to social and political pressure and mediation by the police. Tomar recalls that he decided to do this after the two families had a meeting. He says he did not know the family before the incident. Nikita gave in writing to the police that she had gone with Tausif of her own volition and the FIR was quashed. "They (Tausif's family) apologised to us. They assured us that this would not happen again. Also, a poor electrician like me could not stand up against a mighty family like that with a long political and criminal record. I am a man with limited means, whereas they have a lot of wealth. Besides, Nikita was a good student. I did not want her to go from court to court. It was a question of her life. In our society, we also need to think about the girl's esteem," says Tomar.

For almost a year after the incident, Nikita's mother and brother accompanied her every time she stepped out. Gradually, they put the incident behind them and normalcy returned. "Nikita was not on social media, so there was no question of anyone stalking her online. For almost two years after the incident, we never faced any problem from him (Tausif)," says Tomar.

Tomar is now remorseful about closing that case. "I have regrets. But even if I am put in a similar situation today, what choice would I have? I cannot fight the *bahubalis* (musclemen)," he says.

Three arrests

Tausif, who was arrested a few hours after the incident, has no regrets, says the police. "It was a premeditated, cold-blooded murder," says Faridabad Police Commissioner O.P. Singh. "The psychology behind it is the same as in most stalking incidents: *Meri nahi to kisi ki nahi* (If she is not mine, then she can't be anyone else's)." The 700-page chargesheet citing 60 witnesses was filed in court on Friday.

Though there is no evidence of Tausif stalking the girl after the 2018 kidnapping incident, mobile records show his location around the college on a couple of occasions a week before the murder. "He recced the area before the murder," says Singh.

Rehan was arrested a day after the incident. Azharuddin alias Azru was also arrested on charges of supplying the country-made pistol used in the murder. According to the police, Azru is a close acquaintance of Islamuddin. Tausif also knew Azru well. "We have a strong case against the accused with digital and forensic evidence and some eyewitnesses. The CCTV footage of the incident is the most clinching evidence. The weapon and the car used in the commission of the crime have also been recovered," says Singh.

Keeping in view the public outrage over the murder and the media attention, the Faridabad Police set up a Special Investigation Team, led by Assistant Commissioner of Police Anil Kumar, to investigate the matter. Haryana Home Minister Anil Vij announced that a fast-track court would be set up for day-to-day hearing and quick disposal of the case. The Faridabad Police have also moved the local court seeking to reopen the 2018 kidnapping case.

Tausif's family maintains that they don't approve of the illegal act and the law must take its own course. Tausif's mother claims that her son was a brilliant student who stood first in class. "After the 2018 incident, he never spoke to anyone in the family about the girl. He got admission into an MBBS course at a college in Bengaluru, but did not go. He did not want to go that far away for a course. He is very shy and docile. I don't know why he did this," she says. She claims that Tausif did not kidnap the girl and that Nikita went on her own with him and was taken back by her maternal uncle later.

Political and communal colours

The case of a Muslim man stalking and shooting a Hindu girl has also become a perfect recipe for communal flare-up in the region. Just a day after the incident, several Hindutva organisations, including the Karni Sena (the Tomars are Rajputs), started using the example of this case to once again talk about 'love jihad'. For a few days, the victim's house was used by various organisations to hold demonstrations and protests seeking justice for the girl. But in these events, the problem of stalking wasn't the focus.

One such demonstration was held by a group called the Sarv Biradari Sangathan on Dussehra Ground on November 1. Thousands participated in it. The crowd turned violent when around 200 young men, agitated over the turn of events at the panchayat, threw stones at shops and the police, and tried to block National Highway-44 (connecting New Delhi with Agra). Ten policemen were injured in the clash with the mob and 32 people were arrested. Investigation into the violence revealed that inflammatory and provocative messages were spread through Whatsapp groups and other social media platforms.

As the prime accused in the case is related to Congress MLA Aftab Ahmed, the incident has also assumed political hues. The party's State chief, Kumari Selja, allegedly encountered misbehaviour when she went to Nikita's family's house to offer her condolences. An FIR was filed in this connection on charges of misbehaviour, wrongful restraint, and criminal intimidation by Faridabad Municipal Corporation member Jaiveer Khatana. He later filed a counter FIR accusing Congress workers of resorting to violence against him during Selja's visit.

The problem of stalking

Two-time Rashtriya Gaurav Gram Sabha Puraskar winner Sunil Jaglan, also known for the 'Selfie With Daughter' campaign, says stalking lies at the core of most cases of heinous crime against women, such as rape, murder and acid attacks. "It all begins with stalking, but mostly, the girl and her parents tend to ignore it. They either don't take it seriously or prefer to keep mum for the sake of social prestige. In a conservative society like ours, reporting such cases leads to loss of social reputation for the victim more than the perpetrator," says Jaglan, who is also an adviser in the Pranab Mukherjee Foundation.

Working in Nuh on issues concerning women and girls, Jaglan says parents in the region do not send their daughters to schools that are located far away as they fear their daughters will be stalked. "If a girl tells her parents about being stalked, they tell her to quit school and sit at home," says Jaglan. Stalking is not about religion, he says. Girls are stalked by boys from their own religion and village, too. The police don't take stalking cases seriously till a more henious crime is committed, since most of the time the two parties reach a compromise, he says.

Social media has made it easier to stalk a person. "However, in a predominantly rural area such as Nuh, online stalking is not prevalent. It is more common in cities like Faridabad and Gurugram. Social media makes it possible even for older men to stalk young women with the benefit of anonymity," he says. "We need to communicate more and more with our children, especially during their teenage years. We should speak not just to girls, but also boys to guide them through their most difficult years," says Jaglan.

Tomar agrees that this is not about religion. Tired of sitting on a mattress for long hours, he presses his back against the wall to correct his posture. "How can a girl be shot dead simply for saying 'no'? The parents of many girls in our locality are in shock after the incident. They are scared to send their daughters to school. They asked me whether they are bringing up their daughters only to see them being killed like this one day. It is not about Hindus or Muslims. We need a stringent law so that these obsessive stalkers don't even dare to look at our daughters. Even in this case, when the police have such clinching evidence, why can't the court decide the matter in a couple of days?" That is the question that keeps his mind occupied all day.

FROM PAGE ONE

India won't accept shifting of LAC, says CDS

Gen. Rawat said India faced a myriad of external security challenges. Constant friction with two nuclear armed neighbours with whom India had fought wars, "increasingly acting in collusion, poses an omnipresent danger of regional strategic instability with potential for escalation, threatening our national integrity and strategic cohesion".

On Pakistan, Gen. Rawat said the "unabated proxy war" unleashed by Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir accompanied by a "vicious" anti-India rhetoric on social media and efforts to create social disharmony within India have taken Indo-Pak. relations to a new low. "The surgical strikes post Uri terror attack and the Balakot air strikes have delivered a strong message to Pakistan that it no longer enjoys the impunity of pushing terrorists across the Line of Control under the nuclear bogey," he said.

"The new Indian template has injected ambiguity and uncertainty in Pakistan, evident in its media reports, about Indian armed forces reaction, if Pakistan sponsored terrorists cross the threshold of tolerance," he added.

Addressing the webinar, Indian Air Force chief Air Chief Marshal R.K.S. Bhadauria said the IAF's proactive actions and strong posture were "instrumental" in dissuading China from making any further attempts to alter the status quo in Ladakh.

Asked about the stand-off at the weekly briefing, the Ministry of External Affairs said both sides continue to maintain close communication at the military and diplomatic levels to achieve complete disengagement along the LAC. The two sides were guided by the leaders' consensus to jointly safeguard peace and tranquillity in the border areas, MEA spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said.

"We will continue to maintain the dialogue with the Chinese side to arrive at a mutually acceptable solution to the current situation along the LAC."

Karnataka seeks to cut use of fireworks during Deepavali

CM calls for use of green crackers, asks people to celebrate in a 'simple manner'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa has asked people to celebrate Deepavali in a "simple manner" and refrain from bursting firecrackers in the light of the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic. He advised people to use only "green crackers" instead.

While the Chief Minister had earlier in the day told presspersons that the government would "ban" bursting firecrackers, a communique from his office in the evening did not announce a blanket ban.

It said several suggestions had been made on banning sale and use of firecrackers. "The government has taken several measures to stem the spread of COVID-19. In this context, it is appropriate to celebrate Deepavali in a simple manner in the interest of public, particularly children," it said. Further, the Chief Minister urged people to use only green crackers.

No blanket ban: A wholesale shop displaying new varieties of fireworks at Chickpet, in Bengaluru, on Friday. • K. MURALI KUMAR

Experts' suggestion

The Health and Family Welfare Department and a panel of experts on COVID-19 had suggested a ban on firecrackers in the light of the pandemic. Health Minister D. Sudhakar had said a final decision on the issue would be taken by the Chief Minister.

Already, Delhi, Odisha, and Rajasthan have banned use of firecrackers during Deepavali. The National Green Tribunal has already expanded the jurisdiction of hearing cases on pollution by use of firecrackers in the Delhi-NCR region and issued notices to 18 States, including Karnataka, and the Union Territories where air quality is beyond norms.

Kerala local body polls from Dec. 8

Counting of votes on December 16

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Local body elections in Kerala will be held in three phases in the first half of December, the State Election Commission (SEC) V. Bhaskaran has said.

Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha and Idukki districts will go to the polls on December 8; Ernakulam, Kottayam, Thrissur, Palakkad and Wayanad on December 10; and Malappuram, Kozhikode, Kannur and Kasaragod on December 14. The voting time is 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Counting of votes will be on December 16. The new elected councils will take charge before Christmas.

The model code of conduct came into force on Friday, the SEC said.

Elections will be held in 21,865 wards in 1,199 local bodies, except the Mattannur municipality where the five-year term has not been completed. These include 15,962 wards in 941 grama panchayats, 2,080 wards in 152 block panchayats, 331 wards in 14 district panchayats, 3,078 wards in 86 municipalities and 414 wards in six municipal Corporations.

The COVID-19 containment protocol will be strictly enforced in all activities pertaining to the elections. The commission has earlier issued detailed guidelines pertaining to this aspect of the elections.

The additional voters' list will be published on November 10.

The final list published by the commission on October 1 had 2.71 crore voters, including 1.3 crore men, 1.41 crore women and 282 transgender persons.

There will be 34,744 polling stations in all, including 29,321 in grama panchayats, 3,422 in municipalities and 2,001 in six Corporations. Steps are on to appoint polling officers. The inspection of electronic voting machines was progressing, Mr. Bhaskaran said.

Finance panel warns of rising GST dues of States

The report will be submitted to President Ram Nath Kovid on Monday.

The panel has also delivered on its more unusual terms of reference, including the question of creating a separate mechanism for funding defence and internal security proposed by the Centre, citing inadequate budgetary provisions for large capital outlays needed for complete defence preparedness.

"The Commission has examined and responded to the Defence Ministry's proposal to set up a non-lapsable fund for security-related expenditure, whether it should be funded by a cess or a surcharge, and supplemented by monetisation of surplus defence land, issue of tax-free defence bonds and disinvestment of defence public sector units," said an official, pointing to the additional pressure on the Centre's finances due to the fall in revenues and the flailing economy.

Unless there is a sustained rise in GST collections over the next 20 months (till June 2022), the Commission has projected that the gap between the GST cess collections used to recompense States and their compensation dues could accumulate to a significant sum of "between ₹5 lakh crore to ₹7 lakh crore", said the official privy to the Commission's assessment of States' fiscal positions.

The resolution and the modalities adopted for the payment of GST compensation dues to States would significantly impact the fiscal consolidation roadmap for India's general government debt, the official said.

While the revenue shortfall for States is pegged at ₹3 lakh crore this year, GST cess collections are expected to be just ₹65,000 crore, on account of the sharp contraction in the economy that was already slowing down before the COVID-19 pandemic and was exacerbated by the lockdowns. The Centre has allowed States to borrow from the market to meet part of the shortfall, with the assurance that loans will be serviced and repaid from future GST cess collections.

The Centre had promised compensation for revenue losses to States on account of giving up their indirect taxation powers and switching to the GST regime, for the first five years of the new tax regime launched in July 2017.

A compensation cess was levied on so-called 'sin' and 'demerit' goods to finance this payout to States over the same period.

SC asks for written submissions from builders in Maradu case

The case will come up for hearing again in December

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday stopped short of putting the builders of the demolished and illegal high-rise Maradu apartment complexes in Kochi on a two-week deadline to provide a "concrete plan" to compensate residents or, in the alternative, face the sale of their attached properties to cover the payments due.

A Bench led by Justice Rohinton F. Nariman put that course of action on hold after senior advocate R. Basant and advocate Karthik Ashok interjected on behalf of some of the builders to point out that the court should first adjudicate on certain issues.

Mr. Basant referred to a September 27, 2019 court ruling that ordered the Kerala government to pay ₹25 lakh each to residents whose flats were demolished. These amounts were then to be reimbursed to the government by those responsible for the flats coming up illegally in violation of the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) norms.

Razed down: A file picture of Golden Kayaloram in Maradu that was demolished for violating CRZ norms.

An October 28 report filed by the court-appointed committee led by Justice K. Balakrishnan Nair said the builders were responsible for the constructions and had to pay the compensation. Mr. Basant and other lawyers appearing for the builders opposed this recommendation, saying the entire liability cannot fall upon them. The court then asked the builders' lawyers to file their written submissions for a detailed hearing. The case would come up again in December.

Panic as teacher dies of COVID-19 in A.P.

Poor attendance reported in schools

K. UMASHANKER
CHITTOOR

The death of a teacher in a government school due to COVID-19 on Thursday led to uneasy mood among teachers, parents and students in Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh.

At a time when the schools reopened after seven months, the news has only affected the smooth functioning of educational institutions. Though the official figure of the number of teachers getting affected stood at over 150 and the number of students scaling up gradually, the figure is believed to be slightly higher.

Some headmasters observed that almost all the students who tested positive to the virus were "asymptomatic," thus escalating the risk of its spread.

By Friday, the positive cases in the district crossed the 77,000-mark with 790 casualties, with 286 cases reported in the past 24 hours.

According to information, the attendance in government schools was around 40%, while it was even less in many private schools. More than 50% of the students were not willing to avail themselves of the mid-day meal scheme in schools.

"We are not forcing any student to take the mid-day meal, though it is prepared under hygienic conditions. We have insisted that the personnel attached to the cooking should have compulsorily tested negative to COVID-19," the headmaster of a government high school in Srikalahasti mandal said, adding that the wastage of food at present was minimal.

IN BRIEF

Vijaya Sai seeks action against GITAM varsity

VIJAYAWADA

Rajya Sabha member V. Vijaya Sai Reddy (in picture) has written to the All India Council for Technical Education Chairman Anil D. Sahasrabudhe requesting him to take stringent action against GITAM Deemed to be University, Visakhapatnam, for allegedly flouting AICTE and University Grants Commission (UGC) norms. He stated in the letter that the varsity got certain buildings constructed on land that belonged to the government.

Raids bring to light shady deals of Believers Church

PATHANAMTHITTA

A crackdown by the Income Tax Department on the Thiruvalla-based Believers Eastern Church on Thursday has allegedly brought to light several irregularities, including real estate transactions involving unaccounted cash payments and routing of unaccounted funds. Officials said on Friday that unexplained cash of approximately ₹6 crore was recovered during the searches. The action covered 66 locations across Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Karnataka, Chandigarh, Punjab and Telangana.

Centre to give ₹2.84 crore for Kerala Literacy Mission

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala is receiving funds from the Union government for informal education activities after 11 years. The Central fund has been sanctioned for activities of the Kerala State Literacy Mission Authority. The Union government will give ₹2.84 crore as its share for implementing a new literacy scheme, Padhna Likhna Abhiyan, in the State.

Forest department unravels elephant smuggling case

Kerala receives info from Bihar confirming forgery in ownership certificates of two elephants

SARATH BABU GEORGE
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

In a breakthrough in its probe into an inter-State elephant smuggling racket, the Kerala Forest Department has received information from Bihar that confirms suspicion of forgery in ownership certificates of two animals allegedly smuggled by an absconding Kollam native.

While the development has provided an impetus to the investigation, forest officials believe it is only the tip of the iceberg, indicating the possibility of a larger network of criminals behind the nefarious operation.

The department launched an investigation into the suspected trade and illegal transfer of 200 elephants from various States a month ago following a "revelation" made by Kollam native V. Shaji on YouTube. The probe is led by the Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry), Kollam.

While Shaji, the main accused in seven cases that were subsequently registered, and four others are absconding, forest officials arrested his friend and alleged accomplice Sanal Kumar of Puthenkulam in Kollam. Two elephants were also seized from Kumar's possession.

Chief Wildlife Warden Surendrakumar took up the matter with his counterparts in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Assam to ascertain the authenticity of the ownership certificates of captive elephants that were in the possession of the accused.

After verifying the ownership certificates of two of Shaji's elephants – Prasad and Modi – Prabhat Kumar Gupta, Chief Wildlife Warden in Bihar, officially communicated that the documents did not match with official records.

The actual ownership certificate of one of the elephants had apparently been issued to a Patna native. Besides, the original certificates contained microchip numbers that differed with those found in the documents furnished by the accused.

The elephants are believed to have been brought to Kerala in 2015.

Concluding that the certificates were fake, the Bihar forest authorities urged their Kerala counterparts to initiate action, official sources said. While the response from the other States is expected, the Kerala Forest Department is set to submit two complaints to the police pertaining to the alleged forgery.

Prior to the ongoing investigation, the department had registered at least five cases against Shaji, an official said.

SC relief for Arnab in breach of privilege case

A Bench, led by Chief Justice of India Sharad A. Bobde, asked the Secretary to show cause why he should not be punished for contempt for "threatening" Mr. Goswami with a "penalty" just because the journalist had approached the top court.

In an October 13 letter, the Assembly official accused Mr. Goswami of "knowingly" breaching the confidentiality of the privilege proceedings by moving the top court without taking the permission of the Speaker. Mr. Goswami is accused of breach of privilege for using "sharp language" against the Maharashtra Chief Minister.

"He [Goswami] is in jail... He is being threatened, questioned... Case after case after case is being filed against this man. At times, constitutional courts have to see the reality and not just the smokescreen... He has been warned... They have said he will spend Diwali in jail," senior advocate Harish Salve, for Mr. Goswami, submitted.

Referring to letter, the Chief Justice said the Secretary's statements were a "serious interference in the administration of justice". "How dare he [Secretary] do this? Who is this official? How can he threaten a person from coming to this court?"

It's the right of every citizen to move the Supreme Court to protect his fundamental rights, the CJI said.

The court said the statements made in the Secretary's letter were "unprecedented" and had a "tendency to bring the administration of justice into disrepute and, in any case, amount to a direct interference in the administration of justice".

The Bench, in its order summoning the Assembly Secretary, said "the intention of the author of the letter seems to be to intimidate the petitioner [Goswami] because he had approached this court".

The court appointed senior advocate Arvind Datar as *amicus curiae* in the *suo motu* contempt proceedings.

Kerala's cases stay flat, Karnataka positivity at 2.68%

Andhra Pradesh reports 2,410 new cases; Karnataka has 2,960 fresh cases; 1,602 people test positive in Telangana

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala's COVID-19 incidence remained steady at 7,002 cases on Friday, with the testing of 63,384 samples. The test positivity rate was 11.04%.

The cumulative toll escalated with 27 more deaths which occurred in the past two weeks. Thiruvananthapuram accounted for eight of these deaths, Ernakulam seven, Thrissur four, Malappuram three, Kannur two, and Wayanad, Kozhikode and Kollam one case each.

COVID-19

Telangana recorded 1,602 cases on Thursday. There were also four fatalities on Thursday, bringing the death toll to 1,366.

The new cases included Greater Hyderabad with 295, Medchal-Malkajgiri with 137, Rangareddy with 118, Nalgonda and Khammam each with 79, and Karimnagar with 76. In Narayanpet one person tested positive.

On Thursday, 46,970 samples were tested.

Andhra Pradesh saw 2,410 new infections and 11 deaths on Friday, the Health Department said. The tally increased to 8,38,363 and the death toll rose to 6,768. The death rate remains 0.81% and the recovery rate stands at 96.59%.

The number of samples tested touched 85,00,495.

The overall test positivity rate dropped to 9.86% and for 79,601 daily samples it was 3.03%. The tests per million rose to 1.59 lakh. Seven districts reported new deaths while six reported no deaths in the past day.

Krishna district reported three deaths, the highest, while Chittoor and Guntur reported two deaths each. Anantapur, East Godavari, Kadapa and West Godavari one new death each.

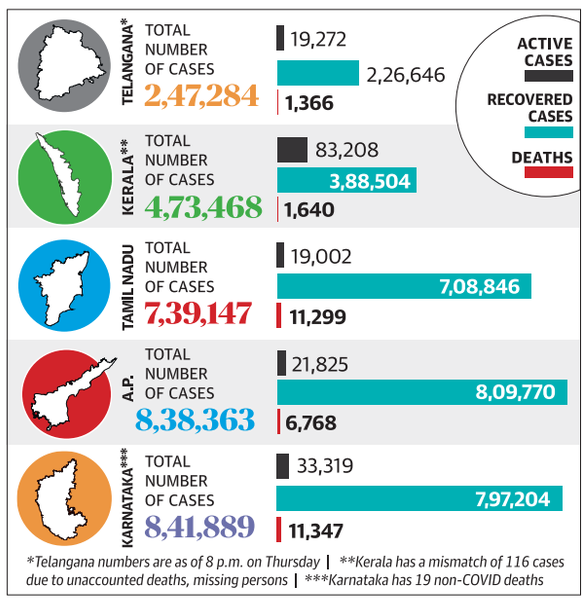
On Friday, Karnataka reported 2,960 cases and 35 new deaths. The positivity rate stood at 2.68%. Bengaluru Urban reported 1,568 cases and 12 deaths. Tests covered 1,10,137 samples.

With 2,370 fresh cases of COVID-19, Tamil Nadu's overall tally reached 7,39,147 on Friday. Of this, Chennai reported 612 cases followed by Coimbatore with 222 cases, while five other districts had 100-plus cases.

The number of fresh coronavirus infections stayed below the 2,500-mark for the fifth consecutive day.

As many as 2,402 persons were discharged following treatment, taking the total number of persons discharged till date to 7,08,846. The toll increased to 11,299 as another 27 persons died.

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



*Telangana numbers are as of 8 p.m. on Thursday | **Kerala has a mismatch of 116 cases due to unaccounted deaths, missing persons | ***Karnataka has 19 non-COVID deaths

Tejashwi breasts the tape in campaign miles

With 247 rallies and four roadshows, the 31-year-old outpaced other leaders with an energetic and confident tour

SOBHANA K. NAIR
NEW DELHI

The 2020 Bihar Assembly election will be remembered, among various things, for the energetic and confident campaign by Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader and Lalu Prasad's political heir Tejashwi Yadav. Almost sprinting from one venue to the next, he addressed 247 rallies and four roadshows, the highest by any leader in this election.

His campaign tours began on October 16, seven days ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's first rally in the State on October 23. And in every rally, he repeated in front of a delirious crowd, "Will you give one chance to your brother? The day your brother becomes the Chief Minister, he will sanction 10 lakh government jobs."

On October 20, the first opinion poll by Lokniti-CSDS predicted a 6% lead for the NDA alliance. The very next day, Mr. Tejashwi took out 12 rallies. His highest number on a single day was 19 on October 31, when he took the battle to Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's homeground Nalanda. Out of the 19 rallies, four rallies were in Nalanda alone.

With roaring crowds hanging on his every word, the RJD managed to pitch the contest as an energetic Mr. Yadav versus a "tired" Mr. Kumar. The 31-year-old repeatedly exhorted the 69-year-old Mr. Kumar to retire.

Mr. Yadav didn't automatically ascend to the driving seat. Jitan Ram Manjhi, former Bihar Chief Minister and leader of the Hindustani Awam Morcha, who was initially a part of the grand alliance, was the first to raise questions about his leadership. Mr. Manjhi quit the alliance in August over demands including a consensus choice of the alliance leader, a condition which the RJD rejected outright.

Partners move on

In September, another ally, Upendra Kushwaha, quit. This was followed by the dramatic exit of the third ally, Mukesh Sahani of the Vikassheel Insaan Party on October 3, the day the grand alliance announced its seat-sharing arrangement.

Mr. Sahani walked out of a press conference, saying he had been backstabbed over a vague promise of being accommodated out of the RJD's share. During these campaigns by the smaller allies, the Congress also occasionally spoke out against Mr. Tejashwi's leadership.

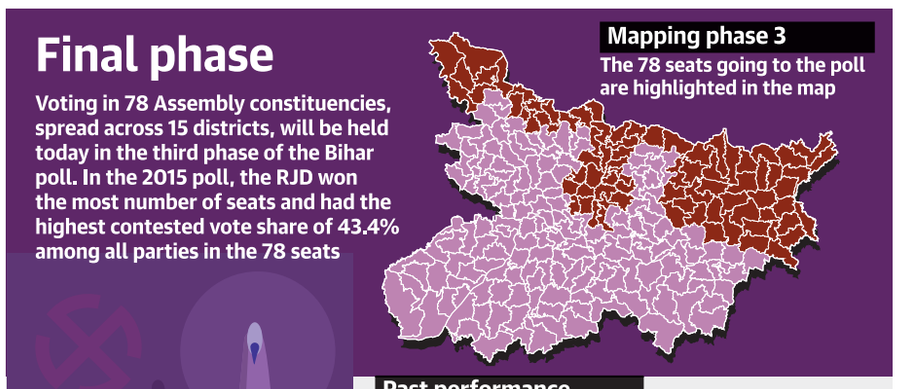
But the rallies ended any lingering doubts. At the end of the 20-day campaign, Mr. Yadav had addressed 47 rallies for the Congress candidates. Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi, who was the most visible face of the party in the State, addressed only eight rallies. Mr. Yadav has addressed another 23 public meetings for the Left parties, mainly the CPI(ML), and is undoubtedly the face of the *mahagatbandhan* today with the slogan: '*Tejashwi tai hai*!' Even his father Lalu Prasad's photographs were removed from posters to offload the burden of "jungle raj", the central theme of Mr. Kumar's campaign.

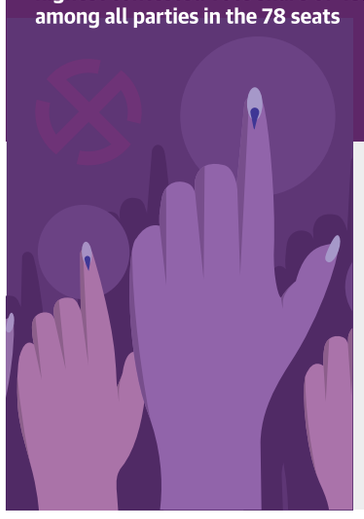
Observers point out that at no point did Mr. Yadav react to provocations by the Prime Minister or Mr. Kumar. Mr. Modi called him "*jungle raj ka yuvraj*" and there was no retort from the RJD to it. Mr. Yadav insists that he is sticking to his agenda. Mr. Kumar, without directly referring to Mr. Yadav, said that development could not be expected from those who have eight or nine children just to get a son. In response, Mr. Yadav merely called the Chief Minister "mentally and physically tired".

The RJD leaders themselves are surprised by the response they got. "This was not planned. We do not have the resources to bring people to the ground in buses. The crowd that you saw in rallies was completely spontaneous. What you saw was Tejashwi being directly in sync with people," senior RJD leader Manoj K. Jha said.

Final phase

Voting in 78 Assembly constituencies, spread across 15 districts, will be held today in the third phase of the Bihar poll. In the 2015 poll, the RJD won the most number of seats and had the highest contested vote share of 43.4% among all parties in the 78 seats





Past performance

The table lists the party wise number of seats contested and won in the 2015 Assembly election in the 78 seats and the contested vote share (a party's votes divided by total votes polled in seats contested by the party)

Party	Won	Fought	Contested vote share
BJP	20	54	37.2%
JD(U)	23	31	43.4%
RJD	20	30	42.8%
INC	11	17	38.0%
Others	4	-	

Enthusiastic audience: LJP chief Chirag Paswan addressing an election rally in Begusarai recently. • PTI

Chirag keeps up the tirade on poll eve

A young Bihar will be made: LJP chief

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PATNA

A day before the third phase polls for 78 seats across 15 districts in northeast Bihar, Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) chief Chirag Paswan on Friday said: "Bihar is going to win and a new young Bihar will be made." This was the time to save Bihar from being "destroyed more", he said.

"Even in such a difficult time, my courage did not break ... to take pride in Bihar, I did not tremble when taking the decision of contesting the polls alone but, here, there are some people who have to take support of three friends despite being in power for 15 years...with the blessings of all of you, Bihar will win and a new young Bihar will be made," Chirag Paswan tweeted in Hindi on Friday, indirectly attacking ruling Janata Dal (U) president and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

The JD(U) contested the Bihar polls in alliance with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the Vikassheel Insaan Party and the Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular). The LJP, led by Mr. Paswan, is not a part of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in Bihar, and the party fielded candidates against JD (U)'s candidates.

In another tweet, the LJP chief expressed concern over the way bureaucrats of the State had been living. "In the past 30 years, Bihar, which has gone from infamous to worse, the family members of bureaucrats working under the Bihar government have either been living in Patna or Delhi and they themselves live away from their families in different districts. What kind of life you are forced to live... This is the time to save Bihar from being destroyed more," he said.

The LJP chief has repeatedly been attacking Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and saying, "The BJP and LJP will form the next government in Bihar."

On Thursday, when Mr. Kumar, at a public meeting in Purnia during the poll campaign, said that this was his last election, Mr. Paswan immediately tweeted to take a dig on him: "Saheb [Nitish Kumar] has said that this is going to be his last election...he did not give an account this time of his last five years and said that now he would not come next time to give an account... you should not give your right to those who would not come tomorrow for your blessings...in the next poll, neither saheb will be there nor JD(U)...then with whom will we take account?" tweeted Mr Paswan.

JD(U) leaders, too, slammed the LJP leader for his statements against party chief Nitish Kumar.

Warm welcome: Union Home Minister Amit Shah at the Dakshineswar Kali Temple in Kolkata on Friday. • PTI

'Misgovernance is at a new low in Bengal'

BJP will win 200 seats in polls: Shah

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday launched a scathing attack on the Mamata Banerjee government on multiple fronts, from law and order to non-implementation of Central schemes, and asserted that the BJP would win more than 200 seats in West Bengal Assembly polls.

The State has 294 constituencies.

"Mamata Banerjee has taken misgovernance to a new low. There has been politicisation of administration and criminalisation of politics. Corruption has been institutionalised. I do not think there is any single State where all the three developments have taken place simultaneously," he said at a press conference.

The State government had failed on all parameters, he stated and sought the support of people to make it "sonar Bangla" (golden Bengal).

Mr. Shah accused the Mamata government of appeasement politics. He said that there were different sets of laws for "Ms. Banerjee's vote bank" and for common people.

Lalu's bail plea deferred till Nov. 27

The Rashtriya Janata Dal leader was awarded five years' jail term in the case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PATNA

The bail plea of Rashtriya Janata Dal president Lalu Prasad in the case pertaining to the fraudulent withdrawal of ₹3.13 crore from the Dumka treasury was deferred on Friday by the Jharkhand High Court till November 27.

"Lalu Prasad has served over half the jail term in the case, so we had applied for bail. But the CBI deliberately did not file a counter-affidavit in the case and the court has asked the agency to file it by November 23 so that the case can be heard on November 27," Prabhat Kumar, Mr. Prasad's lawyer, told *The Hindu*.

Lalu Prasad

Mr. Prasad was awarded a five years' jail term in the Dumka (Jharkhand) treasury case.

Fodder scam

He has been convicted in four of the five multi-crore fodder scam cases in Jharkhand, and has been granted bail in three.

There were expectations in party circles that Mr. Prasad would get bail in the Dumka treasury case and be released from jail.

Currently, Mr. Prasad is undergoing treatment for multiple diseases at the Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, he is housed at the Kelly Bungalow on the hospital premises. He had been in the Birsa Munda central jail of Jharkhand since December 2017 after being convicted in the fodder scam cases.

Recently, his younger son and political heir Tejashwi Yadav had said that his father would come out of jail on November 9 and there would be a "farewell for Chief Minister Nitish Kumar the next day".

No relief for Arnab, hearing continues today

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court did not grant relief to Republic TV chief Arnab Goswami on Friday and will continue to hear his plea seeking release from judicial custody in a 2018 case of abetment to suicide. A Division Bench will hear the Maharashtra government and complainant Adnya Naik on Saturday, the last working day before the court breaks for a 14-day Deepavali vacation.

Senior advocate Harish Salve, appearing for Mr. Goswami, said the order passed by the Chief Judicial Magistrate of Alibaug had important points about the illegality of the arrest. Mr. Goswami, he said, was merely involved in a commercial transaction with Anvay Naik, the suicide victim.

He said the condition for abetment to suicide must be direct and proximate.

Cong. says Centre is betraying armed forces

Surjewala brings up pension issue

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Friday accused the Narendra Modi government of betraying the armed forces by trying to 'steal' their pension and accused it of 'fake nationalism'.

Party general secretary Randeep Surjewala said the Prime Minister should clarify the government's proposal to lower the pension amount of those officers seeking premature retirement after serving 20 years.

"We demand that Prime Minister Modi comes forward and clarifies his stand on the issue and takes back its anti-Army decision of October 29," Mr. Surjewala said at a press conference.

"An officer after 20 years of rigorous service, right now gets 50% of their last drawn salary as pension but the government's new proposal is snatching away 50% of this. For example, if an officer gets ₹1 lakh as their last drawn salary. Presently, he will get ₹50,000 as pension but the BJP's new proposal shall only give the officer ₹25,000," the Congress general secretary claimed.

Bengal coal trader under tax department scrutiny

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Income Tax Department has carried out searches against a prominent coal trader of West Bengal, resulting in the seizure of documents indicating that the group companies allegedly held bogus investments to the tune of ₹150 crore in unquoted equity shares of paper entities. The searches were made in Raniganj, Asansol, Purulia and Kolkata on Thursday.

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Material Description	Due date
202113 003619	Imported Furnace Oil for TNPL Unit-I (Qty:400 MT ± 5%)	20.11.2020

Detailed terms & conditions, Tender Fee, EMD, etc. are available in tender document at our websites: www.tnpl.com / www.tenders.tn.gov.in
DIPR/4163/Tender/2020 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

Electricity Department, Government of Puducherry
No. 137, NSC Bose Salai, Puducherry - 605 001
E-tenders are invited for empanelment of EPC contractors for setting up of grid connected rooftop solar PV power plants (1 KWp to 500 KWp) in residential households in UT of Puducherry under CAPEX model. **Last date of submission of online bid is 20th November 2020.** For further details and documents, visit website www.pudutenders.gov.in
SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER-cum-HOD
Electricity Department, Puducherry
No. 269/DIP/AD (Press)/ 2020-21

KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LTD- E–TENDER NOTICE
Office of the Chief Engineer, Transgrid - Shoranur
Transgrid 2.0 North Green Corridor Project: Turnkey contract for Survey, Design and Construction of 400kV DC Twin HPC Transmission Line (125) from Payyampilly (Wayanad Dist. Kerala State) to Karindalam (Kasargode Dist. Kerala State) ***PAC :** Rs. 283,98,91,791/- ***Last Date :** 31-12-2020, 11 AM ***Availability of Tender Documents : https://www.kseb.in/tenders/transgridtenders**
Office of the Chief Engineer Civil Construction North – Kozhikode
Tender ID: 2020_KSEB_377915 *Execution of civil works for RMU of KHEP (3x25 MW) – Laying additional penstock to KES (1x50MW) Power House at Kakkayam
***PAC :** Rs.108.50 crore ***Extended Last Date :** 26-11-2020
Visit **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in & www.kseb.in Ref. PR/MC1/E 245/E-Tender/2020**

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Road Infrastructure-East Division, #208, 2nd Floor, New Building, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-560 002.
No: EE/RI/East/TEND/02/Call-2/2020-21 **Date: 06.11.2020**
INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDERS (IFT)
(Through **GOK e-Procurement Portal** only)
The Executive Engineer, Road Infrastructure-East Division, BBMP, Bengaluru, on behalf of the Commissioner BBMP invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD /Railways/MES/National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Works	Amount Put to Tender (₹. in Lakhs)	EMD (₹. in Lakhs)
1.	Annual Maintenance of Arterial and Sub Arterial Roads including Footpaths in Hebbala, Shivajinagara & Pulikeshinagara Constituency Area of RI-East Division.	112.00	2.00
2.	Annual Maintenance of Arterial and Sub Arterial Roads including Footpaths in Shanthinagara, C.V. Ramannagara & Sarvajnanagara Constituency Area of RI-East Division.	112.00	2.00

Calendar of Events : (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka from **09.11.2020** onwards (2) Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before: **19.11.2020** upto **4:00** pm. (3) Pre Tender meeting will be held on **13.11.2020** at **3:00** pm in the Office of the Chief Engineer, Road Infrastructure, 4th Floor, Annex Building-3, BBMP Officers, Bengaluru - 02. (4) Technical Bids will be opened in the office of the Executive Engineer-Road Infrastructure - East Division on **21.11.2020** after **11:00** am. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours on working days or from website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Road Infrastructure - East Division
COVID-19. DO NOT PANIC, BE AWARE
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

INDIAN RAILWAY CATERING AND TOURISM CORPORATION LTD.
(A Govt. Of India Enterprise-Mini Ratna)
CIN NO – L74899DL1999GOI101707
Notice Inviting Open E-Tender- CO/NIT/FP-FFU/2020/04
IRCTC invites open E-tender for Setting up, Operation and Management of **Food Plazas** and **Fast Food Units**. Last Date for submission of Tender is **26.11.2020 upto 15:00 Hrs.**
For details visit www.irctc.com or www.tenderwizard.com/IRCTC. Tender document downloading & participation can be done on website:-**www.tenderwizard.com/IRCTC.**
Corrigendum/addendum issued on the above advertisement will be published only on www.irctc.com and **www.tenderwizard.com/IRCTC.**
Office Address:- GGM/P&T, 11th Floor, Statesman House, B-148, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi-110 001, E-mail: fp.ffu@irctc.com, Tel. 011-23311263-64, Fax: 011-23311259.

TAMILNADU MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of Tamilnadu Undertaking)
No.417, Pantheon Road, Chennai-600 008. Phone: 044-2819 1890, 2819 0259 / Mobile: 09940188236, Website: www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in , E-Mail: mngrpurdrug.tnmsc@tn.gov.in
Sealed Tenders are invited for the fixing rate contract for **Insecticide and Larvicides** by TNMSC Ltd., Chennai - 600008, from the Manufacturers or Direct Importer having Valid License, having three years Market Standing.

Tender Reference No.	003/M(P)/INSECT-LARVI/ TNMSC/2020, Dated. 09.11.2020
Tender Document Sale Period	09.11.2020 to 23.11.2020
Last Date and Time for receipt of tender	24.11.2020 upto 10.30 A.M.
Date and Time of opening	24.11.2020 at 11.00 A.M.

The tender document can be downloaded from the websites of **www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in** and **www.tenders.tn.gov.in** on free of cost.
DIPR/4176/Tender/2020 **General Manager (Drugs)**

NATIONAL BOARD OF EXAMINATIONS
(Autonomous body of the M/o. Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India)
NAMS Building, Medical Enclave, Ansari Nagar, New Delhi – 110029
Tender Notice – 2nd Call
National Board of Examinations (NBE) invites tender under two bid system from eligible firms for conduct of Hybrid Examination (Offline) and Digital Evaluation of Answer scripts for various examinations. Last date for Bid Submission is **27/11/2020 12 noon**. Please refer to the Tender Documents available at NBE website https://natboard.edu.in and Central Public Procurement Portal https://eprocure.gov.in

Government of India
Ministry of Defence
ENGINE FACTORY, AVADI, CHENNAI-600054
(Unit of Ordnance Factory Board)
KIND ATTENTION TO PENSIONERS
No.EFA/A/Admin/052 **Date: 05-11-20**
Sub:- Conduction of Nation-wise Pension Adalats in the month of December, 2020 By Ordnance Factory Organization - Reg
It is brought to the notice of all concerned that a Nation-wide Pension Adalats is proposed to be conducted in the month of **December, 2020 at Engine Factory, Avadi, Chennai (EFA) through Video Conferencing,** for which a suitable date shall be communicated in due course. The main objective of this Adalat would be prompt resolution of pensioner's grievances, within the framework of extant policy guidelines.
Therefore, all concerned (Pensioners/Family Pensioners/ Dependent Family Members) who has **served last at Engine Factory, Avadi, Chennai (EFA)** are requested to submit their application/grievances with full details alongwith all supporting documents **on or before 17th November 2020** if any, to Engine Factory, Avadi, Chennai-600054.
Note: Only those grievances are to be taken up which fall within the extant pension policy / guidelines.
GENERAL MANAGER

Rajasthan Medical Services Corporation Limited, Jaipur
Gandhi Block, Swasthya Bhawan, Tilak Marg, C-Scheme, Jaipur-302005
Ph. No. 0141-2223887, Fax : 0141-2228065, E-mail: edepmrmsc_rj@nic.in
CIN : U24232RJ2011SGC035067, Website : http://rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in
No. F-8( ) RMSC/EPM/SM-3/2020-21/NIBs/5215 Dated: 03.11.2020
NOTICE INVITING BID
One (01) bids as detailed below are invited for procurement of equipment & instruments for rate contract period of 24 months:-

S.No.	NIB No./Date	Last Date & Time of Receipt of BID Form	UBN
1	535/15.10.2020	19.11.2020 : 06:00 p.m.	MSC2021GLRC00093

Details of the bids may be seen at the office of the M.D. RMSCL or State Public Procurement Portal website **"sppp.raj.nic.in"** or **"www.dipronline.org"** or **"https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in"** or website **"www.rmsc.health.rajasthan.gov.in"** The bidding document may be downloaded form either of the above websites and uploaded duly filled in with payment of Rs. 2360/- (Rs. 1180.00 for SSI Unit of Rajasthan) through challan/banker's cheque/demand draft in favour of M.D., RMSCL payable at Jaipur for each individual bid.
Raj.Samwad/C/6461/2020-2021 **Executive Director (EPM), RMSCL, Jaipur**

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Email: **contact@kmml.com**, URL: **www.kmml.com**
CIN-U14109KL1972SGC002399
SHORT E-TENDER NOTICE
Competitive Tenders are invited for following. For more details please visit the E-Tendering Portal **https://etenders.kerala.gov.in** or **www.kmml.com**

No	Tender Id	Name of the Work
1	2020_KMML_397053_1	For Construction of foundation and allied civil works of LIN storage tank.
2	2020_KMML_396443_1	For supply of Crucible Assembly for Ladle Furnace
3	2020_KMML_398061_1	For the supply of Brick Acid Resistant

Chavara 07.11.2020
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For The Kerala Minerals And Metals Ltd
Our Products: Titanium Dioxide, Titanium Tetra Chloride, Nano Titanium, Titanium Sponge

SC dismisses plea on book on Asaram

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday dismissed an appeal against an interim order of the Delhi High Court allowing the publication of a book on the "true story behind" the conviction of self-styled godman Asaram Bapu for sexually assaulting a minor at his ashram.

A three-judge Bench led by Justice A.M. Khanwilkar rejected the appeal filed by Sanchita Gupta against publisher Harper Collins.

Gupta, represented by senior advocate Devdutt Kamat, contended that the book, *Gunning for the Godman: The True Story Behind Asaram Bapu's Conviction*, contained defamatory and baseless material against her. She was the warden of the ashram.

She said the book prejudices her appeal against her conviction as an "accomplice" of the godman in the ashram. Gupta said the Delhi High Court decision of September 22 to set aside a trial court's ex-parte injunction on publication was based on "flimsy grounds." But the top court disagreed with her and dismissed her petition.

Maharashtra leads in death toll

State also reports the most number of new cases, followed by Kerala

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India has reported 670 COVID-19 case fatalities in the past 24 hours, with 10 States and Union Territories accounting for nearly 86% of the cases.

More than 38% of the new fatalities reported are from Maharashtra (256 deaths), and Delhi follows with 66 new deaths, said a release issued by the Health Ministry on Friday.

"79% of the new cases are from 10 States and UTs. Maharashtra is reporting a very high number of new cases with more than 10,000 cases followed by Kerala with more than 9,000 cases," the Ministry added.

Data released on Friday of the new recovered cases show that 80% of the cases are concentrated in 10 States and Union Territories, with Maharashtra contributing the highest number of over 11,000 recoveries in a single day.

"Less than 50,000 new cases have been reported in the country in the last 24 hours whereas the daily new recoveries have exceeded 54,000. India is reporting new recoveries more than the daily new cases successively for the last five weeks now. 54,157 COVID patients have recovered and [been] discharged in the last 24 hours whereas the new confirmed cases presently are pegged at 47,638," the Ministry said.

On the front line: A worker engaged in COVID-19 testing in New Delhi. ▪SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Measles, polio alert

Meanwhile, UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO) have issued an urgent call to action to avert major measles and polio epidemics as COVID-19 continues to disrupt immunisation services worldwide, leaving millions of vulnerable children at heightened risk of preventable childhood diseases.

A release issued by WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said: "COVID-19 has had a devastating effect on health services and in particular immunization services, worldwide. But unlike with COVID, we have the tools and knowledge to stop diseases such as polio and measles. What we need are the resources and commitments to put these tools and knowledge into action. If we do that, children's lives will be saved."

"We cannot allow the fight against one deadly disease to cause us to lose ground in the fight against other diseases," Henrietta Fore, UNICEF Executive Director, said.

'It is a long journey to distribute fortified rice at govt. schools'

Bring millers, snack manufacturers on board, say experts

JAGRITI CHANDRA
PRISCILLA JEBARAJ
NEW DELHI

Experts warn that a long journey lies ahead to implement distribution of fortified rice at government schools and anganwadi centres in 15 States as there is need to bring millers and snack manufacturers on board and improve quality control.

However, some are also wary of its nutritional outcomes and caution that fortification of staples such as cereals may hurt local economies. The government announced earlier this week its plans to expand supply of rice fortified with iron, vitamin B-12 and folic acid on a pilot basis from 15 districts to 15 States with the aim to curb anaemia.

"Fortified rice can provide 30-50% of the recommended dietary allowance of iron that adults need to consume daily, based on average Indian consumption," says Mini Varghese, Country Director-India, Nutrition International, an organisation partnering with the government to implement a pilot project distributing fortified rice through fair price shops in 15 districts, and expand it to all anganwadis and government schools in 115 districts next year.

Healthy drive: The government plans to expand supply of fortified rice from 15 districts to 15 States.

"Trials in a controlled setting, giving 100% RDA of iron through tablets, have shown results within 10 months. However, in a programmatic setting, with fortified rice, a minimum of 24 months of constant exposure is needed before we can see the impact," she said, adding that baseline studies are now being conducted in the 15 pilot districts to measure current levels of anaemia in the population.

The immediate next step requires convincing food manufacturers to use the extrusion machines now used to make snacks such as kurkure or dried pasta shapes to also make fortified rice kernels, enriched with iron and other nutrients. "So far, there are about 15 manufacturers making the kernels, producing a total of 15,000 tonnes per year. The government is talking to other manufacturers," said Suresh Lakshminarayanan, National Program Manager, Food Fortification-India, Nutrition International.

The other immediate step is bringing the country's 28,000 rice millers on board, to install blending machines which can mix the fortified kernels into the normal rice in a 1:100 ratio.

Some public health experts also warn of adverse consequences of "the corporatisation of the food system" by insisting on processes that demand a centralisation of supplies.

2 militants, civilian killed in Pulwama encounter

One militant surrenders; a civilian and a soldier injured

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

Two non-local Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) militants were killed and one local militant surrendered during an 18-hour operation in Pulwama of south Kashmir on Friday.

A civilian was also killed and another civilian and a soldier were injured. "Due to the darkness, the operation was suspended on Thursday night at Lalpora-Chatlam area," said Inspector General of Police (IGP) Vijay Kumar. "It was resumed in the early hours. In the ensuing encounter, two trapped terrorists were killed. One local terrorist offered to surrender. He agreed to lay down his arms and ammunition during the live encounter."

Mission mode: Jawans near the encounter site at Meej in south Kashmir's Pulwama district on Friday. ▪NISSAR AHMAD

The surrendered militant was identified as Khawar Sultan Mir of Drangbal in Pampore. "All the terrorists were affiliated with the LeT," Mr. Kumar said. The slain militants were identified as Umar Bhai and Huzaifa.

Why silence us, Mehbooba asks govt.

Our fight is not against the nation but against the BJP, says Farooq Abdullah

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti and National Conference (NC) president Dr. Farooq Abdullah, who are touring Jammu to conduct a meeting of the Peoples Alliance for the Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), on Friday took jibes at the Centre and at the critics of their alliance.

"If the government claims that everything is fine and normal, then why are you scared of us? You don't allow us to protest and silence us using police and troopers. Our leaders were held for holding peaceful protests against the land laws," said Ms. Mufti. She warned that choking the voice of the people and pushing people to the wall "may not augur well".

"People are the ultimate source of power and you can't silence them using brute force. How can you take decisions against the wishes of the people? It seems democracy is there only on paper now," Ms. Mufti said in Jammu.

Dr. Abdullah, who chaired a meeting of his party workers in Jammu, took a jibe at those criticising him as "anti-national" for his remarks. "If they think themselves to be so powerful, why don't they show it to the enemy on the borders? On the contrary, our party has not only shown but faced the tribals in 1947 to save Srinagar. Now, Farooq Abdullah is a Pakistani, *Chinne* (of China) and what not today," he said.

"The political environment in J&K is in a flux again, a year after the spiteful and unconstitutional nullification of Articles 370, 35A," Dr. Abdullah said.

Gupkar alliance

On the Gupkar alliance, he said: "We have come together to restore what was spitefully snatched from us on the 5th of August. Our unity has sent the people at the helm of affairs into a tizzy, which is why they are naming us as anti-nationals." "No one can browbeat the Gupkar declaration to silence. It is reflective of the aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh. Our fight is not against the nation, it is against the BJP that aims to divide us," he said.

Free Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, say protesters

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

Supporters of Mirwaiz Umar Farooq on Friday held a protest outside the Jama Masjid in Srinagar and demanded the immediate release of the Hurriyat leader and head priest of the Valley. Anjuman Auqaf, vice-president, and Imam Ahmad Syed Naqshbandi led the protest.

"It is a big tragedy that the Mirwaiz of J&K, who enjoys the reputation of being a globally acknowledged leader, is being kept under illegal house detention for the last one-and-a-half years," Mr. Naqshbandi said in his Friday sermon. They urged the Lieutenant Governor to intervene and release him.

'Meet targets to get air pollution funds'

Centre to set parameters for States

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

The Central government's decision to release only half of its budgetary allotment for combating air pollution was because of its plan to link the money disbursed to the States achieving certain 'performance targets'.

In February, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said, "In large cities having population above one million, polluted air is a matter of concern... Allocation for this purpose is ₹ 4,400 crore for 2020-2021 and parameters for the incentives would be notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate change."

On Monday, however, the Centre, based on the recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission, released exactly half – ₹ 2,200 crore – to 15 States. The States, in turn, have to release money to local municipal bodies in 42 cities to take steps to monitor and mitigate air pollution.

Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh were the recipients of the largest tranches – of ₹396 crore and ₹357 crore respectively.

Second tranche in Jan

A senior official in the Environment Ministry, who declined to be identified, said the funds were being disbursed by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and the Environment Ministry's role was to set the performance parameters.

A worker spraying water on trees to reduce dust pollution in New Delhi. ▪PTI

These would be decided by the month-end. "The second instalment would be released in January 2021 against performance-based outcomes in terms of year-on-year improvement in air quality."

In July, officials of the Environment Ministry, as well as the steering committee of the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), deliberated on the steps to be taken on the disbursal of funds, a person who was a part of the meeting told *The Hindu*. "Subsequently, it was decided that the funds would be given based on certain performance targets being met."

The NCAP envisages 102 of India's most polluted cities reducing air pollution by 20-30% by 2024 with a reference year of 2017. The States, where these cities are located, have submitted a road map on how they would go about this reduction.

Ties with U.S. cover every sphere: India

'Successive Presidents have raised the level of relationship even higher'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India on Friday reiterated that ties with the United States enjoy strong bipartisan support.

Official spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs Anurag Srivastava said India was waiting for the result of the U.S. Presidential election and maintained that ties had become better over the years because of cross party consensus in Washington DC regarding India.

"India-U.S. relations rest on strong foundation and our relation encompasses cooperation in every possible sphere, extending from strategic to defence, to investment to trade, to people to people ties. The comprehensive global strategic partnership has very strong bipartisan support in the U.S. and successive Presidents and administrations have raised the level of this relationship even higher," he said.

Strong ties: Rajnath Singh with U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, left, and S. Jaishankar in New Delhi. ▪FILE PHOTO

Mr. Srivastava laid out the extent of the Indo-U.S. relationship while answering a question on how India was preparing for the arrival of Joe Biden as the next President of the United States. Significantly, India and the United States held "2+2" discussions on October 27. The U.S.-India "2+2" Ministerial Dialogue, attended by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Dr. Mark Esper on the U.S. side and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, sealed the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) for geo spatial information sharing.

The official said India was looking forward to the result of the U.S. Presidential election. Counting over the last two days indicated former Vice-President Biden who had played an important role during the negotiation of the India-U.S. nuclear deal, will be the next occupant of the White House.

Assam raises border issue with Arunachal

'Forest land encroached upon'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

The Assam government has raised the issue of forest land encroachment with Arunachal Pradesh even as the Assam-Mizoram border row continued for the tenth day on Friday.

Assam claims people of Arunachal Pradesh have encroached upon 6,375 hectares of its forest land.

"We were told by officials in Arunachal Pradesh that this was an old issue but they assured to look into the matter after we said it was our duty to point it out," Assam's Principal Chief Conservator of Forest A.M. Singh told journalists after top officials of the Forest Department of the two States met in Arunachal Pradesh capital Itanagar on Thursday to thrash out their border issues.

The formal discussion on the Assam-Arunachal front was in sharp contrast with the bad blood on the Assam-Mizoram border where the stand-off extended from southern Assam's Cachar district to Karimganj district. Officials in Karimganj raised the alarm on Friday after a group of people from Mizoram reportedly set up several bunkers and occupied about three km of the district's Medlichhara forest area.

Haryana clears Bill on right to recall panchayat member

Amendment Bill, 2020, also gives 50% reservation to women in rural bodies

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHANDIGARH

The Haryana Assembly on Friday passed a Bill which provides the right to recall members of Panchayati Raj institutions to those who elected them and gives women 50% reservation in these rural bodies.

The Bill also proposed 8% reservation to the "more disadvantaged" among the Backward Classes.

The Bill allows the recall of village sarpanches and members of the block-level panchayat samitis and district-level zila parishads if they fail to perform.

Chief Minister Manohar Lal speaking on the second day of the Haryana Assembly session in Chandigarh on Friday. ▪PTI

Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala tabled the Haryana Panchayati Raj (Second Amendment) Bill, 2020, in the House on the concluding day of the Vidhan Sabha session. With the enactment of the Bill, people in rural areas will get the right to remove a sarpanch or members of the two bodies even before their tenure is over.

According to a statement of objectives, the amendment is aimed at increasing their accountability to the voters.

Mr. Chautala said to recall a sarpanch and members of the two bodies, 50% members of a ward or gram sabha have to give in writing that they want to initiate proceedings. This will be followed by a secret ballot, in which their recall will require two-third members voting against them.

The Bill is also aimed at enhancing participation of women in the three-tier panchayati raj system and allows 50% reservation to them in gram panchayats, panchayat samitis and zila parishads, according to the statement said. The Bill also allows reservation to the Backward Classes Category (A), the "more disadvantaged" among the group.

Army chief Naravane meets Nepal PM Oli

He promises defence cooperation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Army chief Gen. Manoj Naravane on Friday called on Prime Minister of Nepal K.P. Sharma Oli and reaffirmed that he would work to further strengthen defence cooperation between the two countries, the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu said.

The visit is significant as General Naravane is the highest ranking Indian dignitary to meet the Nepalese leadership in the backdrop of the Kalapani territorial dispute.

Nepal had protested against the inauguration of new road infrastructure in the Lipulekh-Kalapani area on May 8.

The disputed area is strategically significant as it allows India to access the Tibetan plateau.

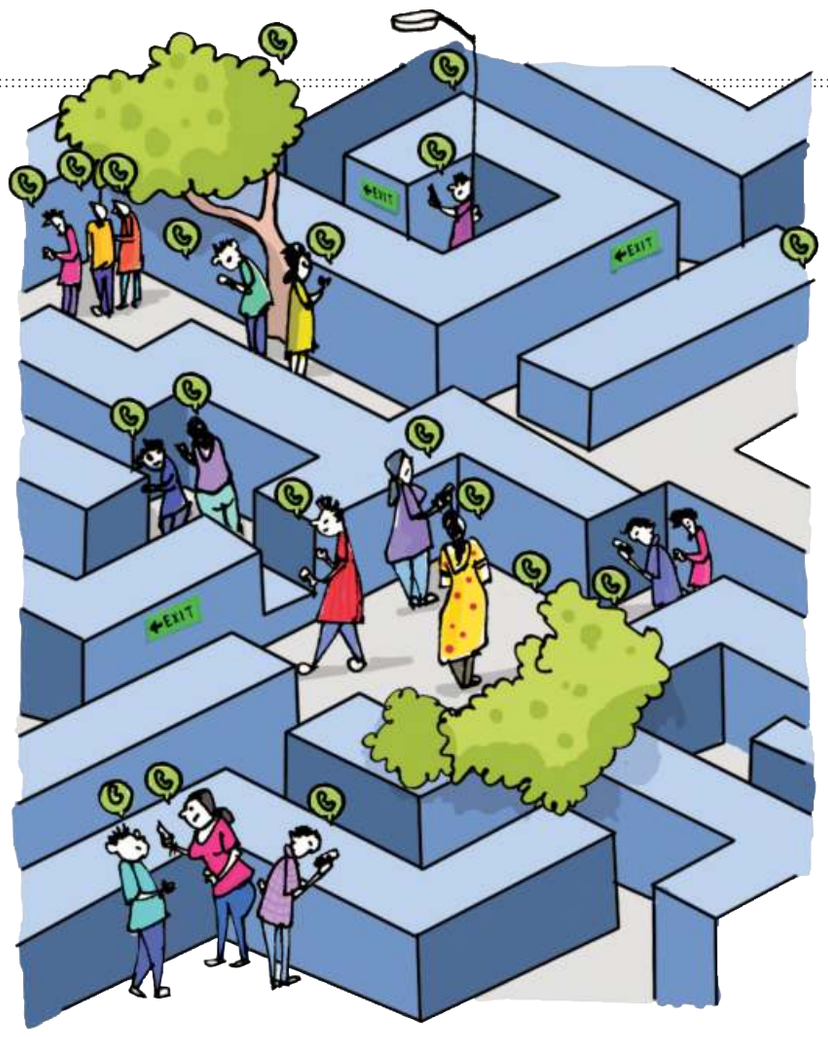
Earlier in the day, Gen. Naravane visited the Nepali Army Command and Staff College. He also presented a welfare grant to havildar Dil Bahadur Chhettri (retd.), a winner of Maha Vir Chakra, the second highest gallantry award of India.

Instapick

Fisher-Price Toy Museum: The brand is celebrating their 90-year-old legacy with this virtual museum, just in time for the holiday season. The exhibits feature toys categorised by the decade. Look out for 90s favourites such as the Musical Lion Walker and an early edition of the Chatter Phone from the '60s. A smart way to capitalise on customer nostalgia! @fisherprice.toymuseum on Instagram

Talking point

US Presidential Elections: Wisecracks and memes have been flooding our timelines as counting continued in several swing states at the US Presidential Elections. As one wit pointed out on Twitter: "Indians are watching the US elections as if it is the cricket final of World Cup India VS Pakistan". True that.



SREEJITH R KUMAR

YARN IT!

The dying art of listening

A day in the life of a WhatsApp group

JANE DE SUZA

Good morning all. Start the day with sweet melodies of these birds.

Happy Birthday dear CK

Happy Birthday dear CK *(next 19 messages)*

My birthday was last month. You people wished me then.

Oh – really sorry, CK.

So sorry to hear that, CK. What happened? Was it COVID?

You must see this joke... You'll love it.

You sent it thrice earlier. Did not love it even once.

Guys, it's R and M's anniversary today. Wish them many more happier ones.

Sincere condolences! May they RIP, CK!

CK left

Friends, pls vote for my eight-year-old's advanced robotics video. Like, share and subscribe to Star-Ani's channel.

Forward: Why COVID vaccines will take another 2 years.

Never listen to WHO.

It's never listen to WHOM.

Congrats on your daughter's video. Loved it. She's too cute.

Ani is my son! You didn't watch it obviously.

Urgent help!! Anyone know of a good podiatrist?

Forward: The backside jiggle that thousands are hooked on to.

Admin: Guys, no forwards that may offend people.

TG left

Didn't TG send that forward?

Yes, he's offended anyone could be offended at his offensive post.

Best of luck to your daughter, CK!

ANI IS MY SON! Not daughter. Not CK's. CK has left the group, btw.

Happy Birthday, R and M!

Did you hear that Bhattacharjee Sir had a stroke?

Wah wah! Many happy returns of the day!

It's our anniversary, not birthday.

Oh, that's tragic. Was it fatal?

Only 1 out of 100 people can see the star in this picture.

After staring at it so long – I can see millions of stars.

Agree! Shameless how stars are given no privacy *(23-line rant follows)*.

This is the proctologist that treated my mother-in-law. Don't mention our names. The experience ended badly.

Guys, see this joke... you will love it!

You've sent it 4 frikkin times @##@@%!!!

Bank details. Pls keep confidential!

Sorry, wrong group. Pls ignore!!!

Why? What did I miss? Can you repost the joke.

Happy Birthday to Bhattacharjee Sir. Condolences R and M. Get well soon to CK's son! Here are some bird melodies to start your day.

Where Jane De Suza, author of Flyaway Boy, pokes her nose into our perfect lives.

Pick of the week

Concerts, stand-up and other events you just can't miss.

Learn to monologue

A new entrant in Chennai's theatre scene, RumourMill Theatre Company is launching with a free online monologue workshop. Zubin Vincent, founder and artistic director, who trained at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and has over a decade of experience on stage, will lead the group. Come prepared with a two-minute monologue, for a two-hour session that will tap into movement and finding your stage presence even in a Zoom production. From 7 pm, today. Details on Instagram @rumourmilltheatrecompany

Eco-friendly pants

Besant Nagar's multi-brand boutique MaalGaadi, which recently moved their operations online, has announced a capsule collection. Earth Pants is "inspired by the elements of nature and the mountains in particular", and is made of Karunganni cotton, a native variety procured from a farm-to-fabric initiative. With four styles to choose from, including *dhoti* pants and palazzos, each piece is hand block-printed by local artisans. From ₹4,000. DM @maalgaadi on Instagram to pre-order.

Mouthful of flavour

Punjab Grill is holding a Kebab di Kahaniya food festival across its outlets in Delhi-NCR until November 15. There are eight charcoal grilled kebabs: Karachi Chargha Kebab, Kashmiri Tabak Maaz, Hyderabadi Patthar Kebab, Haldighati Chicken Kebab (a tribute to King Rana Pratap's Haldighati battle win), Dhaga Burn Road Kebab (from Karachi's street food on Burns Road), Peshawar Chapli Kebab, Adana Shish Kebab (from Turkey), and Mahi Kebab. There will also be breads, veggies, and dips. Contact: 9999923408

Reading for kids

Which colour cannot be seen by bees? How many hearts does an octopus have? Which disease caused a pandemic in 2020? The last one might be too easy! To test your knowledge of the animal kingdom, Penguin and WWF India have released the third volume of *The Wild Wisdom Quiz Book*. At ₹205 online and in bookstores. For fiction, there is Jeff Kinney's latest, *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Deep End*. Greg Heffley and his family hit the road for a cross-country camping trip and, of course, chaos ensues. At ₹499 for hardcover.

NH7 comes home

The 11th edition of Bacardi NH7 Weekender goes digital this year, with 24 international and homegrown artistes performing brand new sets. Much like the offline event in previous years, the festival will stream multiple stages simultaneously — the Bacardi Stage, Dewar's Stage and Breezer Vivid Stage. The lineup includes The Lumineers, Vidya Vox, Shruti Haasan and more. Plus, this year's tickets come with perks like a discount on next year's edition, along with curated Weekender memorabilia. Tickets from ₹199 onwards on insider.in

Learn to stand-up

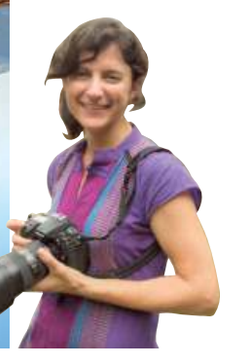
In an online workshop tomorrow, Naveen Richards will walk participants through the basics of a sketch comedy set. The comic will discuss how to write a sketch, develop it and, most importantly, share pointers on having fun with it. Participants can pay as they please, and proceeds will go to Sakshi, an organisation that is leading systemic intervention to prevent sexual violence. They are engaging over 40 lakh youth to become preventers of child sexual abuse. From 7 pm on November 8. Details: insider.in

Online escape rooms

It might be a while before we want to be locked up in a room with a bunch of people for an hour, with the added stress of having to beat the clock to win. Stem Box is offering a socially-distanced experience online, with options to escape catacombs and haunted houses and outwit Pennywise, the clown. With Mystery Rooms, you can make your own *Money Heist* or try a *Prison Break* challenge. One of the most popular themes seems to be pandemic/virus/vaccine related. From ₹199 on in.bookmyshow.com

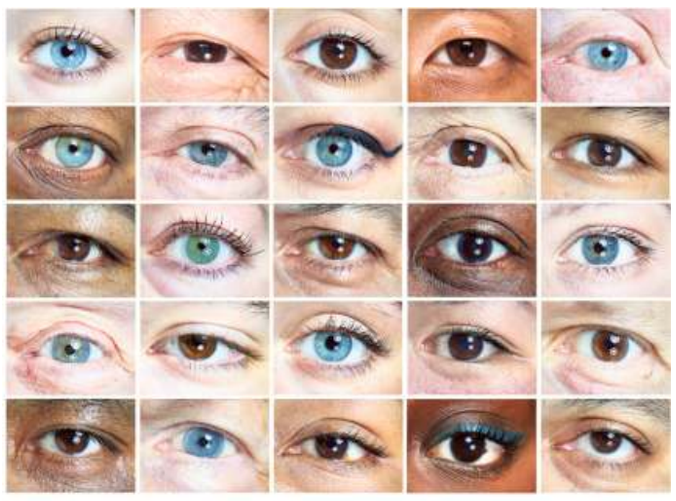
Lavazza's Chaplin-inspired 2021 calendar

Taking inspiration from the actor's rousing speech in *The Great Dictator*, Lavazza's 2021 calendar features photographers Ami Vitale and Martin Schoeller



Ami Vitale's photo of the Samburu

AMI VITALE



Martin Schoeller's image for the 2021 Lavazza calendar

MARTIN SCHOELLER

NIDHI ADLAKHA

This May, Italian coffee company Lavazza launched its new global communication campaign, Good Morning Humanity. Based on actor-filmmaker Charlie Chaplin's speech in *The Great Dictator* 80 years ago – which exhorted people not to despair in the face of trials and tribulations – the ad showcased stunning landscapes and portraits by photographers such as Steve McCurry and Jerome Sessini. It was a way for the brand to 'look positively to the future that awaits us'.

Chaplin's call for peace has gained relevance in the last few months, and so Lavazza's much-awaited 2021 calendar, themed 'The New Humanity', is an extension of the campaign. Much like earlier editions (shot in Vietnam and Hawaii), this one is also centered around sustainability, but what makes it different is how it was conceived and conceptualised during lockdown.

The 2021 edition "has 13 shots that, through the maximum freedom of each artist, their personal gaze and their particular style, bring back a new and positive vision of humanity," says Francesca Lavazza, Board Member Lavazza Group. Proceeds from the sale of 1,000 calendars and photograph auctions will go towards Gurugram-based NGO Save the Children's project.

We speak to two photographers about working on the 2021 edition:

Ami Vitale and 'the ancient footsteps'

Featuring the feet of Africa's Samburu tribe, Vitale's chosen image is themed on reimagining our relationship with nature. The photographer explains that the image was taken during lockdown in northern Kenya. "Twenty years ago, this landscape was empty of wildlife as poachers had decimated the elephants, the ecosystem's engineers," says Vitale.

Today, the Samburu people have become the elephants' greatest protectors. They have created Africa's first ever community-owned and run elephant sanctuary, Reteti. "This oasis where the orphans grow up, learning to be wild so that one day they can rejoin their herds, is a story as much about the elephants as it is about all of humanity," says Vitale.

Martin Schoeller

For 2021's Lavazza calendar, the master of close-ups has taken his love for details up a notch with an image of 25 eyes taken earlier this year. "It is tough to get a hard read of a person by looking at a picture," he says. The one thing that you can glean from looking at a good portrait, however, is "a sense of something that brings us together as humans".

As for the eyes, he says while they are all unique, they fill the same purpose. "It goes to show that in the greater scheme of things, we have the same organs and eyes, and we see the same way. We think we are so individual, but we are closer to each other than we think." As an artist, what is it about our current interactions on Zoom and Instagram Lives that pique his interest? "I like Instagram because I can show and tell the stories that I find important. As for Zoom, I don't enjoy it much as it is impersonal. I miss human interactions. A lot has got lost with us just staring at a screen all day long. It is sad," he concludes.

The calendar launches on November 12 on lavazza.com

Out of the sea

Ulysse Nardin presents a concept watch from plastic ocean waste

A few luxury watch brands have been using ocean plastic for some time, like Panerai and Breitling. Last month, Tom Ford announced the launch of the first high-end wristwatch crafted from 100% recycled ocean plastic. And then there is Ulysse Nardin.

Earlier this week, the Swiss watch manufacturer launched an eco-friendly diver's watch called the Ulysse Nardin Diver NET. Using renewable resources recently seen in their 'R-Strap' (made from recycled fishing nets), this concept timepiece is yet another example of luxury taking the sustainable route. A video that explored the process from fishing net to final product was presented to over 150 watch reviewers from across the globe. Live conversations with Vendée Globe participants (and Ulysse Nardin ambassadors) brought the action on the seas up close: Vendée Globe, sailing's ultimate test, begins off the coast of France on Sunday. A Ulysse Nardin UN-118 automatic movement drives the eco-friendly Diver NET, which holds a 60-hour power reserve and 300-meter water resistance. While the watch is not available to purchase yet, this is one to track. Details: ulysse-nardin.com

DELHI THE HINDU
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2020

Diwali unboxed

Nine gifting ideas for the season that go beyond *mithai* hampers and digital gift cards

SUSANNA MYRTLE LAZARUS

After what has seemed like an interminable 2020, the festive season is finally bringing some much-needed cheer. And like most other experiences that have gone online, so has gifting. Recent reports in *Business World* and *India Retailing* state that the overall sale of digital gift cards has increased by 80% compared to last year. The most popular ones? Big Basket, Grofers, Myntra, Nykaa and Urban Company, as well as travel, OTT and retail brands.

If these are just too practical, and you want to add a personal touch, or some old-school glamour, read on. There is something for the coffee lover or fashionista in your life, a practical salon substitute from Dyson, and others treats for the pandemic work desk.

Chirp Teal
Glass Forest

Bird calls are welcome WFH ambient sounds for many of us these days. These tinted hand-blown borosilicate glass jars have teak wood stoppers, and the different shapes were inspired by images of birds sitting along wires. Store small essentials (like candy) or simply use as a décor piece that will add some whimsy to those Zoom meetings. At ₹2,850 each on glass-forest.com

Gul
Ekaya

The brand known for its Banarasi work draws inspiration from Ukraine for their festive collection, Gul. In these *lehengas*, for instance, the poppy flowers and geometric stripes have been woven using the *kadwa* technique (in which each motif is individually woven). Traditional *cholis* have been swapped out for a Ukrainian folk-style embroidered shirt. There is also a line of saris featuring these cross-cultural patterns. From ₹2,500 to ₹2,33,975 on ekaya.in

Arceau L'heure de la Lune
Hermes

The New York Meteorite — discovered by a fishing boat and first sold by its captain in 1965 — finds itself encased in this US exclusive watch, with a limited-edition run of 16 pieces. The 43-mm dial features two time-and-date display subdials that move to reveal the current phase of the moon. The strap is made of Havana Matte alligator with a platinum folding clasp. At $69,950 (approximately ₹51.8 lakh). Details:hermes.com

Corrale
Dyson

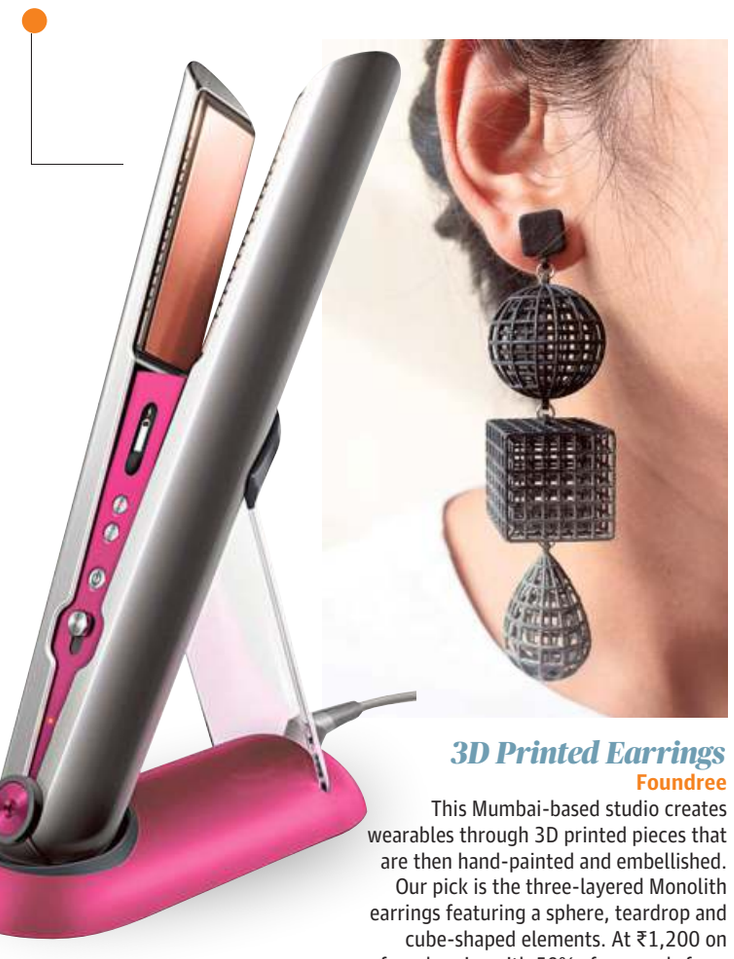
The lockdown period saw a surge in popularity for this British tech company's vacuum cleaners. Following the runaway success of their personal care products like the Supersonic hair dryer and Airwrap styler, is the Coralle straightener which was released in September in India. The cord-free equipment comes with grooved plates that help gather one's hair more precisely — this also supposedly uses half the heat (and is therefore said to be less damaging). At ₹38,900 on dyson.in

Save the Wild Lion Brooch
Tiffany

Since launching the Save the Wild collection in 2017, Tiffany (recently taken over by LVMH) has raised more than $8 million to help protect elephants, rhinos and lions through the Wildlife Conservation Network. All proceeds from this 18k gold brooch embedded with 1.52 carats of round yellow diamonds will go towards the same cause. At approximately ₹26 lakh on tiffany.com

Busa & Friends
Anavila

Following the popularity of the sari doll, Busa, which she created in 2018, the designer has added a range of friends. A naughty monkey, a cuddly dog and a rabbit couple, as well as elephants, fishes and giraffes handcrafted using organic fabrics are available. Starting at ₹650, on anavila.com



3D Printed Earrings
Foundree

This Mumbai-based studio creates wearables through 3D printed pieces that are then hand-painted and embellished. Our pick is the three-layered Monolith earrings featuring a sphere, teardrop and cube-shaped elements. At ₹1,200 on foundree.in, with 50% of proceeds from each sale supporting stray animals.

Porcelain Box
Gucci

Creative director Alessandro Michele has designed the latest décor line from the Italian luxury house. 'Souvenir from Rome' includes furniture and decorative pieces like this Broche print porcelain box with hand and ring. This recurring design comes in pink and blue, with gold-toned trim. Handmade in Italy, it is priced at approximately ₹44,000 on gucci.com

Topaz Gift Box
Araku Coffee

Without access to artisanal cafes and Starbucks, caffeine connoisseurs spent the pandemic experimenting, and went from whipping up dalgona to investing in serious brewing equipment. Araku Coffee's gift set taps into this new segment, with a bright yellow moka pot and matching espresso set of two cups and saucers. This is paired with their Selection 100% Arabica, with notes of toffee, chocolate and sugarcane. At ₹5,600 on arakucoffee.in

Real stories for urban kids

PARI and Karadi Tales collaborate to create a five-book series that draws inspiration from real-life news reports and will help bridge the urban-rural divide

PANKAJA SRINIVASAN

"I don't know why we have not told these stories before," muses Shobha Viswanath, creative director and co-founder of children's publishers, Karadi Tales. Continuing their aim of bringing "Indian stories to Indian children", their new imprint, Minmini Reads, has brought out five books in collaboration with People's Archives of Rural India (PARI). The stories are inspired by news reports filed by journalists for the online journal.

"Urban children need to read stories that don't reflect just their lives and milieu, but that of others starkly different from their own," she says. In author Aparna Karthikeyan's *No Nonsense Nandhini*, Vishaka George's *House of Uncommons*, Subuhi Jiwani's *No Ticket Will Travel*, Nivedha Ganesh's *The Big Splash* and Priti David's *Coming Home*, young readers will do just that.

"These are stories about real people and real lives, not dreamed up," P Sainath, senior journalist and founder of PARI, says, adding that he hopes children and parents alike will find the hard-to-put-down books a gentle introduction to the larger reality of India.

The series, aimed at middle-schoolers between the ages of 10 and 15, is particularly compelling in these times. After all, urban India only sat up to take notice when images of thousands of hungry and exhausted migrant labourers walking back home were beamed into their living rooms during the early days of the pandemic.

The books are written in simple English. *The Big Splash* tells the story of Dhivya, the daughter of a cotton farmer who swims like a fish despite having a deformed arm. Follow her journey to the Paralympics, as she learns lessons on controlling her temper and keeping friends. In *No Nonsense Nandhini*, a woman farmer (and single mum), goes against patriarchal opinions, and dares to grow *sampangi* (*champak*) flowers instead of paddy on her land. The covers are beautifully illustrated by Tanvi Parulkar, a student at the National Institute of Design.

Nandita Das, who launched the books on October 31, lauds the series, pointing out that rural lives and the realities of a diverse people are vanishing from our collective consciousness.

"This 'other' India rarely finds mention in newspapers or television broadcasts," she says. With plans for the books to be translated into Hindi, Tamil, Kannada and Telugu, Viswanath hopes that they will be well-received.

"But whether there is a market for them or not, these stories have to be told," she concludes.

On karaditales.com at ₹200 each and the set of five at ₹800.

FOOD SPOT

Lhasa soup for the Delhi soul

A taste of Tibet is just right for the cold that's set in now

RAHUL VERMA

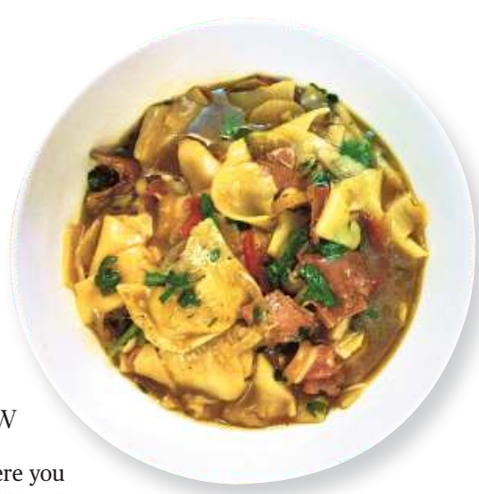
One of the nicest meals I have had was at a Tibetan restaurant called Greens in Dharamshala, when we visited some years ago.

It served only vegetarian food, and I recall a delicious platter called A Ploughman's Lunch, a variation of the traditional hearty meal of England. This had some Tibetan soup – full of crunchy veggies – and a thick slice of Tibetan bread, the delightful taste of which I can still recall.

I have an old and warm relationship with Tibetan food. There was a time when the only place where you could get a good bowl of thukpa – a nourishing soup with all kinds of meats and vegetables – was Majnu Ka Tila in north Delhi. We were regulars there, for one could have a fulfilling meal for just a few rupees in one of the little shacks known as Tib Dhabs, or Tibetan Dhaba.

Strangely, while Delhi today offers food from across India and the world, there are not too many Tibetan eateries that one can think of. The one restaurant where I had a good Tibetan meal in the recent past was Yeti, which had a menu that included Tibetan and Nepali cuisine.

That is why I was delighted when I saw that there was an eatery called Lhasa from where I could order food. I had been thinking of all those meals at Tib Dhabs for a while, so Tibetan food was on my mind while I was surfing the Net a few days ago in search of little known restaurants. Lhasa (198/52 Ramesh Market, East of Kailash) sounded promising. It had a menu of Tibetan and Chinese dishes.



Pork thenthuk ▪SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

I ordered (through Swiggy; Zomato also delivers) a plate of chicken *kothay* – (eight pieces for ₹149), mutton *shapta* (₹359), pork *thenthuk* (₹149), double fried pork (₹219) and buff *sha phaley* (₹129).

The restaurant had, curiously, a packaging charge of one rupee, and I made an online payment of a total of ₹1,121.

The food arrived in plastic containers (not as well packed as some other food deliveries, I am afraid). There was enough food for two meals and three people. I started with the *kothay*, which was a partly steamed and partly fried dimsum stuffed with chicken.

Then I went on to the *thenthuk*, a bowl of flat noodles with pieces of pork and vegetables in soup. It was mildly flavoured but delicious – and I made a nice meal out of it.

The double fried pork is a favourite of mine, and I really liked their offering. The tender pork pieces had just the right balance of fat and meat, and had been well cooked with peppers.

The disappointing dish was the *shapta*, stir-fried lamb cooked with ginger and red chillies. The lamb was much too tough; there was some meat on the bone that truly challenged my teeth.

The best dish of all was the *sha phaley*, Tibetan fried bread with a meat or vegetable stuffing. There were three large pieces in our order, and the stuffing had spicy buff meat. I bit into one, and enjoyed the differing textures of the crispy fried bread and the soft meat within.

Lhasa rekindled old memories of Tib Dhabs. The meal, like the old times, was hearty and didn't strain the wallet. Just the teeth, on one dish.

The writer is a seasoned food critic

Down Daffodil Lane

As another children's publishing house launches, a quick look at how the industry is growing

SUSANNA MYRTLE LAZARUS

Sanya Podar ▪SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sanya Podar, 29, prefers reading Roald Dahl, Joan Aiken and Enid Blyton to other "age-appropriate" literature. "I also love the *Madeline* series by Ludwig Bemelmans and listening to my mother's version of Akbar and Birbal stories," says the founder of Daffodil Lane, a new Mumbai-based children's book publisher.

The young imprint, with four titles out, joins a growing kid lit market in India (reports from 2019 indicated a 14% to 18% growth in the segment). Digital classes and pandemic screen time have meant that parents have been looking for ways to engage their children. And publishers are delivering. We will see *The Big Thoughts of Little Luv* by filmmaker Karan Johar and a series of picture books by Nobel Prize winner Esther Dufflo, both from Juggernaut. Anand Neelakantan's debut novel, *Asura: Tale of the Vanquished* (2012), has been reimagined as *The Very Extremely, Most Naughty Asura Tales for Kids* (Puffin). Indie publishers such as Tara Books have been promoting cross-cultural stories under their Travelling Titles collection, while Tulika has a multilingual podcast with Spotify, with stories and songs every Friday.

Podar and her team also used the lockdown to fine-tune their work. Aimed at ages four and above, the books are designed to be relatable to children across the country. "We wanted to talk about the world around them without getting preachy, and so we looked for nuanced and layered messaging," she says. To this end, they have gone with animal protagonists and picture books. Just in time for the festive season, *Cat's Diwali* is a reminder of what furry family members experience during our human celebrations. The storylines in *One More Does Matter, Lana* and *Try Your Best, Patrick* are simple, with art by in-house illustrator Urvashi Dubey.

House Democrats take stock after losses

They cast blame on their election message, ground game and the left after their majority shrank

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON

Their majority shrunk, House Democrats cast blame on Thursday on their election message, ground game and leadership under Speaker Nancy Pelosi's team after expectations for big wins came crashing down by a stark reversal in Trump country.

They focused too narrowly on health care, when voters were also worried about the economy.

They failed to fight back when Republicans labelled them "socialists" aligned with the party's most liberal firebrands.

They didn't knock on doors to meet voters, focusing instead on phone calls, digital outreach and TV ads, due to the health risks of campaigning during the pandemic. They lost Latino voters in some places, and white, working class men in others. They did not pass more COVID aid through Congress when Americans needed help most.

And perhaps most importantly, Democrats are coming to grips with the fact that whether President Donald Trump is e-elected or defeated by rival Joe Biden, they still have a problem winning over Trump voters.

Close watch: A GOP observer watches as votes are counted in Allentown, Pennsylvania. ▪ AP

Campaign failure

Lawmakers unloaded during a caucus call on Thursday – Democratic freshman Rep. Abigail Spanberger, in a so-tight race in Virginia, spoke with "passion" about the party's campaign failures, according to a person familiar with the private call and granted anonymity to discuss it.

The marathon call ran three hours, with some 30 members adding their views.

No one spoke against Ms. Pelosi, who tried to remind them, they did, in fact, win – Mr. Biden is on the verge of replacing Mr. Trump, and House Democrats are on track to keep their majority, according to another person familiar with the call and granted anonymity to discuss it. "We did not win every battle but we did win the war," Ms. Pelosi said.

But there were plenty of complaints to go around – over faulty polling, Republican attack ads – as expectations had been raised sky high for election night gains and that made the setbacks all the more disorienting.

Rather than bolstering their majority, as planned, Democrats lost a handful of freshman lawmakers who had just won in a 2018 midterm election backlash against the President. They also failed to add to their ranks as Republicans defeated one Democratic challenger after another. Asked what went wrong, one Democratic strategist said- "All of the above."

Money was the one thing on their side. But money alone was not enough.

Key Democrats said the GOP attacks against them as wild-eyed "socialists" are damaging. They cited the "defund the police" movement that calls for shifting law enforcement resources to social workers and other ways of revolving conflicts. It gained prominence last summer after the police killing of George Floyd, sparked a nationwide reckoning on racial injustice. Democrats also were criticised this year as insufficiently supporting Israel because of a liberal proposals helping Palestinians.

Socialist label

"I think that the Democratic party needs to clearly push that we are not supportive of ideas like socialism or defunding the police or anti-Semitism," said Rep. Stephanie Murphy.

Several Democrats said the "socialist" label particularly harmed lawmakers who lost seats in Florida.

FROM PAGE ONE

Pennsylvania lead gets Biden closer to victory

So while it is possible in theory for Mr. Trump to get ahead of Mr. Biden in Pennsylvania as more votes are counted, it will be a challenge.

In Georgia, Mr. Biden led by more than 1,500 votes. Based on the arithmetic, a Biden victory here or in Pennsylvania would mean the end of the road to 270 for Mr. Trump, who is at 214 votes. Mr. Biden's lead on Friday in Georgia – traditionally a Republican state – emerged as votes came in for Clayton County, which is part of the Atlanta metropolitan area. Democrats have performed strongly in the cities and suburbs of the State.

In North Carolina, Mr. Trump was ahead by a bit under 77,000 and 95% of the votes counted. In Nevada, Mr. Biden was ahead by over 20,000 votes with 92% of the vote counted. Mr. Biden's lead in Nevada has been growing with votes coming in from Democratic counties.

Closing in: Supporters of Joe Biden and Donald Trump outside the Clark County election department in Las Vegas. ▪ AP

Trump alleges rigging

"If you count the legal votes, I easily win. If you count the illegal votes, they can try to steal the election from us," Mr. Trump said at a speech in the White House press briefing room on Thursday.

His sons, Don Jr. and Eric, called out Republicans on Twitter for not backing Mr. Trump. "The total lack of action from virtually all of the '2024 GOP hopefuls' is pretty amazing," the junior Trump said.

"He [Trump] and the American people deserve transparency & fairness as the votes are counted. The law must be followed. We have to keep the faith that the truth will prevail," Nikki Haley, former UN Ambassador and Governor of South Carolina, tweeted shortly afterwards. Ms. Haley, who is of Indian descent, is a potential 2024 GOP presidential candidate.

While many Republicans stayed silent, some others, including Senator Lindsay Graham and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy backed Mr. Trump on Thursday.

The President's campaign has gone to court in several States to either have counting stopped or to seek greater access for observers to vote counting centres. However, judges dismissed lawsuits in Michigan and Georgia. The campaign has said it is considering a recount request in Wisconsin, which Mr. Biden won but any recount will have to wait until the election is certified – the State has until December 1 to complete that process.

The Trump campaign has also sought an intervention by the Supreme Court, where ballots postmarked by November 3 may be counted until Friday (the court has thus far declined to intervene but it could still step in).

Twitter labelled a number of Mr. Trump's tweets on Thursday as misleading with regard to electoral participation. In his campaign speeches, Mr. Trump had of late added "big tech" to the establishment he was running and governing against these past years.

Stay calm: Biden

"Twitter is out of control, made possible through the government gift of Section 230!" he tweeted in the early hours of Friday. [Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act of 1996 is about liability for Internet companies].

On Thursday, Mr. Biden told supporters that he and Ms. Harris had attended a briefing on the coronavirus pandemic and the economic crisis in America. He urged people to stay calm and said every ballot would be counted. "... It is the will of the voters, no one, not anything else, that chooses the President of the United States of America. So each ballot must be counted...," he said.

Counties worst-hit by virus voted for Trump

ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. voters went to the polls starkly divided on how they see President Donald Trump's response to the coronavirus pandemic. But in places where the virus is most rampant now, Mr. Trump enjoyed enormous support.

An Associated Press analysis reveals that in 376 counties with the highest number of new cases per capita, the overwhelming majority – 93% of those counties – went for Mr. Trump, a rate above other less severely hit areas.

Most were rural counties in Montana, the Dakotas, Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa and Wisconsin – the kinds of areas that often have lower rates of adherence to social distancing, mask-wearing and other public health measures, and have been a focal point for much of the latest surge in cases.

Taking note of the contrast, State health officials are pausing for a moment of introspection. Even as they worry about rising numbers of hospitalisations and deaths, they hope to reframe their messages and aim for a reset on public sentiment now that the election is over.

"Public health officials need to step back, listen to and understand the people who aren't taking the same stance" on mask-wearing and other control measures, said Dr. Marcus Plescia of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials.

"I think there's the potential for things to get less charged and divisive," he said.

He added that there's a chance a retooled public health message might unify Americans around lowering case counts so hospitals won't get swamped during the winter months.

The electoral divide comes amid an explosion in cases and hospitalisations in the U.S. and globally.

The U.S. broke another record in the seven-day rolling average for daily new cases, hitting nearly 90,000. The tally for new cases Thursday was on track for another day above 1,00,000, with massive numbers reported all around the country, including a combined 25,000 in Texas, Illinois and Florida.

Ethiopia PM says 'clear, limited' objectives to military operation

Concern mounts over a possible escalation with TPLF

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ADDIS ABABA

Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed said on Friday that military operations launched in the northern region of Tigray had limited objectives, as concern mounts over a possible slide into war.

"Operations by federal defence forces underway in northern Ethiopia have clear, limited and achievable objectives – to restore the rule of law and the constitutional order, and to safeguard the rights of Ethiopians to lead a peaceful life wherever they are in the country," Mr. Abiy wrote on Twitter.

His comments come after the military said on Wednesday it was at war with the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) after months of tensions between Addis Ababa and the party whose leaders effectively ruled Ethiopia for three decades before Mr. Abiy took power.

Abiy Ahmed

Mr. Abiy appeared to be seeking to play down the bellicose rhetoric, and responded to growing international calls for dialogue between the two sides.

He said the government "patiently tried for several months to resolve differences with TPLF leadership peacefully; we tried mediation, reconciliation, dialogue.

"All failed (because) of TPLF criminal hubris and intransigence. In the last straw TPLF attacked the Northern Command based in Tigray."

Mr. Abiy, the winner of last year's Nobel Peace Prize, announced Wednesday that he had ordered military operations in Tigray in response to an "attack" by the TPLF on a military camp there.

The TPLF denies the attack occurred and accuses Mr. Abiy of concocting the story to justify deploying the military against the party.

UN chief Antonio Guterres on Friday expressed deep alarm at the situation and urged de-escalation.

Russia rules out Navalny poisoning

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MOSCOW

Russian officials said on Friday that metabolic problems and pancreatitis caused Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny to fall ill in August, ruling out findings by European labs that he was poisoned with Novichok.

In August, the 44-year-old anti-graft campaigner collapsed on a flight from Siberia to Moscow and was eventually transferred for treatment to Germany, where experts ruled he was poisoned.

The Interior Ministry's Siberian branch said doctors who treated Mr. Navalny for two days before he was flown to Berlin confirmed their diagnosis of "disruption of carbohydrate metabolism and chronic pancreatitis". It added that no poisonous substances were found on Mr. Navalny's clothes.

'U.K. to face Brexit trade disruption'

Deal or no deal, the systems and infrastructure will not be ready in time: NAO

REUTERS
LONDON

Northern Ireland will not be ready on January 1 to implement the systems needed to keep trade moving with the rest of the United Kingdom as required by the Brexit divorce deal, the National Audit Office (NAO) said on Friday.

The audit office, which reviews government spending, said that all U.K. borders would face widespread disruption when Britain finally leaves the European Union's orbit, whether or not it strikes a deal with the bloc.

"There is a risk that widespread disruption could ensue at a time when government and businesses continue to deal with the effects of COVID-19," it said.

From January 1, exporters will need to file customs and safety declarations, even if Britain does secure an agreement.

Trade woes: Northern Ireland is required to check some goods arriving from the rest of the U.K. ▪ GETTY IMAGES

However, the NAO said ports now have little time to integrate or test their systems with the government's yet-to-be launched IT services, and there are still not enough customs sites or customs brokers to help industry adapt.

One of the most challenging areas will be Northern Ireland which will require some goods arriving from the rest of the U.K to be checked in order to protect trade with EU member, Ireland.

The NAO said the department responsible for animal and plant checks now believes the systems and infrastructure will not be ready in time. It is exploring contingency options.

The report added that the customs office has made good progress but says its work is "very high risk". It is also looking for alternative options.

The plans for the sensitive province of Northern Ireland helped Britain secure a divorce deal with the EU, and Brussels has said that a full and timely implementation is crucial.

Goods movement

While the European Commission declined to comment on Friday's report, two European diplomats said that while certain elements were clearly not going to be ready, the bloc could live with temporary arrangements that guarantee strong controls.

Other areas of concern include problems with preparing transit movements that enable goods to move across multiple EU borders with fewer checks, and the software that needs to cope with an expected 270 million customs declarations a year.

IN BRIEF

Facebook bans 'Stop the Steal' group

OAKLAND

Facebook on Thursday banned a group called "Stop the Steal" that supporters of President Donald Trump were using to organise protests against the presidential vote count. Some members had called for violence, while many falsely claimed that Democrats are "stealing" the election from Republicans. Though the group amassed more than 3,50,000 members before Facebook took it down, it was just one of several smaller groups that popped up as vote counting extended for days in several battleground states. Facebook said it will continue to watch for activity that violates its rules. AP

Presidential race exposes America's 'perilous' divides

The yawning divisions could threaten the next President's ability to manage multiple crises — from virus to economic woes

ASSOCIATED PRESS
NEW YORK

Presidential elections can be revealing moments that convey the wishes of the American people to the next wave of elected officials. So far, the big reveal in the contest between President Donald Trump and former Vice President Joe Biden is the extent of the cavernous divide between Republican and Democratic America, one that defines the nation, no matter which candidate ultimately wins.

Voters from both parties turned out in droves to pick the next President, but as they did so, they found little agreement about what that President should do. Democrats and Republicans prioritised different issues, lived in different communities and even voted on different kinds of ballots.

Centre of chaos: A Trump supporter, rear, arguing with a counter-protester at a vote counting centre in Detroit. ▪ AP

Whoever emerges as the winner, that division ensures that the next President will face significant gridlock in Congress, scepticism about the integrity of the vote and an agitated electorate increasingly divided by race, education and geography. Even the vote count threatens to split Americans.

"Except for the Civil War, I don't think we've lived through any time as perilous as this in terms of the divisions," said historian Barbara Perry, the director of presidential studies at the University of Virginia's Miller Center. Even after the 2000 election, when the Supreme Court ultimately intervened on Republican George W. Bush's behalf, Democrat Al Gore quickly conceded and congressional leaders found areas of agreement on Capitol Hill.

NEWS ANALYSIS

The yawning divides will threaten the next President's ability to manage multiple crises – daily coronavirus infections set a record this week, the economy is struggling to recover from the pandemic and many Americans are pressing for a reckoning on racial injustices.

Trump and Biden voters, however, express strikingly different views on those challenges, according to AP VoteCast. Biden voters overwhelming say they want the federal government to prioritise limiting the spread of the virus, even if that means further damage to the economy. But most Trump voters preferred an approach that focused on the economy.

About half of Trump voters also called the economy and jobs the top issue, while only 1 in 10 Biden voters named it most important.

To bridge the gap

Mr. Biden has tried to bridge this gap, often appealing to a sense of national unity and the "soul" of America. Mr. Trump often casts himself as a defender of his voters. He has threatened to withhold pandemic-related aid from States run by Democratic Governors and disparaged cities run by Democrats.

Many Democrats desperately hoped that Mr. Trump would suffer an embarrassing defeat that would serve as a clear repudiation of Mr. Trump and his brand of politics.

At the very least, they wanted an unambiguous mandate that would allow Mr. Biden to pursue ambitious policies on health care, education and the economy.

Mr. Trump may lose, but strong GOP turnout in battlegrounds and unexpectedly solid victories for Republican candidates in Senate and House races made Tuesday far from a thumping.

"There's certainly not a clarion call to go in one direction or another. There's a lot of confusion and chaos," said civil rights leader Martin Luther King II.

A madrasa for transgenders in Bangladesh

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
DHAKA

Bangladesh opened its first Islamic school for transgender Muslims on Friday with clerics calling it a first step towards integrating the discriminated minority into society.

The madrasa is one of a series of recent moves in Bangladesh to make life easier for the Muslim-majority nation's up to 1.5 million transgender people. The community faces discrimination in the country, with a law that punishes gay sex by prison terms, though enforcement is rare.

About 50 transgender students read Koranic verses to mark the opening of the Dawatul Islam Tritio Linger Madrasa in Dhaka on Friday.

MARKET WATCH

	06-11-2020	% CHANGE
Sensex	41,893	1.34
US Dollar	74.08	0.38
Gold	51,717	1.45
Brent oil	40.24	2.26

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	371.10	2.45
Asian Paints	2209.05	-29.25
Axis Bank	541.75	2.45
Bajaj Auto	2977.40	28.10
Bajaj Finserv	6286.45	231.30
Bajaj Finance	3780.75	43.85
Bharti Airtel	449.90	-7.40
BPCL	362.45	-3.85
Britannia Ind	3513.55	14.30
Cipla	789.95	-3.55
Coal India	121.80	1.95
Divis Lab	3237.25	28.25
Dr Reddys Lab	4902.95	-55.55
Eicher Motors	2139.05	19.25
GAIL (India)	85.80	-1.65
Grasim Ind	794.35	-10.05
HCL Tech	850.10	7.20
HDFC	2138.45	37.75
HDFC Bank	1307.65	38.45
HDFC Life	590.60	-1.45
Hero MotoCorp	2945.45	1.10
Hindalco	188.15	0.80
Hind Unilever	2094.15	-8.20
ICICI Bank	442.80	4.30
IndusInd Bank	738.65	24.25
Infosys	1112.75	8.75
Indian OilCorp	80.25	0.45
ITC	173.95	-0.80
JSW Steel	326.45	-1.25
Kotak Bank	1718.05	42.60
L&T	960.75	2.65
M&M	613.60	11.50
Maruti Suzuki	6907.60	-185.20
Nestle India Ltd.	17006.65	-214.65
NTPC	87.30	0.50
ONGC	68.00	0.40
PowerGrid Corp	178.45	-0.60
Reliance Ind	2029.15	74.15
SBI Life	801.25	-3.75
State Bank	219.20	0.55
Shree Cement	22053.05	-186.35
Sun Pharma	509.15	-3.35
Tata Motors	139.00	1.35
Tata Steel	426.50	1.00
TCS	2707.45	21.75
Tech Mahindra	851.15	10.45
Titan	1253.50	11.40
UltraTech Cement	4556.00	-61.90
UPL	422.40	4.00
Wipro	345.75	0.35

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on November 06

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	74.00	74.32
Euro	87.60	87.98
British Pound	97.01	97.44
Japanese Yen (100)	71.48	71.83
Chinese Yuan	11.17	11.22
Swiss Franc	81.99	82.35
Singapore Dollar	54.87	55.12
Canadian Dollar	56.57	56.82
Malaysian Ringitt	17.90	18.00
Australian Dollar	53.71	53.94

Source:Indian Bank

NBFCs with high systemic risks need more regulation: RBI DG

Such lenders may even be subjected to the same norms as banks, says Rao

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Asserting that there was a need to recalibrate regulations for non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), Reserve Bank Deputy Governor M. Rajeshwar Rao on Friday said NBFCs with significant externalities and which contribute substantially to systemic risks must be identified and subjected to a higher degree of regulation.

"One can also argue that the design of prudential regulatory framework for such NBFCs can be comparable with banks so that beyond a point of criticality to systemic risks, such NBFCs should have incentives either to convert into a commercial bank or scale down their network externalities within the financial system," he said. This would make the financial sector sound and resilient while allowing a majority of NBFCs to continue under the regulation-light structure, Mr. Rao said at an Assocham conference.

Size matters: Such NBFCs should have incentives either to convert into banks or scale down externalities. • REUTERS

Observing that NBFCs currently enjoyed a great degree of regulatory arbitrage vis-a-vis banks, he said these entities could contribute to a build-up of systemic risks because of such arbitrage and hence there was a need to recalibrate the regulations. "We could perhaps consider a graded regulatory framework for NBFCs, calibrated in relation to their contribution to systemic significance," he said.

MFI norms

Mr. Rao said the share of NBFC-MFIs (microfinance institutions) in the overall microfinance sector had come down to a little more than 30% as several large MFIs had converted into Small Finance Banks.

"There is a need to reprioritise regulatory tools in the microfinance sector so that our regulations are activity-based rather than entity-based," he said.

Amazon Web Services to invest $2.77 bn in second India region

Multiple data centres to come up in Telangana by mid-2022

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

U.S.-headquartered cloud services provider Amazon Web Services (AWS) will be investing $2.77 billion (₹20,761 crore) in India to set up its second region in Hyderabad, comprising multiple data centres.

The new AWS Asia Pacific (Hyderabad) Region will be available by mid-2022, and will consist of three availability zones (data centres) at the start.

'Flexibility and choice'

AWS currently has nine regions and 26 availability zones across Asia in India, Australia, Greater China, Japan, Korea and Singapore. It opened its first region in India in Mumbai in June 2016.

"Together with our AWS Asia Pacific (Mumbai) Region, we're providing customers with more flexibility and choice, while allowing them to architect their infrastructure for even greater fault tolerance, resiliency, and availability across geographic locations," said Peter DeSantis, senior VP – Global Infrastructure and Customer Support, AWS.

AWS customers in India, include Ashok Leyland, Aditya Birla Capital, Axis Bank, Bajaj Capital, ClearTax, Dream11, Druva, Edelweiss, Edunext, Extramarks, Freshworks, HDFC Life, Mahindra Electric, Ola, Oyo, Policybazaar, Quantela, RBL Bank, redBus, Sharda University, Swiggy and Tata Sky besides government agencies, educational institutions, and non-profits.

"The new AWS Asia Pacific (Hyderabad) Region will enable even more developers, start-ups, and enterprises as well as government, education, and non-profit organisations to run their applications and serve end users from data centres located in India," said Puneet Chandok, president, Commercial Business - AISPL, AWS India & South Asia.

WhatsApp introduces payment services in India

To compete with Google Pay, Paytm, PhonePe, Amazon Pay

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

WhatsApp unveiled payments services in India following approval by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) after a wait that extended for more than two years.

However, not all users in India – one of the biggest markets for the unit of Facebook – would be able to access the feature as NPCI had mandated expansion of WhatsApp's UPI user base 'in a graded manner starting with a maximum registered user base of 20 million.'

"We'll continue to work with them [NPCI] to make it available to everyone over time," the company said in an e-mailed response.

The NPCI approval also follows another recent direction imposing a cap of 30% of the total volume of transactions processed in UPI, applicable to all third-party app providers, effective January 1, 2021.

WhatsApp, owned by Facebook, had started testing its UPI-based payments system in 2018 and would now compete with players such as Paytm, Google Pay, Amazon Pay and PhonePe.

"Starting today, people across India will be able to send money through WhatsApp. This secure payments experience makes transferring money just as easy as sending a message," WhatsApp said in a blogpost.

"Now you can send money to your friends and family through WhatsApp as easily as sending a message," said Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg. "There's no fee, and it's supported by more than 140 banks. And because it's WhatsApp, it's secure and private too."

Sensex rises 1.3% to a near 10-month high

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

Rising for the fifth straight session, equity benchmark Sensex rallied 553 points and closed at an almost 10-month high on Friday, tracking gains in index-heavyweights Reliance Industries (RIL) and the HDFC twins, amid largely positive global market sentiment.

The 30-share BSE index ended 552.90 points or 1.34% higher at 41,893.06, while the broader NSE Nifty surged 143.25 points, or 1.18%, to 12,263.55. On January 14, the Sensex had closed at a record peak of 41,952.63. RIL was the top gainer, surging 3.78%, followed by Bajaj Finserv, IndusInd Bank, HDFC twins and Kotak Bank.

India Cements net surges eightfold on cost control

Fresh stimulus may boost demand: MD

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

The India Cements Ltd. (ICL) reported a more than eightfold increase in standalone net profit to ₹71.43 crore for the second quarter ended September on cost control measures.

However, volumes dropped following the COVID-19 lockdown.

"We were able to overcome the effects of pandemic in terms of financial results," said N. Srinivasan, vice-chairman and MD.

"We exercised good cost-control measures in terms of variable costs and containing the fixed costs on contract labour, administrative and marketing overheads. Going forward, it will continue," he added.

N. Srinivasan

Improved prices of cement along with cash-and-carry policy helped improve profitability and liquidity, he said..

"COVID-19 is not yet over. None of the State governments have declared so. After the current fiscal, we have to see post-COVID-19 developments," he added.

Smartphone market grew 17% in Q3: IDC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Indian smartphone market saw a record shipment of 54.3 million units in July-September 2020.

However, the strong growth is unlikely to fully make up for the losses in the first half of the year, with research firm IDC forecasting a low single-digit year-on-year decline for the industry after several years of annual growth.

The market grew 17% during the third quarter, while those such as China and the U.S. witnessed a y-o-y decline. This growth was driven by the reopening of the country with fewer curbs, fuelled by pent-up demand in July and August, IDC said.

IN BRIEF

Royal Enfield unveils cruiser bike at ₹1.75 lakh

NEW DELHI

Niche bikemaker Royal Enfield, a part of Eicher Motors, on Friday unveiled its all-new cruiser bike Meteor 350 with prices starting at ₹1.75 lakh (ex-showroom Chennai). "We wanted to build a motorcycle that could ensure a great cruising experience for new as well as experienced riders. The Meteor 350 is just perfect for that," said Siddhartha Lal, MD, Eicher Motors.

SBI links YONO Krishi, IFFCO eBazar apps

MUMBAI

State Bank of India (SBI) has integrated YONO Krishi app with IFFCO eBazar app under its 'Mandi' section to digitally empower farmers. With this, farmer customers can avail free home delivery of all farm-related products in over 27,000 pin codes from IFFCO eBazar portal. "Customers will now be able to purchase the high-quality farm inputs and agri machinery online," said C.S. Setty, MD (retail and digital banking), SBI.

Bosch records loss of ₹64.8 crore in Q2

BENGALURU

Bosch Limited on Friday said it had posted a loss of ₹64.79 crore for the quarter ended September, compared with a profit of ₹98.40 crore a year earlier. Total revenue from operations rose 7.2% to ₹2,479 crore, the firm said in a statement. "The auto industry is going through a prolonged slump," said Soumitra Bhattacharya, MD. "However, there has been a sequential recovery... led by two-wheelers and tractors".

Private placement bond fundraising rises 28%

NEW DELHI

Companies garnered ₹4.42 lakh crore through issuance of bonds on private placement basis in the first 7 months of the fiscal, a surge of 28% from the year-earlier period, due to low interest rates, according to SEBI data. The funds were mopped up to strengthen balance sheets, retire existing debt and support working capital requirements, experts said. Listed firms had raised ₹3.45 lakh crore a year earlier. PTI

IOB posts ₹148 cr. profit on lower provisions

Bank to focus on MSME, agri loans: MD

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) reported a standalone net profit of ₹148 crore for the second quarter of FY21 on lower provisioning and high cash recovery.

The PSU lender had posted ₹2,254 crore in net loss in the year-earlier period.

"This is the third consecutive quarter that the bank has made a profit after incurring losses for 18 quarters," said Partha Pratim Sengupta, MD & CEO.

"Currently, we have accumulated losses worth ₹17,000 crore. Our focus now is to make more profit and have a healthy balance sheet by March 2021." He said IOB had exceeded all key parameters required to exit RBI's Prompt Corrective Action framework. But, he said, it was not in a hurry as it wanted to assess the impact of COVID-19 till March 2021. Total income rose to ₹5,431 crore (₹5,024 crore).

Provisions and contingencies contracted by ₹1,803 crore to ₹1,193 crore.

He added that IOB aimed to grow the retail, agriculture and MSME segment to 80% from 75% and limit corporate exposure to 20%.

MRF Q2 net surges 83% to ₹403 crore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Tyre manufacturer MRF Ltd. on Friday reported standalone net profit for the second quarter jumped 83% to ₹403.03 crore, from ₹220.36 crore a year earlier, on improved sales volume and cost control.

Revenue from operations rose by 6% to ₹4,186.35 crore in the three months ended September. Total expenditure declined by ₹41.9 crore to ₹3,668.60 crore. However, for the six-month period, revenue slumped by 21% to ₹6,616.92 crore, MRF said in a regulatory filing.

The Board declared an interim dividend of ₹3. MRF has fixed November 19 as the record date and the dividend will be paid on or after December 1.

Ashok Leyland posts loss of ₹146.7 cr. in Q2

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Commercial vehicle manufacturer Ashok Leyland Ltd. (ALL) has reported a loss of ₹146.67 crore for the second quarter, compared with a standalone net profit of ₹38.87 crore registered a year earlier

For the quarter ended September, total revenue from operations contracted 28% to ₹2,837 crore. The company also disclosed an exceptional item of ₹1.70 crore related to a voluntary retirement scheme.

In a statement, ALL said it generated ₹1,208 crore of cash from operations after capital expenditure and investments, which helped bring down net debt to ₹3,076 crore, from ₹4,284 crore in the preceding three-month period.

Sundaram Finance Q2 net drops 29% to ₹192 cr.

Disbursements rising since May: MD

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Sundaram Finance Ltd.reported a 28.6% drop in second-quarter profit to ₹192 crore, from ₹269 crore a year earlier.

The NBFC, however, said profit was not comparable as the year-earlier quarter's figure had included a one-time income of ₹53 crore representing profit on sale of equity shares in Sundaram Finance Holdings Ltd.

Income from operations saw a marginal dip to ₹993 crore (₹994 crore). Disbursements contracted to ₹3,174 crore (₹3,832 crore).

Deposits stood at ₹3,883 crore, registering a net accretion of ₹207 crore.

"Despite the first two months of the year having been a total washout, we managed to reach over 80% of our disbursements in Q2," said T. T. Srinivasaraghavan, MD. "Every succeeding month since May has witnessed an upward trend and that is something heartening. While there is a lot of positivity around the festive season, we have to watch if this momentum sustains in the coming months."

T. T. Srinivasaraghavan

Williamson, Holder ensure SRH stays alive in a tense shoot-out

Hyderabad side restricts RCB to 131 for seven in the Eliminator, thanks to an all-round bowling effort; Warner's men wobble in the chase before calm heads prevail

IPL 2020

SPORTS BUREAU

An outstanding all-round bowling effort, followed by Kane Williamson's masterly unbeaten 50 (44b, 2x4, 2x6), ensured Sunrisers Hyderabad continued its winning run, beating Royal Challengers Bangalore by six wickets in the Eliminator at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi on Friday.

Electing to bowl, SRH restricted RCB to 131 for seven, led by Jason Holder's brilliant spell of three for 25. Despite a hiccup during the chase's middle phase, Williamson made sure his side will face Delhi Capitals in the second Qualifier on Sunday.

SRH more than kept pace with the asking-rate in the PowerPlay, scoring 48. But it lost two wickets, including the big one of captain David Warner. RCB leg-spinners Adam Zampa and Yuzvendra Chahal made a contest of it, giving away only 20 in the next six overs and picking up two wickets.

SRH looked shaky at 68 for four after 12 overs. But Williamson, who had started scratchily, hit two crucial sixes, one each against Washington Sundar (14th over) and Chahal (16th over). Holder gave him steady support, the duo forging a 65-run stand for the unbroken fifth wicket. Holder's 20-ball 24 included three boundaries, two of which came in the final over to seal the win.

Holder had earlier set the tone with the ball, in partnership with Sandeep Sharma, in the PowerPlay before spinners Rashid Khan and Shahbaz Nadeem applied the squeeze in the middle overs. A.B. de Villiers (56, 43b, 5x4) and Aaron Finch (32, 30b, 3x4, 1x6) were the only top-order batsmen to get into double figures.

Skipper Virat Kohli opened the innings to lead from the front, but the move did not work. He gloved a rising delivery from Holder down the leg-side to wicket-keeper Shreevats Goswami – in for an injured Wriddhiman Saha – in the second over. RCB managed only 32 in the PowerPlay and the spinners did not let the pressure ease thereafter, with Nadeem, in particular, keeping de Villiers quiet while Rashid was at his accurate best. Just as Finch started to find his feet – he slogged Rashid for the only six of the innings – Nadeem had the Australian caught by the deep-cover fielder. After being reduced to 62 for four by the 11th over, de Villiers took charge. But just when the South African was set for a final push to get RCB to a fighting total, Natarajan (two for 33) produced another of his brilliant yorkers to remove de Villiers' middle-stump and help SRH finish the innings strongly.

Game-changers: Kane Williamson and Jason Holder chipped in with vital contributions for Sunrisers in the Eliminator against Royal Challengers. ▪ BCCI/IPL

SCOREBOARD

ROYAL CHALLENGERS

Virat Kohli c Shreevats b Holder 6 *(7b)*, Devdutt Padikkal c Garg b Holder 1 *(6b)*, Aaron Finch c Samad b Shahbaz 32 *(30b, 3x4, 1x6)*, A.B. de Villiers b Natarajan 56 *(43b, 5x4)*, Moeen Ali run out 0 *(1b)*, Shivam Dube c Warner b Holder 8 *(13b)*, Washington Sundar c Samad b Natarajan 5 *(6b)*, Navdeep Saini (not out) 9 *(8b, 1x4)*, Mohammed Siraj (not out) 10 *(7b, 1x4)*; Extras (w-3, nb-1): 4; Total (for seven wkts. in 20 overs): 131.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-7 (Kohli, 1.2 overs), 2-15 (Padikkal, 3.3), 3-56 (Finch, 10.2), 4-62 (Moeen, 10.4), 5-99 (Dube, 15.4), 6-111 (Washington, 17.1), 7-113 (de Villiers, 17.5).

SUNRISERS BOWLING

Sandeep 4-0-21-0, Holder 4-0-25-3, Natarajan 4-0-33-2, Shahbaz 4-0-30-1, Rashid 4-0-22-0.

SUNRISERS HYDERABAD

David Warner c de Villiers b Siraj 17 *(17b, 3x4)*, Shreevats Goswami c de Villiers b Siraj 0 *(3b)*, Manish Pandey c de Villiers b Zampa 24 *(21b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Kane Williamson (not out) 50 *(44b, 2x4, 2x6)*, Priyam Garg c Zampa b Chahal 7 *(14b)*, Jason Holder (not out) 24 *(20b, 3x4)*; Extras (lb-5, w-4, nb-1): 10; Total (for four wkts. in 19.4 overs): 132.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-2 (Shreevats, 0.4), 2-43 (Warner, 5.4), 3-55 (Pandey, 8.3), 4-67 (Garg, 11.5).

RCB BOWLING

Siraj 4-0-28-2, Saini 3.4-0-31-0, Washington 2-0-21-0, Zampa 4-0-12-1, Chahal 4-0-24-1, Moeen 1-0-4-0, Dube 1-0-7-0.

Toss: SRH; **MoM:** Williamson.

SRH won by six wickets with two balls to spare.

Innings scan

RCB		SRH
40	Dots	51
10	Fours	11
1	Sixes	3
32/2	PP	48/2
6.55	RR	6.71

NEW DELHI ROUND-UP

Easy for Wonders Club

Wonders Club thrashed Udaybhan Academy by seven wickets in the Turf Youth Cup u-13 tournament.

The scores: Udaybhan Academy 95 in 25.4 overs (Ayush Aggarwal 3/9, Niskarsh Chaudhary 3/24, Krishna Rawat 3/25) lost to Wonders Club 96/3 in 22 overs.

Friends in semifinal

Priyansh Arya and Manish Tehlan scored half-centuries as Friends Club edged past Delhi Challengers by three runs to enter the semifinals of the YS Sports T20 tournament.

The scores: Friends Club 160/3 in 20 overs (Priyansh Arya 59, Manish Tehlan 52) bt Delhi Challengers 157/8 in 20 overs (Karan Sharma 61; Manish Sehrawat 2/11).

Sumit, Vikas shine

Sumit Mathur's five-wicket haul and a quickfire 115 by Vikas Dixit saw Delhi Cricket Hub beat Hari Singh Academy by 56 runs in the Eventeneurs Cup. For the losing side, Ravi Tewatia took six wickets.

The scores: DCH 276/8 in 50 overs (Vikas Dixit 115, Tejas Dahiya 88; Ravi Tewatia 6/31) bt HSA 220 in 46.1 overs (Salil Malhotra 78; Sumit Mathur 5/38).

Vimoh, Shashwat shine

Man-of-the-Match Vimoh Rana's 78-ball 115 and Shashwat Kohli's 70-run knock and their 160-run fourth-wicket partnership saw Delhi Colts Club beat Delhi Development Authority by 38 runs in the BR Sharma memorial tournament.

The scores: DCC 254/6 in 40 overs (Vimoh Rana 115, Shashwat Kohli 70) bt DDA 216/9 in 40 overs (Akshat Dedhu 54, Shivam Kumar 42; Vibhu Tyagi 4/40).

Otamendi on a roll

Daniel Otamendi scored six goals in guiding Sahara Warriors to a 10-6 victory over Jindal Panther in the last league match of the National polo championship at the Jaipur Polo ground here on Friday. In the final, at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Sahara Warriors will face Sona Polo.

The results (league): Sahara Warriors 10 (Daniel Otamendi 6, Padmanabh Singh 3, Kuldeep Singh Rathore) bt Jindal Panther 6 (Dhruvpal Godara 4, Abhimanyu Pathak 2).

Ningombam takes over

UTHRA GANESAN
NEW DELHI

Gyanendro Ningombam's ascension as Hockey India president was formalised after being elected unopposed at the 10th Hockey India Congress here on Friday.

Ningombam had been designated officiating president after former president Mohd. Mushtaque Ahmad had been forced to resign on July 7 following pressure from the sports ministry in adhering to the sports code. Mushtaque is now back in the HI Executive Board after being unanimously elected senior vice-president, the post Ningombam held.

Hockey Mizoram has been selected 2019-20's best State unit for working towards the growth of hockey at all levels and developing a well-oiled coaching set-up equipped with modern techniques. Javed Shaikh was named best umpire.

Ramkumar in semifinals

SPORTS BUREAU
ECKENTAL (GERMANY)

Ramkumar Ramanathan outplayed fourth-seeded Evgeny Donskoy of Russia 6-2, 6-1 in the quarterfinals of the €88,520 Challenger tennis tournament here on Friday.

The 25-year-old Ramkumar fired 11 aces and converted five of 16 break-points.

Kane's 200

REUTERS
STOCKHOLM

Harry Kane netted his 200th goal for Tottenham Hotspur as it won 3-1 at Ludogorets and AC Milan's 24-match unbeaten run ended with a 3-0 loss to Lille in the Europa League on Thursday.

Important results: Group A: Roma 5 (Mkhitaryan 2, Ibanez 24, Mayoral 34, 84, Pedro 89) bt CFR Cluj 0.

Group B: Arsenal 4 (Haugen 45+1-og, Sinyan 62-og, Pepe 69, Willock 88) bt Molde 1 (Ellingsen 21).

Group F: Real Sociedad 1 (Portu 58) bt AZ Alkmaar 0; Rijeka 1 (Muric 13) lost to Napoli 2 (Demme 43, Braut 62-og); **Group G:** Leicester 4 (Iheanacho 21, 48, Praet 67, Maddison 78) bt Braga 0.

Group H: AC Milan 0 lost to Lille 3 (Yazici 22-pen, 55, 58).

Group I: Villarreal 4 (Bacca 4, 52, Alex Baena 71, Nino 81) bt Tel-Aviv 0; **Group J:** Ludogorets 1 (Keseru 50) lost to Tottenham 3 (Kane 13, Lucas 33, Lo Celso 62).

Cerise Noir for Madras Race Club Trophy

BENGALURU: Cerise Noir, who has been well tuned, is expected to score in the Madras Race Club Trophy (1,400m), the feature event of the races to be held here on Saturday (Nov. 7). False rails (width about 2.5m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

Sale of betting tickets

The Bangalore Turf Club has announced advance sale of the totalizer betting tickets on Gate No. 4 for Saturday's races and all pools tickets will be issued between 8 a.m and 12.30 p.m.

Encashment of winning tickets will be done after the last race of the day up to one hour and the next day at the Gate No. 3 from 10.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. (except on holidays).

Spectators and other activities is strictly prohibited in the BTC premises during racing hours.

1 ANTAR GANGE PLATE (DIV. II), (1,400m), rated 15 to 35, 1-30 p.m.: 1. Handsome (4) Suraj 60, 2. Smithsonian (8) Darshan 59.5, 3. Tartufo (6) P.P. Dhebe 59.5, 4. Ultimate Striker (10) Jagadeesh 59.5, 5. Andra King (9) Rayan 58, 6. Diamanttissimo (2) Tauseef 58, 7. Night Secret (3) A. Imran 58, 8. Richmond Hill (5) Sai Kiran 58, 9. Rule Of Engagement (12) J.H. Arul 58, 10. Track Striker (1) Arvind Kumar 58, 11. Blarney Stone (11) R. Manish 56 and 12. South Bell (7) Shreyas Singh 54.5.

1. SMITHSONIAN, 2. TARTUFO, 3. HANDSOME

2 AIHOLE PLATE (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 2-00: 1. Gallic (10) P.P. Dhebe 57, 2. Handsome Rocky (7) Sai Kiran 57, 3. Highland Rock (9) Jagadeesh 57, 4. Katana (4) Trevor 57, 5. Belli Deepa (1) R. Pradeep 55.5, 6. Cherokee Moon (11) Suraj 55.5, 7. Flaming Orange (12) Zervan 55.5, 8. Ironic Humour (6) B. Harish 55.5, 9. Orleans (8) Antony 55.5, 10. Shanghai Queen (5) Darshan 55.5, 11. Silverita (3) Neeraj 55.5 and 12. Ultimate Choice (2) Kiran Rai 55.5.

1. KATANA, 2. CHEROKEE MOON, 3. FLAMING ORANGE

3 ANTAR GANGE PLATE (DIV. I), (1,400m), rated 15 to 35, 2-30: 1. Flamingo Road (4) S. John 60, 2. Caracas (8) A. Imran 59.5, 3. Memoriter (3) Chetan K 59.5, 4. Casey (12) M. Naveen 58, 5. Zhu Zhu Zest (11) Darshan 58, 6. Industrialist (1) Naveen Kumar 57.5, 7. Arlette (7) Trevor 56.5, 8. Augustina (10) S. Shareef 55.5, 9. King Creole (5) Indrajeet Singh 55.5, 10. Red Indian (2) Kiran Rai 55.5, 11. Jack Ryan (9) Neeraj 55 and 12. Smile Around (6) Afsar Khan 53.5.

1. CARACAS, 2. ARLETTE, 3. FLAMINGO ROAD

4 KOKKAREBELLUR PLATE (1,600m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 3-00: 1. Chisox (6) R. Shelar 57, 2. Christopher Wren (2) A. Imran 57, 3. Lord Frankel (7) Trevor 57, 4. Ombudsman (9) Darshan 57, 5. Redoubtable (3) M. Naveen 57, 6. Sporting Memories (4) Mark 57, 7. Welcome Surprise (5) Arshad 57, 8. Antibes (10) Antony 55.5, 9. Eminence Grise (8) Zervan 55.5 and 10. War Song (1) P.P. Dhebe 55.5.

1. LORD FRANKEL, 2. CHRISTOPHER WREN, 3. ANTIBES

5 AIR FORCE TROPHY (1,400m), rated 45 to 65, 3-30: 1. Akita Pro (12) S. Shareef 60, 2. Electra (5) Suraj 59, 3. Poseidon (3) Jagadeesh 59, 4. Three Wishes (1) Darshan 58, 5. Brothers In Arms (8) M. Naveen 57, 6. Colonel Harty (7) Sai Kiran 56, 7. Karadeniz (2) Neeraj 56, 8. Aaron The Baron (11) Sai Vamshi 55.5, 9. Good Time Indeed (10) J.H. Arul 55.5, 10. Winall (6) Antony 55.5, 11. Le Marc (4) Likith Appu 54 and 12. Nisus (9) Trevor 53.5.

1. NISUS, 2. ELECTRA, 2. LE MARC

6 MADRAS RACE CLUB TROPHY (1,400m), rated 75 & above, 4-00: 1. Secretive Force (7) Zervan 64, 2. Cosmos (1) Irvan 63.5, 3. Automatic (3) Anjar Alam 59.5, 4. Royal Crystal (5) Antony 53.5, 5. Star Carnation (6) Ashok Kumar 53.5, 6. Cerise Noir (8) Trevor 53, 7. Rafa (2) Rayan 51.5, 8. Into The Groove (9) P.P. Dhebe 51, 9. Southern Ruler (4) Darshan 51 and 10. Treasure Delight (-) (-) 51.

1. CERISE NOIR, 2. ROYAL CRYSTAL, 3. SOUTHERN RULER

7 BIDAR PLATE (1,200m), rated 30 to 50, 4-30: 1. Superb Success (11) Md. Aliyar 60, 2. Slice Of Heaven (5) R. Pradeep 58.5, 3. Reczai (7) M. Naveen 58, 4. The Preacher (9) Chetan K 57.5, 5. Donna Bella (2) Suraj 56.5, 6. Asgardia (12) Trevor 56, 7. Rani Jindan (10) Neeraj 56, 8. Anne Boleyn (3) Zervan 55, 9. General Patton (8) Antony 55, 10. Areca Angel (6) Sai Kiran 54.5, 11. Armin (4) Afsar Khan 54 and 12. Another Rainbow (1) Irvan 52.

1. ANNE BOLEYN, 2. DONNA BELLA, 3. ASGARDIA

8 BANGARPET PLATE (1,400m), rated 30 to 50, 4-y-o & over, 5-00: 1. Grey Channel (7) Jagadeesh 60, 2. Treasure Striker (1) Darshan 59, 3. Show Girl (8) Vaibhav 58, 4. Morrane Gabriella (9) R. Pradeep 56.5, 5. Candlelightqueen (12) Kiran Rai 55.5, 6. Fictioneer (4) Arvind Kumar 55.5, 7. Rorito (6) Trevor 53.5, 8. Dreams United (10) S. Shareef 53, 9. Jain Sahab (5) Irvan 53, 10. The Response (11) Shreyas Singh 52, 11. Glorious Dancer (2) P.P. Dhebe 50.5 and 12. Habanero (3) Tousif Khan 50.5.

1. SHOW GIRL, 2. GREY CHANNEL, 3. CANDLELIGHTQUEEN

Day's best: **KATANA**

Double: **LORD FRANKEL – NISUS**

Jkt: 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8; Tr (i): 3, 4 and 5; (ii): 6, 7 and 8.

Delhi HC directive to Centre on NSFs

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court, on Friday, asked the Centre to show that the 41 National Sports Federations (NSFs) granted recognition in October were complying with the requirements of the National Sports Development Code of India, 2011.

A bench of Justice Hima Kohli and Justice Najmi Waziri gave the direction on a plea filed by lawyer and sports activist Rahul Mehra challenging the recognition granted to the 41 NSFs. It posted the case for hearing on January 8, 2021.

Mehra, in his petition, has contended that the decision granting recognition to the 41 NSFs is contrary to National Sports Development Code and "issued in a wholly arbitrary manner".

Nadal enters quarterfinals

PARIS MASTERS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PARIS

Rafael Nadal battled past Australian Jordan Thompson in straight sets to reach the Paris Masters quarterfinals on Thursday, as Diego Schwartzman moved within one win of securing an ATP Tour Finals debut.

Top seed Nadal got the better of Thompson 6-1, 7-6 (3) to set up a last-eight clash with fellow Spaniard Pablo Carreno Busta, who must win the title this week to have a chance of snatching the last Tour Finals spot from Schwartzman.

Stan Wawrinka. ▪ AFP

World No. 61 Thompson missed a set-point to force a decider in his first meeting with the 20-time Grand Slam champion. Nadal is bidding for a first Paris indoors triumph which would draw him level with Novak Djokovic on a record 36 Masters titles.

Swiss veteran Stan Wawrinka made the quarterfinals with a comeback 1-6, 6-4, 6-3 win over Andrey Rublev of Russia.

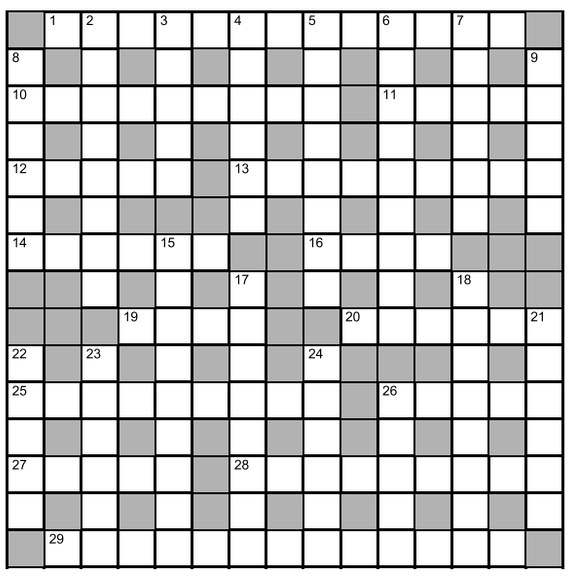
The results (third round): Rafael Nadal bt Jordan Thompson 6-1, 7-6(3); Pablo Carreno Busta bt Norbert Gombos 7-5, 6-2; Alexander Zverev bt Adrian Mannarino 7-6(11), 6-7(7), 6-4; Stan Wawrinka bt Andrey Rublev 1-6, 6-4, 6-3; Diego Schwartzman bt Alejandro Davidovich Fokina 6-1, 6-1; Daniil Medvedev bt Alex de Minaur 5-7, 6-2, 6-2; Milos Raonic bt Marcos Giron 7-6(1), 6-2; Ugo Humbert bt Marin Cilic 6-3, 6-7 (4), 6-3.

TH CROSSWORD + 13087

(set by Afterdark)

Don't let lockdown get you down. Solve puzzles on our interactive site:. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



ACROSS

1 Fail to honour some pair (5,1,7)
10 Criminal made a mistake kidnapping female? Granted (9)
11 Abundant vegetation in meadow, fully empty (5)
12 Chosen with ease reportedly to stay liberal at court (5)
13 Planes are moored somehow at this place? (9)
14 Read about right around to become strong (6)
16 For e.g. women clothed are lean (4)
19 Essentially boasting on wine (4)
20 Endless traffic jams? Tax! (6)
25 Puma store managed to be a longest running show in London (9)
26 Hurts that country's pushing South to the end (5)
27 Bowler takes breather in the beginning (5)
28 Detailed talk behind electronic laboratory (9)
29 Days after rift, café closed early and moved the ones guiding in the streets (7,6)

DOWN

2 Complete news on run coming up in the second position... (6-2)
3 ... regarding a specialist (5)
4 Ventilation route found in staircase (6)
5 Embarrassed to be angry on humanitarian organisation (3,5)
6 Soppy show, endless music and crowd getting agitated primarily (9)
7 Sailor's aged, so suffers (3,3)
8 Entry in account's less, should have hundred instead of fifty... (6)
9 ... entered and sorted? (5)
15 Doubt that cop's boy corrupted file after consuming drug (9)
17 Country was in double-digit inflation at the beginning – British PM (8)
18 Watchful as at six, huge lake breached in (8)
21 Infect or take care of, leave out nothing, administer drug (6)
22 Comprehend that a business segment has to take large loans first (5)
23 Soldier is enduring trouble without Delta unit (6)
24 Being feverish, wraps second blanket to stretch (6)
26 Point in press release is not good. Has nothing in it (5)

SUDOKU

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

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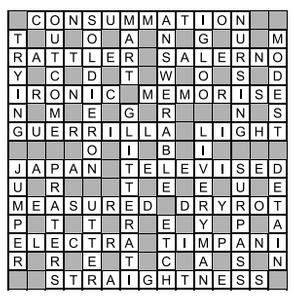
DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to puzzle 13086



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

Embodiment of knowledge

Vallalar sees Lord Muruga of Kanda Kottam in Chennai as his wealth, said M.A. Manickavelu in a discourse. A similar sentiment is expressed in Thiruvachagam in the Piditha Pathu section, where Manickavachagar extols Lord Siva as his wealth and says that because Lord Siva is his only wealth, he seeks liberation at the feet of the Lord. Praising the deity of Thiruvalangadu, Sundarar says that he will readily be a servitor of Lord Siva's devotees. Vallalar praises Lord Muruga as the embodiment of jnana. Muruga, after all, was a teacher to his own father – Lord Siva – and thus earned the name Swaminatha.

When a devotee's heart is full of love for his God, he acquires jnana. God ensures that he becomes God realised. No wonder Mancikavachagar says in the Achcho Pathigam of Thiuvachagam that Lord Siva saved him from being bonded by worldly ties, and was his guru. In Kandar Alankaram, Arunagirinatha expresses his unhappiness over Brahma not endowing him with four thousand eyes. And why does he need so many eyes? Arunagirinathar says that it is to feast his eyes on the nephew of Lord Vishnu, and the son of Lord Siva, that is Muruga, who is synonymous with jnana (meijnana deivam).

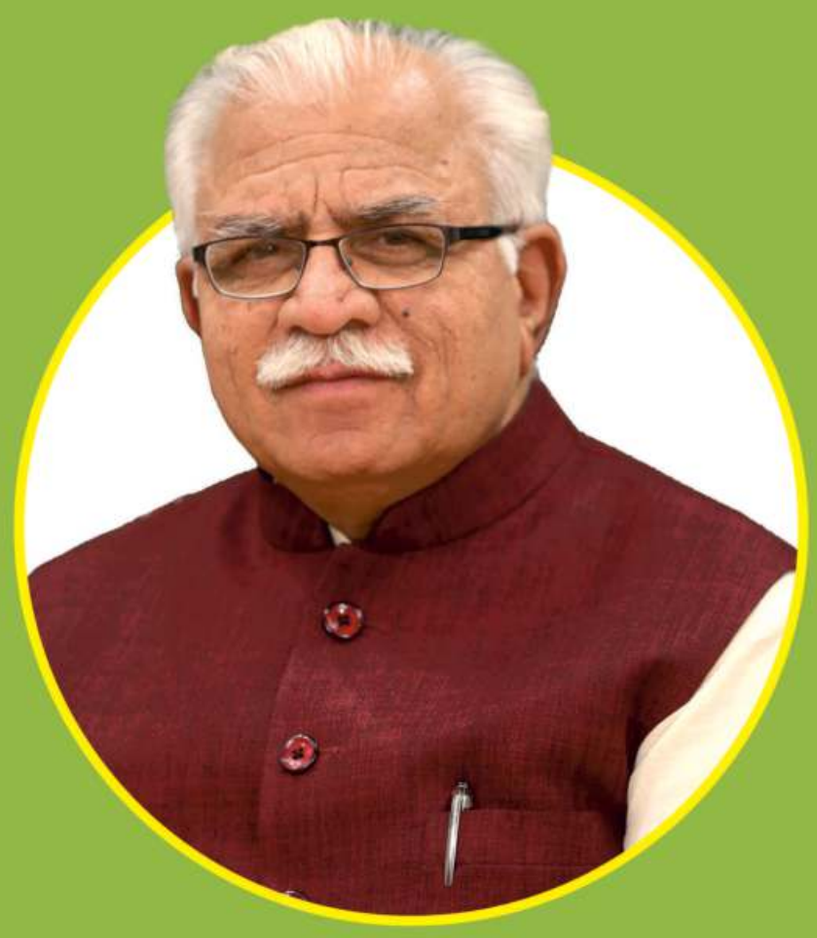
Vallalar refers to Muruga as the One who is eternally young, and here he is echoing Arunagirinatha, who, in his Thiruppugazh, refers to Muruga as the One who is young (ilayoi). Vallalar celebrates Muruga's lineage, and points to His being the nephew of Lord Vishnu and the beloved son of Lord Siva, who showers His son with kisses. This is similar to a verse in Kandar Alankaram, where Muruga's family connections are praised. In addition to the connection to Vishnu and Siva, Kandar Alankaram also mentions Valli.

Govt. of Haryana

1 साल दूरदर्शिता पारदर्शिता दृढ़-संकल्प का

Haryane Ka Badhiya Haal
Chokha Bitya Pehla Saal

We care for Farmers' Welfare



Sh. Manohar Lal, Chief Minister, Haryana

Haryana is the First State of the Country to Purchase Highest Number of Crops on MSP

Agriculture Budget of Rs.5,474.25 Crore set for Financial Year 2020-21 which is 23.92% more than the Previous Financial Year

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana

An amount of Rs. 1,816 crore given to farmers in their bank accounts

Government Purchase of Crops at Maximum Prices

First time in the history of Haryana, Government purchased Rabi crops 2019-20 at maximum price Rs.17,000 crore disbursed in the farmers' accounts

Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana

In the last 6 years an amount of Rs. 2,943 crore disbursed as claim to 12.08 lakh farmers, while amount of Rs.913 crore paid as insurance premium.

Pradhanmantri Fasal Bima Yojana

Low-Cost Electricity Supply

Provision of subsidy of Rs. 6,040 crore on electricity for farmers in 2020-21

Mukhya Mantri Kisan Evam Khetihar Mazdoor Jiwan Suraksha Yojana

Compensation amount on death due to Covid-19 raised to Rs.10 lakh

Atal Kisan-Mazdoor Canteen

Canteen started for farmers and labourers in 12 districts to provide them food at concessional rate at Rs. 10 per plate

Reduced Stamp Fee

Stamp fee on farmers' transactions from banks reduced from Rs.2,000 to Rs.100

Meri Fasal- Mera Byora

In Kharif-2020
8.78 lakh farmers registered
48.72 lakh hectare of land

Pragatishil Kisan Samman Yojana

Scheme started for award of Rs.50,000 to Rs. 5 lakh to 108 progressive farmers of the State

Bhawantar Bharpayee Yojana

Under this Scheme, 15 more horticultural crops added, now this scheme includes total 19 horticultural crops

Pashudhan Kisan Credit Card Scheme

Under this scheme, 6 lakh cattle owners registered and credit limit on card is Rs.1.60 lakh, Pashudhan Kisan Credit Cards given to 51,156 cattle owners

Mera Pani- Meri Virasat

Provision of incentive of Rs.7,000 per acre to farmers for promoting less water consuming crops instead of paddy

Relief from Crop Loan Under One Time Settlement scheme, the interest and penalty amount of Rs.1,001 crore waived off till January 2020

Sugarcane price increased up to Rs.340 per quintal, which is highest in the whole country

Sanitization Mask Social Distancing

Information, Public Relations and Languages Department, Haryana

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