



S.P. Balasubrahmanyam  
laid to rest with  
police honours  
page 9



In BJP team shuffle,  
Ram Madhav replaced,  
Tejasvi Surya elevated  
page 8



Eminent economist  
Isher Judge Ahluwalia  
passes away  
page 8



Smith's Royals take  
on Rahul's Kings in  
Sharjah today  
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## NEARBY



### Kejriwal assures 24x7 water supply in Capital

NEW DELHI  
Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday announced that the Delhi government is making all efforts to ensure 24x7 water supply to every household and end the issues related to installation of water pumps and overhead tanks to store potable water. The AAP government has decided to hire a consultant to suggest measures to achieve this goal.

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## Address aspirations of Tamil people, Modi urges Rajapaksa

Devolve powers as envisaged in Constitution: PM

SUHASINI HAIDAR  
MEERA SRINIVASAN  
NEW DELHI/COLOMBO

Calling on the newly elected Sri Lankan government to fully implement the 13th constitutional amendment, which envisages a measure of power devolution to provinces, Prime Minister Narendra Modi "highlighted" India's concerns about the rights of the Tamil minorities, during talks with his Sri Lankan counterpart Mahinda Rajapaksa via video conference on Saturday.

"Prime Minister Modi



said on the government of Sri Lanka to address the aspirations of the Tamil people for equality, justice, peace and respect within a united Sri Lanka, including by carrying forward the process of reconciliation with the implementation of the 13th Amendment to the Constitu-

tion," said a joint statement released after the meeting, in a clear indication that both sides agreed to the reference.

### Differing stance

"Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa expressed the confidence that Sri Lanka will work towards realising the expectations of all ethnic groups, including Tamils, by achieving reconciliation nurtured as per the mandate of the people of Sri Lanka and implementation of the Constitutional provision," the joint statement added, also indicating the difference in their stands.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 7

## CBI chargesheets nine suspended policemen in Sattankulam case

STAFF REPORTER  
MADRASI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has filed a chargesheet against the nine suspended policemen of the Sattankulam police station, who were involved in the custodial deaths of trader P. Jayaraj and his son J. Benicks, before the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Madurai.

The chargesheet has been filed against the then inspec-

tor S. Sridhar, sub-inspectors P. Raghu Ganesh and K. Balakrishnan, head constables S. Murugan and A. Saamadurai and constables M. Muthuraj, S. Chelladurai, X. Thomas Francis and S. Veilumuthu.

**One accused dead**  
Special sub-inspector Pauldurai, an accused in the case, died after contracting COVID-19.

The charges against the accused are under Section 120 B (party to a criminal conspiracy), read with Sections 302 (murder), 342 (wrongful confinement), 201 (causing disappearance of evidence of offence), 182 (false information), 193 (false evidence), 211 (false charge of offence), 218 (public servant framing incorrect record) and 34 (common intention) of the IPC.

## COVID-19 vaccine likely to be free for needy

JACOB KOSHY  
NEW DELHI

Those unable to afford a probable COVID-19 vaccine will get it for free, and the government is considering a large immunisation programme to make it widely available, a highly placed official involved in the strategy told *The Hindu*. The vaccine is likely to retail between \$2-\$3 (₹140-₹210), the official said.

Adar Poonawalla, CEO, Serum Institute of India (SII), tweeted on Saturday: "Will the government have ₹80,000 crore over the next one year? Because that's what the Health Ministry needs to buy and distribute the vaccine to everyone in India. This is the next concerning challenge we need to tackle @ PMOIndia?"

VACCINE COST ▶ PAGE 8

## Akalis quit NDA, say Centre ignored farmers' sentiments

VIKAS VASUDEVA  
CHANDIGARH

The BJP's oldest alliance partner, the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), on Saturday announced that it was ending its ties with the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) as farmers' protests continued across Punjab over the new farm sector Bills.

SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal announced the

decision which, he said, was 'unanimously' taken at the party's core committee meeting here.

"The Central government completely ignored the sentiments of farmers and pushed the agriculture sector Bills with force. What happened in Rajya Sabha everybody knows that... Although we were part of the government, Harsimrat

Kaur Badal quit from the post of Minister in protest against the Bills. I discussed the issue with people and leaders, and today we have decided to part ways with NDA," he said.

The SAD becomes the third major NDA ally to pull out of the grouping after the Shiv Sena and the TDP.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 7

## The fire spreads



Outrage: Farmers burning effigies in protest against the farm Bills passed by Parliament, in Bengaluru on Saturday. ■ MURALI KUMAR

## Centre advances procurement of paddy in Punjab, Haryana

Decision seen as response to protests against new farm Bills

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ  
VIKAS VASUDEVA  
NEW DELHI

Amid mass farmer agitations in Punjab and Haryana, the Centre has advanced kharif paddy procurement, allowing operations to begin on Saturday instead of the scheduled date of October 1.

According to the Food Ministry, the change is due to the early arrival of paddy in these two states from today i.e. 26 September, 2020. The aim is to provide the facility to farmers to sell their produce at the minimum support price (MSP), the statement said.

**Farmers unimpressed**  
The announcement has not appeased the farmers. "They are announcing this early procurement to try and stop our *andolan* [protest]. But

the farmers will not be distracted," said Bharatiya Kisan Union secretary general Yudhvir Singh. "Anyway, there is a staggered rota system [in the mandis] now. Those who have early harvest will go and sell while the others continue the protest."

The Centre had also announced MSP rates for the rabi season crop unusually early this year, in what was seen as a bid to reassure the protesting farmers that the MSP will continue.

"The MSP for wheat saw the lowest increase in the last 10 years. Farmers have seen it as an indication that the government is not even listening to their concerns. The Centre will not escape the backlash," said farmer activist Ramandeep Singh Mann.

## Delhi's youth want housing, jobs, amenities in new master plan

DDA holds 'Youth Sabha' to take their inputs for MPD-2041

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Delhi's youth want affordable housing for students, institutions to provide employment, community amenities like libraries and better accessibility to educational institutions among other facilities in the upcoming master plan for the city.

A 'Youth Sabha' held by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) saw young citizens aged 18-30 raise pertinent issues concerning their education and career. The meeting was part of a series of consultations being held by the urban body with respect to the preparation of the Master Plan for Delhi (MPD) - 2041. Two more 'Youth Sabhas' are lined up for October 1 and 2.

A senior DDA official said, "The objective of this consultation was to take the views of Delhi's youth on what more could be provided to ensure quality education. The dialogue aimed to focus on the access to associated amenities like housing, connectivity to these institutions and so on."

According to the DDA, over 800 people had registered for the event and around 450 participated in it.

### Skill enhancement

The official further said, "A need was felt for equitably distributed skill enhancement institutions that would help them [students] hone their employability skills and make them ready for the job market. The gap between

jobseekers and actual available jobs is vast and some concrete steps need to be taken to bridge it."

The urban body also said that students residing on the Capital's periphery complained of longer travelling time. "A youth from Najafgarh mentioned that the nearest college is 25 km away and it takes him one hour to traverse that distance one way. This is not only time consuming but also unsafe for young women as they do not always get to travel through appropriate means of commute," the official said.

Several civil service aspirants residing in Mukherjee Nagar raised issues pertaining to their safety and unaffordable housing facilities for students in the area.

## Visually challenged Boden brothers teach chess online

Self-taught prodigies from rural Odisha have a vision for life even in the midst of pandemic

SATYASUNDAR BARIK  
BHUBANESWAR

In a visionary feat, a visually challenged tutor from rural Odisha is teaching chess online to students in faraway New Jersey, United States. Soundarya Kumar Pradhan from Boden in Nuapada district is a self-taught chess player and a silver medallist in the Men's Rapid Team Chess in the 2018 Asian Para Games held in Jakarta.

Lucknow-based Chess Club Black and White (CCBW), which trains aspiring players, decided to deploy Mr. Pradhan's prodigious skills. Mr. Pradhan told *The Hindu*, "One of founders of the organisation approached me to take a class on an experimental basis. I grabbed the offer. They were very impressed. I

was requested to join them as guest faculty. All my students can see normally."

At present, four students each in Lucknow and New Jersey are being trained by him. Two more students are expected to join from both cities shortly, said Mr. Pradhan, who is pursuing his BTech programme in computer science at the National Institute of Technology, Jamshedpur.

**Big dreams**  
Boden, a block headquartered town that is little more than a big village, is an insurgency-affected region bordering Chhattisgarh. Till some years ago, it had only 2G Internet connectivity. This, however, did not stop Mr. Pradhan and his older brother, Prachurya Pradhan,

also an international visually challenged chess player, from dreaming big. The older brother has also been giving online coaching to budding chess players.

The brothers were born with Leber Congenital Amaurosis, a rare inherited eye disorder.

Their father is a teacher in the local college and their mother is a homemaker. They were introduced to chess by their uncle very early in their lives. In time, the Internet proved to be the biggest source of chess lessons for the duo. Between them, they have visited eight countries in seven years and won several laurels for India.

"I improved my English-speaking ability by playing online chess games consistently. I can speak English with an American accent, which led to opportunities for coaching overseas players," said Mr. Soundarya Pradhan.

"I was asked by Indic AI, an online platform that provides accessible education for differently-abled, to train budding chess players. I have utilised the COVID-19 period to the fullest," said Mr. Prachurya Pradhan, who has cleared the first two papers towards becoming a Chartered Accountant in the first attempt – another rare feat for a visually challenged student.

**Laudable move:** Soundarya Kumar Pradhan, left, and Prachurya Kumar Pradhan teaching chess online. ■ BISWARANJAN ROUT

CM YK

## IN BRIEF

## AAP slams BJP for demolishing RWA gates

NEW DELHI  
The AAP on Saturday slammed the BJP-ruled SDMC for allegedly demolishing eight gates of the Green Park Extension RWA without any prior notice. "The gates, which were demolished by the SDMC, were built by the RWA for the safety and security of the residents," AAP MLA Somnath Bharati said.

## Govt. seeks help of RWAs in fight against dengue

NEW DELHI  
In the fourth week of the '10 Hafte 10 Baje 10 Minute Har Ravivar Dengue Par Vaar' campaign, the Delhi government will seek to engage Residents' Welfare Associations (RWA) to make the Capital dengue-free. Last year, similar support from all RWAs played a huge role in reducing the impact of dengue, the government said.

Air Quality of Delhi-NCR			
Delhi 165	Gurugram 184		
Ghaziabad 199	Faridabad 172		
Noida 191	Greater Noida 224		
■ Good	■ Satisfactory	■ Moderate	
■ Poor	■ Very Poor	■ Severe	
50-51	51-100	101-200	>400
201-300	301-400	401-500	
Air Quality Index at 4 p.m., yesterday (Average of past 24 hours)   Source: CPCB			

# Kejriwal assures 24x7 water supply

Govt. to hire consultant to suggest measures to improve water management

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI



Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday announced that the Delhi government was making all efforts to ensure 24x7 water supply to every household in the Capital and end woes revolving around installing water pumps and overhead water tanks to store potable water.

The government has decided to hire a consultant who will suggest measures to achieve this goal.

The consultant will suggest measures to improve water supply management and no wastage of water in Delhi as the government hopes to bring the water supply in the city at par with standards across the world, he said.

## Enhance availability

Mr. Kejriwal said that to enhance water availability in the Capital, the government was in talks with Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and other States where there was sufficient availability of water.

"We promised you that

just like the AAP government has ensured 24x7 electricity in the last five years, we will also ensure 24x7 clean water in every household in Delhi in the next five years. I am glad to share that we have started this process. In a meeting that was held day before yesterday, we have decided to appoint a consultant in Delhi who will suggest measures to ensure the provision of 24x7 water to every household. The process got a bit delayed due to COVID-19 pandemic, otherwise, the process would have been completed in March or April," he said at a digital briefing.

On the other hand, the

"We have to understand why there is a shortage of water in Delhi. If you visit any capital of other nations across the world, London, Tokyo, Paris, you will receive 24x7 supply of clean tap water. In Delhi, the water pressure is low and people have to instal pumps, and if one person installs a pump, it causes problems for their neighbours. Every household has to instal water tanks to store water. We have to bring all of this to an end," he said.

Every day, he said, around 930 million gallons of water is processed in Delhi which means that for every citizen of Delhi, around 176 litres of water are processed. This includes water that is used for all purposes, such as industrial, swimming pools, water for farm fields.

**In talks with other States**  
On one hand, he said, the government had to enhance the availability of water in Delhi. For this, the Delhi government was in talks with other State governments.

currently available water, which is 930 MGD and 176 litres of water per person was subject to pilfering and leakage among other issues.

## No accountability

"We have to rectify the management of this water and bring it under accountability. For instance, if a water treatment plant treats 100 MGD of water, there should be an accountability of every single drop of this 100 MGD water and not even a single drop should be wasted. As of now, a considerable amount of water gets wasted in Delhi, water management is not correct, and there is no accountability of the system," he said.

"The consultant, we are hiring for water management, will tell us how to rectify the water management system in Delhi and ensure accountability and no wastage of every drop of water in the national capital. Second, we have to bring the latest state-of-the-art technology. There can be no privatisation of water at any cost," he said.

## Govt. failed to keep pipeline promise: BJP

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's promise of laying pipelines in all residential colonies in the city remains unfulfilled, the Delhi BJP said here on Saturday.

"The second term of his government has also started but the promise has not been fulfilled yet by the Kejriwal government," Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta alleged.

"The Kejriwal government could not get any new resource for water supply in five years. Now everything will be left to private companies. The supply of water for 24 hours is another hollow claim made by the Delhi government," he alleged.

With the Delhi Jal Board not having been able to address issues related to water leakage, people are forced to drink dirty water, he also claimed.



A medical worker conducts rapid antigen test in north-west Delhi on Saturday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

## Surge in cases seems to have plateaued: Minister

## STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain on Saturday said the surge in COVID-19 cases recorded in September 16, the highest single-day spike till date.

The daily cases in Delhi had breached the 4,000-mark for the first time on September 9.

Meanwhile, the condition of Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, who is suffering from COVID-19 and dengue, has improved, and he was shifted from the ICU to a normal ward on Saturday.

"His vitals have improved following plasma therapy," said an official.

(With inputs from PTI)

## 79 urban villages to be developed under DDA

It will be done as per the Master Plan for Delhi

## STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI  
The Central government on Friday notified that 79 urban villages in the city will be placed under the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) for maintenance and development purposes.

A notification issued by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs read, "The Central government hereby places, with immediate effect,

## DDA to hold online meet with traders' bodies

NEW DELHI

The Delhi Development Authority will conduct an online meeting with market and traders' bodies on October 1 as part of its exercise of consulting various stakeholders during the preparation of the Master Plan for Delhi. "The objective is to discuss and understand the challenges and civic issues faced by them," it said.

fect, the areas of the said villages... at the disposal of the Delhi Development Authority for the purpose of deve-

lopment and maintenance of the said areas and for taking such steps as may be required to serve the purpose and development of the areas which shall be done as per the extant Master Plan for Delhi."

With 31 villages under the North Corporation, the areas include Mubarakpur, Pooth Kalan, Jaunty in north-west Delhi, Narela, Pansali, Lam-pur in north Delhi and Tikri Kalan in west Delhi among other areas.

Twenty-nine villages are listed under the South Cor-

areas like Deoli, Chattarpur, Sultanpur, Asola in south Delhi, Jaitpur, Tajpur, Meethapur in south-east district, Kapashera in south-west district among others.

Under the East Corporation, 19 villages are listed and areas included are Mustafabad, Gokulpur, Karawal Nagar, Khajuri Khas in north-east Delhi, Babarpur and Mandoli in Shahdara and Dallupura, Gharoli and Kondali in east Delhi. In a notice dated November 2019, the Delhi government had declared the 79 villages as urban areas.

The victim was reported missing on Sept. 2; body found in a canal in Sonipat

## STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

A 35-year-old man who was reported missing was found murdered in a canal in Sonipat, the police said on Saturday, adding that he was killed over non-payment of ₹4,000. Three persons have been arrested, the police said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime Branch) Monika Bhardwaj said that the victim has been identified as Irshad, a resident of Outer Delhi's Bawana who was re-

ported missing on September 2. The accused have been identified as Bhanu alias Vakil Kumar (31) and his accomplices Pintu Kumar (27) and Anil (26).

The police said the matter came to light on September 11 after a complaint was received from the victim's wife at Narela industrial area police station stating that her husband had been missing since September 2 and he was last seen with Bhanu, a resident of Sonipat in Haryana.

The case, parallel to the

district probe, was also being investigated by a team of anti-human trafficking of Crime Branch.

## Meat supplier

"After technical surveillance and local enquiry, our team apprehended Bhanu and his two accomplices on September 25 after a tip-off," Ms. Bhardwaj said.

During interrogation, Bhanu, who is a supplier of raw meat, allegedly confessed that he had been constantly reminding Irshad to

pay the outstanding amount on account of supply of raw meat that Irshad had bought from him for his meat shop, but Irshad did not pay.

To teach Irshad a lesson, Bhanu, on September 2 morning, took Irshad to his poultry farm in Narela where the two accomplices were also present.

"Bhanu started beating Irshad with sticks. The three accused left him and went away," the DCP said, adding that Irshad succumbed to his injuries and died.

## Three held for abduction, murder over ₹4,000

The victim was reported missing on Sept. 2; body found in a canal in Sonipat

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## St. Stephen's College to begin interviews from tomorrow

Selected students to be announced after Oct. 12

## STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Delhi University's St. Stephen's College will begin conducting interviews for various undergraduate programmes from Monday.

According to a notice issued by the college, the interview process will continue till October 27.

"The list of selected candidates for each course will be announced for each course for admissions will be announced by the University of Delhi announces its first cut-off. Thereafter, the list of applicants selected for admissions will be announced after the completion of interviews for each discipline," the notice read.

Further it said, "Those whose names appear on the list of applicants selected for admissions will be given three days after the announcement of the list to complete necessary formalities and pay the fees. Those who fail to complete their admission formalities and pay their fees within three days of the announcement of the list of selected applicants will forfeit their claim to admission."

DU is set to announce the first cut-off list on October 12.

At 99.25%, BA (Hons) economics saw the highest cut-off in the first list released by the college last year.

## Cyclist hit by van, dies on the spot

## STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

A security guard who was riding a bicycle was killed allegedly after a delivery van hit him in south-east Delhi's Lala Lajpat Rai Marg, the police said on Saturday.

D.C.P. (South-East) R.P. Meena said the victim has been identified as Ajay Kumar Singh who was in his early 40's and resided in South Delhi's Sangam Vihar. He worked as a security guard at a showroom in Connaught Place.

The incident took place around 9 p.m. on Friday near Shamshain Ghat at Lala Lajpat Rai Marg. Singh was on the way to his workplace when the van rammed his cycle, leaving him dead on the spot.

Mr. Meena said that the accused driver was apprehended from the spot and a case was registered under Indian Penal Code Sections 279 and 304A. The driver has been identified as Satender Singh.

Singh is survived by his wife and three children.

## Money exchanger robbed

## STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

A 40-year-old man was robbed by bike-borne men after being attacked in south-west Delhi's Kapashera area on Thursday night. The police said that a case has been registered and probe is under way.

The police said the victim, identified as Suraj, a resident of Gurugram, has been running a money exchange shop in Kapashera for the last 10 years.

The victim allegedly told the police that on Thursday night, after shutting his shop, he was on his way home when two bike-borne men stopped his bike. Suddenly, two more men came on a bike and robbed him. When Mr. Suraj resisted, he was attacked with a sharp object. The accused then escaped with his bag, containing cash and other belongings. Locals rushed the victim to a hospital where he was discharged after treatment.

CM writes to Javadekar over IARI technique to tackle stubble burning

'Bio-decomposer process can be a good way to curb air pollution'

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

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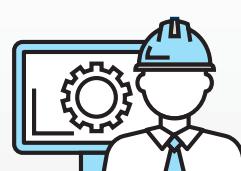


Parent Teacher Meeting



Toppers Talk Shows

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Leader Live	Leader Live
Ph-1 1st October, 2020	Ph-1 1st October, 2020
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Ph-1 20th October, 2020	Ph-1 20th October, 2020



JEE (Main)	
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Ph-1 1st October, 2020	Ph-1 1st October, 2020
Ph-2 12th October, 2020	Ph-2 12th October, 2020
Leader Live	Leader Live
Ph-1 1st October, 2020	Ph-1 1st October, 2020
Ph-2 12th October, 2020	Ph-2 12th October, 2020
e-Leader (with IHL Feature)	e-Leader (with IHL Feature)
Ph-1 20th October, 2020	Ph-1 20th October, 2020



NEET (UG)	
Class 12th Passed	
Leader (Online + Offline)	Leader (Online + Offline)
Ph-1 1st October, 2020	Ph-1 1st October, 2020
Ph-2 12th October, 2020	Ph-2 12th October, 2020
Leader Live	Leader Live
Ph-1 1st October, 2020	Ph-1 1st October, 2020
Ph-2 12th October, 2020	Ph-2 12th October, 2020
e-Leader (with IHL Feature)	e-Leader (with IHL Feature)
Ph-1 20th October, 2020	Ph-1 20th October, 2020



Class 12th Passed/Ex ALLENITE	
Achiever (Online + Offline)	
Ph-1 1st October, 2020	Ph-1 1st October, 2020
Ph-2 12th October, 2020	Ph-2 12th October, 2020
Achiever Live	Achiever Live
Ph-1 1st October, 2020	Ph-1 1st October, 2020
Ph-2 12th October, 2020	Ph-2 12th October, 2020
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Ph-1 20th October, 2020	Ph-1 20th October, 2020



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Ph-4	27th September, 2020
Ph-5	12th October, 2020
XII PCB	For 12th CBSE Biology Science
Ph-4	27th September, 2020
Ph-5	12th October, 2020



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## In-situ housing for Princess Park residents

Delhi govt. will construct 784 houses at Dev Nagar at a cost of ₹102 crore

### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB) will provide in-situ housing to affected people of Princess Park area near India Gate on account of the construction of National War Museum by the Ministry of Defence. A decision regarding this was taken at a meeting of the Board chaired by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.

As per a survey carried out by DUSIB, 203 families live in the area. On eligibility

**C** After allocating houses to people of Princess Park and Dev Nagar, the rest will be used for in-situ rehabilitation of jhuggis nearby

DELHI GOVERNMENT

will take nearly 18 months, the government said.

The Delhi government has decided to construct 784 houses at Dev Nagar near Karol Bagh at a cost of ₹102 crore for in-situ housing purpose. These will have two rooms, a kitchen, bath and toilet with amenities like parking space, parks and community halls. The buildings will be multi-storied (stilt plus 14 stories) with lifts, fire staircases, etc.

Meanwhile, the residents of the Princess Park area will be shifted to houses con-

structed by the DUSIB at Sector 16-B, Dwarka, and they will have the option to shift to the newly constructed housing premises in Dev Nagar, Karol Bagh later.

Slum dwellers from 150 jhuggis at Dev Nagar will also be shifted to Dwarka to facilitate the construction of 784 houses.

After allocating houses to inhabitants of Princess Park and Dev Nagar, the remaining houses will be used for in-situ rehabilitation of jhuggis nearby, the government also said.

Meanwhile, the residents of the Princess Park area will be shifted to houses con-

determination as per Delhi Slum & JJ Relocation and Rehabilitation Policy, 2015, (now Mukhya Mantri Awas Yojana), they will be allotted houses at Dwarka till houses of the Princess Park area will be shifted to houses con-

structed by the DUSIB at Sector 16-B, Dwarka, and they will have the option to shift to the newly constructed housing premises in Dev Nagar, Karol Bagh later.

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Meanwhile, the residents of the Princess Park area will be shifted to houses con-

## CPWD fined ₹5 lakh for flouting pollution control norms

DPCC takes action against 31 cement units, four large construction sites in city

### STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) has taken action against 31 ready mix concrete (RMC) plants and four large construction sites across the city for violating air pollution control rules and imposed fines ranging from ₹5 lakh to ₹20 lakh.

Construction and demolition work have been stopped at the sites for causing dust pollution and not installing an anti-smog gun to control air pollution.

According to the DPCC,

the Central Public Works Department was engaged in carrying out construction work for office of Central Reserve Police Force at CGO Complex without taking dust control measures and without installation of anti-smog gun. The construction has been stopped and the CPWD has been asked to deposit environmental compensation of ₹5 lakh, it said.

"At 31 RMCs it was observed that the steps taken by them to minimise dust emission are deficient. Accordingly, action has been

initiated against all of them. At 11 of the 31 plants, violations were more serious and accordingly, closure directions have been issued to stop operations. But at all 31 plants, notices to impose penalty ranging from ₹5 lakh to ₹20 lakh have been issued. During inspection, the DPCC found a number of deficiencies at these 31 plants," an official statement said.

The DPCC found that building materials, such as aggregates, sand, cement, etc. were not fully covered and wind breaking walls of

specified height were not in place. Also, in some cases, the working area as well as the vehicle tracks were not concrete/asphaltic concrete paved resulting in dust generation due to movement of vehicles, it said.

### 13 teams formed

The DPCC has constituted 13 teams for night patrolling in industrial areas of the city in order to have a check on black smoke-emitting industries as well as to spot illegal dumping of waste, according to the government.

# CLASSIFIEDS

thehinduads.com

## MATRIMONIAL

### BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

#### INDEX OF MATRIMONIAL

##### BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

##### BRIDES WANTED

##### BRIDES & GROOMS WANTED

Classification common for Brides, Bridegrooms, Brides & Grooms

Assamese

Awadhi

Bengali

Bhojpuri

Bihari

Chhattisgarhi

English

Gujarati

Haryanvi

Hindi

Kannada

Kashmiri

Konkani

Malayalam

Manipuri

Marathi

Marwari

Nepali

Oriya

Parsi

Punjabi

Saurashtra

Sindhi

Tamil

Telugu

Tulu

Urdu

##### MARRIAGE BUREAUS

##### WEDDING ARRANGEMENTS

##### COSMOPOLITAN

49Years/Female/Div/Veg, Looking for Groom Should be Willing to Settle Close by. Contact : 9032090571/360

SM 29/154 Kamma, Doctor, Divorcee Non Consummated Marriage and Affluent from Doctors, Engineers, Business Families, Whatapp: 9979848402/director7765@gmail.com

DELI BASED well settled, educated, E.B.M.D. V.Fair, Punjabi Brahmin girl 33/5.6' good looking with repute MNC, earning 25LPA/B.A/BA/ Employed match upto 35yrs, CAMBA/ BE Employed a Status family from Delhi /NCR. Contact-Matrimonyfor2020@gmail.com; 99506 26447

GIRL HYderabad, 32, 5'5" two Masters degrees, well employed, attractive traditional values, long hair, sweet temper, fluent in Eng and Telugu, knows Punjabi too, seeks veg non-smoking non-drinking Suitable Match, Religion/caste/ language no bar, match4kanya@gmail.com

DIVORCEE

MAHAM BE MS UK / online tutorials at Coimbatore 6L pa 24 Manai TC/16 veedu fair 1983 born 155cm innocent. Divorcee no child seeks a chettiar broadminded groom Boda Photo Horoscope mail anugraham29@gmail.com

SC 36 Tamil BSMS Pvt Clinical Trial Bangalore, Contact : 9629540705.

##### DOCTOR

23 yrs Old Doctor Urdu Muslim bride namasi with hijab from chennai, aspiring to do further studies in UK expecting divorcee with similar qualities/ UK settled Contact no - 8925189380.

DOCTOR, M.S.(O.P.), Fair, Good looking, 29yrs, 163cm, SC, AD girl in Govt service seeks MD, MS, DM, MCH Groom below 33 years. Caste no bar, Ct : 9788557571

VANEENY CHETTIYAR DOCTOR 26/ 152cm(MST) karaiyal, Pondy. Doctor parents, Seeking handsome (MD/ MS) doctor clean habit groom. Ct : 9842774997

MD ANESTHESIA, final year, Chennai girl, 31-165, slim, beautiful, homely. Father, Malayalee Mother, Tamil Smart Doctor boys 31 to 33 MS MD MCh DM from Karaikudi and Tamil Nadu preferred. Ct : 9840965383

WANTED GROOM 28-33ys medical doctor/Dentist/MBA educated from Canada for medicaldoctor bride studied in Canada. Contact: sanroos@yahoo.com

### DOCTOR

REDDY, MD, MRCEM, Doctor bride, 31/ 172 cms, having job in UK seeks alliance from UK prospective. Post Graduate Doctor/ B.Ed/ Mgmt grooms, with clean habits. Ct : 8826501199

### DOCTOR GROOM WANTED

**Doctor MBBS MD MRCPCH 35/167 fair Protestant Tamil Christian Nadar BC working in London UK innocent divorcee no issues seeks Tamil Christian Doctor Groom MBBS MD/MS Caste no bar PH: 98435 26370**

### ENGLISH

31 YEARS/ 5'4" Mudaliyar/ Naidu, very fair, good looking Educated Doctor bride from affluent family, pursuing super speciality seeks tall, good looking qualified groom preferably Doctors/ Civil services/ Engineers, Contact : 8825800162/ 9840219064

### IAS / ALLIED SERVICES

HINDU MBBS, I.R.S ( I.T ), seeks Groom, State / Caste No Bar, Contact : 9382743021

### MALAYALAM

Kerala RC Family Seeking Alliance for Daughter 35 Years/ 170cm, Sr. Manager at a University, Prefer Keralees, Contact : 9447773730 / 946343730

### HINDU KSHATRIYAR

girl, 33/154, Uthratham, M.S.C., Ph.D, in Madras University in Chennai, seeks well educated grooms of similar background, Ct : 9844752861

### VIJAYANAGARA

groom, 33 yrs, Malayalam with dose jathakam. Call: 9959388829

### ELIANA

groom, 33 yrs, Malayalam with dose jathakam. Call: 9959388829

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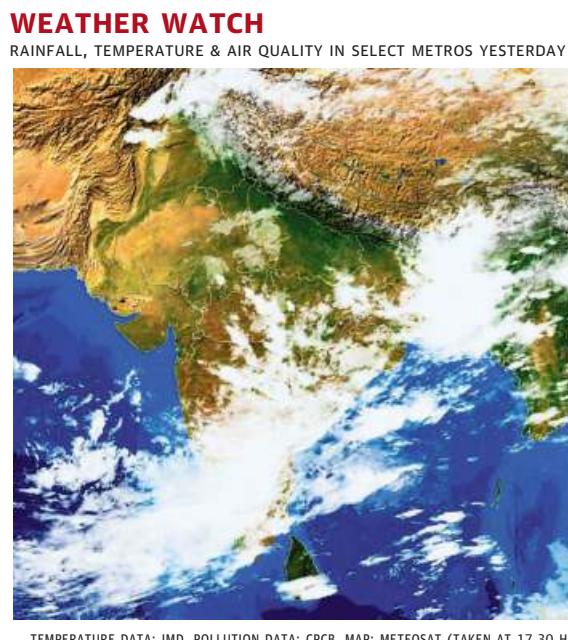
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TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD; POLLUTION DATA: CPCB; MAP: METEOSAT (TAKEN AT 17.30 HRS)

**Forecast for Sunday:** Heavy rainfall very likely at isolated places over sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, coastal Andhra Pradesh and Yanam; thunderstorm with lightning at isolated places very likely over Gangetic West Bengal, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	53.9	31.0	25.5	Kozhikode	1...	31.0...	25.6
Ahmedabad	—	33.9	26.7	Kurnool	8...	25.4...	23.4
Aizawl	—	26.9	18.0	Lucknow	34.4...	35.5...	24.6
Allahabad	19.4	35.3	26.3	Madurai	5.5...	34.8...	23.5
Bengaluru	10.2	30.0	20.4	Mangaluru	1.6...	31.0...	24.4
Bhopal	14.8	31.3	24.1	Mumbai	2.4...	32.0...	26.0
Bhubaneswar	0.8	30.2	24.6	Mysuru	—	30.0...	21.3
Chandigarh	—	35.4	22.8	New Delhi	—	34.3...	24.3
Chennai	0.4	33.0	25.4	Patna	5.8...	29.4...	25.2
Coimbatore	0.7	29.8	23.2	Pond Blair	1.4...	31.1...	24.8
Dehradoon	—	32.7	21.6	Puducherry	14.9...	34.7...	24.2
Gangtok	6.9	19.0	15.0	Pune	7...	29.1...	22.0
Goa	63.5	28.2	24.6	Raipur	—	32.2...	24.5
Guwahati	14.9	33.2	23.8	Ranchi	—	29.8...	23.1
Hubballi	—	24.0	22.0	Shillong	38.6...	23.6...	17.4
Hyderabad	59.6	24.8	21.1	Shimla	—	26.2...	16.9
Imphal	16	29.7	20.2	Srinagar	—	28.3...	9.8
Jaipur	—	36.0	26.4	Thiruvananthapuram	1.4...	30.9...	24.3
Kochi	2.4	30.0	24.6	Tiruchi	0.4...	34.8...	24.4
Kohima	2	25.8	17.8	Vijayawada	0.4...	29.2...	24.2
Kolkata	13	32.2	26.7	Visakhapatnam	0.2...	29.5...	24.5

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

#### Pollutants in the air you are breathing

Yesterday

CITIES	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>x</sub>	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	24	.59	.25	....86	....89	■■■■■
Bengaluru	.9	.27	.61	—	.108	■■■■■
Chennai	.4	.20	....61	....69	....70	■■■■■
Delhi	—	99	.101	.202	.261	■■■■■
Hyderabad	.7	.52	.20	.24	.33	■■■■■
Kolkata	10	.22	.22	.56	.76	■■■■■
Lucknow	.4	.57	.39	.146	.116	■■■■■
Mumbai	.2	.12	.18	.37	.85	■■■■■
Pune	—	—	—	—	—	■■■■■
Visakhapatnam	.5	.37	.21	....56	....81	■■■■■

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 266 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Nashik, Maharashtra recorded a healthy AQI score of 24.

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

**SO<sub>2</sub>:** 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<sub>x</sub>:** 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

# Execution the key to ambitious plan for 'biggest film city' in U.P.

Stakeholders say it could democratise the filmmaking space if handled well

ANUJ KUMAR  
GHAZIABAD

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's decision to create the country's "biggest and most beautiful film city" in Gautam Buddha Nagar has evoked mixed response from the stakeholders. While some remember the unfulfilled promises of the existing Film City in Noida, others say if handled well, it could usher in the democratisation of filmmaking space in the country.

Old timers say it is a delayed response as the government's Film Policy of 2018 promoted by providing land and help build the infrastructure. They recall how the attempts of the Samajwadi Party government to establish film cities along the Lucknow-Agra Expressway failed in 2015. They also remind how the existing Film City in Sector 16A of Noida could not fulfil the purpose it was created for in 1988 by the then CM Vir Bahadur Singh.

Spread over 100 acres, among the original allottees were big names like Yash Chopra, T.L.V. Prasad, A. Poorna Chandra Rao, F.C. Mehra, Vi-



An artist's view of the proposed film city.

nod Pandey and Tutu Sharma. "They got the land at throwaway prices but sold it due to lack of film culture and absence of supporting infrastructure," recalled Ravi Sarin, the senior-most line producer in North India. "Today the same problem is in Greater Noida," he said.

Veteran publicist and filmmaker Harish Sharma remembered how the area would become menacing after dark. He cites Ramoji Film City in Hyderabad "which is like a one-stop-shop for filmmaking" as an example to emulate.

Welcoming the move, Delhi-based filmmaker Nila Madhab Panda said when he shifted from Odisha to Delhi in 1998, he had high hopes from

Noida's film city. "When I reached, I realised it had become a hub of news channels."

Sandeep Marwah, one of the very few original allottees, describes it as a second phase of the existing film city. "In the early 90s, the region had no culture of filmmaking and Noida had a dubious distinction in terms of crime... Films are shot on multiple locations and filmmakers did use the facilities here... they should realise, infrastructure takes time to take shape."

The brother-in-law of producer Boney Kapoor reminded that the CM's dream would take at least six-seven years to materialise. "With more and more content required to feed

different platforms, it is the need of the hour."

Industry veterans remind how the Bhojpuri film industry had been making 60-70 films a year without any film city in eastern U.P. or Bihar. While Mr. Sarin agreed that more filmmakers were moving to real locations, Mr. Marwah said in the post-pandemic world, studios would become all the more relevant.

Aligarh-based filmmaker Suhaib Sherwani said Mumbai was difficult to negotiate, particularly since corporates had taken over the film industry.

"The amount of money involved is frightening and discouraging. This is a welcome announcement but a lot will depend upon how it is executed."

Will things change for the better? The September 22 meeting was attended by Anupam Kher, Vivek Agnihotri, Satish Kaushik and Udit Narayan. In a video, Mr. Narayan sang the popular "Mitwa" song of *Lagaan* to the CM.

"There was little left for imagination as to how this project would proceed," said an industry veteran.

# HC: prostitution not a criminal offence

Court orders release of 3 sex workers

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI

Observing that prostitution was not a criminal offence under the law, and that an adult woman had the right to choose her vocation, the Bombay High Court has ordered immediate release of three women sex workers detained at a State corrective institution in Mumbai.

In an order passed on Thursday, a Bench of Justice Prithviraj Chavan said prostitution had not been considered a criminal offence under the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956.

Justice Chavan was hearing a plea filed by the three women challenging an order passed by the Metropolitan Magistrate, Mazgaon, that had upheld their detention at a local correctional facility against their will.

As per the order, the women, all in their 20s, were picked up by the police in September last year following a raid at a guest house.

The middleman was arrested and booked under the Act. The three women were held as "victims" and sent to the correctional facility. Subsequently, the mothers

and other legal guardians of the three women approached the magistrate's court seeking their custody. The magistrate however, declined to give their custody to their guardians.

**'Free to choose vocation'** Justice Chavan, however, set aside the magistrate's order. He said that the women were "adults," and "entitled to their fundamental right to move freely and choose their own vocation."

The High Court held that since the women were not being prosecuted under the law, there was no question of continuing their detention at the correctional home. "Even otherwise, the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 does not empower the Magistrate to hold the custody of the victims beyond the period of three weeks without there being any final order to that effect after following due process of law," the HC said.

It said there was nothing on record to show that the petitioners were seducing any person for the purpose of prostitution or that they were running a brothel.

## HC refuses to interfere in MU's decision to conduct exams

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Saturday refused to intervene in the Mumbai University's decision to conduct final year examination for its undergraduate courses from October 1.

A Bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice G.S. Kulkarni directed two university students who had petitioned the court, seeking

a stay on the examinations, to instead approach the vice-chancellor for any relief that they sought.

Following the Supreme Court's order that final year students can only be promoted based on examinations, the Mumbai University issued a circular announcing the schedule for the third-year final semester examinations.

The exams will be conducted virtually between Oc-

tober 1 and October 17.

The university's counsel Rui Rodrigues told the Bench on Saturday that the examinations will be conducted online in a multiple-choice question format.

The petitioners, however, argued through their counsel Sharon Patole that the university had announced the exam schedule in haste.

Mr. Patole informed the Bench that the format was

new, and students and teachers should have been given some training to get accustomed to it.

The petitioners also said that the schedule was in breach of the university's own circular from June this year, whereby it had said that colleges must announce exam schedules at least a month in advance.

However, Mr. Rodrigues argued that the university

had decided on holding online exams in view of the COVID-19 pandemic and that it had made all arrangements to conduct them smoothly.

The Bench then said it could not pass any orders on staying the exams. "You can withdraw this petition and approach the vice-chancellor for relief," the court said, suggesting that the students concentrate on preparing well for their exams.

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**Mr. N SELVA KUMAR**

**PH: 9820350726**

**selvakumar.n@thehindu.co.in**

**THE HINDU**

India's National Newspaper

## Role of housewife is least appreciated, says High Court

Family to get compensation 15 years after woman's death

SONAM SAIGAL  
MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court said "the role of a 'housewife' is most challenging and deserves much appreciation, but is least appreciated" while directing an insurance company to pay the family of an accident victim over ₹8 lakh as compensation.

A single judge Bench of Justice Anil Kilar was hearing the plea of Rambhai Gawai, which had been rejected by the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal, Achalpur in Amravati district, on the ground of falsity of age on February 3, 2007.

Mr. Gawai's wife Baby worked as a labourer and died on March 31, 2005, when the driver of the jeep she was travelling in crashed the vehicle into a tree. Mr. Gawai and his two sons, aged 18 and 20, are residents of Temburonda village, Chikhaldara taluk in Melghat, a tribal area in Vidarbha,

had claimed a compensation of ₹5 lakh.

The tribunal had ruled the husband is the earning member of the family and the sons are both majors and therefore cannot claim compensation. Refuting the order, the High Court said, "In India, by law since 1969, birth registration is made compulsory as per provisions of the Registration of Births and Deaths Act."

**Fewer births registered** It added, "However, till date the registration of births is low at 80%. Those born in remote areas, like the deceased Baby, have lesser likelihood of registration of birth and possessing a birth certificate. Therefore,

## Tantrik's ashram raided in Assam paper leak case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

GUWAHATI

Three more persons were arrested on Saturday in connection with the police recruitment question paper leak scam taking the number of those nabbed to 13, while the sleuths probing the case raided an ashram of

a tantrik in the city. The Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) said two persons were arrested from Guwahati and Tinsukia. A source said the sleuths have raided the ashram of one 'Dipak Baba' in north Guwahati but he tantrik had already fled.

## 'Mahoba man shot with his own pistol'

OMAR RASHID  
LUCKNOW

A businessman from Mahoba, who died a week after he was found with a bullet wound in the neck in his car, was shot with his own pistol and from close range, said a Special Investigation Team probing the case.

While the SIT report suggested that Indrakant Tripathi may have shot himself,

the probe team reached the conclusion without interrogating the suspended IPS officer Mani Lal Patidar, who was named as an accused by the victim's family. Mr. Patidar has not been able to turn up for questioning as he was COVID-19 positive, his lawyer informed the SIT, said ADG Prayagraj Prem Prakash.

"He (Mr. Patidar) has

been summoned. We also communicated with his headquarters to contact him. But neither he is taking calls nor is his location traced," Mr. Prakash said.

The police have said the evidence collected so far does not point to murder. However, "circumstances in which the incident took place" are still being investigated, said Mr. Prakash.

## GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, (JAL SHAKTI) PHE, GROUND WATER DIVISION, NOWSHERA, SGR.

### Gist of e-Tender. e-N.I.T. No:- PHE/GWDS/31 of 09/2020.

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders are invited in two cover system for "Construction of 125 mm dia Machine Drilled Hand pump Wells" at below mentioned place from registered Water Well Drillers/Contractors as per the details given in tender document.

S. NO	Name of work	No. of Hand Pump Wells	Est. Cost Rs. in Lacs	EMD (Amount in Rs)	Cost of Tender Document	Time of completion	Programme Languishing
1	Construction of Hand Pump wells at Aggar Near Village Khachker of District Pulwama.	01 No.	Rs. 3.65 Lacs	Rs. 7300/-	Rs. 500/-	30 days	Back to village
2	Construction of Hand Pump wells at Putramig of District Pulwama.	01 No.	Rs. 3.45 Lacs	Rs. 6900/-	Rs. 500/-	30 days	Back to village

Position of Funds-Available

Critical Dates/Information.

1. Publishing Date	25-09-2020 (04:00 P.M.)
2. Period of Downloading of Bids	25-09-2020 (04:00 P.M.) to 01-10-2020 (02:00 P.M.)
3. Period of Submission of bids	25-09-2020 (04:00 P.M.) to 01-10-2020 (02:00 P.M.)
4. Date of opening of Tender.	03-10-2020 at (12:00 P.M.)
5. Tender Receiving Authority: Executive Engineer, (Jal Shakti) PHE Ground Water SrinagarKashmir-190011.	
6. Document Cost : Non-Refundable in the shape of Treasury Challan/receipt deposited to Account Head0215 in favour of Executive Engineer (Jal Shakti) PHE Ground Water Division Srinagar(at Saddar Treasury Srinagar) (The firm shall specify the name of work for which apply)	
7. Earnest Money: The Earnest Money shown against each constituency in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer, (Jal Shakti) PHE Ground Water Srinagar.	
8. Bid Validity Period: 180 Days	

DIPK-6349/20

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Jal Shakti PHE Ground Water Division, Srinagar.

## Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL HOSPITAL AND CENTRAL HEATING DIVISION SRINAGAR

Telefax:- 0194-2496089, Email ID:- xenmhchdk@yahoo.in

### GIST of e-NIT No: MHCHD/TS /2020-21/122/e-tendering Dated: 24.09.2020

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir state, e-tenders, valid for 180 days, are invited from the Registered, reputed & experienced firms as detailed in the NIT for below mentioned works:

Name of Work	Cost of T.Doc. (In rupees)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Estimated Cost (In Lacs)	Time of completion (in months)	Position of AAA/funds
1 Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Helical Coil assembly of 20 Lac Kcal/hr Hot water Generator with allied works at Govt. SMHS Hospital, Srinagar	1000	40000	20.00	10	Available

- The Tender document Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. website [www.jkttenders.gov.in](http://jkttenders.gov.in) from 24.09.2020/18.00 hrs).
- The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site from 25.09.2020 (10.00 hrs) to 09.10.2020 (14.00 hrs) in two (02) covers.
- The bids uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on 110.10.2020 (14.00 hrs or any date convenient to the department in the office of Executive Engineer, MHCHD, Srinagar

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer,  
MHCHD, Srinagar

DIPK-6296/20

## कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, आदित्यपुर

### शुद्धि-पत्र

एतद द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि ई पुनर्निवाद सूचना सं- O&M/DWSD/Jugalsali/02/2020-21 (2nd call) दिनांक 08.09.2020 (PR No. 232632 (Drinking water and sanitation(20-21)D से संबंधित शुद्धि-पत्र (PR No. 233012 (Drinking water and sanitation(20-21)D को पुनः अपरिवर्त्य करण्वाच निम्न प्रकार संशोधित की जाती है।-

कार्य का नाम	Operation and Maintenance work of Jugsali water supply scheme consisting of main features such as W.T.P of capacity 16.0 MLD, back wash recovery system, Intake works at Kharkai River, Raw water rising mains up to 450mm dia D.I. K9 - 1.587 Kms. from Kharkai River to W.T.P., Clear water rising mains D.I. K-9 200 mm to 250 mm - 4.317 kms & Distribution main 100mm to 300mm dia D.I. K-7 pipe-27.154 km, 1 no. of existing ESR, and 4 Nos different capacity of New ESR & 1 No. UGR for the year 2020-21. Excluding the energy cost but including 12% GST & 1% Labour Cess	
क्र.प्र.	विवरणी	पूर्व में प्रकाशित
2.	वेसाइट पर निविदा निभिष्ठ पर समय	28.09.2020 / 2.00वेजे अपराह्न तक
3.	निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	05.10.2020 / 4.00अपराह्न तक
4.	वेंक गारांगी / परमेश्वर विघ्नपत्र का मूल्य जाम करने की अंतिम तिथि समय एवं रखना	1. 06.10.2020, 2.00 बजे अपराह्न तक। 1.) कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, आदित्यपुर। —अथवा— 2.) अधीक्षण अभियंता का कार्यालय, पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता जमशेदपुर अंचल, जमशेदपुर।
5.	निविदा खालीने की तिथि एवं समय	07.10.2020 / 4.00वेजे अपराह्न
		14.10.2020 / 4.00वेजे अपराह्न

निविदा की शेष समी नियम एवं शर्त पूर्ववत् रहेंगी।

कार्यपालक अभियंता प्रमंडल, आदित्यपुर।

PR.NO.23327 Drinking Water and Sanitation(20-21):D पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमंडल, आदित्यपुर।

## GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR SHER-I-KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, DEPARTMENT OF MATERIALS MANAGEMENT (Imports Section)

Soura, Srinagar, Kashmir - 190011  
E-mail: ammoimports@skims.ac.in, Fax No: 0194-2403404

### e-NIT No: SIMS-324- NIT 12 (Imports) of 2020

Dated: 25.09.2020

Subject:- Abbreviated Notice Inviting Tenders for supply, installation, testing & commissioning of various Bio- Medical equipments for the department of Gastroenterology SKIMS.

On behalf of the Lt. Governor of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir through Director, Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences, Soura, Srinagar, e-tenders are invited from the original manufacturers/their Indian subsidiaries/Indian Agents on the authorization of principal manufacturers/Indian Subsidiary if 100% subsidiary of foreign principals (for imported equipment) and manufacturers/their authorized dealers for the J&K (for indigenous equipment) for supply, installation, testing & commissioning of following Bio-Medical equipments:

Group	Name of Item	Qty	Tender Fee	EMD
A	High Resolution Ultrasound	01 Unit	Rs. 1000/-	Rs. 50,000/-
B	Endo Ultrasound (EUS)	02 units	Rs. 1000/-	Rs. 3,20,000/-
C	Fully-featured Endoscopic Unit (Upper/Lower/Slide View) Latest series.	02 units	Rs. 1000/-	Rs.2,00,000/-
D	High Resolution Manometry	01 unit	Rs. 1000/-	Rs.50,000/-
E	Endoscope storage Cabinets	2 units	Rs. 1000/-	Rs.50,000/-
F	Hydrogen Breath Test System	1 units	Rs. 1000/-	Rs.10,000/-

The detailed tender document is available on [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) & on SKIMS website [www.skims.ac.in](http://www.skims.ac.in) & the NIT schedule is as per following.

Last date for submission of online bids 02 -11-2020 upto 4:00 PM

Opening of Technical bids 05.11.2020 at 12:30 PM

Complete bidding process will be online on e-tendering portal [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) & the tenders should be submitted strictly in accordance with the provisions of the detailed NIT.

No: SIMS-324- NIT 12 (Imports) 2020-3031-37-5342-45  
Dated: 25.09.2020

Sd/- Asstt. Materials Management Officer (Imports)

For & on behalf of Chief of Materials Management

No: SIMS 5345,Dt:- 26.09.2020

## Farmers extend 'rail roko' protest in Punjab by 3 days

Movement of trains in the State suspended due to stir



Farmers blocking rail tracks in Patiala on Saturday. •PTI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
CHANDIGARH

Farmers in Punjab continued their 'rail roko' agitation at several places on Saturday in protest against the farm-related Bills passed by the Parliament recently. The movement of trains in the State remained suspended in the wake of the agitation, which was extended by three days till September 29. Earlier, farmers had decided to block trains from September 24 to 26.

**Bharat bandh**  
Protests were witnessed in neighbouring Haryana with the farmers taking to the streets and blocking roads. Demonstrations were also reported from Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal as part of the 'Bharat bandh' call given by several farmer unions.

In Punjab, the call for 'rail roko' agitation was given by the Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee after which 20 trains were partially cancelled and five short-terminated till September 26 by the Railways.

Farmers under the banner of Bharatiya Kisan Union (Ekta Ugrahan) blocked rail

## Situation tense in Dungarpur

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

JAIPUR

The situation in Rajasthan's Dungarpur district remained tense on Saturday, as the unruly tribal youth continued to occupy a stretch of

## FROM PAGE ONE

## Address aspirations of Tamils, Mahinda told

The two leaders spoke via a videoconference, marking the first virtual summit held by PM Mahinda since he won the general elections in August, and the first such bilateral summit PM Modi has held with a neighbouring country, apart from the SAARC summit on COVID-19 that he convened in March.

During the talks, New Delhi promised a \$15-million grant for the promotion of Buddhist cultural exchanges, but demurred from a decision on Colombo's twin requests of a deferment of its debt repayment and a currency swap.

A joint statement issued after the meeting also made a reference to I3A as the amendment is known. Sri Lanka's Tamil leadership has raised concern that the existing 13th Amendment – the only legislative assurance of power devolution so far – might be under threat as the Rajapaksa government plans to embark on a new Constitution. Some within the government have called for repealing I3A.

While Mr. Rajapaksa has consistently promised India and the island's Tamil community his commitment to I3A, as it is known, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, who will likely enjoy greater powers according to the recently tabled 20th Amendment Bill, has emphatically

said he would focus on "development rather than devolution", and told *The Hindu* in an interview last year that he would not proceed on devolution "against the wishes and feeling of the majority [Sinhala] community".

Both sides discussed cooperation on a number of infrastructure and energy projects India is keen to pursue in Trincomalee, and the Colombo East Container Terminal project, which it has bid for jointly with Japan. Officials said PM Modi hoped for "early and decisive action" on these projects that have been pending for more than three years.

India has not yet responded with a decision on the requests made personally by PM Mahinda during his visit to Delhi in February this year, for a three-year moratorium on Sri Lanka's \$960-million debt owed to India, and for a \$1.1-billion currency swap arrangement, in addition to the \$400-million currency swap that the RBI has already sanctioned.

"Extending financial support to Sri Lanka is one of our priorities. Both these requests are being discussed at the official level and we hope for an agreement at the technical level shortly," Mr. Narang said, asked about the reason for the delay in the decisions.

## PM pitches for greater role in United Nations

"India will also help all the countries in enhancing their cold chain and storage capacities for the delivery of the vaccines."

Mr. Modi highlighted some of India's contribution to the UN and said that it was a basis for Indians wanting an "expanded role" in the organization.

"When we were strong, we were never a threat to the world; when we were weak, we never became a burden on the world," Mr. Modi said.

He said the idea of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* [the world as one family] was in resonance with the UN's founding ideals and said Indian troops had participated in about 50 UN peacekeeping missions.

"Today every Indian, while seeing the contribution of India in the United Nations, aspires for India's expanded role in the United Nations."

He spoke of India's foreign policy as being driven by the interests of "the whole [of] humankind and not about its own vested interests." Mr. Modi specifically mentioned India's "Neighbourhood First Policy", the "Act East Policy" and its views towards the Indo-Pacific Region.

Presumably in a message

## Akalis quit NDA over farm sector Bills

According to a party statement issued here, Mr Badal said the decision to quit the NDA was taken because of the Centre's stubborn refusal to give statutory legislative guarantees to protect assured marketing of farmers' crops on MSP and its continued insensitivity to Punjabi and Sikh issues like excluding Punjabi as an official language in Jammu and Kashmir.

The pressure to quit the NDA alliance had been mounting on the Akali Dal, following farmers' protests over the Bills. The SAD initially supported the ordinances but later took a U-turn on the issue. Many senior party leaders had cautioned the party leadership over the possible backlash over the issue.

Earlier, SAD's lone repre-

sentative in the Union Cabinet, Harsimrat Kaur Badal quit the government against the Bills. Ms. Badal in her resignation letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, wrote, "In view of the decision of the Government of India to go ahead with the Bill on the issue of marketing of agricultural produce without addressing and removing the apprehensions of the farmers and the decision of my party, Shiromani Akali Dal not to be a part of anything that goes against the interests of the farmers, I find it impossible to continue to perform my duties as a minister in the Union Council of Ministers."

The Opposition Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party had been accusing the Akali Dal of misleading people on the agriculture Bills issue.

Continuous inflows into Himayatsagar; one dies in A.P.

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD

Heavy rain pounded various parts of Telangana on Friday and Saturday with 15 places recording rainfall in excess of 10 cm.

The State government put all the District Collectors on high alert with more rain forecast in the next three days. Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar issued orders asking officers to stay put in their headquarters and take measures to ensure that there is no loss of life and property. He also ordered cancellation of leave and permission for public holidays to all officers in districts.

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sentative in the Union Cabinet, Harsimrat Kaur Badal quit the government against the Bills. Ms. Badal in her resignation letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, wrote, "In view of the decision of the Government of India to go ahead with the Bill on the issue of marketing of agricultural produce without addressing and removing the apprehensions of the farmers and the decision of my party, Shiromani Akali Dal not to be a part of anything that goes against the interests of the farmers, I find it impossible to continue to perform my duties as a minister in the Union Council of Ministers."

The Opposition Congress and the Aam Aadmi Party had been accusing the Akali Dal of misleading people on the agriculture Bills issue.

## In inexorable climb, Kerala cases rise by 7,006

State tests over 58,000; A.P. tests nearly 76,000, adds 7,293 cases; Karnataka's case tally up by 8,811 and Telangana's by 2,239

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD

It was a fresh high for COVID-19 cases in Kerala, as 7,006 more people were reported to be positive on Saturday.

Daily testing was up, with 58,799 more samples tested. Test positivity was 11.9%, indicating steady transmission.

Active cases stood at 52,678. Of these, 378 patients

## COVID-19

were in ICUs, with 93 on ventilator support. The number of new hospital admissions on Saturday was 3,446.

Kerala's toll rose to 656, with 21 more deaths that occurred between September 3 and 25 being added to the list. Six deaths were in Kasargod, four in Alappuzha, three each in Malappuram and Ernakulam, two each in Thiruvananthapuram and Thrissur and one in Pathanamthitta.

Locally acquired infections accounted for 6,761 new cases (96.5%). In 664 cases, the authorities could not pinpoint the source of infection. The locally-acquired infections included 93 healthcare workers, 22 of them from Thiruvananthapuram and 15 from Kannur.

Thiruvananthapuram witnessed another high on Saturday, when daily cases jumped to 1,050 from the 800-plus reported the previous day.

Telangana on Friday reported 2,239 fresh cases. Eleven more patients died while 58,925 tests were conducted.

In the second week of August, health officials estimated that cases would come down in Hyderabad by month-end, and by end-September in other districts.

Andhra Pradesh reported 7,293 new infections and 57 deaths on Saturday. There were 65,794 active cases, while 0.85% persons infected died. In the past day,

## Getting on with life

With the lifting of the complete lockdown, people across the country are reporting to their jobs. The graph shows the spread of the pandemic in the southern States



**Back to work:** Employees busy grading produce at Asia's largest chili yard in Guntur, which reopened recently, on Saturday. ■ T. VIJAYA KUMAR

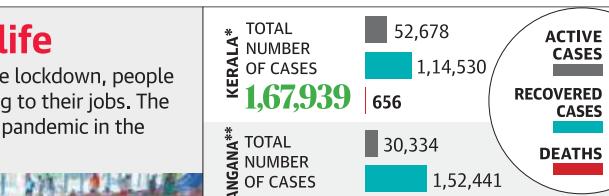
\*Kerala has a mismatch of 75 cases due to unaccounted deaths, missing persons | \*\*Telangana numbers are as of 8 p.m. on Friday

\*\*\*Karnataka has 19 non-COVID deaths

7,599 samples were tested and 9.60% were found to be positive.

East Godavari reported over a thousand fresh cases again, and Prakasam reported 10 new deaths.

Karnataka on Saturday re-



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7,599 samples were tested and 9.60% were found to be positive.

East Godavari reported over a thousand fresh cases again, and Prakasam reported 10 new deaths.

Karnataka on Saturday re-

Tamil Nadu added 5,647 fresh cases of COVID-19 on Saturday, taking its overall tally to 5,75,017. While 5,612 persons were discharged, the deaths of 85 persons were registered in the State.

Chennai, for the third day in a row, reported more than 1,000 COVID-19 cases. A total of 1,187 persons tested positive for the infection and 23 persons died in the city. Coimbatore followed with 656 new cases. Four districts had 200-plus cases - Salem (296), Chengalpattu (259), Tiruvallur (235) and Cuddalore (212).

Till date, 5,19,448 persons have been discharged in the State. However, the toll kept rising with 85 more persons - 50 in government hospitals and 35 in private hospitals - succumbing to the infection. A total of 9,233 persons have died in the State so far.

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

## ED calls for details of Bineesh Kodiyeri's assets

CPI(M) leader's son linked to Bengaluru drug racket case

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
KOCHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has directed the Kerala State Registration Department to submit the sale deed and encumbrance certificate of all properties owned by Bineesh Kodiyeri, son of Communist Party of India (Marxist) State secretary Kodiyeri Balakrishnan, as part of its probe into his alleged financial transactions with one of the accused in the Bengaluru drug bust case.

A letter by the Assistant Director of the ED in Kochi states that no transaction

tions of the immovable assets of Mr. Kodiyeri should be carried out without prior information as the agency is investigating a case against him under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

The investments made by Mr. Kodiyeri are being investigated and are suspected to be part of his proceeds from crimes committed under Sections 16, 17, and 18 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and other related offences.

The Registration Department has asked nearly 315 Sub Registrars to file a report as per the ED's directive. Information on Mr. Kodiyeri's assets could be collected within two days as it is available online, senior department officials said.

Kodiyeri Balakrishnan

The ED had questioned Mr. Kodiyeri after the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) suspected that he had financial transactions with Muhammed Anoop, one of the accused in the drug bust case.

The agency is probing whether there was any illicit fund flow between them. The ED had also examined two now-defunct firms floated by Mr. Kodiyeri and other

ers in 2015. The agency is also looking into his sources of income and investments. It is also probing whether Mr. Kodiyeri had any interests in a currency trading firm that had recently come under the ambit of its investigation in the gold smuggling case.

CPI(M) flays BJP

Meanwhile, a meeting of the CPI(M) State committee in Thiruvananthapuram on Saturday concluded that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had "politically weaponised"

Central law enforcement agencies to destabilise the Left Democratic Front (LDF) government in Kerala.

The conference felt that corporate entities struggling to find a foothold in Kerala had orchestrated the conspiracy to destabilise the LDF rule. The LDF's spirited re-

## IN BRIEF



Pubs, bars resume services in Telangana

HYDERABAD

Several bars and pubs in Telangana resumed services on Saturday after the government granted them permission to reopen. Clubs, however, continued to remain closed for members. The managements have decided to reopen them only after ensuring that safety measures were in place.

## Telangana to launch portal for land records

HYDERABAD

Dharani, an online portal which is a single platform for accessing all records related to lands in Telangana, will be launched on Vijayadasami day. The launch of the portal, developed by National Informatics Centre, will also mark resumption of land registrations which were suspended since September 7.

## International rice smuggling racket busted

ONGOLE

The Prakasam police have busted an international rice smuggling racket with the arrest of 31 persons, and seized rice worth over ₹1.08 crore. The police said rice meant for the poor under the Public Distribution System had been mobilised by a network of brokers and polished in rice mills. The rice was then exported to Singapore, Malaysia, Dubai and African countries.

## One killed, 2 injured after tractor ploughs into shop

CHITTOR

One person was killed on the spot and two others were grievously injured when a tractor jumped the road and ploughed into a roadside tea shop at Theertham village in Andhra Pradesh on Saturday. According to the police, the tractor suddenly jumped the road and ran amok towards the shop.

(With inputs from Mangalore bureau)

## 'Maternal uncle of wife plotted Hyderabadi man's murder'

Parents paid ₹1 lakh as advance to the youth's killers: police

ABHINAY DESHPANDE

HYDERABAD

The Gachibowli police on Saturday remanded in judicial custody 14 accused in the Chinta Yoga Hemanth Kumar kidnap and murder case. A senior officer associated with the investigation said Yugandhar Reddy, maternal uncle of Avanthi Reddy, the victim's wife, was at centre of the conspiracy to kill Hemanth Kumar.

"Since the day she eloped and got married, her parents and other relatives felt humiliated. They were upset over her decision to marry a person from another caste," the officer said.

According to the officer, seeing Ms. Avanthi's parents, D. Laxma Reddy and

Archana, in tears everyday, "Yugandhar came up with the idea to kill Hemanth and bring Avanthi back to their house. He proposed the idea to her parents, who agreed and paid an advance amount of ₹1 lakh to have the murder ex-

cuted," he said.

The last rites of Hemanth Kumar were performed in Chandanagar on Saturday after his younger brother Sumanth Kumar arrived from London.

A grief-stricken Mr. Sumanth said: "Anna used to keep me posted about his relationship with Avanthi. I was really happy for him, as he finally got married to the love of his life."

A distraught Ms. Avanthi said while her parents and relatives will be set free in a few years, her husband would never return.

Hemanth's mother Chinta Lakshmi Rani said her son

was killed because of their lower financial status.

TELUGANA



TV anchor Anushree

## ED questions Rag

# Tejasvi in, Ram Madhav out in BJP rejig

Nadda unveils new list of office-bearers; move seen in conjunction with a possible Cabinet expansion

NISTULA HEBBAR

NEW DELHI  
BJP president J.P. Nadda on Saturday announced his new team of office-bearers which combined big inclusions, such as the appointment of first-term MP Tejasvi Surya as chief of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM), to the exclusion of general secretaries such as Ram Madhav, P. Muralidhar Rao, Saroj Pande and Anil Jain, in a significant rejig.

The list had been anticipated since Mr. Nadda took over as party chief in January this year, and is now being seen in conjunction with a possible Cabinet expansion in the next few weeks.

The biggest changes were seen in the most significant group of office-bearers — general secretaries. Four general secretaries from former president and current Home Minister Amit Shah's team, who were handling important States, were dropped. They are Ram Madhav, who was in charge of Jammu and Kashmir and the northeast; P. Muralidhar Rao, who handled the southern States and Rajasthan; Sa-

## Major reshuffle



Tejasvi Surya appointed chief of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha

A look at some of the new inclusions and exclusions

### GENERAL SECRETARY

- Dilip Saikia
- C.T. Ravi
- D. Purandeswari

### NATIONAL SECRETARY

- Anupam Hazra
- Vinod Tawde
- Pankaja Munde

### OUT

- Ram Madhav
- P. Muralidhar Rao
- Saroj Pande
- Anil Jain
- Rahul Sinha

### RETAINED

- Amit Malviya as social media in-charge
- Anil Baluni as media cell in-charge

roj Pande, who handled Maharashtra; and Anil Jain, who handled Haryana among other States. Senior BJP sources say a couple of them may find space in the Cabinet expansion.

If the exclusions were interesting, the inclusions were interesting too. Dilip Saikia, all of 47 years and a first-term MP from Mangaldoi in Assam, was made general secretary, a big promotion for him, as was C.T. Ravi, MLA from Karnataka. Former Union Minister in the Manmohan Singh government, D. Purandeswari from Andhra Pradesh, made a comeback into the limelight as general secretary. With D.

Aruna as vice-president and K. Laxman as OBC Morcha chief, both from Telangana, the two States of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have been given decent prominence in the team.

### Poll-going States

It seemed to be a mixed bag for poll-going West Bengal and Tamil Nadu (both in 2021). No name from Tamil Nadu was included in the list whereas for West Bengal, the party high command sent a clear message that Mukul Roy, appointed vice-president, would be calling the shots in the State unit. Former West Bengal BJP chief Rahul Sinha, who had been in-

cluded as national secretary earlier, was dropped from the list altogether, while Anupam Hazra, a former Trinamool Congress MP from Bolpur recruited into the BJP by Mr. Roy, was appointed national secretary.

The northeastern States were given heavy representation. M. Chuba Ao from Nagaland was made national vice-president and M. Monlou Kikon, MLA from Nagaland, has been appointed one of the national spokespersons. This reflects not just the party's expansion in these areas but also the intention to stay the course.

A significant message in the list was for the faction-

ridden Maharashtra unit. With the appointment of former Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis as a co-in-charge for Bihar during the poll, leaders with whom he does not share very comfortable equations — former State Minister Vinod Tawde and Pankaja Munde — have been appointed national secretaries. It is a balancing act that says a lot about the situation in the State unit.

The list included an appointee to a post that had remained empty in name since Piyush Goyal became Union Minister in 2014, that of treasurer. Rajesh Agarwal, long-time MLA from Bareilly and former Finance Minister in Uttar Pradesh, has been made treasurer, and Sudhir Gupta, MP from Mandsaur in Madhya Pradesh, appointed co-treasurer.

With all these changes, there were some significant continuations too — Amit Malviya and Anil Baluni will continue in their respective roles as social media and media cell in-charge. The list will be expanded in the coming weeks by appointments to other cells and morchas.

# Bihar Opposition narrows down seat sharing formula

RLSP may get the boot; RJD likely to contest 140 seats

SOBHANA K. NAIR

NEW DELHI

The Rashtriya Janata Dal-led (RJD) *Mahagatbandhan* (grand alliance) is close to finalising seat distribution among its alliance partners. If the RJD has its way, then Upendra Kushwaha's Rashtriya Lok Samata Party (RLSP) is unlikely to continue in the alliance.

Sources indicated that the RJD, being the senior partner in the alliance, will keep close to 140 seats out of the 243 Assembly seats. The Congress, which had been demanding more than 90 seats, agreed to climb down and might get close to 70 odd seats. In 2015, the Congress had fought on 42 seats, including a couple of Janata Dal (United) candidates who fought on the Congress symbol.

All the three Left parties — the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) [CPI-ML]; the Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)]; and the Communist Party of



Tejashwi Yadav

against keeping them on. "He is not confident that the party will stay on with the Opposition alliance in a post-poll scenario, especially if the victory margin between the NDA (National Democratic Alliance) and the *Mahagatbandhan* is narrow. He also feels that the RLSP brings very little to the table," a senior Congress leader said. Mr. Kushwaha's recent comments that he would not fight if Tejashwi Yadav is made the face of the alliance also doesn't help his cause.

However, the Congress State in-charge Shaktisinh Gohil, at a press conference on Friday, had asserted that all like-minded parties will remain together.

The RJD is negotiating with CPI(ML), leaving the Congress to talk to the other two Left parties.

"Our primary objective must be to defeat the BJP (Bhartiya Janata Party) and its allies," CPI general secretary D. Raja said.

## L. Adimoolam elected INS president

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Indian Newspaper Society (INS) on Friday elected L. Adimoolam, from *Health and The Antiseptic* publication, as president of the top body of publishers of newspapers, magazines and periodicals. He will succeed Shailesh Gupta (*Mid-Day*) for 2020-2021, the INS said in a statement.

While D.D. Purkayastha (*Ananda Bazar Patrika*) was elected deputy president, Mohit Jain (*The Economic Times*) was elected vice-president, and Rakesh Sharma (*Aaj Samaj*) was elected honorary treasurer of the society.

Mary Paul is the secretary general. Members of the executive committee include S. Balasubramanian Adityan (*Daily Thanthi*), Girish Agarwal (*Dainik Bhaskar*), Samahit Bal (*Pragativadi*), Gaurav Chopra (*Film Duniya*) and Vijay Kumar Chopra (*Punjabi Kesari*). Other members are: Karan Rajendra Darda (*Lokmat*, Aurangabad), Vijay Jawaharlal Darda (*Lokmat*, Nagpur), Jagit Singh Dardi (*Charhdikala Daily*), Viveck Goenka (*The Indian Express*, Mumbai), Mahendra Mohan Gupta (*Dainik Jagran*), Pradeep Gupta (*Dataquest*), Sanjay Gupta (*Dainik Jagran*, Varanasi), Shivendra Gupta (*Business Standard*), Sarvinder Kaur (*Ajit*), M.V. Shreyas Kumar (*Matrubhumi Argya Masika*), Dr. R. Lakshmi Pathipati (*Dinamalar*) and Tanmay Maheshwari (*Amar Ujala*, Delhi).

## Govt. nod for re-entry of Tibetans with return visas

VIIJITA SINGH

NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry has allowed Tibetan migrants in foreign countries to return to India through any of the 107 immigration check posts.

The restriction by MHA, prohibiting international travel to and from the immigration check posts was issued on March 23 in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. The restrictions have been gradually relaxed.

The MHA, in the latest order, said: "It has been decided to permit Tibetan migrants who have their

residence in India and holding certificate of Identity issued by the Ministry of External Affairs and Return Visa to enter India."

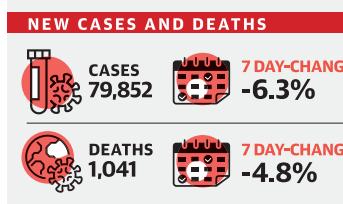
The MHA order said the return is subject to the condition that such Tibetan migrants should have been registered with the Foreigners Regional Registration Office.

"Their Return Visa shall stand restored with immediate effect to facilitate their entry into India. However, if the validity of such visas has expired, they may obtain a fresh Return Visa from the Indian Missions/Posts concerned," the order said

The MHA, in the latest order, said: "It has been decided to permit Tibetan migrants who have their

## Viral tracker

With 79,852 COVID-19 cases recorded on Saturday, India's tally stood at 59,81,524. As many as 1,041 deaths were added, taking the toll to 94,477. A total of 7.02 crore samples have been tested as of September 25, according to the ICMR



The graphs depict the new cases and deaths in the last 14 days in select States. If average cases and deaths in the last seven days are higher than the previous seven days, then the cases and deaths are rising; if they are lower, then dropping; if they are similar, then cases and deaths are flattening in that State

## KERALA CASES

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# SPB laid to rest with State honours

Stream of fans and film personalities pay homage

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

Legendary playback singer S.P. Balasubrahmanyam – SPB to his legions of fans – was laid to rest with a police gun salute on Saturday morning, amidst an outpouring of grief from fans across the world and his peers in the world of films.

The City Armed Reserve Police Personnel gave a gun salute with 24 personnel firing three rounds each in the air before his body was lowered in the pit at his farmhouse in Tamarapakkam on the outskirts of Chennai.

The singer died on Friday afternoon at a private hospital in the city, where he was admitted on August 5 after testing positive for COVID-19. While his body was initially brought to his residence in Nungambakkam, it was later shifted to his farmhouse in Tamarapakkam in Red Hills and placed in a cold glass-preserved casket.

From Saturday morning, a steady stream of fans came to pay their homage. Among



**Bidding goodbye:** S.P. Balasubrahmanyam's son S.P. Charan consoling his mother before the final rites at his farmhouse in Tiruvallur district on Saturday. ■ B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

the members of the Tamil film industry who came to pay their respects were playback singer Mano; directors Bharathiraja and Ameer; actors Vijay and Arjun; and music composer Devi Sri Prasad.

Minister for Tamil Official Language and Culture Ma Foi K. Pandiarajan placed a wreath on the body. Many local politicians also paid their respects.

Andhra Pradesh Water Resources Minister P. Anil Kumar; Kerala NRK Development Officer in Chennai Anu P. Chacko on behalf of the

Kerala Chief Minister; and Tiruvallur District Collector Mageshwari Ravikumar were among those who paid floral tributes.

## Over 1,000 policemen

The police made elaborate arrangements to ensure physical distancing norms were maintained. Over 1,000 police personnel from the Chennai city and Tiruvallur district police were deployed at the burial site. Wooden barricades were set up to regulate the visitors, and the police allowed only

150 persons at regular intervals from the morning.

At around 10.20 a.m., family members led by son S.P. Charan began to perform the last rites.

From Friday afternoon, fans shared their memories on social media, including songs he had sung across languages and reminiscences of his live performances. Over the last decade, SPB had been active on reality shows as well, and several videos of his praising and encouraging young contestants were shared by fans.

Lost a brother, says Yesudas

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

KOZHIKODE

Singer K.J. Yesudas has said S.P. Balasubrahmanyam was like a brother to him. "We may not have been born to the same mother, but Goddess Saraswathi was our mother of music," Mr. Yesudas said. "We therefore lived like true brothers." The singer said he would never forget the way SPB addressed him. "He called me Anna (big brother) from the bottom of his heart," he said. "Now he has gone away from me."

**Sonia hails 'singing moon'**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Congress president Sonia Gandhi has condoled the demise of celebrated playback singer S.P. Balasubrahmanyam and hailed him as the "singing moon" who shed his special radiance over the country.

# Centre for early rollout of mother tongue as medium of instruction

Appeal filed in SC by A.P. govt. against High Court ruling

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

NEW DELHI

The Union Ministry of Education has informed the Supreme Court that it is fully backing a push for "mother tongue" as medium of instruction in schools. The use of "home language" for learning will bridge the gap between the intelligentsia and the masses, it said.

The Ministry said an order was issued on September 10 to academic authorities, including the CBSE, the NCERT and the NCTE, to initiate the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP), which was approved by the Union Cabinet in July 2020, to promote "multilingualism" and use of "home language" as a mode of instruction.

The Centre's affidavit came in response to the Su-

preme Court's inclination to examine whether imposing English on a multitude of schoolchildren, whose language of instruction is their mother tongue, will amount to depriving them of an effective education guaranteed to them under Article 21A (fundamental right to education) of the Constitution.

The case in question is an appeal filed by the Andhra Pradesh government against the State High Court decision to strike down its order to make English a compulsory medium of instruction.

A group of Telugu scholars and prominent personalities led by former Deputy Speaker of Andhra Pradesh, Mandali Buddha Prasad, represented by advocate Vipin Nair, have opposed the move by the Jagan Reddy government. They said the govern-

ment move will see Telugu join the pantheon of 197 regional and ethnic languages which have become extinct.

According to the 2011 census, there are 1,369 rationalised 'mother tongues' spoken by more than 10,000 people. While there are 22 national languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution, there are only six classical languages recognised in India.

Mr. Prasad said Telugu is one of the classical languages under the Eighth Schedule, spoken by more than 81 million people.

In its affidavit, the government said NEP 2020 focuses on "multilingualism". It recognises the power of local languages to help young children "learn and grasp non-trivial concepts more quickly".

# NCB questions Deepika for 5 hours in drug racket case

Actors Shraddha Kapoor and Sara Ali Khan also quizzed



Deepika Padukone and Shraddha Kapoor, right, arriving at the NCB office on Saturday. ■ VIVEK BENDRE & EMMANUEL YOGINI

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Saturday questioned actors Deepika Padukone, Shraddha Kapoor and Sara Ali Khan in connection with the drug racket unearthed during investigations into the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput.

Ms. Padukone arrived in Mumbai from Goa in a chartered flight on Friday, and was quizzed by the agency for five and a half hours. She was summoned after some WhatsApp chats came to light alleging that she was the admin of the group where drugs were discussed, with her manager Karishma Prakash.

Ms. Khan, who also came from Goa on Friday, was questioned for four hours on her equation with Rajput as was Ms. Kapoor. Both have denied consumption of drugs. Ms. Prakash along with actor Rakul Preet Singh were questioned by the NCB on Friday.

Executive producer of Dharma Productions Kshitij Ravi Prasad has been arrested by NCB and he will be produced in court on Sunday.

Meanwhile director Karan Johar who owns the production house, distanced himself from Mr. Prasad.

In a statement on social media on Friday, Mr. Johar said: "Kshitij Prasad joined Dharmatic Entertainment (sister concern of Dharma Production) in November 2019 as one of the executive producers on contract basis for a project which eventually did not materialise. I do

not know Kshitij Prasad personally, nor is he my aide. Neither I nor Dharma Production can be made responsible for what people do in their personal lives. These allegations do not pertain to Dharma Production."

Earlier this week, designer Simone Khambaria, and Rajput's manager Shriti Modi were also questioned.

The NCB has so far arrested 16 accused in this case, including Rajput's girl friend Rhea Chakraborty, her brother Showik and the late actor's house manager Samuel Miranda.

# APPOINTMENT

CONTRACT ENGAGEMENT NOTICE					
WALK-IN SELECTION PROCESS ON 11.10.2020					
Name of the post	No. of posts	Qualification	Experience	Consolidated Pay (Per Month)	Upper age limit as on 27.09.2020
Assistant (Level-4) 06 (UR-02, OBC-1,SC-2, ST-1)	Diploma in Mechanical Engineering with minimum 60% marks	Minimum one year post qualification industrial experience	Rs. 25,930/-	35 Years	
Period of Engagement: Initially for 1 yr and further extendable up to 3 yrs based on satisfactory performance and requirements. Other benefits such as PF, EST, Medical, etc will be as per rules.					
Interested candidates may visit <a href="https://midhani-india.in/department_hrd/career-at-midhani/">https://midhani-india.in/department_hrd/career-at-midhani/</a> for details.					
Advt. No. MDN/RF/FTC/2/2020 Sd/- Date: 27.09.2020 General Manager (HR & Admin)					

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF FOREST MANAGEMENT	
(An Autonomous Institute of Mo E & F, CC Gol) Post Box No. 357, Nehru Nagar, Bhopal-03 (M.P.) India	

CONTRACTUAL APPOINTMENT AS 'TEACHING ASSOCIATES'	
No. IIFM/PERS/A-69 (23 (A & B)/2000)	

Online applications are invited up to 05.10.2020 for engagement of <b>Teaching Associate (Marketing Management &amp; Financial Management areas (one post in each area)</b> on contract basis. For details of qualifications, experience, compensation, other eligibility conditions and application format please visit our Website : <a href="http://www.iifm.ac.in/vacancies">www.iifm.ac.in/vacancies</a> . Candidates fulfilling the above requirements may submit their application online under the link <a href="http://erp.iifmbhopal.edu.in/iifmapp/apply/21">http://erp.iifmbhopal.edu.in/iifmapp/apply/21</a> (for Marketing Management) and <a href="http://erp.iifmbhopal.edu.in/iifmapp/apply/19">http://erp.iifmbhopal.edu.in/iifmapp/apply/19</a> (for Financial Management) attaching self-attested scanned copy of the certificates/testimonials and brief write-up on research work experience on or before 05.10.2020. Please note that the online application will be available upto 05.10.2010 only. M.P. Madhyam/98582/2020 CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
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NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH MULTIPLE DISABILITIES (DIVYANGJAN) (NIEPM) (Accredited by NAAC) (ISO 9001 - 2015)	
(Deptt of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangan), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt of India) Muttukadu, East Coast Road, Kovaiam (P.O), Chennai - 603 112. Phone: 044 - 2742046, 2742113, 27472423 Mobile: 9444314716, Toll Free No: 18004250345 www.niepmdn.nic.in, Email: niepm@nic.in	
Date of Issue of Notice Inviting Tender	25.09.2020
Mandatory Pre-bid meeting - 1	09.10.2020 (11 am)
Mandatory Pre-bid meeting - 2	19.10.2020 (11 am)
Last date for submission of bid	29.10.2020 (3 pm)
Sd/- Director (Offg)	

# Mumbai woman gets hands from Chennai man

24-year-old Monika More is discharged after rare bilateral hand transplant

LALATENDU MISHRA

MUMBAI

A Chennai family's decision to generously donate the organs of a young engineer, in the thick of the pandemic, has given new hands to Mumbai's Monika More, 24, who had lost both her hands in an accident in 2014.

Doctors at Mumbai's privately-run Global Hospital, supported by teams of medical experts from Mumbai, Chennai and Kochi, last month successfully conducted the rare bilateral hand transplant on Ms. More. She was discharged from the hospital on Saturday after month-long treatment to continue her rehabilitation.

Ms. More, a resident of Kurla here, underwent a 16-hour bilateral (double hand) transplant procedure on August 28, 2020, soon after the limbs reached the hospital after being flown in by a chartered plane. So far, her recovery has



**Success story:** Monika More leaving Global Hospital in Parel, Mumbai, on Saturday. ■ EMMANUEL YOGINI

applied for bilateral hand transplant at the hospital.

"On several occasions, there were potential organ donors who could have donated their hands for Monika, but she missed the opportunities as the donor families did not agree to external limb donation, which is considered taboo. Finally, a suitable donor was identified in Chennai and

we did not waste time and the rare opportunity," said Dr. Nilesh G. Satbhai, consultant-plastic, aesthetic, hand and reconstructive microsurgeon, Global Hospital, Mumbai.

In accordance with protocol, the donor has not been identified. What has been shared is that the donor was a brain-dead man, whose family generously agreed to donate all limbs, giving new life to six different patients, including Ms. More.

"After performing the complex procedure successfully, Monika was put on immunosuppressant medication. She was kept in the transplant ICU in a separate room, with a dedicated nurse, as strict care and isolation was needed. Regular dressings were done for both the hands," Dr. Satbhai said.

"The patient was able to sit up and walk with support for her arms on the third day itself," he added.

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# 'Trump to nominate Judge Barrett to SC'

The law professor's appointment would consolidate a conservative majority in the top court

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

WASHINGTON  
U.S. President Donald Trump is set to unveil his Supreme Court nominee on Saturday, barely five weeks out from the November 3 presidential election, with media in the U.S. reporting that he has chosen conservative judge Amy Coney Barrett for the job.

If the 48-year-old law professor is indeed nominated and confirmed, her appointment would consolidate a conservative majority in the country's top court.

Citing sources close to the process, various media outlets, including *The New York Times* and CNN, said Mr. Trump would put forward the 48-year-old judge.

"We are going to be announcing somebody great," the U.S. President said in Virginia on a whirlwind three-state campaign tour Friday.

"Tomorrow [Saturday] I think is going to be a big day," he added, as the crowd roared with approval.

The President did not name his nominee but earlier said his decision was



Rising star: A file photo of Judge Amy Coney Barrett. ■REUTERS

made. Ms. Barrett was "outstanding," he said.

Media reports noted the mercurial Trump could still change his mind before the official announcement, expected at 5 p.m. (2100 GMT) on Saturday.

#### Democrats opposed

Democratic opponents, led by presidential candidate Joe Biden, have demanded that Republicans back off on replacing Ruth Bader Ginsburg – a liberal icon – until after the November 3 election.

Leaders of the Republican

majority in the Senate, which is tasked with confirming Supreme Court nominees, said they have enough support to hold a vote on the nomination either before the election or at worst during the "lame duck" session between the election and the inauguration of the next President in January.

"We will certainly do that this year," Republican Senate leader Mitch McConnell said.

If Ms. Barrett is confirmed, the Supreme Court would have a 6-3 conserva-

tive majority.

Ms. Barrett was only appointed to the bench for the first time in 2017. A deeply conservative Catholic, she is considered hostile to abortion rights – a key issue for many Republicans.

The left-leaning government watchdog group Accountable U.S. was unimpressed with the reported choice. "Barrett has proven time and again that protecting businesses – not people – is her top priority," said group president Kyle Herrig.

#### Full bench

In 2018, the mother of seven was on the shortlist presented by Mr. Trump for a seat vacated by the retirement of Justice Anthony Kennedy, a position ultimately filled by Brett Kavanaugh after a ferocious confirmation battle.

For Mr. Trump, nominating a conservative judge to the Supreme Court is a way to fire up his base heading into November's election.

But at Friday's whirlwind campaign outings, the President also looked beyond his core supporters and in Flori-

da – where the Latino vote is all-important – said his Democratic challenger Joe Biden has been "very bad to Hispanics."

"I'm a wall between the American dream and chaos," he said.

Later in Georgia, he insisted that as President he had exceeded his promises for African Americans.

"I did more for the black community in 47 months... than Joe Biden did in 47 years," he said, repeatedly swiping at Biden's legislative record in co-sponsoring 1990s tough-on-crime legislation that many experts say resulted in high incarceration rates for black Americans.

Mr. Biden himself did no in-person campaigning Friday, but travelled from his home in Delaware to Washington for a ceremony in the U.S. Capitol, where Ginsburg lay in state – the first woman and Jewish person to do so.

Ginsburg's last wish, reportedly relayed to her granddaughter, was for her seat to be decided by whomever wins the next election.

# India calls Imran Khan's UN speech an 'incessant rant'

Pakistan PM had attacked India's 'RSS-led' government

SIRIRAM LAKSHMAN

WASHINGTON

In exercising India's 'Right of Reply' to Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's remarks during the UN General Assembly debate on Friday, Indian diplomat Mijito Vinito called Mr. Khan's remarks "an incessant rant". India also said the only dispute in Kashmir is related to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and called on Pakistan to vacate it.



Mijito Vinito

the implementation of its own resolutions, as it did in the case of East Timor," he had said.

"I want to make it clear that any attempt by the fascist, totalitarian, RSS-led Indian Government to aggress against Pakistan will be met by a nation that will fight for its freedom to the end," Mr. Khan had said.

#### Integral part

Mr. Vinito said in India's response: "Let me assert here loud and clear. The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral and inalienable part of India. The rules and legislations brought in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir are strictly internal affairs of India."

Mr.

Khan,

in his speech

earlier on Friday, had talked about India's treatment of its minorities, legislative changes to Jammu and Kashmir, Indian troop presence there, etc. Mr. Vinito had left the General Assembly hall as Mr. Khan's video address began, as a gesture of India's protestations against it.

Without a vaccine or effective

peace and stability in South Asia until the Jammu and Kashmir dispute is resolved on the basis of international legitimacy. Kashmir has been rightly described as a nuclear flashpoint," Mr. Khan had said. "The Security Council must prevent a disaster conflict and secure

its blasphemy laws and through forced religious conversions," Mr. Vinito said.

During his speech, Mr. Khan had talked about Islamophobia around the world, but also made a specific reference to India having "state-sponsored" Islamophobia. "The RSS founding fathers were inspired by the Nazis and they adopted their concepts of racial purity and supremacy. While the Nazis hate was directed at the Jews, the RSS directs it towards the Muslims and to a lesser extent, the Christians. They believe that India is exclusively for Hindus and others are not equal citizens. The secularism of Gandhi and Nehru has been replaced by the dream of creating a Hindu rashtra..." Mr. Khan had said in his speech.

He also referred to the fact that Muslims were killed in 2002 in Gujarat when Prime Minister Narendra Modi's was the State's Chief Minister.

"For someone who professes to be a champion of Islam, this is also a country that has encouraged killing of fellow Muslims merely because they belonged to a different sect, or to a different region in Pakistan, and through sponsoring terrorist attacks against its neighbours," Mr. Vinito said, responding to Mr. Khan's speech.

The Indian diplomat also highlighted the Pakistan deep state's "unrelenting political and financial support" to terror organisations. He also referred to Mr. Khan referring to 9/11 mastermind Osama bin Laden as a martyr earlier this year.

# WHO warns 2 million virus deaths possible

Australia's Prime Minister urges any nation that develops a vaccine to share it with the world

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

GENEVA  
Coronavirus deaths could more than double to two million without collective action against the pandemic, the World Health Organization has warned, as Australia's Prime Minister urged any nation that develops a vaccine to share it with the world.

The number of cases worldwide has soared past 32 million, with deaths approaching one million, the

global economy devastated, and major cultural and sports events disrupted.

#### Olympics on schedule

But despite the pandemic showing no signs of slowing, Japan's new Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga struck a defiant note on Friday, saying his country was determined to hold the postponed Tokyo Olympics in 2021.

"One million is a terrible number and we need to re-

flect on that before we start considering a second million," the WHO's emergencies director Michael Ryan told reporters on Friday when asked how high the death toll could go.

"Are we prepared collectively to do what it takes to avoid that number?

"If we don't take those actions... yes, we will be looking at that number and sadly much higher."

The pandemic has

spurred worldwide efforts to develop a vaccine to help defeat COVID-19, as well as efforts to try to ensure fair and widespread distribution.

"Whoever finds the vaccine must share it... This is a global responsibility and it's a moral responsibility," Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison said Friday in a message to the virtual UN General Assembly.

"Some might see short-term advantage or even pro-

fit, but I assure you... humanity will have a very long memory and be a very, very severe judge."

Without a vaccine or effective treatment, social distancing and lockdowns remain among the few options for governments to curb the spread of the virus, making large gatherings like spectator sports and music concerts highly risky.

Brazil has postponed Rio de Janeiro's carnival.



Race to polls: Donald Trump dancing as he leaves the stage during a campaign rally on Friday. ■AP

"This is a disaster waiting to happen," he added.

The comments came after Mr. Trump had baselessly claimed that the use of mail-in ballots was a formula for a fraud-ridden result. He also warned that some States might be unable to report a decisive outcome on election night because they

would be awaiting mail-in ballots, which can arrive after Election Day, on November 3, so long as they are postmarked no later than it.

"I could be leading, and then they'll just keep getting ballots and ballots and ballots," Mr. Trump complained. "They're talking about five, six, seven

States that have this problem. So if we're waiting for one state, does that mean the whole nation, the whole world is going to wait for one state?"

Mr. Trump said the huge volume of mail-in ballots was "very hard to watch," adding that "that's the only way we're going to lose, is if there's mischief."

Democrats concede that an expected record-setting use of mail-in ballots could lead to inconclusive results on election night, but they fear that Mr. Trump could take an early lead from in-person voting and then try to claim that any votes counted later are somehow invalid.

Experts say it is unclear, however, that mail-in ballots will favour his Democratic opponent Joe Biden. NY TIMES

## Nigeria convoy attack toll rises to 30

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

KANO  
The death toll from a jihadist attack on the convoy of the regional Governor in northeast Nigeria has risen to 30, security sources said Saturday.

Sources had earlier said that a convoy transporting Borno governor Babagana Umara Zulum came under attack from insurgents on Friday near the town of Baga on the shores of Lake Chad. "The tally has increased to 30 as many bodies were picked in the surrounding areas after the attack," a source said.

The IS-affiliated ISWAP maintains most of its camps on islands in Lake Chad and the region is known as a bastion for the jihadists.

## Lebanon PM-designate quits over Cabinet picks

Dispute over Finance Minister's post

REUTERS

BEIRUT

Lebanon's Prime Minister-designate Mustapha Adib quit on Saturday after trying for almost a month to line up a non-partisan Cabinet, dealing a blow to a French bid aimed at rallying sectarian leaders to tackle the worst crisis since the nation's 1975-1990 civil war.

Sources had earlier said that a convoy transporting Borno governor Babagana Umara Zulum came under attack from insurgents on Friday near the town of Baga on the shores of Lake Chad. "The tally has increased to 30 as many bodies were picked in the surrounding areas after the attack," a source said.

Mr. Adib, former Ambassador to Berlin, was picked on August 31 to form a Cabinet after President Emmanuel Macron's intervention secured a consensus among various political factions.

Mr. Adib, a Sunni Muslim under the sectarian power-sharing system, announced he was stepping down but said Lebanon must not abandon the French plan or



Mustapha Adib

squander Mr. Macron's goodwill.

The Cabinet formation hit a roadblock over a demand by Lebanon's two main Shi'ite groups, Amal and the heavily armed Iran-backed Hezbollah, that they name several Ministers, including finance, a position previously held by a Shi'ite.

## ELSEWHERE



UK calls for global unity against pandemics

LONDON  
British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Saturday urged world leaders to "unite and turn our fire" against COVID-19 as he announced a "five-point" plan to tackle future pandemics during an address to the UN General Assembly. AFP

#### Suspect admits to targeting Charlie Hebdo

PARIS  
A Pakistan-born teenager has admitted to stabbing two people outside the former Paris offices of *Charlie Hebdo* to avenge the republication of cartoons of Prophet Mohammed by the magazine, said investigators on Saturday. AFP

# Morales looms large in Bolivia's October election

Several polls show his party in the lead

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LA PAZ

Even in exile, Evo Morales looms over Bolivia's election next month.

National rifts that contributed to chaos in Bolivia in 2019 threatened to destabilise the October 18 vote and its aftermath nearly one year after Mr. Morales, Bolivia's first Indigenous President from the Aymara group, was forced to resign following disputed vote results, protests, violence and a military call for him to go.

The country is divided mainly along ethnic, regional and socioeconomic lines, and between those who applaud Mr. Morales as a voice for the historically poor and disenfranchised and those who say he became increasingly corrupt and authoritarian during 14 years in power. The interim government that replaced him has

## As ties with India plunge, Chinese scholar calls for hard-line 'reset'

India and the U.S. have formed a de facto military alliance, says Liu

confrontation.

Some of those voices have explained China's actions along the border since May, when Beijing deployed a large number of troops and sought to unilaterally redraw the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in several areas, as a response to India, which was, in their view, "emboldened" by its growing closeness with the U.S. and drifting towards a "de facto alliance" that, they suggest, had reduced Beijing's incentives to preserve ties.

"There are many practical ways to deal with this situation; however, the key lies in the fact that we have to determine our stance. Presently, India and the U.S. have formed a de facto military alliance. Under the current situation, we must reassess our understanding of the U.S.-India alliance and reset our India strategy," Mr. Liu



Liu Zongyi

said in the interview to *Guancha* or 'Observer', a popular news portal.

#### Long-term ambitions

Hemant Adlakha, professor of Chinese at the Jawaharlal Nehru University and an expert on the Chinese media who translated the September 21 interview, said "this was the first time a Chinese commentary admits openly that China decided to act 'tough' and details its long-term strategic ambitions vis-à-vis India".

The interview, he said, was significant in terms of its

signalling to the Chinese public about the future direction of relations, as it was published in an "influential and mainstream media outlet highly popular with intellectuals and professionals" unlike outlets like the *Global Times* that are intended for an international audience. That Mr. Liu had recently visited the border areas for the "survey" suggested it was possibly sanctioned by the authorities, he said.

In the interview, Mr. Liu, who often appears in the Chinese media as an expert on India, repeated the Chinese government's claims that the border tensions this summer were triggered by India – claims that the Indian government has strongly rebutted, pointing to China's unprecedented mobilisation of forces and transgressions along the LAC since May, in violation of multiple border agreements.

He said India had occupied "commanding heights" at various

'Temporary retention of GST cess is not diversion'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Finance Ministry sources have countered CAG's audit finding of Central government wrongly retaining ₹47,272 crore of GST compensation cess meant for States, saying temporary retention cannot be termed as a diversion.

Days after the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) flagged that the Centre, in first two years of the GST implementation, wrongly retained GST compensation cess that was meant to be used specifically to compensate States for loss of revenue, Ministry sources said compensation due for the year 2017-18 and 2018-19 was fully paid to States.

Time taken in reconciliation of compensation receipts can't be termed as diversion of GST cess fund when the dues to States were fully released by the Central government, they said.

Sources said that in 2017-18, ₹62,611 crore was collected, out of which the government released full compensation dues of ₹41,146 crore to the States and Union Territories.

In 2018-19, an amount of ₹95,081 crore was collected, out of which ₹69,275 crore was paid as full compensation. They said an amount of ₹47,271 crore collected in 2017-18 and 2018-19 had remained unutilised for reconciliation post full payment of GST compensation dues.

For 2019-20, the Central government released ₹65,302 crore as GST compensation against a cess collection of ₹95,444 crore which it could do with the unutilised cess of ₹47,271 crore.

## CAG moots probe over cess accounting dodge

Auditor wants officials investigated for incorrectly recording ₹10,250 cr. of additional duties on fuels as non-tax receipts

VIKAS DHOOT  
NEW DELHI

(CRF), created by the Parliament as a dedicated non-lapsable Reserve Fund to be used only for designated purposes. The CRF was replaced with a Central Road and Infrastructure Fund (CRIF) through amendments introduced in the Union Budget for 2018-19.

**'Understating deficit'**  
"An amount of ₹10,250 crore was transferred from receipts in the Central Road Fund and accounted as non-tax Receipts during 2018-19 through a Journal Entry (JE) after the close of the year," the CAG noted in its financial audit of the Union government's accounts for that year. The national auditor termed the journal entry as a violation of accounting procedure.

"This not only had the ef-



**Not cricket:** The national auditor termed the journal entry as a violation of accounting procedure. ■ K.V.S. GIRI

fect of understating deficit, but also made funds to this extent available for expenditure for other than designated purposes, which was con-

trary to the will of the Parliament," the apex auditor observed.

In response to the audit red-flag, the Finance Minis-

try had argued that the idle balance in the CRF was transferred to the Consolidated Fund of India (CFI) with the approval of the Finance Minister "consequent to redesignation of the fund" from CRF to CRIF. "Such write-backs had been done in the past also, based on recommendations of the Standing Committee on Finance (16th Lok Sabha) for transferring unutilised funds / idle funds in the public account to the CFI," it said.

### Reply 'untenable'

Terming the Ministry's reply as 'untenable', the CAG asserted that the issue had nothing to do with the redesignation of the Fund and the transfer of balances from the earlier Fund to the newly designated Fund.

"The reference to prece-

dents is either not relevant or cannot be used to justify wrong practices. The Standing Committee recommendation was in the context of closing idle Funds and transferring unutilised balances back to the CFI. The Central Road Fund/ CRIF is not an idle fund. Further, the stipulated accounting procedure for transferring idle Fund balances back to the CFI does not require inflating the revenue receipts for the year as the JE has done," the CAG stressed in its audit report.

"It is evident that the purpose of the JE was primarily for the purpose of artificially inflating revenue receipts of the year. This merits further investigation for appropriate action against the concerned accounting authorities who authorised the JE," the national auditor concluded.

PSU to PSU stake sale just moves funds to govt, says CAG

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The strategic sale of four public sector units to other public sector entities in 2018-19 by the Central government has been sharply criticised by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India in an audit, tabled in Parliament.

"Such disinvestments only resulted in transfer of resources already with the public sector to the government and did not lead to any change in the stake of the public sector / government in the disinvested PSU," the CAG noted, indicating its displeasure at such transactions.

It may be recalled that the Centre had earlier sold oil major HPCL to another PSU ONGC and resorted to similar transactions in order to meet disinvestment targets in recent years.

In 2018-19, the government raised ₹72,620 crore from disinvestment, which included the strategic sales of the Rural Electrification Corporation, Dredging Corporation(DCI), HSCC (India) and National Projects Construction Corporation. While REC was sold to Power Finance Corporation, DCI was sold to a consortium of Port Trusts.

The CAG also criticised the Centre's claim as disinvestment receipts of almost ₹12,500 crore from the sale of shares by the Specified Undertaking of the Unit Trust of India (SUUTI), an entity created with the erstwhile UTI's assets and liabilities.

"Neither SUUTI nor its assets, liabilities are depicted in the Union Government Finance Accounts," the CAG noted, adding receipts from it were wrongly booked as capital receipts.

## India plans \$4.6 bn spur for EV battery makers

Move a bid to pare dependence on oil

REUTERS  
NEW DELHI



India's efforts to promote EVs have been stymied by a lack of investment in manufacturing and infrastructure such as charging stations.

Just 3,400 electric cars were sold in the world's second-most populous nation during the last business year, compared to sales of 1.7 million conventional passenger cars.

## 'Life, health insurance seeing surge'

Health witnessing more interest now than term cover, says Policybazaar CEO

K. BHARAT KUMAR  
CHENNAI

The value of health and term insurance policies that Policybazaar.com sold online saw a significant spike during the pandemic.

"There were two phases. In March and April, there was higher sales of policies than earlier for term insurance," said Sarbjit Singh, CEO, Policybazaar.com. "People tended to think more about mortality and the like," he added.

"The interest [value of business] was almost double that seen pre-COVID."

In health insurance, it took a little longer, he said. "It started in May-June. The value of business was about 2-2.5 times what it was pre-COVID. And for our term bu-

siness right now, it would be about one-and-a-half times the value sold pre-COVID." These figures refer to quarterly premium collected after the pandemic set in, compared with a year earlier.

Asked if this was an inflection point, he said the challenge now for the sector was to deal with loss of jobs or pay cuts that people in the target profile might suffer. "We have one positive force in our business – more and more people are buying online. And, we are practically 90% of the online business.

"We deal mostly with the salaried and self-

employed, who are in the ₹5-10 lakh annual salary range. If their incomes are impacted by the overall economy, that would have some degree of pressure on payments."

**'Top-ups seeing interest'**  
In health insurance, the company has seen a rise in interest for top-up policies.

"Top-ups provide tremendous value at the price at which they are available," he said. "If a ₹5 lakh policy costs you, say, ₹12,000 for a family, we said for ₹15-16,000, we should be able to give them base cover of ₹5 lakh plus ₹95 lakh super-top-up. As our claims ratio was lower than the overall average, we were able to convince insurers to give our customers that kind of pricing."

He said that customers were now inclined to take term policies lasting beyond the retirement age.

"Buyers tend to ask themselves what they get in return if they spend a lump sum yearly."

"The choice of outer age limit has been rising. We see sales of policies lasting till age 85 or 99. The average age at which policies expired was 65, say, five years ago; now people are choosing to keep life policies active till they reach age 75."

+ INTERVIEW | ASHOK SOOTA

## Indian IT will rebound to 8-10% growth by next year, says Soota

Listed shares two years before target; now to set fresh goals

MINI TEJASWI

**The Ashok Soota-led Happiest Minds Technologies made its debut on the stock exchanges recently, with shares listing at a premium of 123% over the issue price of ₹166. A second innings of sorts for the 77-year-old former Wipro executive and co-founder of Mindtree, which went public in 2007 under his leadership, Mr. Soota started Happiest Minds in 2011, at age 68. In an interview, he spoke about entrepreneurship, evolution of the technology industry, the digital focus of Happiest Minds, its IPO and outlook for the industry. Excerpts:**

**What is the key to success in tech entrepreneurship?**

■ To stay on the leading edge of technology and offer integrated, complete solutions that are cloud-based, powered by artificial intelligence and automation and which can be put to multiple uses. These are critical.

**How has the sector evolved over the last 30 years?**

■ Technology evolves continuously with solutions getting richer. For example, many of the earlier e-commerce ventures failed because of weak technology infrastructure. Once bandwidth and communication capacity improved exponentially, a boom followed.

The key thing, therefore, is to create new business models with technology and not just be focussed on the technology itself.

Also, technology is invariably the first sector to bounce out of recessions because it, in fact, provides the tools to ride out of crises.

In the current world, with work-from-home emerging as a new norm, there is a spurt in demand for securi-



An IPO is a great opportunity to demonstrate higher levels of corporate governance

ty, deployable across multiple work environments. This is a great area for Happiest Minds to explore.

'Digital' wasn't yet the mantra when you started Happiest Minds, was it?

■ Happiest Minds was born in the digital era and, therefore, it was a logical step for us to focus only on new digital solutions. This helped us dramatically improve customer experience, productivity and to create new business models.

Digital today accounts for 97% of our business when it is 30% to 50% for larger listed tech firms in India. This is what has enabled us to grow at a CAGR of 20% plus compared with the industry range of 8% to 10%.

How do you view Happiest Minds' debut performance in the stock market?

■ The response to our IPO is gratifying but there are two areas of concern. First, with such oversubscription, many potential investors got left out. Second, we now have additional responsibility of meeting the expectations of our new investors.

I should add that apart from our digital focus, what has helped is a market favourable to IT stocks and the depreciation of the rupee.

What would be the 5 key things Happiest Minds would be doing in the next 5 years?

■ First, we must step back and take a look at the land-

## S&P affirms India's long-term rating

REUTERS  
MUMBAI

Standard and Poor's has reaffirmed India's long-term sovereign rating at the lowest investment grade for the second time in four months, and it said it expects the economy to rebound from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The news keeps India's hopes alive of keeping its coveted investment grade, with two other rating agencies – Moody's and Fitch – having put it on a negative watch at their lowest investment grade ratings earlier this year.

"The stable outlook reflects our expectation that India's economy will recover following resolution of the pandemic, and that the strong external settings will act as a buffer against financial strains," S&P said.

Also, an IPO is a great opportunity to demonstrate the higher levels of corporate governance in an organisation. This is an area in which I have taken a lot of pride at all the companies I have led.

What, in your view, is the tech industry outlook in a pandemic-hit marketplace?

■ Whenever there is a recession, the first sector that bounces back is technology services. Already, a couple of companies have stated that they would come back to FY20 levels by the end of this year.

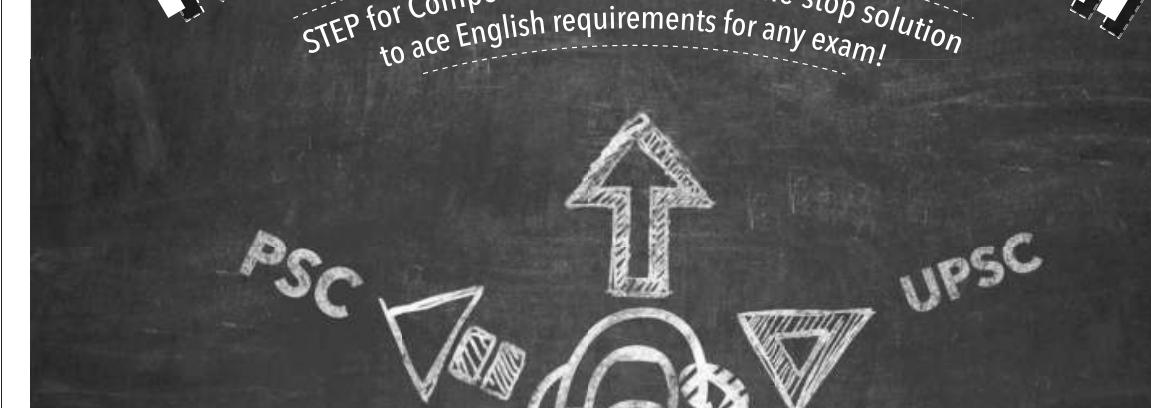
Also, there is a lot of new demand for technology, which will accelerate growth. I visualise that a fair proportion of people will continue to work from home and spur demand for e-commerce and security.

The drive for growth of education technology will further accelerate. Another key area of major growth is e-Health. The overall outlook for the industry is certainly optimistic. I believe the Indian IT industry will get back to its growth rates of 8% to 10% from next year.

What would be the 5 key things Happiest Minds would be doing in the next 5 years?

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## SNAPSHOTS



## Immune system weakness

Papers in *Science* reveal that at least 3.5% of study patients with severe COVID-19 have mutations in genes involved in antiviral defence. At least 10% of patients with severe disease create 'auto-antibodies' that attack the immune system.



## Dazzling comet

Comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko has its own far-ultraviolet aurora. It is the first time such electromagnetic emissions in the far-ultraviolet have been documented on a celestial object other than a planet or moon. The phenomena had yet to be documented in comets.



## Workings of fatigue

Johns Hopkins Medicine researchers have found areas of the human brain that regulate efforts to deal with fatigue. The findings reveal the neural mechanisms that contribute to fatigue.

# 'Human challenge trials will help us design better treatments, vaccines than we can now'

R. PRASAD

*In January, London will begin the world's first human challenge trial, the Financial Times reported. The trial will be run by hVivo, a spinout from Queen Mary University of London that was bought earlier this year by a Dublin-based pharmaceutical research organisation, while Imperial College London is the academic partner. Participants will be vaccinated with a candidate vaccine and then wilfully exposed to novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) a month or so later. Over 38,000 people from 166 countries have already volunteered to participate in such studies.*

*Human challenge trials have been performed safely in tens of thousands of people in the last 50 years and have helped accelerate the development of vaccines against typhoid and cholera. Such a study was also conducted for Zika virus. The yellow fever experiments conducted in the early 1900s helped prove that mosquitoes transmit the virus causing yellow fever. The human-challenge studies have generally been used for testing less deadly diseases such as influenza, dengue, typhoid, cholera and malaria.*

*In May the WHO approved human challenge trials and NIH too is developing*

*two viral strains through Colorado State University that can be used in human challenge trials.*

**Dr. Gagandeep Kang,** Professor of Microbiology at CMC Vellore in an email to The Hindu explains why despite the many challenges it is worthwhile conducting human challenge trials for SARS-CoV-2.

**At a time when nearly six vaccines are already in a Phase-3 trial stage, and when the virus is spreading wildly in many countries, including India, what specific advantage will come by carrying out a human challenge trial?**

Testing of a vaccine is one reason to do human challenge studies, but not the only reason. Frequently, studies are done to understand infection and disease – one such example is of the norovirus infection studies, where human infection was the only way to study the disease for 30 years, since there were no animal models. In the case of SARS-CoV-2, there are many things we do not understand about the virus, the infectious dose, the kinetics of the immune response, susceptibility to disease and correlates of protection, which we could learn from human challenge, and that would help us de-



Dr. Gagandeep Kang • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

sign better treatments and vaccines than we can now.

Though a less virulent strain will be used for such a trial, what measures will be taken to ensure that the developed strain causes only mild infection/disease?

At the moment, I have no idea how anyone will ensure that the strain will be less virulent. The circulating SARS-CoV-2 causes a significant proportion of asymptomatic infections, and you cannot be milder than that. The mild infection/disease seems, in current understanding, to depend more on the host than on the virus.

I was part of a group that

helped develop the ethics guidance for human challenge studies with WHO, and our thinking was that the highest bar for safety in the absence of a definitive treatment, would be to include only young healthy people who have a minimal chance of developing severe disease, but recognise that minimal does not mean zero.

Many published studies and experiences in many countries show that even young, healthy people can suffer from severe disease that requires hospitalisation and many may even die. Many studies also show that recovered patients suffer from complications of the

heart and lungs. So how safe is it to test a vaccine even in a young population?

Absolutely, we know that with SARS-CoV-2 even though severe disease and complications are very rare in young people they do occur, so there is no question that there is a risk of severe disease and even death. So the question is should we wait until we have a definitive treatment – like the anti-malarials that are used in the controlled human malaria model that is now almost a requirement for all malaria vaccine candidates?

On the other hand, we know that with influenza infections, even healthy people have a risk of viral myocarditis, and yet we have many countries that have established influenza human challenge studies.

The risks may be small but they exist, the benefits are not to the person who participates in the study (unless by participating they get the vaccine ahead of others) but really are benefits to society.

This is a challenge, and ethicists and vaccinologists have argued both for and against doing human challenge with SARS-CoV-2. There are apparently tens of thousands of people who have come forward to say that they want to participate in such studies for the good of society, so we

vaccines, and certainly do not replace Phase-3 efficacy studies. If a CHIM is used for down-selection, you will be progressing a vaccine or not based on a few hundred people in a short time frame, whereas taking the same candidate to a full Phase-3 will require, given the size of current trials, at least 30,000 people, who may participate in a trial for a vaccine that may or may not work.

Remdesivir is to be used as a 'rescue remedy' to prevent participants from progressing to serious illness. But has remdesivir shown substantial mortality benefit to be called a 'rescue remedy'?

No, it has not, but is there anything better?

While I do not think we are ready for SARS-CoV-2 human challenge studies in India, since we have no experience with such studies, the investigators at Imperial and Oxford have a lot of experience with such studies. Given that there are people who are ready to volunteer and as long as they are appropriately informed and understand completely the risks and benefits, I expect the investigators to do what they have always done, which is to be very, very careful and put the safety of participants first.

## Using cloud computing for better flood inundation mapping

Researchers have developed a tool for a near real-time mapping of flood extent

ASWATHI PACHA

The Kerala rains of July-August 2018 caused substantial loss of lives and property and left major cities flooded for days.

Maps showing where flooding may occur or flood inundation maps can help in better flood risk preparedness. Using openly accessible satellite data and a cloud computing platform, an international team has now developed a powerful tool for a near real-time mapping of flood extent. The paper published in *PLOS ONE* notes the new flood inundation maps showed an accuracy of over 94%. Space-based sensors known as synthetic aperture radar (SAR) have been used widely for monitoring and mapping of flood-water inundation. SAR is capable of acquiring data in all-weather condition, making it useful for mapping and monitoring flood inundation areas.



**Kerala floods:** The team studied water inundation maps from 2015, and their analysis was clearly able to show the areas submerged in water in 2018. ■ THULASI KAKKAT

## Copernicus programme

These sensors operate on the constellation of two SAR satellites belonging to the Copernicus Programme launched by the European Space Agency.

The data from the satellites was utilised on a cloud-based platform known as Google Earth Engine (GEE) for the rapid processing of big data. The GEE also has publicly made available numerous satellite image col-

lections and has functions for image processing and analysis.

The team studied water inundation maps from 2015 and their analysis was clearly able to show the areas submerged underwater in 2018. "Once you have the data, it just takes a few minutes as you can apply machine learning and computer vision techniques to quickly generate the water inundation maps. This can help

## Future floods

The team also analysed the rainfall data from 1981 to 2018 and were able to predict the major reasons behind this flood. "The monsoon season of Kerala has seen an increasing rainfall trend and this has played a major role. This also depicts that more floods are likely to happen in the near future," adds Tiwari. "Other studies have also pointed out that the flooding event would have not taken place if the capacity of the major six reservoirs would have been 34% more."

## Cryptic species

"We need multiple techniques to correctly identify [cryptic species]... So there may be two very similar looking frogs. In the field we may mistakenly think they are one, but they may have

## Studies document in-flight transmission of coronavirus

The most likely route is aerosol or droplet transmission

R. PRASAD

The risk of in-flight transmission of novel coronavirus among passengers is considered to be low. But three studies published recently show that the virus can spread to other passengers.

In one study, the researchers found one symptomatic passenger seated in business class had transmitted SARS-CoV-2 virus to at least 15 other passengers during a direct flight from London to Hanoi in early March. While 12 passengers were seated in business class, two other passengers and one flight attendant were in economy class.

## In-depth study

Though no genome sequencing study was undertaken, the researchers from the National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology in Hai Ba Trung District, Hanoi, Vietnam undertook in-depth epidemiological upstream and downstream investigations, quarantining the passengers

and laboratory testing to support their hypothesis of spread during the 10-hour flight. The results were published in *Emerging Infectious Diseases*.

"Our interviews did not reveal that any of the additional persons with flight-associated cases had been exposed to SARS-CoV-2 before or after the flight during their incubation periods other than having taken the same flight as the index case," they write. Also, in early March, only 23 COVID-19 cases had been recorded in UK and as of March 1, only 16 cases of COVID-19 had been reported in Vietnam thus reducing the chances of local transmission after arrival; there was no evidence of community transmission in Vietnam in early March.

"Our findings challenge these recommendations. Transmission on flight was clustered in business class, where seats are already more widely spaced than in economy class, and infection spread much further than the existing two-row or two-metres rule recommended for COVID-19 prevention on airplanes," they note.

They also note limitations of thermal imaging and self-declaration of symptoms. They also note that it has



**Optimising safety:** While masks can cut transmission risk, the absence of physical distancing may increase the risk of virus spread. ■ GETTY IMAGES

been "hypothesised that a combination of environmental factors on airplanes (humidity, temperature, air flow) can prolong the presence of SARS-CoV-2 in flight cabins".

## Genome sequencing

Another study, also published in *Emerging Infectious Diseases*, found probable in-flight transmission of the virus from one or two passengers to two crew members in a 15-hour flight from Boston to Hong Kong on March 9. All the passengers were not tested. The

two passengers, who are a married couple, did not have symptoms at the time of flight but developed symptoms a day after landing.

In this study the researchers carried out genome sequencing and found that all the four persons had a sequence that was identical and unique and belonged to a clade not previously known in Hong Kong. "This strongly suggests that the virus can be transmitted during air travel," the researchers from the University of Hong Kong and National Institute for Medical Research, Mwanza,

Tanzania say.

"SARS-CoV-2 test results have been positive for hundreds of flight attendants and pilots; at least 2 have died," they write. "Our results demonstrate that SARS-CoV-2 can be transmitted on airplanes. To prevent transmission of the virus during travel, infection control measures must continue."

## Proximity effects

A third study published in *Travel Medicine and Infectious Disease* carried out an epidemiological analysis to demonstrate probable in-flight transmission of the virus in five passengers. The researchers who were based in Athens, Greece, performed contact tracing on 2,224 passengers and 110 crew members on 18 international flights arriving to or leaving from Greece from February 26 to March 9.

The researchers were able to find 21 index cases and 891 close contacts. Of the 891, four passengers and one crew member tested positive for the virus.

### Question Corner

#### Animals and seasons

##### How do animals adapt when seasons change?

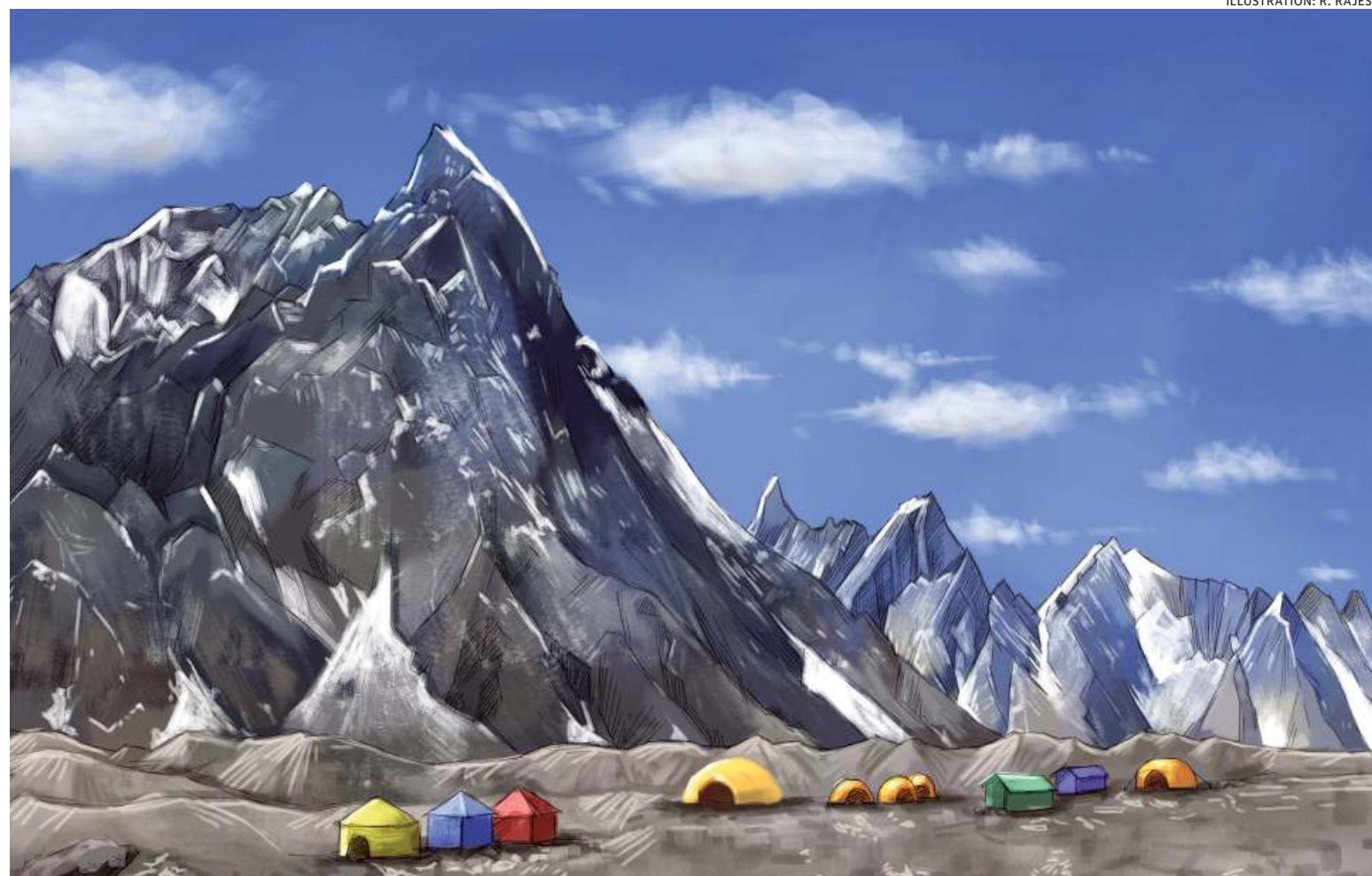
Adapting to seasonal changes is crucial for survival, and many animals migrate, grow a winter coat or adjust their body temperatures to cope up. Recently, researchers from Universities of Edinburgh and Manchester found a biological switch that may be playing a major role. The study (*Nature Communications*, August 2020) shows how the brains of mammals respond to changes in day lengths. The researchers studied sheep brain tissue across time to understand the activity of different

genes. They point to a gene known as BMAL2, which helps in synchronising their rhythms of life to the seasonal habitats. This gene has also been reported in birds and reptiles.

According to the researchers, the results constitute a blueprint for circadian-based seasonal timekeeping in vertebrates. Explaining the work, Prof. Andrew Loudon from the Centre for Biological Timing at the University of Manchester, who led the team that studied how sheep adapts to seasonal changes, said in a release: "The genetic 'flip-flop' timer we have identified is key to functions such as fertility as sheep transition between winter and summer. We speculate that this genetic timer is likely to be fundamental to yearly changes in many species."

Readers may send their questions to [questioncorner@thehindu.co.in](mailto:questioncorner@thehindu.co.in)





## GILGIT-BALTISTAN

# The land of peaks, streams and disputes

Pak's move to give full statehood to the mountainous region claimed by India is set to escalate tensions between the two

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE

**S**even decades after it took control of the region, Pakistan is moving to grant full statehood to Gilgit-Baltistan, which appears as the northernmost part of the country in its official map. The scenic region, which was featured in Hollywood thrillers like *Vertical Limit* (2000), was part of the erstwhile princely state of Jammu and Kashmir and is claimed by India.

During the first Indo-Pak war of October 1947, Pakistan

occupied 78,114 sq km of the land of Jammu and Kashmir, including the 'Northern Areas'. The Northern Areas is the other name of Gilgit-Baltistan that Pakistan has used for administrative reasons because it was a disputed territory.

But that is likely to change as an assembly election on November 15 will pave the way for fuller political rights for the roughly 1.2 million residents of the region, which will become the fifth State of Pakistan after Sindh, Punjab, Balochistan and Khyber Pak-

Baltistan Empowerment and Self Governance Order in 2009, which granted "self-rule" to the Northern Areas. There were protests in the area at that time from people who demanded an executive form of government based on international resolutions. The local situation altered considerably with Pakistan signing an agreement with China for mega infrastructure and hydel power projects in September 2009. With the agreements arrived Chinese investments and heavy machinery, which found both support and opposition from the locals.

On January 17, 2019, a seven-judge bench of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, led by Chief Justice Mian Saqib Nisar, took up the constitutional status of Gilgit-Baltistan. The purpose of the court's intervention was to determine the extent of political rights that could be enjoyed by the people of the 'Northern Areas'. Over the years, the region has acquired a government and a council, which gave it a *de facto* status of a province of Pakistan, but the constitu-

tional status of the region remained vague without explicit statehood. The Supreme Court allowed Islamabad to amend a 2018 administrative order to hold general elections in the region. The Gilgit-Baltistan Order of 2018 provided for administrative changes, including empowering the Prime Minister of Pakistan to legislate on an array of subjects.

### Sense of alienation

One of the main reasons for the rebellion in the region in 1947 was the sense of alienation that the population felt towards the Dogra rulers of Srinagar, who operated under the protection of the British government. Under the post-1947 special administrative arrangement, local councils worked to meet economic, social and educational development of the region. Irrigation channels, protective bunds, roads and pony tracks were built during the early years of Pakistan.

According to Banat Gul Afridi, a bureaucrat who wrote an authoritative account of life in Baltistan, a post office was added bet-

ween 1948 and 1958 when the bloodless coup of General Ayub Khan took place in Pakistan. Radio, telegraph and telephone stations were added in the next decade.

One of the most mountainous regions in the world that is rich with mines of gold, emerald and strategically important minerals, and is known for its extraordinary scenic beauty, diversity and ancient communities and languages, Gilgit-Baltistan is largely an underdeveloped region.

It's home to K-2, the second tallest mountain in the world. Tourism remains restricted by many factors, including military hostility, though the region has some of the ancient Buddhist sculptures and rock edicts. It is also home to an old Shia community, which often finds itself subjected to persecution in Pakistan's urban centres. At present, a Governor and an elected Chief Minister rule the region, which is divided into Gilgit, Skardu, Diamer, Astore, Ghancer, Ghizer and Hunza-Nagar.

Territory ceded by Pakistan to China

Gilgit-Baltistan

J&K

POK

Aksai Chin, occupied by China

Ladakh

gion will "have no legal basis whatsoever". India has consistently opposed Pakistan's activities in Gilgit-Baltistan. It also opposed the announcement of the commencement of the Diamer-Bhasha dam in July. There have been local and international concerns as reports suggest priceless Buddhist heritage will be lost once the dam is built.

India has objected to the use of Gilgit-Baltistan to build and operate the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which cuts through the region before heading to the Arabian Sea coastline of Balochistan's Gwadar port.

Beginning with the August 5, 2019 decision by India to withdraw the special status of Jammu and Kashmir, a number of developments have taken place on both sides of the Line of Control. Senior leaders like Defence Minister Rajnath Singh declared that the decision will pave the way for reclaiming Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (including Gilgit-Baltistan). India launched a new political map last November, which showed the Gilgit-Baltistan region as part of the new Union Territory of Ladakh. In response, Pakistan laid claim to Ladakh and the whole of Jammu and Kashmir in its map. An election and full statehood for Gilgit-Baltistan will likely infuriate India, which will perceive it as a step to deny reclaiming PoK ever in the future.

Gilgit-Baltistan is important for Pakistan as it is the gateway for the CPEC. But for India, the region represents the continuity with the past of Jammu and Kashmir, which included Gilgit-Baltistan at the time of Partition of 1947. Significantly, the ongoing stand-off with China at the Line of Actual Control in Eastern Ladakh has a Gilgit-Baltistan connection as the Darbuk-Shyok-DOB road of India is viewed as a tactical roadway to access the Karakoram Pass, which provides China crucial access to Gilgit-Baltistan and Pakistan.

Full statehood for the region may give Pakistan a political and legal upper hand and strengthen China's position in the region, but Gilgit-Baltistan will continue to remain one of the hotspots in the tense India-Pakistan relations.

## In focus

■ Pakistan initially governed Gilgit-Baltistan directly from the central authority after it was separated from 'Azad Jammu and Kashmir' on April 28, 1949

■ On March 2, 1963, Pakistan gave away 5,180 sq km of the region to China, despite local protests

■ Under Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the name of the region was changed to the Federally Administered Northern Areas. Now, the region is set to become Pakistan's fifth state

## SRI LANKA PODUJANA PERAMUNA

# A party for the Rajapaksas

The four-year-old party is now the most powerful political brand on the island

MEERA SRINIVASAN

**W**hen former President Mahinda Rajapaksa lost the 2015 election, after his Cabinet colleague Maithripala Sirisena joined hands with rival Ranil Wickremesinghe in an unexpected alliance, his next moves were far from certain. In five years, not only is Mr. Rajapaksa back in power as he vowed, as the country's Premier, but his new party has bulldozed Sri Lanka's political terrain almost entirely, decimating the country's two main national parties – the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) to which Mr. Rajapaksa belonged, and the United National Party (UNP).

The Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP or People's Front), in less than four years after it was founded, has firmly established itself as the party of the people, mainly the majority Sinhala-Buddhist community, and its icons – the Rajapaksa brothers – as the country's leaders. While the party's rise has been quick, its making was marked by an early start, consistent organising, and a series of well-calibrated political manoeuvres.

The SLPP's political origins can be traced to a weakening SLFP. When the Sirisena-led SLFP faction was in government, the remainder of the former United People's Freedom Alliance, sat in Opposition, led by Mr. Rajapaksa with like-minded allies. Calling themselves the 'Joint Opposition', they be-



came the most vocal critics of the cohabitation government led by Mr. Sirisena and Mr. Wickremesinghe.

Meanwhile, Basil Rajapaksa, the brain behind the SLPP, had begun the spade-work for a new vehicle for the Rajapaksa brand. Out on bail in a case of alleged misappropriation of public funds, the former Minister and younger brother of Mahinda Rajapaksa, wasted no time in building a new party.

Their third brother Gotabaya Rajapaksa, who was Defence Secretary in Mahinda Rajapaksa's government, began attracting professionals and intellectuals, with a stated mission of influencing "the moral and material development of Sri Lanka".

**Electoral test**  
The first electoral test for the SLPP came in February 2018, when Sri Lanka held its local authority elections. The Mahinda Rajapaksa-backed SLPP secured a win. The party's *pohottuwa* (lotus

bud) symbol – designed in maroon colour to match with Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa's characteristic scarf – made a huge impression. The Joint Opposition had by now fully morphed into the SLPP.

The going was very good for the SLPP, at least for eight months until Mr. Sirisena shocked the country with his dramatic move – sacking PM Wickremesinghe, appointing Mahinda Rajapaksa in his place, and prematurely dissolving Parliament. For 52 days, Mr. Rajapaksa was the purported Prime Minister. The momentum from the SLPP's February poll victory was adversely impacted by that, as some of his own supporters were displeased with their leader choosing expedience over the law. The Supreme Court deemed Mr. Sirisena's move illegal, and Mr. Rajapaksa resigned. Though he and the party had lost some sheen since February 2018, he gained more.

The following months saw a complete breakdown in governance – culminating in the security lapse ahead of the Easter terror attacks – and laid the red carpet for the SLPP. Except, the 19th Amendment – a 2015 legislation – prevented Mahinda Rajapaksa from contesting the presidential polls for the third time. The brothers put their might behind Gotabaya Rajapaksa, a former Lieutenant Colonel, pledging national security to a country terrified after a terrorist attack, along with development and prosperity. The promise of a strong leader, coupled with a provocative, nationalist rhetoric, did the trick.

In November 2019, opposition candidate Mr. Gotabaya Rajapaksa secured 52.25 % of the mandate and was elected President. Following the landslide win in the August parliamentary polls, one of the first things President Rajapaksa ordered was the tabling of the 20th Amendment Bill in Parliament, which not only envisions an even stronger executive presidency, but reduces the Prime Minister to a ceremonial position. Today, the politically and electorally secure SLPP appeals most to the Sinhala-Buddhist constituency.

On the SLPP's future role, Mr. Basil Rajapaksa famously remarked that he would like to model the party on the Chinese Communist Party and the Bharatiya Janata Party in India, the "best two" examples.

## GUPTESHWAR PANDEY

# The cop who loves the limelight

Bihar's police chief takes voluntary retirement and plans to join politics

AMARNATH TEWARY

**O**n September 22, the day Bihar's Director General of Police (DGP) Gupteshwar Pandey took voluntary retirement from the service, a two minutes and 19 seconds music video about him was released. In the video, singer Deepak Thakur, a Big Boss-12 contestant, described him as "Bihar's Robinhood" and "Janata ka hero". With the panegyric lyrics in the background, Mr. Pandey is seen as a super cop in tough gait.

The release of the video was not coincidental. It was launched at a time when Mr. Pandey was planning to enter politics. With Bihar going to the polls next month, Mr. Pandey, who met Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Saturday at the Janata Dal (United) party office in Patna, is likely to contest on the JD(U) ticket.

The 59-year-old 1987 batch IPS officer, with over 7,000,000 followers on his Facebook account, has always been an officer hogging headlines, for right or wrong reasons. His love for devotional songs, his rustic mannerisms and theatrical delivery of statements, always appearing with a *tikka* on his forehead, all attract local media attention.

In his 34 years of career, Mr. Pandey had been the Superintendent of Police of several districts and donned higher posts in different zones and at the State headquarters. His career, however,

was not devoid of controversies.

In 2012, after a 12-year-old girl was abducted from Muzaffarpur, the girl's father accused 11 persons, including Mr. Pandey, who met Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Saturday at the Janata Dal (United) party office in Patna, is likely to contest on the JD(U) ticket.

**Sushant Singh case**  
Of late, he was featured by national media for the statements he made on the death of Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput.

The late actor was from Patna and on the complaint of his father K.K. Singh, a case was registered against his girlfriend Rhea Chakraborty and five others at the Rajiv Nagar police station in Bihar's capital. A team of four police officers was sent to Mumbai to probe the case and later, a young IPS officer Vinay Tiwari, too, reached there, only to be quarantined.

tined by municipal officials in Mumbai. Mr. Pandey slammed the Mumbai police for not cooperating with the Bihar police in the case. He even made a controversial statement about Ms. Chakraborty, saying she had no *aukat* (stature) to make any comment on Chief Minister Kumar.

Later, leaders of Maharashtra's ruling party Shiv Sena slammed Mr. Pandey for his comments, which set the course for a verbal duel between the two State governments. The Supreme Court settled the spat by ordering the CBI to investigate the case.

**Earlier VRS**  
This is not the first time Mr. Pandey has taken voluntary retirement from service. In 2009, he had opted for VRS to contest the Lok Sabha poll but when failed to get a ticket, he controversially rejoined the police service after nine months.

Some senior officials had admitted in private that Mr. Pandey's reinstatement was against service rules but with the backing of the government, the issue died down.

Mr. Pandey was back in action and on January 31, 2019, he was appointed the DGP. He was to retire on February 28, 2021. Now, having voluntarily retired from service, the top cop seems to be aiming higher.



ILLUSTRATION: J.A. PREMKUMAR

years of unblemished career" in police services to contest elections. "Given an opportunity, I'd plunge into politics but only to serve the people," he said.

He also said in a video that he had an offer to join either a corporate house with a ₹2 crore annual package or hold a constitutional post for another three years.

Mr. Pandey also heaped praise on Chief Minister Kumar who, he said, had given complete freedom to the Police Department to tackle crime and maintain peace and communal harmony in the State. Interestingly, Mr. Kumar, in March 2019, had asked Mr. Pandey at a public function to focus more on policing than giving statements to the media.

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# Knight Riders too hot for Sunrisers

After restricting the Hyderabad side to 142, the Kolkata team wins with two overs to spare

## IPL 2020

### SPORTS BUREAU

A classy half-century from Shubman Gill (70 not out, 62b, 5x4, 2x6) guided Kolkata Knight Riders to a seven-wicket win over Sunrisers Hyderabad and helped it register its first victory of IPL 2020 at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium, Abu Dhabi, on Saturday.

Knight Riders' 143-run chase got off to a rocky start when Sunil Narine fell for a duck off the second ball from left-arm pacer Khaleel Ahmed. But Gill and Nitish Rana added a quick 37 for the second wicket. The former was the more aggressive of the two, hitting Khaleel for a hat-trick of fours in the fourth over.

**Natarajan, Rashid strike**  
T. Natarajan, however, had Rana caught behind before he could inflict further damage. When Rashid Khan (one for 25) trapped captain Dinesh Karthik for a duck, Knight Riders was in a spot of bother. However, Gill and Eoin Morgan (42 not out, 29b, 3x4, 2x6) allayed fears of a meltdown by adding 92 for the fourth wicket and taking Kolkata past the finish line with two overs to spare.

Earlier, Knight Riders kept Sunrisers in check with some tight bowling on a pitch that gradually slowed down. It took a half-century from Manish Pandey (51, 38b, 3x4, 2x6) to guide the side to 142 for four.

Knight Riders' expensive recruit Pat Cummins, who endured a rough evening with the ball against Mumbai Indians, made amends, keeping the openers on the backfoot from the start. He was rewarded for his attacking line and length when he cleaned up Jonny Bairstow



The architects: Varun Chakravarthy's spell and Shubman Gill's innings were the highlights of KKR's victory. ■ BCCI/IPL



### SCOREBOARD

#### SUNRISERS HYDERABAD

David Warner c & b Varun 36 (30b, 2x4, 1x6), Jonny Bairstow c Cummins 5 (10b), Manish Pandey c & b Russell 51 (38b, 3x4, 2x6), Wridhiman Saha run out 30 (31b, 1x4, 1x6), Mohammad Nabi (not out) 11 (8b, 2x4), Abhishek Sharma (not out) 2 (3b); Extras (b-2, lb-2, w-3); Total (for four wkts. in 20 overs): 142.

#### FALL OF WICKETS

1-24 (Bairstow, 3.6 overs), 2-59 (Warner, 9.1), 3-121 (Manish, 17.4), 4-138 (Saha, 19.2).

#### KNIGHT RIDERS BOWLING

Narine 4-0-31-0, Cummins 4-0-19-1, Mavi 2-0-15-0, Kuldip 2-0-15-0, Varun 4-0-25-1, Nagarkoti 2-0-17-0, Rus-

third-wicket partnership, but the Hyderabad side was up against some tight bowling from Varun and Narine.

#### SELL 2-0-16-1.

#### KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS

Shubman Gill (not out) 70 (62b, 5x4, 2x6), Sunil Narine c Warner b Khaleel O (2b), Nitish Rana c Saha b Natarajan 26 (13b, 6x4), Dinesh Karthik lbw b Rashid O (3b), Eoin Morgan (not out) 42 (29b, 3x4, 2x6); Extras (lb-2, w-4, nb-1); Total (for three wkts. in 18 overs): 145.

#### FALL OF WICKETS

1-6 (Narine, 1.2 overs), 2-43 (Rana, 4.4), 3-53 (Karthik, 6.2).

#### SUNRISERS BOWLING

Bhuvneshwar 3-0-29-0, Khaleel 3-0-28-1, Natarajan 3-0-27-1, Rashid 4-0-25-1, Nabi 4-0-23-0, Abhishek 1-0-11-0.

#### Toss:

Sunrisers Hyderabad.

Saha brought up the 50-run stand with a six over deep mid-wicket off the last ball of Varun's spell (4-0-

sell 2-0-16-1.  
**Man-of-the-match:** Shubman Gill.

KKR beat SRH by seven wickets with 12 balls to spare.

### Innings scan

SRH	Dots	KKR
40	36	
8	14	
4	4	
40/1	52/2	
7.10	8.05	

### Next assignment

**SRH:** Sept. 29 vs. DC

Abu Dhabi, 7.30 p.m. IST

**KKR:** Sept. 30 vs. RR

Dubai, 7.30 p.m. IST

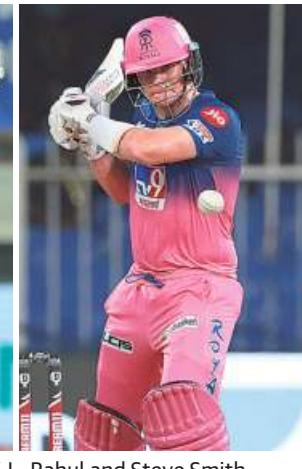
25-1). Shortly after, Andre Russell got rid of Pandey, putting an end to Sunrisers' hopes of a late flourish.

# Big hitters face off in six-friendly Sharjah

Royals and Kings XI will strive to keep the momentum going



Striking it rich: The in-form K.L. Rahul and Steve Smith will look to score big again. ■ BCCI/IPL



'There's a great vibe around the team'

### P.R. AJITH KUMAR KOZHIKODE

A fortnight ago, Stuart Broad called Jos Buttler England's greatest-ever white-ball cricketer. The Rajasthan Royals management must have been pleased to hear that.

He is available for Sunday's fixture against Kings XI Punjab. "It was great to get a win on the board; the team played fantastically well in the first game," said Buttler. "It was an outstanding batting performance and a fantastic bowling performance in tough bowling conditions."

He said he was excited to play his first game. "It was great to be back in training with the boys," he said. "There's a great vibe around the team so I'm really looking forward to taking the field."

He said the atmosphere and energy around the squad was fantastic. "We are expecting a really tough match against Kings XI," he said. "(It is) a fantastic team. K.L. Rahul was in exceptional form the other night against RCB, so he will be a key wicket as always."

"I think we'll see another potentially high-scoring game at Sharjah with small boundaries and the dew factor coming in."



Jos Buttler. ■ TWITTER/RAJASTHANROYALS

### TODAY'S MATCH



**SHARJAH, 7.30 p.m. IST**

**HEAD-TO-HEAD**

Played: 19

**RR 10 | KXIP 9**

In 2019

Played 2 | KXIP 2 | RR 0

STAR SPORTS 1, 2 & SELECT 1 (SD & HD)

sioned Varun Aaron in Jaydev Unadkat's place.

Kings XI captain K.L. Rahul, who plundered a record 132 not out against Royal Challengers Bangalore, would like to continue in the same vein on a ground which has short boundaries.

As regards bowling, Royals defended their 216 run target easily with Archer bowling brilliantly at the death and leg-spinner Rahul Tewatia (three for 37) inflicting damage at the top of the order.

### Replace Unadkat?

It will be interesting to see if Smith decides to try out rookie Kartik Tyagi or the sea-

skipper also felt that the team's spinners have not done a good job so far.

### Area of concern

"The style of play CSK has developed over the last 12 years has been heavily based on spin."

"What we are trying to do is find a different personality as a side, but spin still plays a part. We are struggling to adjust and find the right pace to bowl through the middle overs."

"So spin has gone from being a strength to an area of concern," said the 47-year-old, who has guided the team to three titles.

"There is a lot of soul-searching that needs to be done from coaching as well as strategy point of view."

The former New Zealand

on so that we know what we have as the tournament goes on.

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view what we are doing and rectify our issues, which are quite a few."

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# Tetchy Djokovic, rusty Nadal head field

Halep the player to beat in the women's section; Serena launches another bid to equal Court

## FRENCH OPEN

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

PARIS Novak Djokovic will renew his love-hate relationship with Roland Garros in the knowledge that it is himself rather than seemingly unsettled 12-time champion Rafael Nadal who could pose the greatest threat to winning a second Paris title and 18th Grand Slam crown.

The only man to beat Djokovic in 2020 is Djokovic after the Serb's sensational disqualification from the US Open.

The 33-year-old arrives in the French capital with a 31-1 record this year after his New York brain-fade was followed by a record 36th Masters title in Rome.

### Ring rustiness

Roger Federer will miss the French Open as he rehabs his injured knee while Nadal has played just three matches since February, a ring-rustiness evident in his quarter-final exit in Rome.

"It's Nadal," insisted the World No. 1 when pushed on who is the favourite. "You just can't put anybody in front of him."

Nadal, meanwhile, is eyeing a 13th French Open. Since his title-winning debut in 2005, the Spaniard has only lost twice at Roland Garros in 95 matches – to Robin Soderling in 2009 and Djokovic in 2015.

### Cold and damp

Nadal cut an unsettled figure at a pre-tournament press conference on Friday where he admitted the cold and damp conditions forced him to face his "most difficult ever Roland Garros". He is also unhappy about using a new brand of ball.

"For the health of the players, the ball is super heavy and becomes dangerous for the elbow and for the shoulders," he said.

Former champion Simona Halep arrives as the player to beat in a women's draw missing title-holder Ashleigh Barty and recent US Open winner Naomi Osaka, two of the world's top three.

Serena Williams can never be discounted as she launches another bid for a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam singles crown, but Roland Garros is the American's

## ROLAND GARROS BY THE NUMBERS



The in-form Djokovic has an opportunity to become the first player since the legendary Rod Laver to win each of the four Grand Slams at least twice

### KEEP AN EYE ON

**The weather:** This year's French Open may be the first time a Slam is being played in autumn instead of spring/summer. Forecast for the first week suggests that Paris will be cool with rain in the air, which can lead to the ball bouncing low. This is a far cry from the warm and high-bouncing conditions Nadal loves

**The roof and lights:** Roland Garros will unveil a retractable roof over the Philippe-Chatrier court and floodlights at eight courts, including the main stadium. Shorter days in autumn mean play will continue under lights. In heavier conditions, spotting the ball which picks up dirt on the clay is going to be harder

**The ball:** After eight years of using Babolat, French Open will use Wilson balls this year. It is reportedly slower than Babolat and less suitable for the kind of heavy top-spin game Nadal and Thiem play. The former has even claimed that the "heavy" ball will tax a player's elbow and shoulder. Time will tell.  
**Thiem's form:** Since Nadal in 2010, Djokovic is the only man to win back-to-back Slams. That's the challenge awaiting US Open champion Thiem, who prefers the clay courts. The two-week break after New York would have helped the Austrian recover physically, but he needs to avoid an emotional letdown following the historic high



least successful Major despite his wins in 2002, 2013 and 2015.

Garbine Muguruza, who defeated Williams in the 2016 final, is another conten-

der while fellow former world number one Victoria Azarenka is hoping to take the momentum from her run to the US Open final into Paris.

Last year's runner-up Marketa Vondrousova will again target a deep run in Paris having rediscovered some form at last week's Italian Open.

## Jhingan joins ATKMB

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA

KOLKATA

ATK Mohun Bagan (ATKMB) announced the signing of central defender Sandesh Jhingan on Saturday on a five-year contract.

Jhingan, who received the Arjuna Award earlier this year, made his move to the Indian Super League champion from Kerala Blasters, where he spent six seasons.

After injuries kept Jhingan away from action for much of the previous season, the 27-year-old defender will be eager to get back on the field for the Kolkata giant.

### Lot of friends

"I am delighted to have joined ATK Mohun Bagan. I had a detailed chat with the coach and the owners and I admire their vision and I am very happy that they felt that I could be a part of the family. I have a lot of friends already there in the team



Jhingan. ■ FILE PHOTO

## ISL: MEA nod for eight Brazilians

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Nine overseas recruits – eight from Brazil and one from Fiji – are set to become the first foreign professional sportsmen to arrive in India, amid the COVID-19 pandemic, for the Indian Super League (ISL) football.

The next edition will kick off in November across three venues in Goa, signalling the resumption of top-flight sporting activity in the country post the coronavirus lockdown.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has granted permission to 10 foreigners – nine players and one coaching staff – to join their respective clubs for pre-season in Goa.

### Clearance

It has been learnt that they have also got clearance to

travel to India from their respective governments also.

Odisha FC trio Marcelinho, Diego Mauricio and Rogério Ramos (goalkeeping coach), along with two each of Bengaluru FC and Chennaiyin FC and one each of Hyderabad FC and Jamshedpur FC will leave Brazil to arrive in Goa early next month via London, thanks to India's 'air bubble' with the United Kingdom.

Similarly, ATK Mohun Bagan's Roy Krishna has already left his native Fiji to undergo a two-week quarantine in New Zealand and needs to test negative thrice before reaching India.

and I am looking forward to join them and start working together," Jhingan said in a statement released by the club.

Jhingan will join the likes of Pritam Kotal, Spain's Tiri and Ireland's Carl McHugh, as the reigning champion looks to bolster its defence ahead of the new season.

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