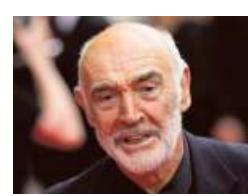




Samajwadi Party has exposed BSP-BJP link in U.P., says Akhilesh  
page 8



Sir Sean Connery, who embodied James Bond and more, dies at 90  
page 10



Saudi man crashes car into gates of Mecca's Grand Mosque  
page 10



Sandeep & Co. rise to the occasion, keep Sunrisers in the hunt  
page 15

### NEARBY



#### Lockdown will not stop the spread of virus: Jain

NEW DELHI  
Delhi recorded 5,062 new COVID-19 cases on Saturday, taking the tally to 3,86,706, while the death toll reached 6,511 with 41 more fatalities reported in a single day. Health Minister Satyendar Jain said it would be impossible to stop the spread of the virus with a lockdown.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

#### Delhi University releases fourth cut-off list

NEW DELHI  
Delhi University on Saturday released the fourth cut-off list for admission to various undergraduate courses. Students can seek admission online between November 2 and 4. The last date for payment of fees under the new list is November 6.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

#### 'Stubble burning area has declined this year'

CHANDIGARH  
Punjab Chief Secretary Vini Mahajan on Saturday said the State has so far reported stubble burning over 7.49 lakh hectares, about 5% lower than what it had witnessed in the corresponding period last year.

NEWS ▶ PAGE 9

MAGAZINE ▶ 8 PAGES

CLASSIFIEDS ▶ PAGE 4

## PM slams 'politics' on Pulwama

Modi cites speech of Pakistan Minister about Islamabad's role in terror attack

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
AHMEDABAD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said the truth about the 2019 Pulwama terror attack, in which 40 CRPF personnel were killed, had come out in Pakistan's Parliament.

Mr. Modi's statement came just two days after Pakistan's Science and Technology Minister Fawad Chaudhry claimed in the National Assembly that his country was "responsible for the attack".

The Prime Minister said some forces had indulged in "dirty politics" over the attack for political gains, adding that everyone should refrain from politics that can affect the morale of the armed forces.

"The real face of such people has been exposed after the truth was accepted in the Parliament of our neighbouring country," Mr. Modi said, addressing the Ekta Diwas Parade at the Statue of Unity in Kevadiya on the occasion of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's birth anniversary.

"Today when I was watching the parade of officers here, an image came up in my mind... this image was of the Pulwama attack. The country can never forget that when India was mourning the death of its sons... there were some people who were not a part of that grief.

Pakistan rejected Mr. Modi's comments, accusing the



Standing tall: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inspecting the Ekta Diwas Parade near the Statue of Unity on Saturday. ■ PTI

They were looking for selfish gains," Mr. Modi said referring to those who questioned the government over "lapses" that led to the attack on the CRPF convoy.

"The country can never forget that some people were not saddened at the sacrifice of the security personnel. At that time, these people were only doing politics... I request them not to do such politics in the interest of the nation," he said.

"The BJP regime is advised, once again, to stop dragging Pakistan into India's domestic politics, especially at the time of elections in India," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 7

### Work hard, PM tells IAS probationers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
AHMEDABAD

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday exhorted civil service probationers to ensure the concept of "minimum government and maximum governance" in administration while cautioning them against developing "babu mindset" in the system.

Mr. Modi said the aim of civil servants should be to empower the common man. He was speaking via videoconference from the Statue of Unity site in Kevadiya in Gujarat to probationers at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration in Mussoorie.

He said young officers should take decisions in the context of the nation's interests and to strengthen the unity and integrity of the country. He stressed that decisions taken by civil servants should always be in the interest of the common man, notwithstanding the scope of the department or the region in which they are working.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 7

## Nath moves SC over EC curbs on Congress campaigners' list

He challenges removal as 'star campaigner'

KRISHNADAS RAJGOPAL  
NEW DELHI

Former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister and Congress leader Kamal Nath on Saturday moved the Supreme Court against the decision of the Election Commission (EC) to remove his name from the list of 'star campaigners' for his party.

On October 30, the top poll body had found Mr. Nath guilty of violating the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) in place for the bye-election to 28 Assembly seats



Kamal Nath

in Madhya Pradesh scheduled on November 3. The EC had revoked his name on the basis of a complaint from the BJP that Mr. Nath derogatorily referred to its candidate, Imarti Devi, as an "item" during a campaign rally at Dabra in Gwalior district.

On Saturday, Mr. Nath, represented by advocates Varun K. Chopra and Gurtejpal Singh, asked why the EC had remained mum when BJP leaders used "uncivilised, crass and abusive language" against him during the campaign.

"On October 6, Shri. Kamal Patel in Ujjain called the petitioner a 'frog' in a well and said that the petitioner was sitting over the funds of farmers like a 'snake'... On October 23, Shri. Kailash Vijayvargiya of BJP at Muraina called the Petitioner elusive like 'Raavan'..." the petition said.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 7

## CSD canteens not to sell direct imports

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The unit-run canteens (URC) of the armed forces will stop selling 422 directly imported items following an order from the Defence Ministry in support of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'.

The Canteen Stores Department (CSD) has issued a notification to all its depot managers to this effect.

To implement government's vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat and as per the directions of the MoD, no purchase order will be placed for

the directly imported items with immediate effect," the notice dated October 29 said.

However, there is no restriction in supply of items of pending purchase orders and sale to URCs till the stocks of imported items are liquidated fully. "You are therefore requested not to place any local purchase orders on the imported items..." the notification said asking all depot managers to confirm its receipt by October 31.

The CSD, which functions as an attached office of the

Ministry, has 34 depots located across India. It has a portfolio of over 4,500 products sourced from 650 vendors both Indian and foreign.

In an order dated October 19, the MoD said meetings were held with the three Services and CSD officials on May 21 and July 21 in support of "Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan". The list includes some leading brands, and a defence official said the volumes are so high that it should act as an incentive for companies to localise.

## Rajasthan Bills to counter farm laws

State government introduces three Bills in Assembly on the first day of the session

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
JAIPUR

The Rajasthan government on Saturday introduced three Bills in the Assembly to stop the applicability of the three new agriculture sector laws enacted by the Centre recently. The Bills were tabled following a similar move in the Punjab Assembly last month.



Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shanti Dhariwal tabled the three Bills on the first day of the session along with another Bill seeking to amend the Civil Procedure Code for protecting the agriculturists' land measuring up to 5 acres against attachment and sale in execution of a decree issued by the court in the cases of monetary award.

The three Bills pertaining to the State amendments to the Central statutes are the

culture, land and markets were the primary legislative domain of the State falling under Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, the State government said the Central Acts were beyond the legislative competence of Parliament. "The State government can amend the Central Acts in exercise of its powers vested under Article 254(2) of the Constitution," it said.

The Assembly was adjourned till Monday after obituary references on the death of former President Pranab Mukherjee and some other leaders, following the introduction of Bills.

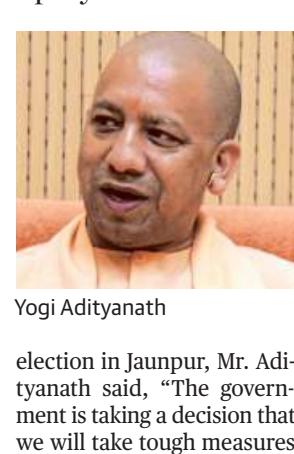
Senior BJP MLA Rajendra Rathore, who is the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, said the Central laws were in favour of farmers and added that his party would prove its stand during the debate in the House.

## Adityanath vows to bring tough law against 'love jihad' in UP.

CM warns those who 'play with honour of sisters, daughters'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Saturday said his government would bring an "effective law" against "love jihad", a slur politically used by the Hindu right wing to target interfaith relationships and marriages involving a Muslim man.



Yogi Adityanath

The Chief Minister also issued a "warning" to those who "played with the honour" of "sisters and daughters" by concealing their identities and operating secretly. If they did not mend their ways, then their "Ram Naam Satya Yatra (funeral processions)" would be taken out, he said.

Raising the issue in his campaign for the Malihani by-

the girl, who was a Muslim by birth, had converted to the Hindu faith just a month before the marriage was solemnised.

The order was passed by the court on September 23 but became public last week.

"The court... found that the first petitioner has converted her religion on 29.6.2020 and just after one month, they have solemnised their marriage on 31.7.2020, which clearly reveals to this court that the said conversion has taken place only for the purpose of marriage," said Justice Mahesh Chandra Tripathi.

The court said in the facts and circumstances it was not inclined to interfere in the matter under Article 226 of the Constitution.

## CPI(M) okays Bengal pact with Congress

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The CPI(M) Central Committee has approved the State unit's decision to have an electoral understanding with all "secular" parties, including the Congress, in the West Bengal Assembly election to be held in April.

Earlier the party's Polit Bureau had approved the decision on Tuesday leaving the final call to the Central Committee.

"In West Bengal, the CPI (M) and the Left Front will have an electoral understanding with all secular parties, including the Congress, which seek to defeat the BJP and the Trinamool Congress," CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury said at a press meet.

DETAILS ON ▶ PAGE 8

## Freeze-frame



White-out: A car gets a fresh coat of snow, in Lahaul and Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh on Saturday. ■ ANI

## Park in Kolkata set to turn waste into art

Esplanade Bus Depot will soon host a unique art installation made of old, used tyres

SHIV SAHAY SINGH  
KOLKATA

The Esplanade Bus Depot in the heart of Kolkata, usually buzzing with the noise of buses and chugging of trams, is all set to have a unique art installation made of used old tyres. The West Bengal Transport Corporation (WBTC) is giving final touches to what it calls "the country's first tyre park".

**Eyesore no more**  
"The idea behind the park is that waste can be converted into art. Nothing is waste and can be art, and that is the message of the tyre park coming up in Kolkata," said an official of the transport corporation.  
Disposal of used and waste tyres is not only a



Recycled: An art installation at the Tyre Park in Kolkata.

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

challenge for authorities but also takes a lot of time. Usually, such tyres remain piled up at the bus depots, making them an eyesore. The employees of WBTC worked on such tyres and other scrap material for weeks and have been able to convert them into an eye-pleasing and colourful amalgamation.

Once completed, the park will have a small café, music and offer space for people to sit and relax in one of the busiest areas of the city. "It will be an island of peace in an otherwise very crowded area," said Rajanvir Kapur, Managing Director, WBTC. While Kolkata is known for its awe-inspiring art installations during Durga Puja, they can be enjoyed only for a couple of weeks. The tyre park will add to the list of permanent art installations in the city.

Officials said that the location of the tyre park at Esplanade is just opposite the WBTC's tram control room. The location has been chosen keeping in mind other interesting attractions like Smarnika, a museum housed in a tramcar that takes people down memory lane on the evolution of trams. Esplanade serves as an important junction from where people take trams and buses. The recently launched tram library that runs on the Esplanade-Shyambazar route also makes a few stops daily at Esplanade.

Raising the issue in his campaign for the Malihani by-

Air Quality of Delhi-NCR	
Delhi 367	Gurugram 358
Ghaziabad 363	Faridabad 348
Noida 356	Greater Noida 368
Good 0-50	Satisfactory 51-100
Moderate 101-200	Severe >400
Poor 201-300	Very Poor 301-400
Air Quality Index at 4 p.m. yesterday (Average of past 24 hours)   Source: CPCB	

## Constable, friend held for shooting at man

Weapon used was a service pistol

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A Delhi Police constable and his friend have been arrested for allegedly firing at a man following a quarrel in Dwarka's Baba Haridas Nagar, the police said on Saturday.

A senior police officer said that the accused have been identified as Constable Surender and his friend Rajesh, who shot at one Laxman Bhandari. The victim is a resident of Najafgarh and works as a manager at a private bank.

The officer said that Laxman was partying with three friends – Rahul, Keshav and Dinesh – on Thursday night. After it ended, Laxman and Rahul left for home together, while the other two left together.

On the way, Dinesh called Rahul and asked them to come help as a fight had broken out.

Rahul told the police that when he and Laxman reached, they saw two persons, who had come in a

car, fighting with their friends, Dinesh and Keshav.

The two accused allegedly started thrashing the four friends, after which a quarrel broke out between the two sides. Subsequently, Surender handed his pistol to Rajesh who shot at Laxman and fled the spot.

The friends took Laxman to a nearby hospital where he is currently undergoing treatment.

The accused were identified with the help of CCTV footage and later arrested.

During interrogation, the accused said they were also coming back from a party and spotted a drunk man lying on the roadside.

They stopped two men (Dinesh and Keshav), who were coming on a bike, and asked them to help pick up the drunk man. The two men refused and that made the accused angry.

The police said that the weapon used in commission of crime was a service pistol and necessary action is being taken.

## The altered court order

The lockdown brought on by the pandemic has suspended old norms with courts adopting virtual hearings. Lawyers are hopeful of a spurt in cases when the old normal returns

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH  
NEW DELHI

When the first lockdown was imposed in the country on March 24 after the COVID-19 outbreak, much like any other establishment, courts too decided to shut down in the Capital.

Instantaneously, this led to a sharp fall in the institution of fresh cases. The most drastic impact was seen at the district courts here. Compared to the 44,888 cases being instituted in April last year, only 904 were instituted the same month this year.

The Delhi High Court too saw a similar drop in the institution of cases from 4,457 in April last year to just 228 in April this year.

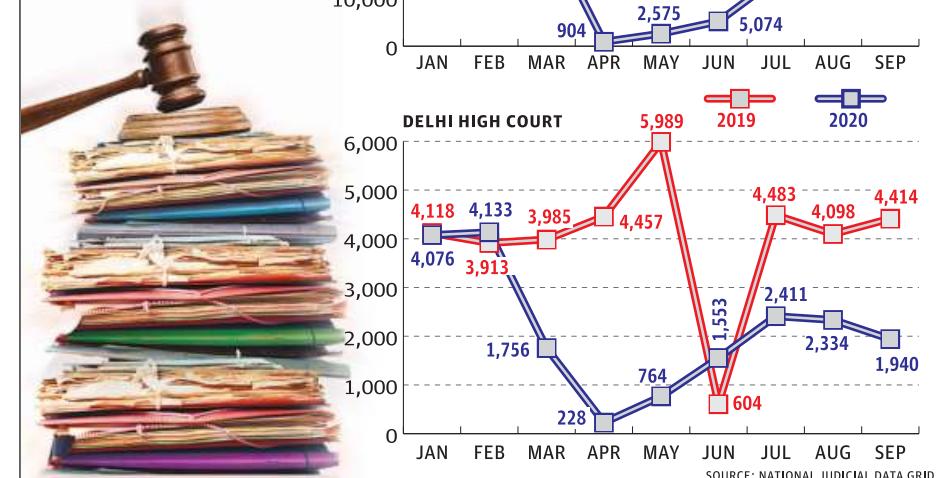
### Video call hearing

Responding to the call of social distancing to ensure that court premises do not contribute to the spread of the virus, on March 23, the Supreme Court decided to shut down all forms of physical hearing to reduce the physical presence of lawyers, litigants and court staff in court precincts and instead adopted technology-centric virtual courts. It authorised the High Courts and district courts across the country to adopt the mode of videoconferencing hearing.

The Delhi High Court and its subordinate district courts quickly adopted the videoconferencing form of hearing. However, in the initial days, only cases that involved 'extreme urgency' were taken up, while others were adjourned for a later date.

### Case history

A comparison of the number of cases instituted in Delhi courts during the lockdown and the same period last year



serve the rule of law in the democracy envisaged by the Constitution of India."

"The challenges occasioned by the pandemic outbreak have to be addressed while preserving the constitutional commitment to ensuring the delivery and access to justice," it had observed.

Despite this, the initial period of the lockdown and the corresponding shutdown of the courts saw many accused arrested in relation to criminal cases unable to avail of legal remedies. Lawyers had then expressed worry as the detainees were unable to avail of the rights that accrue at the stage of summoning, detention, arrest and remand due to the shutdown of courts and unavailability of lawyers.

### Access to justice

The Supreme Court on April 6, this year, while admitting that the outbreak of pandemic has led to scaling down of conventional operations within the precincts of courts, said: "Access to justice is fundamental to pre-

period when videoconference hearing was introduced, it took time even for the courts to adjust to it. "Now the list of cases taken up daily is longer," he said.

On the huge slump in the institution of fresh cases post-lockdown, Mr. Singh said, "The statistic may be misleading".

He said that this slump could be on account of a change in the mode of filing and many lawyers are not conversant with the latest technology. "Secondly and very importantly, the freezing of the limitation period," he added.

In March, the Supreme Court had stipulated a period of limitation in all cases taking cognisance of the difficulties that may be faced by litigants across the country in filing their petitions, applications, appeal etc. Mr. Singh remarked that there might be a spurt in cases when the court reopens in full flow.

Though the majority of Delhi's lawyers adapted to the new system quickly, there is still a need to involve other lawyers to get them equipped with the same skills

AJAY VERMA  
Advocate

Initially, when videoconference hearing was introduced, it took time for the courts to adjust to it. Now the list of cases taken up daily is longer

GYANANT KUMAR SINGH  
Lawyer and columnist

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- NOIDA, Nirula's Sec-2, Near Metro Station, Sec-15, Noida, UP
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November 1, 2020



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Timings <small>DELHI</small>	
SUNDAY, NOV. 01	
RISE 06:33	SET 17:37
RISE 18:14	SET 06:56
MONDAY, NOV. 02	
RISE 06:34	SET 17:36
RISE 18:50	SET 07:50
TUESDAY, NOV. 03	
RISE 06:35	SET 17:35
RISE 19:29	SET 08:45

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	31	13
Safdarjung	31	13
Palam	29	15

**Delhi Pali Today**  
31°C Cool morning and comfortable day with light dry winds. Haze will continue.

**Delhi Pali Tomorrow**  
30°C Thick smoke haze would continue during morning. Dry weather likely. Pollution to suspend during day also.

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## IN BRIEF

### 15 police officers receive special operation medal

NEW DELHI  
Fifteen officers of the Delhi Police Special Cell have been awarded the Union Home Minister's Special Operation Medal on the occasion of birth anniversary of India's first Home Minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Eleven of them were awarded for their role in 'Operation PAMIR' in which a team of the Special Cell had busted an international drug cartel. Operation PAMIR also uncovered a new modus operandi of using the land route from Afghanistan through Iran and then via sea to the ports of western India for narco-smuggling, it said.

# 'Lockdown will not stop spread of virus, face mask best vaccine'

Health Minister Satyendar Jain says infection 'spreading through the community'

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

Delhi recorded 5,062 new COVID-19 cases on Saturday, taking the tally to 3,86,706, while the death toll reached 6,511 with 41 more fatalities reported in a single day.

Health Minister Satyendar Jain said that despite rising cases, it would be impossible to stop the spread of the virus with a lockdown and added that wearing a mask was the best "vaccine" against it.

The number of new cases has been spiking in the Capital with 5,891 fresh cases recorded on October 30 – the highest spike so far. A total of 5,739 cases were recorded on October 29; 5,673 on October 28; and 4,853 on October 27 – all setting new records for the number of new cases reported in Delhi.



A man getting tested for the SARS-CoV-2 virus in the city on Saturday. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

The number of new cases has been above 5,000 cases for four straight days now.

#### 'A lot was said'

"There were a lot of lessons from the lockdown, and a lot was said such as: after lockdown, the virus spread

would stop; or high temperature would stop it. Did it stop? So, the lesson from that exercise has been that it is impossible to wipe away COVID-19 transmission through a lockdown as the virus has spread through the community," Mr. Jain said.

### Virus spread

Total number of COVID-19 cases	Total deaths
<b>3,86,706</b>	<b>6,511</b>
New cases in the past 24 hours	New deaths
<b>5,062</b>	<b>41</b>

SOURCE: DELHI GOVERNMENT HEALTH BULLETIN

adding that many Delhites were not following mask rules and strict action would be taken against violators.

Saturday's health bulletin stated there were 4,665 recoveries in 24 hours and there are now 32,719 active cases in the city. The number of tests conducted on Saturday was 44,330; 59,641 tests were conducted the previous day. There are now 3,274 containment zones.

The shop owner then sent his delivery boy, Sandeep, to the mentioned address.

"When Sandeep reached near the house, a man introduced himself as the driver of the house owner and asked him to handover the modus operandi.

"He used to book items as per his requirement, which was always less than ₹1,000 so that no one files a complaint against him," Mr. Meena said.

The accused took the items and ₹1,700 cash from

## DU 4th cut-off list out

Admissions open from tomorrow

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

Delhi University on Saturday released the fourth cut-off list for admission to various merit-based undergraduate courses. Students can seek admission online between November 2 and 4.

The last date for payment of fee under the new list is November 6.

Student pinning hopes on a fall in the required cut-offs were disappointed as several DU colleges started closing admissions under general category or announced marginal relaxation in cut-offs.

Reserved category seats are still up for grabs in many colleges.

Lady Shri Ram College,

which had asked 100% score for three honours courses: political science, economics and psychology, closed admissions for economics in the fourth list and revised the cut-off for political science and psychology to 99% and 99.2%, respectively. In the third list, the cut-off for political science and psychology had been set at 99.25% and 99.5%, respectively.

The university had earlier announced that it would be releasing five cut-off lists before the new session commences on November 18.

After that, it would release special cut-off lists according to the seats left vacant. Admission under the fifth list will begin on November 9.

## No deaths due to dengue this year, says govt.

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

On the eve of the last week of its anti-dengue campaign *10 Hafte 10 Baje 10 Minute*, the Delhi government credited it with having ensured zero deaths due to the mosquito-borne disease so far this year.

Health Minister Satyendar Jain tweeted: "Delhi people did it! No death due to dengue this year. There is also a sharp fall in number of cases compared to figures reported last year. Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's campaign '10 hafte 10 baje 10 minute' has been made a success by you all [sic]."

an increase in ammonia levels which affected production of water at the Sonia Vihar and Bhagirathi WTPs,"

Mr. Pathak said that the BJP ran the corporations for 14 years, but if control over them was given to AAP for a year, then there would be a marked change.

"The condition of the families of pensioners is very bad... people are taking loans and using up their savings for survival," he said.

"In Delhi, the BJP has been ruling the corporations for the last 14 years and in this time the party has completely ruined the civic bodies. Today, it is considered as the most corrupt department and most poorly governed," he added.

During the probe, it was revealed that Brij made no payment to Sunil and it was a sham transaction.

The address mentioned in the sale deed was incomplete, the police said.

The accused induced the complainant to give his property on rent and later prepared forged documents.

He further mortgaged the property with a bank.

## Civic bodies must release pensions'

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

The BJP-ruled municipal corporations should immediately release the pension of 24,000 people and stop doing politics over the issue,

Aam Aadmi Party civic bodies' in-charge Durgesh Pathak said on Saturday.

an increase in ammonia levels which affected production of water at the Sonia Vihar and Bhagirathi WTPs,"

After assuring 100% water production soon, Mr. Chadha said to water shortage across the city.

Mr. Chadha said the level of ammonia in water needs to be less than IPPM and DJB engineers were working on a war-footing to contain the sit-

uation and ensure affected areas get normal water supply at the earliest.

After assuring 100% water production soon, Mr. Chadha held a high-level meeting with senior officials and engineers of the DJB, including Chief Engineer (Water).

"Regular water supply in affected areas will resume

soon and 100% water production will resume at Sonia Vihar and Bhagirathi WTPs,"

the DJB V-C said, adding: "We are in constant touch with the governments of Haryana and U.P. to help deal with the pressing situation and to ensure Delhites do not have to face further problems due to water shortage."

Leaders don't force people to follow, they invite them on a journey

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### EDUCATIONAL

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2	Coordinate Geometry (3-D)	08/11/2020
3	Dynamics & Statics	15/11/2020
4	Modern Algebra	22/11/2020
5	Real Analysis	29/11/2020
6	Complex Analysis & LPP	06/12/2020
7	Partial Differential Equations	09/12/2020
8	Numerical Analysis & Computer	13/12/2020
9	Mechanics & Fluid Dynamics	15/12/2020
10	Full Length Paper - I & II	20/12/2020
11	Calculus	23/12/2020
12	ODE and Vector	27/12/2020

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## MATRIMONIAL

### BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

#### INDEX OF MATRIMONIAL

**BRIDEGROOMS WANTED**

**BRIDES WANTED**

**BRIDES & GROOMS WANTED**

Classification common for Brides, Bridgrooms, Brides & Grooms

Assamese

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Bhojpuri

Bihari

Chhattisgarhi

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Haryanvi

Hindi

Kannada

Kashmiri

Konkani

Malayalam

Manipuri

Marathi

Marwari

Nepali

Oriya

Parsi

Punjabi

Saurashtra

Sindhi

Tamil

Telugu

Tulu

Urdu

Advocate

Business

Defence

Doctor

Engineer

Finance/ Banking

Government/ Quasi-Govt.

IAS/ Allied Services

Information Technology

MBA/ CA/ ICWA

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CHETTIAR / MUDALIYAR Bridegroom Wanted

Educated, affluent business family seeks

handsome, tamil speaking groom with high

moral values, clean habits from affluent respectable families, for their daughter (25/173 cm), fair, tall, good looking, B.Tech, Avittam / Magaram Rasi.

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**WEATHER WATCH**

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



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

**Forecast for Sunday:** Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikudi. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala and Mahe

CITY RAIN MAX MIN CITY RAIN MAX MIN CITY RAIN MAX MIN

Agartala 51.4...28.5...21.8 Kozhikode... 34.0...24.8

Ahmedabad... 33.9...20.2 Kurnool... 33.6...22.7

Aizawl... 27.3...18.0 Lucknow... 32.6...16.5

Allahabad... 30.8...15.4 Madurai... 32.8...22.1

Bengaluru... 30.0...18.5 Mangalore... 32.8...22.6

Bhopal... 30.3...15.4 Mumbai... 34.7...21.0

Dhubaneswar... 33.8...20.1 Mysuru... 31.0...18.2

Chandigarh... 31.9...15.1 New Delhi... 30.8...13.0

Chennai... 33.0...24.2 Patna... 34.6...20.0

Coimbatore... 35.6...23.6 Port Blair... 31.5...23.8

Dehradun... 31.6...14.3 Puducherry... 33.2...23.2

Gangtok... 23.3...14.7 Pune... 31.8...17.7

Goa... 33.8...25.0 Raipur... 33.0...19.8

Guwahati... 30.8...23.0 Ranchi... 30.4...17.0

Hubballi... 28.0...21.0 Shillong... 23.6...17.4

Hyderabad... 31.5...19.0 Shimla... 24.0...14.4

Imphal... 4.3...25.3 Srinagar... 32.4...23.3

Jaipur... 30.9...15.6 Thiruvananthapuram... 32.2...24.7

Kochi... 31.4...25.0 Tiruchi... 35.1...24.2

Kohima... 2.4...24.2 Vijayawada... 33.6...22.2

Kolkata... 32.4...24.1 Visakhapatnam... 33.0...24.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

**Pollutants in the air you are breathing**

CITIES SO<sub>2</sub> NO<sub>2</sub> CO PM2.5 PM10 CODE

Ahmedabad... 33...81...51...144...113...■■■■■

Bengaluru... 14...52...36...145...124...■■■■■

Chennai... 47...23...12...128...124...■■■■■

Delhi... 6...88...46...423...428...■■■■■

Hyderabad... 26...51...25...209...122...■■■■■

Kolkata... 11...17...43...154...122...■■■■■

Lucknow... 11...72...39...311...219...■■■■■

Mumbai... 11...75...98...156...138...■■■■■

Pune... 17...26...46...66...52...■■■■■

Visakhapatnam... 11...97...18...185...236...■■■■■

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

SO<sub>2</sub>: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO<sub>2</sub>: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

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

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

# Uddhav Thackeray urges Centre to raise onion stock holding limit

Traders have stopped purchasing from farmers due to cap of 25 metric tonnes: CM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MUMBAI

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has urged the Centre to increase the onion stock holding limit to 1,500 metric tonnes for wholesale traders in the State who purchase the bulb directly from farmers.

In a letter to Union Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Minister Piyush Goyal on October 30, Mr. Thackeray said wholesale traders have stopped purchasing onion from farmers due to the limited stock limit of 25 metric tonnes.

"This has stalled the supply chain from farmers to consumers, which has resulted in increase in prices of onion in the retail market," the Chief Minister said.

"Arrival of kharif onion is



No takers: Vendors await customers amid soaring prices of onion, at the APMC onion potato market in Navi Mumbai.

likely to begin from the first week of November. Kharif onion is highly perishable. If this onion is not purchased by traders due to the present cap on stock holding, farmers in Maharashtra will face

huge losses," he added.

In the last six months, onion farmers have already suffered due to the COVID-19-induced lockdown, the Chief Minister said, and urged the minister that the

stock limit be increased to 1,500 metric tonnes.

Mr. Thackeray said the limit of 25 metric tonnes for wholesale traders and two metric tonnes for retailers has caused severe hardships to farmers and traders.

Maharashtra is a leading producer of onion and it accounts for one third of the country's total production, Mr. Thackeray added.

"The State accounts for 80% of the onion exports from India. In the last season, onion production was approximately 100 lakh metric tonnes," he said.

"This year, excess rainfall and flooding in major onion-producing States, including Maharashtra, damaged the standing kharif crop and led to increase in prices in September-October," he said.

## CJI opens country's first e-resource centre in Nagpur

Virtual court also launched for Transport Department to deal with challan cases

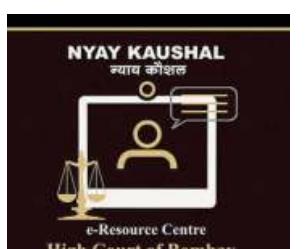
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Chief Justice of India S.A. Bobde along with Supreme Court Justice D.Y. Chandrachud inaugurated Nyay Kaushal, the country's first e-resource centre, at the Judicial Officers Training Institute in Nagpur on Saturday.

A virtual court was also launched for the Transport Department to deal with challan cases and provide speedy justice to litigants.

Justice Bobde said, "The biggest problem that came with the pandemic was access to justice becoming conditional on access to technology. This has ended up creating a divide between the ones who can afford technology and the ones



The new centre will enable e-filing of cases in courts.

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

who cannot. With the aid of virtual courts, our system of justice does not suffer, and the rule of law continues to be maintained." He added, "The e-resource centre is meant to be a step at mitigating various inequalities by being connected to the Supreme Court, the High

Courts and taluka courts." The centre will provide the easiest way of filing court matters by using technology. It will help save time, money, and avoid long travel.

The virtual court, which will function from Katol, will be able to deal with traffic challan cases in Maharashtra. It will be possible for litigants to pay fines and get cases disposed of with a click of a button. All judges across the country will be able to access the court online.

Justice Chandrachud, the chairman of the SC's e-court committee, attended the event virtually. He said, "Delhi was the first to start virtual traffic courts in India, with almost 27 lakh challans received and ₹19.8 crore col-

lected online." He added, "Nearly 202.35 crore transactions have been recorded on e-courts websites till now and the total number of emails sent to advocates and litigants in 2020 was approximately 4.84 crore. The e-court mobile application records nearly 35 lakh hits daily and nearly 3,50,000 automated emails are sent daily. Further, 47.65 lakh cases were registered by e-courts websites, with e-filing facility available in 17 High Courts, three High Court Benches and several district courts as of now."

Bombay High Court Chief Justice Dipankar Datta said, "It is time for the world to move from a manual world to a paperless world."

Two get jail for molesting minor girls

RAINA ASSAINAR

NAVI MUMBAI

The Alibaug district and sessions court on Saturday sentenced two men to prison in separate cases of molestation. While a 48-year-old man was sentenced to three years' rigorous imprisonment for molesting a 14-year-old girl from Kharharg, a 30-year-old from Alibaug was sentenced to two years' rigorous imprisonment for molesting a 15-year-old girl.

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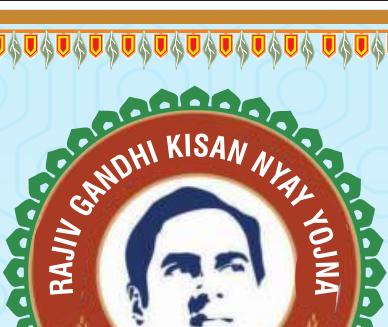
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# CHHATTISGARH RAJYOTSAV 2020

State Foundation Day, 1<sup>st</sup> November 2020

Chief Guest : Rahul Gandhi Hon'ble Member of Parliament

Disbursement of third instalment of 1,500 cr under 'Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana'

Inauguration of 'Swami Atmananda English Medium School Scheme'

Inauguration of 'Mukhyamantri Shahari Slum Swasthya Yojana'



## NEW MILESTONES OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

### Innovative Schemes for 'Nyay'

- Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana: 5,750 cr to benefit 19 lakh farmers; 3,000 cr already disbursed
- Godhan Nyay Yojana: First state to monetize cow dung, average payment of 9 cr every fortnight

### Farmers

- 9,000 cr short term farmers' loan waived off
- 4,200 acres of farming land, acquired for establishing a steel plant in Lohardogra, Bastar returned to the tribals

### Leading State in Recognizing Forest Rights

- Individual and Community Forest Rights on 51 lakh acres of forest land
- Highest procurement of Minor Forest Produce, Highest remuneration for tendupatta collection, procurement of 31 Minor Forest Produce under MSP

### Education

- 54 schools established under 'Swami Atmananda English Medium School Scheme'
- Dry ration under the 'Mid-day Meal Scheme' to 29 lakh school going children during the lockdown
- Schools in naxal affected regions reopen after remaining shut down for more than a decade
- Innovative educational web portal based scheme, 'Padhai Tunhar Dwar' launched amid the lockdown, 39.57 lakh online classes conducted on [www.cgschool.in](http://www.cgschool.in) web portal

### Employment

- New avenues of employment generation during the lockdown
- Highest number of jobs under MGNREGA, daily employment provided to 25 lakh people
- Unemployment rate in October reaches 2%, one of the lowest in the country

### Health and Sanitation

# 'Will not go with Punjab CM to meet President'

Amarinder's move is mere political drama, says AAP leader

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
CHANDIGARH

Aam Aadmi Party on Saturday rejected Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh's appeal to all parties' MLAs to accompany him to meet President Ram Nath Kovind on November 4 to request him to give his assent to the State's amended farm laws.

Dubbing the CM's move as mere political drama, AAP senior leader and Leader of the Opposition Harpal Singh Cheema said the party will not be a part of the delegation headed by the CM to meet the President.

**Governor yet to sign**  
Mr. Cheema said the three farm Bills passed in the State Assembly by rushing amendments to negate the "controversial" Central laws were meaningless, asserting that these would not help protect the farmers' interests. He said there was no point in meeting the President as the Punjab Governor has not yet signed the Bills.

He alleged that Capt. Amarinder was trying to fool the people of Punjab, especially the farmers, by

## Badal seeks relief package

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
CHANDIGARH

Shiromani Akali Dal chief Sukhbir Singh Badal on Saturday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to direct the Union Finance Ministry to offer a comprehensive relief package for farmers.

In a statement, Mr. Badal said the decision not to include the farming community in the ambit of the Centre's scheme which seeks to provide ex gratia payment of the difference between compound interest

projecting himself as their champion.

AAP MLA said instead of meeting the President, if the CM leads a delegation of all parties, to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the party would gladly accept the offer.

### 'PM's puppet'

"Had Amarinder decided to stage a dharna outside the Prime Minister's residence to repeal the black laws, including the Air Pollution Ordinance, the AAP would have extended its full support to him," he said in a

and simple interest to borrowers for six months proved that policy makers were totally out of sync with grassroots realities.

He said the farmers were expecting a complete waiver of crop loans and interest on tractor loans as well as loans taken for other allied activities. "It is shocking that instead of doing this, the Union government is not even ready to save them from compound interest being charged from them due to default in instalments."

statement here.

Capt. Amarinder was a puppet in the hands of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which was why he had not so far met either the PM or the Union Agriculture Minister and the Railway Minister alone or as a delegation against the black laws, he alleged.

Notably, the CM had appealed to all the MLAs to stand up and be counted and rise above party lines in safeguarding the State's interests which are being trampled upon by the Union government.

# Bulandshahr Sadar bypoll: realignments in U.P. likely

With Mayawati 'missing' and BJP powerful, some Dalit leaders are pitching for a switch to Aazad's party

ANUJ KUMAR  
BULANDSHAHAR

At Akbarpur Raina village in Gulaathi block of Bulandshahr, Chandrakant Singh Jatav is unequivocal in his assessment of Bahujan Samaj Party supremo Mayawati. She should "retire", he says, and make way for Chandrashekhar Aazad as he could "protect Dalit pride" as she once did. He had lost his son in a freak accident and no political party could get him compensation. Now, he has pinned his hope on the Azad Samaj Party because he had seen its leader hitting the road for Dalit causes, including in the latest Hathras case where a Dalit girl was allegedly gangraped and killed by four upper caste men.

With the Azad Samaj Party jumping into the electoral politics of Uttar Pradesh, in the patron-client pattern of politics in north India, the upcoming bypoll for Bulandshahr Sadar seat is presenting possibilities of a socio-political realignment in the State.

In Mr. Singh's outer courtyard, Mahendra Singh, once Ms. Mayawati's point man in west U.P. and Delhi, is selling the Azad Samaj Party to a group of Jatavs. Invoking Bhimrao Ambedkar, he says political democracy without social democracy is meaningless.

In Mr. Singh's outer courtyard, Mahendra Singh, once Ms. Mayawati's point man in west U.P. and Delhi, is selling the Azad Samaj Party to a group of Jatavs. Invoking Bhimrao Ambedkar, he says political democracy without social democracy is mea-

ningless. "She became U.P. Chief Minister four times. Did any Dalit get a licence or permit?" he asks. He reminds his listeners of the time under BSP founder Kanshi Ram when the party was flourishing in four States. "Now it has reduced to one. Who would take the responsibility?" he says.

### Face of coalition

He admits the churning would take time. "This bypoll is about sending a message that the future of the Bahujan Samaj (referring to Muslims and Dalits) is with the Azad Samaj Party as Behenji (Mayawati) has made it amply clear that she won't be part of any coalition that would be formed to take on the BJP in 2022. We want Mr. Aazad to be the face of the coalition against the BJP," he asserts.

In bucolic Bulandshahr, pride is what every political party is keen on preserving in the Sadar bypoll. The response to the newly promulgated farm laws is what one went looking for, but on the ground, farmers, particularly Jats, who own large tracts of land in the area, are more concerned about the lathi-charge their leader Jayant Chaudhary received in Hathras when he went to meet the family of the victim. "Lathi is something we

wield, how can we be at the wrong end of it?" says Virendra Singh, an aged farmer leader at the camp office of the Rashtriya Lok Dal.

Old-timers in "farmer politics" advise the RLD vice-president, who likes to present the educated face of farmers, to hit the street more often. They tell him to take a leaf out of Mr. Aazad's book.

They have had memories of the early 1990s when, in Gulaathi, Ms. Mayawati symbolically talked of signs of upper caste nails on the Dalit woman's body. "Her speeches stoked fire that would burn anything that came in her way. Today, Mr. Aazad tries to create the same spell," says a local RLD leader, working closely with Samajwadi Party-RLD candidate Praveen Kumar Singh.

While at the SP-RLD meet-

ing in Bhainsoli-Sharifpur village, the BSP is described as the "BJP ki beti" (daughter of the BJP) for being afraid of the Central agencies and not being able to stand up for Muslims during the anti-Citizenship Amendment Act-National Register of Citizens protests, at the BSP's camp office in Upper Court area, party workers question the source of Mr. Aazad's funding.

### Propelled by BJP

"Both ASP (Azad Samaj Party) and AIMIM (All India Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen) are being propelled by the BJP to cut into the BSP vote," says Prem Pal Singh, president of the Shikarpur Assembly constituency of the party in the district.

Finding it hard to defend their supremo's absence from the rough and tumble of politics, BSP workers maintain that Ms. Mayawati is still the glue that could hold the Jatavs and Muslims together. "After the Hathras case, even the Valmikis will come into our fold as they have realised who shovelled brooms in the hands of those who held pens in the Ramayana period (in a reference to the author of the epic)," says Mr. Singh.

Her absence from Hathras is described as a way to keep herself away from physical

harm. "Sab pit raha hain (Everybody is getting beaten up)," says Mohd. Lukman, a meat businessman. "And the media is not reporting 'our stories,'" he adds.

The fear is palpable at the BSP camp office. "If a BJP worker goes to a police station and says that this Muslim boy was staring at us, an FIR is lodged in no time," claims Mr. Lukman. "We are being threatened with the NSA and the Gangster Act, but if we go with a complaint, we get a lesson in social amity from the SHO," he adds.

But Mr. Singh keeps reminding the workers not to share stories of fear with the media. "It gives strength to the BJP's narrative," he muses. And, perhaps, Mr. Aazad's as well.

Social activist Zaheeruddin, who has been working in the region for a long time, underlines that both the BSP and ASP have fielded Muslim candidates who have the image of a "bahubali" (strongman) in the area. "Both have made money through questionable means but the locals are in awe of them. If we find fault in others, we have to look within as well. In the long run, only a mohazaab (well-behaved) politician who has the support of both Hindus and Muslims could take on the BJP," he says.

## COVID vaccine trials at AMU medical college

1,000 volunteers invited for testing Bharat Biotech product from November 14

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GHAZIABAD

One thousand volunteers have been invited to enrol in a series of large-scale clinical trials aimed at evaluating the safety and efficacy of Covaxine, Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech-led Coronavirus vaccine at the Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College and Hospital (JNMCH), Aligarh Muslim University (AMU).

The clinical trials will begin from November 14 and

continue till the end of January, an official release said.

JNMC has enhanced the preparations for the trials after a nod from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

AMU received the confirmation to begin the clinical trials from ICMR on Friday after several days of correspondence, said Vice-Chancellor Tariq Mansoor.

Appealing volunteers from all age groups and so-

cio-economic strata to participate in the clinical trials, Prof. Mansoor said, "By volunteering for a trial or study, you get a chance to participate in groundbreaking research and contribute to developing better cures and treatment options. People from various backgrounds are invited to be part of the solution and help end the pandemic."

"An ethical committee comprising doctors, social

workers and lawyers has already been constituted to manage the clinical trials," said Shahid Ali Siddiqui, Principal, JNMC.

During the human testing for vaccine, its efficacy will be evaluated in different ways. The earlier clinical trials will look for the production of antibodies against the virus, while the late-phase trials will evaluate whether it in fact prevents people from getting sick.

"School and Mass Education and Higher Education Department may permit teaching and non-teaching staff to be called to schools for online teaching, tele-counselling and related works in areas outside containment zones only as per SOP issued by Union Ministries of Education and Health and Family Welfare," the guideline says.

"The School and Mass Education Department may take appropriate decision with regard to the date of re-opening of schools under its control in respect of 9th to 12th standard, in a graded manner, after November 15 in consultation with relevant stakeholders and issue necessary standard operating procedure (SOP)," says the guideline.

Notwithstanding closure

### DIESEL LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI - 221004

E-Tender Notice Date: 21.10.2020

E-tenders are invited for & behalf of the President of India for the supply of following items. Only E-offer will be accepted for which vendors must have Class III Digital Signature and registration on IREP. The details of tenders are in the following sequence: S.No.-Tender No. (Due Date), Description and Quantity. S.N. 1, 05205062B, (10.11.2020), Ring Gauge, 01 Nos., S.N. 2, 05205282A, (10.11.2020), Solid Gear Hob, 02 Nos., S.N. 3, 05195185D, (12.11.2020), Shaft with Pinion, 15 Nos., S.N. 4, 05205307, (18.11.2020), PU Tube, 01 Set, S.N. 5, 05191099D, (18.11.2020), **Leak Test Gauge Attachment, Part No. 15610410, 27 Nos., S.N. 6, 05191149C, (18.11.2020), G.M. Lock Alternator, Part No. 15630080, 20 Nos., S.N. 7, 05201679A, (19.11.2020), Cut Protection Hand Gloves, Part No. 75321609, 13259 Pairs, S.N. 8, 05201730A, (19.11.2020), C.C. Insert TNMG 220408, 196 Nos., S.N. 9, 0505276A, (19.11.2020), Radusing Tool for Piston Pin, 10 Nos., S.N. 10, 03201326A, (24.11.2020), MS Round Bar, PL No. 90725682, 372 Kgs., S.N. 11, 03201970, (24.11.2020), MC Steel Hex Bar, PL No. 90742977, 735 Kgs. S.N. 12, 03201508, (09.11.2020), Alloy Steel Round Bar 160 MM x 1.60 MTR (63"), PL No. 90330973, 24618.79 Kgs., S.N. 13, 01201344, (20.11.2020), Diffuser, PL No. 16121764, 87 Nos., S.N. 14, 01201038A, (20.11.2020), Fully Machined Pipe Upper, PL No. 10122620, 15 Nos., S.N. 15, 02202415, (25.11.2020), Bolt Head, PL No. 10272005, 10 Nos., S.N. 16, 022020416, (17.11.2020), Bolt Head, PL No. 2901129, 175 Sets, 17, 05201753, (13.11.2020), Mild Steel Plates 63x125 x 5000, PL No. 90414184, 11 MT, S.N. 18, 05205035, (20.11.2020), Heavy Duty Hydraulic Ram Cylinder 10 Ton Capacity, 6 Nos. **Note:** Details terms and conditions can be seen and Hindi version also on website [www.dlw.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.dlw.indianrailways.gov.in) and tender can fill up on the same website.**

PRO/DLW/S-57 f / diesellocoworks "Website: [www.dlw.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.dlw.indianrailways.gov.in)

PCMM

SATYASUNDAR BARIK  
BHUBANESWAR

With COVID-19 positive cases recording a steady decline over the past few weeks, the Odisha government on Saturday allowed to start the process of reopening schools for Class 9 to 12 in a graded manner after November 15.

However, all academic institutions will remain closed till November 30. The State government revised the guideline for the month of November hours after it issued the first one. Initially, the government announced to open schools for higher classes from November 16.

"The School and Mass Education Department may permit teaching and non-teaching staff to be called to schools for online teaching, tele-counselling and related works in areas outside containment zones only as per SOP issued by Union Ministries of Education and Health and Family Welfare," the guideline says.

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

Naveen Patnaik. ■ FILE PHOTO

Teachers have been involved in evaluation of examination papers in some schools and door-to-door survey in COVID-19 affected areas.

**Online classes**  
Online classes in Odisha have not been as successful as like those in other States due to poor internet connectivity in remote areas. School and Mass Education Minister Samir Ranjan Das had admitted that only 22 lakh out of 60 lakh students had access to online classes. The number dropped again as parents returned to workplace with the families' only smartphones following lifting of lockdown.

Apart from broadcast classes through televisions and online classes through smartphones and computers, the Department tried to rope in radio to reach out to students stranded in their villages.

In anticipation of opening of schools, the School and Mass Education Department had started cleaning and

sanitisation of classrooms during the past few days.

Higher education institutions will be permitted to open only for research scholars and post-graduate students in science and technology stream requiring laboratory and experimental works.

In another significant decision, the government has allowed local authorities including District Magistrates or Municipal Commissioners to open places of worship with appropriate restrictions based on local assessment of the situation and in due consultation with relevant stakeholders.

International air travel, except as permitted by the Ministry of Home Affairs, will remain closed till November 30. Large social, political, sports establishment, academic, cultural, religious functions and other congregations will remain prohibited till November 30. Ceiling on number of persons for marriages and funerals is 200 and 50 respectively.

## No COVID test for dignitaries in Assam

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
GUWAHATI

The Assam government has decided to exempt foreign dignitaries and top officials from COVID-19 tests and quarantine upon their arrival in the State on official visits, Health Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Saturday.

The administration has also given some relaxations to the commoners, exempting people testing negative for the infection in RT-PCR tests conducted within 72 hours before their arrival in Assam and locals returning within 24 hours of leaving the State from tests and quarantine, Mr. Sarma told reporters. The exemption will be subject to the production of satisfactory documents and verification of test results on the ICMR portal, he said.

The exemption has been extended to foreign dignitaries and diplomats of all embassies and diplomatic missions, officials of multilateral funding agencies, besides those from investigating, intelligence and security agencies and Income Tax Department on official visits to Assam, the Minister said.

### OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

#### DEATH

#### SAD DEMISE

  
**G. Krishnarathnam**  
16.09.1941 - 30.10.2020  
Retd. AGM, State Bank of India, Chennai.  
(Last resided at Nanganallur)

A sincere & honest bank officer, philanthropist, journalist and spiritualist, who loved Tamil literature, Hindu temples and carnatic music.

Deeply mourned by

Relatives & Friends

May his soul rest in peace

#### REMEMBRANCE

#### V.CHANDRALEKA

(4 Jan 1966 - 1 Nov 2019)

## FROM PAGE ONE

## PM slams 'politics' on Pulwama

"Humne Hindustan ko ghus ke maara (We hit India at their home). Our success in Pulwama, is a success of this nation under the leadership of Imran Khan. You and us are all part of that success," Mr. Chaudhry had said on October 29.

Mr. Modi said terrorism is a global challenge and demanded that all forces and countries unite against it. "The way some forces have openly come in support of terrorism is a global concern for world peace and humanity. It is more imperative now than ever that all nations, governments and sects unite to defeat all forces that aid and abet terrorism."

The Prime Minister also

## Work hard, Modi tells IAS probationers

Putting emphasis on team work, Mr. Modi told the probationers that when they work together, there will be more success and impact of their work on the district or department.

He said the focus of the "steel frame" of the country should not be merely in managing the daily affairs but in working for the progress of the nation. Reminding the newly recruited batch of civil servants about Sardar Patel's philosophy on his 145th birth anniversary, he said "serving the citizens of the country is the highest duty of a civil servant".

The Prime Minister asked the probationary officers to not get obsessed with the media and social media. "It is good that your work gets covered in the media but one has to ensure that one does not work only for cov-

## Kamal Nath moves SC over poll panel curbs

Mr. Nath, through Mr. Choppa, cited several other instances of name-calling.

"For the sake of brevity and after taking into consideration the uncivilised, crass and abusive language used by the leaders of BJP for the petitioner and Indian National Congress, the petitioner considers it would not be apt to reproduce many more instances of use of unparliamentary language by BJP leaders," he said.

## Role of party

The petition said it was the prerogative of his party and not the EC to remove his name as 'star campaigner'.

"Section 77(1) of the Representation of People Act, 1951 read with Guidelines for Star Campaigners issued by the Election Commission, from time to time, makes selection/revocation of 'star campaigners' the sole prerogative of the polit-

sought to assure the country that Indian soldiers have the power to give a fitting reply to those eyeing its land and protect its sovereignty and territorial integrity. "India's posture and approach at its borders have changed. Our brave soldiers are fully equipped and prepared to give a befitting reply to those who put their evil eyes on us. Security apparatus and infrastructure along our borders are stronger than ever!" However, Mr. Modi did not refer to Chinese aggression in eastern Ladakh, while talking about borders, stating that infrastructure projects such as roads, bridges and tunnels along the border regions were being developed.

## Beaches and parks in Kerala to be open for public from today

Government bid to revive the State's tourism sector hit by the pandemic

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Beaches, parks and museums in Kerala will be opened for tourists from Sunday, marking the resumption of tourism activities after they have remained shut for eight months.

The move, as part of reviving the tourism sector following the outbreak of the pandemic, comes close on the heels of the opening of tourist destinations and services across the State on October 10. Adhering to standard operating procedures (SOP) to ensure the safety of visitors, houseboats, personalised boating, adventure tourism spots and hill stations had been thrown open.

"Tourism Department officials are making extra efforts to ensure that the guidelines are followed to the last detail," Tourism Director P. Bala Kiran said on Saturday.

Boards featuring dos and don'ts are being put up, and walkways, handrails and shelters will be sprayed with sanitisers at regular intervals. Tourism police will be posted, if necessary, to help Kudumbashree volunteers and life-



**Back in business:** After hill stations, beaches in Kerala are set to welcome visitors from November 1. ■ THULASI KAKKAT

guards. A register will be kept at the entry for entering details of visitors.

For parks and museums, online ticketing/SMS booking will be explored to the extent possible at gated entries. Vehicles will be allowed at parking areas for up to a maximum of one hour.

Strict instructions have been issued to street ven-

dors to follow COVID-19 protocol. Cleaning and fumigation of toilets and restrooms will be taken up at regular intervals.

"It is significant that we are reopening our beaches, including destinations such as Kovalam," Tourism Minister Kadakampally Surendran said. "The response in destinations that resumed operations from October 10 has been encouraging, with foot-

falls gradually increasing," Tourism Secretary Rani George said.

As per the SOP issued by the government, visitors will have to wear mask, use soap and sanitizer and follow physical distancing at destinations.

Tourists coming for visits of less than seven days are exempted from quarantine but should register on the COVID-19 Jagratha portal.

## Festive cheer



**Colourful diyas:** Vendors giving final touches to earthen lamps that are lit during Deepavali, in Vijayawada on Saturday. ■ V. RAJU

## Tigress keeps forest officials on tenterhooks

It escapes from enclosure in Neyyar



The tigress that was brought to the Lion Safari Park at Neyyar following its capture in Wayanad.

**STAFF REPORTER**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A nine-year-old tigress captured in Wayanad a few days ago after triggering panic among villagers there kept forest officers on tenterhooks yet again after it escaped from a cage on Saturday, a day after being relocated to Neyyar for rehabilitation.

The animal was brought to the Lion Safari Park, adjacent to the Neyyar dam, on Friday from Pulpally, from where it was caught on October 25. While it was being monitored within a squeeze gate, it was found missing around 1 p.m. The tigress had apparently broken free from the enclosure after twisting the iron grills on top.

Soon, forest officers launched a search operation using drone cameras follow-

ing which the tiger was spotted near the rear gate of the park around 4 p.m. However, it went missing again as a team of veterinarians, including Jacob Alexander, senior veterinary surgeon of the Thiruvananthapuram zoo, and T. Rajeev, senior veterinary surgeon, readied themselves to sedate the big cat by firing a tranquilliser dart.

The team then dropped the plan, considering the risks associated with antagonising the animal and fearing its movement towards habitations.

Nevertheless, officers were confident that the tigress remained within the premises of the Lion Safari Park. J.R. Ani, Wildlife Warden, Thiruvananthapuram, said the vulnerable areas around the park had been put under surveillance.

Active cases were concentrated in Ernakulam (12,576), Thrissur (10,544), Kozhikode (9,649) and Malappuram (9,516).

race...) and 506 (punishment for criminal intimidation) at the Civil Lines police station, it said.

The FIR against Zubairi states that during the protest march on Thursday, "objectionable slogans" were raised against a particular community. These slogans, according to the police report, were designed to inflame religious hatred.

On Thursday evening, protesting students at AMU had announced a boycott of all French products and had accused French President Emmanuel Macron of "hurting religious sentiments of Muslims" by his statements on the issue of caricatures of Prophet Mohammad.

A case has been lodged against Farhan Zubairi on Friday evening under Indian Penal Code sections 153 A (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion,

and 506 (punishment for criminal intimidation) at the Civil Lines police station, it said.

The FIR against Zubairi states that during the protest march on Thursday, "objectionable slogans" were raised against a particular community. These slogans, according to the police report, were designed to inflame religious hatred.

On Thursday evening, protesting students at AMU had announced a boycott of all French products and had accused French President Emmanuel Macron of "hurting religious sentiments of Muslims" by his statements on the issue of caricatures of Prophet Mohammad.

Soon, forest officers launched a search operation using drone cameras follow-

## Kerala combats high test positivity rate, mortality

Karnataka adds just over 3,000 cases, Andhra Pradesh 2,783

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala reported 7,983 new COVID-19 cases on Saturday, carrying out 59,999 tests.

Test positivity continued to be between 12-14%, touching 13.3 % on Saturday.

Going by Health Department data, in October alone, the State reported 2,36,999 cases, while the cumulative case burden was 1,96,106 cases as of September 30.

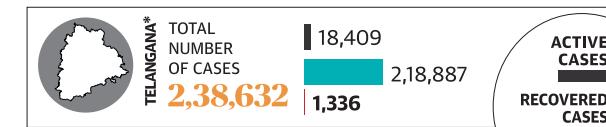
The cumulative death toll on September 30 was 742, but as many deaths were reported just in October. On Saturday, 27 more deaths were added to the official list.

Ernakulam reported seven of these deaths, Thrissur six, Kozhikode three, Malappuram, Palakkad, Kottayam and Alappuzha two each, and Kollam, Pathanamthitta and Wayanad one each case.

Ernakulam district reported 1,114 cases, Thrissur 1,112, Kozhikode 834, Thiruvananthapuram 790, Malappuram 769, Kollam 741, Alappuzha 645, Kottayam 584, Palakkad 496, Kannur 337, Pathanamthitta 203, Kasaragod 156, Wayanad 145 and Idukki 57 cases.

Active cases were concentrated in Ernakulam (12,576), Thrissur (10,544), Kozhikode (9,649) and Malappuram (9,516).

Telangana recorded 1,445 cases on Friday as 41,243 people underwent tests. Six more patients died. The 1,445 cases included 286 from Greater Hyderabad, 122 from Medchal Malkajgiri, 107 from Rangareddy, 102



\*Telangana numbers are as of 8 p.m. on Friday | \*\*Kerala has a mismatch of 107 cases due to unaccounted deaths, missing persons | \*\*\*Karnataka has 19 non-COVID deaths

Telangana recorded 1,445 cases on Friday as 41,243 people underwent tests. Six more patients died. The 1,445 cases included 286 from Greater Hyderabad, 122 from Medchal Malkajgiri, 107 from Rangareddy, 102

from Nalgonda, 90 from Bhadravati, 77 from Khammam.

Andhra Pradesh reported 2,783 new infections on Saturday, and 14 more deaths.

In October, 22.22 lakh samples were tested and

1.29 lakh returned positive - a positivity rate of 5.84%.

Krishna and Chittoor reported three new deaths each.

West Godavari, Guntur and Visakhapatnam two deaths each. East Godavari and Anantapur reported one death each.

Karnataka on Saturday added 3,014 cases and 28 deaths.

The daily positivity rate was 2.96%. Bengaluru Urban had 1,621 cases and 17 deaths.

In all, 1,01,556 tests were conducted, 81,128 of them RT-PCR tests.

(With inputs from Vijaya-wada, Bengaluru and Hyderabad bureaus)

## IN BRIEF



## Bangladeshi ship: oil removal almost done

VISAKHAPATNAM  
The process of removing the fuel and other oils from the 3000-tonne Bangladeshi ship MV Maa that ran aground near Tennen Park in Visakhapatnam on October 13, is nearing completion. It is likely to come to an end by Sunday.

## Marrimakulapalli oustees paid compensation

ANANTAPUR  
The Andhra Pradesh government had notified the land and structure acquisition with regard to Marrimakulapalli village – for being inundated in the Chitravathi Balancing Reservoir in 2006, but rehabilitation was not done till now. So, as a one-time settlement, ₹10 lakh was given, District Collector Gandham Chandrudu said here on Saturday.

## Life Mission project: CBI questions U.V. Jose

KOCHI  
The ED is questioning U.V. Jose, CEO of LIFE Mission, and Santosh Eapen, owner of Unitac, together here on Saturday, to assess whether unaccounted money was involved in Wadakanchery LIFE Mission project. Mr. Eapen learned to have told ED that M. Sivasankar, former Principal Secretary to Kerala Chief Minister, introduced him to Mr. Jose.

AN-NDE

## CPI(M) distances itself from Bineesh

Party to back its Kerala State secretary

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) on Saturday appeared to distance itself from Bineesh Kodiyeri.

A meeting of the party's Central Committee, chaired by general secretary Sitaram Yechury, reportedly felt that the party could not hold State secretary Kodiyeri Balakrishnan to blame for the personal conduct of his son Bineesh.

The CPI(M) had been taking flak from the Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) after the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in Bengaluru arrested Bineesh on the charge of using illegitimately earned wealth to bankroll drug traffickers.

The party felt the BJP had borrowed a strategy from the playbook of past Central governments. It had unleashed the federal law enforcement to unsettle governments of States ruled by its rivals. Kerala was no exception.

The Centre had attempted to lay down a barrage of lies against the government by leaking cherry-picked portions of the statements of the accused to its enablers in the media. The Congress played second fiddle to the BJP's machinations in Kerala. The BJP's main accusation was the CPI(M) leadership had mislaid its moral compass to enable relatives to amass wealth through illegal means.

SEE ALSO ▶ PAGE 8



Bineesh Kodiyeri

Stop crime against Dalits, say activists

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI

Academics, professionals and individuals from across the U.S., Canada, Europe, U.K., Latin America, Africa and Asia Pacific have joined social movements in India to condemn crimes against Dalits, especially against Dalit women.

A statement from India Civil Watch International called for prosecution of the dominant caste men and police who committed the heinous crime in Hathras and in all other recent cases.

The statement has been endorsed by over 1,800 signatories including political activist Angela Davis, Gloria Steinem, Maude Barlow, Barbara Harris-White, Chandra Talpade Mohanty, Arjun Appadurai, Meena Dhanda as well as international organisations such as the Dalit Solidarity Forum in the USA, National Women's Studies Association, SEWA-AIFW (Asian Indian Family Wellness), CodePink and Women's Legal among others, according to a release.

Justice can only become possible with the abolition of caste and militarised capitalism in India, it said.

## Samajwadi Party has exposed BSP-BJP link in U.P.: Akhilesh

He defends his support of an Independent in RS election

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Saturday said his party had supported the nomination of an Independent candidate in the Rajya Sabha election in Uttar Pradesh to expose the tacit understanding between the BSP and the BJP.

He said the SP supported the nomination of Prakash Bajaj – his papers were, however, eventually rejected – to necessitate voting and show people how the BSP and BJP “chupchaap, andar se mile hue hai” (are tacitly working together).

Mr. Yadav’s remarks come two days after BSP chief Mayawati accused his party of trying to lure her MLAs and vowed to ensure the defeat of the SP candidates in the upcoming MLC polls –

## Crucial polling phase in Bihar on Nov. 3

With 94 seats at stake on Tuesday, the NDA and the grand alliance need to register significant wins

AMARNATH TEWARY  
PATNA

The second phase of the Bihar Assembly election to be held in 17 districts on November 3 is likely to be the decider for the National Democratic Alliance, led by the Janata Dal(U), and the grand alliance, led by the Rashtriya Janata Dal. Of the 94 seats at stake in this phase, the RJD is contesting 56, the BJP 46 and the JD(U) 43.

The Congress has put up candidates in 24 constituencies, while the three Left parties are in the fray in 14. The Vikasheel Insaan Party (VIP), an NDA constituent, is contesting five seats out of the 11 allotted to it for all phases.

In 28 seats, RJD candidates are locked in a direct contest with BJP nominees, while in 24, the party is taking on the JD(U). Congress candidates are contesting 12 seats each against the JD(U) and the BJP nominees. The VIP candidates are pitched against RJD candidates in the five seats.

Raghopper in Vaishali and Hasarpur in Samastipur districts will vote in this phase, deciding the fate of brothers Tejashwi Yadav and Tej Pratap Yadav, respectively. At Raghopper, Mr. Tejashwi, the

### Second leg

Voting for 94 seats will be held on November 3 in the second phase of Bihar polls. A look at past performance

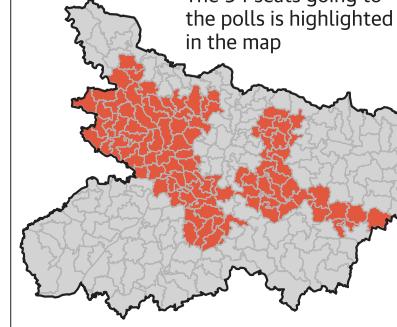
#### MAPPING PHASE 2

The 94 seats going to the polls is highlighted in the map

#### PAST PERFORMANCE

The table lists party-wise number of seats contested and won in the 2015 Assembly election in the 94 constituencies and the contested vote share (a party's votes divided by total votes polled in seats contested by the party)

Party	Won	Fought	Contested vote share
RJD	33	42	45.3%
JD(U)	30	41	40.0%
BJP	20	63	38.0%
INC	7	11	40.9%
LJP	2	21	31.6%
Others	2	-	-



RJD's Chief Minister nominee and son of Lalu Prasad, appears safe, but at Hasanpur, Mr. Tej Pratap is locked in a tough battle against two-time sitting MLA Rajkumar Rai of the JD(U).

**2015 results**  
In the 2015 Assembly election, the RJD won 33 of these 94 seats, while 30 went to the JD(U).

The BJP and the Congress registered wins in 20 and seven seats, respectively, while the Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) won two.

One seat each went to the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) and Independent candidates.

The RJD and the JD(U) contested together in 2015 and won 151 seats (RJD-80, JD-U 71) in the 243-member Assembly to form the government. The BJP got 53 seats.

However, later, JD(U) leader Nitish Kumar parted ways with the RJD to join hands with the BJP to continue as the Chief Minister.

This time, though, Mr. Kumar is facing a huge corrosion of his image across the State to retain his chair for a fourth consecutive term.

For the first time, Mr. Kumar appears to be banking on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's popularity to win seats. Earlier, it was the BJP

that had ridden piggyback on the JD(U).

Significantly, a decade ago in 2010, Mr. Kumar had not allowed the then Gujarat Chief Minister, Narendra Modi, to campaign in the State, issuing a covert threat of snapping the alliance, if the BJP sent him and Varun Gandhi to campaign in Bihar. The BJP leadership had bowed to his diktat then.

Ten years down the line, the Bihar Chief Minister finds himself on the back foot amid raging anti-incumbency and aggressive attacks from much younger opponents – Mr. Tejashwi and Chirag Paswan of the LJP.

Mr. Modi is scheduled to

address two public meetings in Bihar on Sunday. Earlier, he had addressed six rallies across the State, consistently backing Mr. Kumar as the chief ministerial face.

#### Close margins

In 2015, the victory margin in 18 of the 94 seats was fewer than 5,000 votes. Those 18 candidates included senior Ministers in Mr. Kumar's Cabinet, Nand Kishore Yadav (BJP) from the Patna Sahib constituency and Shrawan Kumar (JD-U) from Nalanda.

Former MP Lovely Anand lost in Sheohar by just 461 votes. This time, Ms. Anand, wife of imprisoned strongman Anand Mohan Singh, is contesting on the RJD ticket.

Mohammad Nemtullah of the RJD won from Barauli in Gopalganj district by just 504 votes.

From Chanpatia seat in West Champaran district, BJP candidate Prakash Rai won by 464 votes.

Mr. Nemtullah and Mr. Rai have been dropped by their parties this time.

“Yes, this round of polls in Bihar is likely to clear the picture a bit about which alliance is going to form government,” political analyst Ajay Kumar told *The Hindu*.

## Haryana CM, Dy. CM campaign in Baroda

They seek votes for Yogeshwar Dutt

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal and Deputy CM Dushyant Chautala on Saturday held joint public meetings in the Baroda Assembly constituency and urged people to vote for BJP-Jannayak Janta Party candidate Yogeshwar Dutt in the bypoll scheduled for November 3.

Both hit out at the Congress and former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda for neglecting the constituency during their 10-year regime in the State.

#### Cong. MLA

The bypoll was necessitated due to the demise of Congress MLA Sri Krishan Hooda in April, who had won the seat three consecutive times.

The Congress has fielded Induraj Narwal while the Indian National Lok Dal has given ticket to Joginder Singh Malik.

Addressing a gathering at Rajgharana in Gohana, Mr. Lal said the contest was only between the BJP-JJP and the Congress.

“On one side is the alliance [BJP-JJP] and the other side is the Congress. Our

candidate, wrestler Yogeshwar Dutt, is internationally renowned. On the other side is [Congress candidate] Induraj. Somebody is telling me that they have not seen him addressing people in the media. Therefore, you have to compare,” said the CM.

Mr. Chautala, while urging voters to ensure a historic victory for the BJP-JJP candidate, said Mr. Dutt had brought laurels to the nation and he can take up their issues with the President and the Prime Minister. “But the Congress candidate himself has said his reach is limited only to Bapu-Beta [Bhupinder Singh Hooda and Deepender Hooda],” he said.

#### Development work

Mr. Lal said the State government had carried out development works worth ₹165 crore in Baroda in the last four months. “It was a backward constituency and I do not know why the late Sri Krishan Hooda never came to me and raised any issue of his constituency,” he said.

Both Mr. Lal and Mr. Chautala held public meetings at Rajgharana, Bainswal, Shamdi and Mudhiana.

## J&K government voids Roshni Act

Land to be retrieved in six months

PEERZADA ASHIQ  
SRINAGAR

The J&K government on Saturday decided to declare all the actions taken under the Jammu and Kashmir State Land (Vesting of Ownership to the Occupants) Act, 2001, also known as the Roshni Act, under which 20 lakh kanals of land was to be transferred to existing occupants, as “null and void”, and has decided to retrieve the land within six months.

The Principal Secretary, Revenue Department, shall work out modalities for handling the money received for these lands after annulment. According to the order, the identities of all influential persons, including Ministers, legislators, bureaucrats, government officials, police officers, businessmen, etc., and their relatives or persons holding benami for them, who have derived benefit under the Act, will be made public. “The action shall be completed within a period of one month,” it added.

The Roshni Act, enacted during Farooq Abdullah's regime, aimed at earning ₹25,000 crore by transferring 20 lakh kanals of State land to existing occupants against payment at market rates. During the Ghulam Nabi Azad regime, the cut-off was relaxed to

In 2014, the Comptroller and Auditor General estimated that only ₹36 crore had been realised from the transfer of land between 2007 and 2013.

“He shall also work out a



**All quiet:** A market remains deserted during the strike called by the All Parties Hurriyat Conference in Srinagar on Saturday. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

## Hurriyat shutdown against ‘forced demographic changes’

Congress says repeal of land laws is a ‘betrayal’

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
SRINAGAR

A shutdown call, issued by the separatist Hurriyat against the newly introduced laws in J&K, affected life in the Kashmir Valley on Saturday.

Most markets, shops and private offices remained closed. Most commercial hubs in the Valley districts also wore a deserted look. Government offices saw thin attendance. However, private transport plying.

An official said security was tightened in volatile pockets.

Hurriyat chairman Mir-

waiz Umar Farooq said that the anti-people orders being issued for J&K “are aimed at intimidation and psychological torture of the people”.

#### Call for dialogue

“The Hurriyat reiterates its principled stand of engagement and dialogue among stakeholders for resolution of the Kashmir dispute. Instead, a policy of permanent demographic change is aggressively being pushed, to snatch our land, destroy our identity and turn us into a minority in our own land,” the Mirwaiz said in a statement.

He said that there was a need to fight unitedly against New Delhi “to frustrate their anti-Kashmir agenda”.

He said that was a need to fight unitedly against New Delhi “to frustrate their anti-Kashmir agenda”.

Jammu & Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee chief Ghulam Ahmad Mir on Saturday said the Peoples Alliance for Gupkar Declaration and his party had “many common agendas”.

“We are part of these common agendas. But there can be differences in the language being used while fighting for the cause,” he said.

He described the repealing of land laws by New Delhi as a “betrayal”.

He said that there was a need to fight unitedly against New Delhi “to frustrate their anti-Kashmir agenda”.

## J&K govt. and industry will be partners’

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
SRINAGAR

Heads of industry and educational institutes participated in a day-long workshop, “Youth Engagement and Outreach” in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, as the administration opened up four sectors in the first phase to outside investments and handholding.

Representatives of Ashok Leyland, ICICI Foundation, Bombay Stock Exchange, Indian Institutes of Management, Indian Institutes of Technology and policy analysts participated in the workshop.

Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha, addressing the workshop, asked the industrial leaders “to partner J&K in formulating and implementing the programme successfully on ground”.

“We have so much to offer and there is a lot that I expect this group to contribute for accelerated economic growth,” Mr. Sinha said.

“We are part of these common agendas. But there can be differences in the language being used while fighting for the cause,” he said.

He said that there was a need to fight unitedly against New Delhi “to frustrate their anti-Kashmir agenda”.

## Cong. holds protest against farm laws

Party pays homage to Indira, Patel

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Congress president Sonia Gandhi and former party chief Rahul Gandhi on Saturday were among the leaders who offered their homage to former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on her 36th death anniversary.

Coinciding with Sardar Patel's birth anniversary, the party also observed the Kisan Adhikar Divas to protest against the recent farm laws enacted by the Centre.

The official Twitter handle also remembered Sardar Patel's thoughts on non-violence and tweeted, “Non-violence is the essence of our nation's being. Hatred and hostility have no place in it.”

Making a rare public appearance, the Congress chief offered floral tributes at the Indira Gandhi memorial museum on 1 Safdarjung Road, the house where the former Prime Minister was assassinated by her guards.

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra paid her homage by visiting Shakti Sthal, her grandmother's memorial, while former party chief Rahul Gandhi took to Twitter to pay his respects.

In a tweet, Ms. Vadra noted that it was both her grandmother's death anniversary and Mahatma Val-



Priyanka Gandhi Vadra paying tribute to Indira Gandhi on Saturday.

miki's birth anniversary. The party had directed all Pradesh Congress Committees (PCCs) to observe ‘satyagraha’ between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. at every district headquarters to protest against the farm laws of the Modi government.

**Farmers' movement**  
In an earlier statement, the All India Congress Committee said that during the satyagraha, party leaders would highlight the special contribution of Sardar Patel to the farmers' movement and their rights, particularly in the context of the Bardoli farmers' movement and how the Modi government was not only attacking what he had fought for but also undoing the Green Revolution ushered in by Indira Gandhi that made India self-sustainable in food security.

# Seaplane makes a splash on Sabarmati

PM makes the first trip on 50-year-old aircraft; Civil Aviation Ministry says safety norms complied with

MAHESH LANGA  
JAGRITI CHANDRA  
AHMEDABAD/NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday launched the country's first seaplane service between the Statue of Unity near Kevadiya in Narmada district of Gujarat and the Sabarmati riverfront in Ahmedabad. He took the maiden flight of the twin-engine plane from pond-3 close to the Sardar Sarovar Dam and landed on the riverfront, where a water aerodrome has been set up.

The 19-seater seaplane will be used for flights between the two points as part of the regional connectivity scheme. Initially, the plane will make four trips a day.

#### Age limit clause

The twin-engine Otter aircraft operated by SpiceJet for the seaplane service is nearly 50 years old, though the Directorate General of Civil Aviation has reservations on allowing planes older than 20 years to be imported.

Further, SpiceJet has wet-leased the aircraft from the Maldives Island Aviation Services, a wholly government-owned entity, which means that both the aircraft and its



**First ride:** The seaplane with Prime Minister Narendra Modi aboard lands at the water aerodrome on the Sabarmati river in Ahmedabad on Saturday. • VIJAY SONEJI

crew belong to a foreign entity. The aircraft bears the Maldivian registration code 8Q ISC.

This arrangement for renting aircraft and crew is allowed by the DGCA only in "emergency situations" and its rules prohibit their use for "capacity or route expansion".

The plane saw its first flight on July 14, 1971 and over the past five decades, the aircraft has changed hands 13 times with owners in Canada, Turkey and Sri Lanka. "All safety regulations

have been complied with in order to commence seaplane operations," a spokesperson of the Civil Aviation Ministry said in response to a question on violation of DGCA rules.

An airline spokesperson said the plane had undergone regular maintenance and overhaul, adding, "all the required SoPs are in line with operational guidance on seaplane operations."

The DGCA's Civil Aviation Requirements, or rules, require pressurised aircraft imported and used in passenger

services not to be older than 18 years. But for unsupervised aircraft such as the one used on Friday, a decision is taken on a case-by-case basis though it doesn't "allow such aircraft which are more than 20 years old".

The age limit for cargo aircraft is 25 years.

The DGCA explains that the reason for imposing age restrictions is to ensure that the aircraft "does not have problems of corrosion, fatigue, metal fatigue, cracks" which can be missed even during major maintenance

checks. However, it recognises that foreign countries operating aircraft older than the design-economic life may be better equipped than India to ensure their proper upkeep and modifications as per advice of manufacturers and regulatory bodies.

#### Maintenance costs

"The DGCA would have done their due diligence to allow the aircraft to be imported. Old aircraft aren't necessarily unsafe as long as they are maintained as per OEM's (Original Equipment Manufacturer) requirements and updated from time to time. As aircraft get old, they become expensive to maintain, which is primarily why airlines do not fly them for too long," said Vinamra Longani, Head of Operations at Sarin & Company, a law firm that specialises in aviation-related matters.

Though Spicejet and the Civil Aviation Ministry claim that this is the first-ever seaplane journey in the country, Mr. Modi had undertaken a similar ride from the Sabarmati river in Ahmedabad to Dharoi dam in Mehsana while campaigning for the Gujarat election in 2017.

# BJP raises Pakistan every time it faces defeat: Cong.

Opposition party links PM's remarks to Bihar election

#### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Congress on Saturday accused the BJP of raising the issue of Pakistan again after realising that the party is staring at defeat in the Bihar Assembly polls.

Party general secretary and chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said BJP leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, have lost their "political balance" after the first phase of voting in the State and that is why they are talking about Pakistan.

"Every time, the BJP stares at defeat, they take refuge in Pakistan," Mr. Surjewala said in a statement.

Mr. Surjewala, who has been camping in Bihar for over two weeks, said the BJP and the Prime Minister do not have any answers on alleged corruption of the Nitish Kumar government in Bihar, on the issue of rising unemployment, farmers not getting adequate price for their produce, the collapse of the health and the education system, and the closure

of factories and enterprises in the State.

"Modi ji looks for the answers to all these problems in Pakistan," the Congress leader said, adding that Mr. Modi was the "only PM" to visit Pakistan in an unscheduled visit in 2015.

#### PM attack on Opposition

The Congress was responding to Mr. Modi's attack on the Opposition earlier in the day for questioning his government over the Pulwama attack.

He also referred to the statement made by a Pakistani minister in the country's National Assembly about the country's role in

the terror attack.

On Friday, BJP's Prakash Javadekar had also demanded an apology from the Congress for questioning the Pulwama attack.

In a tweet, Congress leader and Lok Sabha member Shashi Tharoor, however, countered the government for making such a demand.

"I am still trying to figure out what the Congress is supposed to apologise for. For expecting the government to keep our soldiers safe? For rallying around the flag rather than politicising a national tragedy? For expressing condolences to the families of our martyrs?" Mr. Tharoor asked.

## 90-year-old woman gang-raped

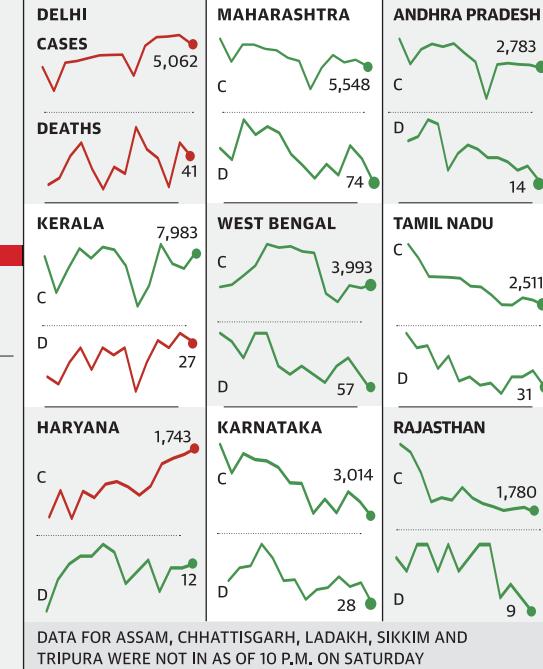
#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

AGARTALA

A 90-year-old woman has been allegedly raped by two men in her house in Tripura, the police said on Saturday.

The incident took place at Barhaldi village in the Kanchanpur subdivision of North Tripura district on October 24, but her relatives lodged a police complaint on October 29, a senior police officer said.

The accused are absconding, Superintendent of Police Bhanupada Chakraborty said.



## Chambal workers desperate for jobs

They say no political party has addressed the post-lockdown livelihood crisis

#### SIDHARTH YADAV

GOHAD/ MORENA

For 29-year-old Sonu Khatik, the by-election promise of a canal near his village in Bhind district in Madhya Pradesh holds little value. "What will we do with an irrigation system as we are landless and migrate for work?" he said, idling at the Ratwala village square.

During the reverse migration after the COVID-19 lockdown, Mr. Khatik returned from Bengaluru where he worked at a sweet shop for 14 years and made ₹9,000 a month. "My employer has

asked me not to return for now as there is less demand," said Mr. Khatik, who has turned to agricultural labour for ₹300 a day.

"No candidate is talking about us, the migrant workers. Our jobs are uncertain and there is no feasible transport to return to work," said Mr. Khatik, whose two siblings, after returning from Pune during the lockdown, have also stayed back. "Why would they raise the issue?

After all [due to the reverse migration], political parties have saved the expense of bringing back workers at the time of voting," he quipped.

Thousands of workers are demanding that job security and provision of transport be made the top priority by candidates in the Morena constituency of the district headquarters, and Gohad constituency in Bhind district.

Four-years-ago, Shakil Shah found hope in Pune, where his neighbour Ramit Baghel managed a *pani puri* stall. After acquiring hands-on experience there, he worked in his own makeshift stall until the pandemic struck. Desperate to return

home, he entrusted the stall to his landlord, to whom he owed ₹28,000 in rent already. Of the nearly 2,000 workers who've returned from other States in the village, at least 200 are *pani puri* vendors.

At Rui ki Mandi in Morena, daily-wage workers, who begin arriving every morning at 7.30 a.m. to find work, point out that both the parties are engaged in only exchanging barbs.

Both the BJP and the Congress have promised to develop industries along the Chambal expressway.

## Viral tracker

With 44,449 COVID-19 cases recorded on Saturday, India's tally stood at 81,80,367. As many as 397 deaths were registered, taking the toll to 1,22,093. A total of 10,87 crore samples were tested as of October 30, according to the ICMR.

#### NEW CASES AND DEATHS

CASES	7 DAY-CHANGE
44,449	+0.9%
397	-12.6%

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

## Jaishankar warns against changes to LAC

'Agreements must be respected'

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

In the midst of the China-India border row, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Saturday said any attempt to unilaterally change the status quo of the Line of Actual Control is "unacceptable" and that the agreements between two countries must be respected.

The Minister said the ties were stable for three decades as the two nations addressed inherited challenges and new circumstances. "Peace and tranquillity in the border areas provided the basis for expanded cooperation in other domains. But as the pandemic unfolded, the relationship has come under severe stress," he said.

Referring to cross-border terrorism, he said India has to be uncompromising in combating it.

The External Affairs Minister said India will continue to give the utmost attention to its immediate neighbourhood while engaging the different poles of emerging global order.

"As an outlook, the Neighbourhood First policy remains generous and non-reciprocal in creating the basis for shared activities in different domains.

Relationship cannot be immune to changes in the assumptions that underpin it. Large civilisational states emerging in close proximity will not have naturally easy ties," he said.

The Minister said the ties were stable for three decades as the two nations addressed inherited challenges and new circumstances. "Peace and tranquillity in the border areas provided the basis for expanded cooperation in other domains. But as the pandemic unfolded, the relationship has come under severe stress," he said.

Referring to cross-border terrorism, he said India has to be uncompromising in combating it.

The External Affairs Minister said India will continue to give the utmost attention to its immediate neighbourhood while engaging the different poles of emerging global order.

## 'Stubble burning area has declined this year'

Punjab Chief Secy. credits govt. efforts

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Secretary Vini Mahajan on Saturday said the State has so far reported stubble burning over 7.49 lakh hectares, about 5% lower than what it had witnessed in corresponding period last year. "Five per cent less stub-

ble burning area is reported this year in the State with the effective management of crop residue and concerted efforts to sensitise farmers," said Ms. Mahajan in a release here.

During a virtual meeting with senior officers, Deputy Commissioners and Senior Superintendents of Police here, she expressed satisfaction over the steps taken by the State government to end the hazardous prac-

tice. Ms. Mahajan directed officials to further intensify their efforts to eradicate the menace.

She said about 137 lakh metric tonnes of paddy has so far arrived in the mandis, which is 33% higher than the previous year. She said the district administration should enforce the instructions strictly to ensure zero stubble burning in coming days. The total straw burning area this year was 7.49 lakh hectares as compared to

7.90 lakh hectares last year, which is 5.23% lower, she said.

Additional CS Development Anirudh Tewari told the Chief Secretary that on October 30 this year, 2,799 cases of straw burning were reported as against 3,135 last year. In Bathinda district, 202 cases have been reported as compared with 343 last year. Similarly, in Ferozepur 290 cases have been reported against 328 last year.

#### TENDER CUM AUCTION

M/s Sudalagunta Sugars Ltd, Unit - I, B.N.Kandriga Chittoor District, Andhra Pradesh is due of Rs. 45.00 crores to sugarcane farmers and Government. As per the orders of District Collector, Chittoor the undersigned attached the factory and kept the machinery (as per Form - I(t)) for auction on 04-11-2020.

Tenders should be submitted with EMD of Rs.20.00 Lakhs through D.D. in favour of Tahsildar, B.N.Kandriga before 2.00 P.M. on 04-11-2020.

Auction will be conducted at 2.00 P.M. For further details contact Tahsildar, B.N.Kandriga. The officer has right to postpone or cancel the auction.

Sd/- Tahsildar, B.N.Kandriga

DIPR/4071/Tender/2020

#### GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING (Training Wing)

Alandur Road, Guindy, Chennai-600032.

Ref. No. 37900/Pur-5/2019 NOTICE INVITING TENDER Dt: 31.10.2020

Sealed Tenders in Two cover system are invited from reputed firms for the supply of Tool Kit for the trainees of Govt. ITIs functioning across the State of Tamil Nadu. The details of Tool kit to be procured along with the specifications are mentioned in the Tender document which can be downloaded from the website www.tenders.tn.gov.in & www.skilltraining.tn.gov.in at free of cost.

1	Tender inviting authority	The Joint Director (SAMC), O/o Director of Employment and Training, Guindy, Chennai-600032
2	EMD, Cost, Condition of Tender	Refer Tender document
3	Sale of tender document	02.11.2020 to 03.12.2020 up to 11.00 a.m. (on all working days)
4	Last date for receipt of tender	03.12.2020 upto 3.00 p.m.
5	Place of opening the tender	Refer Tender document
6	Preliminary bid meeting	16.11.2020 at 11.00 a.m.
7	Date & Time of Opening the Tender	03.12.

# Obama to join Biden on campaign trail

Trump holds rallies in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota; to shift focus to the crucial Pennsylvania

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

MILWAUKEE

Former U.S. President Barack Obama will join forces with Democratic candidate Joe Biden in Michigan as President Donald Trump goes all in on the crucial State of Pennsylvania on Saturday and the two candidates dig deep on the final weekend before Tuesday's U.S. presidential election.

For the first time since the start of the campaign, Mr. Biden, 77, will be joined on stage by his former boss and popular campaigner, former President Barack Obama.

## Drive-in rallies

They'll put on two drive-in rallies in the cities of Flint and Detroit in Michigan. Stevie Wonder is expected to be the musical guest of the evening. Mr. Trump, 74, won the industrial State by a narrow margin of 0.2 points in 2016 – but this year Mr. Biden leads by seven points.

That puts him in pole po-



**Big push:** Barack Obama addressing a rally for Joe Biden at Northwestern High School in Flint, Michigan, on Saturday. ■ AP

sition to take its 16 electoral votes, a sizeable leap towards the 270 he needs to win the White House.

For the past week, Mr. Obama has put his popularity at the service of his former Vice-President, hosting several rallies at which he repeatedly slammed Mr. Trump's response to the coronavirus pandemic, notably in Florida and Pennsylvania.

But Mr. Trump – who has dismissed Mr. Obama's rallies as much smaller than his own – will himself head to Pennsylvania on Saturday, where he will host three rallies, a sign of how key the State is to his own path to 270 votes.

He won Pennsylvania, where Mr. Biden was born, by a razor-thin margin against Hillary Clinton in 2016. Nevertheless, Mr. Trump, who has long said the virus will "disappear", remained

2016. Every ballot will therefore count on November 3 if he hopes to claim its 20 electoral votes once more.

Mr. Biden will follow suit there both on Sunday and Monday in a clear sign that his campaign also sees the Keystone State as absolutely crucial to victory.

## Millions voting early

On Friday, the two candidates battled over the American Midwest, barnstorming three heartland States each as they chased every last vote in a region that propelled the Republican to victory in 2016.

But the race was overshadowed by the coronavirus pandemic, with infections spiking across the country. More than 94,000 new infections were recorded Friday – a new high for the second day running – and total cases passed nine million.

Nevertheless, Mr. Trump, who has long said the virus will "disappear", remained

defiant at rallies in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota.

"We just want normal," he told supporters – many of them unmasked – at an outdoor rally near Detroit as he pushed States to relax public health restrictions and resume daily life.

He again bucked the advice of his own administration's health experts and downplayed the threat of the coronavirus, saying, "if you get it, you're going to get better, and then you're going to be immune."

The virus has killed nearly 2,30,000 Americans.

U.S. hospitals are bracing as infections soar in nearly every state, with winter flu season looming.

Mr. Trump has touted the economic successes of his presidency, including positive GDP figures on Thursday. But U.S. stocks closed out their worst week since March, highlighting concerns about a shaky recovery.

# Saudi man crashes car into gates of Mecca's Grand Mosque

Police arrest driver, who appeared in an 'abnormal' condition

ASSOCIATED PRESS

DUBAI

A Saudi man in a speeding car crashed into the outer gates of Mecca's Grand Mosque late Friday night, the country's state-run news agency reported.

The crash happened around 10:30 p.m. The man rammed his car through a barrier and kept driving until it hit the gate on the Grand Mosque's southern side, the Saudi Press Agency said.

Authorities arrested the man inside, who appeared in an "abnormal" condition, the agency said, without elaborating. Police referred them to prosecutors for possible charges, according to the report.

Video on social media corresponded to the news agency's account, with security forces later pushing



An aerial view of the Grand Mosque complex in the holy city of Mecca, in this file photo. ■ AFP

the damaged sedan away.

The Grand Mosque houses the cube-shaped Kaaba that observant Muslims pray toward five times a day. Authorities had shut down the mosque amid the coronavirus pandemic, but recently reopened it to small crowds of faithful. Footage broadcast on the state-run

Quran TV satellite channel showed people inside circling the Kaaba before and after the crash.

The Kingdom held a dramatically downsized, symbolic hajj pilgrimage in July due to concerns that it could easily have become a global superspreader event for the virus.

# U.S. crosses 9 million COVID-19 cases

The virus is spreading most rampantly in the Midwest and the South

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
WASHINGTON

The United States passed nine million reported coronavirus cases on Friday, according to tallies from Johns Hopkins University, as infections spike days before the nation chooses its next President.

With the virus spreading most rampantly in the Midwest and the South, hospitals are also filling up again, stretching the health care system just as the nation heads in to flu season.

"We are not ready for this wave," Ashish Jha, Dean of the Brown University school of public health, warned on

ABC's Good Morning America on Thursday.

## Curfew imposed

Authorities in El Paso, Texas, imposed a curfew this week to protect "overwhelmed" health care workers and began setting up field hospitals.

But a judge's attempt to shut down non-essential businesses in the city has been challenged by the Mayor and the State's attorney general, the *Washington Post* reported.

Midwestern state Wisconsin has also set up a field hospital in recent weeks, and hospital workers in Missouri

were sounding warning bells as cases there rise.

Hospitals in the western state of Utah were preparing to ration care by as early as next week as patients flood their ICUs, according to local media.

The U.S., which has seen a resurgence of its COVID-19 outbreak since mid-October, has now notched up 9,007,298 cases.

## Surge warning

On Thursday the country set a record for new daily infections of more than 91,000 in 24 hours.

More than 2,29,000 people have died of the virus in

the U.S., since the pandemic began, the Hopkins tally showed as of Friday afternoon, with the daily number of deaths creeping steadily upwards in recent weeks also – though at present it remains below peak levels.

For months, health officials have been warning of a surge in cases as cooler fall weather settles over the U.S., driving more people indoors. As the weather changes, New York and other parts of the northeast, which were the epicenter of the US outbreak in the spring but largely controlled the virus over the summer, were reporting a worrying rise.

The incident came two days after a man shouting beheaded a woman and killed two other people in a church in Nice. Two weeks

# Priest wounded in shooting in France

Attacker fired at the clergyman twice as he was closing the church before fleeing

REUTERS  
PARIS

A Greek Orthodox priest was shot and injured on Saturday at a church in the centre of the French city of Lyon by an assailant who then fled, a police source and witnesses said.

The 52-year-old priest was fired at twice at around 4 p.m. (1500 GMT) as he was closing the church, and he was being treated for life-threatening injuries, the source said.

The incident came two days after a man shouting beheaded a woman and killed two other people in a church in Nice. Two weeks



Police officers blocked access to the site, where a priest was shot at, in Lyon. ■ AP

hammed during a class.

While the motive for Saturday's attack was not known, Ministers had warned that there could be other Islamist militant attacks. President Emmanuel Macron has deployed thousands of soldiers to protect sites such as places of worship and schools.

Prime Minister Jean Castex, who was visiting Rouen, said he was heading back to Paris to assess the situation.

The Nice attack took place on the day Muslims celebrate the Prophet Mohammad's birthday. Many Muslims around the world have been angered about France's de-

fence of the right to publish cartoons depicting the Prophet.

## Third arrest

A third person has been taken into custody in connection with that attack, a police source said on Saturday. The suspected assailant was shot by police and remained in critical condition in hospital.

Mr. Macron took to Arabic-language airwaves on Saturday, saying he understood the publication of cartoons depicting the Prophet Mohammad may shock some people but that there was no justification for acts of violence.

# Armenia asks Russia for help amid Karabakh fighting

Will offer help if fighting reaches Armenian territory: Moscow

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
ASSOCIATED PRESS  
YEREVAN



Nikol Pashinian

Mr. Pashinian's request puts Russia in a precarious position – joining the fighting would be fraught with unpredictable consequences and risk an open conflict with Turkey.

Nagorno-Karabakh lies within Azerbaijan but has been under the control of ethnic Armenian forces backed by Armenia since a war there ended in 1994. The Foreign Ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan met Friday in Geneva for a day of talks brokered by Russia, the United States and France.

Russia said on Saturday help would only be provided if the fighting reaches Armenian territory.

"Russia will render Yerevan all necessary assistance if clashes take place directly on the territory of Armenia," the Foreign Ministry said.

# Sri Lanka sends trash back to U.K.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka has started shipping 242 containers of hazardous waste, including body parts from mortuaries, back to Britain after a two-year court battle by an environmental watchdog, officials said on Saturday.

Several Asian countries have in recent years been pushing back against an onslaught of international refuse from wealthier nations and have started turning back the unwanted shipments of garbage as they battle against being used as the world's trash dump.

The first 20 containers of medical waste, which included body parts from mortuaries, were loaded on the MV Texas Triumph on Friday and another 65 will be sent within a week, customs spokesman Sunil Jayaratne said.

# Unrest erupts over police killing of Black man in U.S.

Tensions flared between left- and right-wing protesters

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
VANCOUVER

Tensions boiled over into unrest late Friday following a vigil for a Black man shot and killed by law enforcement in a city near Portland, Oregon, in southwestern Washington State.

Mourners gathered in Hazel Dell, an unincorporated area of Vancouver, Washington, where family and friends say Kevin E. Peterson Jr., 21, was shot on Thursday night. The city is about 19 km north of Portland.

Nearby, tensions flared between left- and right-wing protesters. Video recorded by journalists in a parking lot showed two groups of people shouting at each other.

The crowds ultimately fizzled out near the vigil but a group of hundreds of protesters later marched through



In solidarity: Protesters marching after a vigil in Vancouver, Washington, on Friday. ■ REUTERS

downtown Vancouver. Windows were shattered, flags were burned and federal agents clothed in riot gear surrounded a building – warning people that trespassing on federal property would be subject to arrest.

Family and friends had described Peterson as a former high school football player and the proud father of an infant daughter. In a statement, Clark County Sheriff Chuck Atkins said a joint city-county narcotics task force was conducting an investigation just before 6 p.m. Thursday and chased a man into the parking lot of a bank, where he fired a gun at them. A firearm was recovered at the scene, Atkins said.

# Tanzania's Opposition alleges fraud in polls, calls for protests

President Magufuli won 84% of votes in the contested election

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
STONE TOWN

Tanzania's Opposition on Saturday called on supporters to take to the streets to protest President John Magufuli's landslide election victory, which it says was fraudulent, demanding a fresh vote.

Mr. Magufuli was declared the winner on Friday with a crushing 84% of votes, while his Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) ruling party took 97% of the 264 elected Parliamentary seats.

The country's two main opposition groups, Chадema and defeated presidential candidate Tundu Lissu, and

ACT-Wazalendo, held a joint press conference in Dar es Salaam in which they denounced the election and called their supporters to action.

"Firstly, we call for fresh elections as soon as possible. Whatever happened is not an election," Chадema chairman Freeman Mbwe said.

"We call for continuous, peaceful, nationwide demonstrations until our demands are met," he said, adding these would begin on Monday.

ACT-Wazalendo leader Zitto Kabwe said the decision was for "the future of

our country". "We cannot accept going back to a one-party system. God willing we will win in this war."

Democracy was introduced in 1994 and Tanzania has been seen as a haven of stability in a volatile neighbourhood but critics have raised alarm over a slide into autocracy under Mr. Magufuli.

The 61-year-old, nicknamed "The Bulldozer", was in his first term accused of flouting due process and brooking no criticism.

Bond producers Michael G. Wilson and Barbara Broccoli said they were "devastated" by the news and that Connery's "gritty and witty portrayal of the sexy and charismatic secret agent" was largely responsible for the success of the series.

"He was and shall always be remembered as the original James Bond whose indelible entrance into cinema history began when he announced those unforgettable words – 'The name's Bond... James Bond,'" they said in a statement on Saturday.

Connery's son Jason said his father died peacefully in his sleep overnight in the Bahamas where he lived, having been "unwell for some time." "A sad day for all who knew and loved my dad and a sad loss for all people around the world who enjoyed the wonderful gift he had as an actor," Mr. Jason told the BBC.

Connery continued as Bond in *From Russia With Love*, *Goldfinger*, *Thunderball*, *You Only Live Twice* and *Diamonds Are Forever*, often performing his own stunts. *Diamonds Are Forever* came out in 1971 and by then Connery had grown weary of playing 007 and feared he wasn't being taken seriously despite his dramat-

ic performances in Alfred Hitchcock's *Marnie* and Sidney Lumet's *The Hill*.

"I'd been an actor since I was 25, but the image the press put out was that I just fell into this tuxedo and started mixing vodka martinis," he once complained.

When he walked away at age 41, Hollywood insiders predicted Connery would soon be washed up. Connery fooled them all, playing a wide range of characters and proving equally adept at comedy, adventure or drama. And age only heightened the appeal of his dark stare and rugged brogue; he set a celebrity record of sorts when at age 59, he was named *People* magazine's "Sexiest Man Alive."



Sean Connery posing during the making of *Never Say, Never Again*. ■ AFP

trayed on screen could be measured in mega watts."

Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said the country was mourning "one of her best loved sons."

Connery had a command-

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## Amazon tells SEBI Future is 'misleading' shareholders

REUTERS

NEW DELHI

Amazon has complained to India's markets regulator that its local partner Future Retail misled shareholders by incorrectly saying it was complying with its contractual obligations to the U.S. e-commerce giant, a letter seen by Reuters shows.

Amazon is locked in a bitter legal dispute with Future Group, which in August sold its retail assets to Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries for \$3.4 billion. The deal, Amazon alleges, breaches 2019 agreements by Future.

The tussle has strained Amazon's ties not just with Future Retail but also with Mr. Ambani, Asia's richest man, and his Reliance group, which is fast expanding its e-commerce business and threatening companies like Amazon.

Amazon last Sunday won an injunction to halt Future's deal with Reliance from a Singapore arbitrator both sides had agreed to use in case of disputes. The Indian retailer then said in a news release it had complied with all agreements and "cannot be held back" by the arbitration proceedings.

**'Against public interest'**  
In the letter to the Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Chairman Ajay Tyagi on Wednesday, Amazon said Future's release and stock exchange disclosures violated Indian regulations and urged SEBI to probe the matter and not approve the deal.

"Such a disclosure is against public interest, misleads public shareholders," Amazon said.

## ICICI Bank net rises sixfold to ₹4,251 cr.

Net NPA ratio improved to 1.00% as on September 30, from 1.23% on June 30

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

ICICI Bank on Saturday reported second-quarter standalone net profit jumped more than sixfold to ₹4,251 crore, from ₹655 crore a year earlier, buoyed by lower provisioning for bad loans.

Net interest income at the country's second-largest private lender rose 16% to ₹9,366 crore in the three months ended September 30, from ₹8,057 crore in the year-earlier period.

The net interest margin, however, was 3.57%, compared with 3.64% in 2019's September quarter, reflecting surplus liquidity with the bank, ICICI said in a filing with exchanges.

Provisions (excluding provision for tax) were ₹2,995 crore, compared with ₹2,507 crore a year earlier.

"This includes provision of ₹497 crore made on a pru-



**Fast pace:** The bank's bottomline boost came from lower provisioning for bad loans. ■ SHANKER CHAKRAVARTY

dent basis on loans aggregating to ₹1,410 crore that were not classified as non-performing pursuant to the Supreme Court's interim order dated September 3, 2020, directing that accounts which were not classified as non-performing till August 31,

2020, should not be classified as non-performing until further orders," the bank said.

As on September 30, the bank held COVID-19 related provision of ₹8,772 crore. During the quarter, the bank's total deposits grew by

20% to ₹8,32,936 crore.

Net non-performing asset (NPA) ratio improved to 1.00% as on September 30, from 1.23% at June 30; including loans not classified as NPA pursuant to the Supreme Court's interim order, net NPA ratio would have been 1.12%, it said.

The provision coverage ratio increased to 81.5%, from 78.6% as on June 30. The bank's total capital adequacy ratio was 19.33% and Tier-1 capital adequacy ratio was 17.89%.

Gross additions to NPAs were ₹3,017 crore. Recoveries and upgrades, excluding write-offs, from non-performing loans were ₹1,945 crore.

### Retail loans climb

During the period the retail loan portfolio grew by 13% and disbursements had returned to pre Covid levels,

## WFH spurring rural buoyancy: Cisco

Small towns see job creation: Chittilapilly

MINI TEJASWI  
BENGALURU

The pandemic-triggered work-from-home (WFH) model has been flattening the socio-economic curve through wealth distribution and job creation in small towns and villages, said a senior official of Cisco India. This has greatly contributed to the growth of the rural economy of India, added Daisy Chittilapilly, MD, Digital Transformation Office, Cisco India.



Daisy Chittilapilly

think they would want to come into cities," she said.

On the longevity of WFH, she said, almost 75% of Indian CFOs are actually on record, saying that they're going to look at WFH as a way to depress their operating costs. Cisco traditionally has been an 85%-plus WFH-enabled enterprise and therefore, it didn't have to specially get ready for COVID-19, she said.

Between 2012 and 2017, Cisco consolidated its real estate, closing down 239 buildings worldwide and saving almost half-a-billion U.S. dollars a year.

### Hybrid mode

"We believe the world post COVID-19 will settle into a hybrid mode," she added. "If you take an average across all industries, about 65% of companies settle into hybrid mode." But again, India has a go-to-work culture, and a lot of us naturally go to work," she said. The social aspect of work is something that all of us miss.

And, on the whole, there's enough research out there and there is community innovation, community learning and community contribution. "Human beings get energy from each other. So, I don't think we'll go back to either extreme after the pandemic," she said.

## JSW Holdings Sept. quarter net drops 48%

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

JSW Holdings, the non-banking financial company that forms the investment arm of the JSW Group, on Saturday reported a 48.1% decline in consolidated profit to ₹39.5 crore for the quarter ended September 30, 2020.

The company had posted a profit of ₹76.2 crore for the year-earlier period, JSW Holdings said in a filing with the BSE.

Total income during July-September 2020-21 dropped to ₹50.3 crore from ₹85.5 crore in the year-earlier period, the filing said.

## Jittery Wall St. banks 'war-game' election with drills

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI

Bank of Baroda (BoB) on Saturday announced a 15-basis point reduction in its repo-linked lending rate to 6.85%, from 7% earlier, effective November 1. The lender's retail loans – home loan, mortgage loan, car loan, educa-

tion loan and personal loan – are linked to its Baroda Repo Linked Lending Rate.

With the recent revision, home loan rates will start at 6.85% and car loan rates at 7.1%, mortgage loan rates at 8.05% and education loan rates at 6.85%, Bank of Baroda said in a release.

## BoB slashes repo-linked rate by 15 bps +

Union Bank of India too slashed its interest rate by 10 basis points for home loans above ₹30 lakh.

In a release, the state-owned lender said women borrowers would get a further concession of 5 basis points. The new rates are effective November 1.

## SAP raising investments in India: Bawa

Software maker to focus on SMEs, start-ups as it moves to 'true-cloud' mode

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA

NEW DELHI



Kulmeet Bawa  
ecosystem... we are extremely fascinated," added Mr. Bawa.

**Economic transition**  
"I think, clearly the transformation of the Indian economy is underway." He said the

company was now 'diving deeper' into the SME segment as well as the start-up ecosystem to build an innovation hub in India so 'overall investments are going up.'

On its strategy for SMEs, which account for almost 80% of SAP's customer base of 12,000 in India and which have been among the worst-hit by the pandemic, he said, "SMEs have really got impacted but we have not changed our strategy."

"In fact, we are doubling down into that space because SMEs in India today account for about 29-30% of our GDP. A lot of India's future today is banking on MSMEs. We are... helping them embrace digitisation,

focussing on upskilling their workforce and enhancing overall business value."

### Faster digitisation

Mr. Bawa said organisations were turning digital faster than ever before, especially so in the past six months, but that it was important for them to hop on to the digital bandwagon with agility, and nimbleness and that that was possible only on the cloud.

He added that with work-from-home and education-from-home, there was a 'huge' sense of urgency among Indian firms to embark on or to culminate the digital transformation journeys even faster.

## Jittery Wall St. banks 'war-game' election with drills

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW YORK/HONG KONG

Large Wall Street banks have been running "war-game" drills in their trading businesses and preparing clients for unexpected scenarios around the U.S. election next week, hoping to avoid liquidity crunches or technical errors as markets react to news of who will be running the White House and Congress, industry sources said.

There is more confidence now than a few weeks ago that there will be a clear presidential winner, because Democrat Joe Biden has moved up in polls against incumbent Republican President Donald Trump. However, the two men are tied in some key States, according to the latest Reuters/Ipsos poll, suggesting it may not be a slam dunk.

Traders, bankers and wary fund managers told Reuters they were preparing for a wide range of outcomes.

One bank's equities desk has been running drills across major trading hubs in New York, London, Paris and Hong Kong for a variety of scenarios to make sure systems can handle enormous volatility, an executive said.

That bank has been reaching out to top customers to get a sense of how much they expect to trade and ask whether they need margin limits increased, and to suggest they send orders through approved electronic systems rather than calling, to avoid inadvertent mistakes, the person said.

"I don't think anybody is willing to bet on any particular outcome," said Peter Kraus, a former executive at Wall Street banks including Goldman Sachs. "The rational thing to do is to take your risk down."

about that.

What was your biggest challenge? And, any task you wish you had not left unaccomplished?

■ When we started out in 1995, state-owned banks had the customers while the multinational banks had the products. The new private sector banks had neither.

The challenge was to create the products/experience of the multinational banks and acquire customers too. In a way, it was like conquering two worlds. Given the background of the senior leadership team, we started out as a wholesale bank. But then, India's liberalisation programme created a new class of consumers with disposable incomes.

That is when we diversified into retail. The challenge now was to grow without compromising on asset quality, taking undue risks or succumbing to the latest fad. This is where the risk management system of the bank came into play. Insulating the credit function from business was a critical call in this regard. Over the years the bank has grown fast but prudently. And yes, in any journey, there is always something you wish you had done better. This is perhaps best kept to myself.

Where do you want HDFC Bank to be? What

a trusted brand and people.

### What is the future of banking in India?

■ Like I said earlier, the secular shift in technology, mobility, social computing and analytics is changing the entire business paradigm.

We had identified the competition this would bring at an early stage and have reworked our strategy accordingly. We believe that today we offer a customer experience that is on par with global leaders if not better.

You can ask anybody in the bank. I did not make decisions. I sat down with the team. We set the vision and we had tremendous arguments on that and we tested out what worked and we scaled it up.

Execution of a well-laid-out strategy will take the bank places.

In the near future, some of our future growth strategies that has already been shared includes: reimagining the branch channel to a financial services marketplace; leveraging Bharat's [rural India's] growth potential based on our semi-urban and rural footprint; a payments business with a differentiated business model that leverages the bank's offerings; digital 2.0 to transform customer journeys into omnichannel customer experience; virtual relationship management where

technology comes alive with a human touch; and our subsidiaries that continue to focus on the segments they operate in.

There is really no particular risk that I foresee in this. We have the capital,

### What do you plan to do next?

■ I definitely don't plan to sit at home and I certainly don't think my wife will want me at home all the time. So, I'm considering many things. Be it education, health or digital. You will know about it soon.

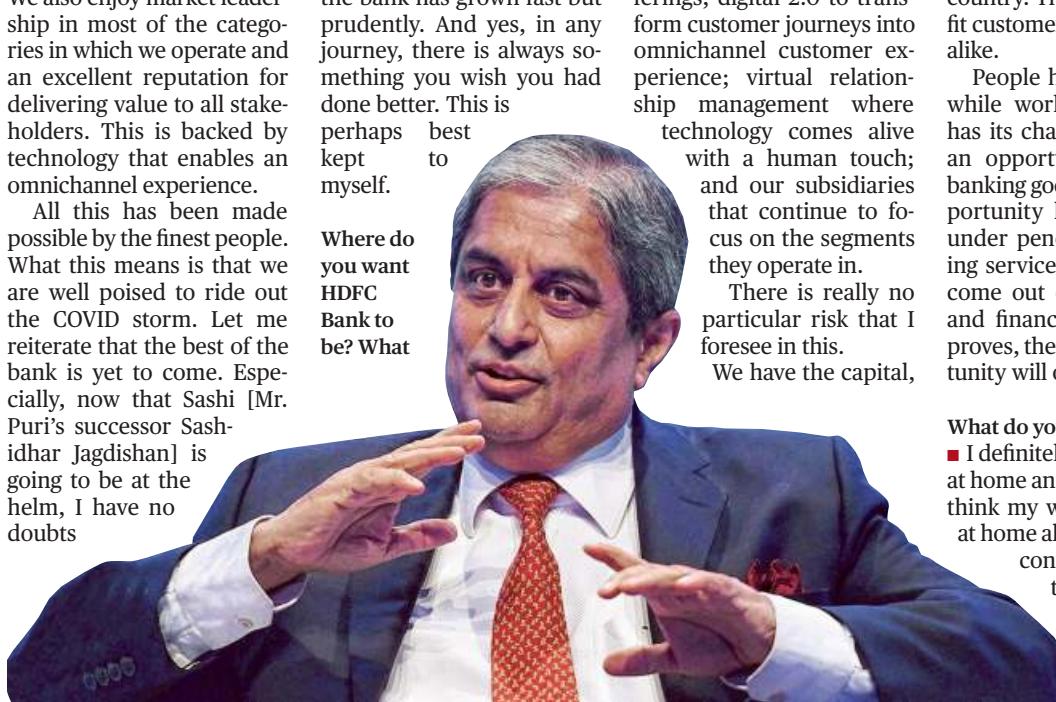
What are the factors behind the bank's success?

■ There is no 'secret sauce'. Banking is a simple business and we try to keep it that way. Borrow money from depositors, lend that money and earn a margin.

One needs to price in risk, the probability of default and have very good systems in place to ensure the depositors' money is returned. As a bank, we have focussed on being consistent and experimenting on a small level before making it big. God has been very kind too. Thus, today we have one of the strongest balance sheets with high capital adequacy levels and among the lowest levels of NPAs in the sector.

Capital is not a constraint. We also enjoy market leadership in most of the categories in which we operate and an excellent reputation for delivering value to all stakeholders. This is backed by technology that enables an omnichannel experience.

All this has been made possible by the finest people. What this means is that we are well poised to ride out the COVID storm. Let me reiterate that the best of the bank is yet to come. Especially, now that Sashi [Mr. Puri's successor Sashidhar Jagdishan] is going to be at the helm, I have no doubts



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## SNAPSHOTS

**Bat wisdom**

There's no need to teach bats the benefits of physical distancing when ill! A study published in *Behavioral Ecology* has found that when some bats were induced to fall sick, these bats kept to themselves, interacting less with others in their tree-hollow homes as compared to the controls. Healthy bats were also likely to interact less with the sick ones, the study established.

**Cosmic gaze**

If calculations made by astronomers from Cornell University are right, there should be at least a thousand planets out there which have a good view of the Earth. They looked at stars which lie on the Earth's ecliptic - the plane of its orbit around the Sun. Exoplanets around these stars would be able to see the Earth transiting the Sun and thereby study its biosphere.

# India's potential participation in COVAX advance market commitment is under way'

R. PRASAD

**Has India agreed to purchase vaccine doses through the COVAX facility? How many million doses of the vaccine will India get through COVAX?**

India is among the 92 countries that are eligible to access COVID-19 vaccines through GAVI's COVAX Advance Market Commitment (AMC), a donor-supported mechanism that will help cover part of the cost of vaccines to ensure that all countries – not just wealthy countries – can access them. Discussions about the terms of India's potential participation in the AMC are getting under way.

**What steps has the Gates Foundation taken to ensure equitable distribution of vaccines to developing countries, including those that have not expressed interest to purchase vaccines through the COVAX facility?**

The foundation is working on multiple fronts to help ensure equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines, because we know that COVID-19 anywhere means that COVID-19 could continue to spread



Trevor Mundel ■ ADAM CROWLEY

everywhere. Earlier this year, we committed \$100 million to GAVI's COVID-19 Vaccine AMC, to finance COVID-19 vaccines for lower-income countries. Through our collaboration with GAVI and the Serum Institute of India, we are financing the manufacture of 200 million future vaccine doses for low- and middle-income countries. We are also funding research and development of vaccines that could be less expensive to produce or ea-

sier to distribute in low- and middle-income countries, such as those that only need one dose or do not require extreme refrigeration or freezing.

**Will countries have to wait to get the vaccines through COVAX even after paying up-front?**

No one knows yet which vaccines will prove safe and effective, which is why it's important to scale up

manufacturing capacity as much as possible now, so that no time is wasted once clinical trials are completed and regulatory approval has been given.

The Gates Foundation envisions an equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, and our efforts are focused on helping improve the chances that low- and middle-income countries have access to doses at the same time as wealthier countries. COVAX – an initiative led by

GAVI, the vaccine alliance, WHO and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) – is one of the best ways to achieve this.

**Will the pre-defined number of vaccine doses that a country gets be related to the amount of funding that the country makes?**

No. For the Facility, participating countries will receive allocations proportional to their population, not their financial contribution.

**Even after financial commitment, will countries be assured of vaccine supplies if developed countries directly tie-up with manufacturers to secure supplies, as seen in the case of the U.S. getting most of Remdesivir?**

The purpose of the COVAX Facility is to avoid this type of situation, and the fact that so many countries have signed on shows that these countries see the value of joining forces to protect their own populations while making doses available and affordable in lower-income countries.

While the current pandemic has created urgency to work as quickly as possible to develop safe and effective therapeutics, speed and science should never be at odds, especially when ensuring safety.

The Foundation, along with the global community working to develop new tools to prevent and combat COVID-19, has stressed that it is crucial that decisions to approve COVID-19 vaccines are based on the results from rigorously conducted clinical studies.

The Foundation is committed to ensuring the safety of individuals who will be receiving products that we have funded. All of the research that we fund follows regulatory protocols and ethical standards for safety. Additionally, 16 life sciences companies have all committed to adhere to strict scientific and ethical standards in product development and manufacture.

## How water bears survive lethal UV radiation

*Paramacrobiotus* has a fluorescent shield which helps it survive UV radiation

ASWATHI PACHA

"I know an animal that can live in boiling water or in solid ice. It can go 10 years without a drop of water - the tardigrade or water bear. They have survived all five mass extinctions," says Dr. Neil deGrasse Tyson in an episode of *Cosmos: A Space-time Odyssey*.

Awestruck by this episode, Sandeep M. Eswarappa from The Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, started exploring these tiny creatures that are less than 1 millimetre long. His new paper shows that a tardigrade called *Paramacrobiotus* BLR strain (BLR for Bengaluru) has a protective fluorescent shield which helps it survive harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation.

**Hunting for tardigrades**

It was an exploratory study, and the team hunted for tardigrades within the institute campus. About 1,300 species have been reported worldwide. "We knew we could find them on algae and similar vegetation, so we scraped off moss from



**Tough bug:** *Paramacrobiotus* sp. survived beyond 30 days after 15 minutes exposure to germicidal UV radiation

the campus' concrete walls and trees and tried to isolate the tardigrades. Though we collected nearly 100 samples, we finally succeeded in finding just one species," says Harikumar R. Suma, who is the first author of the paper published in the journal *Biology Letters*.

The study found that *Paramacrobiotus* sp. survived beyond 30 days after 15 minutes exposure to germicidal UV radiation (one kilojoule per square metre). At this radiation dose, another species of tardigrade called

*Hypsibius exemplaris* died within a day, and most of the roundworms were found dead within a week.

When a four times higher radiation was given, about 60% of the *Paramacrobiotus* sp. survived beyond 30 days.

To further confirm their findings, the team coated the *H. exemplaris* and roundworms with the fluorescent extract from *Paramacrobiotus* sp. Animals with the fluorescent coat were found to survive longer than the control animals without.

But why does this protective coat show fluorescence? "In addition to the UV protective function, we speculate that the fluorescence might serve as a signal to other organisms around – like an indication: 'Hey the tardigrade is glowing, there is UV radiation here, let's get away'. It provides a survival advantage to these tardigrades by reducing competition," explains Dr. Eswarappa.

**Evolved fluorescence**

The team writes that *Paramacrobiotus* could have probably evolved this fluorescence mechanism to counter the high UV radiation of tropical southern India. The UV dose in Bengaluru, where it was isolated, could go up to 4 kilojoule per square meter on a typical summer day.

The paper adds, the "small fraction of non-fluorescent variants that co-exist in the same moss habitat may have other mechanisms to escape from UV radiation, for example, living deeper inside the moss where UV radiation cannot reach."

**Role of bars**

The Milky Way is a barred spiral galaxy. Since not all spiral galaxies have bars, the role of bars – why they exist, what triggers their formation and whether they foster star formation are interesting questions. Some barred gal-

axies have shown a higher concentration of newly formed stars, suggesting that the bar nurtures star formation. The present work studies four such barred galaxies out of which three, in fact, appear to prevent stars from forming at their central region covered by the length of the bar.

What causes a galaxy to be star-forming or not is a puzzle, with the prevailing idea being that star-forming galaxies are converted into non-star-forming galaxies through some mechanism. "[In this paper] we try to understand the role of the stellar bar in quenching star for-

mation in the central region of spiral galaxies," says Dr. George, about the paper accepted for publication in *Astrophysics and Astronomy*, in an email to *The Hindu*. The work is done in collaboration with scientists from Indian Institute of Astrophysics and Christ University, Bengaluru.

In three of the four galaxies, they find that the region covered by the length of the bar does not have enough gas (Hydrogen) the atomic form and molecular hydrogen, which is believed to condense and form stars. "We understood this observation as evidence for the

bar redistributing the gas in the central region of these spiral galaxies," says Dr. George. "This is almost like the whirlpool we see in rivers. There is a cavity formed in the central region with no gas and stars," he explains.

**Too young**

The researchers do not see the same depletion of gas and stars in the fourth galaxy. The reason, they believe is that this galaxy does not have an old enough bar.

"We believe it will take a few million years for the bar to evacuate the gas that forms stars," says Koshy George. ■ KOSHY GEORGE

"This is probably the tip of the iceberg. We are presenting this as a case for the first time in an evolutionary sequence of four barred galaxies. More statistical samples are needed (which is currently lacking) with new observations from radio to ultraviolet wavelength for more galaxies," he says.

## What is the D614G mutation in coronavirus?

Mutation was seen in 78% of genomes sequenced from April 1 to May 18

SAYAN GHOSH

While novel coronavirus is undergoing many mutations, one particular mutation called D614G, according to a study, has become the dominant variant in the global COVID-19 pandemic.

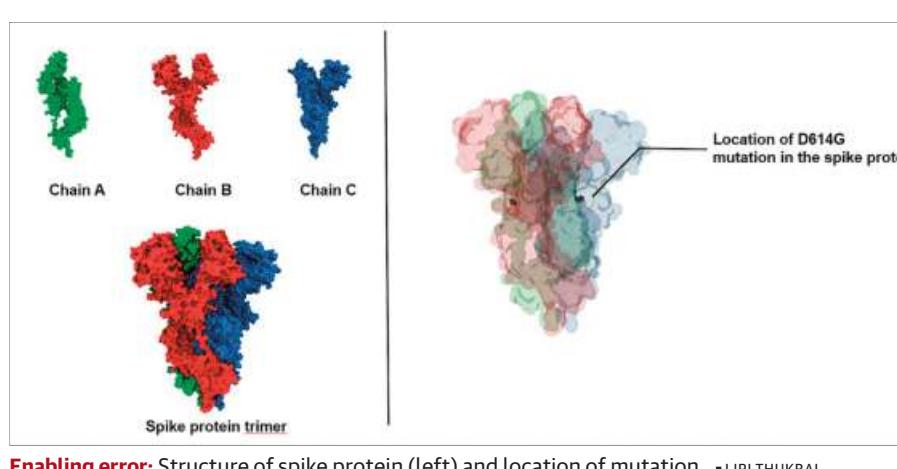
**What is the D614G mutation?**

When the virus enters an individual's body, it aims at creating copies of itself. When it makes an error in this copying process, we get a mutation.

In this case, the virus replaced the aspartic acid (D) in the 614th position of the amino acid with glycine (G). Hence the mutation is called the D614G. This mutated form of the virus was first identified in China and then in Europe. Later it spread to other countries like the U.S. and Canada and was eventually reported in India.

**How is this mutation different?**

The D614G mutation is situat-



**Enabling error:** Structure of spike protein (left) and location of mutation. ■ LIPI THUKRAL

clear picture of how transmissible this particular mutation of the virus has become over time, a paper in the journal *Cell* says that the mutation was found in 10% of 997 global genome sequences before March 1, 67% of the sequences between March 1 and March 31 and 78% of the sequences between April 1 and May 18.

**What are the effects of the mutation?**

A preprint posted in *medRxiv*, which has not undergone peer-review, explains the sequenced genomes of 5,085 SARS-CoV-2 strains in

Houston. By doing so, it discovered that not only did the D614G show increased infectivity but it also displayed greater ability at attaching itself to the cell walls inside an individual's nose and throat, increasing the viral load.

However, the paper could not establish any direct correlation between this particular genetic change in the virus and an increase in the severity of COVID-19 or its impact on a patient's mortality.

The patients seem to be exhibiting variable reactions to it depending upon their genetic constitution, age, exposure to other diseases etc.

among others – reveals that the D614G was one of the most prevalent spike mutations even during the initial phase of the pandemic.

Since then, D614G mutation's 'relative abundance' has increased over time to 70% and above, in most States except Delhi, reports another pre-print in *BioRxiv* after analysing samples from 10 Indian States.

**Can this mutation impact vaccine research?**

A paper in the journal, *Nature*, after conducting experiments on hamsters, concluded that this particular mutation may not reduce the ability of vaccines in clinical trials to protect against COVID-19 and that the therapeutic antibodies should be tested against the circulating variant of the virus before clinical development.

"There is a need for extreme caution with premature inferences on mutations and their effects without supporting experimental evidence. This could result in a media frenzy and potentially undermine public confidence in vaccines," Dr. Raghunathan states.



### Question Corner

#### Moon mystique

**What explains the anomalous localised magnetism seen on the Moon?**

Though the Moon lacks a core dynamo magnetic field unlike the Earth, the lunar crust has a remnant magnetisation. But in some areas on the Moon, the localised surface fields extend to hundreds of kilometre and measure up to hundreds of nanotesla or higher. Apollo samples and the lunar crust studies have shown the magnetising field was as high as tens of microtesla before 3.56 billion years ago. Now researchers from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and other institutions have found (*Science Advances*, October 2020) a possible answer for the long-standing mystery of

the origin of the localised magnetic fields on the Moon. Magnetic fields on the moon may be the remnant of an ancient core dynamo. This might be the "only plausible source" of most magnetisation on the Moon, they say.

Based on computer simulations, the researchers say that the Moon must have had an internal core dynamo in the past. They arrive at this conclusion by ruling out the earlier notion that localised magnetisation was caused by impacts of massive bodies on the Moon surface. While such collisions and ejected material can transiently enhance the field inside the Moon, the resulting fields would be at least three orders of magnitude too weak to explain the localised magnetic field observed on the Moon's surface.

More research is needed to confirm exactly how the magnetic spots were formed.

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in



An IAF C-17 aircraft flies above Leh in July. ■ PTI

## High-tech transfers

How will the signing of BECA deepen military ties between India and the U.S.?

VARGHESE K. GEORGE

**The story so far:** On October 27, India and the U.S. signed the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA) during the third 2+2 dialogue of defence and foreign ministers of the two countries. This is the fourth and the last of the foundational agreements that both countries have concluded, starting with GSOMIA (General Security of Military Information Agreement) in 2002, LEMOA (Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement) in 2016, COMCASA (Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement) in 2018, and now BECA.

### What are foundational agreements?

The United States enters into what are called 'foundational or enabling agreements' with its defence partners. These agreements govern the nature and scope of U.S. defence partnerships. Partners enhance the capabilities of the U.S. military in distant places through sharing information, platforms and logistics.

The competitive advantage of the U.S. military is maintained primarily by the advanced technologies that the country develops continuously. The U.S. sells military equipment to other countries with strict control over their deployment and use. For instance, consider the B777-300ER aircraft that India bought from Boeing recently for the use of VVIPs. The sale of advanced communication and security systems on the aircraft – which are not commercially available – is made seamless by foundational agreements.

The U.S. is also eager to advance 'interoperability' with defence forces of the countries that are its defence partners. Interoperability involves real-time

**The Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement enables exchange of geospatial information. Akin to a GPS that enables navigation, such exchange of information enhances the accuracy of a missile or the utility of a drone**

coordination of forces. The U.S. has signed these foundational agreements with at least 100 countries, which mostly follow a standard text. Country-specific changes were made in India's case in all four foundational agreements.

**What do these agreements do?** The General Security of Military Information Agreement or GSOMIA, and its extension, the Information Security Annex (ISA) signed in 2019, allow military technology cooperation for the sharing of classified information between governments and companies in both countries. The LEMOA enables logistics support, say refuelling of planes or ships, supply of spare parts or maintenance to each other. For instance, U.S. Navy's P8 aircraft landed in Port Blair last month for refuelling, under LEMOA. Even in the absence of this agreement, such cooperation can and has taken place between India and the U.S., but the agreement makes it seamless, and the accounting easier. The COMCASA allows Indian forces to procure advanced, secure communication equipment from the U.S. Such equipment was earlier denied for U.S. origin platforms such as C-17, C-130, and commercial systems were used in their place. Only after COMCASA was signed were the encrypted systems provided to India.

The BECA enables exchange of geospatial information. Akin to a GPS that enables navigation, such exchange of geospatial information enhances the accuracy of a missile or the utility of a drone.

### What is the strategic importance of these agreements?

Since the Civil Nuclear Agreement of 2005, the India-U.S. defence cooperation has been advancing at a rapid pace. The U.S. has relaxed restrictions on technology trade in India's favour considerably, and India is designated a 'Major Defence Partner'. Foundational agreements deepen defence cooperation, in trade and operation. India and the U.S. are also part of a broader shared vision for the Indo-Pacific region, where both countries, along with Japan and Australia, are increasing their military cooperation. U.S.-built platforms used by partner countries can talk to one another and share operational information.

**Are there any concerns?** Critics worry that tying itself too closely with the U.S. may limit India's choices. The evolution of technology makes it inevitable that all military platforms will be integrated and networked in the future. The U.S. is very particular about the integrity of its networks, and pressure could mount on India to remain firmly in its camp. The U.S. is particularly irked by India's continuing defence cooperation with Russia. India will be taking the delivery of Russian S-400 missile defence system next year, ignoring American objections. The U.S. could respond with sanctions. At any rate, it will not be possible to integrate Russian and American platforms, and this could throw up new challenges of military planning for India.

The moot question, say experts, is whether India could ramp up its defence cooperation with the U.S. without ending up as its ally.

# What is swinging U.S. polls on home stretch?

Why are States like Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Florida crucial and will Trump get a second term?

SRINIVASAN RAMANI

**The story so far:** November 3 is the final day of voting for elections to the U.S. presidency, 35 seats in the 100-member U.S. Senate and the 435-member U.S. Congress, besides to the post of governor in eleven States. Around 90 million voters have already used the early in-person voting or the mail ballot option to register their mandate. This is nearly 64% of the overall turnout in the 2016 U.S. elections. Voter enthusiasm in 2020 has led to one of the heaviest turnouts ever.

### What have the opinion polls been saying?

Opinion polls across the country point to Democratic Party candidate Joe Biden leading nationally with a near 10-point advantage over Mr. Trump. But U.S. elections are not decided nationally – its electoral college system is an agglomeration of State-wise wins and losses and it is not enough for a candidate to win the popular vote nationally. He/she has to secure a majority (270) of the 538 electoral college votes (cumulatively added from each State). The winner in each State gets the full share of members to be added to the electoral college.

This ensures that the area of contention in the election are the States, and a candidate has to win a plurality of them even if his overall vote share is higher than the opponent. The State-wise contests in the U.S. show a closer battle in some of the States – the swing States – compared to others, which could tilt the electoral college tally to either side.

### What are swing States?

While the presidential elections allow for anyone to contest the polls, the bipolar nature of U.S. polity has made these elections a largely two-party affair, with third party candidates rarely acting as a spoiler in recent election cycles. States on the east and west coast with largely urban populations have tended to vote for the Democratic party, while those in the rural-dominated south, the south-west and the north-west have favoured the Republican party. These States are considered safe ones by the two parties. Other States that could possibly be won by either of these two parties are called 'swing States'. In these States, the difference between the vote shares polled by them in both opinion polls as well as recent elections is low.

**Which are the States likely to 'swing' this election?** States such as Ohio (with 18 electoral college votes), Iowa (6), Wisconsin (10), Michigan, (16) and Minnesota (10) in the mid-west, Florida (29) on the south Atlantic coast, Nevada (6) and Arizona (11) in the mountainous-west, Pennsylvania (20), New Hampshire (4) in the north-east, and North Carolina (15) in the south have had close elections in recent cycles and are perennial swing States, according to the data journalism website 'fivethirtyeight.com'. In this election, Texas (38) and Georgia (16), in the south, have also shown a keen contest, and with a surge in Democratic votes, they have also joined the swing States.

States in the east coast region – New York, New Jersey, Vermont, Connecticut, Rhode Island, some in the mid-west (like Illinois), the south (Virginia, Maryland, Delaware), the west coast (California, Oregon, Washington State), mountainous west (Colorado, New Mexico), besides Hawaii in the Pacific Island, are strongly Democratic-leaning, and it is quite a certainty that these will return Mr. Biden as the winner with full electoral college votes. On the other hand, States in the deep south and the south – Oklahoma, Arkansas, Alabama, Kentucky, Louisiana, Tennessee, Mississippi, South Carolina; Wyoming, Idaho, Montana, Utah in the mountainous west, North Dakota, South Dakota, Kansas, Missouri, Indiana in the mid-west, besides Alaska in the Pacific – have favoured Republicans in the recent past and are expected to return Mr. Trump this time too.

**Why are there going to be some close contests?** Most voters in each State in the U.S. elections are categorised either as Democratic-registered or pro-Democrat, Republican-registered or pro-Republican, and independent/moderate voters. The Democratic Party, despite several factions and ideological divisions within, is broadly categorised as a socially liberal party, one that favours a greater role for the government in the economy, and is inclusive of progressive and moderate sections. Joe

## Getting to know the SWING STATES

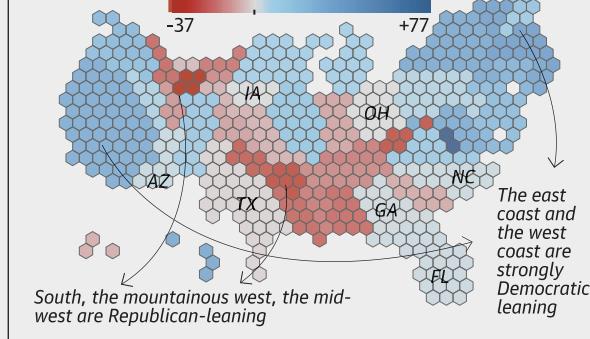
Opinion polls in the United States show that Democratic Presidential nominee Joe Biden is the popular choice among voters in 31 of the 54 States and territories, while Republican Donald Trump is ahead in 23. However, in 14 States, either candidate enjoys only a marginal lead. These 'swing' States, where a close-run contest is expected, could decide the outcome of the election

**1. Expected leads** | The table lists the latest lead secured by Biden over Trump, based on the weighted average of polls aggregated by fivethirtyeight.com, a U.S.-based news website\*. A positive number indicates that Biden is leading, while a negative number corresponds to a lead for Trump. The value of the number indicates the margin. In at least fourteen States, the results could go either way

Margin	Biden's lead over Trump (% points)
>40	District of Columbia (+79.4)
30 to 40	Massachusetts (+37.09); Vermont (+35.25); Rhode Island (+32.87); Hawaii (+31.12); New York (+30.30)
20 to 30	Maryland (+29.21); California (+28.96); Connecticut (+25.87); Delaware (+24.67); Washington (+22.65); ME (Maine)-1 (+21.63); New Jersey (+21.45)
10 to 20	Oregon (+19.93); Illinois (+15.13); Maine (+13.96); Colorado (+13.67); Virginia (+11.74); New Hampshire (+11.39); New Mexico (+10.68)
0 to 10	Wisconsin (+8.61); Minnesota (+8.17); Michigan (+8.09); NE(Nebraska)-2 (+6.33); Nevada (+6.11); Pennsylvania (+5.09); Arizona (+2.78); Florida (+2.17); North Carolina (+2.06); Georgia (+1.65); Iowa (+0.31)
0 to -10	Ohio (-0.12); Texas (-1.26); NE(Nebraska)-1 (-4.64); Montana (-5.24); Missouri (-6.68); Nebraska (-6.69); Alaska (-7.45); South Carolina (-7.79); Indiana (-8.77); Kansas (-9.29)
-10 to -20	Utah (-11.3); South Dakota (-13.30); Tennessee (-13.53); Kentucky (-15.59); Mississippi (-15.92); North Dakota (-16.79); Alabama (-18.84); Idaho (-19.25); Louisiana (-19.35)
-20 to -30	Oklahoma (-21.74); West Virginia (-24.24); Arkansas (-25.18)
<-30	Wyoming (-37.01)



**2. Mapping the swing** | The map depicts the State-wise lead secured by Biden over Trump in the opinion polls. Darker the shade of blue, the higher Biden's lead over Trump. Darker the shade of red, the higher Trump's lead over Biden. States coloured in shades of grey are those where the leads are marginal and could swing either way



**3. Margins of error in swing States** | If the 2020 opinion polls turn out to be as wrong as they were in 2016, Iowa and North Carolina might switch from Biden to Trump. But overall electoral college votes could only drop from 353-180 to 333-205 for Biden-Trump. Blue cells: Biden in Lead; Red cells: Trump in lead

State	Lead if polls are right	Lead if polls are wrong*
Nebraska	6.69	8.69
Montana	5.24	11.24
Texas	1.26	2.26
Ohio	0.13	7.13
Iowa	0.31	6.19
Georgia	1.65	0.55
N. Carolina	2.07	2.33
Florida	2.18	1.68
Arizona	2.78	1.48
Penn.	5.09	0.69
Nevada	6.11	7.11
Michigan	8.10	3.70
Wisconsin	8.62	2.52
Virginia	11.75	11.45

\*Recalculated after assuming similar polling errors from 2016 for each State

Biden, a moderate among Democrats, has secured support from the progressive wing as well. Support for the Democrats is more concentrated in urban areas, among voters with graduate education, and among racial and linguistic minorities (African-Americans, Indian-Americans and Hispanics). But support from this coalition does not always translate into votes. Voters in urban areas, among minorities, and the youth tended to turn out in lower numbers relative to other sections.

The Republican party is a broad coalition of socially conservative (including religious-minded voters, such as prominent evangelical sections), pro-business and fiscally conservative voters, who are typically employed in or own small businesses. It also comprises big capitalists who are unfavourable towards policies related to taxation and welfare. In the Trump era, the party has taken a "populist", personalised turn, driven less by any clear ideology, but positioning itself as trade protectionist, opposed to racial justice within the U.S. and liberal institutionalism across the world, and at the same time, pursuing policies favouring big business interests. This has changed the profile of the average Republican voter and has come to include sections of working-class voters, while alienating moderate or somewhat socially moderate Republicans.

The nature of the demography, the topography and the economy of the States has been an indication of voters' political preferences. The aforementioned safe States for the Democratic Party are largely urban in terms of topography and more diverse in population, with economies that are reliant on secondary and tertiary sectors such as high-end manufacturing, technology and services, to provide employment. States that are favourable to the Republican Party include largely rural or agrarian areas, with an abundance of small businesses linked mostly to a less industrial economy, and comprising a larger White-proportion of the demographic. In particular, the urban-rural divide offers a very clear Democrat-Republican divide.

Swing States, particularly those in the mid-west, offer a combination of factors: urban and rural topographies

within the State, unionised industrial bases and/or newly diverse populations which have made them competitive for both Democrats and Republicans. Suburban areas, which are neither politically nor geographically monolithic, as an aerial survey of landscapes recently published in the *The New York Times* pointed out, are areas where Democratic and Republican votes could overlap. Such areas are more abundant in swing States than in others.

### What happened in the swing States in 2016? What is the situation today?

Mr. Trump's surprisingly strong performance in the swing States delivered him the presidency despite losing the overall popular vote to Hillary Clinton in 2016. Victories in Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin – States that were relatively Democratic-leaning – besides other swing States such as Florida and Ohio, settled the election for Mr. Trump as white voters without a college education in suburban and rural areas, including white working class voters, chose Mr. Trump over Ms. Clinton. Opinion polls in these States, also turned out to be wrong, over-estimating support for Ms. Clinton. This was because the percentage of voters who recorded themselves as "undecided" was substantial, getting into two digits for some swing States. Many of them seemingly voted for Mr. Trump finally, rendering the opinion polls wrong.

In 2020, however, the number of undecided voters in the swing States have been substantially lower in most opinion polls, pointing to more clear support for either candidate. Mr. Biden, for now, seems to have an edge over Mr. Trump in the swing States and beyond. However, if polling errors from 2016 were to be accounted for, the election is rendered much closer. In such a scenario, Mr. Biden would have to win a larger swing State, such as Pennsylvania (20 electoral votes), and a combination of other smaller ones to ensure a victory. Even so, the fact that there are pathways to a Trump victory suggests that the election cannot be called till all the votes are counted.

# The amended land laws for Jammu & Kashmir

Who can buy or sell land in the Union Territory and what are the other rules governing it?

VIJAYA SINGH

**The story so far:** On October 26, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) announced several amendments to land laws for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), including the Jammu and Kashmir Development Act of 1970, which till now entitled only permanent residents to purchase or sell property in the former State, and the J&K Land Revenue Act, 1996. The MHA notification said the "Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Adaptation of Central Laws) Third Order, 2020 shall come into force with immediate effect and will encourage development in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir". In August last year, the special status granted to Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 and Article 35A was revoked. Section 96 of the J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019 empowers the MHA to adapt and modify any law by way of repeal or amendment before the expiration of one year from the appointed day of the Union Territory of J&K, which is October 31, 2019.

### What are the changes?

The MHA has amended sections of the J&K Land Revenue Act, 1996 and the J&K Development Act of 1970. The 1996 Act pertains to management of agricultural land and the 1970 Act deals with zonal development plans determining land use for public buildings, roads, housing recreation, industry, business, markets, schools, hospitals and public and private open spaces. According to the amendment to the Land Revenue Act, anyone from any part of the country can now buy land in J&K, including agricultural land. Though the amendments prohibit sale, transfer, mortgage and conversion of agricultural land to a non-agriculturist in the UT, it can still be allowed, "provided that the Government or an officer authorized by it in this behalf may grant permission to an agriculturist to alienate



■ NISSAR AHMAD

the land to a non-agriculturist by way of sale, gift, exchange or mortgage".

The government can allow the transfer of agricultural land to a public trust for charitable work, healthcare, education, industrial or commercial purposes. A Board of Revenue headed by a Financial Commissioner has been constituted and a fresh clause defining "agricultural land" as land which is used or is capable of being used for agriculture and allied activities, including fallow land, has been inserted. The amendment deletes the "permanent resident" provision in the 1970 Act that provided housing sites within the range of 25-30 square metres to permanent residents belonging to "economically weaker section" and "low income groups". Now, economically deprived people from all parts of the country will be eligible for such housing sites.

A fresh provision has been added, by which the government, on the written request of an Army officer not below the rank of a Corps Commander, may declare an area as a "strategic area" for direct operational and training requirements of the armed forces.

It also creates the Jammu and Kashmir Industrial Development Corporation for establishing commercial centres and industries in the UT. The Corporation shall consist of twelve directors, four of whom could be

nominated from the private sector with experience in "industry or trade or finance". The Corporation will have the power to acquire movable and immovable property, and to lease, sell, exchange or transfer any property held by it. If the Corporation is unable to acquire land by an agreement, the government could order proceedings under the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 and acquire the land for "public purpose". No court can take cognisance relating to property vested in the Corporation, except when the Corporation files a complaint. No legal suit can be filed against officials of the Corporation without a prior notice of two months and not later than six months from the date of complaint.

## MALABAR 2020

# The coming together of the Quad in the seas

Australia will join India, Japan and U.S. in the annual military exercises this week as the countries seek to deepen their maritime cooperation

DINAKAR PERI

**L**ater this week, frontline warships from India, Australia, Japan and the U.S. will team up off the coast of Visakhapatnam in the Bay of Bengal to carry out advanced manoeuvres, including surface, anti-submarine and anti-air warfare operations, cross-deck flying, seamanship evolutions and weapon firing exercises under Phase-I of Malabar 2020. This is the first time since 2007 that the four countries are together in the Malabar naval exercise. While the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) between the four has no military dimension, they are now teaming up to exercise together under the Malabar banner.

## In Focus

■ Malabar began as a simple Passage Exercise (PASSEX) in 1992 between the Navies of India and the U.S.

■ After having hit a pause in 1998 following India's nuclear test, the drill resumed in 2002 and since then, it has become an annual exercise

■ Over the years, the exercise grew in scope with both sides featuring submarines and aircraft carriers. It got converted into a trilateral drill with Japan's inclusion in 2015

+

AMY CONEY BARRETT

## Justice is conservative

The confirmation of the Trump-nominee could have a lasting impact on SC

NARAYAN LAKSHMAN

**B**y confirming Amy Coney Barrett, a judge from the Seventh Circuit of the U.S. Court of Appeals, as the ninth judge of the Supreme Court, the Republican-majority Senate has not only stacked the cards of American jurisprudence broadly in favour of conservative ideals, but has also ensured that in the event that the outcome of the 2020 election is decided in court, there will be one more supporter of President Donald Trump ruling on that decision.

Never in U.S. history has a Supreme Court justice been confirmed this close to an election – nearly 80 million early votes have already been cast ahead of Voting Day on November 3 – and rarely has such a confirmation come without a single vote of support from the opposition party in the Senate. Judge Barrett was confirmed almost entirely on partisan lines by a vote of 52 Republicans for and 47 Democrats against, with a single Republican, Susan Collins of Maine, crossing the floor to vote nay. The Supreme Judges are now 6-3 favouring the conservatives.

**Political leanings**  
Her political leanings became apparent early, when she went on to hold two high-profile conservative clerkships, one of them with the late Supreme Court Justice and conservative stalwart Antonin Scalia, during



vote. So, who is Ms. Barrett, the youngest judge on the Supreme Court today, whose apotheosis has tipped the scales of American justice so dramatically in one direction? Growing up in Metairie, Louisiana, just outside the vibrant city of New Orleans, Ms. Barrett attended St. Mary's Dominican High School, a Catholic girls' school, and in 1994 graduated from Rhodes College, a liberal arts college in Tennessee associated with the Presbyterian Church. After graduating, Ms. Barrett attended law school at Notre Dame, where her outstanding academic record by 1997 won her wide recognition and plaudits.

**Political leanings**  
Her political leanings became apparent early, when she went on to hold two high-profile conservative clerkships, one of them with the late Supreme Court Justice and conservative stalwart Antonin Scalia, during

2005-06 and 2014-17. Her conservative Christian leanings were also revealed in a law review article she wrote earlier, on "Catholic Judges in Capital Cases," which studied the impact of the Catholic moral principles in U.S. laws relating to the death penalty, abortion and euthanasia. In that article, she is said to have described the prohibitions on abortion and euthanasia as "absolute" because they "take away innocent life".

The extent of her political and religious leanings began to emerge more clearly into the spotlight when she was quizzed on this article at her Seventh Circuit confirmation hearing, principally by Senator Dianne Feinstein of California, who said to Ms. Barrett in a now-viral exchange, "The conclusion one draws is that the dogma lives loudly within you. And that's of concern when you come to big issues that large numbers of people have fought for years in this country."

Today, at 48 years of age, Ms. Barrett is the youngest judge on the Supreme Court. The mother of seven, who has also been closely scrutinised for being a member of People of Praise, a charismatic Catholic sect which some say relegates women to inferior roles in its structure and society, has decades to leave her imprint on U.S. Supreme Court. The quality of justice, as Americans know it, might look very different by the time her tenure ends.

with China in eastern Ladakh had an impact in changing New Delhi's view.

The participants of Malabar 2020 are engaging to enhance safety and security in the maritime domain, the MoD statement said. "They collectively support free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific and remain committed to a rules-based international

.....

**India, which was initially reluctant to invite Australia to Malabar, changed its mind in August against the backdrop of the ongoing tensions with China in eastern Ladakh**

.....

This comes after a Ministry of Defence (MoD) statement on October 17, which said: "As India seeks to increase cooperation with other countries in the maritime security domain and in the light of increased defence cooperation with Australia, Malabar 2020 will see the participation of the Australian Navy." The exercise is being held in two phases with Phase-I from November 3 to 6 and Phase-II from November 17 to 20 in the Arabian Sea.

For over three years, New Delhi was reluctant to accept Canberra's request to join Malabar as an observer. The first indication of a change in view came in June when officials signalled that there was a rethink. A key meeting in the MoD in August took an in-principle decision to invite Australia for this year's exercise, pending a formal announcement. Experts believe the ongoing stand-off

ing. Both were quickly disbanded after sharp reaction from China.

**History of the drill**  
Malabar began as a simple Passage Exercise (PASSEX) in 1992 between the Navies of India and the U.S. and hit a pause in 1998 after India's nuclear tests in Pokhran, to resume again in 2002. Since then, it has become an annual feature.

"The 2003 Malabar was seminal, since it not only graduated from the uni/two-dimensional level to a three-dimensional exercise (involving surface, sub-surface and air platforms), but also included Visit Board Search and Seizure (VBSS) missions against suspect vessels," wrote Gurpreet S. Khurana, executive director, National Maritime Foundation, in an issue brief, 'Malabar Naval exercises: trends and tribulations', dated August 5, 2014.

"Such operations may be necessary to curb terrorist use of sea transportation, including for trafficking of weapons of mass destruction (WMD)."

Both sides fielded submarines for the first time in 2003 and aircraft carriers in 2005 – USS *Nimitz* and INS *Viraat*. Over the years, the exercise grew in scope and complexity. It got converted into a trilateral exercise with Japan's inclusion in 2015.

Phase-I of Malabar 2020 will see participation of U.S.-guided missile destroyer USS *John S McCain*, Australian long-range frigate HMAS Ballarat with integral MH-60 helicopter and Japanese destroyer JS *Onami* with integral SH-60 helicopter.

Indian Navy is fielding destroyer INS *Ranviraj*, stealth frigate INS *Shivalik*, off-shore



patrol vessel INS *Sukanya*, fleet support ship INS *Shakti* and submarine INS *Sindhuraj*, a Sindhughosh-class Russian Kilo-class diesel-electric submarine. Hawk Advanced Jet Trainer, P-8I long-range maritime patrol aircraft, Dornier maritime patrol aircraft, and helicopters will also be participating in the exercise. Officials were quiet about the flotilla for Phase-II.

China gave a restrained response on the announcement. Asked about Australia's inclusion in Malabar, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said in Beijing that they "noticed" this development and China believes military cooperation between countries should be "conducive to regional peace and stability".

## Military cooperation

While New Delhi may have been reluctant to let Australia into Malabar, it has quietly improved its military cooperation with each of the Quad countries bilaterally. Information exchange for enhanced Maritime Domain Awareness is a prominent theme for the Indian Navy with increased presence of

Chinese Navy in the Indian Ocean.

Since 2008, China has maintained regular presence in the Indian Ocean Region in the name of anti-piracy patrols and even deployed submarines for the purpose. In 2017, China formally opened its first overseas base in Djibouti, in the Horn of Africa.

This has also brought a change in the Navy's operational philosophy in the last few years with its mission-based deployments, a series of logistics support agreements to increase operational turnaround in the region

and beyond and other foreign cooperation and capacity building activities. The Malabar and cooperation with the U.S. is one of the many strands being pursued. There are also other regional organisations such as the Indian Ocean Rim Association and the Goa Maritime Conclave that India is actively engaging.

This is the first Malabar exercise since India signed mutual logistics pacts with all three countries. India has also now signed all the four foundational or enabling agreements with the U.S., which takes interoperability several notches higher, not just with the U.S. but also with Australia and Japan.

For instance, during the past Malabar exercises, to enable encrypted communication, the U.S. would install its encrypted communication kits, CENTRIXS (Combined Enterprise Regional Information Exchange System), onboard Indian ships. India got access to these systems after it signed the Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCAS) in 2018.

In March 2019, Indian the Navy and the U.S. Navy signed a loan agreement and installed two Pacific fleet-provided CENTRIXS kits at the Indian Navy headquarters, said Ellen Lord, U.S. Under Secretary of Defence for Acquisition and Sustainment, in November last year.

More systems have been added in a variety of places and platforms though officials declined to give a specific number. This will enable seamless communication with all participants of Malabar.

An interesting aspect of India's deployment is that a Russian origin submarine, U.S. origin long-range submarine-hunting aircraft, U.K. origin trainer aircraft and indigenous stealth frigate armed with a mixed armament package will be exercising with the U.S. and its allies. While all eyes are on the exercise, the question is whether Australia's participation this year is a one-off incident or it will continue to be part of Malabar going forward. The MoD has stated that Australia will be part of Malabar 2020 but has not commented on the future.

## SINGLES DAY

## Live, from Beijing

The online shopping festival offers a lifeline to brands in a pandemic year

ANANTH KRISHNAN

**B**uy! Buy! Buy! screamed Li Jiaqi into his smartphone. As the 28-year-old logged on to livestream his latest sales session on October 21, broadcast on Taobao, China's biggest online sales platform owned by the e-commerce giant Alibaba, a few million viewers were already waiting for him. By the time he logged off some seven hours later, hawking cosmetics and other products from some of the world's leading luxury brands, there were an incredible 160 million people tuning in to watch Mr. Li. In that one day alone in October, Mr. Li and another popular livestreamer Wei Ya, who had close to 100 million viewers on her Taobao show, recorded \$100 million in sales, according to Chinese media reports.

The October 21 sales session was itself only a prelude to the big event – the annual upcoming festival in China that has come to be known as 'Singles Day', because it is marked on November 11, a subtle dig at the other more popular global commercial event that falls on February 14, Valentine's Day.

This year, November 11 has taken on special significance both for consumers and the Chinese economy as a whole. Online shopping, in particular driven by this year's livestreaming sales – which owes its popularity to offering significant dis-



counts – has emerged as an unlikely driver of domestic spending, with millions of Chinese remaining homebound through months of lockdown. It has been the lifeline for brands that have been struggling in a pandemic year and are increasingly counting on the revival of the Chinese economy to bounce back.

## In the business of fame

Ahead of November 11, Mr. Li and Ms. Wei are perhaps the two most in-demand Chinese celebrities, as newly minted as they are in the business of fame. Mr. Li's rise has been as rapid as that of the wave of online consumerism that has carried him to fame and fortune, sweeping him from a small shopping mall in the city of Nanjing, where he worked on the sales floor offering lipsticks to shoppers, to overnight stardom as a live-streaming star.

Last November 11, Mr. Li was invited by Jack Ma, Ali-

baba's celebrity founder, for a joint live sales session. He netted Alibaba 1 billion yuan (around \$145 million) in sales. He may well break that record this year, notwithstanding the COVID-19-caused economic slump.

Everything about the scale of "Double 11" is staggering. Over 24 hours on 'Singles Day' last year, Chinese shoppers spent \$60 billion, according to a report, with Alibaba's Taobao leading the way and its local rivals Jingdong and other Chinese retailers all grabbing a share of the pie. This year, Alibaba's logistics arm Cainiao will charter around 700 flights, reported the Hong Kong-based *South China Morning Post* (which is, incidentally, owned by Mr. Ma's Alibaba).

China's Communist Party is actively encouraging this festival of capitalism and consumerism. Indeed, this online boom is in many ways key to China's push to boost domestic consumption as a driver of economic growth. That ambition has taken on ever greater urgency following COVID-19. China's economy was alone among major global economies by expanding 4.9% from a year earlier in the July-September period, up from 3.2% in the second quarter and an unprecedented 6.8% contraction in the first quarter when China was still reeling from the coronavirus outbreak, which began in Wuhan in December.

**Silver lining**  
The revival, however, has been driven largely by government spending and a 5.8% growth in industrial production in September, enabled by a surge in investments in infrastructure projects. The government is aware this is unsustainable, as it has worsened an already ballooning debt problem. The recovery in consumption was one silver lining, growing 3.3% in September, but still down 7.2% year-on-year over three quarters. A sustained revival in spending will be key to China's economic turnaround.

Every year, 'Singles Day' has emerged as something of an unofficial barometer of the health of China's consumer economy. Indeed, that is all the more true this year as November 11 comes around, with the fate of China's economy riding on whether consumers will, when Mr. Li urges them on November 11, buy, buy and buy.

# All-round Hyderabad ensures the sun does not set on its campaign

After bowlers restrict Royal Challengers to 120 for seven, batsmen chase target down with 5.5 overs to spare; despite the loss, Kohli's side remains second

## IPL 2020

### SPORTS BUREAU

Sunrisers Hyderabad took control of its IPL destiny, beating Royal Challengers Bangalore by five wickets at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium on Saturday. The win places the side fourth (12 points), but with a more-than-healthy net run rate of 0.555, all it needs is a victory over Mumbai Indians on the final day to make the playoffs.

**The RCB-DC shoot-out**  
RCB, too, has its fate in its hands, despite squandering three opportunities to record the solitary win it needs. Monday's game against Delhi Capitals will likely be a shoot-out.

Chasing 121, Manish Pandey (26, 19b, 3x4, 1x6) and Wriddhiman Saha (39, 32b, 4x4, 1x6) carried SRH to 58 for one in the PowerPlay. But Yuzvendra Chahal broke through in the seventh over by having Pandey caught by

Chris Morris running in from long-on.

The wily leggie then had Saha stumped, before Isuru Udana got Kane Williamson to turn a routine run chase into a tense one.

But the burly Jason Holder came up with an unbeaten 10-ball 26 that contained three maximums, all on the leg-side and all off the back-foot. Nineteen runs came off one Navdeep Saini over, releasing all pressure.

Chahal, who had bowled a dream first spell (3-0-13-2), was held back by Virat Kohli, and it was all over one ball into his reintroduction in the 15th over.

Earlier, after being put in, the RCB batsmen, Kohli and A.B. de Villiers included, looked staid and unadventurous – albeit on a sticky wicket – and allowed SRH to bowl a whopping 50 dot balls.

**Superb spell**  
Sandeep Sharma's splendid first spell (3-0-13-2) pegged RCB back as it scored just 30

runs in the PowerPlay. He rearranged Devdutt Padikkal's stumps and snapped up Kohli on the drive. It was the seventh time Sandeep had dismissed Kohli in the IPL.

Josh Philippe (32, 31b, 4x4) improvised, with flat-batted strokes and sweeps.

But the young Aussie and de Villiers were dismissed in a span of five deliveries, to leave RCB reeling at 76 for four.

From there, RCB added just 44 more, with the 27 it scored in the last five overs the lowest by a team batting first this IPL.

For the IPL scorecards and points table, scan the QR code



**Heavyweight performance:** Sandeep, second from right, took the key wicket of Kohli. ■ BCCI/IPL

## SCOREBOARD

### ROYAL CHALLENGERS

Josh Philippe c Pandey b Rashid 32 (31b, 4x4), Devdutt Padikkal b Sandeep 5 (8b, 1x4), Virat Kohli c Williamson b Sandeep 7 (7b), A.B. de Villiers c Abhishek b Nadeem 24 (24b, 1x4, 1x6), Washington Sundar c & b Natarajan 21 (18b, 2x4), Gurkeerat Mann (not out) 15 (24b, 1x4), Chris Morris c Warner b Holder 3 (4b), Isuru Udana c Williamson b Holder 0 (1b), Mohammed Siraj (not out) 2 (3b); Extras (b-1, lb-2, w-8); 11; Total (for seven wkt. in 20 overs): 120.

### FALL OF WICKETS

1-10 (Warner, 1.2), 2-60 (Pandey, 6.4), 3-82 (Saha, 10.6), 4-87 (Williamson, 12.1), 5-114 (Abhishek, 13.5).

### RCB BOWLING

Morris 2-0-19-0, Washington 3-0-21-1, Saini 2-0-30-1, Siraj 1-0-12-0, Chahal 3.1-0-19-2, Udana 3-0-20-1.

### Toss: SRH; MoM: Sandeep.

SRH won by five wickets with 5.5 overs to spare.

### Innings scan

RCB	SRH
50	Dots 35
9	Fours 8
1	Sixes 7
30/2	PP 58/1
6.00	RR 8.54

## MI extends DC's slide, secures top-two finish

Boult, Bumrah and Ishan star in nine-wicket rout; Shreyas' men suffer fourth straight loss

### SPORTS BUREAU

Despite the contrasting recent form of the teams involved, both in with a theoretical chance of finishing No. 1 at the end of the league. Saturday's fixture between Mumbai Indians and Delhi Capitals, however, turned out to be one of the biggest mismatches of the tournament.

A nine-wicket mauling, with 34 balls to spare, at the Dubai International Stadium, assured MI of a top-two finish. DC, after its fourth loss on the trot, is stuck at 14 points and will have to beat Royal Challengers Bangalore to ensure a smooth passage into the playoffs. With Rohit Sharma still unfit, Kieron Pollard led MI in its 200th IPL game and opted to chase. DC captain Shreyas Iyer had a smile on his face, however, since his camp was keen on setting a target.

**Sharp catch**  
The smiles evaporated in no time when in-form Shikhar Dhawan's uppish cut off Trent Boult in the opening over resulted in a sharp catch at point by Suryakumar Yadav. By the end of the PowerPlay, the MI bowlers had DC running for cover.

Shreyas (25) and Rishabh Pant (21) continued to struggle to find batting rhythm. Their 35-run stand off 44 balls eventually ended when the skipper was stumped off leggie Rahul Chahar.

In the next over, Jasprit Bumrah struck twice. He got rid of Marcus Stoinis with one that rose and moved off a



**Miss and hit:** Shreyas Iyer loses his balance and Quinton de Kock does the rest. ■ BCCI/IPL

good length and followed it up by juggling one back into Pant to trap him in front. At 62 for five in the 12th over, the fizz had gone out DC's innings and the lower-order eventually trundled to 110 for nine. Early wickets were the need of the hour if DC had to avoid damage to its net run rate. Openers Ishan Kishan

(72 no., 47b, 8x4, 3x6) and de Kock (26, 28b, 2x4) prevented that, punishing the loose balls to make sure the chase never lost momentum. Although de Kock was dismissed after a 68-run stand, Ishan carried on and completed the formalities with a whip off Anrich Nortje for his third six of the day.

**Points table**

Team	M	W	L	PTS	NRR
Mumbai Indians (Q)	13	9	4	18	1.296
Royal Challengers	13	7	6	14	-0.145
Delhi Capitals	13	7	6	14	-0.159
Sunrisers Hyderabad	13	6	7	12	0.555
Kings XI Punjab	13	6	7	12	-0.133
Rajasthan Royals	13	6	7	12	-0.377
Kolkata Knight Riders	13	6	7	12	-0.467
Chennai Super Kings	13	5	8	10	-0.532

After the RCB-SRH match on Oct. 31 Q: Qualified

### Top of the charts

#### ORANGE CAP

K.L. RAHUL (KXIP)

Matches: 13 | Runs: 641

HS: 132\* | SR: 130.54

#### PURPLE CAP

JASPRIT BUMRAH (MI)

Matches: 13 | Wickets: 23

BB: 4/20 | Econ: 6.96

Kagiso Rabada (DC) also has 23 wickets, but his economy rate is 8.19

After the RCB-SRH match on Oct. 31

### Innings scan

DC	MI
62	Dots 32
7	Fours 11
3	Sixes 3
22/2	PP 38/0
5.50	RR 7.74

### Next assignment

DC: Nov. 2 vs. RCB Abu Dhabi, 7.30 p.m. IST

MI: Nov. 3 vs. SRH Sharjah, 7.30 p.m. IST

## SCOREBOARD

### DELHI CAPITALS

Prithvi Shaw c de Kock b Boult 10 (11b, 2x4), Shikhar Dhawan c Suryakumar b Boult 0 (2b), Shreyas Iyer st. de Kock b Rahul Chahar 25 (29b, 1x4, 1x6), Rishabh Pant lbw b Bumrah 21 (24b, 2x4), Marcus Stoines c de Kock b Bumrah 2 (3b), Shrimon Hetmyer c Krunal b Coulter-Nile 11 (13b, 1x4), Harshal Patel lbw b Bumrah 5 (9b, 1x4), R. Ashwin c Krunal b Boult 12 (9b, 1x6), Praveen Dubey (not out) 7 (13b), Kagiso Rabada run out 12 (7b, 1x6); Extras (lb-3, w-2): 5; Total (for nine wkts. in 20 overs): 110.

### FALL OF WICKETS

1-1 (Dhawan, 0.3 overs), 2-15 (Shaw, 2.6), 3-50 (Shreyas Iyer, 10.2), 4-57 (Stoinis, 11.1), 5-62 (Pant, 11.4), 6-73 (Harshal, 13.6), 7-78 (Hetmyer, 15.2), 8-96 (Ashwin, 18.1), 9-110 (Rabada, 19.6).

### MUMBAI INDIANS BOWLING

Boult 4-0-21-3, Krunal 3-0-13-0, Jayant Yadav 3-0-18-0, Bumrah 4-0-17-3, Coulter-Nile 2-0-14-1, Rahul Chahar 4-0-24-1.

### MUMBAI INDIANS

Ishan Kishan (not out) 72 (47b, 8x4, 3x6), Quinton de Kock b Nortje 26 (28b, 2x4), Suryakumar Yadav (not out) 12 (11b, 1x4); Extras (w-1): 1; Total (for one wkt. in 14.2 overs): 111.

### FALL OF WICKET

1-68 (de Kock, 10.2), 2-102 (Coulter-Nile, 11.2).

### CAPITALS BOWLING

R. Ashwin 4-0-18-0, Rabada 3-0-27-0, Nortje 2-0-25-1, Stoines 1-0-4-0, Praveen Dubey 3-0-29-0, Harshal 1-0-8-0.

### Toss: MI. MoM: Ishan Kishan.

MI won by nine wickets with 34 balls to spare.

## It's do-or-die for Rahul's men

Need a win against Dhoni's side to remain in the race

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ABU DHABI

Playoff chances hanging in the balance, Kings XI Punjab will leave no stone unturned as it takes on Chennai Super Kings here on Sunday.

KXIP's chances of a top-four finish took a serious hit after the seven-wicket defeat to Rajasthan Royals, snapping an impressive five-match winning streak. That defeat means even a win against CSK will not ensure a playoff spot.

CSK, already out of the reckoning for the first time ever, will aim to end its dismal campaign on a positive note. The M.S. Dhoni-led team heads into the clash after notching up back-to-back wins over RCB and KKR.

With skipper Rahul, the leading run-scorer of the

tournament, and the flamboyant Chris Gayle coming good and the marauding Nicholas Pooran at No 4, KXIP will fancy its chances at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium.

CSK's 23-year-old Ruturaj Gaikwad has shown a lot of spark, notching up back-to-

back fifties to set up the wins against RCB and KKR.

Ravindra Jadeja has been in fantastic form. The CSK bowling unit, boosted by the inclusion of New Zealand spinner Mitchell Santner, has done well in the previous two outings.

### TODAY'S MATCHES



ABU DHABI, 3.30 P.M. IST

#### HEAD-TO-HEAD

Played: 22

CSK 13 | KXIP 9

#### FORM GUIDE

(last five matches, latest game first)

CSK W W L L L L

KXIP L W W W W W



DUBAI, 7.30 P.M. IST

#### HEAD-TO-HEAD

Played: 21

Panghal,  
Sanjeet, Ashish  
win gold

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

World silver-medallist Amit Panghal (52kg) and Sanjeet (91kg) struck gold on Friday in their first competition after the coronavirus-forced break, at the Alexis Vastine international boxing tournament in Nantes.

Panghal defeated American Rene Abraham 3-0. Sanjeet beat Frenchman Soheb Bouafia.

In the 75kg category, Ashish Kumar also claimed gold after his opponent, American Joseph Jerome Hicks, pulled out due to injury.

Kavinder Singh Bisht (57kg) won silver after losing to Samuel Kistohury in a split 2-1 verdict.

India had earlier secured three bronze medals through Shiva Thapa (63kg), Sumit Sangwan (81kg) and Satish Kumar (+91kg).

## BTC's winter racing season from today

**BENGALURU:** After a long hiatus forced by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Bangalore Turf Club (BTC) witnesses a return to action with the start of the winter racing season on Sunday, BTC announced here.

A total prize money of ₹1,31,56,799 is on offer for the five race days (November 1, 7, 14, 21 and 28).

The BTC will announce the conventions for the online betting mechanism soon. In accordance with government rules, members of the general public will not be permitted to attend the races.

All government-mandated Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) will be in place to ensure the safety of all involved personnel.

# Bottas snatches pole in dramatic style

Beats Hamilton by the narrowest of margins in the final seconds of qualifying

## IMOLA GP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
IMOLA

the final seconds.

### Verstappen third

Max Verstappen was third for Red Bull ahead of his former team-mate Pierre Gasly of Alpha Tauri, Daniel Ricciardo of Renault and Alex Albon in the second Red Bull.

Charles Leclerc took seventh for Ferrari with Daniil Kvyat eighth in the second Alpha Tauri ahead of the two McLarens of Lando Norris and Carlos Sainz.

The Finn, who is 77 points adrift of series leader and six-time champion Hamilton with five races remaining in this year's title, grabbed the prime grid position by a tenth of a second.

Hamilton, who was fastest in the only practice in the morning, had been on top through most of the qualifying session and took provisional pole on his first run in Q3 before Bottas beat him in



**Gung ho:** Valtteri Bottas jumps out of his Mercedes after pipping teammate Lewis Hamilton to the pole. ■ AP

## Hamilton still has vivid Senna memories

He returns to Imola now as F1's new holder of most Grand Prix wins

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
IMOLA



Lewis Hamilton. ■ AFP



Ayrton Senna. ■ FILE PHOTO: AFP

GP.

### Special lap

"I went around today and it was a really special lap just going around seeing this historic track, passing the hard reminder of where Ayrton crashed."

"It is very surreal still for me when I go to places, where you drive through the tunnel in Monaco or you drive at the British GP where you know that the greatest in the past have raced at those places," the Mercedes driver added. "That's heart-warming to know that I was able to be here and do what he was doing 26 years ago."

Mercedes can clinch a record seventh consecutive constructors' title on Sunday unless Red Bull out-scores it by 34 points – something Red Bull hasn't done in more than four years.

## WI begins two-week quarantine in NZ

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
CHRISTCHURCH

West Indies has begun a two-week quarantine here after clearing the first health test on arrival in New Zealand ahead of their T20I and Test series, starting November 27.

All squad members, apart from the players participating in the ongoing Indian Premier League in the UAE, assembled in Barbados on Tuesday. Test skipper Jason Holder and T20 captain Kieran Pollard will join their teammates after the IPL. From Barbados, the players flew to London followed by Dubai before touching down in Auckland. They, then, made a short trip to Christchurch – where they will quarantine before commencing training.

## TV PICKS

### Emilia Romagna Grand Prix:

Main race, SS Select 2 HD & Star Sports 3 (SD & HD), 5.30 p.m., 7.30 p.m. & 1.15 a.m. (Monday) Sony Ten 2 & Six (SD & HD) 10.30 p.m.

**Premier League:** SS Select 2 SD 5.30 p.m.; SD & HD, 7.30 p.m., 10 p.m. & 12.45 a.m.

(Monday)  
**Serie A:** Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 5 p.m., 7.30 p.m. & 1.15 a.m. (Monday) Sony Ten 2 & Six (SD & HD) 10.30 p.m.  
**PGA Tour:** Eurosport (SD & HD), 9.40 p.m.

## IN BRIEF



Halep tests positive for COVID-19

PARIS

Simona Halep has tested positive for COVID-19 and the former women's tennis World

No. 1 said on Saturday that she was "recovering well and feels good". The 29-year-old Romanian made the announcement on Twitter. Halep, the reigning Wimbledon champion, wrote: "Hi everyone, I wanted to let you know that I tested positive for COVID-19. I am self-isolating at home and am recovering well from mild symptoms. I feel good." AFP



Sonego stuns Djokovic

VIENNA

Novak Djokovic was knocked out of the Vienna ATP tournament by Italian lucky loser Lorenzo Sonego on Friday, stalling his bid to wrap up the year-end World No. 1 ranking for a sixth time.

Sonego's 6-2, 6-1 quarterfinal triumph means Djokovic will have to wait a little longer before he completes the formality of equalling Pete Sampras' all-time record of ending the season top of the rankings for a sixth time. AFP

### Rutuja enters final

NEW DELHI  
Fifth seed Rutuja Bhosale fought her way past Romana Cisovska of Slovakia 4-6, 6-4, 7-5 in the semifinals of the \$15,000 ITF women's tennis tournament in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, on Saturday.

Armour and Wyndham Clark. However, Arjun Atwal's 70 left him three-over even as the cut fell at one-over. PTI



## Mumbai City signs Horam and Naorem

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI

Mumbai City FC on Saturday announced the signing of mid-fielders Chanso Horam and Naorem Ton-dombra Singh, both penning deals that will keep them at the club until 2024.

As a part of their development, the duo will be loaned out for the 2020-21 campaign with 18-year old Chanso Horam heading to TRAU FC and Naorem going to new I-League entrant Sudeva FC, a media release issued here said.

Both are promising mid-fielders.

Head coach Sergio Lobera described the duo as exceptional talent, with an ability to influence the game from the middle of the park.

## Sumariwalla's election ratified

AFI AGM focuses on Tokyo Games preparations

UTHRA GANESAN  
GURUGRAM

As expected, Adille Sumariwalla's election unopposed as the AFI president for a third term was ratified on Day 1 of the federation's AGM here on Saturday, as were all the other posts in the Executive Council. But the focus of the meeting remained firmly on preparations for the Tokyo Olympics next year and curbing doping and age-fraud at all levels.

While admitting that COVID-19 related uncertainty and anxiety needed to be handled seriously and sensitively, the AFI sought more proactive measures from states and districts on ensuring resumption of training.

However, with most of the



Adille Sumariwalla. ■ FILE PHOTO

elite athletes already in training at SAI Centres across the country, the AFI also expressed concern at the lack of information and a clear roadmap for training in the coming months. The AFI also sought details of injuries and progress of those at Patiala including shot-putter Tejinderpal Singh Toor, Neeraj Chopra and Hima Das.

Meanwhile, with no con-

tests for any of the posts, all nominations were confirmed unanimously, including that of Ravinder Chaudhary as secretary of the Athletics Federation of India and Anju Bobby George as the senior vice-president.

Besides Anju, the 2003 long jump bronze medallist at the World Championships – India's lone medallist till date in the competition – the other women elected to the Executive Council include former long-distance runner Suman Rawat Mehta (vice-president), former middle-distance runner C. Latha (joint secretary) and A. Hyma (member), as per the amended AFI constitution. The outgoing EC had no elected woman member.

Meanwhile, with no con-

through the back door, is very disheartening."

### Move defended

A. Rajavelu, KAA secretary, defended the move and said the presence of a popular name like Anju will "boost the brand of KAA". He also claimed that the 43-year-old was recently elected senior vice-president of the Chikkaballapur district body and thus there was no illegality.

"She might be from Kerala but she is now well settled in Bengaluru," Rajavelu said. "We aren't against greats of Karnataka nor do we ignore our senior administrators. Last year we ensured that Uday K. Prabhu was part of the Indian selection committee."

"Anju is the first-ever Indian to win a medal at the World Athletics Championship. For her to be vice-president of AFI and represent KAA will be a proud moment for us," he added.

Anju was unavailable for comment.

If she had been actively involved in Chikkaballapur, we would have had no problem. But she has figured in no capacity there. As per the RTI papers we have, Chikkaballapur hasn't even held its AGM and renewed its registration.

We have no dearth of international athletes here, starting from Kenneth Powell. So, for them to be overlooked is very disappointing. This also questions Anju's integrity. Kerala would have been fine. But to do it in such a manner,

Anju was unavailable for comment.

**Sports Cube Academy enters the semifinals**

Haryana Ranji player Sumit Kumar's unbeaten 80 and Rahul Dagar's 53 helped Sports Cube Academy beat Niz Sports by six wickets and enter the semifinals of the YS Sports T20 cricket tournament.

**The scores:** Niz Sports 186/5 in 20 overs (Himanshu Rana 72, Akshay Saini 42, Rahul Dagar 37) lost to Sports Cube Academy 190/4 in 19.4 overs (Sumit Kumar 80 n.o., Rahul Dagar 53, Akhil Kohar 2/26).

**Ayush, Abhishek and Rocky shine** Ayush Doseja and Abhishek Gupta scored unbeaten half-centuries and left-arm spinner and Man-of-the-match Rocky Nagar picked up five wickets to help Ravi Brothers defeat City

Hawk (II) P.P. Dhebe 54.5, 1. ICONIC PRINCESS, 2. CHALLENGE STAR, 3. AIR FORCE ONE

**3 ALtenburg Plate** (Div. II), 1 maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 1.30 p.m.: 1. Arabian Mist (7) Neeraj 57, 2. Dream Chaser (8) R. Manish 57, 3. Forever Together (4) Suraj 57, 4. Jaga Daku (10) T.S. Jodha 57, 5. Stizzler (9) Darshan 57, 6. Allabouther (12) Zervan 55, 7. Aztec Queen (2) Kiran Rai 55, 8. Captain Gain (6) P.P. Dhebe 55, 9. Drusilla (9) Sandesh 55, 10. Mistleto (5) Antony 55, 11. Valour (3) Arshad 55 and 12. Watchmystars (11) Trevor 55.

**1 Kentucky Plate** (I,400m), 1 maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 1. Arabian Mist (7) Neeraj 57, 2. Dream Chaser (8) R. Manish 57, 3. Forever Together (4) Suraj 57, 4. Jaga Daku (10) T.S. Jodha 57, 5. Stizzler (9) Darshan 57, 6. Allabouther (12) Zervan 55, 7. Aztec Queen (2) Kiran Rai 55, 8. Captain Gain (6) P.P. Dhebe 55, 9. Drusilla (9) Sandesh 55, 10. Mistleto (5) Antony 55, 11. Valour (3) Arshad 55 and 12. Watchmystars (11) Trevor 55.

**1 FOREVER TOGETHER, 2. DRUSILLA, 3. WATCHMYSTARS**

**2 INAUGURATION PLATE** (I,200m), rated 00 to 20, 2.00: 1. Challenging Star (7) A. Imran 60, 2. Definitive (2) Ankit Yadav 60, 3. Desert Mirage (3) Kiran Rai 60, 4. Rock Girl (10) Jagadeesh 60, 5. Special Stone (12) M. Naveen 60, 6. Estrella (1) J.H. Arul 59.5, 7. Heavenly Angel (9) Darshan 59.5, 8. Elite Agent (8) Barish 57.5, 9. Iconic Princess (6) Trevor 57.5, 10. Air Force One (4) Rayan 57, 11. Ruler Of Nation (5) Irvan 55.5 and 12. Black

**5 VIDHANA, 6 SOUDHA, 7 CUP** (I,200m), rated 60 & above, 3.30: 1. Silver Ikon (2) B. Dharsan 63, 2. Attorney General (8) S. John 59, 3. Psychic Warrior (3) Kiran Rai 59, 4. Manchester (4) Arshad 57, 5. Set To Win (6) M. Naveen 57, 6. Depth Charge (1) Sai Kiran 54.5, 7. Mongolian (2) Sal Kiran 59, 8. Desert (8) Ashish Asbar 58.5, 9. Lady Nectar (7) Rayan 58.5, 10. Cameleons Image (2) A. Imran 58, 11. Polar Express (10) Arshad 58, 9. Bahurupi (9) Naveen 57.5, 10. High Priestess (1) Trevor 56.5, 11. Fortune (2) Afzar Khan 55.5 and 12. Southern Power (4) P.P. Dhebe 55.

**1. SUN SPLASH, 2. HIGH PRIESTESS, 3. CAMELEONS IMAGE**

**4 RANGANATHITTU PLATE** (I,200m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 3.00: 1. Cavallini (1) A. Imran 57, 2. Daring Boy (5) R. Pradeep 57, 3. Golden Memory (1) Darshan 57, 4. Impeccable (3) Suraj 57, 5. Java Peninsula (9) P.P. Dhebe 57, 6. Little Joe (8) Rayan 57, 7. Manifest (4) D. Patel 57, 8. Papal Decree (2) Trevor 57, 9. Perfect Perfect (12) T.S. Jodha 57, 10. Amplify (6) Antony 55.5, 11. Michigan Melody (10) Kiran Rai 55 and 12. Prerana (7) Irvan 55.

**1. PERFECT PERFECTO, 2. CAVALLINI, 3. PAPAL DECREE**

**7 BELGAUM PLATE** (I,400m), rated 30 to 50, 4.30: 1. Astral Force (4) Chetan K 60, 2. Johnny Bravo (8) Trevor 60, 3. Queen Of Sands (10) R. Manish 60, 4. Schafenberg (2) Zervan 55, 5. Born Queen (5) Salman 58, 6. Baltimore (9) Antony 57.5, 7. Alexandre Dumas (3) Sal Kiran 57, 8. Black Whizz (1) T.S. Jodha 57, 9. Classic Charm (6) Darshan 57, 10. Striking Memory (1) Jagadeesh 57, 11. Indian Democrat (12) Neeraj 56.5 and 12. Ozark (7) Tauseef 55