



Monsoon session of Parliament to be held from Sept. 14 to Oct. 1

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Jharkhand man carries aged mother to bank to withdraw her pension

page 11



Taliban bombs Afghan Army base as Pakistan pushes for peace talks

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Anderson becomes the first pacer to take 600 Test wickets

page 14

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NEARBY



Capital sees highest COVID spike since July 16

NEW DELHI

Delhi recorded 1,544 fresh COVID-19 cases on Tuesday – the highest single-day spike since July 16, when 1,652 cases were reported. The total number of cases in the city now stands at 1,64,071.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

'Delhi's air quality still worst among 6 big cities'

NEW DELHI

Throughout the lockdown, though air pollution in Delhi was less compared to 2019, the air quality of the city was still worst among six large cities, according to an analysis by CSE.

CITY ▶ PAGE 2

OPPORTUNITIES ▶ PAGE 5

NIA files chargesheet in Pulwama attack case

40 CRPF men were killed by suicide bomber on Feb. 14, 2019

VIIJAITA SINGH

NEW DELHI

More than a year after the Pulwama terror attack, in which 40 CRPF personnel were killed by a car-borne suicide bomber, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday filed a chargesheet, comprising more than 13,000 pages, in a Jammu court.

The chargesheet said the attack, planned by Pakistan-based terror group Jaish-e-Mohammad and the "Pakistani establishment", had been in the making since 2016. The car that blew up the bus ferrying the jawans on February 14, 2019, on the Jammu-Srinagar highway was packed with two Impro-



ween March-May, 2018, when they infiltrated groups of five each from the Hiranagar sector along the Pakistan-Jammu border.

The NIA said an attempt was made to attack a convoy on February 6, but it did not succeed due to snowfall.

Seven Pakistaniis in list

The chargesheet has been filed against JeM chief Masood Azhar and 18 others. In all, seven Pakistanis have been indicted, including Azhar's nephew Umar Farooq, who was killed in an encounter on March 29 in south Kashmir and is said to be the mastermind of the attack.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Economy to shrink in Q2, says RBI report

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) foresees the economic contraction triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic extending into the second quarter, especially as the shock to consumption has been severe, and said government consumption would be key to the revival of demand.

"High frequency indicators that have arrived so far point to a retrenchment in

activity that is unprecedented in history," the RBI said in its Annual Report for 2019-20, which was released on Tuesday.

Momentum lost

"The upticks that became visible in May and June after the lockdown was eased in several parts of the country appear to have lost strength in July and August," it said.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

NEET, JEE: MHA hints at rethink on dates

VIIJAITA SINGH

PRISCILLA JEVARAJ

NEW DELHI

Facing escalating demands from political leaders and student organisations to push back the JEE-NEET exams due to COVID-19 fears, a Home Ministry official indicated that reconsideration was on the cards. However, his Education Ministry colleague denied that a rethink was under way.

"As of now, the exam

dates stand as it is. But the letters by Chief Ministers and other leaders cannot be ignored," the Home Ministry official said on background.

"As far as I know, there is no rethink," Higher Education Secretary Amit Khare told *The Hindu*.

Last week, the Supreme Court dismissed a petition from students seeking postponement of the exams.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

What is wrong in seeking apology, SC asks Bhushan

Counsel advises court to not make his client a 'martyr' by punishing him

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday wondered about the consistent resolve shown by civil right lawyer Prashant Bhushan in not tendering an apology in the face of contempt, saying "you have hurt someone, you must remove the hurt".

"What is wrong in seeking apology? Is it a sin to apologise? Will that be a reflection of guilt? 'Apology' is a magical word which can heal. You will all go to the category of Mahatma Gandhi if you can apologise," Justice Arun Misra said.

Justice B.R. Gavai, on the Bench, said, "Mahatma Gandhi used to fast. Not for his, but for others' sins." Justice Krishna Murari, the third judge on the Bench, remained silent throughout.

Attorney General K.K. Venugopal urged the court not to punish Mr. Bhushan. He said this was an opportunity for the court to enhance its greatness through its compassion.

Senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan, Mr. Bhushan's lawyer, advised the court to not make his client a "martyr" by punishing him. What was needed was judicial statesmanship and not mercy, he said.

Mr. Bhushan had refused to apologise in his two state-

ments to the court. He was found guilty of scandalising the court with his tweets on a picture of Chief Justice of India S.A. Bobde astride a heavy bike and the role of the court in the past six years. He stated that the tweets were his bona fide opinions.

In the sentence hearing on August 20, he quoted the Mahatma, saying he asks for neither mercy nor magnanimity from the court. The court, however, gave him an opportunity to tender an "unconditional apology" by August 24. But the senior lawyer, in his second statement to the court, said an insincere apology amounted to contempt of his conscience and to the institution he held in high esteem. The hearing was scheduled on

August 25 to study the "effect" of the statement.

Expected better

"We expected something better [from Bhushan]," Justice Mishra said, referring to the second statement.

But Mr. Venugopal suggested the court should "warn Mr. Bhushan and let him go".

"Many sitting and retired judges have spoken about the institution in the past... It was to tell the court to look within and reform, to seek improvement for advancement of justice. No, it is not necessary to punish him [Prashant Bhushan]."

Rajeev Dhavan said an effect of inflicting punishment would be "you making him a martyr". "Look at what hap-

List contempt case of 2009 on Sept. 10: Bench

The SC Bench, headed by Justice Arun Mishra, has deferred a 2009 contempt case against Prashant Bhushan that was initiated following his remarks on judicial corruption. The SC asked the case to be posted before another Bench on September 10. ▶ PAGE 9

pened to Kalyan Singh after Babri Masjid demolition. He was punished for contempt and was seen as a martyr...

Martyrdom is not what he [Bhushan] wants. We don't want this matter to continue..." he submitted.

"This controversy will continue depending on the punishment you give to Bhushan. Not only should this case be closed, but controversy should be closed," Mr. Dhavan submitted.

Justice Mishra, referring to Mr. Bhushan's statements and his reply alleging corruption by Chief Justices in the past, said "we could advise him not to commit this in the future. But he [Bhushan] has no inkling that he has done anything wrong..."

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

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'Respond to plea by riot case accused'

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH
NEW DELHI

The High Court on Tuesday asked Delhi Police to respond to a plea by an accused arrested in connection with north-east Delhi riots case, challenging a trial court's order extending time granted to complete investigation in the case.

Justice Vibhu Bakshu issued notice to Delhi Police on a plea of Khalid, a member of campaign group United Against Hate, who has been booked under the stringent anti-terror law Unlawful Activities Prevention Act.

Mr. Khalid has sought to set aside the trial court's August 13 order by which police was granted extension till September 17 to complete investigation against 10 people booked under the UAPA in the case. The court has now listed the case for further hearing on September 1.

Air Quality of Delhi-NCR					
Delhi	61	Gurugram	50		
Ghaziabad	50	Faridabad	66		
Noida	47	Greater Noida	57		
■ Good	■ Satisfactory	■ Moderate			
0-50	51-100	101-200			
Poor	Very Poor	Severe			
201-300	301-400	>400			
Air Quality Index at 4 p.m. yesterday (Average of past 24 hours) Source: CPCB					

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E-TENDER DATE EXTENSION NOTICE-II

This office e-tender specification No. CCP-I/25 & 26/2020-2021 invited previously, for supply of ACSR Rabbit Conductor & 11 KV INC VCB Panel 500MVA 800/400/5A, 110V AC, 11KV FDR VCB Panel 500 MVA 400/200/5A, 110V AC, 11KV Bus Coupler 500MVA respectively are hereby extended due to unavoidable reasons. The prebid of the e-tenders shall be held on 31.08.2020 at 11:00hrs & 11:30hrs respectively. The e-tenders can be purchased and submitted upto 17:00 hrs of 15.09.2020. Part-I of the e-tender shall be opened on 16.09.2020 at 15:45hrs & 16:00hrs respectively.

Other terms & conditions will remain same as per original tender notice. For further details, please visit our website www.uktenders.gov.in.

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SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one person namely Nitin @ Naveen S/o Babul Gupta R/o 3246 Kua Wali Gali Aiyapura, Sabijmandi Ghanta Chor, Delhi-7 has been missing/kidnapped from the jurisdiction of PS: Kashmere Gate, Delhi since 04.08.2020. In this regard, a case vide DD No. 35-A Dated 05.08.2020 has been registered at P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi. The description of the missing/kidnapped person is as under.

Age: 37 Years. **Complexion:** Shallow, Height: 5' 3", **Built:** Strong, **Face:** Round, **Wearing:** Purple colour Shirt, black pant and black colour sandal in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out him but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the missing person then please inform P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi at following Tel. No. / e-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in and Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641

Fax No. 011-24368639



Nitin
Sd/- S.H.O.
P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi
DP/442/N/2020
Ph: 011-23967889

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY Notice No.: 02/2020

Notice for Expression of Interest

Lucknow Division, North Eastern Railway on behalf of the President of India invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from Individuals/Agencies/Companies and other entities for undertaking Infrastructure development and other activities of 09 Good Sheds under Public Private Partnership (PPP) model.

Goods Sheds To Be Developed Under PPP Mode

Nautanwa (Maharajganj) Basti Balrampur
Nakahajungle (Gorakhpur) Subhagpur Thomsonganj (Sitapur)
Khalilabad Katra Golagokarnath (Lakhimpur)

Targeted Activities

(1) Infrastructural development of Good Shed (Conventional infrastructures like goods platform, approach road, lighting etc. or new assets ad per requirement).

(2) Ancillary activities to be developed (Like tagging, storage, packaging etc.)

(3) Management and maintenance of Good Sheds.

(4) Demand Aggregation and First/Last Mile connectivity.

● In lieu of such investments made by Individuals/Agencies/ Companies or other entities, incentives may be given by Railways depending upon the traffic handled or generated. ● Suggestions/modalities relating to the revenue model may be provided in the EOI. ● EOI's can be submitted for one, more than one or all Good Sheds mentioned. ● EOI's can be submitted for one, more than one or all Activities mentioned. ● All the above mentioned activities will be undertaken under the supervision of Railways.

Railways have always been a very cost effective mode of transportation. Lucknow Division aims at addressing all the concerns of the traders to make Railways the most convenient mode as well.

In this regard, Lucknow division (North Eastern Railway) invites all existing and new interested individuals/Agencies/ Companies or other entities to kindly send their EOI/Suggestions along with the details of the proposal of each Goods shed separately up to dated 10-09-2020.

TO- Office of DRM/Commercial, Ashok Marg, Hazratganj, Lucknow OR through email id goodshedljn@gmail.com, OR on whatsapp no. 09771097838.

After receiving the proposal, a meeting with the interested parties may be called for further deliberations.

DRM/C/Lucknow

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Timings

DELHI

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 26
RISE 05:57 SET 18:49
RISE 13:29 SET 00:00
THURSDAY, AUG. 27
RISE 05:57 SET 18:48
RISE 14:31 SET 00:13
FRIDAY, AUG. 28
RISE 05:58 SET 18:47
RISE 15:31 SET 01:04

Delhi Weather max min
Delhi City 33 26
Safdarjung 33 26
Palam 33 27

Delhi Palam Today
35°C Few spell of light rain and thunderstorm with cloudy sky would affect the area.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
32°C Light to moderate rain and thundershower with cloudy sky and gusty winds would affect area.

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THE HINDU

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'BJP buying anti-dengue medicines at higher price'

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party on Tuesday accused the Delhi BJP chief, Adesh Gupta, for buying anti-dengue medicine – used for fogging by the municipal corporations – at a “higher price” and termed it a “scam”.

“These allegations are completely baseless and untrue,” said a BJP spokesperson, adding that the party would issue a detailed response on the allegation in the coming days.

AAP leader Durgesh Pathak on Tuesday said the Delhi BJP’s anti-dengue campaign is a huge drama and an opportunity to do corruption.

He said the BJP-led civic bodies bought anti-dengue medicine at ₹3,256.80/kg whereas the same was bought by Bhopal Municipal Corporation at ₹2,500/kg.

“Significantly, we need to note that the Deputy Chief Accountant of the BJP-led civic bodies raised objection against this purchase. The person concerned said when Bhopal Municipal Corporation can buy this same product at such a lower price then why should the BJP-led civic bodies buy this product at such a higher price. The civic bodies did not listen to the objection,” he said.

He added that recently Mr. Gupta had launched a campaign against dengue in Delhi.

“This is a drama. We believe that through these campaigns, the BJP leaders earn a lot of corrupt money,” said Mr. Pathak.

Gurugram bus service ridership up by 30%

‘Well-being of passengers a priority’

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

The ridership of city bus service – Gurugram – run by Gurugram Metropolitan City Bus Limited has steadily gone up by 30% since the buses started running on full capacity from August 15.

During the week beginning after August 15, 20,309 passengers travelled on Gurugram buses till August 17. Similarly, the passenger count was 18,733 the next day. However, passenger mobility was affected on August 19 and 20 due to rain. On August 21, passenger count rebounded with 19,638 passengers travelling on the six routes now operational. The

Weekly market in Bhogal fails to enforce social distancing norms

Many shopkeepers unhappy, say it will spread deadly virus

SIDHARTH RAVI
NEW DELHI

With scant regard for social distancing norms, the weekly market in south Delhi’s Bhogal reopened on a trial basis after five months on Tuesday.

The vendors, who have been out of work for several months, were keen on the markets being reopened.

Following the orders of Delhi Disaster Management Authority, weekly markets in different parts of the city have been reopened until September 30.

Markets have been allowed to open, one per day in each zone, with various guidelines laid out in regards to social distancing.

Congested on first day
Though there were designated spots for vendors, the market was highly congested on the opening day.

Vendors set up stores on a small road due to which many permanent shopkeepers complained that it was a bad idea to reopen the markets.

Area municipal officials were seen trying to dissuade vendors from allowing too many customers but admitted that social distancing was very difficult to maintain here.



A vendor arranges clothes in a weekly market in west Delhi's Raghubir Nagar. ■ FILE PHOTO: SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

C Area municipal officials were seen trying to dissuade vendors from allowing too many customers but admitted that social distancing was very difficult to maintain here

with the development. “You can’t imagine the crowd that gathers at this market...it makes no sense,” he said. He said he won’t allow vendors to set up stores outside his shop.

Another store owner said the people following social distancing norms stayed home while those in the markets, do not care about such norms. “How will you control them?” he asked.

Vendors speak
Vendors such as Ashok Kumar said markets were opening everywhere in the city. “As Kejriwal [Chief Minister] said, we will have to

live with corona,” said Kumar, who sets up store at various weekly markets here.

Ranbir Singh, a vendor, said he had to take loans, use savings and depend on free food to make ends meet during the lockdown. Other vendors echoed his sentiment, appealing for all markets in Delhi to be reopened.

For business to resume, he said it would take some time to get customers.

Many unaware of move

Most people who came to the market on Tuesday said they did not know that it would reopen today. Harpreet Kaur, 36, said she was passing through the area when she saw the market functioning. Others such as Rekha Tawa and her mother from New Friends Colony had come to see if the market had reopened.

“We have been coming here for many years now to buy clothes and other small items...,” Ms. Tawa said.

BJP may name new office-bearers for State unit by end of the week

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

BJP National Secretary Arun Singh chaired a meeting for the reorganisation of the party’s State unit on Tuesday. Insiders said that new teams are likely to be announced later this week.

Meeting with RSS
The meeting follows discussions between the party’s senior State leadership and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) in relation to the exercise – twice over the last

fourtight. The new office-bearers are expected to be announced by the end of this week, said sources.

The national unit has appointed Mr. Singh and Mahila Morcha president Vijaya Rahatkar as observers for the organisational restructuring of State unit.

Several rounds of meetings and consultations have taken place with final touches and the RSS’ final nod for individuals for various posts scheduled over the coming days, according to sources.

As per party sources, claims of being “connected to the ground” made by potential candidates for various party posts in the State unit are being verified and recommended candidates are not being entertained.

The maximum age of block presidents, according to party sources, has been fixed at 45 years. The appointment of block presidents will be followed by appointment of district presidents; then by appointment of office-bearers.

BJP launches scheme to fight dengue

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Delhi BJP chief Adesh Gupta on Tuesday launched the ‘Dengue, Malaria and Chikungunya free Maha Abhiyan’ to be run by all three municipal corporations.

Mr. Gupta flagged off a power spray tanker, fogging machine and three-wheeler mounted with PA system for the Abhiyan and did fogging

for protection from mosquito-borne diseases in the west Patel Nagar Ward of North Municipal Corporation.

“Municipal Corporations work round-the-clock, not 10 minutes. Employees of the Municipal Health Department will go door-to-door to get all the information about the circumstances there through an

assessment form in writing,” Mr. Gupta said.

“Councillors along with RWA will conduct an awareness campaign and inform residents about dengue, chikungunya and malaria prevention. Delhi BJP together with Delhi Municipal Corporation is committed to keeping the people of Delhi healthy and safe,” he added.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
My clients S/o Amresh Bahadur Singh
S/o Late Sh. Balkeshwar Singh and Smt.
Meena Singh W/o Sh. Amresh Bahadur
Singh, both R/o H.No.23, Ber Sarai, Hauz
Khas, South Delhi, Delhi-110016 have
downwarded their son Virat Singh and
Kumar Singh, his wife Bhanta Hazarkha
Singh and their son Virat Singh from their
all moveable and immovable properties
due to their disappearance behaviour,
and conductive out of control of my
clients. My clients have also severed all
their relations with them. If anybody deals
with them, he/she should do so at his/her
own risks and consequences. My
clients shall not be liable or responsible
for the same in any manner.

MOHIT SAROHA (Advocate)
Ch. 327, W Wing, Tis hazari Court, Delhi-14

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO
GENERAL PUBLIC THAT MY CLIENT
MRS. SHAKUNTALA PAUL W/O SH.
DARSHAN PAUL R/D VARUN
SINGH, ADDRESS AT NO. 101, G.O.T.
NO. GHOSI SECTOR-52, GURUGRAM-
122024 HAS LOST HER ORIGINAL GPA
DATED 30.12.1996 DULY REGISTERED
WITH THE OFFICE OF SUB-REGISTRAR,
SUB-REGISTRAR, BASAIDARPUR-
WEST, VIDE REGISTRATION NO.
58301 IN ADDITIONAL BOOK NO.4
VOLNO. 4187 ON PAGES 115-117 AND
SPA. 4187 ON PAGES 120-121 DULY
REGISTERED WITH THE OFFICE OF
SUB-REGISTRAR, BASAIDARPUR-
WEST, VIDE REGISTRATION NO.
58302 IN ADDITIONAL BOOK NO. 4, VOL.
NO. 4187, FROM PAGES 118-118, OF
P.C.R. NO. 10009, NO. C-716,
VIKASPUR, NEW DELHI.

ANY PERSON FOUND MISUSING THE
AFORESAID GPA AND SPA BE LIABLE
FOR PROSECUTION.

THE FIRM MAY PLEASE CONTACT
THE UNDERSIGNED.

MEGHNA KATARI (Advocate)
1119, Lower Ground Floor, Laga Nagar-II, New Delhi-110042

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for notice of the general public
that a political party is proposed to be
registered under the name of "HARYANA
HTIKARI DAL". The office of the party
is located at C/O BRAHMAN SINGH,
VILLAGE BRAHMAN MAJRA, P.O.
BHADUAU, TEHSIL-PANIPAT,
DISTT. PANIPAT, HARYANA-132103.
The party has applied for registration
with the Election Commission of India
under Section 29A of the Representation
of People Act, 1951. Name of the
representative of the party are as follows:-
President : Brahma Singh S/o Sh.
Kesi, R/o H. No. 149, Village
Brahman Majra, Block-3, Tehsil
Panipat, Distt. Panipat, Haryana.
If anyone has any objection to the
registration of "HARYANA HTIKARI
DAL" they may send their objection
with reasons thereof, to the Secretary
(Political Party), Election Commission
of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka
Road, New Delhi-110001 within 30
days of the publication of this notice.

(JITENDER SINGH NEGI), MARRIAGE OFFICE &
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FAX NO.009714-3970453, EMAIL:
cons1.dubai@mea.gov.in, cons1.dubai.gov.in,
HOMEPAGE: www.qgidubai.gov.in

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WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Gilgit-Baltistan, Muzaffarabad, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Vidarbha, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	68.6	33.5	25.3	Kozhikode	...-32.0...	25.6	
Ahmedabad	2.8	32.3	23.5	Kurnool	...-33.5...	24.5	
Aizawl	11	27.8	17.9	Lucknow	1.6	35.1...	25.2
Allahabad	1.3	34.3	25.6	Madurai	2.8	37.7...	25.2
Bengaluru	30.2	20.5		Mangaluru	0.5	31.1...	23.6
Bhopal	1.2	29.9	22.9	Mumbai	13.4	31.4...	24.4
Bhubaneswar	1.5	27.8	26.3	Mysuru	...-31.9...	22.1	
Chandigarh	...-33.3...	27.2		New Delhi	0.1	33.2...	25.8
Chennai	...-35.4...	27.8		Patna	...-33.4...	26.4	
Coimbatore	34.6	32.3		Port Blair	...-31.7...	25.7	
Dehradoon	33	32.2	22.0	Puducherry	0.2	35.6...	26.0
Gangtok	23.7	23.0	17.8	Pune	0.6	30.4...	21.6
Goa	7.8	31.4	24.7	Raipur	...-33.0...	25.8	
Guwahati	...-36.8...	26.2		Ranchi	...-30.2...	23.6	
Hubballi	...-29.0...	21.0		Shillong	1.9	24.8...	19.0
Hyderabad	31.6	22.9		Shimla	0.7	25.0...	19.7
Imphal	0.7	29.6	22.0	Srinagar	...-32.9...	21.0	
Jaipur	6.4	30.9	24.1	Thiruvananthapuram	...-32.6...	25.2	
Kochi	...-30.6...	25.8		Tiruchi	43.8	35.9...	23.6
Kohima	7.6	28.0	18.2	Vijayawada	...-34.6...	27.0	
Kolkata	0.8	34.8	26.9	Visakhapatnam	1.3	32.0...	27.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO ₂	NO _x	CO	PM _{2.5}	PM ₁₀	CODE
Ahmedabad	15	36	21	37	56	GREEN
Bengaluru	...-21	34	47	72	72	GREEN
Chennai	6	14	75	84	78	ORANGE
Delhi	7	12	48	42	106	RED
Hyderabad	7	46	12	22	37	GREEN
Kolkata	7	24	11	71	78	GREEN
Lucknow	4	8	47	133	104	RED
Mumbai	9	40	102	19	48	RED
Pune	21	8	54	20	20	GREEN
Visakhapatnam	11	42	23	60	90	GREEN

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Brajrajnagar, Odisha recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 118 indicating a moderate level of pollution.

In contrast, Kalaburagi, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 12.

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

SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_x: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravated 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.

PM_{2.5} & 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

Viraat to head to Alang yard

Navy had tried to preserve the aircraft carrier by converting it into a museum

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

Decommissioned aircraft carrier *Viraat*, which has been lying at the Naval dockyard in Mumbai, is set to be scrapped at a ship breaking yard at Alang in Gujarat soon. It has been sold to the Shree Ram Green Ship Recycling Industries of Gujarat in an e-auction by the Metal Scrap Trade Corporation Limited (MSTC), a Navy official said on Tuesday.

Several attempts by the Navy to preserve the carrier, by converting it into a museum or by other means, failed. The government informed Parliament in July last year that it had been decided to scrap the carrier.

"Shree Ram Group got the carrier for ₹38 crore... A delivery order has to be placed. Once its signed, there is a



End of a long voyage: *Viraat* at the Naval dockyard in Mumbai. ■ VIVEK BENDRE

time period within which it has to be taken away," an official said. It is likely to be towed away in early September.

Viraat, a Centaur class aircraft carrier weighing 27,800 tonnes, served in the British Navy as *HMS Hermes* for 25 years from November 1959 to April 1984. It was commissioned into the Indian Navy in May 1987 after refurbish-

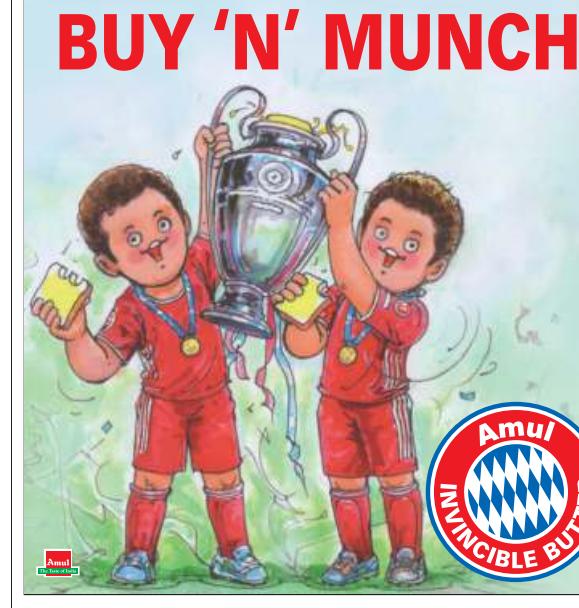
ment and had operated Harrier fighter jets.

It was decommissioned from March 2017, and the Navy had been incurring expenditure since then on its upkeep, such as the provision of electricity and water, and repairs. It was also taking up space in the crowded Naval dockyard.

There had been demands from various quarters to not

let *Viraat* go the way of *Vikrant*, India's first carrier that was eventually scrapped. Several States had submitted proposals, but none of them fructified.

The Andhra Pradesh government, headed by former Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, had made several attempts. In October 2016, it submitted a proposal for its conversion into an aircraft museum, including tourist and hospitality components, on a commercial basis through a joint venture with the Centre. But the Defence Ministry rejected the proposal two months later. In 2018, the Maharashtra Cabinet approved a proposal to convert the carrier into a museum and hospitality centre on a Public-Private Partnership basis and had invited bids. But there were no takers.



Soren being shifted to Gurugram

SATYASUNDAR BARIK
BHUBANESWAR/GURUGRAM

Former Jharkhand Chief Minister and Jharkhand Mukti Morcha supremo Sibu Soren, who had tested positive for COVID-19, left for New Delhi by train to get admitted at

Medanta Hospital, Gurugram, on Tuesday evening. The leader was admitted in Medanta Hospital, Ranchi. The decision to shift him to Gurugram was taken when inconsistencies in his oxygen level were observed.

In festival season, pandemic breaks spirit of Bhopal idol makers

Ban on public gatherings, cap on idol height have gnawed away at the livelihoods of Bhopal's nearly 800 potter families

SIDHARTH YADAV
BHOPAL

Every monsoon, Bharat Singh Prajapati's workshop bustled with activity – workers from West Bengal moulding clay idols, his four children lending them a hand, and customers streaming in and out. But restrictions on public gatherings this year owing to the COVID-19 pandemic have left a numbing impact on the potter of 25 years.

Amid Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations, the sight of tens of two-foot idols and scores of taller unfinished ones, some left half-coloured and others needing a final touch, at his makeshift workshop in New Market here piques him. "I wish I had kept my children away from our traditional occupa-

tion, so they could have picked something else. The pandemic has stolen away our identity," says Mr. Prajapati, tears rolling down his cheeks.

Restrictions on gatherings, including religious ones, during the pandemic have gnawed away at the livelihoods of Bhopal's nearly 800 potter families who make the most around Ganesh Chaturthi and Durga Puja. Worse, the government has placed a cap of two feet on idol height too late, just a week ahead of Ganesh Chaturthi, by when the potters had already taken orders, invested in raw material and even readied a few idols, now left to decay.

The faded colours of a few finished taller idols, due to corrosion from moisture over days, resemble the grim pros-

pects confronting Mr. Prajapati, who sits idle at the temple entrance gate, wondering how to repay ₹4 lakh loan that he has taken. Anticipating a normal season bringing in ₹2 lakh to ₹3 lakh profit, he had taken a loan of ₹1 lakh at 10% interest and even mortgaged his house and wife's jewellery to buy raw material.

"We have been able to sell just 10 of 120 idols we made. How will I repay the loan?" he asks. He cancelled another 50 orders, but the buyers, magnificent enough, did not ask for the ₹20,000 adva-kae back.

"Thousands took part in the BJP's three-day membership drive in Gwalior-Chambal recently, but no one questioned them. Are COVID-19 safety norms meant only for

the poor?" asks Mr. Prajapati, wondering why idol tents couldn't be allowed with precautions and physical distancing. He now pins his hopes on the upcoming Durga Puja, and on selling *diyas* ahead of Diwali.

Reduced demand

In the Budhwara area, Mohan Lal Prajapati, among the city's oldest potters, has sold just 35 of the 100 idols. "Home Minister Narottam Mishra told us two months ago that we could go ahead with making idols, even taller ones, but he later restricted them. This is a betrayal of sorts," says Mr. Mohan, who has made just ₹70,000 this year so far instead of the usual ₹2 lakh-₹2.5 lakh.

Yet, Mr. Mohan is desper-

ate to sell the remaining idols, even at a loss. With most customers this time preferring smaller and cheaper plaster of Paris (PoP) idols for their homes, he is compelled to sell the two-foot idols for ₹1,000 each, which is half the normal price.

Transport restrictions have also made raw material costlier. Ajay Prajapati bought a trolley of clay for ₹6,500, twice the usual cost. "The irony is that while wine shops, malls and restaurants are open, public gatherings are being restricted," says Mr. Ajay, a member of the Murti-kar Matika Sangh, a group of sculptors. He said potters would protest outside Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan's residence soon, demanding compensation.

APMC yards across State shut over market fee

Traders demand that State implement APMC Act amendment

RAINA ASSAINAR
NAVI MUMBAI

All APMC yards in State remained shut on Tuesday, in response to a call for strike by Chamber of Association of Maharashtra Industry and Trade (CAMIT) and Federation of Associations of Traders of Pune last week.

The strike amounted to a halt in the transaction of crores of rupees for a day. Traders voiced their concern over the APMC Act, which the Central government has amended but has not been implemented by the State yet. Due to this, traders operating from the market have to pay 1% market fee in all their trades.

By an ordinance dated June 5, the Centre permitted the sale of agricultural pro-

duce from farmers to consumer without attracting APMC Act as a result of which, no market fee will be levied on the goods sold outside the market. This is to promote the concept of 'one nation one market'.

"The bandh call was given since no action was taken by State government to mitigate the grievances of APMC traders dealing from within the market yard. While the traders dealing in APMC commodities are exempted from market fee of 1% as per the notification of Government of India, the traders dealing with the APMC products inside the market are required to pay this fee since they are the license holder of APMC," Mr. Gurnani said.

CAMIT has requested NCP chief Sharad Pawar and the State government to exempt all traders from the market fee. "We have asked to provide level playing field to the APMC traders of market area," Mr. Gurnani said.

HC asks jail authorities to take Rakesh Wadhawan to hospital

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Tuesday directed the Arthur Road Jail authorities to take Rakesh Wadhawan, promoter-director of HDIL, to the civic-run KEM Hospital for colonoscopy and endoscopy.

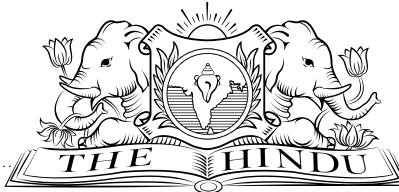
A Division Bench headed by Justice R.D. Dhanuka also sought a medical report from the hospital.

Mr. Wadhawan (67) and his son Sarang are facing a case of alleged ₹4,000 crore money laundering in the PMC Bank scam, and have been in jail since October

2019. The sessions court had on August 18 directed the jail authorities to take Mr. Wadhawan to either KEM Hospital or Nair Hospital for tests.

As the jail authorities failed to follow the order, Mr. Wadhawan approached the HC claiming that his health was deteriorating day by day. "We accordingly direct the jail authority to shift the petitioner to KEM Hospital within 48 hours from today for colonoscopy and endoscopy and any other treatment be made available that would be necessitated," the court said.

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Sound and fury

The Congress leadership seems unwilling to engage in honest introspection

The sound and fury at the seven-hour long virtual meeting of the Congress Working Committee (CWC) on Monday signified a lot. The orchestrated tirade by CWC members against party colleagues who raised valid concerns regarding the functioning of the party lent credence to a charge the Congress often faces – that it exists for the Gandhi family. A letter signed by several senior leaders had demanded an “active, full-time and visible” leadership. Their intent, timing and motivation were questioned by Rahul Gandhi, who continues to influence decisions in the party though he resigned as president last year. While former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh shored up support for Mr. Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi, who holds charge as interim president of the party, another senior leader, A.K. Antony, termed the letter “cruel”. Swinging between the senile and the juvenile, arguments at the CWC appear to be an attempt to gloss over the substance of the letter – the entire text of which, incidentally, is not public yet – and vilify its signatories. In seeking to deflect the issue by questioning the character and loyalty of those who raised it, the Congress did exactly what it often accuses its principal opponent, the BJP, of doing. The signatories to the letter might include opportunists too, but many of them such as Kapil Sibal, Manish Tewari and Shashi Tharoor have been staunch defenders of the party. There was no reason to hastily conclude, as many at the CWC did, that the letter was leaked to the media by its senders and not its recipients.

The degenerative affliction crippling the Congress party is a concern not only for its members but for all who are invested in India's democracy. The Gandhi family that commands the loyalty of the entire party has a special duty to ensure that this cry for reform within the party is not reduced to a question about itself. The Gandhis have expressed their desire to remain active without leading the party. Such a role will be seen as a disingenuous scheme to exercise authority without accountability – something that Mr. Gandhi claims to deeply detest. He is fortunate, and must be thankful, that the Congress party in its entirety still supports him and even the reformists, mislabelled rebels by his self-styled loyalists, are not questioning his authority. They have only expressed frustration over his selective interest. It was Ms. Gandhi's remarkable accommodative skills and magnanimity that paved the way for the creation of the United Progressive Alliance that lasted in government for two full terms between 2004 and 2014. Ms. Gandhi's legacy faces a serious threat – not only from her political opponents but also from within the household. If Mr. Gandhi is unwilling to give up his obduracy and overcome his bitterness towards colleagues, the responsibility falls on Ms. Gandhi to ensure a transparent election to find a successor along with a new CWC and a parliamentary board.

Down, but not out

Political instability in parts of West Asia and North Africa is allowing the IS space to operate

The UN counterterrorism chief's statement to the Security Council on the continuing presence of Islamic State (IS) terrorists in West Asia, Africa and elsewhere should be seen as a serious warning by the countries in these regions. Two years after the Sunni jihadist group was declared defeated, more than 10,000 IS fighters remain active in Iraq and Syria, said Vladimir Voronkov. IS-driven terror attacks are on the rise. Besides these two countries, where the IS had established a proto-state in 2014 – destroyed by multilateral war efforts that lasted four years – the terror outfit has a “province” in West Africa with nearly 3,000 fighters, according to the UN. In war-torn Afghanistan, it continues to stage attacks, targeting ethnic and religious minorities. The IS may no longer control any big city, but its rise from a breakaway faction of al-Qaeda in Iraq to one of the world's most potent terrorist groups should be a lesson for all stakeholders. Ever since they lost territories, IS fighters withdrew from the front lines and started operating in cells in the deserts, mountains and hinterlands of conflict-ridden countries.

Iraq and Syria are particularly vulnerable to the IS's resurgence as these countries are yet to be fully stabilised after the wars. In Syria, the Bashar al-Assad government has practically won the civil war. But Syria is now a divided country. While the government controls most of the territories, a coalition of jihadists and rebels is running the Idlib province. In the northeast, the Kurdish rebels have declared autonomy. On the Syrian-Turkish border, Turkey, backed by pro-Turkish rebels, has carved out a buffer and has been in permanent conflict with the Kurds. Though there is an uneasy quiet in Syria, the situation is inflammable. Iraq, after months of protests and instability, has finally got a government. But Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi is torn between the U.S. and Iran. Pro-Iran Shia militias continue to target U.S. troops inside Iraq, which could turn the country into a battlefield between Washington and Tehran. The story is not very different in Africa. Libya has two governments, which were fighting each other till last week's ceasefire. The Libyan conflict has spilled over into Mali and Burkina Faso, where jihadists have established a solid presence. Chaos breeds militancy, and as the main group here is the IS, it would remain active as long as these countries remain unstable. The IS has its roots in the U.S. invasion of Iraq. It started growing by exploiting the civil war in Syria. The regional governments as well as their international backers (and rivals) should be mindful of this fact. If they fail to address the regional fault-lines and continue to fight each other, the jihadists could emerge winners once again.

The marginalisation of justice in public discourse

In India today, while self-interest and national glory dominate, concern for distributive justice is rare



RAJEEV BHARGAVA

Two ideas appear to dominate our public discourse today. One, somewhat implicitly, self-interest. The second, far more explicitly, national glory. How the pursuit of material or cultural self-interest affects others does not seem to bother us. There is little acknowledgement that the pursuit of greed and narrow self-interest leads to severe inequalities, to an unequal division of social benefits.

Also missing is the thought that the burden of realising national goals such as development must be shared equally by all. True, nothing of importance is achieved without sacrifice. But why should some people sacrifice virtually everything they have and others benefit without forgoing anything at all? Given the compulsion to advance our self-interest, this burden is easily passed on to those among us who are powerless to resist it. Isn't it wrong that the least paid workers and peasants in our society are expected to offer the greatest sacrifices for building the nation? Why this grossly unfair division of social labour? Yet, concern for a fair distribution of benefits and burdens – the core issue of justice – is rare in mainstream public discourse.

Sharing benefits and burdens
What is distributive justice and why does it matter? Almost two decades ago, my younger daughter startled me by asking, “What is justice, baba?” I happened then to have a bottle of water before me. So, I began explaining to her. “There are many things I can do with this bottle. I can grab it, even

if I am not thirsty, keeping it solely for myself. Or, out of love, I can give it to you even if I am thirsty. Finally, I can give it to some other person not because I love her, but because I can see that she needs it most. This is justice.” A few days later, as we stopped our car at the traffic lights, a ‘beggar’ came expectantly towards us and we gave him a packet of biscuits. My daughter immediately said, “That's justice, no? We gave something away to him even though we don't love him.” My daughter hadn't grasped the concept of justice just yet, but she was on the right track. At the very least, justice requires that we not be greedy and grab things; instead, we share them with those we don't know or love. Simply put, a sense of justice is born when we begin sharing things with strangers.

In fact, the idea of distributive justice presupposes not only a social condition marked by an absence of love or familiarity, but also others which the Scottish philosopher, David Hume, termed ‘the circumstances of justice’. For instance, a society where everything is abundantly available would not need justice. Each of us will have as much of everything we want. Without the necessity of sharing, justice becomes redundant. Equally, in a society with massive scarcity, justice is impossible. In order to survive, each person is compelled to grab whatever happens to be available. Justice, therefore, is possible and necessary in societies with moderate scarcity.

Justice also presupposes that people are neither totally alone nor organically united with others. If one was Robinson Crusoe, there would be no one with whom to share. And, if one was totally fused with others, with no distinction between self and other, then again, sharing will be unnecessary. Surely, one cannot share anything

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO



with oneself! To sum up, justice acquires value in societies with moderate scarcity, where people are forced to deal with those who they don't love. It presupposes a moral psychology in which humans are neither wholly selfish nor entirely benevolent. Since most societies share these conditions, we may safely conclude that justice is a necessary social virtue and has great moral value.

Giving persons their due

But what is justice? The basic idea of justice is that ‘each person gets what is properly due to him or her’, that the benefits and burdens of society be distributed in a manner that gives each person his or her due. But this begs the question: what is meant by ‘a person's due’? Here, a distinction must be made between hierarchical and egalitarian notions of justice. In hierarchical notions, what is due to a person is established by her or his place within a hierarchical system. For instance, by rank determined at birth. Certain groups are born privileged. Therefore, their members are entitled to a disproportionately large share of benefits, and a disproportionately small share of burdens. On this conception, justice requires that the benefits and burdens be unequally shared or distributed. To take just one example, in a society ridden with caste hierarchies, those born in high castes are entitled to a much greater share of wealth, power, cultural status and knowledge. Conversely, those born in ‘low castes’ get whatever is their proper due – very little, so-

metimes nothing.

This conception of justice has rarely remained unchallenged. Innumerable examples can be cited in Indian history, where aspects of this hierarchical notion had been temporarily opposed – in the early teachings of the Buddha, passages in Indian epics, Bhakti poetry, and protest movements such as Veerashaivism. In our own times, however, this challenge has become robust, explicit and sustained. This is so because of the prevalence of the idea that each person, regardless of caste, class, colour, creed or gender, has equal moral worth. All have an equal, originary capacity of endowing the world with meaning and value because of which they possess moral worth or dignity. If so, we need a different conception of justice, of sharing or distributing, of giving people what their due is consistent with equal dignity. In societies still infested with live hierarchies, people must first struggle for recognition as equals, for what might be called basic social justice. Then, they must decide how to share all social benefits and burdens among equal persons – the essence of egalitarian distributive justice.

Needs and Desert

Two main contenders exist for interpreting what is due to persons of equal moral worth. For the first need-based principle, what is due to a person is what she really needs, i.e., whatever is necessary for general human well-being. Since our basic needs are identical, justice requires their fulfillment in every single person. Beyond this basic threshold, our needs usually vary, and therefore justice further requires the fulfillment of different needs – say, the specific needs of a scholar, as well as the very different needs of a mountaineer.

Second, the principle of desert for which what is due to a person

is what he or she deserves, determined not by birth or tradition but by a person's own qualities, for instance ‘natural’ talent or productive effort. In short, though we start as equals, those who are talented or work hard should be rewarded with more benefits and be less burdened. Conversely, those contributing unequally to the creation of wealth or cultural assets, don't deserve the same benefits yielded by them. This underpins the idea of equal opportunity to all, albeit with justified inequalities of outcome.

Break the deafening silence

Most reasonable egalitarian conceptions of justice try to find a balance between need and desert. They try to ensure a distribution of goods and abilities (benefits) that satisfies everyone's needs, and a fair distribution of social burdens or sacrifices required for fulfilling them. After this, rewards are permissible to those who by virtue of natural gift, social learning and personal effort, deserve more.

Our society is afflicted by deep material, cultural and knowledge-related inequalities. Worse, these inequalities are growing by the day. Sometimes they are accompanied by blatant assertions of unequal moral worth, though today, a deafening silence on social and distributive justice is more common. It is therefore imperative to ask where we stand in relation to different forms of egalitarian justice mentioned in our Preamble. Alas, we are falling way short of standards of social and distributive justice. When will this trend be reversed? Putting justice back into public discourse should be our priority. Or else, the dreams of our nation will never turn into reality.

Rajeev Bhargava is Professor, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), Delhi

Living with the earth in Kerala

The State's future is inextricably linked to how it conserves its natural capital by limiting consumption



PULAPRE BALAKRISHNAN

Natural disasters have by now come to be accepted as a feature of the annual monsoon season in Kerala. In the past two years there has been flooding on an unprecedented scale along with landslides. Last year, 59 people lost their lives in a landslide at Kavalappara in Malappuram district. This year we have seen one at Pettimudi in Idukki district where a hill collapsed, submerging the houses of estate workers while they slept. The estimated death toll had reached 65 some days ago, with persons still missing.

On top of the landslides, we have had to bear witness to a spectacular plane crash at Kozhikode airport, again accompanied with a loss of lives. While we try to wrench ourselves away from our memories of these fateful events by recalling the valiant effort made by the pilots to save lives and of the selfless act of local youths who arrived immediately to take the survivors to hospitals, the crash serves as a reminder that further hardship awaits us if we do not jet-

tison the development model that has come to characterise the State.

It's plunder everywhere

The fact that Kerala has received wide acclaim for having achieved social indicators associated with high human development has meant that a crucial underlying dynamic is one of an unrelenting attack on the foundation of human survival, natural capital. Everywhere in Kerala the earth has been violated. The rivers are polluted when they are not dry, the valleys are filled with garbage and the hills gouged out to accommodate residences and religious houses when they have not been dynamited for quarrying. It is quite extraordinary that this has all taken place in a State that has been hailed by a section of the intelligentsia as representing the gold standard of development. For anyone willing to read the signs, such a decimation of natural capital, with its attendant consequences of flooding and landslides, bodes ill for the future of a whole people.

The natural disasters recurring year after year and the recent plane crash both represent the outcome of the hubris that we can consume as if the earth does not matter. As natural capital, such as year-round water availability and the nutrient content of the soil, has diminished, not only has it im-

pacted sectors of the economy such as agriculture but we have now seen that the way we treat the earth matters also for our very security.

At the core is politics

Kerala's future is inextricably linked to how it conserves its natural capital. With consumption defined broadly to include land use, it is apparent that the conservation of the State's natural resources is crucially dependent upon a restraint on consumption. Politics is central to this issue, not in the sense of what political parties do in the normal course but whether citizens decide to alter the course of development by their action. This response cannot end with minimising one's own consumption but must extend to calling out instances of the depletion of natural capital by vested interests. Kerala's vested interests are not only economic, which are visible, but also cultural, which are less so. It is difficult to imagine that politics as usual, as defined by the two politi-

cal fronts that have ruled Kerala for decades by now, will lead the State to a place where conservation of nature will guide our actions. Actually, the state of natural capital in the State reflects an absence of governance. Political parties everywhere are reluctant to dampen the aspiration for greater consumption for fear that it affects their electoral prospects, but Kerala's two fronts set a high example of indulging the appetite for increasing consumption, an extreme example of this being the proposal for an airport serving Sabarimala, which if it were to fructify would be the fifth in this small State.

Though the plane crash at Kozhikode cannot so easily be construed as resulting in the destruction of natural capital, it can be seen as trying to extend the limits it imposes, with consequences for our security. While tabletop runways are by no means peculiar to Kerala, airports on India's southwest coast have to face the challenge of the monsoon which produces hazardous conditions for landing. Also, Kozhikode sees much greater traffic than say Kathmandu or Shimla, thus increasing the possibility of a mishap. Ever since the crash of a flight in Mangaluru, an airport with similar characteristics, in 2010, it has been apparent that flights to Kozhikode are vulnerable. The answer would not have been to end flights but to

avoid the height of the monsoon and to take wide-bodied aircraft off the menu. Experts on air safety have spoken publicly of how they had raised concerns about Kozhikode soon after Mangaluru. While this appears to have been overtaken by a political process, we the people are no less culpable by nurturing consumption aspirations unmindful of the contours of the earth.

Past and present

It is useful to recall the belief that Kerala was named for its geography. For centuries, its people demonstrated a genius for conserving natural resources by restraining their consumption.

This was soon lost as its economy globalised and domestic consumption came to be fuelled by wealth generated offshore. Building local infrastructure to support this consumption has become a threat to life. For the State to have a future, consumption has to be limited so that the State's natural capital is not irretrievably lost. In the 1990s, as mobile telephony was spreading, someone had triumphantly coined the slogan “Geography is history”. We now see that at least some of our history will be shaped by geography.

Pulapre Balakrishnan is Professor of Economics at Ashoka University, Sonipat, Haryana



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

CWC meet
With no clear solution emerging from the stormy and marathon Congress Working Committee meeting, it is clear that the party is divided over Rahul Gandhi being made party president (Page 1, “Sonia to stay on as interim Cong. chief”, August 25). Further, media leaks and the tweets of dissenters which seem to have upset family loyalists show that the party does not believe in internal democracy which it religiously preaches at every forum. Though the dissenters, who comprise senior and experienced members of the party, may find themselves isolated for the time being, the letter they drafted to the party leadership cannot be ignored. On the contrary, the CWC needs to revisit its

political mistakes and think of solutions before it confronts doomsday.

K.R. SRINIVASAN,
Secunderabad

■ The melodrama in the Congress is also a reminder of the woeful plight of one of the most esteemed and influential political parties of independent India. It was the selfless and enduring contributions of many social reformers, thinkers and other legends that took the grand old party toward the zenith of fame and political reputation. Now, unfortunately, many of its contemporary leaders, who are supposed to be the torchbearers of reforms, can be seen floundering. Members of the working committee have to think of creative and constructive reforms in terms of its structure and functioning. If

done even-handedly, there is a chance of the party regaining its lost glory.

PRABHAKAR VALLATH,
Vatakara, Kozhikode, Kerala

■ It's simple. It was an opportunity lost. This was not the outcome that I was expecting. The party itself is one that is filled with strong voices. But for one sane and respected voice to emerge, it is necessary that the party leadership creates an opportunity for this. There was once a time when the party was favoured by the majority of citizens and no other party could even imagine defeating it. Monday's events should be a wake-up call.

SUBHASHINI RAMASAMY,
Thane, Maharashtra

■ The hours long drama of loyalists launching into a tirade against ‘dissenters’

and getting a seemingly reluctant leader to continue as interim president looked more like a well-choreographed political drama scripted for the eventual return of Rahul Gandhi. To thrust responsibility on him, a leader with no fire in the belly and with a proven poor track record, who in turn will have to take on a formidable leader of the Prime Minister's stature and a well-oiled party machinery of the BJP would amount to further political ruin for the Congress.

S.K. CHOUDHURY,
Bengaluru

■ Why should the 23 Congressmen who wrote the by now famous letter to the Congress president be called ‘dissenters’? I would have called them ‘conscience keepers’ instead. Each one of

them is a stalwart of the party in his own right. The most unfortunate aspect of the story is that it was Rahul Gandhi who came out as the bitterest critic of the 23 brave men. All those who desire the democratic system in the country to survive, naturally wish for a strong Opposition party to emerge in the country. In the present circumstances it has to be the Indian National Congress. In such a situation it is wise on the part of Rahul Gandhi to alienate even those who have stood by the party through thick and thin?

K.P. LUKE VYDHIAN,
Bengaluru

■ Why is so much newsprint being wasted to write about the peculiar goings-on in the Congress? There is no leader in the Indian National Congress and the party has

been crushed by the Bharatiya Janata Party. We can look forward to a third term for the BJP.
N. SUBRAMANIAM,
Chennai

Misplaced concerns
The claim that the DNA Bill can be misused does not hold water (Page 1, August 25). It is not as though the U.S. does not have racial issues. The nation has a Combined DNA Index System (CODIS), with approximately 3 million DNA profiles, in operation for over 25 years. It has greatly aided crime solving and identification. We do need the benefits of forensic science and computer technology which will help law enforcement authorities.
Dr. THOMAS PALOCAREN,
Vellore, Tamil Nadu

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The return of Sunni Messianism

Recep Tayyip Erdogan's vulgar display of triumphalism could only bode ill for the Muslim community



A. FAIZUR RAHMAN

In January, the Turkish media reported the sudden resignation of Adnan Tanrıverdi, a close adviser to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and member of the Presidency's Security and Foreign Policy Committee. Mr. Tanrıverdi was facing a backlash for his messianic prognostications about the impending advent of the *mahdi* (divine redeemer), and the announcement that his private security company, the SADAT International Defence Consultancy, was preparing "a suitable environment" for the *mahdi* to establish Pan-Islamic unity.

This development could have been ignored as an inconsequential occurrence in Turkish politics had Hagia Sophia not been converted into a mosque or had Mr. Tanrıverdi not revealed his plans for the creation of a "Confederal Republic" of Muslim-majority countries which were announced in November 2017 during the first International Islamic Union Congress held in Istanbul under the aegis of SADAT's sister organisation, the Association of Justice Defenders Strategic Studies Center (ASSAM).

A single political entity
The ASSAM Congress is an annual event which seeks to unify 61 Muslim nations in a single political entity called ASRICA (from Asia-Africa) and bring them under the leadership of Turkey without altering their "national borders and structures". Constitutionally, ASRICA will have a Sharia-based presidential form of government with Istanbul as its capital. On assuming office the Asrican President shall swear "before the great Quran" that he will "safeguard the Islamic Unity", "remain loyal to Qur'an and Sunnah", and introduce only such laws that are deemed suitable by a supreme religious body called the High Council of Religious Affairs.

But more worrying is the fact that the confederation is underpinned by an objectionable new neo-Ottomanism which benchmarks it against a



CHORA CHURCH AP

romanticised notion of the Ottoman Empire and imagines a civilisational clash for political supremacy between the Christian West and the Islamic East. Put differently, Asricon's raison d'être is the fear that western nations, taking advantage of the Muslims' loss of authority after the collapse of the Ottoman Caliphate, intend "to take over the Islamic geography" through asymmetrical wars using "terrorist organisations under their control".

It is in the backdrop of these portentous developments that Mr. Tanrıverdi's *mahdisim* assumes significance. In Sunni apocalyptic literature, the *mahdi* is a divinely guided saviour who will appear shortly before the end of the world to save it from evil. Although Mr. Tanrıverdi did not claim to see a *mahdi* in Mr. Erdogan, the allusion was unmistakable.

Mr. Erdogan himself has for long been harbouring hopes of being recognised as the rightful potente of an Ottoman Republic which in his view is solely capable of leading the Muslim world. For him, the reconversion of Hagia Sophia into a mosque is not just a reversal of a Kemalist decree, but a watershed in Islamic history foretelling the establishment of a powerful league of Muslim nations to take on the West. Indeed, conservation architect Pinar Aikac's research reveals that not long ago four other Hagia Sophias were converted into mosques in different parts of Turkey, not to mention last week's mosquification of the Church of the Holy Saviour in Chora.

Mr. Erdogan's address to the nation on July 10 provides a stunning

insight into this grand narrative of Muslim redemptionism. In this apocalyptic speech, delivered on the day he signed a decree annulling Hagia Sophia's status as a museum, Mr. Erdogan can be seen panegyrising the 1453 conquest of Constantinople and the seizure of Hagia Sophia as being among "the most glorious chapters in Turkish history". He likened himself, with megalomaniac relish, to "the Fatih" (Sultan Mehmed) and termed the reconversion of Hagia Sophia as the "second conquest" and a "new resurrection" that symbolises "the re-rise of our [Muslim] civilisation's sun" and heralds the liberation of Al Aqsa mosque.

Delusions of grandeur

For two reasons it would be unwise to see this vulgar display of triumphalism merely as Mr. Erdogan's desperate attempt to hold on to power. First, even if a smaller Asricon alliance comes into existence, say with just 20 countries, it will polarise the Muslim world into opposing camps and pit the confederacy against countries that have not joined it. Second, if as proposed a full 61-member theocratic bloc really does emerge (despite the bad blood the UAE-Israel deal has caused) it will keep the Muslims in a state of permanent conflict with the rest of the world, especially the West.

An indication of it is Mr. Erdogan's provocative promise to liberate the Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem which appears to have been made in the full knowledge that Semitic religions see Jerusalem as the eschatological theatre of Armageddon, a climactic confrontation between good and

evil. In Jewish apocalypticism, Armageddon is preluded by the arrival of a redemptive *moshiach* (messiah) who will restore the Davidic kingship, rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem and herald a Messianic Age of universal peace. With equal zeal Christian Chiliasm awaits the second coming of Jesus on Mount Olivet in Jerusalem to inaugurate and lead a 1000-year rule of "priests of God and of Christ". Sunni Muslims too are expecting a *mahdi* to appear just before the descent of prophet Jesus on a Damascene minaret and help him establish Islamic rule worldwide. It is this cataclysmic intersection of theologically valid narratives that Turkey's pan-Islamists seek to exploit.

However, Muslims must realise that eschatological prophesies attributed to the Prophet have been part of their messianic mythos since the Second Fitna (680-692 CE), the armed struggle against the early Umayyad Caliphate. Their authenticity is suspect because the Prophet had already been made to say: "I do not know what will be done with me or with you" (Quran 46:9). Besides, Islam teaches that humans lack divinatory powers and only God knows the unseen (*ghair*).

According to researchers Wilferd Madelung and Mehdy Shaddel, apocalyptic traditions were ex post facto compositions fabricated to justify the claim of rival claimants to the Caliphate during Umayyad times. The celebrated historian, Ibn Khaldun, rejected all hadiths on *mahdi* and the second coming of Christ. He was backed by the philosopher-poet, Muhammad Iqbal, whose iconoclastic couplet found in his unpublished work, *Baqaiaat-e-sher-e-Iqbali* advised Muslims: *Meneera-e-dil pe apne khuda ka nuzool dekh / Yeh inzhaar-e-mahdi-o-eesa bhi chod de* (Witness the descent of God on the minaret of your heart / Give up this wait for *mahdi* and Jesus). Given this reality, if the global Muslim community allows itself to be manipulated by Mr. Erdogan's chimeric ambitions and delusions of grandeur it may unwittingly end up participating in its own political downfall.

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Magnets for manufacturing

Devising State-specific industrialisation strategies in coordination with the Centre will improve manufacturing



STHANU R NAIR

trial credit, poor quality of the workforce, rigid labour laws, restrictive trade policies, low R&D expenditure, delays and constraints in land acquisition, and the inability to attract large-scale foreign direct investment into the manufacturing sector. Unless these challenges are addressed, the dream of making India a manufacturing powerhouse rivalling China would be difficult to realise.

Role of states

Since India follows a federal government system, a lasting solution to these constraints cannot be possible without the active participation of State governments and effective policy coordination between the Centre and the States. Currently, manufacturing growth in India has been powered majorly by Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh. An important requirement for the development of the manufacturing sector is the availability of land area. This could be one of the reasons why manufacturing activity is mainly concentrated in these five States which cover a substantial portion of India's geographical area. However, what is of concern is that some States that also have large land area contribute disproportionately little in manufacturing GSDP. These include Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Telangana, and West Bengal. The reasons for less manufacturing activity in these States have to be carefully examined, and based on this, State-specific industrialisation strategies need to be devised and implemented in a mission mode with active hand-holding by the Central government. Strong and carefully designed policy actions on the part of individual States would improve India's overall investment climate, thereby boosting investments, jobs, and economic growth.

In addition to its initiatives aimed at attracting manufacturing companies looking to relocate their plants to India from China, the Centre has urged the States to evolve their plans. However, such a strategy would be more effective if the policy actions of the Centre and the States are well coordinated.

In this context, a suggestion put forth by Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad is worth attempting. To promote electronic manufacturing, he suggested forming a Strategy Group consisting of representatives from the Central and State governments along with top industry executives. The purpose is to instill teamwork and leverage ideas through sharing the best practices of the Centre and States. A similar approach is needed for developing the whole manufacturing sector.

Shanu R Nair teaches Economics and Public Policy at IIM-Kozhikode. Views are personal

A chance to donate desktops

As more companies shift to laptops, they can consider donating desktops to the underprivileged

RAMKUMAR RAMAMOORTHY

One of the unintended but welcome consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic is the massive shift that companies are making from desktops to laptops. Not just technology companies, but companies across industries are moving to laptops in large numbers to give their employees the flexibility to work from anywhere and deliver business outcomes.

Large technology companies – among the biggest users of desktops in India – have publicly stated that about two-thirds of their workforce was using desktops before the pandemic. Most of them have already shifted to laptops or are in the process of doing so. In fact, just after the first nationwide lockdown was announced, these companies procured tens of thousands of laptops and flew them into the country, besides raiding electronic retail stores to procure consumer-grade laptops that could be used as "bring your own devices".

Does this massive shift signal the death of desktops? Not really. Companies will continue to use desktops for a variety of reasons: client mandates, hardware and system dependencies, security considerations, longer shelf life, lower cost of maintenance, larger display, and so on. But what one cannot dispute is that this pandemic has significantly accelerated the shift to laptops and other smart mobile devices. A conservative, back-of-the-envelope calculation indicates that more than a million desktops have already been replaced by laptops in the past few months and the transition is far from over.

Bridging the digital divide

The moot question then is: Can India Inc. use this opportunity to "donate" these desktops to schools that cater to the underprivileged sections of society and are struggling to impart basic online education and digital literacy? One of the biggest downsides of online learning brought on by the pandemic is that it has not only bared but also further widened the divide between the digital haves and have-nots. Donating desktops can be a small but worthy step towards bridging that divide and catalysing the Dig-

ital India we have envisioned. With the New Education Policy outlining the need for using digital channels for increasing equity, quality, and reach of education, this donation can be a big boon for these schools.

For doing something of this nature at the scale it warrants, multiple government departments, industry bodies, corporate houses and NGOs need to come together. From making changes to the asset depreciation policy to obtaining clearances from government bodies such as SEZ and the Software Technology Parks of India for de-bonding, formatting and refurbishing these machines, installing a new Operating System and basic software, identifying deserving institutions and providing continued maintenance support, a coordinated effort is needed. Funding could be a bottleneck for such programmes. But in this case, companies can dip into their CSR outlay to get things going.

Donating many devices

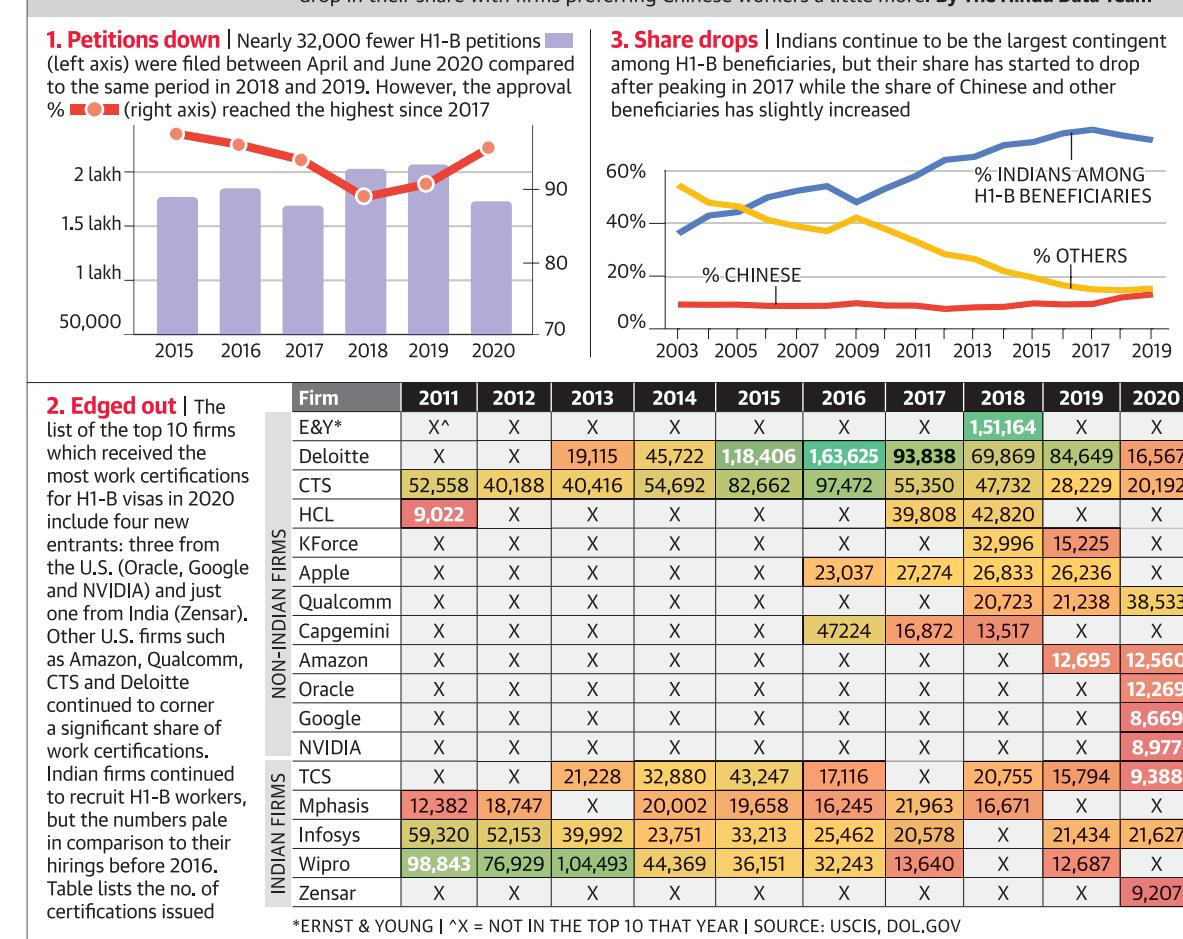
While the pandemic has brought desktops into sharp focus, the initiative can be expanded to donating many other used devices, including tablets, iPads and smartphones, to not just schools, but also shelter homes and orphanages, and that too on an ongoing basis. While the typical cycle time for replacing used desktops would be three to four years, it would be much less for smartphones. This means millions of devices can be donated every year.

Can the best entrepreneurial minds look at building an end-to-end digital platform to bring together all participants in a well-oiled supply chain and convert the idea into a big business opportunity with significant social impact? Just like the used car market is bigger than that for new cars, the refurbished smart devices market is getting bigger by the day. And if we do not act in unison, these devices with years of useful life ahead of them could get prematurely consigned to bonded warehouses or end up being e-waste. That would be a colossal disservice to our dream of a Digital India.

Ramkumar Ramamoorthy is former Chairman and Managing Director, Cognizant India

A change in H1-B tide?

In 2020, compared to Indian firms, American firms continued to recruit a higher share of H1-B workers. This has been the case since 2016 following the election of Donald Trump. Though the bulk of H1-B beneficiaries continues to be from India, in the last two years there has been a marginal drop in their share with firms preferring Chinese workers a little more. By The Hindu Data Team



DATA POINT

The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 26, 1970

Inadequate road development (From an editorial)

The handicaps from which road development plans suffer are well-known. Projections of growth of traffic are need-based. But Plan schemes are resources-based. The Fourth Plan has estimated that goods traffic is expected to leap from 40 billion tonne-kilometres in 1968-69 to 84 billion in 1973-74 and passenger traffic from 92 billion passenger kilometres to 140 billion. The proposed outlay of Rs. 829 crores is half of what is considered the minimum required for a satisfactory road network to serve the economy. This lends itself to the complaint that there is no fairness in investment on roads in relation to the revenues accruing from road transport. Turning down the request for a road budget, the Union Minister for Shipping and Transport adduced the argument that roads largely come under States' jurisdiction and "it would not be possible to bring under one national authority the various taxes imposed on the road users." While both Central and State authorities are tight-fisted regarding expenditure on roads, the idea that the road transport industry will put up with any amount of fleecing seems to get strengthened in proportion to the pinch they feel in their resources position.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 26, 1920

Student life in Britain and India

At the inaugural meeting of the Literary Society of the Hindu Theological High School, George Town, Mr. S. Satyamurthy delivered a lecture on student life in Great Britain and in India under the Chairmanship of Mr. S. Kasturi Ranga Iyengar. The lecturer delivered a most inspiring and instructive lecture for over an hour. He said that almost the first phenomenon which struck any Indian visitor to Great Britain was the presence of Indian students in Britain. They accorded enthusiastic welcome to any Indian visitor, especially to politicians. They discussed current political questions with great enthusiasm and originality which might well be copied by their elders in India. It was his great privilege to hear two Mahomedan students and two Madras non-Brahmins expressing sentiments against communal electorates and communal representation, and they rejected the presumptuous idea that these communities could not take care of themselves and that a benign bureaucracy must provide crutches for them by this communal representation.

FROM PAGE ONE

What is wrong in seeking apology, asks SC

Mr. Dhavan said he wore two hats – one as Mr. Bhushan's counsel and the other as an officer of the court. Donning the first cap, Mr. Dhavan said the August 20 order of the court demanding an "unconditional apology" from Mr. Bhushan was "nothing but an exercise in coercion" against a senior lawyer who has done much public good.

Wearing the second hat, Mr. Dhavan said: "the institution will collapse if it does not suffer criticism, if it does

not suffer extreme criticism. This court can only survive on the basis of strong criticism".

Mr. Dhavan asked what the court expected by drawing a statement from Mr. Bhushan that he "will not do this again".

"Do what again? Not to criticise the court? Never to express his bona fide opinion, even if truth is his defence. That will silence him forever... No, he will always be critical...", he said.

NIA files chargesheet in Pulwama attack case

Farooq's father, Ibrahim Ather, is one of the main accused in the IC-814 Kandahar hijack case of 1999 and looks after the training camps of the JeM in Afghanistan.

The JeM sent its cadres to the joint training camps of "Al-Qaeda-Taliban-JeM" and "Haqqani-JeM" in Afghanistan to get expertise in explosives and other terrorist tactics, the NIA said.

Farooq also visited Afghanistan for explosives training in 2016-17. He infiltrated into India through the International Border at the Jammu-Samba Sector in April 2018 and took over as JeM commander of Pulwama, it said.

Farooq and his Pakistani accomplices – Mohd Kamran, Mohd Ismail alias Saifullah and Qari Yasir, and local associates, Sameer Dar and Adil Ahmad Dar (suicide bomber) – planned and prepared for the attack. The other accused, Shakir Bash-

ir, Insha Jan, Peer Tariq Ahmad Shah and Bilal Ahmad Kuchey, provided logistics and harboured the JeM terrorists in their houses.

From December 2018 onward, Bashir started doing reconnaissance of the movement and deployment of security forces on the Jammu-Srinagar highway. Mudasir Ahmad Khan arranged gelatin sticks and handed them over to Bashir. RDX was brought by the Pakistani terrorists who infiltrated into India through the International Border at the Jammu-Samba Sector in April 2018 and took over as JeM commander of Pulwama, it said.

In January 2019, Sajjad Ahmad Bhat purchased a car. "The car was kept in the front yard of Bashir's house. Waiz-Ul-Islam ordered four kg of aluminium powder from his Amazon account on the directions of another accused, Ismail, and gave the same to him," the investigating agency mentioned.

NEET, JEE: MHA hints at rethink on dates

Following the August 18 order, the National Testing Agency announced the schedule for the exams with JEE-Main to be held from September 1-6, JEE-Advanced on September 27; and NEET-UG on September 13.

A senior government official said the Home Ministry gave the green signal to conduct the exams on the insistence of the Education Ministry.

The official said no decision had been taken to reschedule the exams, but letters by several political leaders were being studied.

The Home Ministry's clearance is required after the Disaster Management Act, 2005, was invoked for the first time in the country in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic in March.

Anxious students opposed to holding the examinations have not only received support from political parties, but also from global youth icon and climate activist Greta Thunberg. "It's deeply unfair that

students of India are asked to sit national exams during the COVID-19 pandemic and while millions have also been impacted by the extreme floods. I stand with their call to #PostponeJEE-NEETinCOVID," Ms. Thunberg tweeted on Tuesday.

CMS against exams

On Tuesday, Odisha Chief minister Naveen Patnaik wrote to Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank to postpone the JEE (Main) and NEET examination scheduled to be held in the first fortnight of September to ensure the safety and security of the students.

He said in view of the prevailing pandemic situation in the country, it would be "highly unsafe and perilous for the students to visit the test centres physically."

Mr Patnaik said though more than 50,000 students were appearing for NEET and around 40,000 students were to appear for JEE (Mains) in the State, only seven townships had examination centres.

Economy to shrink in Q2, says RBI report

Citing data, including the total issuance of e-way bills, a marker of domestic trading activity, as reflecting the loss of momentum in July, the central bank said its survey for the month of July indicated that consumer confidence fell to an all-time low, with a majority of respondents reporting pessimism relating to the general economic situation, employment, inflation and income.

"Going forward, government consumption is expected to continue pandemic-proofing of demand, and private consumption is expected to lead the recovery when it takes hold, with non-discretionary spending leading the way until a durable increase in disposable incomes enables discretionary spending to catch up," the RBI noted.

"An assessment of aggre-

gate demand during the year so far suggests that the shock to consumption is severe, and it will take quite some time to mend and regain the pre-COVID-19 momentum."

Observing that private consumption had lost its discretionary elements across the board, particularly in transport services, hospitality, recreation and cultural activities, the central bank said, "Behavioural restraints may prevent the normalisation of demand for these activities."

"Urban consumption demand has suffered a bigger blow, passenger vehicle sales and supply of consumer durables in Q1: 2020-21 have dropped to a fifth and a third, respectively, of their level a year ago; air passenger traffic has ground to a halt," the RBI said.

"An assessment of aggre-

gated consumption for COVID-19. He was under home quarantine for some time. After he experienced slight difficulty in breathing, he had got himself admitted to a private hospital in Proddatur. On Monday evening, he went out of the hospital on a motorcycle and did not return

till night. Growing suspicious, the hospital staff alerted the police. His body was later found on the tracks in the Kalamala area late in the night.

Congress State working president N. Thulasi Reddy extended condolences.

Those who require assistance for overcoming suicidal thoughts can dial 100.

Telangana cases touch a new high at 2,579

State ramps up testing to over 50,000 a day; Karnataka records 148 deaths, T.N. 107 & A.P. 92; Kerala case count up by 2,375

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD

Telangana's new COVID-19 cases and tests were the highest on Monday, as 2,579 tested positive and 52,933 tests were conducted.

Tuesday's addition to Kerala's COVID-19 positive case count stood at 2,375, pushing up the State's total to 61,879.

The number of people under treatment in hospitals was 21,232. The Health de-

COVID-19

partment said 181 patients were in ICUs, 55 of them on ventilator support.

With 10 more deaths confirmed by the department, the toll stood at 244. Two deaths each were reported in Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Alappuzha and Malappuram while one death each was reported in Wayanad and Kozhikode.

Of Tuesday's cases, 2,196

out of 2,375 were locally acquired infections. On Tuesday, Malappuram again edged past Thiruvananthapuram, which had been reporting 400-500 cases daily, with 454 cases.

The State tested 34,344 samples in a day.

Andhra Pradesh reported 92 new COVID-19 deaths and 9,927 infections on Tuesday. The toll was up at 3,460 and the case tally was 3,71,639.

In the past day, 64,351 samples were tested. The positivity rate of tests was 11.07%. So far, 6.29% of the State population of 5.34 crore was tested and 0.70% were found to be infected.

In Telangana, data released on Tuesday said that till August 21, the highest testing level was 25,000 in a day. Among new cases on Monday, 295 were from Greater Hyderabad. The rest included 186 from Rangareddy, 161 from Khammam, 142

from Nizamabad, 143 from Warangal Urban, 129 from Nalgonda, 116 from Karimnagar, 106 from Medchal Malkajgiri, 104 from Mancherla, and 98 from Jagtial. Nine

more COVID-19 patients

cases were reported. In Bengaluru Urban, 2,294 people tested positive on Tuesday.

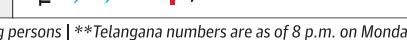
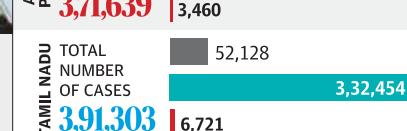
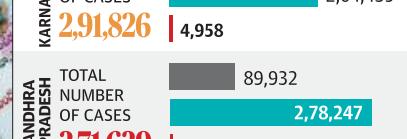
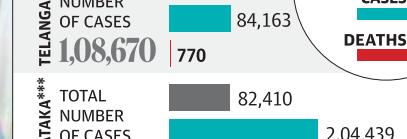
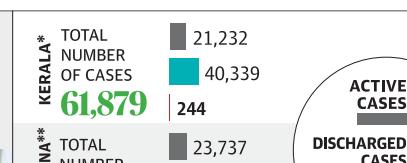
Another 5,951 persons tested positive for coronavirus disease in Tamil Nadu on

Matching the mood

In spite of the pandemic, people are coming up with innovative ideas to celebrate festivals. The graph shows the spread of the pandemic in the southern States



Saying it with masks: A Ganesh idol covered with 300 face masks, in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday. The masks will be distributed among the poor as part of the immersion ceremony. ■ K.R. DEEPAK



*Kerala has a mismatch of 64 cases due to unaccounted deaths, missing persons | **Telangana numbers are as of 8 p.m. on Monday | ***Karnataka has 19 non-COVID deaths

Tuesday, taking the State's tally to 3,91,303. While 6,998 persons were discharged after treatment, a total of 107 persons died.

A total of 52,128 persons were under treatment for COVID-19 in the State. Till date, a total of 3,32,454 persons were discharged. The State's toll was 6,721.

Chennai's daily count continued to stay above the 1,000-mark. A total of 1,270 persons tested positive in the city, taking its overall tally to 1,27,949. On Tuesday, 1,136 persons were discharged, while the city accounted for 20 of the 107 deaths. Ninety five of the deceased had comorbid conditions. In the last 24 hours, a total of 70,221 samples were tested in the State. Till date, 43,46,861 samples were tested.

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

Kerala Secretariat fire triggers major row

Congress, BJP allege sabotage attempt; UDF to observe black day on August 26

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM



Fire and fury: Smoke billowing out of the Secretariat building following a fire on Tuesday.

Pinarayi Vijayan in the UAE consulate-linked gold smuggling case, Mr. Chennithala said.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA), the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the Customs had sought several files from the General Administration Department (GAD) to probe whether the Chief Minister's Office (CMO)

had abetted the smuggling operation.

The agencies had questioned Mr. Vijayan's former Principal Secretary M. Sivasankar several times. The government had stonewalled efforts by the agencies to procure surveillance video footage of the comings and goings at the

CMO citing it was destroyed in "thunder in the peak of summer," he said.

Mr. Chennithala said the NIA should investigate the blaze. The United Democratic Front (UDF) would observe a black day on August 26 to highlight the "subversion."

The incident also caused some drama at the Secretariat.

Police arrested BJP workers, including State president K. Surendran, who entered the Secretariat compound in protest. Officers hustled them away in a police van to a nearby station.

The furore caused Chief Secretary Vishwas Mehta to come out of his office. He demanded outsiders quit the premises. A firefighter said short circuit could have caused the fire.

SC satisfied at royal family's affidavit

'Undertaking filed on Padmanabha Swamy temple consistent with our directives'

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday expressed its satisfaction at an affidavit of undertaking filed by the erstwhile Travancore royal family concerning the progress made in the change of management at Sree Padmanabha Swamy temple in Kerala.

A Bench led by Justice U.U. Lalit noted that the affidavit is "completely consistent" with the directions given by the court in its July verdict.

The court had declared the former royals as the manager or shebaits of the properties of Sree Padmanabha, the chief deity of the famed temple in Thiruvananthapuram.

The court clarified that if the

District Judge is of another faith, the seniormost Additional District Judge in the district could be appointed as the chairperson of the temple administrative committee. The July verdict says the administrators should be Hindus.

The Bench said a retired judge of the Kerala High Court nominated by the Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court will be the chairperson of the advisory committee. This committee panel would take care of the daily administration of the temple.

It also ordered a second committee to be constituted to advise the administrative committee on policy matters. Both committees should start functioning within the next two months and an executive officer

should be appointed without delay.

Primary duties The primary duties of the committees would be to preserve the treasures and properties. They would take a call on whether to open Kalara B, considered to be the richest among the temple vaults, for inventurisation.

The committees would ensure that rituals and religious practices are conducted as per custom and on the advice of the Chief Thanthri.

The court said the committees would ensure that income to the temple would be used to augment facilities. It ordered an audit to be conducted for the past 25 years. The royal family will not take any remuneration for the services it renders to the temple.

IN BRIEF



D.K. Shivakumar tests positive for COVID-19

BENGALURU Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president D.K. Shivakumar tested positive for COVID-19 on Tuesday and has been admitted to a private hospital in the city.

He said in a tweet that he had fever and undergone test. "I am doing well, but as a precaution have been hospitalised and am under the good care of doctors."

₹50 lakh handed over to kin of A.P. fire victims

VIJAYAWADA Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and Health Minister Alla Kali Krishna Srinivas,

Endowments Minister Vellampalli Srinivas and Civil Supplies Minister Kodali Sri Venkateswara Rao on Tuesday handed over ₹50 lakh

compensation to the kin of the deceased in the Ramesh Hospitals COVID Care Centre fire accident. Ten patients died and 21 persons suffered injuries when fire broke out on August 9 at Swarna Palace hotel that was converted into COVID-19 care centre.

Girl gang-raped in Kerala; 3 workers from U.P. held

KOCHI A 14-year-old girl was gang-raped, allegedly by six people, all migrant workers from Uttar Pradesh, on multiple occasions here since March this year, the police said on Tuesday. The girl is two months pregnant, they said.

While three persons belonging to Rampur in Uttar Pradesh have been arrested, a search is on to nab the other accused, who have left for the northern State after committing the crime. Those arrested have been remanded in judicial custody.

COVID-19 positive A.P. Cong. worker ends life

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

No change in Pranab's condition

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The medical condition of former President Pranab Mukherjee remains unchanged and he continues to be on ventilator support, the Army's Research and Referral (R&R) Hospital said on Tuesday.

"He continues to be on ventilator support and his vital parameters are stable," it said in a statement. Last week, he developed respiratory infection and is being treated for that.

On August 10, Mr. Mukherjee underwent a lifesaving emergency surgery for brain clot and has since been on ventilator support. He had also tested positive for COVID-19.

Trade unions slam airport privatisation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Ten Central trade unions on Tuesday came out against the government's recent announcements of privatisation of three airports and the sale of a portion of its stake in the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation.

The unions urged the government to withdraw the proposal, saying the decisions would be "against the interests of ordinary commuters", a statement said.

The Union Cabinet had approved the leasing of Jai-pur, Guwahati and Thiruvananthapuram airports on August 19.

The unions said one entity, the Adani Group, was being granted many of the airports, which would lead to a "monopoly".

"Besides there were income leakage and loss of revenue for the Airports Authority of India through the past experiences that had happened at Mumbai and Delhi airports. Hence, this privatisation of airports should be immediately stopped as it would escalate the cost of the airline travellers and airlines as well," the unions said.

Monsoon session from Sept. 14

Parliament will have 18 sittings; protective measures in place amid pandemic

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The monsoon session of Parliament is likely to be held from September 14 to October 1. The Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs, headed by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, has finalised these dates.

There will be 18 sittings and Parliament will meet with a host of protective measures in place to stick to physical distancing and other norms amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

The budget session had ended abruptly on March 23 as the number of cases started spiralling.

Staggered sitting
As per the convention, Parliament has to meet within six months. This period was ending on September 23.

Arrangements are being



House rule: As per convention, Parliament has to meet within six months. This period was to end on September 23.

made to have staggered sitting of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. While both Houses usually function simultaneously, this time due to the extraordinary circumstances, one House will sit during the morning hours and the other in the evening, sources say.

According to the Rajya Sabha Secretariat, members of the Upper House will be seated in both chambers and galleries during the session. Sixty Rajya Sabha members will be seated in the main hall, 51 in galleries barring the media gallery and the remaining 132 will participate in discussions while sitting in the Lok Sabha hall.

Similar seating arrangements are being worked out by the Lok Sabha Secretariat as well.

For the first time, large display screens and consoles for participation from galleries, ultraviolet germicidal irradiation, special cables between the two Houses and polycarbonate separators will be in place.

Politically also this session is expected to be a raucous one considering it is the first time Parliament is meeting amid the pandemic. Opposition parties have been protesting against the government for attempting to withhold GST payouts to States, limited financial support to State governments, large-scale job losses, among other things.

It is also the first meeting of Parliament since the June 15 face-off between the Indian and Chinese troops on the Line of Actual Control which killed 20 Indian Army personnel.



Grim situation: Rescue workers searching for survivors among the debris at Mahad in Raigad district of Maharashtra on Tuesday. ■ REUTERS

12 killed, several missing after Raigad building collapses

4-year-old rescued from rubble, mother, siblings found dead

RAINA ASSAINAR
NAVI MUMBAI

At least 12 people died and several others were injured after a five-storey building collapsed on Monday in Raigad district of Maharashtra.

At least 25 people are still feared trapped in the rubble. The incident took place in the Kajalpura area of Mahad tehsil around 6.45 p.m.

Three teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) reached the site through a green corridor at 1.10 a.m. on Tuesday.

"Allegation of corruption per se cannot be contempt because the same pertains to criticism of a judge for a biased dispensation of justice and would in all cases require further investigation before such allegations are brushed aside at the threshold," Mr. Bhushan said in his written submission to the court. Truth was a defence under Section 13 (b) of the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971.

"When such truth/defence is invoked, the court to hold the alleged contemnor guilty of contempt will have necessarily return a finding that (a) such defence is not in public interest; and (b) the request for invoking such defence is not bona fide," he argued. He said he used the word 'corruption' in wider sense to include any act of impropriety other than merely financial corruption.

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came of Mohammad being found alive under the rubble 19 hours after the collapse. But the joy was short-lived as, after a few hours, came the news of the bodies of his daughter and grand-daughters being found.

"The NDRF team saw a moving leg beneath the rubble and they took him out. The first thing Mohammad asked was about his 'Amni'," said a police officer from Mahad attached to the rescue operations.

Ms. Choudhury said a list of missing people was being circulated locally. If any of these residents managed to escape the crash, they could contact the authorities.

"The first casualty was a man who stayed in a nearby building. He sustained injuries as he had stepped out of his house at the time of the collapse. He was rushed to hospital, but died of heart attack," Ms. Choudhury said.

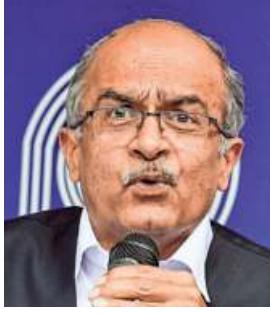
Five booked
Raigad Guardian Minister Aditi Tatkare said the State government would bear the medical expenses of the injured. "I have appealed to the government that the ex-gratia provided to the families of the deceased be more than the usual amount."

The Mahad police have booked five people, including the builder and the reinforced cement concrete consultant of the complex.

New Bench to hear 2009 Bhushan case

SC defers contempt case, initiated on remarks he made about judicial corruption

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI



Prashant Bhushan

A three-judge Bench of the Supreme Court, headed by Justice Arun Mishra, on Tuesday deferred a 2009 contempt case against civil rights lawyer Prashant Bhushan. Justice Mishra said he was "short of time". The judge is demitting office on September 2.

The Bench asked the case to be posted before another appropriate Bench on September 10. The case, initiated on remarks made by Mr. Bhushan about judicial corruption in an interview to *Teekha* magazine in 2009, was suddenly listed before Justice Mishra's Bench recently after an eight-year hiatus.

"You should remember, people come to this court for relief. Their faith should not be shaken. We need to safeguard the institution," Justice Mishra addressed senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan, who is Mr. Bhushan's lawyer. "In my view, people come to court for relief and justice," Mr. Dhavan said. Both Mr. Dhavan and senior advocate Kapil Sibal agreed with the view of the

cussed by this court whether a bona fide opinion, negligent or not, amounts to criminal contempt," Mr. Dhavan submitted.

Justice Mishra said the appropriate framing of questions of law to be referred to a Constitution Bench would require extensive pleadings and he had only a few days more before retirement. "Let us leave this to an appropriate Bench," he said.

When Mr. Dhavan requested the Bench to issue a notice to the Attorney General, Justice Mishra said the decision would be best left to the appropriate Bench. He even suggested the nomination of an *amicus curiae* in the case.

On August 10, the court decided to hear arguments on whether the remarks in the interview against the judiciary amounted to per se contempt.

However, on August 17, the Bench went on to deflect the issue, saying the court should launch a detailed examination into the circumstances under which a person could make public allegations of corruption

against the judiciary. The court also wanted to hear arguments on laying down a procedure to be adopted if such statements of corruption were made in public against sitting as well as retired judges.

"Allegation of corruption per se cannot be contempt because the same pertains to criticism of a judge for a biased dispensation of justice and would in all cases require further investigation before such allegations are brushed aside at the threshold," Mr. Bhushan said in his written submission to the court. Truth was a defence under Section 13 (b) of the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971.

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Nitish virtual rally to herald poll season

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PATNA

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar is likely to sound the poll bugle on September 6 by addressing a virtual rally.

The Election Commission may announce the Assembly election schedule by the third week of September as polls to 243 seats are due in October-November.

"The Chief Minister and our party president Nitish Kumar in all likelihood will address a virtual rally on September 6 through a digital platform JD(U) live.com," said senior party leader and Minister Ashok Chaudhary.

Bihar will be the first State to go to the polls amid the pandemic. Sixteen districts of north Bihar are reeling under floods.

BJP president J.P. Nadda may visit Bihar on September 12 to start the campaign from Mithilanchal.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE No. SR-TVC05NTT(3)/2020/02
Dated: 24.08.2020
Name of work: Strengthening of RC/SCADA network communication system for remote operation of TSS over Thiruvananthapuram Division.
Advised Value (₹ Pcs): 1,84,67,001.81
EMD: ₹ 2,42,300/-
Date and time of tender closing: 18.09.2020 @ 14.00 Hrs.
Completion period: 6 months
Details & tender document will be available at: www.iamps.gov.in
Divisional Railway Manager / Signal & Telecom / Thiruvananthapuram-14
Follow us on: [Twitter.com/GMSRailway](https://twitter.com/GMSRailway)

(With PTI inputs)

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No : 16/20-21/SE/PC/PKC. JJM - 2020-21 - CWSS to Kozhikode, Eruthempathy and Vadakara panchayaths - Phase II. EMD : Rs. 500000. Tender fee : Rs. 16800. Last Date for submitting Tender : 14-09-2020 03:00:pm. Phone : 04912544927. Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in.

Superintending Engineer PH Circle, Palakkad

KWA-JB-GL-6-180-2020-21

Competitive Tenders are invited for following. For more details please visit the E-tendering Portal <https://etenders.kerala.gov.in> or www.kmml.com

SHORT E-TENDER NOTICE

Reporting of open counselling, the revised list will be uploaded on the website on 26.08.2020 at 11 AM and final updated list of vacant seats will be uploaded on the website by 03.00 PM on 29.08.2020. Those candidates who have secured 50 percentile or more in the entrance examination conducted by AIIMS, New Delhi on 11.06.2020 and desirous of seeking admission in the spot counselling should register on or before 30.08.2020 (5 PM) by clicking on the given link <https://forms.gle/CrjgEXSVLqg19L98A>. Registered candidates are required to remain physically present at AIIMS, Raipur along with all original certificates/documents mandatorily. For essential eligibility conditions, other details and terms and conditions please visit the website of AIIMS, Raipur www.aiimsraipur.edu.in.

-DIRECTOR

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Our Products: Titanium Dioxide, Titanium Tetra Chloride, Nano Titanium, Titanium Sponge

GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER IRRIGATION DIVISION, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

No.1592/PW/EE/ID/JE(P)-33/2020-21 Puducherry, the 24.08.2020

SHORT PRESS NOTICE FOR e-Tender

On behalf of the President of India e-Tenders are invited from the eligible contractors/firms by the Executive Engineer, Irrigation Division, Public Works Department, Puducherry for the following works.

SL. No. **Tender No.** **Name of Work** **Approximate Estimated Cost (Rs.)**

1. Tender No.28/PW/IRRN/2020-21 **Main work:** Improvements of Primary storm water Drainage system in ABD area and Upper Catchment Area in Puducherry Region under Smart City Project in Union Territory of Puducherry. (Phase-1).

Sub work: Package - 3 : Construction of RCC precast box culvert for Mettuvoikal at Anna Nagar (Opposite to Housing Board) in Ellaiyalachavady road junction, Puducherry.

(i) Availability of NIT in the website from 11.00 A.M. on 26.08.2020 to 4.00 P.M. on 08.09.2020

(ii) Closing time for submission of Tender : 08.09.2020 4.00 P.M.

(iii) Date & Time of Opening of tender : 09.09.2020 11.00 A.M.

For further details please refer to the website <http://pudutenders.gov.in>

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

No.158/DIP/AD(Press)-2020-21

D.M. Madhyam/98267/2020

DIRECTOR

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF FOREST MANAGEMENT

(An Autonomous Institute Under the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India)

IN BRIEF



Postpone JEE, NEET in view of virus: Naveen

BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha government has sought the postponement of the Joint Entrance Examination (Main) and the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) in view of the COVID-19 pandemic and opening of centres in all 30 districts when examinations are rescheduled. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Tuesday shot off a letter Union Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank in this regard.

Sawant gets Arjuna award for tent pegging

NEW DELHI

Subedar Ajay Anant Sawant from the Army's 61 Cavalry has been conferred the Arjuna award for the equestrian sport of tent pegging. Subedar Sawant joined the Army in 1993 and had no prior background in equestrian sports. Subedar Sawant has won several medals over the years. He won his first international participation in 2002 and won the team silver in the 2018 World Cup in Abu Dhabi. His focus is now on the Tent Pegging World Cup in 2023, an Army officer said.

Red Notice against Nirav Modi's wife Ami Modi

NEW DELHI

The Interpol has issued a Red Notice against Ami Modi, wife of the Punjab National Bank fraud case prime accused Nirav Modi, in connection with the money laundering probe being conducted by the Enforcement Directorate (ED). Mr. Modi had left India along with his wife and other family members in January 2018, shortly before the CBI registered FIRs against them. The ED probe has revealed the alleged role of Ms. Ami Modi, a U.S. citizen, in the laundering of funds.

Norms for post-virus treatment soon

Reports of re-infection in Hong Kong earlier this week not a cause for worry, says ICMR

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

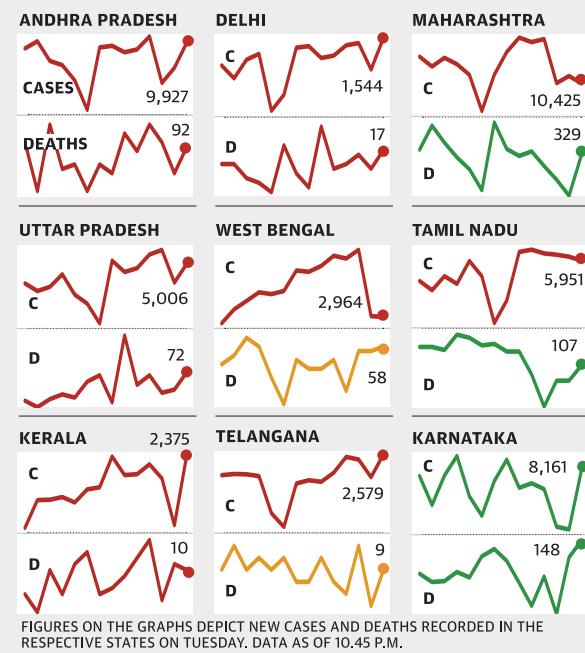
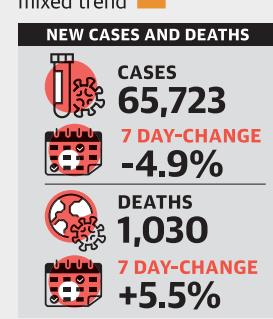
A technical body of experts is gathering data to develop a guideline for addressing post-COVID complications, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said on Tuesday.

Speaking at a press conference, the official said while the Ministry is not tracking the number of post-COVID syndrome cases in India, it was following reports of re-infection confirmed in Hong Kong earlier this week.

"We have read with interest the reports of re-infection in Hong Kong, but we would like to state that re-infection depends on a number of factors including immune status of the person, whether the virus has mutated etc. This is just one case as of now and normally it doesn't happen in viral diseases," said Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Director General Balram Bhargava, who also addressed the

Viral tracker

With a surge of **65,723** cases on Tuesday, India's COVID-19 tally stood at 32,30,227. As many as **1,030** new deaths were recorded, taking the toll to 59,595. The graphs depict new cases and deaths in the last 14 days across Select States. The States are classified based on where cases or deaths are rising ▲; falling ▼; or showing a mixed trend ■.



FIGURES ON THE GRAPHS DEPICT NEW CASES AND DEATHS RECORDED IN THE RESPECTIVE STATES ON TUESDAY. DATA AS OF 10.45 P.M.

press. "This is still a relatively new virus... We aren't alarmed with the development but are following it closely. We still are under-

stating the time period of immunity that the infection provides," he added.

Speaking about the Sputnik-5 vaccine (COVID-19 vac-

cine developed in Russia), the Ministry said India and Russia are in communication. "Some initial information has been shared and we

are awaiting details," said Mr. Bhushan.

The Health Ministry said of the total number of active cases in India, only 2.7% patients are on oxygen support, 1.92% patients are in ICU and 0.29% patients are on ventilator support.

Stating that India has on Tuesday reported the highest recoveries in a single day, Mr. Bhushan said, "66,550 COVID-19 patients have recovered and been discharged in the last 24 hours. With this, the total number of recoveries has crossed 24 lakh [24,04,585]. India's recovery rate has reached 76% [75.92%]. The number of recovered patients has overtaken the active cases [7,04,348] by more than 17 lakh. The recovered patients are 3.41 times the active cases, as on date. There has been more than a 100% hike in recoveries in the last 25 days". As of Tuesday, India has tested nearly 3.7 crore samples, the ICMR said.

Jaishankar could meet Wang at SCO next month

First high-level meet since Galwan

ANANTH KRISHNAN
SUHASINI HAIDAR

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi may meet next month in Moscow during talks of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Foreign Ministers, scheduled to set the agenda for the SCO summit later this year, officials told *The Hindu*.

The meeting, scheduled for September 10, has yet to be confirmed formally, but will mark the first high-level meeting between the Ministers since the deadly Galwan clashes and tensions at the Line of Actual Control.

Visit to Moscow

According to the officials, Mr. Jaishankar would make a short visit to Moscow for the SCO and bilateral talks.

Mr. Jaishankar and Mr. Wang attended a virtual meeting together of the Russia-India-China trilateral in

June and are expected to also attend a virtual meeting of BRICS Foreign Ministers on September 4, but no bilateral meetings have been scheduled between the two governments at present.

On Tuesday, China's Ambassador to India Sun Weidong said at an India-China youth webinar that bilateral relations should not be disturbed by "one thing at a time".

"Not long ago, an unfortunate incident happened in the border areas that neither China nor India would like to see. Now we are working to handle it properly. It is a brief moment from the perspective of history," he said.

"We hope to put the boundary question at an appropriate place in bilateral relations, properly handle differences through dialogue and consultation, and push bilateral relations back on track at an early date."

ICMR's second sero-survey to end by Sept. 5

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) will complete its second national serology survey by September 5. The results from the sero-survey it conducted in May will be published next week, Director General Balram Bhargava said during a media briefing on Tuesday.

"The ICMR sero-survey is publication in-process. Hopefully, by this week, it should appear in the *Indian Journal of Medical Research*. Two rounds of peer-review have been done. Most of the sero-surveys have been conducted by the States. We have embarked on the second sero-survey, which should be completed by the first week of September," Dr. Bhargava said.

The first serological survey by ICMR encompassed 69 districts across 21 States and the findings indicated that an estimated 7,00,000 people could have been infected by the SARS-CoV-2 virus in these districts even in early May. The number indicated by the survey was twenty times higher than the 35,000 confirmed cases of COVID-19 reported as of early May in the entire country, suggesting that the actual COVID-19 count overall could have been underestimated by a factor of at least 20.

The BJP in Tamil Nadu fought the Lok Sabha election in alliance with the ruling AIADMK but plans for an alliance for the Assembly election are not clear yet.

The BJP has struggled to find a foothold in the State although both the DMK and the AIADMK have been alliance partners in Delhi in the past.

The party is hoping Mr. Annamalai's professional reputation and his choice of the BJP may help attract support.

The May sero-survey was the first of its kind survey and was followed up by smaller surveys commissioned by States.

Ex-IPS officer joins BJP

Party sources say he will contest in the T.N. Assembly poll



New recruit: P. Muralidhar Rao with K. Annamalai, right, in New Delhi on Tuesday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

where a Tamil is as important as a Punjabi or a Gujarati. All these combined is nationalist," he said.

'BJP misrepresented'
According to him, the BJP had been misrepresented in the State. "The BJP always stands for Tamils. Given a chance, I would like to be the voice of the Tamil people and take Tamil Nadu issues to the party high command," he added.

The BJP in Tamil Nadu fought the Lok Sabha election in alliance with the ruling AIADMK but plans for an alliance for the Assembly election are not clear yet.

Referred to as 'Singham' during his stint as police officer in Manipal, Mr. Annamalai said the Dravidian parties had become family-run enterprises and stopped caring for the common citizens.

"There are some things a party shouldn't compromise on – internal, external security while allowing for fresh blood in its ranks

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to puzzle 13024

A	S	S	O	F
BIGOT	UNBIASED			
A	I	E	P	C
D	E	T	R	A
G	P	C	R	E
EARTHE	D	A	B	T
R	O	U	N	A
P	E	R	I	M
G	A	E	O	F
LUCIFER	I	N	G	E
O	A	F	N	R
BUSHIDO	E	N	L	R
EIS	S	I	M	E
ONTHEDOT	C	O	N	E
O	S	E	E	E

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

FAITH

Control of senses

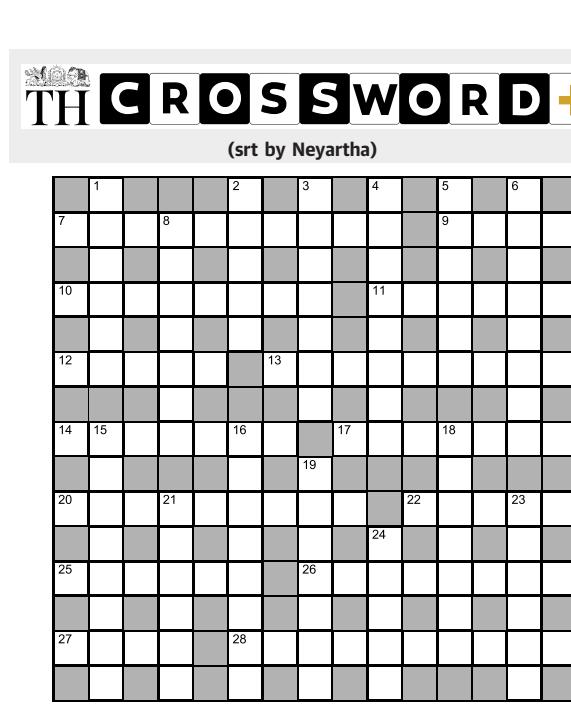
Lord Krishna says in the Gita that we should do our duties, but never think of ourselves as the doers. We should never be attached to the results, for we do not have the adhikarā (right) to the results. If we fail to do our duties, we will anger the Lord. However, if we do that which is prohibited, we will incur the Lord's anger, said V. Sowmyanarayanan in a discourse. The Lord then tells Arjuna that he must not be attached to relatives, or to wealth. His mind must remain the same – samabhūtvā – regardless of whether he meets with success or failure. Action not performed with this state of mind is of an inferior nature (dūreNa avaram). One should be a sthita pragnya, says Lord Krishna.

A sthita pragnya, is one whose mind remains calm and unperturbed. He is not overjoyed when something desirable happens. Nor is he dejected and sorrowful when something disastrous happens. A sthita pragnya has control over his five senses. Such a man is compared to a tortoise. A tortoise can draw its head and four limbs into its shell whenever it senses danger. We find a similar idea in Thirukkural. The Kural says that if in one birth a man becomes adept at controlling his five senses, then it will serve as a great protection to him in future births. The Kural also gives the tortoise comparison. A sthita pragnya does not care for the comforts of life. He is quite content to sleep on the hard floor. He does not need a quilt to sleep on. Costly clothes hold no attraction for him.

Surya drives around on a one wheeled chariot, and yet he never loses balance. We should be like Surya. Equanimity of temper is repeatedly stressed throughout the Gita. We must not be caught in dualities like joy and sorrow and like and dislike.

CROSSWORD

(srt by Neyartha)



ACROSS

- 7 Italian soup obtained from the sick mountaineers leaving Ukraine (10)
- 9 Heroic poem displayed in a picture postcard (4)
- 10 Italian bakery item's bits strewn around the bed by one... (8)
- 11 ... sending back unusual casing for the quarter with an editing tool (6)
- 12 Having lack of clarity resulting from post-rain shoes in water? (5)
- 13 Unnamed persons picking up deformed hoops for a spiritual movement (9)
- 14 Draw between the Poles pitted against each other? (7)
- 17 A gentleman returning with fragrant oil for an Italian dish (7)

DOWN

- 20 Sensible newspaper making an unusual impact outside (9)
- 22 Italian dish made using grandpa's talents (5)
- 25 Cell on a slide makes Mao undergo initial turmoil in front of Lincoln's retreat (6)
- 26 Mirror used as a medical instrument (8)
- 27 Key found in the corridor according to hearsay (4)
- 28 Truly, I can't break up without speaking (10)

(srt by Neyartha)

13024

Are you good with numbers or better with words? Pick from Sudokus and crosswords.

Man found dead, kidney theft alleged

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LUCKNOW

Family members of a man whose body was found outside a Varanasi hospital, a day after he went missing from the COVID-19 ward, have accused the hospital administration of negligence.

The family alleged that the youth was found with an incision mark near his hip and they suspect an organ may have been removed from his body. Friends and relatives of the youth staged a protest on Monday outside the S.S. Hospital, affiliated with the Banaras Hindu University (BHU), demanding action against the officials.

"His kidney was removed," alleged a family member.

The youth was admitted to the hospital last week after a head injury and had subsequently been shifted to the super speciality block of the S.S. Hospital.

The patient had gone missing from his ward around 2 p.m. on Sunday, according to a hospital spokesperson. A search operation was launched by the staff and security personnel, and every corner of the building was scanned, said the hospital.

'Climbed down a pipe'
The officials then searched near a pipe duct outside the hospital based on CCTV footage.

The patient's body was recovered near the spot, said the hospital.

S. K Mathur, Medical Superintendent, said it appeared that the patient had tried to climb down the pipe from the second floor but it had broken and he had fallen.

The youth had been diagnosed with psychosis, said the hospital, adding he had made a similar attempt a day earlier.

Ticket on merit, says Assam BJP

'Only MLAs who make the grade will be renominated for the Assembly poll'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

The BJP has told its MLAs in Assam that their renomination for the 2021 Assembly election was not guaranteed.

The BJP has 60 legislators in the 126-member House and has set a target of winning at least 100 seats in the election early next year. With its two regional allies – Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) and Bodoland People's Front – the party had surpassed a collective target of 84 seats in 2016.

Series of assessments

Days after BJP State president Ranjeet Kumar Dass said the party might not field many of its current MLAs, Assam Finance and Health



Himanta Biswa Sarma

sessments. Only MLAs who make the grade will be given tickets," Dr. Sarma said on Monday evening.

Party insiders said there are at least 15 MLAs who have underperformed or have lost popularity in their respective constituencies. Most of them are from eastern and southern Assam, where the BJP had drubbed the Congress in the 2016 poll.

New fronts

The "warning" to non-performing MLAs followed a move by opposition parties, led by the Congress, to form a 'grand alliance' for preventing the BJP from coming back to power on its own or with its regional allies.

While the Congress has been discussing a possible alliance with the All India United Democratic Front led by perfume baron Badruddin Ajmal, peasant rights group Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti has announced a new regional front. The All Assam Students' Union too is contemplating a new political party to bat for the indigenous communities.

The AGP, meanwhile, said it will continue its alliance with the BJP to balance its brand of regionalism with nationalist sentiments. "Quitting the alliance is not an option for us, but regionalism was, and will be our focus," party president and Agriculture Minister Atul Bora said.

Deft hands



Sharing the joy: Children being treated for cancer showing a Ganesh idol they made during a celebration organised at Wadia hospital in Mumbai on Tuesday. ■ VIVEK BENDRE

'Raising age of marriage will pose problems'

Activists say it will lead to an increase in backlash against youth who marry against parents' wishes

JAGRITI CHANDRA
NEW DELHI

Raising the age of marriage from 18 to 21 for women will lead to an increase in parental backlash against young adults who marry against the wishes of their parents and will lead to criminalisation of sexual activity, say activists.

The criticism of the government proposal follows Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech on Independence Day, in which he said that a committee was deliberating a change in marital age. A task force appointed by the Women and Child Development Ministry in June has been consulting civil society members.

Delhi-based NGO Partners for Law in Development un-

dertook an analysis of cases reported under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA), 2006, to understand who used the law the most and to what end. The data analysed comprised 83 High Court and District Court judgments and orders between 2008 and 2017 and found that in 65% of the cases, the PCMA was used to punish elopement of two consenting older adolescents. In the remaining 35% of cases of child marriage, the PCMA was invoked in more than half of them to seek dissolution of marriages that didn't work and not to punish the parents for breaking the law.

Moreover, the law was used mostly by parents and

This is not a time to tinker with the PCMA. It's a time to look at POCSO and age of consent

MADHU MEHRA
Executive director, Partners for Law in Development

relatives of the girl in 56 out of the 83 cases and only 14% of the cases were initiated by legal functionaries such as the Child Marriage Prohibition Office.

The study also found that when used to punish young consenting couples for marrying against the wishes of their parents, the PCMA was invoked along with penal provisions for kidnapping and rape under the Indian Penal Code as well as Protection

of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 – the minimum punishment under the latter for aggravated sexual assault is 20 years. However, marriages arranged by parents in violation of the law only see PCMA being applied, which provides for a maximum punishment of 2 years.

"This is a staggering and dangerous disparity. The law which was designed to protect young people has been set up in the Indian context to harm them," Madhu Mehra, executive director, Partners for Law in Development, said at a virtual press conference on Monday.

"This is not a time to tinker with the PCMA. It's a time to look at POCSO and age of

consent, which should be revised to 16 years from 18, at least in cases of non-coercive and non-exploitative relations among peers," Ms. Mehra added.

Mary E. John, Director, Centre for Women's Development Studies, cites data from National Family Health Survey-4 to state that a vast majority of women are married by the age of 21 and raising the age of marriage for women will lead to the criminalisation of these women and their families.

Ms. John said the emphasis needs to be on schooling and access to job opportunities to delay the age of marriage and address poverty to prevent under-age marriage and fight malnutrition.

Take action if safety norms violated: HC

Court hears petition raising concerns on gatherings held by the BJP in Gwalior

STAFF REPORTER
BHOPAL

The Gwalior Bench of the Madhya Pradesh High Court has directed the Bhind district administration to ensure that COVID-19 precautionary protocols are followed while allowing gatherings and take penal action in case of violation.

A Division Bench of justices Sheel Nagu and Rajeev Kumar Shrivastava gave the order on Monday while hearing a public interest litigation petition that flagged the BJP organising gatherings during a three-day membership drive in Gwalior, Morena and Bhind districts on August 22-24, saying it may lead to the further spread of the pandemic.

While disposing of the petition filed by Hemant Singh Rana of the Congress, the court directed the Collector and Superintendent of Pol-



further spread of COVID-19 "already at its peak" in the Gwalior-Chambal region, where several areas had been declared containment zones.

"I had mailed the petition to the court's Chief Justice on August 21 and requested for an urgent hearing," Mr. Sharma told *The Hindu*.

Additional Advocate General Ankur Mody prayed for listing the matter a day later so that he could seek instructions, which was rejected by

the court. He submitted that as regards gatherings in Gwalior and Morena, the petition was "rendered infructuous" as they were held on August 22 and 23.

Congress charge

Meanwhile, the Congress demanded a police case be registered against Rajya Sabha MP Jyotiraditya Scindia, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, BJP State president V.D. Sharma and Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar for taking part in the gatherings, thereby violating COVID-19 safety guidelines.

"Laws are equal for everyone in our country, in which there is no discrimination between 'Maharaj' [reference to Mr. Scindia] and the common people," contended K.K. Mishra, media in-



New role: Several actors and singers joined the BJP at the party office in Guwahati on Tuesday. ■ PTI

Visva-Bharati staff to work from home

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

At a physical meeting held on Monday evening involving the presence of 80-100 employees, the Visva-Bharati administration decided the staff would work from home (WFH) for the time being.

The work from home directive has nothing to do with COVID-19, but because the authorities felt the situation on the campus was still volatile following last week's violence when a mob of locals disrupted the construction of a wall around the popular Bhuban Danga ground.

The university had shut down following the incident. "It was unanimously resolved to continue those activities which are for student-benefits and those essential services which are absolutely essential for the university to remain functional. We will continue to work from home in regard to these activities since the campus is highly volatile and tense," a press release stated.

Manipur Minister tests positive

A CORRESPONDENT
IMPHAL

Nemcha Kipgen, the only woman minister in the BJP-led coalition government in Manipur, has tested COVID-19 positive, official reports said on Tuesday. Ms. Kipgen is the Social Welfare Minister.

Health department sources said her samples would be tested again in the J.N. Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal. She was in-charge of COVID-19 management in Kangpokpi and Senapati districts.

Jharkhand man carries aged mother to bank for pension

He says he was turned back for lack of COVID-19 test report

SATYASUNDAR BARIK
BHUBANESWAR

A man in Jharkhand's Garhwa district claimed that he had to carry his centenarian mother on his back to bank to withdraw her pension from her Jan Dhan account, but was turned away due to the lack of a COVID-19 test report.

The incident took place in Ranka town in Garhwa district on Monday. The block administration had set up a COVID-19 test camp outside Vananchal Gramin Bank in Ranka, and those who tested negative for the coronavirus were reportedly allowed to enter the bank.

In order to withdraw three months' pension amounting ₹1,500 under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana deposited in his mother's Jan Dhan bank account, Bifan Bhuyan, a daily wager, had gone to the bank.

As he did not find any other means to take his 105-year-old mother – Yatavaria Kunwar – to the bank, Mr. Bhuyan, 60, carried her on his back and covered a dis-



Hard walk: Bifan Bhuyan carrying his mother to the bank in Ranka, Jharkhand. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

tance of 4 km from the Kanjanpur village to Ranka.

"When I reached VG Bank at Ranka, the COVID-19 test was being conducted outside the bank. I could not get my mother tested. Bank authorities also did not let me and my mother enter the building. So I carried her back to my village again," he said.

Photographs of Mr. Bhuyan carrying his mother were flashed in local media.

The branch manager of VG Bank on Tuesday reached Mr. Bhuyan's house with the pension amount of

NGT slams Ministry's report on clean air programme

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal has slammed the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) over its report on the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) which proposes 20-30% reduction of air pollution by 2024.

The NGT disapproved the submission of the MoEF that a committee, upon further deliberation, has concluded that 20-30% pollutant reduc-

tion under the NCAP seems realistic.

It said the MoEF's view was against the constitutional mandate under Article 21.

A Bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice A.K. Goel said the MoEF's stand that pollution could not be controlled except to the extent of certain percentage was directly hit by the constitutional and statutory mandate.

Right to Clean Air stood

recognised as part of Right to Life and failure to address air pollution was denial of Right to Life, the Bench said.

The tribunal said the enforcement of 'Sustainable Development' principle and 'Public Trust Doctrine' required stern measures to be adopted to give effect to the mandate of international obligations for which the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and other laws had been enacted.

Probe into custodial deaths sought

A CORRESPONDENT
AGARTALA

The Opposition CPI(M) has demanded a judicial commission to probe the custodial deaths occurred in Tripura in the past two and half years.

The party also sought intervention of the Tripura Human Rights Commission in every such incident.

The party's state secretary Gautam Das claimed that five custodial deaths have taken place after the BJP-led coalition assumed office in March, 2018. He raised the demand in the wake of the death of Sujit Gour, 32, at the Kamalpur sub-jail in Dhalai district on Sunday.

Gour was arrested and remanded in judicial custody hours before his death. He was declared brought dead when rushed to the local government hospital.



In a class of its own

The Thar has matured from a no-frills off-roader to a more complete package designed to double as an everyday car, without diluting its core appeal

HORMAZD SORABJEE

Mahindra's Thar evokes emotions like few other cars can; it embodies the spirit of the original Jeep and the 75-year-old legacy of India's original SUV maker.

The new Thar is noticeably bigger than its predecessor, and debuts Mahindra's state-of-the-art all-aluminium engines: a 152hp, 2.0-litre direct-injection turbo-petrol and a 132hp, 2.2-litre diesel. So just how much has the new Thar improved?

The new model is pleasing on the eye, its proportions are wider and the edges have been softened. The classic look is retained in part due to the massive 255/65 R18 tyres that give it a 226mm ground clearance.

The SUV uses Mahindra's 'hydroformed' Gen-3 body-on-frame chassis. It has a new suspension with a coil-sprung, independent double-wishbone at the front and a coil-sprung, multi-link live axle at the rear. The turning circle, too, is not as tight as the previous model.

The cabin is more comfortable and modern; the dash design, general fit and finish feel light years ahead although the new instrument panel does look ordinary compared to the previous Thar's hooded dials.

The Thar is ergonomically well executed – even the seats are large and

come with good side bolstering. However, the cushioning felt inconsistent. Access to the rear is not easy and many will find accessing it easier from between the front seats. The two forward-facing rear seats, a



One for the road The new Thar certainly lives up to its all-terrain name

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

first for the Thar, are not hugely comfortable either. Legroom is decent, but the low seat height compromises comfort.

The new Thar is available with a hard-top, or a removable soft-top. The soft-top gets noisy past 60kph; the hard-top cuts road and wind noise effectively and is a better option for highway drives. A torrential downpour gave the soft top a good soaking, but apart from a few drops, we stayed dry.

Complete package The new Thar will be sold in AX and LX versions. The AX is geared towards the hardcore

off-roader while the LX (seen here) gets creature comforts, such as an eight-way adjustable driver's seat, a 7.0-inch touchscreen, 18-inch alloy wheels and more.

Mahindra's all-new 2.0-litre 'mStallion' turbo-petrol engine is the biggest surprise here; it responds immediately to throttle inputs. On part throttle, the 152hp petrol Thar feels remarkably sprightly. It is only when you floor it that there is some hesitation before the turbo kicks in. The mid-range is strong too and there is no let-up till the 5,500rpm rev limit.

The 6-speed Aisin automatic works in tandem with the engine. There is a bit of hesitation under full throttle, but once you have got your foot in there, it

upshifts

smoothly. It is not a particularly quick-reacting gearbox and there is a slight delay in downshifting when you stomp on the accelerator.

The diesel engine is all-new and kicks off the next generation of diesels from Mahindra. The engine has a wide torque spread and pulls from

SPECIFICATIONS

LENGTH 3985mm
WIDTH 1855mm
HEIGHT 1844mm (hard top)
WHEELBASE 2450mm
GROUND CLEARANCE 226mm
TYRE SIZE 255/65 R18
ENGINE 2184cc, 4-cyls, turbo-diesel 1997cc, 4-cyls, turbo-petrol
POWER 132hp at 3750rpm 152hp at 5000rpm
TORQUE 300Nm at 1600-2800rpm 320Nm at 1500-3000rpm
GEARBOX 6-speed MT 6-speed AT

A big issue was the brakes on the petrol-auto. They grab suddenly, and you need to mash the pedal for them to bite. The diesel-manual had a more linear and effective brake pedal feel.

The Thar has matured from a no-frills off-roader to a more complete package designed to double as an everyday car, without diluting its core appeal. Prices will be announced on October 2, and you can expect it to be substantially more than the outgoing Thar. The new Thar is a lifestyle vehicle now, one that has no competition because there isn't anything quite like it.



Q AND A WITH HORMAZD



The Endeavour or the Carnival?

I am trying to decide between the Ford Endeavour and the Kia Carnival. I like the Endeavour for its bold SUV looks, though I am a bit hesitant to get one due to the perception of high maintenance costs involved with owning a Ford. Another reason is that the SUV just has a 2.0-litre diesel engine. Please let me know whether I should buy the Endeavour or pick the Kia Carnival instead?

Shruthan Singh

• The Endeavour's 2.0-litre is not as strong as the older 3.2-litre. However, it is not a reason to mark it down. There is a lot to like about the Endeavour and it is a very capable offering. Ford has taken several initiatives fighting the 'high maintenance' perception, and there is even a service cost calculator on their website so you might want to refer to that once to see how much your routine service would cost. The Kia Carnival, on the other hand, does an excellent job as a posh people-mover, but does not command the SUV appeal like the Ford, and is not even as capable over bad and broken roads. So if your heart is set on the Endeavour, go for it – it is a very good option.

What's the better option?

I am looking to buy a new car and have shortlisted Maruti Suzuki's Baleno and Swift, along with the Hyundai Venue. I have a budget of around ₹7 lakh. Please recommend which one I should go for.

Bijando Meitei

• Both the Maruti Suzuki Baleno and Swift are spacious, have the same lovely engine and are very easy to drive. You can't go wrong with either. The Venue is a nice car but the lack of space at the rear could be a concern should you have passengers travelling with you at the back. From your options, we would suggest the Baleno.

The Swede taste of speed

With their elegant lines and silky-smooth surfaces, the Husqvarna Svartpilen 250 and Vitpilen 250, epitomise simplistic Scandinavian design

RISHABH BHASKAR

Elegant style with great attention to detail sets Swedish automobiles apart. Launched at India Bike Week 2019, the Husqvarna Svartpilen 250 and Vitpilen 250 garnered a lot of attention. While the design is arresting, are these Huskies all show and no go?

Simplicity is the cornerstone of the Svartpilen and Vitpilen designs. There is no over-the-top, smorgasbord of cuts, creases and graphics. What you see is silky-smooth surfaces with elegant lines and thoughtful addition of stickers to highlight and enhance the appearance of said lines. Viewed from the side, it gives the impression the bodywork is made of two pieces – the plastic panel that covers the fuel tank extends to form the side panel while the tail section is the other half that meets it almost at the centre, like an interlocking jigsaw.

The Vitpilen, modelled as a café racer, is definitely the cooler-looking of the two. The Svartpilen has a relatively upright riding position, a one-piece handlebar with a crudely welded brace, a plastic-tank bag rack, and split seats. Both motorcycles look equally stunning, and details – like a single-

pod LCD cluster and classic round headlamps – enhance their appeal. The only negative part about their appearance are wires that look unsightly, snaking behind the steel-trellis frame.

Power ranger

Imagine the 250 Duke's 249cc, liquid-cooled single and the same gearing gels with the fun and playful nature of the Huskies. This engine is eager to rev and only starts to come alive post-4,000rpm, with a notable surge after

7,500rpm and all the way to the limiter. On the flip side, the weak bottom-end will require more gearshifts while riding at low city speeds; but that is hardly an issue, as the 6-speed gearbox is smooth to operate.

The combination of the 30hp/24Nm engine and the light weight results in decent performance for a 250, with both motorcycles taking about 9.25sec in our 0-100kph acceleration tests. The engine in the Husqvarnas is powerful enough for city riding and weekend highway blasts; however, the Svartpilen's relatively relaxed ergonomics is better for long hours in the saddle.



SPECIFICATIONS

PRICE ₹1.84 lakh (ex-showroom, Delhi)
ENGINE 248.8cc, single cylinder, liquid-cooled
POWER 30hp at 9,000rpm
TORQUE 24Nm at 7,500rpm
GROUND CLEARANCE (MM) 145mm
FRONT BRAKE TYPE Disc
FRONT BRAKE SIZE (MM) 320mm
REAR BRAKE TYPE Disc
REAR BRAKE SIZE (MM) 230mm
FRONT SUSPENSION USD fork
FRONT SUSPENSION TRAVEL (MM) 142mm
REAR SUSPENSION Monoshock
REAR SUSPENSION TRAVEL (MM) 142mm

One thing you would have to contend with is the engine's inherent buzziness, something that can be felt in the seats, bars and pegs. The Vitpilen's firm setup of the WP Apex suspension results in a terrific time around bends. The Svartpilen is not too far behind and is equally engaging on twisty roads, aided by the greater leverage offered by the wider handlebar. The ride quality is comfortable enough at high speeds, though one does feel a minor jolt over ruts at medium to low speeds.

Like the handling and ride, the braking performance is decent too. However, the front brakes lack the same bite and you can solve this by installing the more expensive sintered pads that come with the 390s.

Verdict

It is clear that Bajaj's intent behind launching the 250s was to introduce the Husqvarna brand to a wider audience. At ₹1.84 lakh (ex-showroom, Delhi), the Svartpilen and Vitpilen 250 will pique the interest of motorcyclists and set the ball rolling for Husqvarna in India.



Less is more
Husqvarna bikes sport a sleek and elegant body

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Taste that lasts Fish being laid down to dry and hung on a boat at Fishing Harbour in Visakhapatnam; drying *bombil* in Madh Island near Mumbai; a fresh catch of Bombay Duck in Mumbai and chef Thomas Zacharias' *bombil vadas* • KR DEEPAK, CV SUBRAMANYAM, INDRANIL MUKHERJEE AND SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



SHILPA NAIR ANAND

One of Jeslin Sreeba's earliest and lasting food memories is watching her mother work a grinding stone, making *chamathi* (chutney) of dried prawns, shallots, coconut red chilli and salt. "I remember the taste so vividly," she says. Jeslin grew up in Muvattupuzha, near Kochi, where unlike today, fresh fish was not accessible every day and so dried fish was used instead – fried or as chutney.

Borne out of necessity, at a time when consumption depended on local catch, fish has traditionally been dried for no-fishing months. "Easy access to fish has changed all that, dried fish has now become infra dig. When you can get fresh fish from across the country, why would you eat *unnakkameen* (Malayalam for dried fish)?," asks Chef Saji Alex, chef de cuisine at Kochi Marriott's Kerala specialty restaurant Cassava, which has *chemmeen* dried prawn chutney on its menu.

With the pandemic making it more challenging to go to the market, people are once again turning to dried fish. "The process of drying involves enzymatic or microbial activity in the presence of salt. When packed and stored properly, dry fish has a shelf life of more than two years," says Pradeep Kalidindi, who runs a seafood firm in Andhra Pradesh.

Dried fish has a strong flavour and an overpowering smell, which makes it an acquired taste. While smaller fish such as prawn/shrimp and anchovy are sun-dried, the process is different for fleshier fish such as king fish. Traditionally, cleaned fish would be rubbed with salt, packed in palm leaf baskets and hung to dehydrate; now machines do this job.

In Kerala and Tamil Nadu the preparations stick to template – curry, fry, and chutney. Bengal's *shutki maach* is perhaps the most versatile take. The Bengalis believe that adding *shutki* ele-



Taste of home

Manik Deb, who lives in Nagpur, says the best *shutki maach* is the *shidol* type. A passionate cook who now takes care of an organic farm near Pench forest, Manik recalls cooking *shidol shutki* brought all the way from Tripura by his friend. "*Shidol* or *puti mach* (pool barb fish) is kept in an earthen vessel and sealed properly before it is buried. It is left there for months to provide anaerobic conditions for fermentation," says Manik. He prepares *shidol shutki jhal*, cooked in mustard oil with onions and a generous dose of chilli. It is then savoured with steamed rice. The pungent appetising aroma grows stronger when cooked. "Just ensure that all the doors and windows are closed while cooking," chuckles Manik.

—Nivedita Ganguly

When the sun shines

vates the taste of vegetables. For instance, *shutki* combined with brinjal or pumpkin is a popular version.

At Anwesha Banerjee's home in Kolkata, the war between football clubs East Bengal and Mohun Bagan began about five years ago when she married Amlan, a Ghoti (Bengalis of West Bengal). That battle – this time for the humble *shutki maach* – moved into the kitchen. Popular varieties consumed by Bengalis are Bombay duck, shrimp, *ilish* and *shidol*. The sun dried fish was traditionally consumed by Bengalis of East Bengal (now Bangladesh), where Kolkata resident Anwesha Banerjee's ancestors hail from.

"I have so many childhood memories associated with it. My husband though can't stand its strong pungent smell," she laughs, adding, "My favourite is *shutki bata* (mishmash or chutney). This is a fiery creation made with onion, garlic and chilli cooked in mustard oil. It tastes heavenly with steaming rice," says Anwesha.



Many have turned to dried fish as an alternative to the fresh variety during lockdown, with its versatility making it popular all across the country



both rava

and the rice flour. The Koli community use their signature Koli masala to cook *bombil*," says Asavari.

Of all the recipes that she learnt from her mother, dried Bombay duck masala is her favourite. "Served as a starter, dried Bombay duck masala is a quick recipe using chilli powder, lemon juice, curry leaves and turmeric," she adds. In Bengal, too, it is had as a starter: dried fish is roasted on charcoal, mixed with onion, green chilli, coriander and lemon juice.

Monsoon delight

Bombay duck (*bombil*), christened thus by the British, is perhaps the most iconic dried fish. Dried *bombil* is commonly used to make pickles and added to curries in Maharashtra households.

Many households crumble the dried-and-salted fish and sprinkle it over their *dal* or rice to add a crunchy texture. While making *bombil* curries, we usually soak it for half an hour to rehydrate and soften the fish," says Asavari Koli, a banker who is also a food enthusiast.

Soaking not only softens the fish, but also washes off the salt reducing its concentration. "Koli, Malvani, Konkani and Goan communities each boast their own distinct *bombil* preparation. The Mangaloreans use *rava* for coating while the Konkanis use rice flour. In Goa, the *bombil* is cooked using a mix of

Versatility at its best

Andhra Pradesh is one of the biggest manufacturers of dried fish in the country along with Tamil Nadu and Gujarat. In Visakhapatnam alone, over 5,000 fisherfolk, mostly women, eke out their livelihood by drying ribbonfish, lizard fish, silver bellies, anchovies, croaker ray finned fish, goatfish, sardines and other pelagic fish. Not only are these exported to Sri Lanka, Thailand, China and Bangladesh, they are also sent to other States such as Kerala.

Everyday, three to four tonnes of dry fish is produced on average in the re-

gion, which is enough for local consumption. During the season, the production goes up to 10 tonnes per day. The process, after salting fresh fish, takes three to four days to dry.

Among the regional favourites is the *endu chepala vankaya* (dry fish brinjal curry) – seasoned with urad and chana dal, mustard and curry leaves, it is best had with steaming hot rice. Vineela Raju, a resident of Visakhapatnam, says, "The dish is known for its robust flavour. It is prepared with a paste of tamarind, red chilli and asafoetida. I learnt this recipe from my grandmother who lived in the West Godavari district. It used to be prepared at a time when we did not get fresh fish in local markets. Now, it is a festive special in our household."

Pride of place

In Tamil Nadu, fish laid out to dry in front of homes, roofs, and terraces is a common sight in fishing villages. At the bigger fish markets such as Kasimedu Fishing Harbour in Chennai, there are designated areas for the preparation of dried fish.

Raised concrete platforms arranged in rows by the quay, with ample space for people to walk in between them, and nearby, concrete tubs for soaking the fish with plenty of rock salt – this is what the dried fish area of Kasimedu looks like. Here, over 150 women are involved in the preparation, and all of them are members of the Karuvaadu Sangam (dried fish union).

Fisherman R Vinod from Odi Kupam, Besant Nagar, says that women in his locality prepare dried fish with unsold fish, and those that don't make the cut to the market. "They rub rock salt on to the fish, and let this sit for a day. Then, the fish is dried till all the moisture runs out," he explains.

Vinod says that women are involved in the laborious process through the year. "Demand is high especially during the Tamil month of Aadi, since dried fish curry is part of the feast that follows a *pooja* that some people perform at home," he explains.

For some varieties of dried fish, pricing can be the same as that of its fresh variant. "A kilogram of seer fish today, costs between ₹900 and ₹1,200. For dried seer fish, the price is ₹1,000," says Vinod. "The pricing also takes into account the fact that for one kilogram of fish, we get only half a kilogram of dried fish."

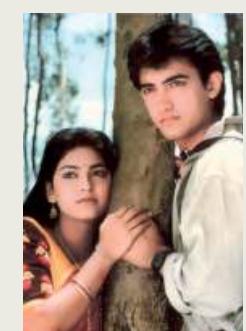
Nevertheless, those involved in the preparation stand to gain since their products are good for up to six months. "Kedacha varakum laabam (It's a profit, however much we make)," he says, summing up the philosophy of dried fish from the fisherfolk perspective.

(With inputs from Nivedita Ganguly, Aishwarya Upadhye and Akila Kannadasan)

HOMING IN



SWETA AKUNDI



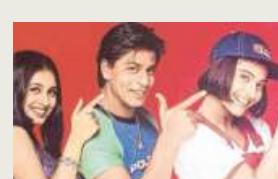
'Papa Kehte Hain' from Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak

A song that captured the essence of graduation: parental expectations resting on minds that are only now getting used to the idea of responsibilities. Featuring a fresh faced Aamir Khan, this 1988 hit by Udit Narayan echoes through the ages.



'Masti ki Paathshala' from Rang De Basanti

In my conservative Chennai university, women couldn't step out of the hostels after 7 pm. So a beer chugging competition on top of a lake, while a swag-filled nihilist friend smokes away was not exactly my scene. Nevertheless, AR Rahman's 'Masti ki Paathshala' will still be our song of rebellion.



'Yeh Ladka Hai Deewana' from Kuch Kuch Hota Hai

If you have forgotten what campuses look like, Shahrukh and Kajol are here to remind you, in neon GAP wear and oodles of hair gel. Cry hoarse about Rahul's toxic masculinity, but being bro-zoned by the college stud is all too familiar.

'Kabhi Kabhi Aditi' from Jaane Tu Ya Jaane Na

This song features the veteran star of Bollywood movies, St Xavier's College, Mumbai. In a song about friends cheering up Aditi, the campus' Gothic architecture, sunlight glinting on the columns and arches, casually steals the scene.



'All is Well' from 3 Idiots

Our last song, also features Aamir Khan as a college student. This song has gone on to become the engineering anthem since 2009, a plea for blind optimism. Have you left engineering for wildlife photography yet?

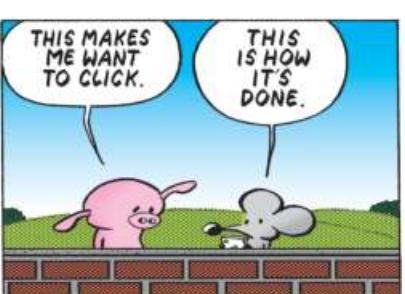
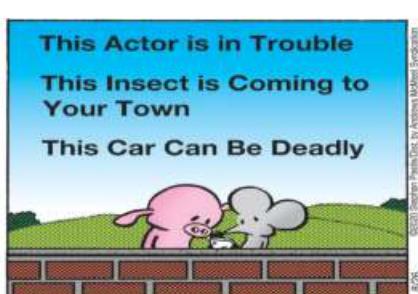
Special mentions: Left out of the list for not being 'Bollywood', we tip our hats to 'Purani Jeans' by Ali Haider and 'College Days' by Gaurav Dagaonkar.

We would love to know how you have been keeping busy at home. Tell us what you are listening to, at metro@thehindu.co.in

POOCH CAFE



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



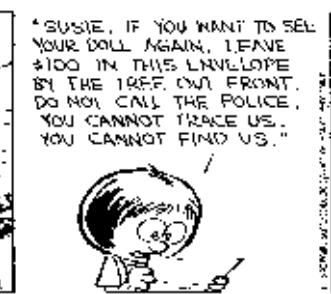
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



PEANUTS



TIGER



Republicans defend Trump's record

At the party convention, delegates officially nominate President for re-election

SRI RAM LAKSHMAN

Day One of the Republican National Convention kicked off on Monday, with the evening's speeches dwelling on several common themes. The speeches and taped conversations sought to paint a different picture of U.S. President Donald Trump's handling of the pandemic thus far – a picture that contradicts the record of the U.S. being the worst-hit country globally, with more than 5.7 million cases and over 175,000 deaths.

Other themes for the evening included the portrayal of the Democrats and their presidential nominee Joe Biden as radicals wanting to spread chaos and anarchy across the country and wanting to get rid of suburban communities and take away freedom from Americans.

Several speakers, including those from minority communities, such as former U.S. Ambassador to the U.N., Indian American Nikki Haley, African American Senator Tim Scott of South Carolina, African American footballer and Trump adviser Herschel Walker, defended Mr. Trump's and the GOP's record on race.

Mr. Walker said it "hurts my soul" to hear Mr. Trump called names. "The worst one is 'racist'. I take it as a personal insult that people would think I would have a 37-year friendship with a racist," he said.

"Our side is working on policy – while Joe Biden's radical Democrats are trying to permanently transform what it means to be an American," Mr. Scott, who has been known to criticise Mr.



Drumming up support: Donald Trump at the Republican National Convention in Charlotte on Monday. ■ REUTERS

Trump's comments, said. In his speech, Mr. Scott praised some of Mr. Trump's policies, which he said had helped African Americans.

Cultural revolution

He also warned of a cultural revolution under the Democrats. "Make no mistake: Joe Biden and Kamala Harris want a cultural revolution. A fundamentally different America."

Mr. Scott also said the election was not solely about Mr. Trump and Mr. Biden but about "you and me" and the "promise of America."

The evening also featured a taped speech by Patricia and Mark McCloskey, the Missouri couple who had pointed their guns at peaceful protesters at the end of June, who the couple had alleged, had trespassed onto their property. Ms. McCloskey made the unsubstantiated claim that Mr. Biden wanted to "abolish the suburbs".

Twenty-six-year-old activist, Charlie Kirk, an evangelical Christian who runs an organisation called Turning Point USA, called Mr. Trump

Mr. Trump will make an appearance every night of the convention. In Monday evening's session, he appeared in two pre-recorded videos, in one of which he was seen discussing the impact of COVID-19 group of essential workers whose lives had been particularly impacted by the pandemic.

The evening involved a speech from a physician G.E.

Ghali, who praised Mr. Trump's handling of the pandemic. "I feel uniquely positioned to share how President Trump's decisive leadership led to a rapid and efficient response to the coronavirus pandemic. I know this as a health professional, and as a COVID patient," Mr. Ghali said.

Prompt response

He talked about a "prompt response" from Mr. Trump with regard to regulatory processes: citing, among others, the fast tracked approval of drug remdesivir for therapeutic use. Amy Ford, a nurse, spoke of insurance cover to telehealth services as another Trump administration achievement.

It is true that Mr. Trump did speed up or enact policies that enabled these actions, but his overall handling of the pandemic has been criticised for coming too late and being disorganised. His son, Donald Trump Jr., sought to portray his father's response to the pandemic that was noticeably at odds with ground realities.

"Fortunately, as the virus began to spread, the President acted quickly and ensured ventilators got to hospitals that needed them most. He delivered PPE to our brave frontline workers," the younger Mr. Trump said. Even as late as the end of February, President Trump had claimed the pandemic was "very much under control" and spoke of the virus disappearing, "like a miracle".

Earlier in the day, the GOP formally nominated Mr. Trump after he had won the 1,276 delegate votes.

Peaceful revolution under way in Belarus: Opposition leader

Svetlana Tikhanovskaya addresses European Parliament

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MINSK

Belarusians have risen up in a "peaceful revolution", their exiled opposition leader said on Tuesday as authorities in the isolated ex-Soviet country crack down on protesters calling for new elections.

Demonstrators have flooded the streets of Belarus demanding the resignation of authoritarian leader Alexander Lukashenko since he claimed a sixth term in disputed elections this month.

The 65-year-old President, often dubbed "Europe's last dictator", dis-



Svetlana Tikhanovskaya

patched his security services to disperse protesters following his claim to have won 80% of the vote, in a response condemned by rights groups and EU leaders.

Leading opposition figure

Facebook vows to challenge forced removal of Thai group

New group gains over 5,00,000 members

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
REUTERS
BANGKOK

Facebook said on Tuesday it would file a legal challenge against a Thai government order to take down a group where pro-democracy activists held discussions about the monarchy, a taboo subject in the country.

A growing tide of youth-led protests has swept Thailand in recent weeks – buoyed by anger against what many regard as an illegitimate, military-aligned government and an overly powerful royal family.

The private Facebook group, called "Royalist Marketplace", was created in April and had more than a million members before it was taken down on Monday.

'Compelled by government'

A Facebook spokesperson said the network had been "compelled" by the government to remove the group.

"Requests like this are severe, contravene international human rights law, and have a chilling effect on people's ability to express themselves," the platform said.

"We work to protect and defend the rights of all internet users and are preparing to legally challenge

Indian goes on trial over spying charges

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
FRANKFURT

An Indian national accused of spying on Sikh and Kashmiri communities in Germany for New Delhi's secret services went on trial in Frankfurt on Tuesday.

The suspect, identified as 54-year-old Balvir S., is accused of working for the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), from at least January 2015.

Prosecutors said he "obtained information about figures in the Sikh opposition scene and the Kashmiri movement and their relatives in Germany, and passed this on to his handlers who were working at the Indian consulate general in Frankfurt".

A total of 10 hearings before the regional superior court are scheduled, with the trial due to conclude on October 29. The same Frankfurt court convicted an Indian couple for spying on the same communities last December. The husband was handed a suspended prison sentence of 18 months for acting as a foreign intelligence agent.

this request."

The company did not give details of the legal action, but warned that such requirements would undermine its ability to reliably invest in the country.

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha insisted his government's actions had been completely above board.

"We took action against this (Facebook) page under our laws. We haven't done this as a dictatorship," he told reporters on Tuesday.

Hours before the restriction, Pavin Chachavalpongwan, a self-exiled academic and prominent critic of the monarchy, set up a new group with a similar name that has gained over half a million members in one day. "If you want to close it down again, then I'll set up another group. To promote freedom of expression, I would do it," Mr. Pavin said.

The Thai monarchy has long been a taboo subject and is shielded by a harsh royal defamation law.

King Maha Vajiralongkorn is hugely powerful, supported by the arch-royalist military and the country's billionaire clans. Since ascending the throne, he has amassed direct control of the palace's fortune, estimated to be worth up to \$60 billion.

President will bring our economy back'

Nikki Haley says Trump moved America forward, while Joe Biden held it back

SRI RAM LAKSHMAN

Former U.S. Ambassador to the UN, Indian American Nikki Haley, made a strong pitch for U.S. President Donald Trump on the first night of the Republican National Convention (RNC). Ms. Haley, considered a possible candidate for a 2024 presidential run, sought to address two core vulnerabilities of Mr. Trump's candidacy: an economy in distress due to COVID-19 and a deep unrest in race relations around the killing of African Americans by police officers.

"The pandemic has set us back, but not for long. President Trump brought our economy back before, and he will bring it back again," Ms. Haley said. Some 28 million people are currently unemployed.

"...The President is the clear choice on jobs and the economy. He's moved America forward, while Joe Biden held America back," Ms. Haley said. Nevertheless, the unemployment rate has been falling since 2011, towards the end of former President Barack Obama's first term, when Mr. Biden was Vice President. The economy has also been growing since 2009, after the impacts



Nikki Haley

of the financial crisis started winding down.

Ms. Haley spoke about her immigrant story and her record as Governor and sought to make a case for an alternative approach to resolving race issues in America.

Not a racist country

"America is not a racist country. This is personal for me. I am the proud daughter of Indian immigrants. They came to America and settled in a small southern town. My father wore a turban. My mother wore a sari. I was a brown girl in black and white world," she said.

"We faced discrimination and hardship. But my parents never gave in to grievance and hate. My mom built a successful business. My dad taught 30 years at a

historically black college. And the people of South Carolina chose me as their first minority and first female Governor," Ms. Haley said, calling for America to build on progress made so far.

"That's why it's tragic to see so much of the Democratic Party turn a blind eye toward riots and rage. The American people know we can do better. And of course, we know that every single black life is valuable," she said. Ms. Haley spoke about black cops who had been shot in the line of duty, black business owners whose business have been burned and those who had been affected by the violence on the streets (a reference to the looting that had occurred after the killing of George Floyd, an unarmed black man).

"Their lives matter too," Ms. Haley said. Just on Sunday evening, Jacob Blake, an African American man, was hospitalised in a critical condition after being shot in the back by police officers in Kenosha, Wisconsin, in front of his three children. The incident has sparked nationwide protests and the national guard has been activated in Wisconsin. In her speech, Ms. Haley put an end to all that."

appeared to play down a significant moment in her gubernatorial career – when the Confederate flag (considered by many as a symbol of racism) was taken down following the murder of nine African Americans in a Church by a white supremacist.

"After that horrific tragedy, we didn't turn against each other. We came together... Together, we made the hard choices needed to heal – and removed a divisive symbol, peacefully and respectfully."

Significantly, Ms. Haley's action as Governor is not entirely consistent with Mr. Trump's view of flying the Confederate flag. In June, he had said it was flown as a symbol of Southern pride not racism and he has repeatedly voiced support for the flag. On the UN, Ms. Haley said it was the "honour of a lifetime to serve" as Ambassador but criticised the U.N. as a place that denounces America. "Now, the UN is not for the faint of heart. It's a place where dictators-murderers-thieves denounce America... and then put their hands out and demand that we pay their bills," she said. "Well, President Trump put an end to all that."

3 killed as Taliban attacks Afghan base

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MAZAR-I-SHARIF

A Taliban-claimed suicide attack killed at least three people in the restive northern province of Balkh, military spokesman for the region Hanif Rezayee said.

Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid said on Twitter that the attack was revenge for a video circulating online that appeared to show Afghan troops desecrating the bodies of Taliban soldiers in the south.

The suicide bomber detonated explosives in a truck near an Afghan army base in the restive northern province of Balkh, military spokesman for the region Hanif Rezayee said.

The Ministry of Defence

has launched an investigation into the video, which surfaced earlier this month.

The assault on Tuesday killed two civilians and a commando and wounded more than 40 others, Mr. Rezayee said.

ELSEWHERE



Pompeo visits Sudan to discuss Israel ties

CAIRO

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo visited Sudan on Tuesday to push the country to normalise ties with Israel, following the recent pact to establish relations between Israel and the UAE. AP

'Mladic appeal risks miscarriage of justice'

THE HAGUE

Lawyers for Bosnian Serb military chief Ratko Mladic told a UN court on Tuesday that he was at risk of a "miscarriage of justice" as he was not mentally fit to take part in the hearing against his conviction. AFP

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

"The Department of Agriculture, Government of Andhra Pradesh invites proposals to provide the consulting services for detailed Investigation, Design, and Preparation of Detailed Project Report of Agricultural Mechanization Technology Centers at three locations. More details on the services are provided in website www.apagrism.net.gov.in. The last date for submission of proposal is 04.09.2020. Sd/- Commissioner of Agriculture

GREATER CHENNAI CORPORATION Solid Waste Management Department

S.W.M.C.No.A7/0898/2020
Notice Inviting e-Tender - Second call
Short e - Tenders are invited for the following work in Single Stage Two Cover System as detailed below.
The Superintending Engineer (SWM), Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC), invites online tender for "Primary Collection, Secondary Transportation of Construction and Demolition Waste from Zone 1 to 8 to the processing facility at Kodungaiyur site of Greater Chennai Corporation (the Authority) under PPP mode" are available online on www.tntenders.gov.in

Last Date and Time of Submission of Bid	10 th September 2020, 3.00 PM
Bid Opening Date and Time	11 th September 2020, 4.00 PM
Cost of Tender Documents and EMD	Cost of tender document Rs.20,000/- + 12% GST EMD: Rs.9,90 Lakhs

Superintending Engineer/SWM

TNPL TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
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Phone: 04324-277 001 (10 LINES)
Unit-2: Mondipatti - 621306, Tiruchirappalli District, Tamil Nadu
Ph:04332-265102

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Tender No.	Description	Due date
202113	Procurement of Alkaline Sizing Chemicals with Alky Ketene Dimer (AKD) for Paper M/c No.1,2&3	07.09.2020
202113	Procurement of Sulphamic Acid Commercial	08.09.2020
202113	Procurement of Filler Grade Precipitated Calcium Carbonate (In jumbo bags)	09.09.2020
202123	90 GSM Plain Kraft Reels & sheets of various sizes in 24 BF. Quantity:Reels-468MT & Sheets - 610MT	09.09.2020
202113002347, 2358 & 2420	purchase.rawmatl@tnpl.co.in 202113000794 - purchasepmt@tnpl.co.in	202123000794 - purchasepmt@tnpl.co.in

Detailed Terms & conditions, Qty, Tender Fee, EMD are available in Tender document at our websites: www.tntenders.gov.in & www.tnpl.com

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idco Your power to grow ISO 9001 & 14001 Corporation
ODISHA NEW OPPORTUNITIES
ISO 9001 & 14001 CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&C), IDCO, IDCO TOWER, BHUBANESWAR.

File No. HO/P&C/EST-E-1425/02/2020/Part-I/11536 Date : 18/08/2020

Request For Proposal

Odisha Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation Invites Request for Proposal from renowned Firms / Agencies through e-procurement portal of Government of Odisha for "Procurement of Total Station Survey Instrument and Differential Global Positioning System (DGPS)".

Firms / Agencies those having experience in similar work can submit their bids for this proposal. The Bid Document comprising of eligibility criteria, Instruction to Bidders, Scope of the work, BOQ, etc. can be seen in e-procurement portal of Government of Odisha from 17:00 Hours of Dt.31.08.2020 to 17:00 Hours of Dt. 15.09.2020.

Interested firms who may like to visit the site may seek clarification from Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO Towers, Janpath, Bhubaneswar-751022, Odisha on any working day during office hours.</

MARKET WATCH

	PRICE	CHANGE
Sensex	38,844	0.12
US Dollar	74.33	0.00
Gold	52,350	-1.30
Brent oil	45.73	-2.05

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	346.10	-2.90
Asian Paints	2000.60	38.45
Axist Bank	451.80	6.00
Bajaj Auto	3009.40	-29.95
Bajaj Finserv	6502.60	102.15
Bajaj Finance	3642.90	150.85
Bharti Airtel	528.65	1.75
BPCL	412.90	3.15
Britannia Ind	3896.85	-11.50
Cipla	747.75	-4.00
Coal India	140.45	0.65
Dr Reddy's Lab	4427.70	-44.85
Eicher Motors	2217.25	40.80
GAIL (India)	99.70	-1.90
Grasim Ind	673.75	2.20
HCL Tech.	701.60	-4.10
HDPC	1829.60	-0.25
HDFC Bank	1119.70	2.65
HDFC Life	599.80	1.05
Hero MotoCorp	2969.75	-45.30
Hindustan	191.30	-2.00
Hind Unilever	2179.10	-15.30
ICICI Bank	386.35	6.00
IndusInd Bank	536.50	7.35
Bharti Infratel	198.25	-1.25
Infosys	938.10	-9.30
Indian Oil Corp	88.30	-0.05
ITC	195.40	-1.30
JSW Steel	284.90	-0.85
Kotak Bank	1400.10	12.85
L&T	980.40	-10.95
M&M	609.35	7.40
Maruti Suzuki	7109.95	27.45
Nestle India Ltd.	16288.20	-190.60
NTPC	103.80	-1.60
ONGC	80.50	-0.75
PowerGrid Corp	184.75	-0.50
Reliance Ind	2082.10	-13.65
State Bank	207.95	6.50
Shree Cement	21810.75	-400.00
Sun Pharma	525.10	-8.35
Tata Motors	127.10	5.90
Tata Steel	424.00	-5.50
TCS	2242.65	-5.45
Tech Mahindra	738.60	16.10
Titan	1136.50	9.85
UltraTech Cement	4172.35	-17.25
UPL	492.10	-5.30
Wipro	269.95	-2.75
Zee Entertainment	199.95	-1.65

EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	74.12	74.44
Euro	87.73	88.11
British Pound	97.17	97.59
Japanese Yen (100)	69.71	70.01
Chinese Yuan	10.72	10.77
Swiss Franc	81.55	81.92
Singapore Dollar	54.14	54.38
Canadian Dollar	56.08	56.32
Malaysian Ringgit	17.77	17.87
Australian Dollar	53.12	53.37

Source: Indian Bank

IN BRIEF



RBI to purchase, sell ₹20,000-cr. securities

MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Tuesday said it will conduct simultaneous purchase and sale of government securities under Open Market Operations (OMO) for an aggregate amount of ₹20,000 crore in two tranches. The auction will be held in two tranches of ₹10,000 crore each and conducted on August 27 and September 3, the RBI said. PTI

VA Tech Wabag to get ₹120-cr. capital infusion

CHENNAI

The board of VA Tech Wabag Ltd. has approved a proposal for capital infusion of ₹120 crore received from marquee and high networth investors to meet its growth plans and new business opportunities. On July 31, 2020, the board had informed the exchanges that it had approved a proposal to raise up to ₹400 crore. The firm has now scaled down its enabling resolution to ₹280 crore.

Ramco Systems wins Malaysian group order

CHENNAI

Ramco Systems has signed a multi-million dollar agreement with a Malaysia-based utilities and infrastructure group with diversified businesses for delivering group-wide digital transformation spanning across its ports and logistics operations. With this win, Ramco's enterprise platform will support more than 50% of all port operations in Malaysia, it said in a filing.

MakeMyTrip allows site access to offline agents

NEW DELHI

MakeMyTrip said its new B2B platform will give offline travel agents access to the travel portal's online content and inventory, aiding them in offering a seamless booking experience for travellers. "Through our 'MyPartner' offering, we give access of rich content and inventory of domestic and international hotels at best prices to travel agents," said Rajesh Magow, Group CEO, MakeMyTrip.

'Centre may consider a second stimulus once infections abate'

Revival will come when psychology of pandemic begins to ebb: Somanathan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

The government may look at introducing a second set of fiscal stimulus measures once the COVID-19 infections abate and the psychological fears in people's minds ebb, a top Finance Ministry official said on Tuesday.

The government has also observed that 40% of the cash transfers directly into the beneficiaries' accounts recently have been saved and not spent, leading to a feeling that there are limitations of the stimuli measures and hence, making timing the most important factor, Union Expenditure Secretary T. V. Somanathan said.

The government's first



Wary of exposure: Normal economic activity is in 'abeyance' now and is attributable to fears among the people. ■ AP

round of fiscal stimulus was announced in late March. The RBI delivered two deep rate cuts before surprising all with a pause this month, leading some analysts to opine the government will

have to do the heavy lifting now. Mr. Somanathan said normal economic activity is in 'abeyance' right now and it has nothing to do with what the government has done or not done, but attri-

buted the same to fears among the people.

"Right now, the evidence is the problem is not susceptible of stimulation by fiscal or government measures. It's not as if people are waiting for something to be done by the government and then they are ready to go out and resume normal economic activity," he noted.

He also said the health situation remains 'very vulnerable' in many parts and services activity beyond finance and insurance, like cinema halls, malls and restaurants had been severely impacted.

"The revival will really come when the psychology of the pandemic begins to ebb," he said.

'Govt. open to tweaks in credit guarantee scheme'

Revenue generation, a concern: FM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday said the government is open to further tweaking the ₹3-lakh crore credit guarantee scheme for providing collateral-free loans to small businesses.

According to industry association CII, with which the Minister had a closed-door meeting, she also said that domestic revenue generation is a concern as sectors like tourism, real estate, hospitality and airlines have been affected "disproportionately" by COVID-19.

Ms. Sitharaman said structural reform is a key priority for the government



Nirmala Sitharaman

and it will move fast on the Cabinet-cleared disinvestment proposals.

"The ₹3-lakh-crore scheme is open for professionals now and the government is open to more tweaking, changes, if required," CII tweeted her as saying.

The move could pose an awkward question for India,

which is the only country in the grouping that is leaning towards excluding Chinese participation in the roll-out of its national 5G network.

Russia has said it would work with China on 5G, with Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov saying this month they were open to working with

Chinese telecommunications firm Huawei, which has been largely banned by the United States.

South Africa, Brazil

In South Africa, Huawei is providing services to three of its telecom operators in the roll-out of their 5G networks. Brazil has allowed participation in trials but is yet to take a final call, although Vice President Hamilton Mourao indicated they would likely allow Huawei considering that "more than a third" of Brazil's 4G network operators use Huawei equipment.

"Huawei has capacity above its competitors and we do not yet see U.S. companies capable of defeating international competition," he said.

India is unlikely to allow

kets, the financial sector, legal architecture, and in international competitiveness would be needed to regain potential output losses and return the economy to a path of strong and sustainable growth with macroeconomic and financial stability," the RBI said.

"India's potential output can undergo a structural downshift as the recovery driven by stimulus and regulatory easing gets unwound in a post-pandemic scenario," it noted. The 2008 global financial crisis occurred after years of robust growth with macroeconomic stability; by contrast, COVID-19 hit the economy after consecutive quarters of slowdown, the central bank added.

Wide-ranging reforms must for sustainable growth: RBI

Annual report warns of downshift in output post-pandemic

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

Cautions that India's potential output may undergo a structural downshift following the pandemic, the Reserve Bank on Tuesday made a strong case for deep-seated and wide-ranging reforms to regain losses and return to the path of sustainable economic growth.

The pandemic will inflict

deep disfigurement on the world economy and the shape of the future will be heavily contingent upon the evolving intensity, spread and duration of COVID-19 and the discovery of a vaccine, the RBI said in its 'assessment and prospects' which forms part of the central bank's Annual Report

for the year 2019-20.

Post-COVID-19, the overwhelming sense is that the world will not be the same again and a new normal could emerge, it said.

'Global competitiveness'

"In a post-pandemic scenario, deep-seated and wide-ranging structural reforms in factor and product mar-

Tata Motors to 'significantly' pare debt of \$6.4 bn in 3 years

Have set targets to generate free cash flows, says chairman

REUTERS
NEW DELHI



Tata Motors' domestic business is expected to generate free cash flows from fiscal year 2021, says CFO Balaji. ■ AFP

Rover (JLR), but the company said it is committed to cutting costs, tightening investment spending and improving profitability.

'Unlocking non-core'

"The company is working with agility to transform towards a future that is strong, sustainable, and financially

rewarding," Mr. Chandrasekaran said, adding that the group would also look to 'unlock' non-core investments.

Tata Motors' domestic business is expected to generate free cash flows from fiscal year 2021 while JLR will achieve this a year later in 2022, CFO P.B. Balaji said.

Centre frees up coverall, mask exports

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
COIMBATORE

Manufacturers of masks, except N95 and FFP2, and medical coveralls can now export these without any restriction.

In a notification dated August 25, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade said that medical coveralls, including gowns and aprons, can be exported without any restriction. Two-ply and three-ply surgical masks, except N95/FFP2 types, can be exported without quantitative restriction. N95 and FFP2 masks are now in restricted category and 50 lakh units a month are permitted for exports. A. Sakthivel, chairman of Apparel Export Promotion Council, said AEPC expects personal protective equipment exports to cross ₹1,000 crore in the next 3 months.

feature phones. All phones support dual SIM.

Sanmeet Singh, vice-president, HMD Global, the maker of Nokia mobile phones, has announced four new devices priced between ₹1,999 and ₹15,499.

"Our aim is to bring great smartphone experiences to as many fans across the world as possible, at accessible price points," said Juho Sarvikas, chief product officer, HMD Global.

"Our launches of Nokia C3, Nokia 5.3, Nokia 125 and Nokia 150 in India today are a testimony to this goal, ahead of the festive season," he added. "There is a Nokia phone for everyone this festive season."

While Nokia C3 and Nokia 5.3 are smartphones, the Nokia 125

Scaling Mt. 600



England's James Anderson became the first fast bowler to enter the 600-wicket club in Tests when he dismissed Pakistan skipper Azhar Ali on the fifth day of the third Test at Southampton on Tuesday.

Muttiah Muralitharan (SL)	800	133
Shane Warne (Aus)	708	145
Anil Kumble (Ind)	619	132
James Anderson (Eng)	600	156

A LOOK AT ANDERSON'S JOURNEY

	M	Inns	Wkts	Avg	SR	BBI	BBM
vs Australia	32	59	104	34.56	67.7	6/47	10/158
vs India	27	52	110	25.98	54.8	5/20	9/43
vs South Africa	26	47	93	31.52	64.0	5/40	8/161
vs West Indies	22	41	87	22.60	51.8	7/42	9/73
vs Pakistan	18	34	74	19.31	49.2	6/17	11/71
vs New Zealand	14	26	60	26.83	49.2	7/43	9/98
vs Sri Lanka	13	24	52	23.86	51.8	5/16	10/45
vs Bangladesh	2	4	9	24.77	56.0	4/78	5/162
vs Zimbabwe	2	4	11	20.27	34.9	5/73	6/85
Home	89	169	384	23.83	50.2	7/42	11/71
Away	61	110	194	33.36	67.8	6/42	8/161
Neutral	6	12	22	20.54	58.9	4/17	6/69

SOURCE: ESPNCRICINFO; COMPILED BY G. PRASAD

Anderson lights up final day with 600th Test wicket

Match ends in a draw; England claims series 1-0

PAKISTAN IN ENG

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SOUTHAMPTON

England paceman James Anderson cemented his place in cricket history by taking his 600th Test wicket when he dismissed Pakistan captain Azhar Ali in the rain-marred third and final Test, which ended in a draw on

Tuesday. The tourists reached 187 for four in their second innings at the close on the short final day.

The host claimed the series 1-0.

Anderson produced a rising delivery that moved away from first-innings century-maker Azhar on 31, with England skipper Joe Root holding a head-high catch at first slip.

SCOREBOARD

England — 1st innings: 583 for eight dec. **Pakistan — 1st innings:** 273. **Pakistan — 2nd innings:** Shan Masood lbw b Broad 18, Abid Ali lbw b Anderson 42, Azhar Ali c Root b Anderson 31, Babar Azam (not out) 63, Asad Shafiq c sub b Root 21, Fawad Alam (not out) 0; Extras (lb-9, nb-3): 12; Total (for four wkts. in 83.1 overs): 187. **Fall of wickets:** 1-49, 2-88, 3-109, 4-172. **England bowling:** Anderson 19-3-45-2, Broad 14.1-5-27-1, Woakes 8-2-14-0, Archer 14-8-0-17-1, Bess 21-4-54-0, Root 6-0-17-1, Sibley 1-0-7-0. **Third Test drawn; England wins series 1-0.**

Ryan Harris is Delhi Capitals bowling coach

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Former Australian fast bowler Ryan Harris has been roped in as the bowling coach by Delhi Capitals for the upcoming season of the Indian Premier League. Harris replaces compatriot James Hopes, who opted out of travelling this year due to

personal reasons.

The 40-year-old Harris will be joining the side, already in UAE and in mandatory quarantine, and is expected to focus solely on the pacers in the side including Ishant Sharma, Kagiso Rabada, Moritz Sharma and Marcus Stoinis. The Delhi Capitals' coaching staff already in-

cludes Ricky Ponting, Mohammad Kaif, Vijay Dahiya and Samuel Badree.

Harris, who has 113 wickets in Tests, 44 in ODIs and 4 in T20Is, was part of the victorious Deccan Chargers side in 2009 before retiring in 2015. He had earlier been a coach with Kings XI Punjab and Brisbane Heat in the Big Bash League.

"I am delighted to be back in the IPL. This is a huge opportunity to contribute to the franchise's ambitions of lifting the coveted trophy. The Delhi Capitals side has an impressive bowling line up and I can't wait to start working with them all," Harris said in a statement.

Captains suggest a (legal) bet on things changing

Court (2019) have ruled, a ruling upheld by the Supreme Court. Individuals might protest, but that is the legal position.

In a short time, things have come a full circle as far as fantasy sport in India is concerned. Dream11 was founded in 2008, the year the IPL was first played, and now it is the title sponsor of that tournament. According to its website, it has 80 million users, with some winning as much as two-and-a-half million rupees. These are either very skillful people or very lucky, depending on your point of view. After all, chance is an element in sports too; consider a dropped catch, a freekick hitting the goalpost or a player stepping on a ball and twisting his ankle.

Two distinguished judges charged with cleaning up the Board of Control for Cricket in India – Justice Mukul Mudgal and Justice Rajendra Mal Lodha – both recommended to the Supreme Court that sports betting be legalised in India. This was following the spot-fixing scandal in the IPL in 2013.

That year, according to a KPMG report, the size of India's underground gambling market was worth \$90.2 billion. Indians who bet on sporting events (except horse racing, where betting is legal) have to do so either illegally in the country, or online on sites outside. In either case, the government loses out.

The Public Gambling Act – under which such matters are decided – was established in 1867, well before the birth of the Internet, or indeed international sport in India. The law as it stands makes a distinction between games of chance and games of skill, so the matter is basically one of definition and interpretation.

Fantasy cricket is a game of skill. That is what the Punjab & Haryana High Court (2017) and the Bombay High

everywhere, love a flutter (let us accept that neither fantasy leagues nor Esports is strictly about gambling). In my early days as a journalist, I met someone who would give you odds on which cloud mass would go past a specific point from among a bunch in the sky!

But there was always a moral issue. Cultural too. The dice game in the Mahabharata which led to the loss of a kingdom and a war is narrated to us at an early age. Yet, when we have wanted to legalise betting (as in horse racing, and now fantasy sport), we have invested it with such virtues as skill, judgement, research, talent, all "preponderantly" worthwhile attributes to possess. There is an ambiguity here that legalising sports betting will eliminate. It won't matter what percentage of skill and what percentage of chance is involved so long as the system is regulated sensibly.

When the Law Commission of India recommended that sports betting be legalised in 2018, it said the move would end money laundering and tax evasion, the bane of the unregulated market, while boosting tax collections. Two years earlier, the Lodha Commission had made this recommendation, arguing that it was a multimillion-dollar industry, and calling for the government to enact laws to regularise it while restricting it to licensed betting houses and ensuring that players or officials do not participate.

Now, four years later, the three captains of India would seem to have – unwittingly – brought the subject into public consciousness. What they are endorsing may be skill-based, but what they are setting off in the minds of viewers is the idea of betting on sports. Sometimes the tangential can convert into something substantial.

Poulomi retires

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA
KOLKATA

Poulomi Ghatak, one of the most successful names in women's table tennis in India, brought the curtains down on a career that saw her win seven National titles, one short of Indu Puri's record. The 37-year-old Poulomi is planning to become a coach.

Health issues delay Ciriello's return

Analytical coach had flown home due to visa problems

UTHRA GANESAN
NEW DELHI

Things are not going well for the Indian men's hockey team. After High Performance Director David John resigned amidst speculation, analytical coach Chris Ciriello is unsure of resuming duty owing to health reasons, adding to Hockey India's concerns.

While Ciriello left last month with his wife Heide due to visa issues, it is now learnt he has sought medical advice for a serious health condition that will delay his return.

In fact, he is expected to consult doctors back home about the possible course of treatment and will only then decide on rejoining the Indian team. His visa issues, though, have been worked out.

SAI accepts resignation
Meanwhile, the Sports Authority of India (SAI) on Tuesday confirmed it had accepted John's resignation.

SAI said it would actively look for John's replacement once SAI gives the go-ahead.

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