

Umar veteran of sedition, say police in riots chargesheet

'He was the silent whisper behind first phase of violence in December 2019'

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH

NEW DELHI

Delhi Police, in a supplementary chargesheet in a north-east Delhi riots case, described former JNU student Umar Khalid as "a veteran of sedition" who "was the silent whisper" behind the first phase of the riots that took place in December 2019.



Umar Khalid

The supplementary chargesheet was filed against Umar, former JNU student Sharjeel Imam and one Faizan Khan under offences related to the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

This brought the total number of persons charged under the anti-terror law in connection with the north-east Delhi riots to 18.

The Delhi police said the "role of Umar Khalid in the present conspiracy finds first tangible manifestation on December 5, 2019, when on his direction, his disciple Sharjeel Imam had constituted MSJ (Muslim Students of JNU)". "The constitution of MSJ, its association with SOJ (Students of Jamia) and whatever happened thereafter in

Pan-Islamica and Ultra-Left anarchism which had incubated, nurtured and propagated the common conspiracy, all squarely aimed at violent subjugation of the government established by law". Umar Khalid had understood that the acceptance of Radical Islamist Groups and their political fronts could not exceed beyond the limits they had already achieved since their presence on the Indian landscape," the police added.

A conspiracy

It said that on the night of February 22, 2020, "in pursuance and furtherance of common conspiracy, on the direction of Umar Khalid and other key executors of the conspiracy, under the garb of women, led protest at 27/7 sit-in protest site near Madina Masjid, Seelampur, moved and occupied 66 Foot Road at Jaffrabad metro station, completely blocking traffic, i.e. Chakka Jaam".

The Delhi police further said that "Sharjeel Imam also conspired with other conspiring point of twin lines of

rators to threaten the unity, integrity and sovereignty of India through ideas and speeches which he delivered from December 13 last year and continued till January 23 this year".

"Accused Sharjeel Imam, in collusion with other conspirators, disrupted essential supplies and services for general public in Shaheen Bagh and instigated others to adopt his model of disruptive Chakka Jaam," the Delhi police said. "On January 2, 2020, Sharjeel Imam formally withdrew from Shaheen Bagh protest under the pretext of a classical Maoist strategy i.e. keep the movement mass-based and desire individualism [sic]," the police said.

"After having exited Shaheen Bagh and up to this date, Sharjeel Imam was not only spewing communal and seditious venom in cities and towns in the Hindi heartland of north India but was also visiting protest sites, arranging manpower and supervising the spread of this anti-national riot across Delhi," the Delhi police said.

The court also noted that

sanction for prosecution under Section 45 of the UAPA for offences under Sections 13 (Punishment for unlawful activities), 16 (Punishment for terrorist act), 17 (Punishment for raising funds for terrorist act), and 18 (Punishment for conspiracy) of the UAPA has been filed by the prosecution.

Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat made the remark after taking cognizance of a supplementary chargesheet filed by Delhi Police. "After perusal of the chargesheet and accompanying documents, there is sufficient material to proceed against accused persons Sharjeel Imam, Umar Khalid, and Faizan Khan for offences mentioned in the riot," the court said.

The court also noted that

Sikh Afghan refugee shot dead

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

A 70-year-old pradhan of a gurdwara was shot dead by two bike-borne men outside his house in west Delhi's Vikaspuri. No arrests have been made in the case yet, he police said on Tuesday.

DCP (West) Deepak Purohit said that the victim has been identified as Atam Singh, a refugee from Afghanistan, who had come to India 28 years ago and settled here. The probe revealed that he was one of the senior members managing the Anandpur Dham Gurudwara in Karala and was also dealing in sale purchase of property near the gurdwara.

Gandhi statue at Parliament to be relocated

Iconic 16-foot-high sculpture to be placed back after construction of new building

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI

The seated statue of Mahatma Gandhi at Parliament is set to be shifted to a temporary location to make way for the construction of a new Parliament building and would eventually be given a prominent place once the project is completed, government officials said.



A file photo of the Mahatma Gandhi statue at Parliament House. ■

Public Works Department (CPWD) said.

Walled off

A senior official said the construction site would be walled off and the statue was

in the way of the boundary. The site would be soundproofed as well, to allow Parliament to function during the 22-month construction of the new building, the official said. The eventual location of the statue in the new "legislative enclave" had been decided, the official added.

Another official said the decision on where to relocate the statue temporarily would be taken by the Lok Sabha Speaker and that construction would only start after the statue is moved.

The iconic 16-foot high statue of Gandhi greets visitors to Parliament House and is the site of gatherings, protests and press interactions by MPs.

"The statue of the Mahat-

ma in a meditating posture, sculpted by Ram Sutar, was unveiled by then President of India, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma on October 2, 1993. The statue was donated by the Ministry of Urban Development," according to the Rajya Sabha website.

As a part of the Centre's redevelopment of the nearly 3-km-long Central Vista from Rashtrapati Bhavan till India Gate, a triangular parliament building is set to be constructed. The CPWD awarded the construction and maintenance contract to Tata Projects Ltd. for ₹861 crore in September. The redevelopment also includes the construction of 10 new office buildings for the Common Central Secretariat and revamping of Rajpath.

The trees were supposed to be transplanted near the existing Parliament, close to the India Gate area. "Transplantation of 404 trees which are standing on the site shall be done by user agency at eight pockets in Central Vista," the permission for transplantation of the trees given by Delhi government on September 16,

'Tree transplantation for new Parliament violates govt. terms'

Trees are being taken 22 km away, which is against approval

NIKHIL M BABU
NEW DELHI

Trees being transplanted from a plot next to the current Parliament, for construction of a new Parliament project, says there are 333 trees on the plot and 233 of them need to be transplanted.

Sept. 16: Delhi government gives permission for 404 trees on the plot to be transplanted at eight pockets in Central Vista area. These pockets are close to India Gate, as per officials

Uprooted trees near Parliament, being taken for transplantation. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

What is happening now
• Large trees from the plot are being moved at night in trucks to NTPC Eco Park in Kalindi Kunj, about 22 km away. Transplantation of these trees happening here is in violation of the permission
• According to many workers, smaller trees are being moved to a plot in Kirti Nagar
• There is no official clarity on how many trees have been transplanted in the new locations so far

Transplantation row

What was decided then

June 17: Union Environment Ministry gives environmental clearance for the new Parliament project, says there are 333 trees on the plot and 233 of them need to be transplanted

Sept. 16: Delhi government gives permission for 404 trees on the plot to be transplanted at eight pockets in Central Vista area. These pockets are close to India Gate, as per officials

the permission given and action will be taken."

Workers at the NTPC Eco Park in Kalindi Kunj also confirmed the development and said that at least "15-20 big trees" from the Parliament work have been transplanted at the park. This reporter also saw photos of these trees at the park and also videos of them in the process of being transplanted at the park.

Multiple drivers of trucks transporting the trees and another CPWD official also confirmed that "large trees" were being taken to the park at night. When asked about the violation, Ashwani Mittal, CPWD executive engineer, to whom different permissions regarding the work have been sent by the Delhi and Union governments, said

that he was "not competent to communicate to the media".

When asked why the government is not doing transplantation close to India Gate, Kanchi Kohli, senior researcher at Centre for Policy Research, said, "The Delhi government, CPWD and Urban Development Ministry are aware that the massive Central Vista redevelopment is proposed for the PM's residence, common Central Secretariat and other buildings, apart from the new Parliament. An application seeking environment clearance for these has already been floated. This makes the transplantation on these same plots, where redevelopment may be under way soon, highly improbable and misleading."

Special repairs and maintenance of staff quarters etc.	
Tender Notice No. CON-2020-NOV-03; Dated: 20-11-2020. Open tender through e-tendering system is invited from experienced and reputed Contractor(s)/firm(s) for the following works:- E-Tender No. DY.CE-CON-RO-NJP-RT-01; Name of work: At New Jalpaiguri - Special repairs and maintenance of staff quarters, offices, rest houses including water supply, drains, road etc. and other ancillary works under Construction Organisation. Tender value: ₹ 3,60,90,506.52; Earnest Money: ₹ 30,500.00; Completion period: 12 Months. Tender submission: from 01-12-2020 upto 14:30 hrs. of 15-12-2020. Opening date & Time: 15-12-2020 at 16:00 Hrs. at the office of the Dy. Chief Engineer (Con), New Jalpaiguri. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available in website www.reps.gov.in . By CEICON/New Jalpaiguri Northeast Frontier Railway (Construction Organisation) "Serving Customers with a smile"	
Manufacturing, supplying and Fixing of In-situ glued joint etc	
E-Tender Notice No. CON/MLG/2020/NOVEMBER/06; Dated: 24-11-2020. Open tender through e-tendering system is invited from experienced and reputed Contractor(s)/firm(s) for the following works:- E-Tender No. DY.CE-MLG-GLUED-2020-06. Name of work: Manufacturing, supplying and fixing of In-situ glued joint on 52/60 kg rails from KM 88.00 to KM 176.00 in connection with New Bongaigaon - Goalpara Town - Kamakhya Doubling Project. Tender Value: ₹ 3,39,47,067/-; Earnest Money: ₹ 3,19,800/-; Completion period: 24 Months E-tender will be closed at 14:30 hrs. on 24-12-2020 and opened at 15:30 hrs. on 25-12-2020 in the office of Dy.CE-Con-III, Maligaon. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available upto 14:30 hrs of 24-12-2020 at www.reps.gov.in .	
XENICON/Kamakhya, Maligaon Northeast Frontier Railway (Construction Organisation) "Serving Customers with a smile"	

Office of the Executive Engineer Irrigation Division Vikasnagar (Dakpathar)					
E-Tender Notice No. 01/EE/2020-21					Dated: 21.11.2020
The Executive Engineer, Irrigation Division, Vikasnagar (Dakpathar) invites the item rate bids, in two bids system through electronic tendering, for following work from the eligible contractors registered in authorized/valid category for the estimated cost of tender in any department of central government/any state government/UT of India.					
SL. No. Name of the work Earnest Money (In Lac Rs.) Cost of Tender (In Rs.) Validity of Tender Period of Completion					
1 Modernization and Renovation of Telpura Canal in block Vikasnagar, Dist. Dehradun Under NABARD (C.M. Announcement No. 312/2019) (Reach 0.00 Km to 0.400 km, 1.100 km to 1.900 km)	0.75	2500.00 + 450.00 (18% GST)	120 days	04 months	
Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement: 26-11-2020 Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement: 11-12-2020 upto 05:00 PM For further details please log on to www.uktenders.gov.in					
(S.K Basiliyal) Executive Engineer					
DIPR/UK/13970					

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE					
SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH
1	MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE PEHOWA	WORK OF DOOR TO DOOR SOLID WASTE COLLECTION, SEGREGATION & PROCESSING	CLOSING DATE 07.12.2020	-	www.etenders.hry.nic.in s.pehowa@yahoo.com
2	MC SONIPAT	ESTIMATE FOR ANNUAL MAINTENANCE OF THE WORK OF SUPPLY INSTALLATION TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF OUTDOOR IP CCTV SURVEILLANCE UNDER M.C SONIPAT	CLOSING DATE 09.12.2020	2.10 CRORE	https://etenders.hry.nic.in cemcsonepat@gmail.com
3	MUNICIPAL CORPORATION AMBALA CITY	CONST. OF AUDITORIUM, MARKET, AND MULTI LEVEL PARKING IN MC OFFICE, AMBALA CITY.	20.11.2020 11.12.2020	50.22 CRORE	https://etenders.hry.nic.in 0171-2443747
4	HPGCL YAMUNA NAGAR	WORK FOR PROVIDING INTERLOCKING TILES IN FRONT OF PARKING SHEDS IN TYPE-V AT DCRTPP COLONY , YAMUNA NAGAR	CLOSING DATE 02.12.2020	23800/-	Etenders.hry.nic.in Xenproc1.dcrtp@hpgrd.org.in
5	HPGCL YAMUNA NAGAR	200 NB KNIFE GATE VALVE MANUAL WHEEL OPERATED IN ASH HANDLING PLANT	CLOSING DATE 03.12.2020	NIL	Etenders.hry.nic.in Xenproc1.dcrtp@hpgrd.org.in
6	HPGCL YAMUNA NAGAR	FLANGE OF CW DISCHARGE PIPE	CLOSING DATE 03.12.2020	NIL	Etenders.hry.nic.in Xenproc1.dcrtp@hpgrd.org.in
7	HPGCL YAMUNA NAGAR	BOTTOM ASH HOPPER CYLINDER FOR AHP	CLOSING DATE 03.12.2020	6700/-	Etenders.hry.nic.in Xenproc1.dcrtp@hpgrd.org.in
8	HPGCL YAMUNA NAGAR	LIQUID CHLORINE IS HEREBY EXTENDED	CLOSING DATE 26.11.2020	30000/-	Etenders.hry.nic.in Xenproc1.dcrtp@hpgrd.org.in
9	HPGCL YAMUNA NAGAR	DYNAMIC CONTACT RESISTANCE MEASUREMENT TESTING OF 220 KV SF6 CIRCUIT BREAKERS AND ON LINE AC RESISTIVE LEAKAGE CURRENT (3RD HARMONIC MEASUREMENT OF 19 KV, 10 KA LIGHTNING ARRESTERS IN 220 KV SWITCHYARD, DCRTPP, YAMUNA NAGAR	CLOSING DATE 04.12.2020	5100/-	Etenders.hry.nic.in Xenproc1.dcrtp@hpgrd.org.in
10	HPGCL YAMUNA NAGAR	SUPPLY OF KNIFE GATE VALVE & SPARES	CLOSING DATE 18.12.2020	10000/-	Etenders.hry.nic.in Xenproc1.dcrtp@hpgrd.org

Timings

DELHI

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 25
RISE 06:52 SET 17:25
RISE 14:46 SET 02:14
THURSDAY, NOV. 26
RISE 06:53 SET 17:25
RISE 15:15 SET 03:06
FRIDAY, NOV. 27
RISE 06:54 SET 17:25
RISE 15:45 SET 03:58

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	25	07
Safdarjung	25	07
Palam	24	10

Delhi Paliam Today
25°C Patchy smog in morning partly cloudy sky likely and Pollution level would be severe.

Delhi Paliam Tomorrow
26°C A cool morning with mist/smog with cloudy sky. Chances of short spell rain are there.

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THE HINDU

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Need more ICU beds, positivity rate declining, Kejriwal tells PM

Delhi CM says stubble burning in Punjab, Haryana made infection more dangerous

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday requested more ICU beds at Central government hospitals and stated that the COVID positivity rate in the city was declining, while briefing Prime Minister Narendra Modi about the outbreak in the Capital.

Speaking to Mr. Modi via videoconferencing, Mr. Kejriwal stated that the third wave of the novel coronavirus in Delhi reached its peak on November 10 with 8,600 cases, and that pollution from stubble burning in neighbouring States had been a significant contributor in making the third wave more dangerous.

Mr. Modi interacted with Chief Ministers of eight worst-affected States during the day where Mr. Kejriwal said that out of the total beds available across Delhi, around 3,500 ICU beds are occupied and 724 ICU beds are vacant," Mr. Kejriwal said.



Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal speaks during a virtual meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday. • PTI

occupied and 8,500 beds were

Amit Shah with helping in-

creasing the number of ICU beds in the city. Mr. Kejriwal said the Centre's decision to reserve 1,000 beds for residents in Safdarjung and AIIMS would provide great support. "We are thankful for all the help that we and the people of Delhi have received from the Centre during the entire epidemic," he added.

Mr. Kejriwal also told the PM that the first wave of the

Crediting Home Minister

virus in Delhi came in June

during which 20,000 samples were collected every day. The Delhi government increased sample collection in September to 60,000 per day, he stated.

The CM said that the posi-

tivity rate in Delhi is constant-

ly declining but the rising

mortality rate is a matter of

concern. "We hope that the

mortality rate will also re-

duce along with declining

positivity ratio in the coming

days," he added.

Commenting on stubble

burning, Mr. Kejriwal said

that the Delhi government is

trying out a bio-decomposer

developed by the Indian Agri-

cultural Research Institute,

PUSA, to curb farm fires: "We

want that under your leader-

ship, the Chief Ministers of

Delhi, Punjab, and Haryana

should work together as a

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Cuttack IIFL gold robbery case cracked

Police find insider involvement; four taken into custody

SATYASUNDAR BARIK

BHUBANESWAR

The police of twin cities Bhubaneswar and Cuttack have cracked the sensational IIFL gold robbery case. IIFL, a gold loan leasing company, has claimed that 39.5 kg of gold was looted from its Cuttack branch.

Four persons barged into the Nayasak branch of the

company and looted gold at gunpoint on November 19. The company had lodged a police complaint stating that 39.5 kg gold was looted.

Police have recovered 2 kg of gold and taken into custody four persons. The involvement of six persons in the crime was found. "We found the involvement of an insider in the case. Lala Amrit Ray, who has been working in the company for the past five years, masterminded the robbery, fearing that his role in the embezzlement of gold

would get exposed," said Sudhansu Sarangi, Commissioner of Police for Bhubaneswar-Cuttack, on Tuesday.

Lala Amrit Ray and his brother Lala Ranjan Ray have past criminal records. "The company was perhaps unaware of Amrit Ray's criminal antecedents. As per our information, he was involved in many irregularities. He had managed to sweep those under carpet by winning over the past auditors. When a new auditor joined and raised the issue of irregulari-

ties, he became worried," said the police chief.

From the beginning, probe teams were apprehending the role of someone who had knowledge of the functioning of the branch. Amrit took help of his childhood friend, Bapu alias Ranjan Behera. Four persons who were roped in for robbery were identified as Rajakishore Sahu, Biju alias Prakash Sahu and Padia alias Pradip Behera and Bapi alias Santosh Bhoi. Two bikes used by them were seized.

NDA, Mahagathbandhan field candidates for Speaker's post

BJP harps on convention, Tejashwi cites Oppn. candidate's experience

AMARNATH TEWARY

PATNA

The Bihar ruling National Democratic Alliance and the Opposition Mahagathbandhan candidates on Tuesday filed nominations for Speaker's post, election for which will be held on November 25.

In a surprise move, five-time RJD MLA from the Siwan Assembly seat Awadh Bihari Chaudhury filed nomination as the Mahagathbandhan candidate while senior State BJP leader and party MLA from Lakhisarai in Munger district Vijay Kumar Sinha too filed papers.

After filing his nomina-



Awadh Bihari Chaudhury. ■ FILE PHOTO

tion papers, Mr. Sinha thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for reposing faith in him. "Yet again this reflects that even an ordinary worker in the BJP can achieve great heights," he

said.

Earlier, the name of BJP MLA from Patna Sahib seat Nand Kishore Yadav was doing the rounds in the political circles for the post.

Sparring over post

"The post should go to an experienced legislator and our candidate has been a five-term MLA. He knows the proceedings of the House well and has a reputation of taking everyone along," said RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav. Asked about the numbers, he said, "We're in touch with other MLAs and seeking their support. I'm hopeful that our

nominee will win."

Deputy Chief Minister and senior BJP leader Tarakeshwar Prasad said the "convention of unanimous election of Speaker should be maintained."

Mr. Yadav retorted, "Convention also has it that the Deputy Speaker's post should go to the Opposition. In the previous Assembly, we kept requesting for it but the post was kept vacant."

This is going to be the first time since 2005 when the NDA government came to power in the State that the BJP has fielded its candidate for the post as it was last bagged by ally JD(U).

Rajasthan ahead in COVID fight: Gehlot

'State's positivity rate at 5.8% is far better than the national average of 6.89%'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR



Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot

Rajasthan is ahead on all parameters in the fight against COVID-19 and has strengthened the medical infrastructure to tackle the pandemic, while working hard to reduce the positivity rate, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said here on Tuesday. The death rate due to the infection has been restricted in the State to just 0.89%.

Mr. Gehlot said during a videoconference with Prime Minister Narendra Modi that the State was conducting

at 5.8%, which was far better than the national average of 6.89%, he said.

Awareness campaign

The Chief Minister said his government had taken steps such as a complete ban on firecrackers during Deepavali, enactment of a law on compulsory wearing of masks, imposition of night curfew in eight cities and limiting the number of persons at wedding and other events to 100.

Besides, a campaign for awareness on containing the pandemic has been opera-

tive since October 2.

"The steps taken with a strong willpower have been praised all over the country," Mr. Gehlot said. He suggested that all the States should adopt 100% testing by RT-PCR, and pointed out that only Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu were doing it.

The Chief Minister said the State had improved the availability of intensive care units, oxygen and ventilators, which had enabled health officials to operate successfully during the second wave of the infection.

Protesters suspend stir

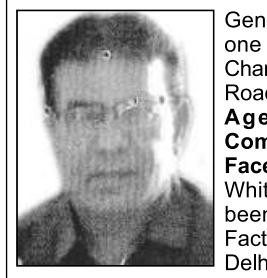
They hold talks with Tripura govt. on Bru resettlement

ninth day after receiving an invite from the government to resolve the issue peacefully. "We are withdrawing strike for now and hope that our dialogue with the government would be successful," JMC leader Amit Nath said at Kanchanpur.

Chief Minister Biplob Kumar Deb expressed satisfaction over the JMC's decision and appealed to people not to fall prey to rumours.

Deputy CM Jishnu Debbarman chaired the meeting, which was also attended by Education Minister Ratan Lal Nath, Transport Minister Pranjit Singh Roy and senior government officials.

SEARCH FOR MISSING



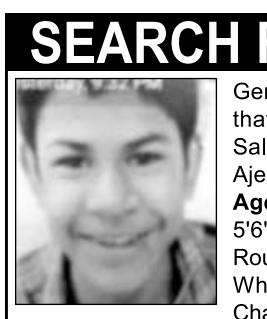
SATYAWAN

General Public is hereby informed that one person **Named: Satyawan, S/o: Chand Singh, R/o: H.No. 10 L Auchiandi Road, Pana Dulan Bawana, Delhi, Age: 50 Years, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Shallow, Built: Strong, Face: Round, Wearing: Blue Shirt, White Pant and Shoes in Feet has been missing since 01.11.2020 from Factory No. D-76, Sec. 2, Bawana, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 105-A, Dated 01.11.2020, has been lodged at P.S. Bawana, Delhi.**

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing person but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing person please inform the undersigned.

Web-site : <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-Mail ID: cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639 Ph.: 011-27752534, 27756090, 27751949 & 70650 36321

SEARCH FOR MISSING



P.S. Gandhi Nagar, Delhi

General public is hereby informed that one boy namely **Sakib, S/o Salim, R/o H.No. 4530, Gali No. 5, Ajee Nagar, Gandhi Nagar, Delhi, Age: 18 years 6 months, Height: 5'6", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Built: Strong, wearing Blue & White colour Shirt, Pajama and Chappal in feet, has been missing from his house since 13.11.2020 at 07:30 PM. In this regard a DD No. 61A, dated 17.11.2020 has been registered at P.S. Gandhi Nagar, Delhi.**

Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the boy but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about him please inform undersigned.

Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639 Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 P.S. Gandhi Nagar, Delhi DP/278/SHD/2020 Ph. No.: 011-22082235, 22072761

SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL

P.S. Bawana, Delhi

General public is here by informed that one girl Name: Sneha, D/o: Amit Kumar, R/o: 3025, Ranji Nagar, Delhi Age: 15 years, Height: 5'2", Complexion: Fair, Face: Oval, Built: Thin, Wearing: Green colour Salwar Suit and White Colour Shoes in her feet has been missing since 10.02.2020 from her

house in the area of P.S. Ranji Nagar.

In this regard a FIR No. 35/20 U/s 363 IPC dated 10.02.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Ranji Nagar, New Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out

information about this girl but no clue has come to light so far.

Any person having any information or clue about this girl kindly

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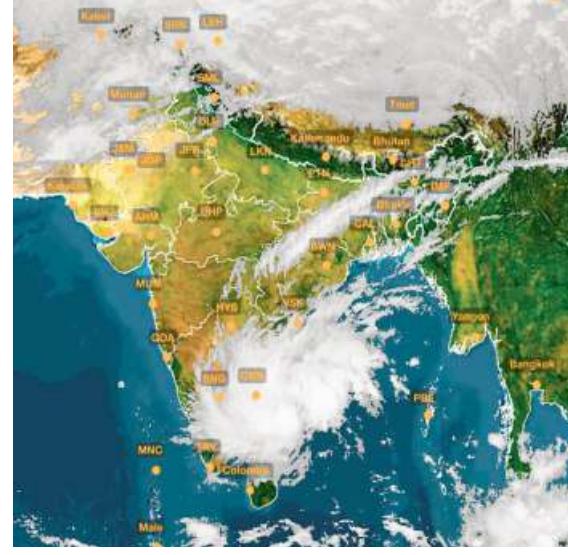
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SHO

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



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

Forecast for Wednesday: Heavy/very rainfall likely at a few/isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Rayalseema and south interior Karnataka. Thunderstorm/hailstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Kerala

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	... - 28.2	13.8	23.4	Kozhikode	... - 33.9	23.3	23.4
Ahmedabad	... - 32.5	12.8	21.2	Kurnool	... - 33.0	21.2	21.2
Aizawl	... - 21.3	10.9	9.0	Lucknow	... - 26.2	9.0	9.0
Allahabad	... - 27.1	9.6	9.0	Madurai	... - 31.7	22.6	22.6
Bengaluru	... - 26.6	18.7	17.0	Mangaluru	... - 33.8	22.0	20.6
Bhopal	... - 29.7	11.6	10.0	Mumbai	... - 32.9	20.6	19.0
Bhubaneswar	... - 27.7	16.0	15.0	Mysuru	... - 29.0	19.0	19.0
Chandigarh	... - 23.5	13.4	12.7	New Delhi	... - 25.3	6.7	6.7
Chennai	77.6	23.6	23.9	Patna	... - 25.2	10.0	10.0
Coimbatore	... - 30.4	21.2	21.2	Pond Blair	12.3	30.9	26.6
Dehradun	... - 20.9	9.4	9.0	Puducherry	2.6	26.1	24.0
Gangtok	... - 14.4	8.1	7.0	Pune	22.4	30.1	18.7
Goa	... - 34.0	22.7	22.7	Raipur	... - 29.6	16.0	16.0
Guwahati	... - 27.5	13.4	12.7	Ranchi	... - 25.0	10.1	10.1
Hubballi	... - 29.0	18.0	17.0	Shillong	... - 18.8	8.3	8.3
Hyderabad	... - 30.3	15.4	15.4	Shimla	... - 15.7	8.6	8.6
Imphal	... - 24.2	8.7	8.7	Srinagar	7	5.0	0.6
Jaipur	... - 25.6	13.4	13.4	Thiruvananthapuram	... - 32.3	23.9	23.9
Kochi	... - 32.2	23.6	23.6	Tiruchi	... - 30.0	23.4	23.4
Kohima	... - 19.5	7.0	7.0	Vijayawada	... - 30.4	23.4	23.4
Kolkata	... - 26.7	15.3	15.3	Visakhapatnam	... - 29.6	23.6	23.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

Yesterday

CITIES	SO ₂	NO _x	CO	PM _{2.5}	PM ₁₀	CODE
Ahmedabad	.21	154	.64	189	.184	GREEN
Bengaluru	.15	.36	.43	80	.92	GREEN
Chennai1	35	.1029292	GREEN
Delhi	47	154	105	441	414	GREEN
Hyderabad	.5	95	11	157	.141	GREEN
Kolkata	.22	.99	.52	.238	.174	GREEN
Lucknow	.5	108	.37	.405	.347	GREEN
Mumbai	.4	.8	.38	.207	.114	GREEN
Pune	104	.66	.74	.101	.77	GREEN
Visakhapatnam	.11	.11	.37	.106	.103	GREEN

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

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

NO_x: Nitrogen Dioxide. 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.

PM_{2.5} & PM₁₀: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Farmer leaders arrested in Haryana ahead of Delhi march

Several unions have called for protest rally against farm laws on Nov. 26, 27

ASHOK KUMAR
GURUGRAM

Around two dozen farmer leaders were taken into preventive custody by the Haryana Police on Tuesday early morning in raids across the State, ahead of the farmers' groups' two-day call for "Dilli Chalo" on November 26 and 27 to protest against the farm laws. The arrests sparked off protests in many parts of the State with various farmers' and workers' unions condemning the action as "undemocratic".

Midnight clampdown

In a post-midnight clampdown in several districts, including Jhajjar, Hisar, Sirsa, Karnal and Bhiwani, police teams mounted raids at the houses of farmer leaders and took them in preventive custody. Jhajjar Superintendent of Police Rajesh Duggal told *The Hindu* that nine farmer leaders were arrested and sent to judicial custody. Swaraj India national president Yogendra Yadav, in a press conference during the day, claimed that at least 31 farmer leaders were detained in raids across the State in the early hours. He said the farmers were committed to peaceful and disciplined demonstration against the farm laws, but the Haryana government seemed bent on creating anarchy by arresting the movement's leadership. He said the government was nervous and resorting to crackdown to suppress the "historic movement".

Mr. Yadav said farmers groups were committed to their call for "Dilli Chalo" and made an appeal to all citizens, citizen groups and political and democratic outfits to raise their voice against the crackdown.



Farmers in Rohtak protesting against new agricultural Central laws. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT.

Blockages, diversions

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

The Haryana Police on Tuesday issued traffic advisory for three days in view of the farmers' groups' call for "Dilli Chalo" saying that the commuters may face blockages and diversions at several points on the roads leading to Delhi from Punjab and Haryana on November 25, 26 and 27. The traffic advisory cautioned the motorists saying that they may face traffic blockages on roads at entry points from Punjab into Haryana on November 25 and 26 and on entry points from Haryana into Delhi on November 26 and 27.

More than 500 farmers groups across the country have given the call to march to Delhi on November 26 and 27 to hold a protest against the farm laws at Jantar Mantar. Mr. Yadav said that farmers from five States - Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand -

Cong. flays diversions

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

The Congress on Tuesday said the detention of several farmers' leaders in Haryana ahead of the protest march to Delhi against the agriculture laws was condemnable and an attempt to suppress their voice. Leader of the Opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda said the treatment meted out to the farmers was wrong as every citizen has the right to raise their demands and agitate against policies harming them. "Arresting leaders from their homes at night cannot be justified and the government should release them at the earliest."

were scheduled to gather at five points on November 26 morning and march towards Delhi. "Four of these assembly points are in Haryana at Sampla, Panchgaon, Sector 12 Faridabad and Kundli border," said Mr. Yadav. He added that delegations from 15 more States were expected

Trains not allowed to ply

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

After the Railways resumed train services to Punjab, farmers under the banner of the Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee on Tuesday blocked the track at the Jandiala station in Amritsar district to stop plying of passenger trains as part of their "rail roko" agitation against the agriculture laws. Committee's Punjab general secretary Sarvan Singh Pandher said they would let the goods trains go but not the passenger trains. He said a group of five members will stay at the station to check whether it is passenger or goods train.

to join the protest.

Later, angry protesters assembled at Rohtak's Mansarovar park and took out a protest march to mini secretariat in protest against the arrests of the farmer leaders. Kisan Sabha vice president Inderjit Singh criticised the BJP-JJP alliance government.

Uddhav to PM: Oppn. parties shouldn't play politics over COVID-19

Task force set up to distribute vaccine

STAFF REPORTER
MUMBAI

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Tuesday asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah to convene a meeting of political parties to appeal for their cooperation instead of playing politics amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

At a virtual meeting of the Chief Ministers of eight States, chaired by the Prime Minister, Mr. Thackeray said, "New cases in Maharashtra have dipped from 24,000 to 5,000. We have urged the people to stay alert. The Prime Minister or the Home Minister should convene a meeting of all political parties and inform them about the seriousness of the situation and seek their cooperation."

The Chief Minister did not name any party, but his remarks came in the backdrop of the State BJP staging protests for the reopening of temples and on the issue of inflated electricity bills.

Mr. Thackeray said on the one hand the government is asking citizens to follow safety norms, while on the other, political parties are hitting the streets in protest. "This will seriously damage all our attempts to control the pandemic and may invite the next wave of the coronavirus," he said.

The NITI Aayog made a presentation on vaccine production and its distribution during the meeting. Mr. Thackeray said that the State government is constantly in touch with the Pune-based Serum Institute of India, which has partnered with pharma major AstraZeneca and the University of Oxford for manufacturing a vaccine.

"The State government



Uddhav Thackeray

has set up a task force. It will discuss issues such as availability, production, side-effects, and funds required for distribution," he said. The task force, which will be led by the Chief Secretary, comprises the Additional Chief Secretaries from the Finance and Planning departments, Principal Secretary of Public Health Department, Secretary of Medical Education Department, Health Services Commissioner, Director of Medical Education, and heads of the pharmacy departments of Sir JJ group of hospitals and KEM Hospital.

'Successful campaign'

Mr. Thackeray also informed Mr. Modi about the State government's ambitious 'My Family, My Responsibility' campaign. He said the campaign has received a good response and succeeded in containing the spread of the disease. "The State government conducted a health survey of 11.92 crore people and has collected their data. This will help the State to develop its health map," he added.

Mr. Thackeray said 70,000 to 80,000 tests are being conducted in the State daily and instructions have been issued to increase the number of RT-PCR tests.

(With PTI inputs)

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Diplomatic offensive

India did well to highlight the terror threat from Pakistan amid steps along the border

With more details coming in of a planned terror strike in Jammu and Kashmir by four men, believed to be members of the Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed, who were gunned down by security forces last week, and the discovery of a tunnel in the Samba sector from where the men are supposed to have infiltrated into India, the government has decided to step up its diplomatic campaign to hold Pakistan accountable. On Monday, Foreign Secretary Harsh Shringla briefed a select group of Ambassadors on the plot, which the government believes was planned on the same scale as last year's Pulwama bombing that killed 40 Central Reserve Police Force personnel, and timed for the anniversary of the 2008 Mumbai attacks. The envoys were part of the first batch of diplomats being briefed. Indian missions have also been instructed to pass on details of the "information docket" handed over, which includes details of the encounter in Nagrota between the suspected terrorists hiding in a truck and security forces, as well as the AK-47 rifles, 29 grenades and 7.5 kg of RDX explosive material the men allegedly had. That this was no ordinary encounter was evidenced from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's statement, calling it a "nefarious attempt to target grassroots level democratic exercises in Jammu and Kashmir", a reference to the District Development Council elections due to start on November 28.

By apprising the international community, it would seem the government has a multi-pronged strategy. The first imperative is to ensure that the full implications of the aborted attack and what could have occurred are understood worldwide, and the threat India continues to face from cross-border terror is acknowledged. In addition, any actions India takes against terror threats the Army perceives along the LoC this point on will be considered retaliatory. The second is to put Pakistan, which has itself been making allegations about a terror threat from India, squarely on notice. Pakistan still faces the final FATF decision in February 2021 on whether it will be blacklisted for its inability to curb terror financing and to shut down groups such as the JeM and the LeT, and the Imran Khan government would be better positioned in fulfilling the action plan it has been tasked with rather than flashing unsubstantiated dossier with counter-claims against India. However, the Modi government must also remember that invoking the international community can be a double-edged sword in its bilateral conflict with Pakistan, that could invite discomforting interventionary interest. Eventually, India's success lies in protecting its borders, as done in Nagrota, and by providing a peaceful and stable environment in J&K so as to restart the much-delayed democratic process there, despite all attempts to derail it.

Dangerous suggestion

Industrial houses should not have access to household savings through their own banks

Most often, reports prepared by the RBI's internal working groups barely draw much attention beyond the relevant circles in the banking and financial services industries and rarely ever evoke protest. But the strong reactions to an internal panel's report on November 20, almost a full month since the group of central bank officials had submitted their recommendations on October 26, come as no surprise. The panel, which was tasked with reviewing ownership norms and corporate structure for private sector banks, has made worthwhile suggestions including ways to harmonise licensing norms for all banks including older legacy lenders and newer entrants. While the panel's appointment in June – at a time when the country was in the throes of coping with the severe economic fallout of the COVID-19 lockdown – got little attention, its suggestion that corporate or industrial houses be allowed to promote banks has triggered widespread concern. And among those with reservations are at least three former senior central bankers and a global credit rating agency. Most intriguing is that the panel, which consulted with experts ranging from former RBI officials to legal and finance professionals, clearly acknowledges that all but one of these outside experts were unequivocal in their opinion that given the prevailing far-from-ideal corporate governance culture, corporates ought to be barred from promoting banks.

The difficulty in ring-fencing "the non-financial activities of the promoters with that of the bank", was flagged by these experts as the central concern, a fear that was echoed by S&P Global Ratings too. Former RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan and former Deputy Governor Viral Acharya – who was appointed by the Modi government after Mr. Rajan had left the central bank – in a joint article on LinkedIn have termed the proposal a 'bad idea' and questioned its rationale. Acknowledging the RBI group's caveats including its assertion that corporates only be allowed as promoters after "necessary amendments to the Banking Regulation Act, 1949" are enacted to safeguard against connected lending, the two economists have, however, pointed to the bailouts of Yes Bank and Lakshmi Vilas Bank as examples of the heightened risk posed by any move to loosen bank licensing norms. For all its regulatory powers and supervisory capabilities, the RBI failed to spot the build-up of troubled exposures at Yes Bank in time. The dangers posed to overall financial stability by letting industrial houses have access to relatively inexpensive capital in the form of household savings through banks, however legally regulated, are far too great to risk at the altar of liberalisation of ownership norms. The RBI's decision makers need to reject this suggestion outright and place it where it belongs – the shelf.

Say 'no' to corporate houses in Indian banking

The banking sector needs reform but the recommendation of corporate-owned banks is neither 'big bang' nor risk-free



T.T. RAM MOHAN

An Internal Working Group of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recommended that corporate houses be given bank licences (<https://bit.ly/3fqoLlo>). In today's pro-business climate, you would have thought the proposal would evoke jubilation. It should have been hailed as another 'big bang' reform that would help undo the dominance of the public sector in banking. Instead, the reaction has ranged from cautious welcome to scathing criticism. Many analysts doubt the proposal will fly. It is worth examining why.

First, the idea

The idea of allowing corporate houses into banking is by no means novel. In February 2013, the RBI had issued guidelines that permitted corporate and industrial houses to apply for a banking licence. Some houses applied, although a few withdrew their applications subsequently. No corporate was ultimately given a bank licence. Only two entities qualified for a licence, IDFC and Bandhan Financial Services.

The RBI maintained that it was open to letting in corporates. However, none of the applicants had met 'fit and proper' criteria. The IWG report quotes the official RBI position on the subject at the time.

"At a time when there is public concern about governance, and when it comes to licences for entities that are intimately trusted by the Indian public, this (not giving a

license to any corporate house) may well be the most appropriate stance."

In 2014, the RBI restored the long-standing prohibition on the entry of corporate houses into banking. The RBI Governor then was Raghuram G. Rajan. Mr. Rajan had headed the Committee on Financial Sector Reforms (2008). The Committee had set its face against the entry of corporate houses into banking. It had observed, "The Committee also believes it is premature to allow industrial houses to own banks. This prohibition on the 'banking and commerce' combine still exists in the United States today, and is certainly necessary in India till private governance and regulatory capacity improve." (<https://bit.ly/3ftp7Yf>) The RBI's position on the subject has remained unchanged since 2014.

The worry is the risks

What would be the rationale for any reversal in the position now? The Internal Working Group report weighs the pros and cons of letting in corporate houses. Corporate houses will bring capital and expertise to banking. Moreover, not many jurisdictions worldwide bar corporate houses from banking.

It is the downside risks that are worrying in the extreme. As the report notes, the main concerns are interconnected lending, concentration of economic power and exposure of the safety net provided to banks (through guarantee of deposits) to commercial sectors of the economy. It is worth elaborating on these risks.

Corporate houses can easily turn banks into a source of funds for their own businesses. In addition, they can ensure that funds are directed to their cronies. They

GETTY IMAGES/JSTOCKPHOTO



can use banks to provide finance to customers and suppliers of their businesses. Adding a bank to a corporate house thus means an increase in concentration of economic power. Just as politicians have used banks to further their political interests, so will corporate houses be tempted to use banks set up by them to enhance their clout.

Not least, banks owned by corporate houses will be exposed to the risks of the non-bank entities of the group. If the non-bank entities get into trouble, sentiment about the bank owned by the corporate house is bound to be impacted. Depositors may have to be rescued through the use of the public safety net.

The Internal Working Group believes that before corporate houses are allowed to enter banking, the RBI must be equipped with a legal framework to deal with interconnected lending and a mechanism to effectively supervise conglomerates that venture into banking. It is naive to suppose that any legal framework and supervisory mechanism will be adequate to deal with the risks of interconnected lending in the Indian context.

Corporate houses are adept at routing funds through a maze of entities in India and abroad. Tracing interconnected lending will be a challenge. Monitoring of transactions of corporate houses will re-

quire the cooperation of various law enforcement agencies. Corporate houses can use their political clout to thwart such cooperation.

Second, the RBI can only react to interconnected lending ex-post, that is, after substantial exposure to the entities of the corporate house has happened. It is unlikely to be able to prevent such exposure.

Third, suppose the RBI does latch on to interconnected lending. How is the RBI to react? Any action that the RBI may take in response could cause a flight of deposits from the bank concerned and precipitate its failure. The challenges posed by interconnected lending are truly formidable.

Regulator credibility at stake

Fourth, pitting the regulator against powerful corporate houses could end up damaging the regulator. The regulator would be under enormous pressure to compromise on regulation. Its credibility would be dented in the process. This would indeed be a tragedy given the stature the RBI enjoys to-day.

What we have discussed so far is the entry of corporate houses that do not have interests in the financial sector. There are corporate houses that are already present in banking-related activities through ownership of Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs).

Under the present policy, NBFCs with a successful track record of 10 years are allowed to convert themselves into banks. The Internal Working Group believes that NBFCs owned by corporate houses should be eligible for such conversion. This promises to be an easier route for the entry of corporate houses into banking.

The Internal Working Group argues that corporate-owned NBFCs

have been regulated for a while. The RBI understands them well. Hence, some of the concerns regarding the entry of these corporates into banking may get mitigated. This is being disingenuous.

There is a world of difference between a corporate house owning an NBFC and one owning a bank. Bank ownership provides access to a public safety net whereas NBFC ownership does not. The reach and clout that bank ownership provides are vastly superior to that of an NBFC. The objections that apply to a corporate house with no presence in bank-like activities are equally applicable to corporate houses that own NBFCs.

It points to privatisation

There is another aspect to the proposal that cannot be ignored. Corporate houses are unlikely to be enthused merely by the idea of growing a bank on their own. The real attraction will be the possibility of acquiring public sector banks, whose valuations have been battered in recent years. Public sector banks need capital that the government is unable to provide. The entry of corporate houses, if it happens at all, is thus likely to be a prelude to privatisation. Given what we know of governance in the Indian corporate world, any sale of public sector banks to corporate houses would raise serious concerns about financial stability.

India's banking sector needs reform but corporate houses owning banks hardly qualifies as one. If the record of over-leveraging in the corporate world in recent years is anything to go by, the entry of corporate houses into banking is the road to perdition.

T.T. Ram Mohan is a professor at IIM Ahmedabad. E-mail: ttr@iima.ac.in

The migrant worker as a ghost among citizens

A new publication contends that their lockdown misery was no anomaly but an effect of exclusion from full citizenship



SAMPATH G.

When Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the world's most stringent lockdown on March 24, 2020 with barely four hours notice, lakhs of migrant workers across the country found themselves trapped in a novel situation: their livelihood in the city was gone, but they could not return to their native villages. The lockdown offered them only two options: starvation or charity. It was merely a matter of time before they pursued the third option: an arduous walk to their homes hundreds of kilometres away, risking starvation and death. Many did die in transit.

India is not the only country to have witnessed lockdown-related governance failures. But it stands alone for the sheer magnitude of the humanitarian tragedy unleashed by a poorly conceived lockdown. It was as if the nation's top decision makers had no idea that migrant workers existed. Perhaps this is not as far-fetched as it may seem. If we assume that a government makes policies keeping in mind the interests of its citizens, then the question to ask would be: are migrant workers in India full citizens? Or are they half-citizens at best, tolerated only because citizens and industries need cheap la-

bour?

A new publication, *Citizens and the Sovereign: Stories from the Largest Human Exodus in Contemporary Indian History*, brought out by Migrant Workers Solidarity Network (MWSN), a collective of workers' groups and non-governmental organisations (<https://bit.ly/3nRqnHF> and <https://bit.ly/2J5Mrzg>), explores these questions through the personal experiences of migrant workers. It contends that the avoidable misery they endured during the lockdown was not an anomaly but an effect of their implicit exclusion from full citizenship.

Quarantine without 'home'

Take, for instance, the story of Gulab and Sukhlal, two migrant workers from Delhi. The couple was forced to travel 500 kilometres to Lamgarh tehsil in Rajasthan with three children and all their belongings to do 'home quarantine' – in a home that did not exist. Lada, another worker from Delhi, went home to her parents in Rajiyawas, Rajasthan, only to find that their *basti* alone did not – and will not – get any form of relief because, as per government records, it does not exist.

Lada is a Sansi, while Gulab and Sukhlal are Babarias – all three belong to nomadic tribes. Gulab and Sukhlal have mostly practised the tradition of shifting settlements and do not have a permanent home. "It seems the lockdown had not planned for 'nomads'. All ten crore of them," observes the report. "Their settlements and be-



SANDEEP RASAL

longings do not exist enough to exist on paper. They live lives which are too invisible to have rights or its poor substitute, relief. They are ghosts among citizens."

Mere existence, sans cognition by the gaze of the state apparatus, is no longer a sufficient condition of being. Nomadic tribes are the quintessential migrant community. The Indian state's governance structure for nomadic tribes is determined by the Habitual Offenders Act, 1952, which upholds the colonial legacy of treating them either as threat or nuisance, while erasing their rights as citizens. This state of 'non-being' that marks the political existence of nomadic tribes extends to India's 5.6 crore migrant workers (2011 Census), who may as well not have existed for the policymakers behind India's lockdown.

The report suggests that the most fitting comparison for India's lockdown is not with those implemented by other countries but one from its own past: the Bubonic Plague of 1896 and the draconian measures implemented under the then newly minted Epidemic Diseases, Act, 1897. Section 4 of this Act grants "Protection to persons acting under Act. No suit or other

legal proceeding shall lie against any person for anything done or in good faith intended to be done under this Act." More than 120 years later, policemen protected by this legislation would brutally assault desperate migrants for trying to walk home. Even for the 'independent' Indian state – a democracy where the citizen is supposed to be the sovereign – migrant workers seem to trigger the same repressive impulses that the 'uncouth' natives did for the colonial state.

The despotic interventions of the colonial British administration sparked some of the processes that led to the transformation of the natives into "the people," leading eventually to the formation of a new national sovereign in 1947. The National Democratic Alliance government's lockdown too sparked several protests, which this report documents with a 'Migrant Resistance Map' (<https://bit.ly/2U1X4Ja>), but systemic changes in the way migrant workers live and work seem remote for now.

Bridging social distance

A cartoon that went viral during the lockdown captured the anomalous position of the migrant worker in the metropolis. It depicts a street on which families of migrant workers, with their belongings tied up in cloth bundles, are seen trudging past. On either side of the street, at a safe height from this tired procession, people in balconies are seen cheering, clapping and chanting, "Go, coro-

na, go." The cartoon is titled 'social distancing'.

The challenge, then, is to bridge the social distance between migrant workers and the rest of urban society, including the ruling elites. As the report observes, "A large portion of lowly paid labouring population of our country have historically come from Adivasi, Dalit and socially oppressed castes as well as religious minorities." This is an important aspect of the reproduction of both caste and capital in India. So, if our cities are organised on a foundation of unorganised labour, and if the very process of claiming entitlements as citizens – such as decent pay, housing, and social protection – requires migrant workers to get organised, then it would seem that structural forces militate against it. That the new labour codes make it nearly impossible to unionise is a case in point.

The active production of migrant labour (from worsening terms of trade for agriculture, displacement from land and forests) and their invisibilised exploitation (in low paid wage work in cities and industrial clusters) are two parallel processes that feed into each other. Urban life in India, as in many developing economies hungry for growth, is premised on a toxic equilibrium generated by these two processes. This has been the case for some decades now. The lockdown caused a violent disturbance of this equilibrium. The migrant worker bore the brunt.

sampath.g@thehindu.co.in



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Kerala's libel law

First of all, it is difficult to understand the compelling circumstances which forced the Chief Minister of Kerala, Pinarayi Vijayan, to seek the ordinance route for a libel law. The provisions of the ordinance seem to be more draconian than necessary if the purpose is to "protect women, children and families from slander" on social media. That some in the CPI(M) have lauded the decision of the Pinarayi Vijayan government to put on hold this ordinance is not a matter to be proud of or to be even complimented. The question is why was the ordinance issued at all in a progressive State? The country has witnessed several episodes of

draconian laws operating at various times and the plight of those who are invariably innocent. Let there be no repeat.

A. MICHAEL DHANARAJ,
Coimbatore

■ Eventually, the Kerala government had to blink. It begs the question: do the State police really need untrammelled power by way of legislation or ordinance in a country where the police has created the perception of being susceptible to pressures? It would be no exaggeration to say that there are States where extra-judicial killings have become a normal. The urgent need before the country is to introduce police reforms.

DEEPAK SINGHAL,
Noida

The strange term 'love jihad' made its way into the public domain probably a decade ago, thanks to Kerala's judiciary which believed inter-faith marriages in the State to be more a conspiracy than a decision made by two consenting adults. In 2009, the State DGP informed the High Court that the police had found no organisation that might have been 'involved' in such activity nor was there any compelling evidence to show cases of 'love jihad'.

Though the judge refused to accept the report and said that it was clear from police reports there was a "concerted effort" to convert women with "blessings of some outfits", he granted bail to two of the young men accused. In all, this is a prime example of how conditioning of a community at large in a purely private matter, and a mere thought process, dictates one's actions and determines and affects public policy in the long run. If the piece of legislation does come into existence, every inter-faith couple in India would be under scrutiny not only by society but the law itself OpEd, "A conspiracy against inter-faith love", November 24).

SNEHA K. SHAJI,
New Delhi

Ayurveda and surgery
It is unfortunate that the revised curriculum of Ayurveda MS has included surgical procedures. The reason is that modern

medicine has travelled a long distance in asepsis and treatment modalities. Therefore, the only way Ayurveda specialists can perform surgeries is through imbibing techniques of modern medicine. Moreover, it can also bring in a large number of quacks claiming to enable certain treatment at low cost. Certain dental procedures are also included in this curriculum. Root canal techniques are very

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:

The blurb in a Business page interview titled "Elevator sector facing challenges"

Daring to love beyond societal limits

'Love jihad' builds on tiresome sexual rhetoric which is commonplace in caste society



V. GEETHA



R.V. MORTHY

'Love jihad' has slipped effortlessly into our public vocabulary, as if it were a social truism. The term is taken to refer to a deliberate campaign that uses love, seduction and trickery to convert Hindu (and Christian) women to Islam. It is claimed that money and planning are invested in such a venture, with Muslim youth being groomed – provided with mobile phones, dark glasses, and a pair of jeans – to be attractive to Hindu women. Once 'caught', it is alleged, Hindu women end up converting to Islam and marrying Muslim men.

Investigations into Hindu-Muslim marriages that appeared to have taken place under 'suspicious' circumstances have shown many of these to be consensual. Both the police and the courts have admitted to as much, in Karnataka and Kerala. But such admissions and findings have not deterred those who insist that 'jihadists' are on the prowl, and are looking to deceive foolish and trusting Hindu women. There are repeated assertions to this effect, 'discoveries' of Hindu-Muslim sexual liaisons, subsequent filing of complaints, and investigations. An imagined threat is thus actualised, in law and through governance. And, thus, 'love jihad' assumes a life of its own.

'Retrieving' lost Hindu manhood
Invoking a 'love jihad' where none exists has to do with a history of Hindu beleaguerment. As historian Charu Gupta has demonstrated, since the 1920s, upper caste Hindu thinkers, men of god and political leaders, especially those associated with the Arya Samaj, Hindu Mahasabha and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, have expressed indignation and resentment against centuries of Muslim rule, and blamed the loss of Hindu 'manliness' for allowing such rule in the first place.

In order to 'retrieve' lost Hindu manhood, they advocated a robust physical culture for Hindu youth, and also warned Hindu men to not let their women go astray. Thus, Hindu men from all castes, including subaltern ones, were enjoined to be watchful and guard their women against Muslim predators,

even as women were told to keep themselves 'pure' in order that they might be fit mothers of the nation. The idea was to build a grand, national brotherhood of Hindu men from all castes: shared trepidation over Muslim sexual prowess and mistrust of Hindu women's ability to know what was good for them formed the basis for this putative national community.

Lawlessness sanctified as custom

Women are often warned of unsuitable men (read: from castes below their own, or from other religions) who shall try and woo them, and are urged to marry within designated limits of caste and community; whereas men are told who they could sexually possess (all women, but in particular those over whom they exercise caste and class authority), and who they ought to legitimately marry. These warnings come with threats of punitive action, often directed against 'erring' women who choose to be with men from castes 'below' their own, and against Dalit men who 'dare' love and marry women from castes placed 'above' them.

No law of the land endorses these arrangements, but as Dr. B.R. Ambedkar pointed out, the law notwithstanding, lawlessness, sanctified as custom and tradition, stalks the land, and influences not only civic behaviour, but also the administration, including the judicial system. Unsurprisingly, when young persons across caste lines choose to

leave home and marry, they are 'advised' by officialdom to be mindful of family and community honour and sentiments. Women, especially, are berated, lectured, and separated from those they have chosen to be with, and 'restored' to their natal homes.

Warnings

In a culture that routinely infantilises women or views them as foolish and incapable of rational choice, this is to be expected. From family to kin to khap to caste, women are constantly told what to do, and how to comport themselves, and to ensure that they are not like 'other', 'promiscuous' women from castes and communities that are socially and culturally 'low'. Meanwhile, these 'lower' caste women are warned that they ought not to step beyond limits ordained for them: not educate themselves, protest the social and economic conditions of their existence, and that if they do, they stand to be punished. Studies of violence against Dalit and Adivasi women indicate that protesting women and those who dare to be different are earmarked for acts of abuse and violence.

Bad enough that caste society is sustained by puerile fears to do with transgressive love, which sadly enough are also internalised by women, who then strive hard to be 'good' and proclaim their caste honour. But to have parts of a nation get phobic over women's alleged lack of emotional judgment and the alleged chicanery of Muslims is worse and civilisationaly pathetic. While we stake our rights to lives and loves of our choice, equally, we might want to assert our right to re-imagine this nation, not in terms of faith and caste, but in ways we have learned from anti-caste and feminist traditions – where the nation is essentially an equal, just and fraternal society.

V. Geetha is a feminist historian and writer

Love in the time of Hindutva

It is not for the state to decide which relationships are acceptable and permissible



RAMA SRINIVASAN



PTI

The season of 'love jihad' is back. It never really goes away but resurfaces – every time with more frequency and vitriol – after periods of hibernation. 'Love jihad' emerged from Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) laboratories in Kerala but only found its voice and a scope for destruction in the north under the gaze of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. But following him closely in this latest season are ministers from Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka, and Assam.

The U.P. Chief Minister had, in the past, toyed with anti-Romeo squads employing a similar rhetoric of 'saving' women from the unwelcome gaze of men but 'love jihad' additionally offers endless possibilities where anti-Muslim rhetoric is concerned. Mr. Adityanath is by no means alone. Bharatiya Janata Party leaders across the country are agonising about daughters and sisters who are apparently defenceless against 'sensuous' Muslim men, although these women may not care for such filial connections.

Rhetoric of shame and pity

The campaign builds on the ground prepared by the formerly potent khap panchayats, which had popularised that idea that women who seek consensual relationships must have been lured, tricked or duped. The only other alternative, in the eyes of influential khap leaders like Mahendra Tikait, was lack of shame since "only whores choose their partners." 'Love jihad' weaponises this toxic rhetoric of shame and pity for women who seek to exercise their constitutionally guaranteed rights but also brings RSS's years of experience and dedicated cadre into the picture. Unlike khap panchayats which were seen by the mainstream as localised power centres representing a distant, barbaric and medieval India, the anti-'love jihad' campaign is actually mainstream.

However, those eager to punish men who enter perfectly legal and consensual relationships might be getting short-changed by forthcoming laws. According to Justice (Retired) Aditya Nath

Mittal, Chairperson of the U.P. State Law Commission, his 2019 report that proposes a regulation on religious conversions does not mention 'love jihad' nor restricts the scope of conversions to just Hindu-Muslim relationships. In an interview with *The Hindu*, Justice Mittal admitted that the scope is purposefully broad since a limited scope legislation will not stand in law. Haryana and Madhya Pradesh, meanwhile, are taking cues from Himachal Pradesh, the only State with an existing law that ostensibly curbs 'love jihad'. This Freedom of Religion Act also does not refer to any religion in particular. It mandates, however, that those who wish to convert notify the district authorities at least one month in advance.

As recent Allahabad High Court judgments show, the curtailment of marriages that follow conversions may not be restricted to the conversion of Hindu women. What is clear, however, is that courts also appear very concerned about the faith of women who choose to convert in order to marry a loved one. The High Court posed the following question as part of a 2014 judgment, *Noor Jahan Begum v. State of U.P.*, that considered the affidavits of five couples who sought protection after consensual marriages: "Whether conversion of religion of a Hindu girl at the instance of a Muslim boy, without any knowledge of Islam or faith and belief in Islam and merely for the purpose of Marriage (Nikah) is valid?"

Although Justice Surya Prakash Kesarwani admitted that it is difficult if not impossible to define or delimit the expression of religion, he held that it is a matter of personal faith, one that must stem from "the depth of the heart and mind". Justice Kesarwani was ostensibly privy to the 'depths of the hearts and minds' of not one but five women whose fates he ruled on that day. What is significant is that Justice Kesarwani had, as part of this order, dismissed petitions for protection and non-interference in married life and not pleas that sought a court statement on the validity of marriages. Whether the existing laws

and the ones State governments claim they will legislate hold such marriages null and void does not automatically strip women of their right to co-habit with men they love.

A question judges and State governments may well ask at this point is not 'what is religion' but rather, 'what is marriage'? In *Salamat Ansari v. State of U.P.*, the High Court addressed this aspect while also critiquing its own past judgments as "not laying good law" since the task before the court was simply to ascertain "the wish and desire of the girls". Justices Pankaj Naqvi and Vivek Agarwal remarked that they do not see the petitioners as Hindu and Muslim, "rather as two grown-up individuals who out of their own free will and choice are living together peacefully and happily over a year."

Facilitating marriages

If conversion is used as a convenient means to marry a partner who belongs to a different faith, the primary offender here may well be State governments and bureaucracies. While bureaucracies make the procedures for solemnising marriages under the Special Marriage Act difficult for both inter-faith and intra-faith couples, governments at times step in to further complicate the process. In 2018, when Justice Rajiv Raina struck down the Haryana government's 'court marriage checklist', he urged the state to facilitate rather than obstruct marriages. He said: "The State is not concerned with the marriage itself but with the procedure it adopts, which must reflect the mind-set of the changed times in a secular nation promoting inter-religion marriages instead of the officialdom raising eyebrows and laying snare and land mines beneath the sacrosanct feet of the Special Marriage Act..." Justice Raina said that India is a secular nation as if in a direct, defiant response to campaigns such as 'love jihad' and ruled that the state's role in marriage does not pertain to its validity.

Ultimately, whether the laws are broad in scope or not may be relevant in individual courts and for individual judges but, constitutionally, it is still not the state's mandate to decide which relationships are acceptable and permissible. Transforming this reality may well be the endgame.

Rama Srinivasan is a Marie Curie Fellow at Ca' Foscari University of Venice and the author of *Courting Desire: Litigating for Love in North India*

With land rights, but no land

Many Adivasi families are unlikely to benefit from the implementation of the Forest Rights Act in J&K

ZUBAIR NAZEER

ember 18, the J&K Chief Secretary reviewed the implementation of the FRA. It has been decided that the survey of claimants by the forest rights committees for assessing the nature and extent of rights being claimed at the village-level would be completed by January 15, 2021. Subsequently, the claims would be scrutinised by the sub-divisional committees, which will then prepare a record of forest rights by or before January 31, 2021. District-Level Committees will give the final approval and grant forest rights by March 1, 2021.

Proving ownership

Implementing the FRA is a welcome step. However, instead of alleviating fears of displacement and disempowerment, the law has only increased those fears. This is primarily because this is happening against the backdrop of the J&K government's decision on October 31 to declare the State Land (Vesting of Ownership to the Occupants) Act, 2001, also known as the Roshni Act, null and void. This Act has been controversial due to the questionable transfer of ownership of state land to many influential people, including Ministers, legislators, bureaucrats, and police officers. Some say that it provided ownership rights to many poor, landless Adivasis as well; now the land will be retrieved from them. In such a scenario, the Adivasis will fail to prove their claims of ownership under the FRA. Further, in the last few weeks, the eviction and demolition drives against nomads have intensified without any rehabilitation plans in place. The FRA, then, is unlikely to benefit such poor, landless Adivasis.

In the rest of India, the FRA provided and recognised the forest rights of forest dwellers who had occupied forest land before December 13, 2005. No such cut-off date has been mentioned in the case of J&K. Without a cut-off date, with land being retrieved after declaring the Roshni Act null and void, and with forceful evictions taking place, many tribal families are unlikely to benefit from the implementation of the FRA.

Zubair Nazeer is Assistant Professor (Public Administration) at Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi



DATA POINT

Urban resurgence?

In the initial stages of India's COVID-19 outbreak, cases and deaths were largely confined to the urban areas. With thousands of migrant workers returning to their villages amid a nationwide lockdown, there was soon a surge of cases in rural areas. However, as the economy gradually opened up, the share of infections in urban areas started to rise again*. States such as Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra led the resurgence of the infection in urban areas By Naresh Singaravelu, Sumant Sen and Vignesh Radhakrishnan

CASE SHARE | The chart depicts the % share of India's cases recorded across urban, mostly urban, mostly rural, and rural districts during 9 stages: between 0 and 1 mn cases (P1) to between 8 mn and 9 mn cases (P9). Urban districts accounted for 41% of India's cases in P1. Their share soon declined but began to rise again during the P6 stage

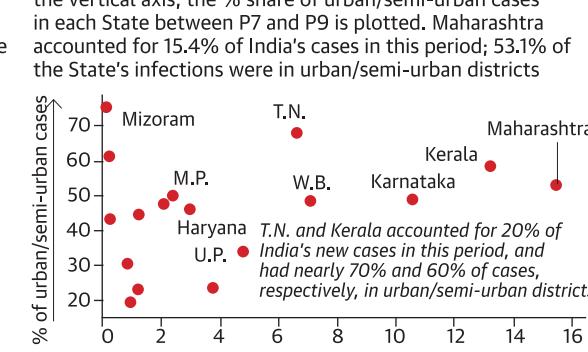
	RURAL	SEMI-RURAL	SEMI -URBAN	URBAN
P1	12	22	25	41
P2	18	42	23	16
P3	22	44	22	12
P4	22	44	21	13
P5	22	42	23	14
P6	22	40	24	15
P7	20	38	24	17
P8	20	36	24	20
P9	18	31	25	26

DEATH SHARE | The chart depicts the % share of India's cases recorded across urban, mostly urban, mostly rural and rural districts during 9 stages: P1 to P9. A similar pattern emerged for deaths too. Urban districts accounted for over half of India's deaths in P1. Their share soon declined, but started rising during the P6 stage

	RURAL	SEMI-RURAL	SEMI -URBAN	URBAN
P1	6	17	22	54
P2	11	33	29	27
P3	14	39	30	17
P4	16	42	27	15
P5	17	41	28	14
P6	18	39	28	14
P7	20	38	25	18
P8	19	35	24	22
P9	19	32	23	27

*The health infrastructure is relatively better in urban areas, which could account for more testing and case detection

CASES AMONG STATES | On the horizontal axis, a State's share in India's new cases between P7 and P9 is plotted. On the vertical axis, the % share of urban/semi-urban cases in each State between P7 and P9 is plotted. Maharashtra accounted for 15.4% of India's cases in this period; 53.1% of the State's infections were in urban/semi-urban districts



DEATHS AMONG STATES | On the horizontal axis, a State's share in India's new deaths between P7 and P9 is plotted. On the vertical axis, the % share of urban/semi-urban deaths in each State between P7 and P9 is plotted. Maharashtra accounted for 30.5% of India's deaths in this period; 47.1% of the State's fatalities were in urban/semi-urban districts

	RURAL	SEMI-RURAL	SEMI -URBAN	URBAN
Gujarat	60	60	60	60
Kerala	45	45	45	45
T.N.	40	40	40	40
W.B.	35	35	35	35
Maharashtra	30	30	30	30

T.N. and W.B. accounted for 15% of new deaths in this period, and had nearly 70% and 60% of deaths, respectively, in urban/semi-urban districts

Source: covid19india.org

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 25, 1970

India's gesture to Pakistan

The Government of India in record time today gave Pakistani planes blanket permission to fly over Indian territory to rush relief supplies to the cyclone-stricken people of East Pakistan. At 11.30 hours to-day [November 24] the Pakistan High Commissioner here [New Delhi], Mr. Sajid Haider, called on Mr. S. K. Banerjee, Secretary in the Foreign Ministry, and requested that for the next fortnight blanket permission be given for the clearance of Pakistan Air Force C-130 transport planes ferrying relief supplies from West Pakistan to East Pakistan. At 12.35 hours in 65 minutes, the Pakistan High Commissioner was informed by the Foreign Ministry that Pakistan's request had been granted. Official sources said that the decision was in keeping with India's efforts to render all assistance to bring relief to the victims of cyclone in East Pakistan. One hundred and five packages, containing 2,265 kilo-grammes of vaccines and sulphur drugs gifted by India for the cyclone victims of East Pakistan arrived in Dacca by air on November 22 and have already been handed over to Pakistan authorities.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO NOV. 25, 1920

Homeless Adi Dravidas

Mr. O. Rajavelu Chetty, M.A. B.L., Secretary, the People's Service League, writes under the 25th November 1920:- The continuous heavy rains we have recently been having, have made the lot of the poor Adi Dravidas living in the various Cherries in the City infinitely worse. One has only to take a walk to one of the numerous Cherries in the City to be convinced that they are not fit for human habitation especially during rainy season. There is absolutely no drainage and you see muddy puddles of water everywhere. The poor shelter that the clay walls and the palm-leaf roofs afford against the high winds and the heavy downpour of

FROM PAGE ONE

T.N., Puducherry on edge as Nivar closes in



Vehicle moving through flood water on Poonamallee High Road after heavy rain lashed Chennai. ■ R. RAGU

Until early Tuesday, meteorologists had forecast a 'severe cyclone' but now say it will intensify further to be labelled a 'very severe cyclone'. This is just a step below the strongest possible classification of an 'extremely severe cyclone'.

After remaining stationary for a few hours on Tuesday morning, the weather system resumed its westwards track with a speed of 5 km per hour. It may be recalled that the system was moving at an average speed of 20 km per hour on Monday.

It is very likely to intensify further into a severe cyclonic storm during next 12 hours and into a very severe cyclonic storm during subsequent 12 hours. It is expected to move west-northwestwards once it intensifies into a severe cyclonic storm and then northwestwards.

M. Mohapatra, Director General, Indian Meteorological Department, said at a press briefing that that tidal waves as high as 1.5 metres were expected to inundate low lying areas of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry near the place of landfall. He told *The Hindu* that the storm was characteristic of what was usually observed from October-December in the seas around India.

Authorities in Andhra Pradesh are on high alert ahead of cyclone Nivar's landfall, and helplines have been set up in all districts to

disseminate information.

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy held a review meeting with District Collectors and SPs, and asked the officials to be on high alert when the storm crosses the coast.

Fishermen in Nellore and Prakasam districts, who had ventured into the sea, rushed back as squally wind conditions prevailed. Sea water advanced up to 100 metres in the coastal mandals. NDRF and State Disaster Response Force teams were rushed to the coastal areas.

Officials in Chittoor district are focussing on areas prone to water-logging and tree falls. Vigil has also been mounted at Araniyar reservoir and rivulets and causeways. In Guntur district, 16 multi-purpose rehabilitation centres were being set up in coastal mandals to evacuate in case of emergency.

The Meteorological Centre, Bengaluru, has issued a Yellow Alert for districts in South Interior Karnataka including Bengaluru city, for November 25 and 26, as the region is expected to receive isolated spells of heavy rainfall due to the impact of Nivar Cyclone. Kolar, Chikkaballapur, Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru Rural, Tumkur, Ramanagara and Mandya districts are expected to receive heavy rainfall over the next two days.

(With inputs from New Delhi and Andhra Pradesh)

Govt. bans 43 more apps citing threat to security

The 43 apps banned on Tuesday include e-commerce, social networking as well as dating applications, namely Lalamove India - Delivery App, Snack Video, Chinese Social - Free Online Dating Video App & Chat, Date in Asia - Dating & Chat For Asian Singles, WeDate-Dating App, Free dating app-Singol, start your date!

PM tells States to prepare for vaccine distribution

He added that it was not even certain whether the vaccine would be a single shot one or would require two or three shots.

While telling the State governments to keep logistics ready for vaccine roll-out, Mr. Modi said the primary focus should still be in containing the spread of COVID-19, especially after the post-festival surge being seen in several States. He held a separate videoconference with Chief Ministers of eight States – Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Haryana, Delhi, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Gujarat and Kerala – where cases have surged recently. "We must focus on bringing down the positivity rate below 5% and the fatality rate below 1%," Mr. Modi said.

"We have seen four stages of how people in the country have reacted to corona. In the first stage there was fear and panic of the unknown, there were cases of suicide upon diagnosis. In the second stage we found fear and suspicion of others in society as possible carriers of the disease. The third phase, when more information was available and recovery rates increased, was of acceptance and alertness. The fourth stage especially looking at the festival

season was a bit of complacency and carelessness, the results of which we are seeing currently," Mr. Modi said. He asked the State governments to emphasise that while the vaccine may arrive whenever it does, behaviour that would discourage the spread of COVID-19 should be emphasised and insisted upon.

Chief Ministers who spoke during the meeting said they were fully ready to co-ordinate logistics with the Central government on the disbursal of the vaccine, with Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray stating that he was in touch with the Pune-based Serum Institute of India chief Adar Poonawalla on vaccine issues.

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said his State had already set up 630 cold chain points, with 80 more to be set up with a capacity of 85,000 litre storage. His State had also put in place 8,192 vaccination sites and 27,931 spot workers for the endeavour.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said figures in her State reflected the fact that hers was a border State with patients coming in from Bangladesh and Bhutan and also from other Indian States.

Kerala to withdraw amendment

Revision of law, if at all, only after consensus: CM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A special meeting of the Kerala Cabinet on Tuesday decided to request Governor Arif Muhammad Khan to promulgate a "withdrawal" ordinance to revoke the controversial executive order that sought to empower the police to prosecute persons disseminating defamatory content.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, who chaired the meeting, said different quarters supportive of the government had expressed alarm that Section 118-A of the amended Kerala Police Act (KPA), 2011, bestowed unfettered powers on the law enforcement to curtail free speech and media freedom.

The government factored in public anxiety about the law. It acted with perceptiveness and annulled it, Mr. Vijayan said.

The government had introduced the amendment in good faith. It sought to give

C The ordinance targeted defamatory social media posts and online content. Its intent is not to curb reportage, political satire, opinion, free speech, impartial journalism or commentary. The government is unlikely to revisit the law

PINARAYI VIJAYAN
KERALA CHIEF MINISTER

more teeth to the police to crackdown on vile and hateful social media messaging that targeted women, children, transgender people and other vulnerable sections of society.

Moreover, such attacks had led to acts of vigilantes that threatened public peace and social order. It was widely felt the existing law was inadequate to deal with the legal challenges posed by the new media. The ordinance targeted defamatory social media posts and online content. Its intent was not to curb reportage, political satire, opinion, free speech, impartial journalism or commentary, Mr. Vijayan said.

The government was unlikely to revisit the law. The government would



No case under new Section, govt. tells HC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

The State government on Tuesday assured a Division Bench of the Kerala High Court that the police would not take any adverse action or register any FIR or take suo moto cognizance based on the newly incorporated Section 118 A of the Kerala Police Act till the government takes a final call on the issue.

The controversial Section 118 A makes publishing, expressing or making or disseminating humiliating, abusing, threatening or defaming contents through any mode of communication a bailable offence and provides for a punishment of three-year imprisonment. The undertaking was given by the State government before a Bench comprising Chief Justice S. Manikumar and Justice Shaji P. Chali.

place any future revision to the law, if at all, in the Assembly to evolve a political consensus before enactment. The government had come under criticism from the Opposition parties, civil rights activists and journalist bodies for promulgating a "black law" that threatened free speech.

They claimed the law accorded untrammeled power to the police to scour published and aired content for libellous material. The amendment also empowered the police to initiate prosecution on their own and even in the absence of a specific complaint.

Moreover, the Opposition parties argued the law did not distinguish between social and online media.

'Vaccine likely in four to six weeks'

PM told States to gear up: Yediyurappa

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa has claimed that there were indications of the vaccine against COVID-19 becoming available in four to six weeks.

Speaking to presspersons after his arrival in Mysuru on Tuesday, Mr. Yediyurappa referred to the virtual meeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi had with a group of Chief Ministers earlier in the day, and said the Prime Minister had asked the States to prepare themselves for distribution of the vaccine in all the districts.

He said the Prime Minister had asked the Chief Ministers to establish a system for proper distribution of the vaccine, which can take four to six weeks.

Asked about the possibility of a fresh lockdown in view of indications of a possible second wave of COVID-19 infections, Mr. Yediyurappa nodded in the negative and walked away.

Meanwhile, Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai told presspersons that the government had decided to constitute a State-level steering committee headed by the Chief Minister to monitor vaccination for COVID-19. Similarly, Deputy Commissioners and tahsildars will head steering committees at the district and taluk levels, he said.

Vaccine will be given to all people in Telangana'

HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao has announced that the State government is ready to administer scientifically-approved COVID-19 vaccine to its people.

Mr. Chandrasekhar Rao expressed the State government's willingness to give the vaccine to its people after any such vaccine is verified for any side effects. Stating that people were eagerly waiting for a COVID vaccine, Mr. Rao felt that a proven vaccine was the need of the hour. "The Telangana government is ready to distribute and administer the vaccine to its people on a priority basis," he noted. He explained that the government would prepare an action plan to administer the vaccine.

Mr. Bommai said the government is planning to follow arrangements made during elections to administer the vaccine to the general public. "Vaccination centres would be formed and workers will be trained for the exercise," the Home Minister said.

A digital platform would be developed to collate inoculation data, as people who are vaccinated might require two or three doses to achieve resistance, Mr. Bommai said.

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Karnataka varsities adopt govt. schools

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A total of 34 government and private universities in Karnataka adopted government schools for development of infrastructure and Vice-Chancellors received adoption letters from Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa.

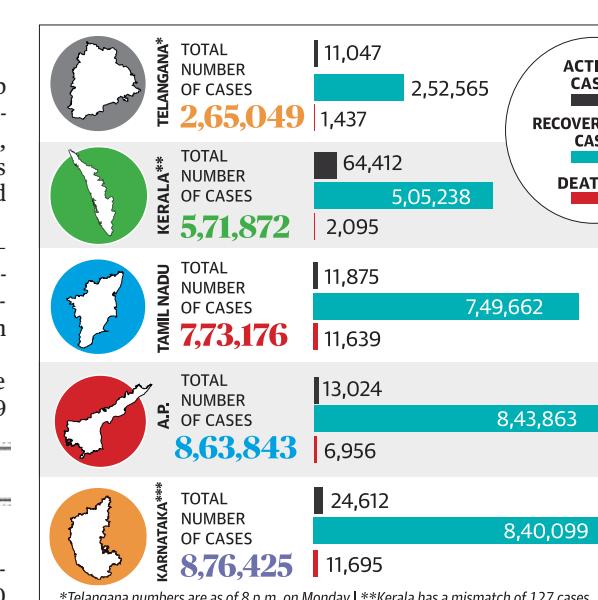
Mr. Yediyurappa adopted 10 government schools in his Shikarpur constituency while Deputy Chief Minister Govind M. Karjol, Social Welfare Minister B. Sriramulu and Primary and Secondary Education Minister S. Suresh Kumar adopted five schools each in their constituencies.

In 2020-21 State Budget, the Chief Minister suggested legislators to adopt at least three schools in their constituencies for developing infrastructure utilising their constituency fund.

Of the 53,000 government schools in the State, more than 1,400 schools have been adopted so far.

Kerala, A.P. show flat case graph

Doubling time for cases in Kerala rises by 10 days; Karnataka positivity at 1.58%



Gadwal.

Andhra Pradesh reported 1,085 new cases from 65,101 samples, and 10 deaths. The daily positivity rate was 1.67% and overall positivity of 97.27 lakh samples 8.88%, the Health Department said.

Krishna reported two new

deaths, the highest. Chittoor, East Godavari, Guntur, Kadapa, Nellore and Visakhapatnam reported one death each.

Karnataka reported 1,870 new cases from Monday's samples. With 17 deaths, the toll also rose. Test positivity

'Sivasankar abetted gold smuggling'

Customs cites this in remand report

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

Swapna Suresh, second accused in the diplomatic channel gold smuggling case, has given a statement that M. Sivasankar, former Principal Secretary to Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, had abetted the gold smuggling activities and was "in the know of things", claims the Cochin Customs.

The Customs revealed the reported role of Sivasankar in the smuggling case in his remand report and custody application which was filed before the Economic Offences Court, Ernakulam, on Tuesday.

It was after formally recording the arrest of Sivasankar at the district jail in the morning that the Customs officials approached the Economic Offences Court seeking his custody.

The Customs recorded the statement of Swapna under Section 108 of the Customs Act. The statements made under Section 108



would be treated as evidence against those who made it and against those who were referred to it.

Customs officials submitted that they had interrogated Swapna on November 18 at the Women's Jail at Attakkulangara in Thiruvananthapuram.

Swapna had also admitted before the Enforcement Directorate that Sivasankar had used his influence in clearing the smuggled gold. Following the statement, Sivasankar was arrayed as an accused by the ED and remanded in judicial custody.

project at the rate on a par with what was quoted by the Adani company, it said.

The appeal said the State had given the AAI land free of cost for airport construction on the assurance that it would be involved in the forming of an SPV. This was a "legitimate expectation", it said.

The Chief Minister, on November 21, 2018, wrote to the Civil Aviation Minister, informing that the State government has been actively associated in transferring land to the AAI, without having any legal obligation to do so, on the explicit understanding that Kerala would be associated by forming an SPV whenever the AAI felt the need to transfer the management of the airport to any entity," the State argued.

The High Court favoured the handing over of a vital facility to a private entity though it was not in the interest of the AAI. The State said the preference given by the Centre to a private concessionaire like Adani, which has no experience in the field of managing airports, smacks of arbitrariness.

1994, the State said. The concession was given to the Adani group despite a proposal from the Kerala government to form a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) to run the airport on a revenue-sharing basis, the appeal said.

The Chief Minister had even offered to take up the

Kerala moves SC on airport takeover

State opposes plan to hand over Thiruvananthapuram airport to Adani group



Changing hands: A file photo of the international terminal of the Thiruvananthapuram International Airport.

The High Court favoured the handing over of a vital facility to a private entity though it was not in the interest of the AAI.

The concession was given to the Adani group despite a proposal from the Kerala government to form a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) to run the airport on a revenue-sharing basis, the appeal said.

The court also ordered issuance of notice to the BJP, the Congress, the Janata Dal, and the CPI (Marxist) asking them whether they are willing to ensure that their members and workers don't violate COVID-19 norms of wearing masks and maintaining social distance during rallies / campaigns.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Abhay Shreenivas Oka and Justice S. Vishwajith Shetty passed the order during the hearing of a PIL petition filed by Letzkit Foundation, Bengaluru, on COVID-19 norm violations by celebrities, political lead-

ers, and elected representatives.

When brought to the court's notice the call given for bandh, the Bench said there was every likelihood that COVID-19 norms would be set at knot. The Bench observed that the "time has come for political parties to take responsibilities to ensure strict adherence to norms of wearing masks and maintaining social distancing during rallies" while pointing out that a large

IN BRIEF



President offers prayers at Tirumala temple

TIRUMALA
President Ram Nath Kovind offered prayers at the hill shrine of Lord Venkateswara on Tuesday. He was accompanied by his wife Savita Kovind and daughter Swati Kovind. The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams authorities and priests received Mr. Kovind with traditional honours at the main temple complex.

Can Kunju be treated in govt. hospital, asks court

KOCHI
The Enquiry Commission and Special Judge, Mavattupuzha, has asked the District Medical Officer (DMO), Ernakulam

IN BRIEF



Maharashtra official says acted on Speaker's order

NEW DELHI
A Maharashtra Assembly official, who 'threatened' Republic TV editor-in-chief Arnab Goswami with penalty for going to the Supreme Court, said he had acted on the instructions of Speaker Nana Patole (in photo). Vilas Athawale was replying to a contempt notice. Chief Justice S.A. Bobde said the court did not have the opportunity to study the reply due to the late hour in which it was filed on Monday. The court said it would hear arguments on the next date.

Chargesheet filed in TRP manipulation case

MUMBAI
The Mumbai Crime Branch on Tuesday filed the chargesheet in the Television Rating Point (TRP) manipulation case before the Esplanade magistrate court. The accused include editor-in-chief of Republic TV Arnab Goswami and CEO Vikas Khanchandani. Priya Mukarjee, COO of ARG Outlier Private Ltd., filed for anticipatory bail.

CVC flags delay in filing property returns

NEW DELHI
The Central Vigilance Commission has expressed "deep concern" over a long delay in filing of property returns by government officials and has told them to complete the exercise latest by November 30. Non-compliance may result in disciplinary action, it said.

BSF hands over intruder's body to Pakistan
JAMMU
The Border Security Force on Tuesday handed over the body of a Pakistani national who was killed near the International Border in Samba district on Monday. The BSF officials identified the deceased as Abdul Hamid, a resident of Chaman Khurd, Shakargarh in Pakistan. The body was returned during a meeting between the BSF and the Pakistan Rangers.

Sadiq Jamal case: two policemen discharged

AHMEDABAD
A CBI court in Ahmedabad on Tuesday discharged two policemen accused in the 2003 Sadiq Jamal fake encounter case. The court observed that there was no sufficient ground to proceed against them in the case. Special Judge B.A. Dave allowed the discharge pleas of R.L. Mavani, a sub-inspector, and A.S. Yadav, a constable, who claimed that they were falsely implicated in the case.

NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY ODISHA, CUTTACK

(Established by Odisha Act IV of 2008)
Kathajodi Campus, Sector 13, CDA, Cuttack - 753015, Odisha

[Accredited with 'A' Grade by NAAC]

Advert. No.: NLNU/VCR-001/2020-11-24
APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHANCELLOR

The Search Committee invites applications / nominations from eminent academicians in the field of Law who are interested to serve NLNU as its Vice-Chancellor. The terms of appointment will be as per the provisions of the NLNU Act and the salary and perks shall be as per UGC scales of Vice-Chancellor.

The candidate must be a distinguished academician with the highest level of competence, impeccable integrity, morals and institutional commitment. The person to be appointed as Vice-Chancellor should be an outstanding scholar in law with a minimum of ten years' experience as Professor in a University or ten years' of experience in a reputed research and / or academic administrative organization with proof of having demonstrated academic leadership. The candidate should have proven leadership quality and able to lead the University's mission of promoting teaching and research at the highest level of excellence. The person should also have the ability to promote the University at the national and international level for development of strong linkages with academic institutions of repute, Centre Government, and various State Governments and Industry.

Interested candidates may apply with their detailed Resume / CV along with a vision statement for NLNU (not exceeding 2000 words). Application may be sent either in electronic form to Hon'ble Mr. Justice A. K. Patnaik, Chairman of the Search Committee at justice.akpatnaik@gmail.com or by Speed Post to "Justice A. K. Patnaik, K-34 A, Hauz Khas Enclave (Basement) New Delhi-110016" by 30th December, 2020. The shortlisted candidates will be invited for an interaction with the Search Committee. The shortlisted candidates shall also be provided T.A./D.A. as per the University rules.

Search Committee

THE ODISHA MINING CORPORATION LIMITED

OMC House, Bhubaneswar-751001, Odisha

CIN: U13100OR1956SGC000313, www.omcltd.in

NOTICE

No.14140/OMC/2020
Date: 24/11/2020

Pursuant to the Notice No.52/OMC/2020 dated 12.11.2020 regarding conduct of CBT for recruitment of 128 non-executive posts in OMC Ltd against the Advertisement No. 46/OMC dated 26.02.2020, the candidates are advised to note the following:

- The Score Normalization Procedure / Formula**, to be adopted for normalization of scores of the candidates appearing for CBT for Jr. Executive Assistant & J.E. (Electrical) in multiple shifts, can be referred in OMC website (<http://omcltd.in>).
- The Letter of Undertaking for using Scribe / Reader**, which needs to be filled up at the time of entry to CBT centre, can be downloaded from OMC website (<http://omcltd.in>) for use of PwD candidates.
- The Facilitation Counters**, to facilitate candidates for addressing issues related to non-receipt of e-Admit card & any error/ discrepancies related to e-Admit Card, will be functional on 07.12.2020 (10:00 AM to 2:00 PM) in the following cities:
 - Bhubaneswar
 - Cuttack
 - Dhenkanal
 - Berhampur
 - Sambalpur

The address details will be made available in OMC website (<http://omcltd.in>).

For addressing to the standard queries of the candidates, please refer the FAQ uploaded in the OMC website (<http://omcltd.in>).

The candidates are advised to refer Notice No.14141 dt. 24.11.2020 uploaded in OMC website (<http://omcltd.in>) to get details on the above.

Sd/-
ADDL. GENERAL MANAGER (PERSNL.)
OIPR-30005/1/10/10/2021

CAD-806:

Farooq, Omar on land grab list

J&K govt. website says the former Chief Ministers had occupied State land

VIJAYA SINGH

NEW DELHI

The Jammu and Kashmir administration has posted on its website details of 0.9 acre of government land in Jammu that has been allegedly encroached by former Chief Ministers Farooq Abdullah and his son Omar Abdullah for "residential" purpose.

The details of the property – Khasra no. 4, 5 and 6 in Sunjwan village of Bahu tehsil in Jammu district registered in the name of the Abdullahs – has been included in a list that says "Encroached State land (physically encroached but not shown in revenue record) – other than Roshni."

The list published on Tuesday includes details of properties belonging to two other persons – Mushtaq Chaya, a businessman, and Ashfaq Mir, son of a retired judge.

The list comprising names



Land scheme: The J&K administration says Farooq Abdullah, right, and Omar are beneficiaries of the Roshni Act. ■ FILE PHOTO

of National Conference politicians Syed Akhoon, Aslam Goni, Haroon Chowdhary, Sujjad Ichhla, Abdul Majid Wani and M.Y. Khan, former J&K Bank chairman, who are alleged to have encroached on government land in Sunjwan village, was published on Monday.

The "quantum of State land occupied illegally (physically) approx" by Abdullahs stands at 7 kanals (0.875 acres) and 7 marlas (0.043 acre). A senior government official claimed the land "encroached" by the former Chief Ministers is "forest land".

The list of beneficiaries of the Roshni Act include Suraiya Mattoo, Farooq Abdullah's sister. The list also claimed that Sher-e-Kashmir Bhavan, the building housing the office of National Conference in Jammu, and

the office of Nawai-Subah Trust of NC in Srinagar was also allotted under the Roshni Act.

The National Conference said in a statement that the "news attributing to sources that party president and MP Srinagar Dr. Farooq Abdullah is a beneficiary of the Roshni Scheme is completely false and is being spread with a malicious intent".

"Dr. Farooq Abdullah has NOT availed of the Roshni Scheme for either his residence in Srinagar or in Jammu and anyone who says otherwise is lying. The fact that they are using sources to plant this story shows that it has no legs to stand on," the statement said.

The Jammu and Kashmir High Court in an order on October 9 had directed that details of "State land in unauthorised occupation" shall be disclosed on the government website.

Three more FIRs linked to land scam registered

J&K Revenue officials under the scanner

DEvesh K. Pandey

NEW DELHI

Three more FIRs linked to the ₹25,000-crore Roshni land scam have been registered by the CBI against Revenue Department officials and others in Srinagar district of Jammu and Kashmir, taking the number of cases to eight so far.

The second FIR is against unknown public servants and others and pertains to the instances where proper procedure was not adopted while disposing of cases of illegal occupants for vesting ownerships in Srinagar.

Unknown public servants and private persons are also under the scanner in the third case which mentions an audit report alleging irregularities in the transfer of land. It revealed abuse of official position in conferring undue pecuniary benefits.

Left slams RBI's banking licence plan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Left parties slammed the RBI proposal to give banking licences to large corporates calling it a retrograde step.

CPI general secretary D. Raju said this is a retrograde move and should not be allowed. He said this is a continuation of the Modi government's "pro-corporate neo-liberal" economic policies.

CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury posted news reports on how the RBI had ignored the advice of experts. "Corporate takeover permits loot of people's savings demolishing the banking system," Mr. Yechury tweeted.

Politically connected firms will benefit: Cong.

RBI proposal is the Centre's agenda'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday strongly opposed a proposed move of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to allow corporate houses to enter the banking sector and set up banks. Former Union Finance Minister P. Chidambaram said it would "reverse" the gains made in the past 50 years.

At a virtual press conference, Mr. Chidambaram and party general secretary Randeep Surjewala accused the Union government of "pushing" its agenda through RBI, and appealed

Jail term, fine for 'unlawful' religious conversions in U.P.

State government passes ordinance outlining strict action

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government on Tuesday gave its nod to an ordinance that makes religious conversion a non-bailable offence inviting penalties up to 10 years in prison if found to be effected for marriage or through misrepresentation, force, undue influence, coercion, allurement or other allegedly fraudulent means.



Yogi Adityanath

years with a fine of ₹15,000.

The U.P. Unlawful Religious Conversion Prohibition Ordinance, 2020 was cleared by the Cabinet weeks after Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath promised to bring an "effective law" against "love jihad", a legally unrecognised term.

Violation of the provisions of the law would invite a jail term of not less than one year extendable to five

of social organisations conducting mass conversions.

Mass conversions would invite a jail term of not less than three years up to 10 years and a fine of ₹50,000, reads the operative statement on the ordinance.

In case of conversion done by a woman for the sole purpose of marriage, the marriage would be declared null and void.

The ordinance further said that the burden to prove that a conversion was not done through misrepresentation would be on the person converting or those who facilitated it.

A person seeking to convert to another to another religion for marriage would have to inform the district magistrate two months prior to it through a prescribed form.

Permanent Commission: Army officers move SC

'Less than 50% women benefited'

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

NEW DELHI

Women Army officers on Tuesday moved the Supreme Court to debunk the defence establishment's announcement that 422 of 615 women officers screened

than half of 615 – women officers spread across 31 batches in 10 Arms/Services of the Army.

Compared to this number, 90% male officers have been cleared for PC in the Army.

"The exercise for grant of PC has been carried out more in optics, than in substance, rendering itself to be yet another instance of lip-service, adding to the long unfortunate chain of symbolic and Pyrrhic victories," said the women officers, represented by lawyers Chitrangada Rastravara and Archna Pathak Dave.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

ELECTRICAL (GENERAL), CONSTRUCTION, CHENNAI EGMORE

Name of work: Proposed conversion of TNB HT overhead power line crossings into under ground cable between Salem (Magnesite Jn) and Omalur Stations.

Tender No: E-HQ-CN-MS-EOT2-2020-21. Dated: 23-11-2020.

Period of completion: 9 months. Approximate cost of work: Rs. 68,26,003. Cost of tender form: Nil. EMD: Rs. 1,36,500/- Tender closing date: 18.12.2020.

Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer/ General/Construction/S.Rly, Egmore,

Complete details & Tender Document available at <http://www.tenders.gov.in>

Follow us on: <https://twitter.com/GMSRailway>

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT ADDENDUM TO AUCTION NOTICE NO.06/2020.

SALE OF RIVER SAND

Madurai Division of Southern Railway is having "Coarse River Sand" at Virudhunagar Railway Station Yard. It is proposed to sell it through e-auction. The e-auction is to be conducted on 10.12.2020, 18.12.2020 & 28.12.2020. Interested bidders are requested to get their names registered with IREPS.

For further details, Divisional Materials Manager, DRM office, Madurai (Mobile No. 9003862771) may please be contacted.

Auction Notice No: 08/2020. Manual Auction will be conducted for disposal of Ferrous scrap, other Misc Scrap of small value lot.

Manual auction conducted by Sr.DMM/SA. Date of auction for the Month of December 2020: 18-12-20.

Materials for auction: The details of item to be sold in Manual auction will be available with the auction conducting officer i.e. Sr.DMM/SA.

All other e-auctions scheduled for December 20 remain unaltered.

For detailed terms and conditions and downloading of catalogue please visit our web-site www.tenders.gov.in →e-auction→sale→five auctions.

Principal Chief Materials Manager, S.Rly

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DELHI JAL BOARD
GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SDW) VIII
SEC. 16-D, PAPPANKALAN; N. DELHI 110075

STOP CORONA: Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene

PRESS N.I.T. NO. 5/EE(SDW) VIII/2020-21

S. No.	Name of work	Estimate cost in Rs.	E/Money in Rs.	Tender fee in Rs.

IN BRIEF



President to inaugurate Speakers' conference

AHMEDABAD
President Ram Nath Kovind will inaugurate the 80th All India Presiding Officers' conference at the Statue of Unity at Kevadia in Gujarat on Wednesday. Prime Minister Narendra Modi would address the concluding session of the conference on Thursday, which is the Constitution Day during which all delegates would recite the Preamble.

ED raids Sena MLA's premises, detains son

MUMBAI
The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday conducted raids at places of Shiv Sena MLA Pratap Sarnaik on charges of money laundering and detained his son Vihang. ED officials, along with CRPF personnel, conducted the raids at 10 places, including Mr. Sarnaik's residence at Thane in the morning and at the Tops group, its promoters and related people, including some politicians. Mr. Sarnaik represents the Oval-Majiwada constituency in Thane. He is also the Sena's Maharashtra spokesperson and the communication leader for Mira-Bhayandar.

Kangana, sister granted interim relief by HC

MUMBAI
The Bombay High Court on Tuesday granted interim protection from arrest to actor Kangana Ranaut and her sister Rangoli Chandel till January 8, and directed them to appear before the Bandra police on the same day. The duo has been charged with sedition and promoting hatred and outrage among communities. A Division Bench of Justices S.S. Shinde and M.S. Karnik also directed the sisters to not make any statements or posts on social media which are related to the case.

Speeding truck mows down six in Odisha

Bhubaneswar
Six persons, including three women, died when a speeding truck ran over them in Odisha's Nayagarh district on Tuesday. The truck was going from Nayagarh to Odisha. The truck driver, who was allegedly driving under the influence of alcohol, lost control over the vehicle that hit two bikers and then crushed pedestrians one after another. The accident took place around 3 p.m. The bikers were flung off the road and died on the spot near Sarankul, 13 km from Nayagarh. Angry family members and residents blocked the road, demanding a compensation of ₹20 lakh each to the victims' kin.

Govt. to track vaccine reactions

Neurologists and cardiologists will be part of the monitoring committees

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Health Ministry has written to the State governments and the Union Territory administrations to put in place a robust system for the reporting and gathering of information on the side effects of COVID-19 vaccines once they are rolled out.

The Ministry has identified initiatives to strengthen the reporting of Adverse Events Following Immunisation (AEFI), said a letter by Manohar Agnani, Additional Secretary, Health Ministry. The States and the Union Territories have been requested to implement the steps.

The Ministry has asked that more medical specialists be part of the AEFI committees. "COVID-19 vaccination will be given to adults many of whom may have comorbidities. Events due to pre-existing co-morbidities (stroke/heart attacks, etc) may be reported as AEFI following COVID-19 vaccination. Membership of State AEFI committees should be revised to include neurologists, cardiologists, respiratory medicine specialists who can recognise such events and differentiate them from events related to



Top shot: A scientist at work at the Serum Institute of India, Pune, which is readying doses of the Oxford vaccine. ■ REUTERS

vaccine and vaccination. Similarly, direction may be issued to districts to include medical specialists (neurologists and cardiologists) in district AEFI committees," the letter said.

Case load

Delhi again reported the highest daily number of new COVID-19 cases at 4,454 and casualties at 121. Maharashtra followed with 4,153 new cases.

At least 480 case fatalities have been reported in the past 24 hours, and 10 States and Union Territories account for 73.54% of new deaths, noted a release is-

sued by the Health Ministry on Tuesday.

"Delhi has also reported the maximum number of single day recoveries with 7,216 newly recovered cases. 5,425 people recovered in Kerala followed by 3,729 in Maharashtra. 77.04% of the new cases are from 10 States and UTs. The recovery rate has also increased to 93.76% and the recoveries currently stands at 86,04,955. 75.71% of the new recovered cases are observed to be concentrated in 10 States/UTs," it said.

The release noted that India had registered fewer than 40,000 daily new cases

after six days. The number of daily new cases was 37,975. For the last 17 days in a row, daily new cases had been below the 50,000 mark.

Giving details of India's testing infrastructure, the Ministry said the country currently had 2,134 labs. "10,99,545 samples were tested in the last 24 hours. An average of more than 10 lakh tests conducted daily has ensured that the cumulative positivity rate is sustained at low levels and is presently following a downward trajectory," the release said.

The cumulative national positivity rate stands at 6.87% currently as per the Ministry and the daily positivity rate is 3.45%.

"Higher volumes of testing eventually lead to low positivity rate. The tests per million (TPM) has increased to 96,871 tests. There has been a sustained decrease in the number of active cases over the past few weeks. 42,314 cases recovered and discharged in the last 24 hours. The active case load has fallen to 4,38,667. The present contribution of active case load to India's total positive cases stands at 4.78%, following a declining curve," the Ministry added.

Sputnik V shows interim efficacy of 91%, says RDIF

It is also being tested on human volunteers in India

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Russian COVID-19 vaccine candidate Sputnik V has shown an interim efficacy of 91% based on analysing results from nearly 18,000 volunteers, some of whom got the actual vaccine and others a placebo, the Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) said on Tuesday.

The vaccine candidate is also being tested on human volunteers in India and will cost "less than \$10 [₹700] for international markets", the RDIF said in a statement.

The latest trial data do not include those of Indian volunteers.



Positive results: A researcher works on Sputnik V vaccine in Moscow. ■ FILE PHOTO

ulated with the actual Sputnik V vaccine, eight later tested positive and of the smaller placebo group, of 4,699 nearly four times as many – 31 – tested positive. From this, is derived the efficacy rate of 91%. This also translates to 1:4 protective ness odds.

By comparison, of the 95 cases Moderna analysed, 90 were observed in the placebo group versus 5 in the mRNA-1273 group – that is a 1:18 ratio.

Of the 170 cases of COVID-19, as specified in the Pfizer-BioNTech study protocol, there were three volunteers who got the vaccine for every one who got the placebo. Of the 14,095 who were inocu-

nated – a 1:20 ratio. The Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine, being tested by the Serum Institute of India, relied on 131 positives but a break-up of placebo and vaccinated volunteers was not available.

"Sputnik V relies on only 39 cases and that is too low a number for an efficacy evaluation. That said this is an interim result – like the others – and we should wait for the full data. The positive side is that like the other vaccine candidates, this too is successfully attacking the spike protein and hence shows protection," said Shadid Jameel, virologist and Head, Trivedi School of Biosciences, Ashoka University.

The latest results, which are yet to be announced in a medical journal, were gleaned from ongoing double-blind, randomised, placebo-controlled Phase III clinical trials in Russia involving 40,000 volunteers.

Of these, only 18,794 got both doses of the trial vaccine that are being administered 21 days apart. The analysis was done a week after the second dose was administered.

A year on, South Asian University still headless

Faculty allege MEA interference

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ
NEW DELHI

At a time when the Union government is trying to encourage international education in India, an existing international institution is facing a crisis of leadership.

The Delhi-based South Asian University, established by all eight SAARC countries, has not had a president for over a year, while its executive council and governing board have not met for almost two and three years respectively.

After a decade of existence, the university has yet to appoint a non-Indian president, despite rules stipulating a rotation among the member countries.

Faculty members have now written to the chair of the Board, currently held by Nepal, and to the acting president of the university, complaining about interference by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and a dilution of the university's international nature. Acting president Ranjan Kumar Mohanty told *The Hindu*

that the MEA's involvement was justified as India is the biggest funder of the institution.

"One of the reasons for the uniqueness of this University is its mandate, as reflected in its Rules and Regulations, for a South Asia-wide representation among all the constituents of the University, with the President being appointed in accordance with Rule 5 of the SAU Rules," said a letter dated November 17, sent by the South Asian University Faculty Association to Bhim Prasad Subedi, chairman of the governing board who also heads Nepal's University Grants Commission.

Out of a faculty strength of 58, only six are not from India, although half the student strength is from the other SAARC countries. The two letters were signed by 42 faculty members, who also raised concerns that the lack of a full-time president has led to administrative apathy, with salaries and promotions frozen, and research grants suspended.

It aims to reduce stunting and wasting by 2% a year (total 6% until 2022) among children and anaemia by 3% a year (total 9%) among children, adolescent girls and pregnant women and lactat-

Poshan Abhiyaan needs a boost: study

NITI Aayog report suggests accelerated actions on multiple fronts to meet targets

JAGRITI CHANDRA
NEW DELHI

The National Nutrition Mission or the Poshan Abhiyaan, the world's largest nutrition programme for children and mothers, must be stepped up to meet the targets set by the Centre to reduce stunting, wasting and anaemia by 2022, says a report by NITI Aayog.

The review report drafted in March does not factor worsening poverty and hunger levels over the past seven months due to COVID-19, which is expected to dent strides made since 2018 to achieve nutritional targets.

Health survey

The government's flagship programme to improve nutritional outcomes for children, pregnant women and lactating mothers was launched in 2018 with specific targets to be achieved by 2022.

It aims to reduce stunting and wasting by 2% a year (total 6% until 2022) among children and anaemia by 3% a year (total 9%) among children, adolescent girls and pregnant women and lactat-

Lack of nutrition

According to NFHS-4 (2015-16), 38.4% of children under five years were stunted (low height-for-age) and 21% of them were wasted (low weight-for-height) in India

Indicator	ALL FIGURES IN %	
	NFHS-4 (2015-16)	NFHS-3 (2005-06)
Children under 5 years who are stunted (height-for-age)	38.4	48
Children under 5 years who are wasted (weight-for-height)	21	19.8
Children under 5 years who are severely wasted	7.5	6.4
Children under 5 years who are underweight (weight-for-age)	35.8	42.5

ing mothers. More than a third of the children under five face stunting and wasting and 40% aged between one and four are anaemic. Over 50% of pregnant and other women were found to be anaemic, said the National Family Health Survey 4 released in 2016.

The government's policy think tank warns, "We need to now accelerate actions on multiple fronts. We need to quickly graduate to a POSHAN-plus strategy which apart from continued strengthening the four pillars of the Abhiyaan also requires re-

newed focus on other social determinants in addition to addressing the governance challenges of NHM/ICDS delivery mechanisms," notes the NITI Aayog's third progress report on the Nutrition Mission.

The report calls for a need to lay as much emphasis on complementary feeding as it does on breastfeeding, which it points out can help avert 60% of the total stunting cases in India.

On stunting, the review says that India's targets are conservative as compared to the global target defined by

the World Health Assembly (WHA), which is a prevalence rate of 5% of stunting as opposed to India's goal of reducing stunting levels to 13.3% by 2022.

The target of reducing prevalence levels of anaemia among pregnant women from 50.3% in 2016 to 34.4% in 2022 and among adolescent girls from 52.9% in 2016 to 39.66%, is also considered conservative.

Rising poverty

Significantly, the report was prepared before COVID-19 spread rapidly across the country, but was released only last month.

Experts warn that deepening poverty and hunger may delay achieving the goals defined under the Nutrition Mission.

"The projections are optimistic, and will need to be re-adjusted for the COVID-19 disruptions to health and nutrition services," says Purnima Menon, Senior Research Fellow at International Food Policy Research Institute, which provided technical support and data to NITI Aayog for the report.

As per the notification the Post Graduate courses namely MS Shalya Tantra the words (General Surgery) have been incorporated. A long list of modern medicine surgical procedures have been enlisted under Shalya Tantra and Shalaka Tantra. These competencies squarely fall under the ambit, authority and jurisdiction of modern medicine having been prescribed by the then Medical Council of India as the competencies ascribable to the postgraduate course titled MS (General Surgery)," it said in a release.

The association said it is ready for a long struggle.

Won't interfere in personal relations, says Allahabad HC

FIR against Muslim man filed by Hindu father-in-law quashed

OMAR RASHID
LUCKNOW

The right to live with a person of his or her choice irrespective of religion is intrinsic to the right to life and liberty. Interference in a personal relationship would constitute a serious encroachment into the right to freedom of choice of two individuals, the Allahabad High Court has said.

The court made the observations while quashing an FIR against a Muslim man and his family from Kushinagar district by the father of his Hindu wife.

A Division Bench of Justices Pankaj Naqvi and Vivek Agarwal also stated that a recent single-judge order of the court dismissing a writ petition filed by an interfaith married couple seeking police protection on grounds that the conversion just for the purpose of marriage was unacceptable, was not laying good law.

In the Kushinagar case, petitioner Salamat Ansari filed a writ seeking the quashing of an FIR against him under the Protection of

SC dismisses ex-BSF jawan's plea on polls

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday dismissed a plea by former BSF jawan Tej Bahadur Yadav claiming his nomination to contest from the Varanasi Lok Sabha constituency was rejected to orchestrate a "walkover" for Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

A Bench led by Chief Justice S.A. Bobde said the Allahabad High Court was right in rejecting Mr. Yadav's claims earlier.

The Supreme Court had reserved the petition for judgment on November 18.

Mr. Yadav's lawyer could not produce evidence on record to show he had asked the Returning Officer (RO) for time to produce his dismissal letter as proof to show he was not dismissed from service for reasons of corruption, disloyalty, etc. He had repeatedly urged the court to adjourn the case and give him more time.

Tej Bahadur Yadav had argued that his dismissal from service came after he complained about the quality of food.

Farmers set out for 'indefinite siege' of Delhi from tomorrow

Agriculture Ministry has called Punjab farm leaders for talks

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Union Agriculture Ministry has invited Punjab farmer leaders to come to Delhi for continued talks on December 3, even as all-India farmers groups gear up to launch an "indefinite siege" of the capital from November 26, in protest against the three controversial agricultural reform laws and a proposed Electricity Bill, 2020.

Over one lakh farmers from Punjab alone are expected to come to Delhi with their tractors and will stay until their demands for repeal of the three laws have been heard, said leaders of the All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee at a press conference on Tuesday.

"After the extended discussion on the problems of farmers held on November 13, it was decided that this dialogue would be continued. The Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, again invites



In protest: Farmers block a railway track on the outskirts of Amritsar on Tuesday. ■ AFP

you for the next round of discussion at 11 a.m. on December 3 in Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi," read the invitation sent to 32 protesting groups by acting Agriculture Secretary Sudhanshu Pan-dey on Tuesday.

The round of talks held earlier this month ended inconclusively, but most farmers groups later

A Battle Royale



A refined engine, planted dynamics, and the prestige of the Honda badge make the H'ness CB350 a ride worth considering

RISHABH BHASKAR

Who would have thought that Japanese giant Honda would try and take on the might of Royal Enfield, in a segment the latter has dominated for eons?

The most common factor that influences almost every buying decision in this segment is the way a motorcycle looks and Honda has been mindful of that while penning the lines of the H'ness

CB350. The first thing about the H'ness CB350 that grabs your attention is the beefy fuel tank, the matte-chrome fenders, round LED head lamp, stepped single-piece seat and the tail lamp which is neatly integrated and completes the period-correct look.

In terms of quality, there are no complaints about the materials used or the paint finish. This base DLX variant gets a single-tone colour and I was pleased to see the metallic black paint glisten in the afternoon sun.

Upright and relaxed seems to be the mandate given to the team behind the H'ness CB350's riding posture. Once seated on the flat and wide perch, you will notice that the pared back handlebar does not require you to stretch for it, while the foot pegs are placed in a neutral position for a comfortable, all-day riding posture. The controls fall at hand quite naturally.



Owner's pride The CB350 is a well-rounded product
■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



SPECIFICATIONS	
ENGINE	348.36cc, single-cylinder, air-cooled
MAX POWER	21.1hp at 5500rpm
MAX TORQUE	30Nm at 3000rpm
GEARBOX	5-speed
WEIGHT (KG)	181kg
WHEEL BASE (MM)	1441mm
GROUND CLEARANCE (MM)	166mm
SEAT HEIGHT(MM)	800mm
FUEL TANK CAPACITY (LTS)	15 litres
FRONT BRAKE SIZE (MM)	310mm disc
REAR BRAKE SIZE (MM)	240mm disc
FRONT SUSPENSION	Telescopic fork
REAR SUSPENSION	Twin shock absorbers
FRONT TYRE	100/90 - 19
REAR TYRE	130/70 - 18

the overall gearing. A quick glance at the spec sheet shows that the 348.36cc, air-cooled single produces as much power as the competition but makes the most torque, at 30Nm and at a low 3,000rpm. This certainly looks encouraging on paper and the performance numbers prove that this is a quick motorcycle – 0-60kph comes up in 4.32s while the 100kph mark is crossed in 12.69s only.

Honda has taken the strange decision to gear the bike quite tall, resulting in a relatively weak bottom end where staying in fifth below 60-70kph is a task. One needs to be in the appropriate gear and feed enough revs for swift progress on this machine.

Honda's new cradle frame, telescopic fork and twin-hydraulic shock absorber setup, is similar to most modern-classic motorcycles in this segment and there is nothing extraordinary to report. The H'ness CB350 feels quite planted and neutral in the way it rides and handles. The ride quality at low speeds is a little stiffer than the competition but it remains composed as the speed rises. Around corners, the H'ness CB350 sticks to an intended line, with plenty of grip from the MRF Zappers. However, a little more communication from the front end would've resulted in more confidence to push hard, not that it's an important thing for a bike of this type.

As for braking, the Nissin calipers biting on a 310mm front disc and 240mm rear disc bring the motorcycle down to a halt without any drama. Feedback through the lever is decent and the ABS is well calibrated so as to not intrude unless necessary. The Honda H'ness CB350 is a result of carefully studying the competition while trying to trump them. With a refined engine, planted dynamics and the prestige of the Honda badge, this motorcycle appears as a well-rounded product.

At a starting price of ₹1.85 lakh, the H'ness is priced decently, although, with Honda's plans to sell it solely out of the Big Wing Dealership, it will not be accessible to all.

AUTO SNIPPETS



AstaGuru Vintage & Classic Cars auction on November 27, 28

Online auction house AstaGuru will hold its annual Vintage & Classic Cars auction on November 27 and 28. The catalogue will feature cars by esteemed manufacturers such as Rolls-Royce, Mercedes-Benz, Ford, Cadillac, Wolseley, Chevrolet, FIAT, Rover, and Jaguar & Buick. This will be the third edition of the auction and will include a lot originally from the collection of the princely state of Tonk. The auction will take place on www.astaguru.com. Patrons and enthusiasts can view the full catalogue on the website.



Triumph reveals new Tiger 850 Sport

Triumph has revealed its new Tiger 850 Sport, a more road-focused variant. The new 850 Sport is based on the current Tiger 900 platform but conceived as a more accessible and manageable machine. The Tiger 850 Sport is powered by the same 888cc, liquid-cooled, inline-triple engine that you get in the Triumph Tiger 900 range. The bore x stroke is identical as well but peak power and torque is lower at 85hp and 82Nm as against the Tiger 900's 95hp and 87Nm.



Lamborghini reveals new Huracan STO

Lamborghini has revealed its most track-focused Huracan yet. The new Huracan STO (Super Trofeo Omologata) is inspired from the Huracán Super Trofeo Evo and the Huracán GT3 Evo race car. The STO uses carbon fibre extensively, with 75% of the car's body making use of the material. Power comes from a naturally aspirated V10 engine. Lamborghini claims a 0-100kph time of just 3 seconds and a top speed of 310kph.



Honda reveals new Civic sedan in prototype form

Honda has revealed the upcoming all-new Civic in prototype form ahead of the production car's debut next year. Honda has stuck with the wide and low stance of past Civics, though styling is now more mature as compared to the current car's aggressive, razor-sharp fascia and body creases. Up front, the car features sunken LED headlights flanking a slim grille with the front bumper dominated by a large central radiator grille. Honda has mentioned the new Civic will get a raft of active and passive safety features.

Q AND A WITH HORMAZD

Tyre change for new car

I plan to buy a Maruti XL6 Alpha Automatic and change its tyres from 185/65 R15 to R16. Will that void a warranty? What would be better – 195/65 R16 or 205/65 R16?

Sanjeev Hariharan, Gurgaon

As a safe upgrade to the 185/65 R15s, you can fit 195/55 R16s. Subject to body clearance, you can also consider 205/55 R16s. Tyre up-sizing generally does not affect the warranty. Still, check with your dealer first.

What's a good swap?

I have a 2014 Honda City petrol with 175/65 R15 tubeless tyres. I want to upsize them to 195/65 R15. What are some good brands?

Rohit Bajpai, Noida

You could either upsize to a 185/65 R15 or a 195/65 R15 tyre. Yokohama or Michelin are good brand options and are available in both the sizes.

Hormazd Sorabjee is the editor of Autocar India. Mail your feedback and queries to roadshow@thehindu.co.in

Punch and performance

SHAPUR KOTWAL

The Magnite is the model that Nissan India hopes will give it a much-needed shot in the arm. So, what is it like?

The Magnite certainly looks the part of a SUV with 205mm ground clearance, chunky wheel arches and relatively stand-up cabin. The thick 'C' pillar is well-sculpted, and the contrast roof and large 'split' rear spoiler look upmarket.

The prominent Datsun grille is flanked by neat dagger-like headlights and the 'L' shaped DRLs stand out. Nissan has put a lot of effort into the design and execution of the cabin.

Yes, the dash-top is made of hard plastic and the black trim is not to everyone's taste, but the

Nissan Magnite is a sharp and modern-looking compact SUV that is comfortable on the inside, well equipped and is easy to drive



Lamborghini Urus-like vents, 8.0-inch touchscreen and the 7.0-inch digital instrument screen catch the eye.

Despite being the narrowest car in its class, there is plenty of space and legroom. The well-bolstered front seats offer good

thigh and shoulder support. At the back, there is plenty of legroom even for six-footers and even a third passenger can be accommodated quite easily.

The Magnite also gets some segment-first features like wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, and a 360-degree reversing camera.

With its mechanical torque converter equipped CVT gearbox, a healthy 100hp and 152Nm of torque, the Magnite turbo CVT is the pick of the range. The three-cylinder engine does have a lumpy idle, and a bit of vibration filters into the cabin too, but it smoothens up nicely as you get moving. The CVT version also responds to a tap on the throttle quite smartly, with acceleration increasing in a linear manner.

Select 'Sport' on the gear lever and you can imme-

SPECIFICATIONS

WHEELBASE	2500mm
KERB WEIGHT	1014-1039kg
TYRE SIZE	195/60 R16
FUEL TANK CAPACITY	40 litres
BOOT CAPACITY	336-690 litres
GROUND CLEARANCE	205mm (unladen)
ENGINE	999cc, 3-cyls, turbo-petrol
POWER	100hp at 5000rpm
TORQUE	160Nm at 2800-3600rpm / 152Nm at 2200-4400rpm (CVT)
GEARBOX	5-speed manual / CVT

diate tell there is more punch and performance, with the CVT hanging onto a ratio rather than a fixed engine speed.

In a quick test, the Magnite CVT did a time of 12.8sec in the sprint to 100kph – about a second slower than the Venue DCT. Kickdown acceleration revealed a similar gap in the 20-80kph test.

The Magnite turbo-manual is quicker, clocking the 0-100kph sprint in 11.6sec. The 1.0 turbo engine pulls cleanly from around 1,800rpm to all the way past 6,000rpm. This strong, prolonged push is quite pleasing, but you do miss the gratifying jump in power when the turbo kicks in.

The 5-speed manual is not the slickest unit and you need to give the gear lever a bit of an extra push. The clutch is a touch heavy and has a sharp release point, which can make engagement a bit snappy.

The Magnite's suspension setup is a bit on the firm side, which works well at decent speeds but at a low speed, it feels unsettled over poor surfaces. Straight line stability is decent, and the weighty steering gives you a fair amount of confidence.

As long as Nissan sticks to indicated prices – expected to start at ₹5.35 lakh and go up to ₹9.5 lakh for the fully-loaded Turbo CVT – the Magnite seems all set to attract hordes of potential buyers.



Hollywood star Drew Barrymore explains the vision behind her new talk show, reconnecting with celebrity friends, and why conversation is the best medicine

I'm in the joy business'

GAUTAM SUNDER

Child star, teen phenomenon, rom-com superstar, author, entrepreneur, and now, talk show host, Drew Barrymore's been there, done that, and will do it all over again.

Right from when she catapulted to global fame as a seven-year-old with Spielberg's *E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial* and her many successes later in films like *Charlie's Angels*, *50 First Dates*, *Music and Lyrics* to headlining Netflix's *Santa Clara Diet*, Drew Barrymore's career is a hallmark of twee humour that has endeared audiences for nearly four decades.

This year saw Barrymore, a mother of two, debut her pandemic talk show — *The Drew Barrymore Show* — that has encapsulated the 45-year-old star's journey in a nutshell.

A mixture of celebrity guest appearances — with her *Charlie's Angels* co-stars Cameron Diaz and Lucy Liu, and actors such as Adam Sandler (*The Wedding Singer*) and Jessica Alba (*Never Been Kissed*) — and emotional surprises, like inviting her ex-husband Tom Green after having not spoken to him in 15 years, the show has lived up to its enjoyable, eccentric nature.

She fought hard to have the show produced live — "Otherwise, there would be no spontaneity!"

Talking to us ahead of the show's India premiere, the actor is at her charming best, as she once again explains her recent catchphrase: "I'm in the joy business."

Excerpts from an interview:



When you first conceived the show, before the pandemic, you must have had a different vision in mind. How has that changed over the last year?

• A little bit into 2020 we got our official announcement, and then the world changed as we know it. In some ways, the old show we were doing applies to the joy and the subjects.

Right now in 2020, we have to face the facts; we can't pretend things are not happening and have a blind gratuitous optimism, although I am an optimist.

I just want to take my life experience and talk about it with other people and figure it out together. Also, laugh, heal, cry and cook and do everything our opening credit sequence says, because variety



A new chapter *The Drew Barrymore Show* features celebrity guests who talk about their personal and emotional journeys rather than their professional lives ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

is also the spice of life. It's funny; in late night shows, they are like, 'You made it through the day, we're going to put you to bed with some laughs, Congratulations.' I'm like, I want to start the day that way!

I want people to carry that with them throughout the day like a tool in their arsenal, and give them a place that is elevated and transported.

Tell us about the *Charlie's Angels* reunion after all these years. How is your relationship with Cameron and Lucy today?

• When we planned our premiere episode, we really took a moment and we didn't want to rush because every booking is meaningful to us and has purpose. We wanted to make sure that we were stepping into this world with more than a booking;

a feeling.

We came to the understanding that we wanted to project friendship, support and love. And that is what was important to us. That was what made it such an easy decision to bring in Cameron and Lucy. I couldn't have begun this journey without them. They have been a part of my life for over 20 years.

We are friends...we are fellow angels and partners in crime .

The show also delves deep into personal and emotional aspects of your life. Was it challenging to expose yourself like that to an audience?

• I definitely am really convinced that all of this work I do for myself is the same thing that everybody else is going through. We are trying to reach

Right now in 2020, we have to face the facts; we can't pretend things are not happening and have a blind gratuitous optimism, although I am an optimist

DREW BARRYMORE

enlightenment, we are trying to grow and figure out things...we are going through uncomfortable changes in our lives. I want to talk about that stuff.

Being a mother to two young kids, are you looking to do a segment for moms/children at some point?

• I want to keep moms connected, supported and heard. That is why we created the recurring segment, Mom's Time Out, where we celebrate



The book's lettering is by Aditya Bidikar, one of the busiest letterers in the field today, who is a regular letterer for publishers like DC, Vault and Image. He was also the letterer of Watters' *Coffin Bound* series, and is currently working on Watters' new series *Home Sick Pilots*.

Although a mixed art project, like most other modern graphic novels and comics, a bulk of the panels from 'use watercolour and acrylic. Some of the watercolour panels by Kishore, which Vault had put out as teaser for the first issue of the comic, have already generated a buzz on social media and among comic reviewers. Watters says, "Kishore has a knack for beautiful watercolours that are perfect for this story, and he can handle landscapes and cityscapes and everything else I throw at him. He also makes violence look terrifyingly beautiful, in a way which is honestly rather scary."

The first of the three issues will be up for sale on December 12.

The man who painted Dorian Gray



tist based in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

If the title *The Picture of Everything Else* sounds familiar to you classicists, that is no accident. The story is inspired by Oscar Wilde's 1890 classic *The Picture of Dorian Gray*.

Set in Paris at the dawn of the 20th Century, the comic begins with a series of gruesome murders, suspected to have been committed by the mysterious artist Basil Hallward — the man behind the infamous portrait of Dorian Gray that ages and decays in the attic in response to Gray's hedonistic life, even as Gray himself stays young.

"One of the things that I find alluring about the novel is that it's extremely of its time. The world was full of hope for the future; a new epoch was ready to dawn. I think there's a real melancholy in looking back at that,

with our knowledge of the horrors that were awaiting in the next century," explains Watters. Kishore, meanwhile, believes that *The Picture of Dorian Gray* was ahead of its time, challenging prevalent moral sensibilities.

Though Wilde's famous Gothic tale now has cult status in literature, Hallward remains a largely ignored character. As Watters points out, he is quite unceremoniously destroyed by Gray at the end of that book.

"That is wonderful for Gray's story, but leaves him as this very tragically

chopped short thread. Dorian Gray himself has become a sort of pop-culture icon, popping up every now and then in things with a Gothic bent; on TV or in comics and novels, usually as a sort of immortal decadent. However, the man who painted the immortal painting — a piece of art that can actually affect the world around it — is never anywhere to be seen," adds Watters.

As the artist responsible for bringing Hallward and his mysteries to life, Kishore feels: "What's most compelling about Hallward's charac-



A Wilde tale of blood and art
(From top left) The book cover; Kishore; Watters

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

there are other important characters who bring a unique texture to the story.

For Kishore, who has worked with the likes of Mani Ratnam and Aashiq Abu in movies *Ok Kanmani* and *Gangster*, this is the first mainstream international comic book project. "It allows me to recreate a beautiful era and then experiment to find out how that era would have responded to a different set of stimuli," says Kishore.

The era of Belle Époque Paris, Watters says, was the birthplace of modern art, and a lens that he and Kishore were definitely looking to use. The shift from realistic to a more abstract style was rooted in the same anxieties that they are exploring with the book. Moreover, he adds, Paris is a city that has such an identity, yet a strong propen-

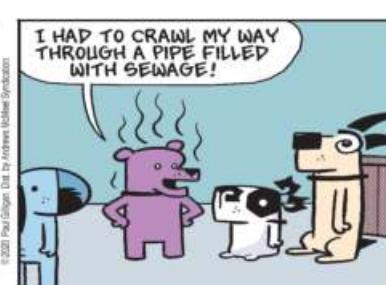


sity toward change.

"Revolts, revolts, sieges, the city has been through it all. Apparently, a common piece of graffiti in the city in the 19th Century stated that if you stomped on the paving stones of Paris, blood would bubble up between the cracks," adds Dan.

Most importantly, it was the city where Hallward was planning to move to before the final events of the novel, and where Wilde fled to after his prison sentence, a ruined man. It is also where the author died.

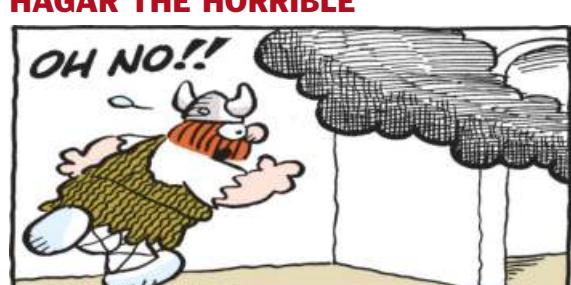
POOCH CAFE



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



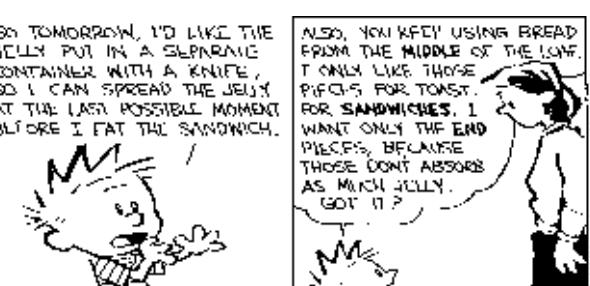
PEANUTS



TIGER



CALVIN AND HOBBES



U.S. agency begins transition process

President Trump says he recommended start of initial protocols, but will 'keep up the good fight'

SIRIRAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON

After weeks of dragging its feet, the U.S.'s General Service Administration (GSA) has made an "ascertainment" that President-elect Joe Biden is the "apparent winner" of the presidential election, allowing the formal transition process to begin. The Biden-Harris transition team will now have access to funds and other resources sanctioned by the Presidential Transition Act.

GSA Administrator Emily Murphy said "recent developments involving legal challenges and certifications of election results" were part of her decision to initiate the process.

Earlier in the day on Monday, the Michigan State Board of Canvassers voted to certify Mr. Biden as the winner of the State's vote (16 Electoral College votes), despite President Donald Trump's attempts to get State legislators to block the certification.

Mr. Trump, who has thus far refused to concede the



Way forward: Joe Biden with Kamala Harris at a virtual meet with the U.S. Conference of Mayors in Wilmington. • AFP

election came close on Monday but stopped short of conceding, tweeting instead that he had "recommended" that the initial protocols begin but said he will continue to challenge the election results in court.

'We will prevail'

"Our case STRONGLY continues, we will keep up the good fight, and I believe we will prevail! Nevertheless, in the best interest of our Country, I am recommending that

Emily and her team do what needs to be done with regard to initial protocols, and have

told my team to do the same," Mr. Trump wrote.

Later, Mr. Trump, who has made unsubstantiated claims of widespread fraud in the election, wrote: "What does GSA being allowed to preliminarily work with the Dems have to do with continuing to pursue our various cases on what will go down as the most corrupt election in American political history?"

In a letter to Mr. Biden, Ms. Murphy, a Trump appointee, said she had come to her decision independently and was not pressured by

government and White House officials on her decision. "Contrary to media reports and insinuations, my decision was not made out of fear or favouritism," she wrote, adding that she had received threats directed at her safety and the safety of her staff, family and pets.

Hours before the ascertainment, several Republican Senators, including Lamar Alexander of Tennessee (who is retiring) and Shelley Moore Capito of West Virginia, asked for the transition to begin.

"Since it seems apparent that Joe Biden will be the President-elect, my hope is that President Trump will take pride in his considerable accomplishments, put the country first and have a prompt and orderly transition..." Mr. Alexander said. "When you are in public life, people remember the last thing you do."

The formal nod to the transition will allow the Biden-Harris team to work with government officials on a number of issues, includ-

ing a response to COVID-19, vaccine distribution, national security and economic revival.

Mr. Biden has cited risks to the pandemic response caused by delays in the transition beginning. Delays have also been known to cause national security vulnerabilities. A shortened Clinton-Bush transition (due to a lawsuit on the outcome of the election) period had caused security vulnerabilities in the prelude to the September 11 attacks, a bipartisan commission to look into those attacks found.

"This final decision is a definitive administrative action to formally begin the transition process with federal agencies," Biden-Harris transition executive director Yohannes Abraham said in a statement on Monday.

The transition team will meet federal officials to discuss the pandemic response, national security and "the Trump administration's efforts to hollow out government agencies," Mr. Abraham said.

ISI chief-led panel to oversee 2 dozen spy agencies in Pakistan

PM approves NICC as part of the reform of intelligence apparatus

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has approved the setting up of the National Intelligence Coordination Committee (NICC), a mechanism to coordinate over two dozen intelligence organisations in the country, to be headed by the ISI chief, according to a media report on Tuesday.



Imran Khan

improving their coordination and optimising their capabilities, the report said.

Collective strategy

One of the lessons learnt by the country during the fight against terrorism was that effective intelligence coordination was the weakest link in the entire effort. It importantly resulted in the loss of critical time and in some cases, the agencies even could not piece together the information available to them. It was, moreover, a major hurdle to collective strategising, the report said.

A leaked version of the Abbottabad Commission's report had revealed that the commission, while noting the absence of civil-military intelligence coordination mechanism, too had proposed establishment of an agency on the lines of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to synergise the working of main spy agencies in the country.

Although there have been discussions about the establishment of the coordination forum, its terms of reference and modus operandi would be decided once it formally takes shape, Dawn newspaper quoted a senior security source as saying.

The new body would be led by the director general of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), who would function as its chairman, it said.

The intelligence agencies have had at least two rounds of discussions on the issue after which the proposal was submitted to the Prime Mi-

ELSEWHERE



New York City's first Black Mayor dies

WASHINGTON
David Dinkins, who broke barriers as New York City's first African American Mayor, but was doomed to a single term by a soaring murder rate, stubborn unemployment and his mishandling of a riot in Brooklyn, has died. He was 93. He served as leader of the city from 1990 to 1993 after defeating Rudy Giuliani and Edward Koch. Dinkins' death came just weeks after the death of his wife, Joyce. AP

Pennsylvania Governor certifies Biden's victory

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
NEW YORK

Pennsylvania officially certified Democrat Joe Biden's election victory in the State over President Donald Trump on Tuesday.

Governor Tom Wolf tweeted that the Pennsylvania Department of State had "certified" the results of the November 3 vote, after Michigan did the same on Monday, in the latest setback to Mr. Trump.

"As required by federal law, I've signed the Certificate of Ascertainment for the slate of electors for Joe Biden and Kamala Harris," Mr. Wolf wrote, referring to Pennsylvania's 20 electoral votes.

Meanwhile, the Nevada Supreme Court made Mr. Biden's win in the State official on Tuesday, approving the State's final canvass of the election, thereby granting him six electoral votes.

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka and China will expedite ongoing development cooperation projects, and increase trade and investment, with "a special focus" on poverty alleviation and livelihoods generation, Sri Lanka's Foreign Ministry said.

Issuing a statement following a virtual diplomatic consultation between Sri Lankan Foreign Secretary Jayanath Colombe and Vice Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China, Luo Zhaohui, the Ministry said both sides held "extensive discussions" on strengthening high level exchanges, the fight against COVID-19, economic recovery efforts, people-to-people exchanges and cooperation on "international and regional issues".

Amid a persistent second wave of COVID-19, Sri Lanka faces a major economic crunch, as the country's export and tourism sectors have been badly hit. Colombo has sought a \$700 million

loan from Beijing – in addition to the \$500 million obtained in March – and is also negotiating a \$1.5-billion currency swap facility with the People's Bank of China.

More loans

Sri Lanka has sought loans amounting to more than a billion dollars from China this year, while President Gotabaya Rajapaksa told the newly appointed Chinese Ambassador to Colombo that Sri Lanka "seeks investments, not loans" from Chi-

na. The discussion of possible Chinese assistance for poverty eradication and livelihood support in Sri Lanka is in line with President Rajapaksa's earlier pledge to pursue "China-style development" in the island nation, and to disprove the popular "debt trap" analysis about Chinese loans.

Colombo has witnessed heightened engagement from Beijing, New Delhi and Washington over the past few months. In September, Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a virtual bilateral summit with Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, months after the RBI sanctioned currency swap facility of \$400 million.

With U.S. drawing down troops, what's next for Afghanistan?

Taliban continue their offensive even when talks are under way in Doha

STANLY JOHNY

With the U.S. prepared to reduce its troop presence in Afghanistan to about 2,500 by January 20 – the inauguration day for the new President – Afghanistan is bracing for an uncertain future.

The Taliban, who were ousted from power in 2001 after the U.S. invasion and have since been fighting both foreign troops and the Afghan government in Kabul, now control more than half of the country and contest the whole of it.

In February this year, the U.S. reached an agreement with the Taliban after prolonged negotiations in Doha, Qatar's capital, where the insurgents have a political office. According to the agreement, the U.S. would withdraw all of its troops from Afghanistan in 14

months in return for assurances from the Taliban that they would not allow Afghan soil to be used by transnational jihadist organisations such as al-Qaeda and the Islamic State.

The Taliban also committed that it would start direct talks with the Afghan government. The talks began in September after the Afghan government released some 5,000 Taliban prisoners, which the U.S. had promised as part of its deal.

On Tuesday, Afghanistan's Tolo News TV channel reported that the negotiating sides agreed to include the U.S.-Taliban deal and UN endorsements for Afghan peace process in the upcoming talks in Doha. Experts see this as a breakthrough as the Taliban was resisting including the deal with the U.S. in the talks with the Afghan government.

On Tuesday, Afghanistan's Tolo News TV channel reported that the negotiating sides agreed to include the U.S.-Taliban deal and UN endorsements for Afghan peace process. Months of delay, the Taliban's resumption of violence, and [U.S. President Donald] Trump's continued drawdown of troops in spite of slow progress have all given Afghans and observers cause for concern," said An-



A file photo of U.S. marines in Helmand province. • AP

drew Watkins, senior analyst, Afghanistan, at the Brussels-based International Crisis Group (ICG).

Echoing the assessment, Ruchi Kumar, a Kabul-based journalist, said: "The Taliban have given plenty of indications that they don't intend to remain committed to the U.S. deal forever. There's evidence that they're still hosting al-Qaeda in Afghanistan."

A UN report in June said

ties between the two groups remained "close".

"They are also targeting larger provinces and provincial capitals. Essentially, I get the sense that they're doing more than just seeking a stronger negotiating position; they are exerting themselves militarily," Ms. Kumar told *The Hindu* from Kabul.

According to a UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) report in October, nearly 6,000 Afghan civilians were killed in the first nine months of the year – 45% of the deaths were at the hands of the Taliban. The

UNAMA said violence refused to die down even after talks began in Doha. In early September, right before the peace talks opened, there was an attack on the convoy of Vice-President Amrullah Saleh, who's known for his hardline anti-Taliban views. Mr. Saleh escaped with minor injuries.

Sense of ascendancy

"The bad news is that Trump's order [to reduce troops] likely reinforces the Taliban's sense of ascendancy, and may encourage the group to maintain its aggressive posture across the country," Mr. Watkins of ICG told *The Hindu*.

The U.S. has already pulled back some 7,500 troops from Afghanistan since February. It would also dismantle the massive base in Kandahar.

At present, the U.S. and coalition troops are not directly involved in frontline combat. They provide training to Afghan troops, and

American air power is a critical ally of Afghan forces that resist Taliban's repeated attempts to take over big population centres. In recent times, the Taliban made several bids to take control of Kunduz in the north and Helmand in the south, but were fought off by Afghan special forces with help from U.S. jets.

NEWS ANALYSIS

"With the U.S. leaving at such a crucial point, it not only deprives Afghan forces of the support they need, particularly the air power, but also affects their morale.

Mr. Biden has said his administration would withdraw all American troops from Afghanistan in his first term, which ends in early 2025. NATO has also committed to funding Afghan troops for four more years.

"The good news is that in spite of the challenges, both sides (the government representatives and the Taliban) remain at the negotiating table, and appear to have reached an early breakthrough," said Mr. Watkins, referring to the initial agreement to include the U.S.-Taliban deal in the talks. "The incoming U.S. administration has pledged to undertake any further military withdrawal responsibly", and in spite of the uncertainty, this may be a key moment for the peace process to reset and regain momentum."

Ready to die to defend rights, says Tigray leader

Abiy gave rebels 3 days to surrender



AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ADDIS ABABA
The leader of Ethiopia's dissident Tigray region has said that his people are "ready to die" defending their homeland, rejecting Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's ultimatum that they surrender within 72 hours.

Mr. Abiy launched a military campaign against the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) on November 4, accusing it of attacking two federal military camps in the northern region, as well as defying and seeking to destabilise his government.

The federal Army says its forces are within 60 km of Mekele, the Tigrayan capital and seat of the TPLF.

Mr. Abiy on Sunday called

on the TPLF to surrender peacefully within three days, saying they were "at a point

"STOP CORONA-WEAR MASK, FOLLOW PHYSICAL DISTANCING & MAINTAIN HYGIENE"					
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (EAP)- DELHI JAL BOARD, GOVT OF NCT DELHI 501, VARUNA HOUSE, 11TH FLOOR, KAROL BAGH NEW DELHI-110005 Press NOT NO.: 01/2020-21					
Sl. No.	Name of work	Amount put to tender	Earliest Money (EMD) and Last Date of Submission	Date of release of tender in tender solution	Last date/time of receipt of tender
1	"Improvement of Water Supply System including Operation and Maintenance of Transmission & Distribution Pipes, Pumping Stations, Sewerage connected and consumption Meters with DMA formation and NRWP Reduction in Chandrawali WTP Command Area, Package-2 (West)"	Civil Rs. 27633.33 lakhs E&M- 6229.00 lakhs Q&M-Lump Sum	EMD Rs. 560.00 lakhs (Rs. 20.00 lakhs through RTGS and balance in form of Bank Guarantee (BG)) Tender Fee Rs. 1500/-	Tender ID No: 2020_DJB_196825_1 Dated: 20-11-2020	10.12.2020 up to 3:00 PM

Pre-bid meeting will be held on 01.12.2020 at 11:00 A.M. in the conference hall, Varunava Phase-II, Jhandewalan, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005. The NFT is available with bid forms and other details at <http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>. Any future amendment/corrigendum, pre-bid reply etc, can only be seen on website.

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Advt. No. J.S.V. 236(2020-21)

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STOP CORONA-WEAR MASK, FOLLOW PHYSICAL DISTANCING & MAINTAIN HYGIENE

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MARKET WATCH

	24-11-2020	% CHANGE
Sensex	44,523	1.01
US Dollar	74.01	0.13
Gold	48,569	-2.41
Brent oil	47.58	4.02

NIFTY 50

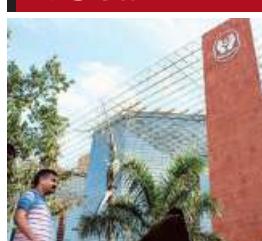
	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	392.25	17.10
Asian Paints	2207.90	21.65
Axis Bank	619.65	24.05
Bajaj Auto	3095.70	17.95
Bajaj Finserv	8859.70	85.35
Bajaj Finance	4910.65	-0.80
Bharti Airtel	474.25	-3.00
BPCL	389.75	-4.70
Britannia Ind	3562.25	4.85
Cipla	748.45	2.15
Coal India	123.25	0.50
Divis Lab	3537.05	-9.25
Dr Reddys Lab	4915.50	86.75
Eicher Motors	2693.30	95.95
GAIL (India)	100.30	-0.60
Grasim Ind	853.25	-1.35
HCL Tech.	840.50	1.30
HDFC	2217.70	-33.10
HDFC Bank	1438.20	43.60
HDFC Life	664.15	2.85
Hero MotoCorp	3074.15	14.40
Hindalco	226.00	7.95
Hind Unilever	2157.35	27.95
ICICI Bank	478.20	9.95
IndusInd Bank	853.70	3.95
Infosys	1140.05	0.20
Indian Oil Corp.	86.15	-0.30
ITC	195.55	4.70
JSW Steel	340.85	3.10
Kotak Bank	1924.90	27.05
L&T	1135.50	9.65
M&M	729.35	23.90
Maruti Suzuki	7158.40	170.65
Nestle India Ltd.	17677.60	-108.80
NTPC	94.15	0.50
ONGC	76.10	-0.40
PowerGrid Corp	194.50	-0.25
Reliance Ind	1964.05	13.35
SBI Life	838.95	7.35
State Bank	243.85	5.15
Shree Cement	24243.55	-221.75
Sun Pharma	520.15	7.30
Tata Motors	172.05	1.35
Tata Steel	548.30	5.20
TCS	2722.05	-2.20
Tech Mahindra	877.65	11.90
Titan	1327.15	-20.45
UltraTech Cement	4873.20	-16.30
UPL	427.45	1.00
Wipro	355.50	-0.35

EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	73.81	74.13
Euro	87.69	88.07
British Pound	98.58	99.01
Japanese Yen (100)	70.73	71.04
Chinese Yuan	11.21	11.26
Swiss Franc	80.89	81.25
Singapore Dollar	54.96	55.21
Canadian Dollar	56.56	56.81
Malaysian Ringgit	18.06	18.14
Australian Dollar	54.26	54.50

Source: Indian Bank

IN BRIEF



LIC unveils paperless onboarding of clients

MUMBAI
Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has introduced its first digital application, 'Ananda,' an acronym for Atma Nirbhar Agents New Business Digital Application, for onboarding of policyholders through a paperless module with the help of the agent/intermediary. It has a built-in paperless KYC process that uses Aadhaar-based e-authentication of the life proposed.

Pre-owned car platform CAR524 raises \$200 mn

MUMBAI
CAR524, an online transaction platform for pre-owned vehicles, has announced a \$200 million Series E funding round led by DST Global with participation from existing investors, including Exor Seeds at a valuation of over \$1 billion. The funds will be used to invest in technology and product innovation as well as to set up new business verticals.

Freelance earnings back to pre-COVID-19 levels'

Consultant fee saw 25% drop: report

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI
Earnings of freelance professionals, which saw a decline at the onset of the pandemic, have increased in the third quarter of 2020 and returned to pre-COVID-19 levels, according to a study by Flexing It.

The firm's platform connects more than 70,000 highly-skilled freelancers with more than 3,000 companies worldwide. The research is based on 3,84,000 fee quotations and benchmarks collected from independent consultants.

As per the study, the median fee earned by freelance consultants dropped by almost 25% between the first and second quarters, but

Govt. orders 'priority' for local tenders

Ministries not allowed to seek nod for global tenders for contracts worth up to ₹200 crore

VIKAS DHOOT

NEW DELHI

The government has tightened its procurement norms to make it tougher for Ministries to pursue global tenders for contracts worth up to ₹200 crore.

Under the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan announced in May, the government had barred departments from issuing global tenders for contracts worth ₹200 crore or less.

The General Financial Rules were amended to disallow global tender enquiries in such procurement of goods and services, with an eye on boosting the prospects of domestic micro, small and medium enterprises. Any Ministry seeking an exemption to the norm, in order to call for a global tender enquiry, is required to



Commit in writing: Departments must publish a procurement plan for the next 3-5 years on their websites. ■ B. VELANKANNI RAJ

seek the Cabinet Secretariat's prior nod.

So far, Ministries' requests could be considered if they gave valid justification for the need to issue a global tender and the lack of alternatives within the country.

Now, Ministries can no

longer seek a nod for issuing a global tender unless they have first floated a domestic tender for their requirements, and tried to locate domestic producers in co-operation with industry bodies, as per new rules issued by the Cabinet Secretariat

and the Finance Ministry over the past week. Moreover, departments also cannot submit exemption proposals unless they have first published their procurement plan for the next three and five years on their websites.

Publishing such a procurement plan was mandated by the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) in September through a Public Procurement (Preference to Make in India) order.

Exemption offered

In an office memorandum, the Department of Expenditure has conveyed the Cabinet Secretariat's instructions to Ministries and departments, stressing that domestic tenders need to be floated for all goods and services before a global tender could be

considered.

However, local tenders floated before May 15 this year, when the new procurement norms came into place, shall not count.

Discuss, send proposal

"Ministries, departments are requested to discuss with DPIIT, relevant industrial bodies for identification of domestic manufacturers and service providers and send the details of such deliberations along with the proposal," the memo stated.

A blanket exemption to allow global tenders was recently granted for procurement of spare parts from foreign original equipment manufacturers after multiple departments and public sector firms raised concerns about the lack of domestic options.



with more confidence that the COVID-19 vaccine will be available in India soon," said Vinod Nair, head of Research at Geojit Financial Services. "It can provide an advantage to India compared to the rest of the world. Foreign inflows have already broken to a new high on a monthly basis, due to risk on strategy on healthier emerging markets like India," he added.

Pent-up demand spurring activity, may not sustain: Icra

'Oct. production spikes are exaggeration of true recovery'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MUMBAI

The pick up in economic activity in October was the result of pent-up demand and may not sustain going ahead, ratings agency Icra said on Tuesday.

Multiple fast-paced indicators, including GST collections, had been showing a sharp recovery since October, which has also led many analysts to revise their overall GDP forecasts for the fiscal.

"We caution that the spikes in production seen in the various sectors in October 2020, are an exaggeration of the true recovery on the



ground, as they have been driven by a large component of pent-up demand that may not sustain after the festive period is over," the agency's principal economist Aditi Nayak said.

The factors that need to be watched are the pace of

government spending in the second half of the fiscal, after the unexpected contraction recorded in the September quarter, she added.

The potential re-imposition of restrictions in one or more States on account of a fresh surge in COVID-19 infections may temper the momentum of recovery in the coming months, she warned.

The agency said that available trends for early November suggested some moderation in these spikes.

In October, 10 of the 17 high-frequency indicators tracked by the agency showed a pick-up.

NSE expels Karvy from membership

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

The National Stock Exchange (NSE) has declared Karvy Stock Broking as a defaulter for non-compliance with the regulatory provisions of the bourse.

In addition, Karvy Stock Broking has been expelled from the membership of the exchange, the NSE said in a circular.

The move, effective from November 23, was taken as the broker failed to comply with NSE guidelines, it added. Earlier, Karvy had transferred securities of clients into its demat accounts by misusing the PoAs (power of attorney) given by its clients, in an unauthorised manner.

Toyota officials join assembly line as plant lockout prolongs

Carmaker restarts production as talks fail to break deadlock

MINI TEJASWI

BENGALURU

Toyota's Indian unit has deployed officers and supervisors to production roles in a bid to improve the supply of its cars to the market.

A factory lockout, triggered by the suspension of one of the union leaders on November 10, continues even after several rounds of joint talks among the management, workers' union and the labour department.

"Our officers and supervisors, with the help of available workmen and production staff, are making cars in the last two days," said G. Shankara, Associate VP, Hu-

man Resources & Services Group, Toyota Kirloskar Motor. "To start with, we are making over 100 cars a day and have a dedicated team of over 1,200 people ready to be part of production activities." The company had initially withdrawn the lock-

out on November 19 under directions from the State government.

Majority still on strike

However, only some team members had reported to work while a majority were continuing to strike.

"After the withdrawal of the lockout, we sent 126 buses to pick workmen, our canteens readied food for all and our machinery was set for production," Mr. Shankara said. "However, only some 200 people reported to work and most others could not take the transport as they were stopped by protesters," he added.

Prime global residential prices may rise 2% in 2021'

No change for Mumbai: Knight Frank

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Prime residential prices across the top 22 cities globally are expected to remain static in 2020, before rising by 2% in 2021, according to Knight Frank's 'Prime Global Forecast 2021'. The report tracks the movement of prime prices across 45 cities globally.



Knight Frank's research analysis expects 20 of the 22 cities to see prices remain flat or increase in 2021, a slight reversal of the trend seen in 2020, where analysts expect nine cities to end the year with lower prices.

Luxury market moves' With the modest price correction in the Indian real estate sector, post-lockdown, the luxury market has seen significant traction," Shishir Baijal, CMD, Knight Frank India, said.

GAIL proposes Kondapalli-Tirupati natural gas pipeline

N. RAVI KUMAR

HYDERABAD

State-owned GAIL is planning a 450-km pipeline from Kondapalli, near Vijayawada, to Tirupati for supplying natural gas to industries and city gas distribution projects.

Though the proposed infrastructure is for catering to consumers in And

Chennaiyin picks up full points in a thriller against Jamshedpur

Anirudh Thapa and Esmael Goncalves get Csaba Laszlo's reign off to a winning start; Nerijus Valskis pulls one back for Owen Coyle's team

ISL 2020-21

SPORTS BUREAU

Chennaiyin FC prevailed 2-1 over Jamshedpur FC, in a thrilling, end-to-end contest, to get off the mark in the Indian Super League with three points in Vasco on Tuesday.

Chennaiyin proved too strong and too quick on the night for its former boss Owen Coyle in the Jamshedpur dugout. New signing Esmael Goncalves scored a penalty and also played his part in the opening goal, which came in the first minute of the game.

It was his low cross from the right which Anirudh Thapa, operating as a right-side midfielder in a diamond 4-4-2, fired into the net from inside the box. The 22-year-old

became the first Indian goalscorer of the season.

After taking the lead, Chennaiyin looked comfortable playing on the break with skipper Rafael Crivellaro pulling the strings in the middle. In the 26th minute, Goncalves doubled the lead from a spot-kick after Issac Vamalsawma's foul on Lallianza Chhangte.

Chennaiyin had four shots on target within the first 30 minutes, and it needed T.P. Rehenesh to stop Jamshedpur from falling further behind.

Jamshedpur's threat came down the flanks thanks to Chennaiyin's narrow formation. Nerijus Valskis met Jackichand Singh's cross with a leaping header to pull one back nine minutes before the break. That remained the only big chance that came his

way as he struggled for service.

Chennaiyin could have added to its lead in the second half but a penalty shout went against striker Jakub Sylvestr.

Chennaiyin goalkeeper Vishal Kaith offered a way back for Jamshedpur when he spilled the ball into the feet of Issac but luckily for him, Enes Sipovic cleared the effort off the goalline.

Chennaiyin stood firm in the final stretch of the game to get Csaba Laszlo's reign off to a winning start.

The result: Jamshedpur FC 1 (Nerijus Valskis 37) lost to Chennaiyin FC 2 (Anirudh Thapa 1, Esmael Goncalves 26).

WEDNESDAY'S MATCH

FC Goa vs Mumbai City FC

7.30 P.M.

STAR SPORTS 2 (SD & HD) AND 3



Making his mark: Anirudh Thapa scoring Chennaiyin's first goal in the opening minute to become the first Indian to find the net in this edition of the league.



■ ISL/SPORTZPICS

Last year's Test series loss still hurts Paine

Team has improved since then and is all pumped up, says the Australian skipper

INDIA IN AUS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA SYDNEY

Test captain Tim Paine has admitted the "annoying" Test series defeat to India still "grinds" him, adding that Australia now has a better all-round side which is pumped up to take on the holder of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

India stunned Australia 2-1 to win its maiden Test series Down Under in 2018-19, which was Paine's first assignment as skipper on home soil.

The wicketkeeper-batsman was given charge of the Batty Greens after the 2018 ball-tampering incident that saw then skipper Steve Smith and his deputy David Warner being slapped with year-long bans.

Paine told 2GB's *Wide World of Sports* radio:

"Whether we had Steve and David or not you don't want to be losing any Test matches or Test series you're involved in, so that still grinds me a little bit," Paine said.

Clarke's take

Meanwhile, former Australia captain Michael Clarke has warned that India could be "smoked 4-0" in the Test series if skipper Virat Kohli does not set the tone in the white-ball games before his departure.

"These one-dayers and Twenty20s is where Virat Kohli can really stand up and lead from the front," Clarke said on *Sky Sports Radio* on Tuesday.

"If India don't have success in the ODIs and T20s, they are in deep trouble in the Test matches and they'll get smoked 4-0, in my opinion," he said.



A time to forget: Tim Paine is dismissed in the 2018-19 tour Melbourne Test, which Australia lost and with it, eventually, the series. ■ FILE PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

Rohit and Ishant unlikely to join Indian contingent

Lack of match practice and slower than expected recovery cited as reasons

AMOL KARHADKAR MUMBAI

Rohit Sharma and Ishant Sharma are extremely unlikely to join India's team for the four-Test series in Australia, starting December 17.

The duo, after breaking down during the Indian Premier League in the United Arab Emirates, has been undergoing rehabilitation at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru.

While Ishant returned to India midway through the IPL after tearing an abdominal muscle, Rohit stayed back after a hamstring tear and even returned to lead Mumbai Indians for its fifth title despite being ruled out of the limited



Ishant Sharma. ■ FILE PHOTO



Rohit Sharma. ■ FILE PHOTO

coach Partha Mhambre along with the medical staff, would be ready to bowl at full tilt only by mid-December.

Similarly, Rohit's injury "may heal" by then.

Even if they leave for Australia around mid-December, it would leave them little or no time to reach Australia, serve the mandatory hard quarantine for 14 days, and then train and be match-ready in the middle of the series.

India head coach Ravi Shastri also hinted the same during a radio interview with Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

While Ishant has taken all due precautions, the manner in which Rohit's injury rehab

has been handled has posed serious questions on the BCCI's injury management mechanism and a senior cricketer's preference to IPL over international cricket.

It is understood that the medical report that was presented to the national selectors on October 26 had stated Rohit won't be available for India selection "at least for three weeks".

Soon after the selectors didn't consider him for the limited overs' leg, which begins on Friday, Rohit returned to the field for Mumbai Indians on November 3, and played a match-winning knock in the final on November 10.

Adelaide Test as scheduled: Nick Hockley

AYAN ACHARYA

Nick Hockley, Cricket Australia's (CA) interim chief executive, on Tuesday, allayed concerns over the first India-Australia Test being moved out of Adelaide in the wake of a COVID-19 outbreak in South Australia earlier this month.

"We have been working very closely with the South Australian government, and have been assured that the small cluster of COVID-19 cases has now been contained," Hockley said in a media interaction.

"The lockdown they were under finished last Saturday and so, at the moment, it is all systems go for the Adelaide Test," he added.

"The pink-ball Adelaide Oval Test against India is scheduled from Dec. 17.

India's first ODI against Australia will be telecast live at 8 a.m. on Nov. 27, on SONY Ten 1, SONY Ten 3 and SONY Six channels.



Virat Kohli. ■ FILE PHOTO

Kohli nominated in all ICC award categories

Ashwin, five others vie with India captain for Player-of-the-Decade Award

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA DUBAI

India captain Virat Kohli and veteran off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin were on Tuesday nominated for the ICC Men's Player-of-the-Decade Award. Kohli features in all five categories.

Kohli and Ashwin are the two Indians among seven players nominated for the most prestigious award.

The nominees: Player-of-the-Decade: Men: Virat Kohli, R. Ashwin, Joe Root (Eng), Kane Williamson (NZ), Steve Smith (Aus), A.B. de Villiers (RSA) and Kumar Sangakkara (SL).

Women: Ellyse Perry (Aus), Meg Lanning (Aus), Suzie Bates (NZ), Stafanie Taylor (WI), Mithali Raj, Sarah Taylor.

ODI Player-of-the-Decade:

Men: Kohli, Lasith Malinga (SL), Mitchell Starc (Aus), de Villiers, Rohit Sharma, M.S. Dhoni, and Sangakkara.

Women: Lanning, Perry (Aus), Mithali, Bates, Taylor and Jhulan Goswami.

Test Player-of-the-Decade:

guard. "Our domestic season will start very shortly. England is touring India for four Test matches, three ODIs and five T20s.

"It is a lot easier having bilateral because the number of people (to be managed in a biosecure bubble) are less.

"When it gets to eight teams, nine teams, 10 teams, then it becomes a bit more difficult.

"But as you asked me, we are trying to hold it (next IPL) in India, but we have to keep assessing the situation," he said.

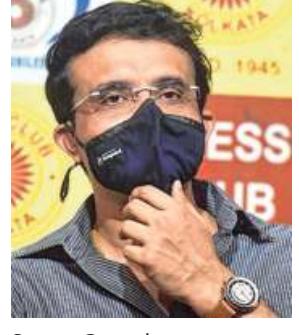
BCCI aims to bring IPL back to India

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) president Sourav Ganguly has said the BCCI is trying its best to hold the Indian Premier League's (IPL) 2021 edition in India.

The BCCI chief also said England would play four, instead of the earlier agreed five, Tests in India early in 2021.

"We are trying, we are very much trying, because it's a tournament for India. People spoke about the success of IPL (2020 in UAE), I told



Sourav Ganguly. ■ PTI

all of them 'you have to be in India to see what IPL is to India,' Ganguly said on Tuesday while endorsing Livin-

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to puzzle 13101

D	E	C	O	D	A	F	F	R	O	N	T
O	O	R	E	T	O	V	A				
D	A	N	T	S	A	L	L				
A	C	A	P	A	T	R	T				
L	A	U	N	D	R	E	S				
A	U	N	D	R	E	S	F	A	T	A	L
E	B	R	A	C	H	I	L	L	E	S	E
V	I	E	W	A	C	H	I	L	L	E	S
H	E	I	R	L	O	O	M	S	N	I	P
I	E	R	L	O	O	M	S	N	I	P	E
D	M	A	R	T	E	G	K				
I	N	T	R	O	L	A	I				
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Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

1	5	2	9	6	4	7	3	8

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TV PICKS

ISL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) &
Star Sports 3, 7.30 p.m.UEFA Champions League:
Sony Ten 2 & Sony Six (SD &
HD), 11.25 p.m. & 1.30 a.m.
(Wed); Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD),
1.30 a.m. (Thu)Like a final,
says Conte

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

MILAN

Antonio Conte's Inter Milan takes on Real Madrid in Wednesday's Champions League clash in a game the coach describes as "like a final" with both sides needing a win.

"For us it represents a final, after the defeat in Madrid and the two previous draws there are not many solutions," Conte told a pre-match press conference at the San Siro.

The Italians are bottom of Group B after losing 3-2 in Spain, despite coming from two goals down to equalise before Real snatched victory.

Real Madrid is third with four points after three games.

Burnley posts first win of season

Wolves hold Southampton at home; Bilbao moves away from relegation zone

EURO LEAGUES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Burnley won for the first time in the Premier League this season as Chris Wood sealed a 1-0 victory against Crystal Palace, while Southampton missed a chance to go third in its 1-1 draw at Wolverhampton on Monday.

Burnley, which had failed to win any of its first seven games in the joint worst start to a season in the club's history, was the only Premier League team yet to score a home goal this term until striker Wood put it ahead in the eighth minute.

That was enough to clinch a much-needed three points for Burnley, which climbed out of the relegation zone at the expense of Fulham.

At Molineux, Southampton took the lead in the 58th minute, with a touch of controversy about the goal.

Wolves were frustrated that Stuart Armstrong's barge into Rayan Ait-Nouri



Match-winner: Burnley's Chris Wood fires in the goal that decided the contest against Crystal Palace. ■ REUTERS

went unpunished in the build-up before Che Adams sent a low cross to the unmarked Walcott, who slotted home from close-range.

It was the 31-year-old's first goal for Southampton since rejoining it on loan from Everton in October.

But Pedro Neto came off the bench to equalise as fifth-

placed Southampton had to settle for extending its unbeaten run to seven matches.

Athletic Bilbao comfortably defeated Real Betis 4-0 to move further away from the relegation zone in the Spanish league.

The result moved Athletic to eighth place. It was just

two points above the relegation zone before the match.

The results:

Premier League: Burnley 1 (Wood 8) bt Crystal Palace 0; Wolves 1 (Neto 75) drew with Southampton 1 (Walcott 58).**LaLiga:** Athletic Bilbao 4 (Victor Ruiz 9-og, Capa 33, Muniaín 59, Berenguer 68) bt Real Betis 0.

Vidit Gujrathi rallies after losing to Sergey Karjakin

Giri draws all games, hangs on to half-point lead

SKILLING OPEN

RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI

Vidit Gujrathi rallied to force four draws after slipping to defeat against Sergey Karjakin on the second day of the Skilling Open online chess tournament on Monday.

After being in a promising position in the sixth round, Gujrathi is placed 15th in the 16-player field, only the top eight make it to the knockout phase. Overnight leader Anish Giri held on to his half-point lead after drawing all five games. Magnus Carlsen, half-a-point behind Giri, got his queen trapped against Wesley So.

With five rounds to go, Gujrathi is placed 15th in the 16-player field, only the top eight make it to the knockout phase. Overnight leader Anish Giri held on to his half-point lead after drawing all five games. Magnus Carlsen, half-a-point behind Giri, got his queen trapped against Wesley So.

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■ Magnus Carlsen got his queen trapped against Karjakin in the day's final round and lost

round and lost.

The results: 10th round: Vidit Gujrathi (3.5) drew with Wesley So (USA, 6); Anish Giri (Ned, 6.5) drew with Teimour Radjabov (Aze, 5); Sergey Karjakin (Rus, 4.5) bt Magnus Carlsen (Nor, 6); Hikaru Nakamura (USA, 5.5) bt Ian Nepomniachtchi (Rus, 5.5); Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra, 5.5) drew with Levon Aronian (Arm, 4.5); Jan-Krzysztof Duda (Pol, 3) bt Alireza Firouzja (FIDE, 5); Ding Liren (Chn, 6) bt David Anton (Esp, 5); Quang Liem Le (Vie, 4.5) bt Peter Svidler (Rus, 4).**Ninth round:** Gujrathi drew with Vachier-Lagrave; Carlsen drew with Giri; So bt Quang; Nepomniachtchi drew with Karjakin; Radjabov lost to Ding; Anton bt Duda; Svidler drew with Nakamura; Firouzja bt Karjakin in the day's final**Eighth round:** Quang drew with Gujrathi; Giri drew with Nepomniachtchi; Ding drew with Carlsen; Aronian drew with Anton; Vachier-Lagrave drew with Firouzja; Nakamura drew with So; Duda lost to Radjabov; Karjakin drew with Svidler.**Seventh round:** Gujrathi drew with Nakamura; Svidler drew with Giri; Carlsen bt Duda; Radjabov bt Aronian; Anton lost to Firouzja; So drew with Karjakin; Quang lost to Vachier-Lagrave; Nepomniachtchi drew with Ding.**Sixth round:** Karjakin bt Gujrathi; Giri drew with So; Aronian drew with Carlsen; Vachier-Lagrave, Nepomniachtchi, 8-10. Radjabov, Anton, Firouzja, 11-13. Quang, Aronian, Karjakin, 14. Svidler, 15. Gujrathi, 16. Duda.**Standings (after 10 rounds):** 1. Giri; 2-4. Ding, Carlsen, So; 5-7. Nakamura, Vachier-Lagrave, Nepomniachtchi; 8-10. Radjabov, Anton, Firouzja; 11-13. Quang, Aronian, Karjakin; 14. Svidler, 15. Gujrathi, 16. Duda.**Standings (after 10 rounds):** 1. Giri; 2-4. Ding, Carlsen, So; 5-7. Nakamura, Vachier-Lagrave, Nepomniachtchi; 8-10. Radjabov, Anton, Firouzja; 11-13. Quang, Aronian, Karjakin; 14. Svidler, 15. Gujrathi, 16. Duda.

Ramkumar wins Florida UTR event

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU
NAPLES (USA)

Ramkumar Ramanathan outplayed 19-year-old Blu Baker of Britain, ranked 79 in juniors last year, 6-0, 6-2 in the final of the UTR Pro tennis tournament at the Sanchez Casal Academy here in Florida.

After winding up the professional tour with the Challenger in Orlando last week, Ramkumar has been training in Florida, preparing for the season ahead.

Meanwhile in Melbourne, Y. Pranjala lost 6-2, 6-4 by Storm Sanders in the final of the UTR Pro tennis tournament on Tuesday. The 21-year-old Pranjala topped her group, winning two matches

including against former top-20 player Daria Gavrilova.

The results:

UTR Pro tennis: At Florida: Final: Ramkumar Ramanathan bt Blu Baker 6-0, 6-2.**Semifinals:** Ramkumar bt Jan-magnus Johnson (USA) 6-0, 6-1.**Quarterfinals:** Ramkumar bt Adolfo Daniel Vallejo (Par) 6-2, 6-3.**Pre-quarterfinals:** Ramkumar bt Fnu Nidunjianzan (Chn) 6-2, 6-2.**Second round:** Ramkumar bt Justin Braverman (USA) 6-1, 6-0.**First round:** Ramkumar bt Santiago Arredondo (Mex) 6-2, 6-2.**At Melbourne:** Final: Storm Sanders (Aus) bt Y. Pranjala 6-2, 6-4.

Rewarding success: Ramkumar getting his prize from former Grand Slam doubles champion Emilio Sanchez Vicario.

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

SCA, UPCA set up title clash

Man-of-the-Match Rishabh Sharma picked up three wickets while Sultan Ansari and Rahul Dalal scored half-centuries as Sahgal & Chaudhary Academy beat Delhi Cricketers by 36 runs to enter the final of the Ganaur Premier League. In the other semifinal, Shiva Singh's all-round performance and three wickets by Mohd. Jamshed saw UPCA beat Swami Shraddhanand Academy by 18 runs. **The scores:** SCA 204/3 in 20 overs (Sultan Ansari 63 n.o., Rahul Dalal 50, Anmol Sharma 39 n.o.) bt Delhi Cricketers 168 in 18.4 overs (Priyansh Arya 51, Rohan Rathi 30; Rishabh Sharma 3/22, Faizan Alam 3/21,

Pradeep Parashar 2/47).

UPCA 160/7 in 20 overs (Shiva Singh 38, Priyanshu Srivastava 33; Arjun Raparia 2/25, Sharad Kumar 2/30, Kuldeep Yadav 2/39) bt SCA 142/9 in 20 overs (Bharat Sindwani 57; Mohd. Jamshed 3/27, Shiva Singh 2/27, Kritiyan Singh 2/18, Zeeshan Ansari 2/25).

HSC Academy advances

Half-centuries by Sumant Jain and Arvind Kumar saw Hari Singh Cricket Academy add 70 runs for the sixth wicket to overcome a shaky start and beat Alert Sports Academy by four wickets and enter the pre-quarterfinals of the 30th all-India Om Nath Sood memorial tournament. **The scores:** ASA 163 in 38.1

overs (Ravi Chauhan 53) lost to HSCA 167/6 in 34.5 overs (Sumant Jain 55 n.o., Arvind Kumar 54).

Ankit, Mohit shine

Ankit Bisht top-scored with an unbeaten 70 off 47 balls and Man-of-the-Match wicketkeeper Mohit Saini made 67 and took four catches as LB Shastru Cricket Academy beat GK Academy by 98 runs in the Tripathi premier League.

The scores: LBS Academy 254/8 in 40 overs (Ankit Bisht 70 n.o., Mohit Saini 67, Ghanshyam 54) bt GK Academy 156 in 32 overs (Urooj Rizvi 65).

Easy win for Sonnet

Man-of-the-Match Krish

Singhani and Dhairy Singh picked up two wickets each as Sonnet Club beat Schwag Cricket Academy by eight wickets in the Bholi Singh under-17 tournament.

The scores: SCA 101 in 33.3 overs lost to Sonnet Club 105/2 in 18.2 overs (Kavya Gupta 39).

Deepak sizzles

Deepak Khatri's quickfire 76 helped Swami Shraddhanand College beat Delhi Defibrillators by eight wickets in the Choudhary Shyam Singh memorial T20 tournament.

The scores: Delhi Defibrillators 140/5 in 20 overs (Sameer Zahid 73; Bharat Sindhwan 2/28) lost to SSC 146/4 in 14.5 overs (Deepak Khatri 76).

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