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General VP Malik,
PVSM, AVSM (Retired)
Former Chief of Indian Army



The March Towards NDA
12:00 PM
Lt. Gen. Asit Mistry,
AVSM, SM, VSM
Comdt. NDA and
Colonel of the Maratha LI



The Warrior Within
4:00 PM
Captain Yashika
Hatwal Tyagi
Kargil War Veteran,
Leadership Trainer, Life Coach

Aug 15



Paying it
Forward
1:00 PM

Sonu Sood
Actor and Humanitarian



Making Tough
Choices
5:00 PM
Rannvijay Singh
Singha
Actor & Television Personality



Living the
Military Life
6:00 PM
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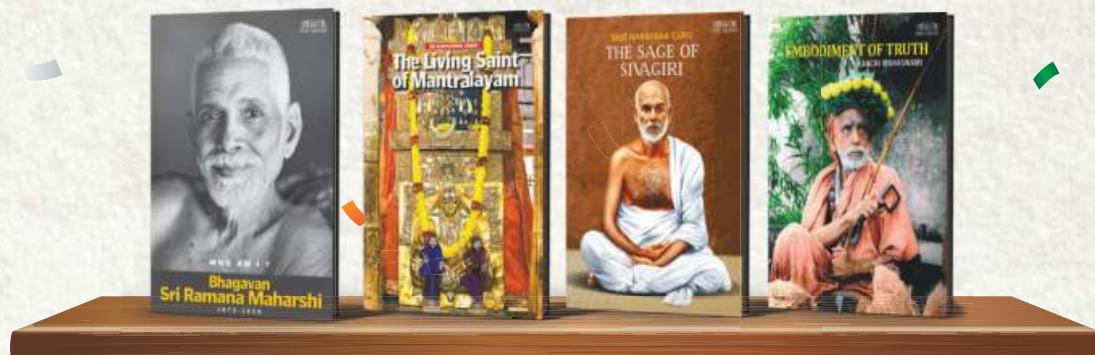


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A day after spokesman Rajiv Tyagi's death, Cong. slams 'vicious debates'

page 11



UAE & Israel reach agreement to establish diplomatic ties

page 12



Inflation accelerates to 6.93%, dimming chances of a rate cut

page 13

Messi's Barcelona faces the Bayern test in Champions League quarterfinal

page 14



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NEARBY



SC to pronounce verdict in contempt case today

NEW DELHI
A three-judge Bench led by Justice Arun Mishra is scheduled to pronounce its judgment on Friday in a *suo motu* contempt case against civil rights lawyer Prashant Bhushan for his tweets.

NEWS ▶ PAGE 9

56 in Lucknow juvenile home test positive

LUCKNOW
Fifty-six inmates and a home guard of a juvenile observation home in Lucknow have tested positive for COVID-19, the Uttar Pradesh government said on Thursday.

NORTH & EAST ▶ PAGE 4

Gehlot, Pilot meet ahead of key session

CLP discusses strategy with stormy Assembly session likely; BJP to move no-confidence motion

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

Ending the month-long political turmoil, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot met his former deputy Sachin Pilot here on Thursday after a resolution brokered by the top Congress leadership led to the return of 19 dissident MLAs to the party fold. Coming face to face for the first time after the crisis erupted, the two leaders smiled and greeted each other with a warm handshake.



All's well: Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, left, with Congress leader Sachin Pilot in Jaipur on Thursday. ▶ PTI

session is likely to be stormy in view of the Opposition BJP's attacks.

Congress leaders K.C. Venugopal, Avinash Pande, Randeep Surjewala, Ajay Ma-

ken and Govind Singh Dotasra were present during the meeting.

Mr. Gehlot announced at the CLP meeting that the Congress government would

Govt. will fall,
BJP leader
tells MLAs

At a meeting attended by BJP legislators in Jaipur, party national general secretary P. Muralidhar Rao is reported to have said that there is no way, looking at the events of the last five weeks, that the Gehlot government will survive its full term. ▶ PAGE 9

SC refuses to
stay decision
on BSP merger

The Supreme Court refused to stay Rajasthan Assembly Speaker C.P. Joshi's September 2019 decision to recognise the merger of six BSP MLAs with the Congress. It said it will not interfere as the case against the merger is being heard by the High Court. ▶ PAGE 9

move a confidence motion and seek a trust vote on the floor of the House. However, the BJP, hoping that the truce in the ruling party would not last long, stated

earlier in the day that it would bring a no-confidence motion against the government in the Assembly.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

PM announces taxpayers' charter

Move to honour honest assessees

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday launched a "Transparent Taxation – Honouring the Honest" platform that provides faceless assessment, faceless appeal and a taxpayers' charter.

He appealed to those not paying taxes, despite having the ability, to come forward and commit themselves to the cause of making the country self-reliant.



Narendra Modi

September 25, the birth anniversary of Deendayal Upadhyaya.

The assessment system seeks to eliminate corrupt practices by doing away with the territorial jurisdiction of income-tax offices.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Ram temple trust head tests COVID-positive

Mahant Nritya Gopal Das has been shifted to Medanta Hospital in Gurugram

ANUJ KUMAR
NEW DELHI/LUCKNOW

Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra chief Mahant Nritya Gopal Das tested positive for COVID-19 in Mathura on Wednesday morning, officials said. He was shifted to the Medanta Hospital in Gurugram after Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's intervention.

Health officials in Mathura said he was stable and "largely asymptomatic".

Mr. Das, who is also the head of the Krishna Janmabhoomi Nyas, was in Mathura to lead the Janmashtami celebra-



Mahant Nritya Gopal Das was in Mathura for Janmashtami celebrations. ▶ FILE PHOTO

Mr. Das was present on stage with Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the groundbreaking ceremony of the Ram temple in Ayodhya on August 5. However, a source in the PM's Office said that Mr. Modi was "not isolating" and is "on course for the Independence Day address".

Earlier, Mathura District Magistrate Sarvagya Ram Mishra said the mahant, who was staying at an ashram in Mathura, complained of fever and slight breathlessness in the morning. Doctors were called immediately and a rapid antigen test was conduct-

ed, which came out positive.

Samples of six of Mr. Das' associates, including the secretary of Krishna Janmabhoomi Seva Sansthan, have been taken for COVID-19 test.

Permission not needed'

On how the 82-year-old was allowed to travel to Mathura when the district administration had stopped the entry of devotees coming from other cities, Additional SP (Crime) Radhey Shyam Sharma said, "Being the head of the Krishna Janmabhoomi Nyas, he did not require any permission."

OMAR RASHID
LUCKNOW

Government doctors in Varanasi have expressed their resentment against the district administration following the death of an Additional Chief Medical Officer (ACMO) who was COVID-19-positive. They accused the administration of putting them under undue pressure.

A probe has been launched by the Banaras Hindu University (BHU) hospital after the family of the deceased ACMO was handed over the body of another patient from Ghazipur for crea-

mation, in a major goof-up.

More than two dozen medical officers and staff of rural and urban primary health centres and Community Health Centres in charge of COVID-19 tendered their resignation – later withdrawn – on Wednesday, saying they were unable to function under "mental pressure".

In an application to the district Chief Medical Officer, the doctors complained that the District Magistrate had threatened to lodge an FIR against them if they failed to fulfil their targets. They claimed the administration

was blaming them for COVID-19 deaths in the district.

Dismissal threat'

The doctors also asked under what circumstances ACMO Jung Bahadur Singh died and if the administration would be responsible for it, as even Dr. Singh had been threatened with dismissal. They speculated if the death was due to "shock".

CMO V.B. Singh on Thursday said all the doctors who had resigned had withdrawn their application. "They had submitted [the resignation] emotionally. All are working

now," Mr. Singh said.

Medical Superintendent of BHU Hospital S.K. Mathur said a committee has been formed to probe the circumstances leading to the mix-up of bodies. He said Dr. Singh died in the early hours of Wednesday. The same day, the body of another patient from Ghazipur was brought to the mortuary, where they were kept in "similar type of body bags". The matter came to light after the family of the second patient reached the cremation ground and realised that the body on the

+ pyre was not of their relative.

Down the drain



Monsoon woes: PWD workers trying to open a blocked drain on a waterlogged road in west Delhi's Raja Garden on Thursday.

The Capital witnessed the heaviest rainfall in 24 hours this monsoon. ▶ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAK (REPORT ON PAGE 5)

Testing begins for returning migrants

NIKHIL M BABU
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government on Thursday started testing migrant workers – who are coming back to the city – for COVID-19 at their drop-off points, said officials.

"On Thursday, workers arriving at Anand Vihar bus terminal were tested using rapid antigen testing. We will start testing at a drop-off point near Wazirabad in north-west district from Friday," an official told *The Hindu*.

As many as 956 new COVID-19 cases were reported in Delhi in the past 24 hours, taking the total to 1,49,460, said a health bulletin released by the government. Of the total cases, 1,34,318 people have recovered; 10,975 are active cases, indicative of an upward trend.

DETAILS ON ▶ PAGE 3

'Write prescriptions in capital letters'

High Court tells Odisha govt. to issue circular to doctors

STAFF REPORTER
BHUBANESWAR

Finding it difficult to decipher medical records, the Odisha High Court has directed the State government to issue a circular asking doctors to write prescriptions in capital letters and in an unambiguous manner.

During the hearing of a bail petition, Justice S.K. Panigrahi expressed dissatisfaction that while verifying the

medical documents put up for the perusal of the court, it was found that the prescription by the doctor was of pathetically poor legibility and far beyond the comprehension of any common man or even of the court. "Such illegible handwriting in medical records has the propensity to have adverse medico-legal implications. However, learned counsel for the petitioner assisted the

court with much difficulty to decipher what was written therein," said Justice Panigrahi in his judgment.

"This court feels it is imperative that the entire physician community needs to go the extra mile and make conscious efforts to write prescriptions in good handwriting, preferably in capital letters," the judgment read.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

In Odisha hotspot, one-third of population has antibodies

'Sero survey results in Ganjam district's Berhampur not indicative of community transmission'

SATYASUNDAR BARIK
BHUBANESWAR

Nearly one-third of the population of the Berhampur Municipal Corporation area in Odisha's Ganjam district, the State's virus hotspot, has developed COVID-19 antibodies, according to a survey by the Regional Medical Research Centre (RMRC), Bhubaneswar.

The Indian Council of Medical Research institute had carried out a serological survey in the BeMC area in association with the State Health and Family Welfare department, MKCG Medical College & Hospital and other government agencies between Au-



A health worker sanitising a COVID-19 ward of a hospital in Ganjam district of Odisha. ▶ FILE PHOTO

dies. Sero prevalence ranged between 7% and 60% in different wards," said Dr. Pati.

'Low fatality rate'
COVID-19 antibodies were detected in over 50% of the population in four wards of the city and in over 35% of the population in the urban slums, but the RMRC Director rejected the possibility of a community spread, saying "there is no wider community transmission as had been feared". Besides, the fatality rate, which is an indicator of transmission, is very low at 0.02%", said Dr. Pati.

"We anticipate that about 1.5 lakh people were perhaps exposed to the novel corona-

virus and developed antibodies... 90% of those who had developed antibodies did not have any major symptoms."

Given that the August 3-7 survey findings correspond to a period prevailing four weeks earlier, the RMRC Director said the second round is likely to yield better results.

The RMRC began sero surveys in Puri in June, and then extended it to the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation and BeMC. A similar survey is currently under way in the Badamba-Narsingshpur area of Cuttack district, and Cuttack Municipal Corporation, Gajapati district and Rourkela Municipal Corporation are next in the pipeline.

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IN BRIEF

Advisory against flying kites ahead of I-Day

NEW DELHI With Independence Day around the corner, electricity discoms on Thursday issued advisories cautioning people against flying kites near electrical establishments and overhead power lines.

Entanglement of especially metal-coated kite strings or *manjha* could interrupt power supply, warned Tata Power-DDL. Tripping of just one 11 KV overhead line can disrupt services to up to 2,500 residents of an area, it added.

Air quality of Delhi-NCR		
Delhi	Gurugram	Noida
50	44	51-100
68	75	101-200
Good	Satisfactory	Moderate
0-50	51-100	101-200
Poor	Very poor	Severe
201-300	301-400	>401
AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M. YESTERDAY (AVERAGE OF PAST 24 HOURS) SOURCE: CPCB		

Delhi airport sees surge in passenger share after resumption of flights

It attained 23% domestic passenger share during the first nine weeks, says DIAL

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI



Passengers at the IGI Airport. ■ FILE PHOTO: V.V. KRISHNAN

Delhi airport said on Thursday that its share of passengers relative to other airports in the country has surpassed pre-COVID-19 levels.

In a press note, the Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) said that during the first nine weeks since resumption of domestic flights its share of total domestic passengers rose to 23%, which was 5% more than pre-COVID-19 level.

Similarly, its share in the international passenger chunk also rose from 27% to 36%. However, in absolute

terms, the total number of monthly footfall is far below what it used to be until February, i.e. two lakh per month.

Domestic operations resumed on May 25, after a ban of two months. International

flights, which were banned on March 22, are yet to resume fully as the government has only allowed international flights to and from countries like France, Germany, US, UAE and Kuwait under a bilateral

agreement with each.

The rise in share of domestic passengers at the Delhi airport could be because it's a hub for many stranded passengers trying to return to northern parts of the country, as well as due to easier quarantine norms for incoming passengers as compared to other States and Union Territories.

The increase in the share of international passengers for Delhi is largely because of many of the repatriation flights under Vande Bharat and those by other countries being operated from and to Delhi.

HC rejects plea on masks, sanitisers

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH
NEW DELHI

posted the case for further hearing on November 20.

The urban body contended that the July 10 order of the DPCC was "illegal, arbitrary and unreasonable" as it does not have the jurisdiction to take such a decision.

It contended that unless there was specific provision in the statute enabling the authority to levy a penalty, it cannot levy any penalty or damages with reference to the general powers provided under the Environment Protection Act.

"It is respectfully submitted that in the present case, the respondent [DPCC] has levied the environmental compensation upon the petitioner [DDA] under the Environment Act, read with the provisions of the Water Act," the petition also said.

In her first live online lecture, renowned historian of ancient India Professor Romila Thapar said on Thursday that arguably the country was on the edge of becoming a Hindu nation.

Prof. Thapar addressed viewers on a Facebook Live session organised by a Delhi University students-led initiative, Karwaan, focusing on the writing of history over the past 200 years, from the colonial authors to the nationalist school of the early 20th Century and beyond.

Speaking about nationalism, Prof. Thapar said: "Nationalism is the reflection of how people in a society think about their collective self. The collective means that everyone that constitutes the nation should be included as equal citizens. But when nationalism is defined by a single identity, which can either be language or religion or even ethnicity, then nationalism gets derailed into majoritarianism. And majoritarianism is not nationalism."

She further said that the struggle for Independence had an "all-inclusive nationalism of Indians opposed to British rule", however, the insistence on two nations by the British led to a nationalism defined by religion that found acceptance among some Indians.

Majoritarianism is not nationalism, says Thapar



Romila Thapar ■

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She further said that the

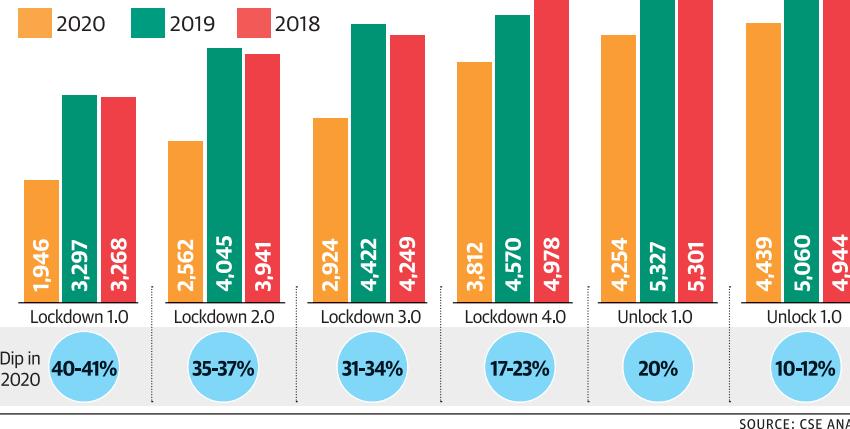
struggle for Independence had an "all-inclusive nationalism of Indians opposed to British rule", however, the insistence on two nations by the British led to a nationalism defined by religion that found acceptance among some Indians.

Heat stress, increased dependence on AC upset energy budget: study

Demand in 2020 less than previous years but margin reduced

Change in average daily electricity demand

Average daily mean electricity demand (in MW)



SOURCE: CSE ANALYSIS

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The overall electricity demand in Delhi had dropped during the first phase of the lockdown, but recovered quickly to almost near-normal levels. This trend was largely driven by the heat stress and cooling demand in the residential sector, due to poor designing, according to an analysis by Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), a research and advocacy organisation in Delhi.

"Higher heat stress this summer combined with thermal discomfort in poorly designed buildings and increased dependence on air conditioning upset the energy budget," says the CSE

The lockdown occurred during the summer and increased thermal discomfort hiked the demand for active cooling or air conditioning, the analysis said.

Anumita Roychowdhury, executive director-research and advocacy of CSE, said, "Understanding this connection is critical, as climate change will increase the frequency and intensity of heat waves in the future. If the

built environment is not designed for thermal comfort, heat stress will increase cooling demand and use of energy-intensive mechanical cooling systems, thus undoing the carbon savings from other energy efficiency measures."

Peak demands

The CSE said that the expectation was that the overall peak electricity demand during this summer would remain much lower than the peak demand of the previous summers. But in reality, though the average electricity demand through different stages of Lockdown and Unlock in 2020 was less compared to previous years, the margin reduced with increase in temperature.

The lockdown occurred during the summer and increased thermal discomfort hiked the demand for active cooling or air conditioning, the analysis said.

For instance, in the first phase of lockdown the average daily mean electricity demand was lesser than 2018 and 2019 by 40-41%; the same was 35-37% during Lockdown phase 2 and 31-34% and 17-23% during phases 3 and 4.

"Every degree rise in heat index resulted in 187 MW increase in electricity demand during lockdown - this was

6 per cent higher than in 2019," the CSE said in a statement.

"There should be a lot of attention to decrease the thermal load on buildings. We should encourage people to opt for adaptive thermal comfort such as good ventilation and reduce air conditioning hours," Ms. Roychowdhury told *The Hindu*.

The CSE said that architectural designs should be optimised to reduce heat load. This needs a quick operational framework to enable architectural design solutions, appropriate material, thermal load management, strategic and selective use of active cooling approaches and demand management measures to reduce the overall air-conditioned hours. Adopting guidelines, building byelaws, building-related energy regulations and good practices for an integrated approach are needed, it said.

Ms. Roychowdhury also said that India's Cooling Action Plan, a policy document, has mentioned 'thermal comfort for all', but it has to be implemented by the government.

DDA told to pay ₹50L fine for water contamination

'DPCC order on compensation illegal'

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has ordered the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) to deposit with the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC), an environment damage compensation of ₹50 lakh imposed on it for alleged water contamination of storm water drains on the Samalkha-Dwarka Road here.

The High Court's order came on DDA's plea challenging the DPCC's July 10 decision to impose environmental damage compensation of ₹50 lakh on the land owning agency for allegedly spoiling the water quality in the storm water drains.

The court clarified that the deposit would be subject to outcome of the plea moved by the DDA and

DELHI POLICE

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DELHI POLICE

SHANTI SEWA NYAYA

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Testing begins for migrants coming back to the Capital

City witnesses 956 fresh virus cases in the past 24 hours

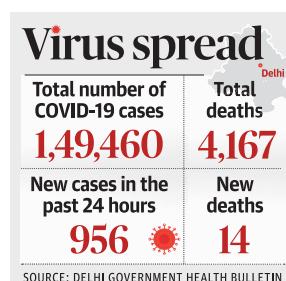
NIKHIL M BABU
NEW DELHI

As many as 956 new COVID-19 cases were reported in Delhi in the past 24 hours, taking the total number of cases to 1,49,460, according to a health bulletin released by the government on Thursday.

Of the total cases, 1,34,318 people have recovered and there are 10,975 active cases, which is showing an upward trend. Of the total cases, 1,34,318 people have recovered and there are 10,975 active cases.

Testing migrants
The Delhi government on Thursday started testing migrant workers — who are coming back to the city — for COVID-19 at their drop-off points, said officials.

"On Thursday, workers arriving at Anand Vihar



for the past 28 days, which is less compared to June. On June 23, daily new cases touched almost 4,000 — highest so far — and since then it has been dropping.

Though Delhi has a capacity to do around 11,000 RT PCR tests in a day only 6,478 such tests were done in the past 24 hours.

Of the total 15,356 tests done in the past 24 hours, over 57% of the tests were rapid antigen tests, which have shown a low positivity in the city compared to RT PCR tests.

Testing comes down
This is the lowest number of tests in the past nine days.

The positivity rate, which is the percentage of people who test positive, has also dropped from 12.2% to 6.2% compared to July 1. The number of containment zones in the city was 513 as on Thursday.

bus terminal were tested using rapid antigen testing. We will start testing at a drop-off point near Wazirabad in north-west district from tomorrow," an official told *The Hindu*.

Of the 100 workers tested at Anand Vihar on Thursday, only one person tested positive for the virus, said District Magistrate (Shahdara) Sanjeev Kumar. "We will keep testing the workers for a couple of days more," the official added.

The number of new cases has been less than 1,500

as on Thursday.

transaction was made through two women identified as Manju, his neighbour, and Deepa," the DCP said.

Four arrested

Multiple raids were held and the child was recovered from Huaz Qazi where Mittal resides. The infant's father Amanpreet, Mittal, Manju and Manisha have been arrested while teams are working to nab Deepa. A case under Section 370 (buying or disposing of any person as a

Death of 3 sisters: 2 years on, father still missing

Minors died due to malnutrition in Mandawali; residents living in pitiable conditions

HEMANI BHANDARI
NEW DELHI

Two years after three minor sisters died of starvation and their father went missing in east Delhi's Mandawali in July 2018, the hunt is still on. The residents there continue to live in pitiable conditions and their children are prone to diseases.

Police sources said the inquest proceedings into the starvation deaths of Mansi (8), Shikha (4) and Parul (2), are complete but the missing case of Mangal Singh, a rickshaw puller, is still open.

"All the paperwork required for inquest proceedings is complete but it is yet to be submitted to the Sub-Divisional Magistrate. The missing report, however, is still being probed. Beat officers and the investigating officer occasionally visit the area to ask about him," said a senior officer. The final autopsy report received in November 2018 stated that the girls died of malnutrition.

Sources said there have been no leads as yet. However, the children's mother,



The alley in east Delhi's Mandawali, where the incident happened in July 2018. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ter he had gone missing.

No bathrooms

The living conditions of the alley where the deaths happened and nearby areas remain as they were at the time of the incident — overflowing drains, a garbage dump and cattle walking all around.

On visiting the place where the girls died in a single-room accommodation and where Mangal's close friend Narayan lived, *The Hindu* found out that the friend left the place three months after the incident. Narayan was Mangal's friend for over 25 years and he searched him for a month af-

ter the case was in limelight. Manish Sisodia, at the time, called the incident a "system failure". "If the deaths happened due to poverty or if it happened due to starvation or any other disease, it is the failure of our system," he had said.

"There are mosquitoes here all round the year because of the garbage dump. This place is never cleaned. There are all sorts of animals roaming around here as well and the overflowing drain due to the rain adds to our woes. We fear for our children but what can we do? We can't move because rooms are expensive at other places," said Aisha Thakur, a resident. She added: "The authorities cared about us only till the case was in limelight".

An anganwadi, which was functioning right opposite the alley, has moved to the next lane. "It's shut these days but they send dry ration for children every month," said Savitri. The room where the girls died is now empty but has been rented out several times in the last two years.

Deputy Chief Minister

Infant rescued after being trafficked multiple times

Father sold two-and-a-half-month-old daughter to meet medical expenses of his other daughters: police

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

After an overnight raid was conducted across several locations in the city, a two-and-a-half-month old girl, who was allegedly sold multiple times, was rescued by the Delhi Commission for Women and Delhi Police on Thursday.

According to the DCW, the infant's father had sold her to a trafficker in Jaffrabad after being "disappointed" to have a third girl child.

Police said that the matter

was reported to them early Thursday morning and during further enquiry, it was found that Amanpreet had sold his daughter for ₹40,000. "This was his third daughter. He already has two, who are both differently abled. He sold the child to buy medicine for other children and he also wanted a better life for the infant," DCP (North) Monika Bhardwaj said.

The women's panel said that on receiving the informa-

tion through its Mahila Panchayat, a rescue team was formed and the team visited Jaffrabad. "A team was formed immediately and the girl's father was made to accompany them to Jaffrabad, where he sold his daughter to a woman called Manisha," the DCP said.

According to the police, the child was given to Manisha, who further sold her to one Sanjay Mittal as he wanted a girl child. "Mittal paid ₹80,000 to Manisha and the

slave) of the IPC has been registered, police said.

"This case is another example of poverty leading to trafficking. The child is now with her mother," Ms. Bhardwaj said.

DCW chief Swati Maliwal said, "I would appeal to Delhi Police to reach the bottom of this matter as this can be a part of a bigger racket." Ms. Maliwal added that the women's panel is planning to rehabilitate the infant and her two sisters.

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[IN RE: DENOUNCEMENT OF FAMILY RELATIONS WITH GURPRIT SAWHNEY AND MRS. JAYPREET KAUR SAWHNEY]

I hereby notify for the information of general public at large and other interested parties that my Client, Shubhkarman Singh Sawhney, aged 27 years residing in Gurugram, has denounced all terms of family relations with his father, Mr. Gurprit Singh Sawhney (aged 54 years) and his mother Mrs. Jaypreet Kaur Sawhney (aged 51 years). He resides separately from them and does not engage with them on any account and does not constitute as part of their family. He has parted from them with respect to all affairs and hereby announces his disassociation as legal heir and/or representative for all purposes.

Public and all concerns are hereby notified not to deal with my client on any matter concerning them or on their behalf and vice-versa. Any person having any claim against them, or any concern with respect to them, may kindly refrain from making any communication with my client, as he bears no responsibility and liability towards any person on their behalf, including any liability arising from any agreements, contracts, arrangements etc.

Adv. Paras Mittal
Mobile No.: 9548585363
Address: 245/1, Phool Bagh Colony, Meerut

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[The public notice is being informed by this public notice that my client Drishti Cable (sole Proprietorship Concern) office at Shop No. 5, Block 10A, DDA Market, Commercial Complex, Vikaspuri, New Delhi-110016 has closed down due to non availability of TV transmission licenses as Local Cable Operator Business (LCO) of Siti Cable in the area of Vikas Kunj, Vikaspuri, New Delhi-110018 and has moved into the premises of Paradesi House, Sector 11, New Delhi-110020 with all fruits, responsibilities and liabilities therewith. Thereafter, if anybody deals with them (Video Callers), any respect for their services and services, help and support thereof itself shall be responsible for the same, my client and persons related to it shall not be responsible to anyone for the same in any manner whatsoever.]

Manish Kumar (Advocate)
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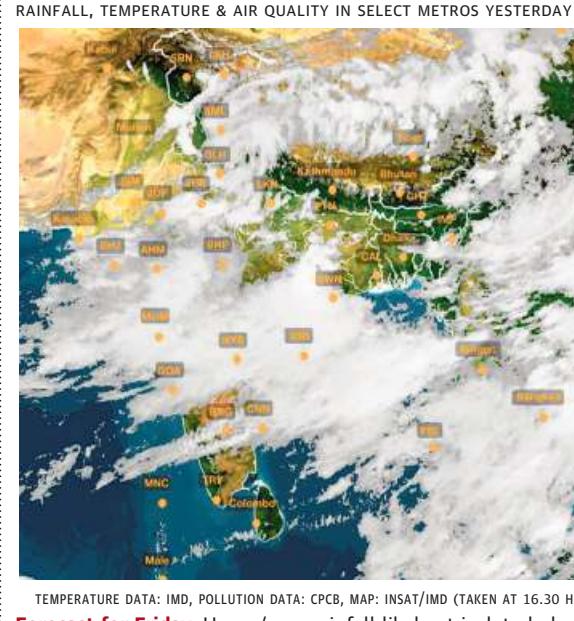
CHANGE OF NAME

CORRECTION OF NAME

I Faizan Farooq Kirmani father Name Farooq Ahmad Kirmani and Mother Name Afroza Parveen R/O Hill View Colony 1ST House No. 12, Wanaibala Srinagar, 190005 Applying for Correction in my Passport No. J-3555461, in which my name and my mother's name was wrongly mention as FAIZAN FAROOQ Instead of FAIZAN FAROOQ KIRMANI and my Mother Name AFROZA KIRMANI instead of AFROZA PARVEEN. Objection if any may convey to concerned Authority within 7 Days from the date of Publication of this Notice.

PUBLIC NOTICE

WEATHER WATCH



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSTAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 16.30 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Heavy/very rainfall likely at isolated places over Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, west Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Jharkhand, central Maharashtra, Vidarbha, Konkan & Goa, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Telangana and Andaman & Nicobar Islands

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	... 35.5	26.6	15.5	Kozhikode	0.2 ...	30.8	25.7
Ahmedabad	7.3	28.4	25.4	Kurnool	0.5 ...	27.1	24.1
Aizawl	... 26.9	19.6	13.5	Lucknow	... 30.0	27.2	19.5
Allahabad	... 30.3	26.8	20.5	Madurai	... 40.2	25.6	20.5
Bengaluru	... 28.0	20.6	15.5	Mangaluru	9.1 ...	29.6	24.2
Bhopal	2.3	25.7	24.0	Mumbai	42.0 ...	30.4	26.5
Bhubaneswar	4.8	34.2	26.6	Mysuru	... 29.0	21.1	15.5
Chandigarh	7.2	29.3	24.7	New Delhi	68.2 ...	28.9	24.5
Chennai	... 33.2	28.3	20.5	Patna	8.2 ...	32.4	26.0
Coimbatore	31.4	23.3	18.5	Port Blair	14.6 ...	29.1	23.5
Dehradoon	5.8	29.0	25.0	Puducherry	... 34.6	26.6	20.5
Gangtok	20.6	22.7	18.5	Pune	8.4 ...	24.9	22.4
Goa	16.3	29.6	25.0	Raipur	17.6 ...	30.5	25.5
Guwahati	... 35.0	26.4	20.5	Ranchi	... 31.4	24.5	15.5
Hubballi	... 25.0	22.0	18.5	Shillong	0.3 ...	25.8	18.5
Hyderabad	5.2	23.8	21.9	Shimla	15.4 ...	21.1	18.2
Imphal	... 30.7	23.0	18.5	Srinagar	... 33.6	20.2	15.5
Jaipur	... 32.2	25.6	20.5	Thiruvananthapuram	... 30.8	25.1	15.5
Kochi	30.6	25.4	20.5	Tiruchi	... 35.8	26.2	15.5
Kohima	21.4	24.0	20.5	Vijayawada	0.3 ...	28.0	25.0
Kolkata	6.3	34.8	26.2	Visakhapatnam	3.0 ...	28.3	25.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO ₂	NO _x	CO	PM _{2.5}	PM ₁₀	CODE
Ahmedabad	20	30	75	39	70	GREEN
Bengaluru	10	80	30	-	75	GREEN
Chennai	4	13	66	121	-	ORANGE
Delhi	12	61	96	33	34	ORANGE
Hyderabad	7	45	20	18	22	GREEN
Kolkata	11	14	10	27	44	GREEN
Lucknow	5	32	50	51	80	GREEN
Mumbai	15	29	10	15	55	GREEN
Pune	12	4	49	11	11	GREEN
Visakhapatnam	10	30	25	33	39	GREEN

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 pm yesterday, Haryana recorded an air quality index (AQI) score of 159 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 10

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

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

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

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

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

Amid COVID-19, an 'infrastructure census'

Pune administration boosts development through PURA

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

While the COVID-19 pandemic has put the brakes on rural infrastructure development works in most districts of Maharashtra, and the country's rural hinterland, it has kept its pace in Pune's rural areas under the APJ Abdul Kalam PURA (Providing Urban Amenities in Rural Areas) initiative.

Headed by zilla parishad Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Ayush Prasad, the Pune rural administration carried out a gap analysis and an innovative 'infrastructure census' to plan rural works in a transparent manner while also coping with the pandemic.

Mr. Prasad, who is also the acting Pune District Collector, roped in the Maharashtra Knowledge Corporation Limited (MKCL) to take on this challenging task.

"Often, budgets are made without knowing actual demand for works or the relative demand between works. Hence, funds for a scheme often go unspent. Development planning processes at the Centre, State, district and even gram panchayat level face a common problem when it comes to demand generation," Mr. Prasad told *The Hindu*.

Mr. Prasad went about implementing PURA by cutting through the red tape often dogging several rural projects, reducing corruption, and eliminating the imbalance in amenities prevailing in villages.

"We identified the 30 types of works we [Pune Zilla Parishad] do, and asked the gram panchayats to conduct a 'census' of available infrastructure. We identified



Ayush Prasad, zilla parishad CEO. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

gaps in each village and ward within each village and categorised them into three categories – infrastructure not available and not needed, infrastructure not available and needed and infrastructure available but not in sufficient capacity. The gram panchayats were then asked to identify available lands and check for a clear title and clear possession deeds," he said, explaining the implementation process.

Mr. Prasad said that typically, just 20-25% of the public representatives are fully aware of all schemes, while the rest move proposals in some schemes only.

"Generally, the better-aware public representatives allocate more funds for developmental works in their constituencies, leading to an imbalance in amenities in different villages," he said.

"Sometimes, the same work may get approved by two or more heads of accounts, resulting in confusion and inefficiency. This also added to the paperwork, reduction of which is one of the aims of implementing this initiative," he said.

Given that most of the development works are allotted

to contractors, they at times push for works and allocation of budget through local cartels.

"So, there is a lack of transparency in the work approval processes. After our gap survey, an online system was created on the ZP website where members can log in with their mobile numbers. Members can access two systems now, material purchase to combat COVID-19 and the PURA system," Mr. Prasad said.

The PURA system will eventually transform into a dashboard showing the status of public works suggested by the ZP members.

"Members can click and see all projects proposed by the gram panchayat. They can add new projects which may not have been set by the gram panchayat in their infrastructure census," Mr. Prasad said.

They can then set 'priority' for all works suggested by different gram panchayats in their constituency. The highest priority works will come before the subject committee at the ZP as a neat list, thus helping the committee in approving the budget.

Delhi witnesses heaviest rainfall this monsoon

Cloudy skies, more rain forecast till Wednesday: IMD

Gurugram grapples with waterlogging woes again

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Capital witnessed the heaviest rainfall in 24 hours this monsoon, resulting in waterlogging and slow traffic movement at different parts of the city on Thursday.

As per the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Safdarjung weather station recorded 68 mm rainfall in 24 hours till 8.30 a.m. on Thursday.

Rainfall of intensity below 15.6 mm is considered "light", between 15.6 and 64.4 mm "moderate", and 64.5 mm and above is "heavy". Ayanagar station recorded 99.2 mm rainfall, Palam station 93.6 mm, and Ridge station 84.6 mm rainfall till 8.30 a.m.

"Generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of moderate rain/thunder-

showers," reads IMD's forecast for the city on Friday.

Cloudy skies and rainfall are predicted every day in the city till Wednesday and the city has been placed in yellow alert till Monday.

"Waterlogging reported

The police sent across a series of traffic alerts in the morning from its Twitter handle, informing about waterlogging at Basai Road, Mata Mandir Road, IFFCO Chowk, Himgiri Chowk and Sector 46 traffic signal.

Many residents took to social media to express their anguish over power cuts and waterlogging.

on Raja Garden flyover and Mayapuri flyover both carriageways," Delhi Police said in a tweet on Thursday morning.

Waterlogging and tree felling were reported in several parts of the city.

Three injured in Bhalswa landfill collapse

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

proached them with a complaint.

Mr. Bal read out a statement issued by *The Caravan*'s woman staffer, who was sexually harassed and assaulted on August 11 in North Ghonda neighbourhood while reporting with two of her colleagues on a story concerning Delhi riots.

The meeting was held at the Press Club of India here and was attended by senior advocate Prashant Bhushan, Arundhati Roy, Anand Sahay, Shahid Abbas and Harish Singh Bal.

The journalists, attacked by a mob in north-east Delhi, narrated their ordeal and inappropriate behaviour of the police when they ap-

peared on the scene.

A North Delhi Municipal Corporation spokesperson said that three ragpickers had been buried under the garbage. AAP leader Vikas Goel attacked the BJP-ruled corporation over the matter arguing that similar incidents had taken place in the past and alleged that inadequate efforts had been made to rectify the issue.

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS TRAFFIC ADVISORY ON 15TH AUGUST, 2020 AT RED FORT

DELHI POLICE SHANTI SEWA NYAYA



TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS AROUND RED FORT

The following roads will be closed for general traffic from 4.00 AM to 9.00 AM and only labeled vehicles will be permitted:

- Netaji Subhash Marg from Chatta Rail to Chatta Rail.
- Lothian Road from GPO Delhi to Chatta Rail.
- S.P.Mukherjee Marg from H.C.Sen Marg to Yamuna Bazar Chowk.
- Chandi Chowk Road from Fountain Chowk to Red Fort.
- Nishad Raj Marg from Ring Road to Netaji Subhash Marg.
- Espanade Road and its Link Road to Netaji Subhash Marg.
- Ring Road from Rajghat to ISBT.
- Outer Ring Road from ISBT to IP Flyover, Salimgarh Bypass.

ROADS THAT MAY BE AVOIDED FROM 04.00 Hrs to 10.00 Hrs

Those vehicles which do not have parking labels may avoid C-Hexagon, India Gate, Copernicus Marg, Mandi House, Sikandra Road, W Point, A point, Nafik Marg, Mathera Road, BSZ Marg, Subhash Marg, J.L. Nehru Marg and Ring Road between Nizamuddin Bridge and ISBT and Bridge and Outer Ring Road from IP Flyover through Salimgarh Bypass to ISBT and take the route as advised.

Alternative-1: Aurobindo Marg – Saifdarjung Road – Mother Teresa Crescent – Park Street– Mandir Marg – Panchkuan Road and vice-versa.

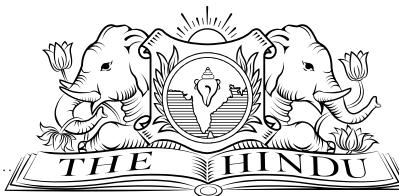
Alternative-2: Reach Connaught Place – Minto Road – Bhavbhuti Marg – Ajmeri Gate – Shradhanand Marg – Lahori Gate Chowk – Naya

Bara Peeli Koti – S.P. Mukherjee Marg up to ODRS and reach their destination in North Delhi and vice versa.

Alternative-3: Reach Nizamuddin Bridge to cross Yamuna – Pusha Road – G.T. Road and cross Budhiaji Setu to ISBT and reach their destination in North Delhi and vice versa.

East West Corridor: DND – NH24 (NH9) – Vikas Marg – Shahdara Bridge and Wazirabad Bridge will remain open to Ring Road from ISBT and Ring Road – NH-24(NH-9) – NH T' point (Nizamuddin Khatta) and take alternative route available.

Buses ordinarily terminating at Red Fort,



Right by birth

SC decision on coparcenary rights of women is in line with the aim of ending discrimination

The latest decision of the Supreme Court on the right of Hindu daughters to ancestral property corrects an obvious anomaly in the interpretation of a crucial 2005 amendment to the Hindu Succession Act, 1956. The verdict settles the question whether the coparcenary right of daughters comes into effect only if the father through whom they claim that right was alive on the day the amendment came into force. The apex court has now categorically ruled that the daughters' right flows from their birth and not by any other factor such as the existence of their fathers. In other words, it has rejected the common misinterpretation that only daughters of coparceners who were alive on that day could get an equal share in property. The court has rightly recognised that the amendment conferred equal status as a coparcener on daughters in Hindu families governed by Mitakshara law, and this right accrued by birth. The change came into effect from September 9, 2005, but with a provision that partitions or testamentary disposition that had taken place prior to December 20, 2004 – the date on which the amendment Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha – will remain valid and unaffected by the change. This led to the interpretation that the daughters' coparcenary rights, being prospective, would not come into effect unless both the coparcener father and his daughter were alive on September 9, 2005. This position was crystallised in a 2015 judgment of the Supreme Court in *Prakash and Others vs. Phulavati*. This judgment now stands overruled.

The court's reasoning is unexceptionable. First, it locates the origin of the coparcenary right in one's birth. Second, it finds that there is no necessity for a predecessor coparcener to be alive for one to acquire that status, as what is relevant is birth within the degrees of succession to which it extends. In that sense, the legislation, even though it comes into effect on a prescribed date, is retroactive in its application as it is linked to birth, an antecedent event. It also underscores that the legislation makes it clear that the daughter's rights are the same "as that of a son," and "as if she had been a son at the time of birth". The coparcenary status given to daughters has been a subject of reform in many States, particularly in south India, long before the UPA regime brought in the amendment for the whole country. Kerala had introduced legislation in 1975, Andhra Pradesh in 1986, Tamil Nadu in 1989 and Maharashtra and Karnataka in 1994. The legislative aim was that a flagrant discrimination between sons and daughters in entitlement to an equal share in coparcenary property, that is property inherited from one's father, grandfather or great-grandfather, should be done away with. It is indeed welcome that the apex court has sought to give full effect to this intent by setting at rest doubts arising from varying interpretations.

Historic ratification

The universal ratification of a labour standard is cause for celebration and reflection

The welcome decision by the Kingdom of Tonga to outlaw the worst forms of child labour is the first time in the International Labour Organization (ILO)'s 101-year history that a labour standard has been universally ratified. Convention 182, which was adopted in the 1999 annual international labour conference, prohibits the sexual exploitation of children, trafficking, deployment in armed conflict and other conditions that compromise their overall well-being. The Convention complements the ILO's efforts under the 1973 Minimum Age Convention to prevent the employment of children below a lower age threshold. Under the influence of both these ILO standards, millions of young boys and girls have been rescued from hazardous conditions of work. Concomitantly, these have resulted in significant increases in enrolments in primary education. The landmark ratification, however, does not detract from the enormity of the challenge that remains. An estimated 152 million are trapped in child labour and 72 million of them are engaged in hazardous work. If anything, current efforts would have to be stepped up significantly to achieve the ambitious goal of total abolition of the scourge of child labour by 2025. But the COVID-19 pandemic is threatening a reversal of recent gains, with widespread job losses, deterioration in conditions of work, decline in household incomes and temporary school closures.

The historic first universal ratification of a global labour standard may be an occasion for celebration; it is nonetheless a moment for sober reflection. The two instruments on child labour are among the eight core ILO Conventions regarded as embodying the spirit of the 1998 declaration on fundamental principles and rights at work. Instruments relating to the freedom of association, the right to collective bargaining and the elimination of discrimination in employment and occupation are among the others. These conventions provide the necessary framework to counteract the predominance of informality in the conditions of work and ought to be a priority for governments. Though belated, India has signalled its legal commitment to the elimination of child labour with its 2017 ratification of Convention 182 and the instrument prescribing the minimum age of work for children. As the world prepares to designate 2021 as the year to abolish child labour, governments must seize the moment to instil hope in the future generations.

Schools without freedom

If they had some autonomy, many village schools would have found local conditions now good enough to allow children to study



KRISHNA KUMAR

If a house needs repairs, and the repairs are delayed for a long time, the house develops a force to haunt its inhabitants during adversity. This analogy applies to the state of children's education. Decisions pertaining to it are dependent on structures designed to overlook local factors. These structures were forged to ensure total compliance, no matter how vast the system became and how diverse remained the demands served by it. Decentralisation was routinely favoured, but it did not touch the core aspects of education as a system.

Craving for a modest amount of autonomy unites principals and teachers from across the sharply divided segments of our vast network of schools. For those serving in government-run schools, there is no provision in the rule book for freedom on any count that matters. Since British days, the bureaucracy views school functionaries with the deepest suspicion, both in their capacities and integrity. No matter how senior you are, your job is to silently follow the orders and circulars issued by the directorate and the examination board.

In private schools, you notice additional players who keep principals and teachers under a fat thumb. For school owners and managers, the professional knowledge and experience of the principal and the teachers count for little. Management committees and

parents generally support the regimented approach of directorates and Boards. Endorsement of school-based capacity-building has been in fashion, but the reality has taken the opposite direction. All major processes that affect life at school have stayed firmly under centralised exercise of authority, and exam boards have tightened their grip further.

COVID-19 chaos

Now arrives the novel coronavirus pandemic. The virus has spread across the country, but its impact in different regions is uneven. The metro cities have been affected far more than others, but it is now reported to be spreading in many district towns. No specific data are publicly available on villages. India has over six lakh villages. No single picture can cover their diverse geography and economics. Health standards and facilities differ, and so does the impact of COVID-19. Why the virus has not affected the rural hinterland as much as it has affected cities is far from clear. Many experts think that the uneven spread is merely a matter of poor reporting from villages. They smile if you tell them that many Panchayats are actively guarding their territories. It is not surprising that the awareness and resilience demonstrated by many villages is largely ignored in the media. It is an example of the general bias that pervades urban perception in all spheres of life.

No separate consideration of village needs seems possible in the current crisis. That is why all schools, urban and rural, have stayed closed since the last week of March. Cooked mid-day meals served to children at school have been replaced in many States by the distribution of grain and mo-



REUTERS

ney to their children. If village schools had some autonomy, many would have found local conditions good enough to allow children to come for their meals and spend some time studying. Decisions regarding the daily time span and class size might have been taken in accordance with distancing norms by schools' heads and teachers.

Learning outdoors

Not all learning has to occur in the classroom. Ideologues of minimalism are arguing that foundational literacy and numeracy are what we need to focus on in order to improve quality. A new coinage is 'learning loss' which supposedly occurred in April and May due to the lockdown. Online teaching was mooted to compensate for this loss. Smartphones and laptops are new, but the idea that children's basic educational needs are literacy and numeracy is certainly quite obsolete. Child psychology has generated sufficient evidence to say that in its formative stages the human mind needs opportunities to observe natural phenomena, represent it in different forms and analyse it. Village schools are in a far better position to do so than city schools.

The monsoon creates great opportunities for noticing, recording and examining nature. Eagles and other large birds tread at leisurely paces in wet paddy fields, looking

for food. They are a joy to watch and sketch in their different postures. Ants come out of their subterranean homes when the rainwater floods them. Butterflies migrate in this season. These are just examples; there are a hundred things to observe in plants and trees.

Village teachers can bring great energy into their pedagogy by encouraging children to spend time outdoors for assigned observation. If some children have acquired a smartphone to receive online instruction, they can visually record what they notice. Observation and reflection are good for promoting numeracy and literacy too. In fact, mathematics is learnt best when you are excited about something and find it worth counting. The same is true of writing and reading.

But we live in a time when learning outcomes are pre-defined and their attainment needs to be officially proved, with tests. The search for technical fixes is not new, nor is the cult of controlling teachers and children. The hope that communications technology can improve pedagogic quality sustained interest in the radio, then in television and the Internet. I can recall some wonderful colleagues who dedicated their lives to educational technology. One was Dr. Vijaya Mulay who never tired of reminding officials that the real success of technology comes when it motivates and enables people to solve their own problems. For her, the danger of educational technology leading to centralised decision-making was as great as the attraction that it would bring life into the classrooms. The idea of cracking a general whip on our vast school population during a pandemic would have horrified

her. The daily images of hapless children peering into a tiny screen are distressing indeed. Some of the poorer States are toying with a software that will tell the teacher what to do next for improving a child's performance on a test. Ideas like that appeal to officials and others who have been led to believe that our core problem has to do with teachers.

Curiously enough, technology enthusiasts have seldom spoken about the absence of basic learning equipment in our schools. Something as small and simple as a magnifying glass is alien to our primary schools. Aren't these also a part of educational technology? Great expenditure is made on purchasing technology for schools, but it does not cover binoculars or microscopes. There is a way to make sense of this. If watching egrets in a paddy field is not worth the time it will take, why should schools have binoculars? An experience that might expand or deepen a child's interest and understanding does not count as learning whereas the ability to crack a test item does. All this fits in the larger picture, but it signifies a colossal loss of national imagination and talent. The system has failed to retain the momentum and gains that accrued to it from modest reforms because autonomy and professional competence were denied to teachers. If our schools fail to nurture a free, thoughtful mind among the young, one reason is that schools themselves have no freedom. And if pandemic compulsions guide broader decisions, teachers' bondage will get worse.

Krishna Kumar is a former Director of the National Council of Educational Research and Training

The challenges in counting the dead

India must increase investment in innovations for improving data collection and reporting



GIRIDHARA R. BABU

Compared to other diseases, COVID-19 is highly transmissible. The long-term sequelae of infection are unravelling only now. The only goal is to prevent as many deaths as possible. The proportion of deaths due to COVID-19 (about 2%) is lower than that of SARS (about 9%) or the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (34.4%) and probably higher than that of influenza (0.1%). However, the task of counting deaths attributed to COVID-19 is full of complex challenges.

Assessing fatalities

Globally, the disruption of health services during a pandemic results in the underestimation of any health indicator, including the assessment of fatalities. For estimating death rates, the total number of deaths are usually in the numerator; it is choosing the denominator that is the difficult aspect. The case fatality proportion uses reported deaths in the numerator and reported cases in the denominator; this helps in assessing and comparing clinical severity and effectiveness of clinical outcomes. Delayed reporting of deaths from hospitals, and incomplete and inaccurate reporting of COVID-19-related deaths will affect the numerator. It is recognised that case fatality will not reflect the deaths from COVID-19 as it varies with test rates and strategies used.

The infection fatality rate (IFR) due to COVID-19 uses the same numerator. The denominator comprises the total number of infections, derived from seroprevalence studies in the total population. IFR provides real estimates of COVID-19 death rates, including the presence of unreported infections in the denominator. However, differences in sampling strategy and methods of seroprevalence studies, demographics and healthcare resources will result in incomparable seroprevalence estimates. As we witnessed in India, testing, provision of healthcare and treatment improve progressively. This too will change both the numerator and denominator over time.

In addition, we can estimate the crude mortality rate by having the number of people in the area in the denominator. Generally expressed as deaths per million, this provides the probability that any individual in the population will die from the disease. This too is affected by incomplete and inaccurate reporting of COVID-19 deaths.

Finally, all-cause excess mortality can be estimated by calculating the number of deaths above expected baseline levels, regardless of the reported cause of death, and provides an overall impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The seroprevalence surveys are useful to obtain an unbiased estimate of deaths due to COVID-19. Global evidence indicates that the IFR is less than 1% of total infections. We can estimate this only when we have realistic data on total infections in the country, obtained from repeated nationwide seroprevalence surveys.

In the absence of IFR, deaths per million is an alternative esti-

Comparison of national capitals in countries with more than 1,00,000 COVID-19 cases

Capital	Total cases	Deaths	Total population	DPM	% of population above 65 years
Madrid	74,886	8,451	66,61,949	1269	0.2
Santiago	2,63,000	7,972	70,36,792	1133	0.12
Washington, DC	12,896	593	7,05,749	840	0.16
London	35,792	6,885	89,61,989	768	0.19
Brasilia	1,27,000	1,815	25,70,160	706	0.09
Moscow	2,48,228	4,585	1,25,06,468	367	0.15
Delhi	1,44,127	4,098	1,67,87,941	244	0.06
Rome/Lazio	8,883	867	58,64,321	148	0.23
Riyadh	65,500	950	76,76,654	124	0.03
Jakarta	26,162	932	1,07,70,487	87	0.06
Berlin	9,543	224	37,69,495	59	0.22

DPM: Deaths per million; Source: Project: Jeevan Raksha

mate. The table shows the deaths per million in the capital cities of the nations that have more than 1,00,000 confirmed cases. The deaths per million population roughly correlates with a higher proportion of persons above 65 years. The exceptions are Peru and Brazil, which are known to take delayed action. An honourable exception is Germany, which has the best preventive and curative services compared to the rest of the countries.

Registering deaths

It is important to get baseline estimates of deaths to estimate the excess mortality. Currently, although mandatory, only about 86% of the deaths get registered, which has increased from 66.9% in 2009, indicating that 14% do not get registered in India independent of the COVID-19 crisis. The annual crude death rate in India is 0.73 per 100 persons.

The deaths attributed to COVID-19 in 2020 are 0.028 per 100 persons, which varies from 0.21 in Delhi followed by Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Puducherry and Karnataka. This is mostly a function of better death reporting, with three of these States having 100% death registration and two States registering more than 90% of deaths. The registration system has further challenges with a high proportion of unclassifiable deaths, long delays and irregular publication of statistics.

In addition, lack of training, resources and systematic screening results in making medical as-

essment of every death far from practical in India.

Once efforts are made to register every death, the government should invest in establishing the cause of death, linking the data to electronic health records and coding the data.

The deaths attributed to COVID-19 in all the South Asian countries are comparable and lower than the developed countries.

We will know the actual number of deaths when all the deaths are compiled by the Civil Registration System, perhaps more than a year

from now. Once known, attributing the cause of death, although difficult, can provide delineation of causes and excess mortality due to COVID-19 in India. As per the ICMR-IHME-PHFI's India disease burden study, non-communicable diseases-related deaths caused by cancer, diabetes, cirrhosis, etc. constitute 72.5% of deaths, while 27.5% of deaths are caused by HIV/AIDS, injury, suicide, etc.

Deaths cannot be hidden in the case of COVID-19; sooner or later, they get reported due to a vigilant media and an active civil society. Due to such efforts, at least five cities in India have reconciled the death numbers. To obtain unbiased, reliable estimates, nationally representative verbal autopsy surveys such as the Million Death Study can be helpful. In the meantime, India has to adopt a strategy of transparency in data flow and reporting, with increased investments in innovations for improving data collection and reporting.

Due to these inherent challenges, India and other countries with low mortality are subject to increased, and welcome, scrutiny. However, commentators should not be tempted to use estimates beyond the range that can be inferred by evidence. The assumptions about undercounting deaths should be realistic. With no supporting evidence such as a surge in numbers from burial grounds or in the neighbourhood, it is counter-intuitive to assume that we have under-counted thousands of deaths. Alas, counting the deaths is a deadly challenge out there.

Giridhara R. Babu is a Professor of Epidemiology at the Indian Institute of Public Health, PHFI, Bengaluru

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Ignoring the Ghats

While an impassioned pitch for environmental protection by a politician is rare, one cannot miss the inauthenticity in Sonia Gandhi's article ("Stop the dismantling of environmental rules", August 13). She did not mention the Gadgil Committee's report on the Western Ghats. The yearly floods and landslides in Kerala are largely thanks to the previous Congress-led UDF government's decision to ignore Madhav Gadgil's recommendation to classify 64% of the Western Ghats

as Ecologically Sensitive Area zones and instead accept the watered down recommendations of the Kasturirangan Committee. V.N. MUKUNDARAJAN, Thiruvananthapuram

Running mate
The choice of Kamala Harris as Joe Biden's running mate has electrified the hitherto lacklustre democratic campaign for the 2020 presidential race ("Kamala Harris to be Biden's running mate", August 13). Given that she is a biracial child of immigrants, Ms.

Harris truly represents the diversity of the U.S. Generally, running mates don't matter much in the campaign, but in this case, it looks like Ms. Harris has the potential to change the game for the party. KOSARAJU CHANDRAMOULI, Hyderabad

Kamala Harris is a worthy choice as running mate. However, she may not be the fillip that will help Joe Biden cross the finish line. Despite the Trump administration's gross mismanagement of the pandemic, the American

electora is by nature quite traditional in its voting habits. The moderate voters of the suburbs and the working class white voters are

Should early child care centres be opened sooner?

PARLEY

A decision on this can be taken only when the pandemic begins to subside

The world is still struggling to come to terms with the unprecedented impact that COVID-19 has had on every aspect of human life. The pandemic has forced cities and towns to go into lockdowns. The attendant side effects – including the rather sudden withdrawal of certain social support services – have affected large groups of people. For a good proportion of the working population, work from home is not an option and they have been summoned to their workplaces. And, the usual structures that would keep their young children safe while their parents are at work – schools, anganwadis and balwadis – are not operational. In this context, parents have made the fervent appeal to open up early child care centres. Two experts, Maya Gaitonde and K. Shanmugavelayutham, discuss key issues concerning the area of early child care, in a discussion moderated by Ramya Kannan. Edited excerpts:

The disruption that this pandemic has achieved is historic. Can we look closely at the particular problems in the field of early child care and development in this context?

Maya Gaitonde (MG): If you look at early childhood and you start literally from the time when mothers are pregnant, there are health, nutrition issues. We know the criticality of the first 1,000 days, which takes care of the child in the womb as well. And then, of course, I would say that whatever problems did exist in early childhood care seem to have now escalated because of the pandemic. And, this affects every segment of society; those accessing the anganwadis are a huge segment, but the issue has affected mothers across the board. The problem is one of care and development, providing the right stimulation at the right time to children. It is affecting institutions, wherever the child is. Everybody is in a quandary when it comes to questions on school education and early childhood care.

K. Shanmugavelayutham (KS): The pandemic has affected all sections of the population and the ram-

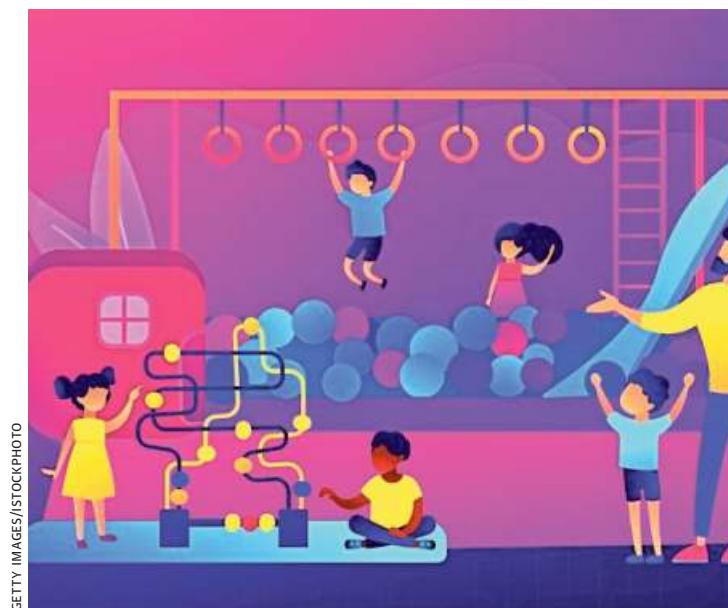
ifications will be across sectors – health, nutrition, support services, rehabilitation, even education. It is also true that this is a very peculiar disease that keeps evolving. However, it is not just a medical problem. If we open child care centres tomorrow, will people send their children? There is a great deal of fear and panic. It is essentially an issue that has definite social-political-economic angles.

Some private schools in the country are struggling to stay afloat; as far as anganwadis are concerned, workers are now distributing take-home rations and eggs [in Tamil Nadu]. Those who are able to use devices are managing to catch up with their lessons through the web, but in anganwadis, that is not possible. We have not been able to provide the stimulation that is necessary at this stage for children.

What is your recommendation? Can child care centres be opened early? Is it a pure medical decision? What factors should be considered?

MG: We cannot say it is a pure medical decision because where early childhood is concerned, there are multiple inputs. Of course, there is the safety aspect – of the mother and the child. It is true that children do get the infection, and there is an aftermath too, which we need to consider. We are talking about social, physical distancing. But in early childhood, physical proximity, closeness is very, very important for the children. We are having that problem even in our orphanage where we are not able to tell the little ones to stay away [from each other]. Also, children with disabilities might have to access various therapies. There might be a need for contact there.

KS: We have discussed this question with members in our network, anganwadi worker unions, and experts in early child care, the general answer is NO [the centres cannot be opened now]. First, infants are particularly vulnerable to the infection, and there is a possibility of contact and transmission in a public place. Second, it is very difficult to insist



that young children (those below six years of age) follow the recommended precautions – wearing a mask, social distancing and other hygiene practices. It might be possible in older children, but we all agree that in the younger group, it will be very difficult to enforce. Third, what we do have to factor in is that it is not the case of just one individual child, the whole family will be involved.

Under the National Education Policy 2020, early child care has been made a part of the school system. Going by that logic, child care centres should be opened only around the time schools are opened. We can take a decision when the pandemic begins to subside and the numbers come down. But, before that, we need guidelines that will have to be communicated to parents, staff members and administrators of these centres. We need to be prepared for an opening. I agree that certain sections of the population have been affected by the closure, but we must remember safety is paramount.

Do you think that the decision, whenever it is taken, to open these institutions must be the result of a consultative process with all stakeholders?

KS: We need consultations, definitely. There is a lot of panic and fear in the minds of the people. There is a need for consultation, we can open up stage by stage. Various stakeholders have to be involved.

We do have to factor in the situation and safety of the workforce in the early child care sector

K. SHANMUGAVELAYUTHAM,
Convenor, Tamil Nadu Forum for Creche and Child Care Services

MG: I would agree with him that consultation is very important because people right on the ground can give you advice based on experience. You cannot take a decision based just on what the medical professionals tell you.

It was interesting to note what happened when we followed the Supreme Court directive of sending all children who live in institutions back home, or to their guardians... The children went home, but now the big problem is they [the guardians] are saying that they cannot continue to take care of the child. And we could not bring them back here, during the lockdown period, with the restrictions in place.

We hear that the very fulcrum of early child care – admission of children into homes and adoptions – are nearly at a standstill. How does this affect destitute babies, and those in foster care?

MG: In adoption, maybe the total number is not so many. Children are continuing in the institution rather

than being at the homes where they were placed. However, one area which we may need to really talk about is abuse and abandonment. Children are being abandoned. They are in distress, whether it is because of cyclones or any other natural calamity. This has a very strong, traumatic effect on the mental health of the child, quite apart from their physical health. The lack of nutrition, lack of health care, comes at a very vulnerable time, when it is very difficult for them to even seek out help.

So, I think it is an enormous problem if you just see the number of children that are going to be affected by this, globally. We are very lucky wherever these children are in safe places. But many children are not, they are just abandoned.

I don't know if we have even researched this or whether we have any kind of statistics to know how awful the situation is.

KS: One side effect of the COVID-19 pandemic is that funding for a large number of institutions has been affected. Financial commitments have not been coming in, many institutions find it difficult to keep open their premises, pay their staff even. It is a major issue. The government should announce a special rescue package for child care institutions.

Another issue is that all statutory institutions – the Child Welfare Committee, the Juvenile Justice Board, and the Commission for the Protection of Child Rights – have been rendered inactive. They need to be revived, so that we can continue to help children in distress. We do have to factor in the situation of the workforce in the early child care sector. Have they been out of work? How have they sustained their families? What precautions must they take in future, to stay safe themselves and to make sure their wards stay safe?

MG: We, at Bala Mandir, have been very particular about following protocols. We have had some very good advice from epidemiologists – on topics like implementing some simple measures. So, we have very slowly opened up the institution. We are lucky that we are able to pay our staff, even those who are not able to come.

We have got our staff to wear full

sleeves, just even a shirt on top of regular clothes because, at this age, children come running to you and you can't keep them aside. Our children, interestingly, are getting used to masks, with the caregiver [also] wearing masks.

If the caregivers are coming from outside, then we measure temperature and do whatever is to be done as per the protocol. One issue that we continue to have is the lack of public transportation – not everyone can afford an auto, or taxis.

Also, where the workforce is concerned, I do believe that there is a lot of fear, even if there are people who are willing to go forward and get on with it. Their families are apprehensive too, because it is not only what they do in the workplace, it is also what they might bring back into their respective homes.

KS: The staff are really very important functionaries in early child care; earlier they used to get their salaries, even if wages were low. Now, they have been deprived of that income also. Some of them will be forced to quit the sector, and this is a very unfortunate fallout of COVID-19.

Would a training module of sorts help before we open up?

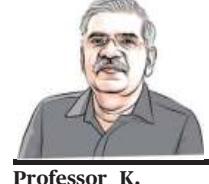
MG: We are doing some outreach programmes, through mobile phones, for children who need intervention, but also on the precautions that can be taken to keep safe.

We tell our staff, apart from the training on early childhood or what to talk to the parents, about how to follow the rules, how a mother can take care of her baby by following these protocols. We are sharing the modules we have developed with others.

KS: Yes, there is a need for a model to be developed by experts in the field. At present, there is a division as far as we can see – in the well-off section, learning is going on. In the poorer sections, there is no education; instead, there is isolation, boredom, and lack of proper stimulus. What should the government do? As they do for children studying in the older classes, they can run a half hour slot of educative videos on television, that would help parents provide the right kind of stimulus to the children at that age.



Maya Gaitonde
is honorary general secretary of the Chennai-based Bala Mandir Kamaraj Trust



Professor K. Shanmugavelayutham
is the convenor of Tamil Nadu Forum for Creche and Child care Services



Scan the QR code to listen to the full conversation online

Independent but not alone

India and the UK hold shared values and commitments to justice, stability and free markets

BEN WALLACE

It has been nearly thirty years since I graduated from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. Much has changed but the highlight of any visit remains a tour of the British Indian Army Memorial Room. There, amongst artefacts recalling two centuries worth of Indian sacrifice, you'll find the centrepiece. An immense stained-glass window of an Indian sepoys standing sentry in a jungle above one word: Burma.

For India, August 15 is first and foremost Independence Day. But, as we in the U.K. mark 75 years since peace was achieved in Asia, this is also our opportunity to thank you for your immense contributions and, in particular, the campaign in Burma.

From Asia to Africa, the Mediterranean to the Pacific, millions fought for freedom in the six-year long struggle to rid the world of the tyranny and evil of Axis aggressors. Those who served in that vast Pacific theatre are often referred to as the "Forgotten Army" but we must never let the memory of their sacrifices and achievements slip from our minds.

Largest all-volunteer force

The statistics alone are staggering. On land, at sea and in the air, Indians formed the largest all-volunteer force in the world, with over 2.5 million fighting in Europe, North Africa, Singapore, Hong Kong and, Burma. What is more, India provided almost 200 million tonnes of coal, six million tonnes of iron ore and more than one million tonnes of steel to the Pacific war effort, and countless Indian non-combatants secured supply lines.

Those numbers can't possibly do justice to their bravery. At Imphal, Indian forces fought even after the siege was lifted. Rao Abdul Hafiz Panwa became the youngest Indian recipient of the Victoria Cross – overrunning Japanese positions despite mortal wounds. At Kohima, an Indian-British force numbering 1,500 men held its own against 15,000 enemy troops for two weeks despite phosphorous bombardments and ferocious infantry attacks. The celebrated "Black Cat" 17th Infantry Division of the Indian Army were in

continuous combat during the three-year long Burma Campaign. In total some 87,000 Indians paid the ultimate price. But their efforts also turned the tide of the war. No wonder the commander of the 14th Army in Burma, Field Marshal Slim, described his Indian divisions as "among the best in the world".

Today's challenges are different and our relationship has also evolved. But we face shared dangers, whether from pandemics or piracy, extremism or enemies operating below the threshold of conventional conflict. We hold shared values and commitments to justice, stability and free markets. We are on the same side and have a mutual interest in standing together – it is our alliances that give us the ultimate edge.

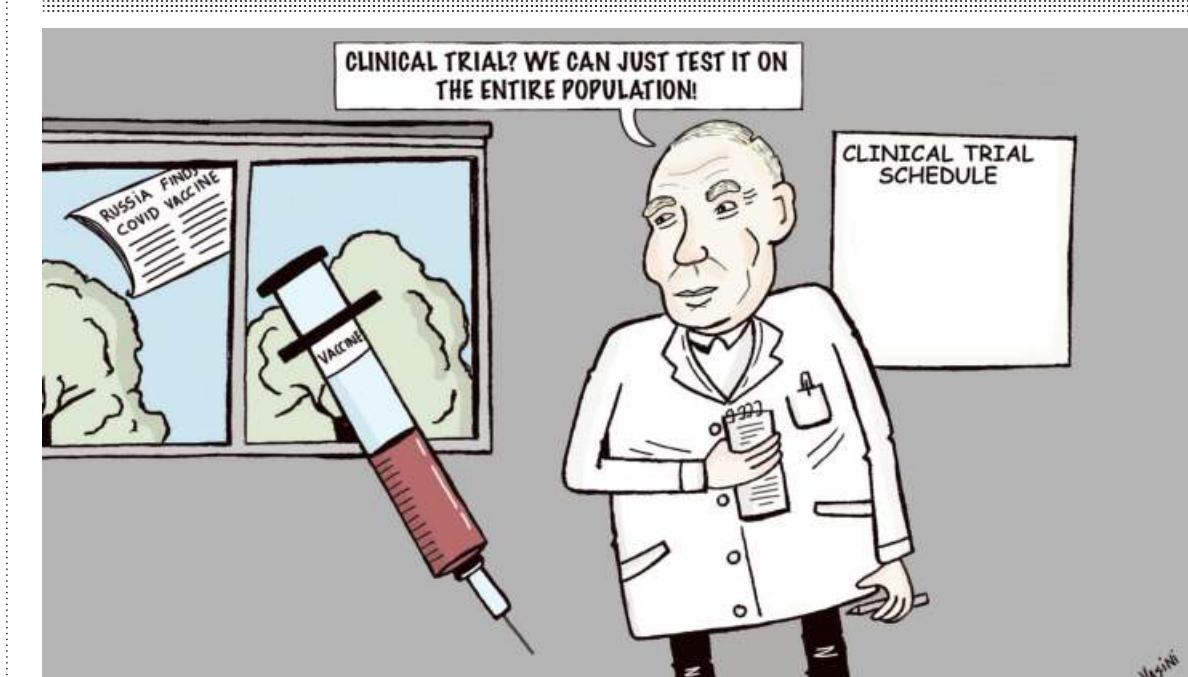
And the India-U.K. partnership has plenty of room to grow. We already have seven Royal Navy vessels operating in the Western Indian Ocean. Our Armed Forces exercise together biannually and our Defence and International Security Partnership is opening up collaborations in everything from jet engines to cyber technology. And, as you pursue your

Atmanirbhar Bharat vision you will find Global Britain is eager to work together in a range of areas from defence modernisation to maritime technology. We are determined to elevate our partnership to the next level.

We are living through a new era of uncertainty but eight decades ago, our great forebears showed us the way ahead. Seventy-five years on, India is a proud independent nation but you are emphatically not alone. Our common history proves that we are stronger facing adversity together and now is the time to write our shared future in the interests of peace, purpose, and prosperity.

Ben Wallace is the United Kingdom's Secretary of State for Defence

IS TOC PHOTO



NOTEBOOK

Limits of racial politics

For Indian-American leaders, the policy points matter more than the race

NARAYAN LAKSHMAN

Among the numerous Indian-American politicians I spoke to as the U.S. correspondent of this newspaper, including for example Washington State's Pramila Jayapal and Maryland's Kumar Barve, there is a distinct sensibility around race and politics – that the substance of policy, performance in office and vindication of vision matter more for a political career than the race card.

In this regard, it is odd that the ascension of Kamala Harris, Democratic Senator from California, to echelons of the vice-presidential nominee has thrown many even amongst liberal groups into a state of confusion over her biracial background. Is she African American, or South Asian, or a leader who genuinely carries elements of both cultures? What does her record in office say about who she is?

Criminal justice reform
If association with an ethnic community is based on substance, then it matters more in the case of Ms. Harris that as a public servant – District Attorney and then Attorney General in California – she fought

quietly but hard for criminal justice in areas such as domestic violence and youth sexual abuse, and then for reform in these fields as Senator. She has been outspoken on hate crimes and other forms of racism in recent years too, especially on police brutality resulting in the deaths of African Americans.

Ironically, biracial U.S. politicians are shown no love from the other side either, as it is apparent in the case of Ms. Harris. Some Indian media outlets have already opined that Indian Americans may be muted in welcoming her nomination because of what they allege is "Hindu-phobia" – although of whom and to what effect, it is patently unclear.

In Ms. Harris's case there is another potential source of friction: her views on many issues concerning India are in line with those of outspoken Democratic Indian-American leaders

such as Ms. Jayapal and Kshama Sawant, who have questioned the policies of the Indian government, including on Kashmir and the Citizenship Amendment Act. For instance, Ms. Harris was unapologetic about criticising the decision of Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar to abruptly cancel a 2019 meeting with members of the U.S. Congress.

Mr. Jaishankar had called for Ms. Jayapal to be barred from the proceedings. This sharp focus of Democrats of all hues on pluralism and religious tolerance could be a thorn in the foot of India's ruling dispensation.

While the history of Indian-American politicians is a colourful tapestry of breaking barriers and incrementally building up the profile of an ambitious community, what they do when they are in power will always matter more than the colour of their skin or the cultural moorings of their antecedents.

The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 14, 1970

Cairo and the Guerillas

It is not surprising that the Palestinian guerrilla organisations based in Syria, Jordan and Lebanon have rejected the American ceasefire plan and sharply increased their raids on Israel. Even if Israel were to give up all the gains of the 1967 war, the "Palestine problem" would not be solved since the minimum demand of the guerrillas is a unitary State of Palestine, incorporating Israel, in which Jews, Christians and Muslims would have equal rights and the exiled Palestinians would reclaim their original homes and lands. All the guerrilla organisations taken together cannot, however, muster more than 20,000 armed men and even with the support of the Arab governments, they can do no more than launch hit-and-run attacks on the Israelis. They may cite the example of Vietnam, but Arab guerrillas do not flourish inside occupied territory like the Viet Cong. The Israelis know all about anti-guerrilla warfare having once engaged in guerrilla war themselves. The refusal of the Palestinian commandos to accept the ceasefire has brought them into conflict with the United Arab Republic which has banned the operation of two of their radio stations.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 14, 1920

The East African Crisis.

(From an editorial)

It will be noticed from what our Special Correspondent in London cables to-day (August 14) that there is little sign of the Cabinet, the Press or the public in Britain taking up in earnest the advocacy of the removal of the Indian grievances in British East Africa. Inspired by the Economic Imperialism of Lord Milner and regardless of their previous pledges, the Cabinet have decided on a course of action in regard to this question which spells nothing but rank injustice and cruel loss of wealth, status and honour to this country. We have in these columns summarised the position of East African Indians before; and we do not think it is necessary for us to dwell on it at any length to-day. Suffice it to say, that it was the Indians that made of that unpromising part of Africa a habitable, healthy, invigorating and smiling land. They have now been partly ousted of this their hard-earned heritage by the parasitic white minority there through what must now be taken as the active connivance and hardly disguised support of the Tory stalwarts of the Junker-ridden Coalition. This minority, it is noteworthy, got into East Africa under the right of British citizenship.

CM YK MN-ND-E

FROM PAGE ONE

Gehlot, Pilot meet ahead of key session

While assuring that the grievances of the dissident MLAs would be addressed, Mr. Gehlot said the government would have proved its majority even without them, but added that this would "not give us happiness".

"Aapne toh apne hi hotey hain (Our own people are after all our own)," he remarked. All the legislators raised their hands when Mr. Gehlot asked them to stay united.

Mr. Pilot, who was seated next to Mr. Gehlot, expressed his gratitude to the party leaders and workers for supporting him during his tenure as the Pradesh Congress Committee president for six years. He also thanked Congress president Sonia Gandhi and Mr. Gehlot for appointing him as Deputy CM after the Congress' victory in the 2018 Assembly election.

Earlier, AICC general secretary in charge of Rajas-

than Avinash Pande announced revocation of suspension of MLAs Bhanwarlal Sharma and Vishwendra Singh, who were supporting Mr. Pilot. The two legislators were suspended from the party's primary membership on July 17 after some audio clips pertaining to an alleged conspiracy to topple the Gehlot government were leaked.

Mr. Gehlot tweeted separately that that the misunderstanding that occurred in the party in the last one month needed to be forgiven and forgotten in the interest of the country, State and the people and in the interest of democracy.

Meanwhile, the hearing in the Rajasthan High Court on the petitions moved by the Bahujan Samaj Party and BJP MLA Dilawar challenging the merger of six BSP MLAs with the Congress remained inconclusive on Thursday. The hearing will continue on Friday.

PM announces taxpayers' charter

With the help of technology, the cases of scrutiny will now be allocated randomly to any official in any part of the country. The document identification numbers will be issued from the Central database. Review of orders will also be done by another team at some other place, chosen randomly using data analytics and artificial intelligence.

From now on, officials in the Directorate General of Income Tax (Investigation) and the Principal Commissioner of I-T/Chief Commissioner of I-T (TDS) will be the only competent authorities for approving survey actions to gather information for scrutiny and assessment. The Prime Minister said that in the new system, the department would escape unnecessary litigation and the officials would get reprieve from the energy otherwise spent on trans-

fers and postings.

The platform would instil a sense of fairness and fearlessness in the taxpayers. "In the past six years, our focus has been banking the unbanked, securing the unsecured and funding the unfunded. From today, we have embarked on a new journey: honouring the honest," he said.

The new facilities were in consonance with, and further strengthened, the government's motto of 'minimum government, maximum governance', he said. The effort was to make the tax system seamless, painless and faceless.

On the taxpayers' charter, Mr. Modi said it was also a vital step in the country's development, in terms of bringing about a balance between the responsibilities and the taxpayers' duties and also fixing the government's responsibilities.

Write prescriptions in capital letters, says HC

"The digital era could also throw open several options to make prescriptions and the diagnosis more patient-friendly," the judgment reads. The court noted that illegible scrawls composed by doctors created unnecessary nuisance at the end of the patients, pharmacists, police, prosecutors and judges who are bound to deal with such medical reports. "Prescriptions of physicians, outdoor patient department slips, post-mortem reports and injury reports, perforce, are required to be legible and fully comprehensible. A medical prescription oughtn't leave any room for ambiguity or interpretation," it noted.

The judgment quoted a notification of the Medical Council of India (MCI) issued on September 21, 2016, which directed physicians to prescribe drugs with generic names and preferably in capital letters.

"In view of the growing concerns in this regard, especially in view of the fact that illegible handwriting could have life-threatening consequences, this court deems it fit to request the Chief Secretary, Odisha, to examine the feasibility of issuing appropriate circulars, in consultation with the Medical Council of India and the Central Government, to implement the direction," it stated.

Malayalam cinema loses prolific lyricist Chunakkara Ramankutty

He penned some of the biggest hits of the 1980s and 1990s

P.K. AJITH KUMAR
KOZHIKODE

Chunakkara Ramankutty, who died in Thiruvananthapuram on Wednesday at the age of 84, was a prolific lyricist who penned some of the biggest hits of Malayalam cinema in the 1980s and 1990s. He wrote more than 200 songs in a career that spanned over five decades.

Among his most popular songs are 'Devatharu poothu' ('Engane Nee Marakkum'), 'Hrudayavanyile gaaikayiko' ('Kottayam Kunjachan'), 'Shyamameghame nee yadukula' ('Adhipan').

Chunakkara Ramankutty's 'Sindoorathilakavumaaya' ('Kuyiline Thedi') and 'Chandanakkuryumaaya vaa' ('Oru Nokku Kanan'). Interestingly, all of those

songs were composed by Shyam. The Chunakkara-Shyam combine used to come up with successive chart-toppers.

Though most of his biggest hits may have been tuned by Shyam – together they created about 100 songs – he also worked with composers such as G. Devraj, M.G. Radhakrishnan, S.P. Venkatesh, Kannur Rajan and Mohan Sithara.

Before entering tinsel town – which was not easy at all in his time – he had written songs for plays and radio.

'The body of the victim was drenched in rain'

R. AVADHANI
SANGAREDDY

In a tragic incident, two members of a family, including a COVID-19 patient, died within a span of 12 hours at Narayankhed in Telangana.

The COVID-19 positive victim was a 35-year-old man who died sitting on a sofa in the house around midnight on Wednesday. His mother, aged about 60, died in the morning. She had not undergone COVID-19 test.

Four other family members of the deceased have also tested positive for the virus. On receipt of the news, his children were sent away to the relatives' house. On August

According to sources, the

At 1,564 cases in a day, it is a new high for Kerala

Andhra Pradesh just short of 10,000 infections again; Karnataka reports 103 deaths, 6,706 cases; Telangana adds 1,931 cases

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

25,692. Samples tested in 24 hours stood at 31,270.

Andhra Pradesh was close to 10,000 new infections again, and the tally was 2,64,142. In 24 hours, 82 new deaths and 9,996 new cases were reported.

So far 2,378 deaths were reported, and the death rate was 0.90%, the Health Department said.

With 55,692 samples tested in a day, total samples tested rose to 27,05,459 and tests per million to 50,664. The positivity rate of tests rose to 9.76%. There were 90,840 active cases.

With 265 total fatalities, including 10 in the past day, Guntur had the highest number. Kurnool came next with 264 deaths, East Godavari with 248, Krishna 218, Chittoor 205 and Anantapur 203.

Among the districts with less than 200 deaths were Visakhapatnam (187), West Godavari (170), Srikakulam (150), Prakasam (146), Nellore (121), Vizianagaram (103) and Ka-

napur (98).

COVID-19 cases climbed in Telangana with 1,931 testing positive on Wednesday; total cases were 86,457. With 11 more succumbing to the infection, deaths were put at 665. The Health department

said that nearly 8.3% of those screened for infection tested positive (1,931 out of 23,303 samples). The total number of tests stood at 6,89,150.

Greater Hyderabad had a decrease in cases, with 298 persons testing positive.

KERALA* TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES 39,708 | 129 ACTIVE CASES 13,839 DISCHARGED CASES 25,688 DEATHS 22,736

TELANGANA** TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES 86,475 | 665 ACTIVE CASES 25,688 DISCHARGED CASES 63,074 DEATHS 78,337

KARNATAKA*** TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES 2,03,200 | 3,613 ACTIVE CASES 2,03,200 DISCHARGED CASES 1,21,242 DEATHS 3,613

ANDHRA PRADESH TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES 2,64,142 | 2,378 ACTIVE CASES 90,840 DISCHARGED CASES 1,70,924 DEATHS 53,499

TAMIL NADU TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES 3,20,355 | 5,397 ACTIVE CASES 2,61,459 DISCHARGED CASES 5,397 DEATHS

*Kerala has a mismatch of 52 cases due to unaccounted deaths, missing persons | **Telangana numbers are as of 8 p.m. on Wednesday

***Karnataka has 8 non-COVID deaths

dapa (98).

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decrease in cases, with 298 persons testing positive.

With 6,706 new cases, Karnataka on Thursday had a tally of 2,03,200. Also, 103 more deaths on Thursday took the total to 3,613. Of the total 6,706 positive cases, 1,893 were reported in Bengaluru.

Tamil Nadu reported 5,835 new cases of COVID-19 and recorded 119 more deaths including that of a 14-year-old boy on Thursday. The overall tally was up, at 3,20,355 and toll 5,397.

Eighteen of the 119 deaths were in Chennai, while Chengalpattu, Coimbatore and Tirunelveli accounted for seven deaths each. Six people each died in Kanchipuram and Kanyakumari, and five each in Cuddalore, Madurai, Ramanathapuram, Salem, Theni and Tiruvannamalai.

Another 5,146 persons were discharged following treatment in the State.

A total of 2,61,459 persons were discharged, while active cases stood at 53,499.

Till date, a total of 15,614 children aged 0 to 12 years and 40,274 persons aged above 60 years tested positive for COVID-19.

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



On alert: RAF personnel taking out a flag march in the riot-hit DJ Halli on Thursday. ■ V. SREENIVASA MURTHY

4 members held for violence in Bengaluru

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Karnataka Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai has said that initial police investigation into the riot that broke out at D.J. Halli and K.G. Halli in Bengaluru on Tuesday night over a derogatory post against Islam indicates the involvement of the Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI).

Three people died when police opened fire to quell the violence.

Police were collecting information about SDPI's involvement in past incidents in other parts of the State as well, said the Home Minister.

Four members of SDPI were arrested for their alleged role in the violence, into which a magisterial inqui-

ry has already been ordered. "We are investigating and collecting information about SDPI's involvement in various past incidents in Mysuru and Mangaluru," Mr. Bommai said.

The government would take action against the organisation based on the information.

On Wednesday, the SDPI ruled out its involvement in

the violence. They said that if the police had acted immediately against the person who put up an inflammatory post on Islam, which had triggered the riots, the situation would not have gone out of control.

Mr. Bommai told press persons here on Thursday that "new aspects" were emerging in the probe, but declined to divulge more details.

The team will be led by Captain S.S. Chahar, a former examiner of Boeing 737 NG – the same aircraft type that met with an accident on August 7.

Thursday's order gives the probe team up to five months to finish the investigation.

Albin's 16-year-old sister Ann Marie started vomiting and had diarrhoea soon after consuming the home-made ice cream on July 31.

She was rushed to a private hospital at Cherupuzha, where she died on August 5. His 48-year-old father Benny was admitted to a hospital at Payyanur with similar symptoms. He was later shifted to the Kanhangad

district hospital.

Albin, too, complained of uneasiness, but doctors said there was no trace of poison in his body.

The Health Department, which carried out the antigen test as part of COVID-19 protocol, found a poisonous substance in Ann's body. This aroused suspicion and the police took Albin into custody on Wednesday night. During inquiry, he admitted to the crime.

Police said the suspect was in a relationship with a distant relative and he considered his family an obstacle. They said he had earlier mixed poison in chicken curry, but that attempt failed.

Meanwhile, the father of the deceased developed COVID-19 symptoms. He will be tested on Friday, according to a medical officer.

"My brother was scared after contracting the virus. Medicines were not supplied to us. We purchased them on our own. We do not know whether he had cardiac arrest, but he died last night vomiting blood. My mother also died probably after knowing about his death," said a brother of the deceased.

However, doctors claimed that they had supplied medicines to the family.

IN BRIEF



Siddaramaiah recovers from COVID-19

BENGALURU Leader of the Opposition in the Karnataka Assembly and former Chief Minister

Siddaramaiah, who tested positive for COVID-19, was discharged from a private hospital on Thursday. The Congress leader has been advised home quarantine as per guidelines. All his vital parameters are stable, says a statement from Sudarshan Ballal, chairman of Manipal Hospitals.

Two Maoist Dalit members surrender

KAKINADA Two members of the Azad Protection Team and the Charla Local Organisation

Squad of Sabari Dalam of the banned Maoist party surrendered before East Godavari Superintendent of Police Adnan Nayeem Asmi on Thursday. The duo, a 19-year-old man from Chittoor mandal and a 19-year-old woman from Yatapaka mandal, belong to the Gutti Koya tribe.

HC vacates stay on Asha Kishore's tenure extension

KOCHI A Division Bench of the Kerala High Court on Thursday set aside an order of the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT), Ernakulam Bench, staying the extension of the tenure of

Asha Kishore as Director of the Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST), Thiruvananthapuram. The Bench also directed the tribunal to consider and dispose of a pending application challenging the extension order.

song were composed by Shyam. The Chunakkara-Shyam combine used to come up with successive chart-toppers.

Though most of his biggest hits may have been tuned by Shyam – together they created about 100 songs – he also worked with composers such as G. Devraj, M.G. Radhakrishnan, S.P. Venkatesh, Kannur Rajan and Mohan Sithara.

Before entering tinsel town – which was not easy at all in his time – he had written songs for plays and radio.

'The body of the victim was drenched in rain'

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<p

IN BRIEF



Pranab's condition remains unchanged

NEW DELHI
The condition of former President Pranab Mukherjee remained unchanged on Thursday. He was deeply comatose with stable vital parameters and continued to be on ventilatory support, the Army's Research and Referral (R&R) Hospital said. Mr. Mukherjee's daughter, Sharmistha Mukherjee, said that while his condition continued to be critical, all "rumours" about her father were "false".

Bihar is manipulating COVID-19 data: Tejashwi

PATNA
Bihar Leader of the Opposition in the State Assembly Tejashwi Yadav on Thursday slammed the Chief Minister Nitish Kumar-led government for "lying and manipulating" COVID-19 data to confuse people in poll-bound Bihar. He also accused the Central government of "step-motherly" treatment meted out to Bihar in the allocation of funds. He said that there were 3,000-3,500 positive cases when 10,000 tests were being conducted but now, when the State was testing 75,000 samples, the average number of positive cases remained 4,000.

Police set to verify Rajouri families' claim

SRINAGAR
The Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) police on Thursday collected the DNA samples of three families from Rajouri that claimed that the three youths killed on July 18 this year in an encounter in Shopian were their kin and not militants. A police team from Kashmir on Thursday met the families and a team of doctors collected DNA of the families, sources said. The families had claimed that the militants resembled their kin after their pictures went viral online. They filed a missing persons report in Rajouri for the three youth, identified as Abrar Ahmed Khan, Imtiyaz Hussain, and Abrar.

BJP sure Gehlot govt. will fall

Party has reportedly told MLAs that Congress dispensation is unlikely to survive

NISTULA HEBBAR
NEW DELHI

The BJP's decision to move a no-confidence motion against the Ashok Gehlot government in Rajasthan, as the State Assembly convenes on Friday, echoes the message that the party high command sent to Jaipur and conveyed through national general secretary P. Muralidhar Rao to party MLAs – the Gehlot government is not likely to complete its tenure.

Speaking to party MLAs in Jaipur during a meeting of the legislature party, Mr. Rao is reported to have said that looking at the events of the past five weeks, there was no way the Gehlot government could survive its full term.

Sources said Mr. Rao was of the opinion that the return to the party fold of rebel Congressman Sachin Pilot was not "tenable in the long run" and that Mr. Gehlot had only kicked the can down the road.

Introspection needed

The BJP has maintained that it has nothing to do with encouraging a rebellion in the



Riding high: Ashok Gehlot, Sachin Pilot and other Congress leaders in Jaipur on Thursday. ■ ROHIT JAIN PARAS

Congress ranks but the return of Mr. Pilot to his party has exposed some chinks in the BJP's armour as well.

MLAs have been told to wait for the next big conflagration to hit the Congress, "because this wasn't the last or conclusive one".

"What had never happened earlier in Rajasthan happened in the last couple of months, and it's not likely that such an event will not have consequences in the future," said a senior leader in the Rajasthan BJP.

Sources told *The Hindu* that in former chief minister Vasundhara Raje's meetings in New Delhi with the party's national president J.P. Nadda

and general secretary B.L. Santhosh, the question of leaving her out of any political developments in the State was raised by her. She was, say sources, assured that since the party had not encouraged the rebellion and was not in any way close to inducing Mr. Pilot into the BJP, she was not brought into the loop.

"She was told that it was the party's wish not to embroil her in needless controversy," said a source.

Revamp of State unit

The events in Rajasthan have also, however, made the BJP realise that its own house needs to be set in order in

the State and that plans to alter the authority structure in the unit could be tougher than earlier thought.

Ms Raje had, in 2017-18 strongly resisted any attempts to appoint Union Minister Gajendra Shekhawat (who enjoys the Central leadership's blessings) as State unit chief.

The party had to fly out (and bus back in) 20 of its MLAs from Rajasthan to Gujarat at the height of the recent crisis. All of this does not bode well for the BJP.

Mr. Pilot's rebellion in fact, failed at two levels – one at the personal level for himself and his ambitions with regard to State politics, and secondly for the BJP's central leadership to effect a shift in leadership in its own State unit, using Mr. Pilot's entry as an alibi to effect a change in the power dynamics.

As of now, therefore, the message the Central leadership has sent across is to take the reverses on the chin, and watch the equations between Mr. Gehlot and Mr. Pilot carefully.

SC refuses to stay Rajasthan Speaker's order on BSP MLAs

He had accepted merger of 6 lawmakers with Cong. last year

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday refused to stay Rajasthan Assembly Speaker C.P. Joshi's September 18, 2019 decision to recognise the merger of six BSP MLAs with the Congress party.

A Bench led by Justice Arun Mishra said the court will not interfere as the case against the merger is being heard by the State High Court.

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As of now, therefore, the message the Central leadership has sent across is to take the reverses on the chin, and watch the equations between Mr. Gehlot and Mr. Pilot carefully.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, for one of the six legislators, said the Business Advisory Committee was meeting at 10 a.m. on Friday



BJP leader Madan Dilawar had filed a petition seeking disqualification of the MLAs.

to chalk out the agenda for the House. "They will have to form an agenda. A no-confidence motion has not yet been moved. Meanwhile, the High Court is hearing the case filed by Mr. Dilawar for disqualification of the six MLAs on the ground of defection and a judgment may come in the meantime. As of now, this petition by Mr. Dilawar is based on apprehensions," Mr. Sibal submitted.

Senior advocate S.C. Misra said the BSP MLAs had voted as Congress legislators in the Rajya Sabha election

recently, defying the party whip.

Senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan said the High Court should be given time to decide on the validity of the merger and the question of disqualification. "As of now, this case is based on 'ifs' and 'buts'. The Supreme Court cannot pass orders on the basis of anticipatory worries," Mr. Dhavan submitted.

"Yes, you're right," Justice Mishra reacted, saying any voting done now by the six legislators would be subject to the final decision of the High Court on the question of merger.

But Mr. Salve pressed for an immediate stay. "Even if you stay the Speaker's order later, the BSP MLAs can say that the order was not stayed on that day (August 13) and so they can vote under the cover of the Speaker's acceptance of their merger..."

However, the Bench refused to intervene and adjourned the case to Monday.

SC to pronounce verdict in contempt case today

It had reserved its order on August 5

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A three-judge Bench led by Justice Arun Mishra is scheduled to pronounce its judgment on Friday in a *suo motu* contempt case against civil rights lawyer Prashant Bhushan for his tweet on a photograph of Chief Justice Sharad A. Bobde astride a bike, and another on the role of the top court in the past six years.

Mr. Bhushan has maintained that the tweets amounted to 'criticism' and not contempt. The court had reserved its judgment

on August 5 after hearing arguments made by Mr. Bhushan's lawyer, senior advocate Dushyant Dave. "If citizens stand up and criticise the system, say everything is not hunky dory, how can it be contempt?" he had asked.

He said the right to dissent and free speech cannot be controlled by contempt proceedings. "Contempt is to be used sparingly and only for administration of justice. If a judge is defamed, he should seek relief in the ordinary laws of defamation," he said.

Senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan, for the petitioners, agreed, saying they would

SC allows withdrawal of plea against contempt law

Petition by N. Ram and Arun Shourie had challenged 'scandalising of court' as a ground for contempt

KRISHNADAS RAJGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday allowed veteran journalists N. Ram and Arun Shourie and advocate Prashant Bhushan to withdraw their writ petition challenging "scandalising of court" as a ground for contempt with liberty to approach a High Court.

A three-judge Bench led by Justice Arun Mishra, however, insisted that the writ petitioners could not withdraw the case with an intention to straightaway move the Supreme Court later on.

Senior advocate Rajeev Dhavan, for the petitioners, agreed, saying they would

approach the appropriate forum, that is, the High Court concerned. Mr. Dhavan said the issue represented in the writ petition was important, but "this is not the propitious stage". "We would like to file it, maybe after two months," Mr. Dhavan submitted initially.

Vague ground

The writ petition had challenged the "scandalising of court" as an "incurably vague" ground for initiating contempt action. They said the contempt law in question was unconstitutional, rooted in colonialism and produced a chilling effect on free speech and expression.



Their petition, filed through advocate Kamini Jaiswal, focused on the legality of Section 2(c)(i) of the Contempt of Court Act. The Section holds that it amounts to criminal contempt if a person publishes, by words spoken or written or by any other act, anything "which scandalises or tends to scandalise or lowers or tends to lower the authority of any court".

Another Bench (Justice Mishra's).

A note issued from official quarters had said that the Supreme Court Registry committed a "mistake" in listing the writ petition before Justice Chandrachud, and an explanation had been sought from the Registry officials.

Another note explained the dropping of the case from the Justice Chandrachud Bench, saying the accompanying application sought a stay on a criminal contempt case of 2009 and the *suo motu* contempt proceedings, both pending before a three-judge Bench led by Justice Arun Mishra.

ED pushes plea against 2G acquittals

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday asked the Delhi High Court for an expeditious hearing of its appeal against the 2G case verdict acquitting former Union Minister A. Raja and other accused.

Additional Solicitor General Sanjay Jain, appearing for the ED, said Justice Brijesh Sethi, who has been hearing the appeals filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the ED in the case, was retiring on November 30 this year.

The CBI had already concluded its arguments before Justice Sethi in January this year, but for various reasons, including the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, further hearings could not be held, said Mr. Jain.

The hearing is based on a bunch of petitions filed by over 30 students challenging the conduct of exams amid the pandemic.

cational institutions for final exams and evaluation work was made in consultation with the Ministry of Education after "taking into consideration the academic interest of a large number of students."

The hearing is based on a bunch of petitions filed by over 30 students challenging the conduct of exams amid the pandemic.

Australia shares experience on 5G

The country has banned Chinese companies from offering the infrastructure

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India and Australia are sharing experiences on protecting critical infrastructure, including 5G networks, said a senior Australian High Commission official on Thursday while talking of the huge increase in cybersecurity cooperation between the two countries. However, Australia has no intention of banning Chinese apps like India has done, said Minister-Counsellor, Home Affairs, Tara Cavanagh.

At the Prime Minister's virtual summit in June both countries had signed a cyber and cyber-enabled critical technology framework agreement along with the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP).

"We have a close and ongoing dialogue, through which we exchange a range of our

experiences, including what we are doing on critical infrastructure and aspects, including our 5G network," Ms. Cavanagh said. She said another area which the two countries were exploring was of regulatory space, including Australia's encryption legislation, and how that could be used to prevent cyber-enabled crime. "Also on how to police the dark web ... That's a new area. That's of particular focus for us," she stated.

In August 2018, Australia

had banned Chinese companies from offering 5G services, citing national security. In January, India allowed Chinese firms to participate in 5G trials but with the current border standoff in Ladakh, there are reports India may take a tougher stand.

On June 29, India banned 59 Chinese apps citing national security and later banned 47 more Chinese apps. On this, Ms. Cavanagh said, "We recognise that each country will make its own decision in its own na-

tional interest. We have looked at the matter and we have decided that we will not be making such a decision at this stage."

Deputy High Commissioner Rod Hilton said there was a lot of focus on the CSP but in his view the cyber framework was the second most important agreement signed that day (June 4). "The [cyber] agreement sets out practical actions to enhance digital trade, harness critical technology opportunities and address cybersecurity challenges," he said. As part of this, the two countries had been increasing information sharing and stepping up cooperation, he added.

The two diplomats said the categories of threats that the two countries were looking at were criminal groups, financial gain, sophisticated state-based actors and so on.

Three journalists working with *The Caravan* magazine were allegedly assaulted while they were in northeast Delhi's North Ghonda neighbourhood on August 11 to report on a complainant in the recent communal violence case in the Capital. They also say they were subjected to communal slurs, threatened with murder and sexually harassed.

On the same day, in Bengaluru, as many as four journalists belonging to *India Today*, *The News Minute* and *Suvanya News 24X7* were reportedly attacked by the city police. They were covering the mob violence triggered by a social media post. "Both attacks are reprehensible. The freedom of the media to discharge its responsibilities without fear or harassment is an important and indispensable attribute of a functioning democracy," the Guild said.

The Guild further pointed out that the case of assault on journalists working with *The Caravan* shows a dangerous trend where communally inspired people can assault and harass journalists with impunity in the presence of an indifferent police, while the Bengaluru incident highlights the failure of law enforcement agencies in maintaining an environment where the media can function freely and without fear.

Former V-P to open defence exam 'summit'

Conclave to host veterans, analysts

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Former Vice-President (V-P) Hamid Ansari will inaugurate a two-day "virtual summit" for defence exam aspirants on August 14, being organised by Unacademy, an education technology platform, in association with *The Hindu*.

The conclave will bring together former generals, defence analysts and Kargil war veterans. Former Army chief Gen. V.P. Malik, Lt. Gen. H.S. Panag (retd.), Air Marshal Raghunath Nambar (retd.), Capt. Yashika Hatwal Tyagi (retd.), and actors Gul Panag and Sonu

Sood, are among the participants in the summit.

Lt. Gen. Asit Mistry, commandant of the National Defence Academy (NDA), will also address the online gathering. Over 12 lakh youngsters appear for the defence exams each year. With power-packed sessions, this summit will bring together a list of curated sessions and workshops to help learners navigate the complexities of the defence exams.

To view the complete schedule and be a part of the summit, learners can visit <https://unacademy.com/event/command-and-register-for-free>.



Grand plans: A file photo of the Sinamale Bridge, formerly known as the China-Maldives Friendship Bridge. ■ AFP

assistance for the Greater Male Connectivity project (GMCP) to connect Male to three neighbouring islands, the biggest such project thus far.

Responding to a request from the Government of Maldives,

USD 400 million," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a statement.

The GMCP would be the "largest civilian infrastructure project in Maldives", it noted.

Connecting islands

The project, which will consist of a number of bridges and causeways to connect Male to Villingili, Thilafushi and Ghlifahu islands that span 6.7 km, will take much of the pressure off the main capital island of Male for commercial and residential purposes.

The \$400 million Line of Credit comes in addition to a previous LoC of \$800 million

that was announced by New Delhi in December 2018.

A landmark moment in Maldives-India cooperation today as we receive Indian assistance of USD250 million as budget support and USD500 million for the Greater Malé Connectivity Project," said Mr. Solih in a tweet thanking Prime Minister Narendra Modi and India.

IN BRIEF



Oli likely to call up Modi on Independence Day

After months of bilateral tension over the Kalapani territorial dispute, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Nepalese counterpart K.P. Sharma Oli are expected to hold a telephonic conversation during the coming weekend. A Nepalese news outlet has reported from Kathmandu that Mr. Oli will convey his greetings to Mr. Modi on the occasion of Independence Day.

BJP MP Solanki tests positive for COVID-19

BJP Rajya Sabha MP Sumit Singh Solanki on Thursday tested positive for COVID-19, according to the Barwani district administration. "We are going to hospitalise him, and trace his contacts of the past 10 days," said District Chief Medical and Health Officer Anita Singare. Mr. Solanki, down with fever for a few days, is the second Rajya Sabha MP from Madhya Pradesh after Jyotiraditya Scindia to have contracted the virus.

IIT-Ropar develops room disinfection device

IIT-Ropar on Thursday said it has developed a room disinfection device, which harnesses the germicidal effects of ultraviolet radiations to inactivate viruses and bacteria. The device has been developed by researchers of IIT Ropar in collaboration with Momentum India Pvt. Ltd. The device has been tested for its efficacy by FICCI Research and Analysis Centre in New Delhi.

COVID-19 infections in Odisha jails touch 175

As many as 54 inmates of the Rourkela Special Jail have tested positive for COVID-19 over the past few days, disrupting Odisha's attempts to prevent infections in prisons. The administration has commenced contact tracing, said officials. The total number of COVID-19 cases in the jail is now 78. Currently, 175 inmates of different jails in the State have tested positive.

Nod for Ministries' schemes integration

The Governing Board of the National Health Authority (NHA), chaired by Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr. Harsh Vardhan, met on Thursday to review the implementation of the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY). "The Governing Board has approved the proposal to integrate existing health schemes of Central Ministries with AB PM-JAY to employees (including government and contractual employees)," said a release.

509 nurses infected with virus'

20 of them died while providing care to COVID-19 patients, says association

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN

NEW DELHI

Maharashtra, Gujarat and West Bengal have the maximum number of COVID-19 positive staff nurses in the country and also the highest fatality rate, the Trained Nurses Association of India Diagnostic method, were tested the previous day.

TNAI, the largest nursing association in the country, released data for the first time since the beginning of the pandemic, indicating that 509 nursing staff were infected and 20 had died while providing care to COVID-19 patients.

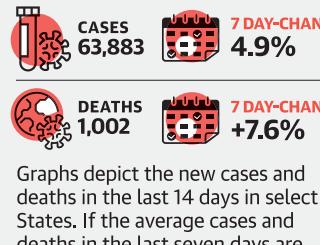
According to the data, West Bengal reported 111 COVID-19 positive nurses with three fatalities; Maharashtra has 75 cases with six deaths and Gujarat 96 cases with four deaths. Mizoram, Chhattisgarh, Kerala and Uttar Pradesh has the least recorded COVID-19 caseload among nursing staff, with Rajasthan, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh registering the lowest reported fatalities.

The Central government, meanwhile, said so far more

Viral tracker

With 1,002 deaths recorded on Thursday, India's COVID-19 toll stood at 48,150. As many as 63,883 new cases were recorded taking the tally to 24,59,466. Over 8.3 lakh samples, including those by the Rapid Antigen Diagnostic method, were tested the previous day.

NEW CASES AND DEATHS

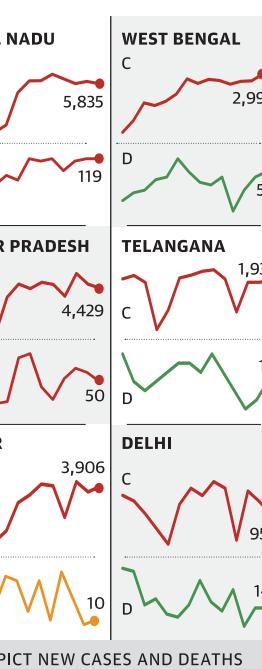


Graphs depict the new cases and deaths in the last 14 days in select States. If the average cases and deaths in the last seven days are more than the average in the previous seven days, then cases and deaths are depicted as rising red; otherwise they are dropping green; or showing a mixed trend orange in that State

than 3.04 crore N95 masks and more than 1.28 crore PPE kits had been distributed to States/UTs/Central institutions, free of cost since March. Also, more than 10.83 crore HQ tablets have been distributed while

22,533 'Make in India' ventilators have been delivered to various States/UTs/Central Institutions.

"Safety of medical staff is among our top priority and along with augmenting COVID-19 facilities, the Union



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

government has been providing medical supplies free of cost to the State/UT governments to supplement their efforts. This is being done with the combined efforts of several ministries," said an official.

NEET can't be online for those abroad: NTA

Body was responding to a plea in SC

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The NEET (National Eligibility cum Entrance Test) for undergraduate medical courses cannot be held online for candidates abroad, the National Testing Agency (NTA) has told the Supreme Court.

The specialised body, which conducts examinations for higher educational courses, said the Medical Council of India (MCI) had made it very clear that NEET was mandatorily held in the paper-book format for all candidates. It is a policy decision of the NTA. The conduct of these exams was purely within the MCI's domain.

An NTA affidavit said, "There is nothing to show that the MCI has taken the decision illegally or arbitrarily."

The NTA was responding to an order of the apex court to respond to a petition filed by the parents of over 4,000 NEET candidates in West Asia for a direction to either allocate exam centres in these foreign countries or postpone the exams.

"The examination cannot be conducted abroad as the NEET (UG) has to be held in a single shift at the same time on the same day to maintain uniformity... Question paper and other exam materials have to be transported from the NTA Headquarters to a large number of exam centres in various

Optional Class 12 exams in Sept., says CBSE

NEW DELHI

The optional exams for improvement of performance in Class 12 board examination are proposed to be held in September, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) said on Thursday. The results of the exams, which were conducted in view of the pandemic, were announced last month on the basis of an alternative assessment scheme. The compartment examination for Classes 10 and 12 are also being planned in September while dates will be announced soon, it said.

These days, translation is the easiest task between you and Google translator. In Parliament, any language is translated. We are also translating our judgments into vernacular languages... You [Centre] can bring your Act up to date," Chief Justice Bobde told the government, represented by Solicitor

General Tushar Mehta.

To this, Mr. Mehta quoted Albert Einstein, that a translation cannot be as evocative as the original version. It was like looking at the rear side of an embroidered cloth.

"But here it is from English to our vernacular lan-

guages," one of the judges on the Bench replied.

The court was hearing an appeal filed by the Union of India challenging the legality of a Delhi High Court judgment of June 30 to translate the draft Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) notification of 2020 into all 22 vernacular languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

"We do not object to the High Court judgment," Chief Justice Bobde told Mr. Mehta. The apex court then gave Mr. Mehta permission to withdraw and return to the High Court with a review petition. The government could come back to it if the review plea failed.

The High Court had reasoned that the EIA concerned environmental restrictions on building, expansion and modernisation of major infrastructure projects across the country. The EIA should reach the maximum number of people

without discrimination to any part of the country, especially the non-Hindi speaking parts of India. It should reach and be understood by the rural population of the country. The High Court wanted to ensure maximum public participation, so that people studied the draft and responded with suggestions and objections.

The major chunk of new cases, 222 and 176, were reported from Ludhiana and Jalandhar districts respectively.

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh emphasised the need for 100% testing in the micro-containment zones using the rapid antigen tests to keep further spread of COVID-19 under check.

Reviewing the prevalent situation across the State, the Chief Minister asked officials to go for vigorous contact tracing of at least 10 contacts of each positive case. He also directed testing of persons with multiple contacts on account of their occupation, such as shop workers, mandi workers, and front-line government employees within this week, declaring that this should be a "Testing Week".

In Haryana, 793 fresh cases of the virus surfaced, taking the total tally of cases to 44,817. Haryana also reported eight deaths, taking the toll to 511. The major chunk of new cases, 136 and 119, were reported from Faridabad and Panipat districts respectively.

Ravi no-show at NSCN-IM informal talks

Meeting was arranged after group released details of 2015 framework agreement

VIJAIJA SINGH

NEW DELHI

Naga interlocutor R.N. Ravi kept the National Socialist Council of Nagaland-IM (NSCN-IM) leadership waiting as he did not turn up for the scheduled informal talks in New Delhi on Thursday.

The meeting was arranged a day after the NSCN-IM released the details of the 2015 framework agreement and accused Mr. Ravi of deleting a key word from the original document. The NSCN instead had a meeting with Intelligence Bureau officials.



R.N. Ravi

The framework agreement released by the NSCN-IM stated that the Centre had agreed on "sharing the sovereign power" and provide for an "enduring inclusive new relationship of peaceful

co-existence of the two entities". The Centre has not issued any statement denying the contents of the framework agreement that were released for the first time by the NSCN-IM.

The details of Thursday's meeting were not known. Mr. Ravi did not respond to requests for a comment. Mr. Ravi, who is also Nagaland's Governor, was rushed to Delhi from Kohima for the meeting.

NSCN-IM chief Thuingaleng Muivah, 86, had refused to speak to Mr. Ravi, following which a meeting with

two IB officials was arranged in Delhi on Monday. Mr. Muivah has been camping in Delhi for the past fortnight.

Verge of collapse

The Naga talks were on the verge of a collapse as NSCN-IM demanded that Mr. Ravi be removed from the position.

The Isaaq Muivah faction of the NSCN-IM, one of the largest Naga groups, signed the agreement in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 3, 2015 to end the decades-old Naga issue.

FAITH

Three categories of kings

Kings fall into one of three categories, uttama, madhyama and adhama, said Kidambi Narayanan in a discourse. An ideal king consults his ministers and the elders in his court and uses their inputs too when he makes a decision. The one in the madhyama (mediocre) category, consults his ministers, but does not follow their advice. The one in the adhama (inferior) category does not consult anyone, but makes decisions himself.

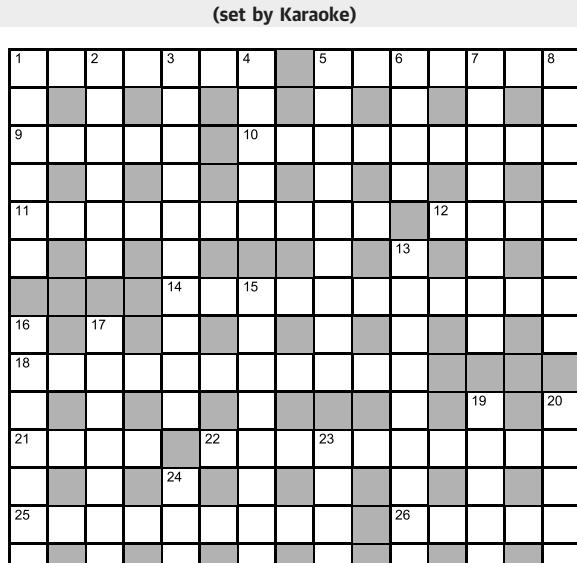
Ravana carried away Sita, a sinful, unforgivable act of wickedness. He did not bother about the consequences. Even after the war began, he did not repent and return Sita to Rama. Had he done that, further bloodshed could have been avoided. As most of his warriors died in battle, Ravana felt that only Kumbhakarna could defeat Rama. So he woke up Kumbhakarna. Kumbhakarna told Ravana the process by which a king must make decisions. He said that a king should know whom to trust. Among the men who offered advice, there might be those who spoke sweet words, but their advice might be harmful to the king. There would be others who were not well read in the dharma sastras, and so their advice would not have the merit of justice. Some ministers might be in the pay of enemy kings. They might deliberately mislead a king. A king must protect himself by listening to the right persons. Kumbhakarna concluded that Vibhishana had offered proper advice to Ravana. He thereby indicated that Ravana had rejected sound advice, and had acted against his own interests. Yet, because Ravana wanted him to fight Rama, Kumbhakarna did so, and was killed.

Ravana had the advantage of being advised by both his brothers. But he ignored their advice, refused to part with Sita, and eventually got killed by Rama.

TH CROSSWORD + 13014

(set by Karaoke)

Improve your language & problem solving skills. Try our Crosswords site! <https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn>



- ACROSS
- 1 Advocate's mail soaked in drink (7)
- 5 Promise to marry stranger who is in the soup (7)
- 9 Passion for long-lost wild animal (5)
- 10 Cabinet intervenes in endless missile escalation by Group (9)
- 11 Bar allows drinks during revealing performance (10)
- 12 Forbidden submarine turned upside down, lacking heart (4)
- 14 The main feature revealed real deal involving jerk (4,7)

CM YK

SUDOKU

			6	2	3			
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1	9							
			9					8
3	1		7	4		5	2	
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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to puzzle 13013

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

C	A	R	P	O	T	R	I	C	O	T	T	A
H	A	Z	A	R	O	N						
A	I	R	C	O	L	E	D	A	N	N	X	
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ED summons
3 persons in
Sushant case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate on Thursday questioned a talent manager purportedly linked to Rhea Chakraborty in connection with Sushant Singh Rajput's death case.

The agency has summoned three more persons linked to Rajput to record their statements under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

Ms. Chakraborty, her brother Showik, father Indrajit and former manager Shruti Modi have been questioned multiple times.

The ED has also examined Siddharth Pithani, who worked for Rajput and also lived with him in the house where the latter's body was found on June 14.

Documents of the companies that were floated by Rajput are being analysed by the agency to gather information on the financial transactions over the past two years.

Cong. pans 'vicious' TV debates

Former Ministers say the I&B Ministry has failed in its responsibility as licensor

SANDEEP PHUKAN
NEW DELHI

The death of Congress spokesperson Rajiv Tyagi moments after finishing a television show on Wednesday evening stirred up some party leaders to come out with statements on media neutrality on Thursday.

Former Information and Broadcasting (I&B) Minister Manish Tewari blamed the government for failing to maintain a "modicum of civility", while party spokesperson Jaiveer Shergill wrote to I&B Minister Prakash Javadekar, saying most TV debates "coerce spokespersons to surrender to a slanderous, defamatory and vicious atmosphere to feed the monster of sensationalism".

Lok Sabha member Shashi Tharoor, who heads the Parliamentary Committee on Information Technology, tweeted on Mr. Shergill's letter, saying the panel would examine the issue of freedom of speech and expression. Senior party lead-



Last rites: Relatives and Congress supporters at the cremation of party leader Rajiv Tyagi in Ghaziabad. ■ PTI

er Ahmed Patel took to Twitter to ask TV channel owners and editors to reflect on the nature of debates.

'Meaningless activity'

"It is high time TV channel owners, editors and anchors introspect on how some in the industry have reduced news debates into a meaningless, poisonous and potentially fatal activity," he said.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Tewari said, "Rajiv Tyagi's death should be a trigger

for the Ministry to revisit their stand on these theatrics that pass off as prime time debates". The former Minister, who had been at the receiving end of media coverage during the anti-corruption movement led by activist Anna Hazare, claimed that "TV debates now resemble WWF wrestling matches".

"What has happened in the last six years is a free flow of Hindi expletives on national TV. The I&B Ministry has failed in its responsi-

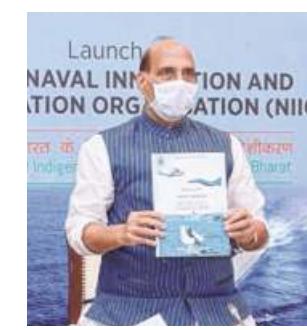
bility as the licensor to maintain a modicum of civility which the programme and advertising code mandates", he stated.

Post May 2019 Lok Sabha results, the Congress communication wing had banned its spokespersons and panelists for a year from taking part in any TV debates.

"The reason is very simple, as media neutrality is now dead," said Congress spokesperson Randeep Surjewala. He said, "In the last six years, the media has only been questioning the Congress and other Opposition parties instead of holding the government to account on issues such as failure in corona management, economy and unemployment, border hostility, demonetisation or a faulty GST. Today, 95% of the media are *Godi media* [embedded] and we have reason to believe the government tells them to focus on polarising Hindu-Muslim issues as debate."

"The NIIO puts in place dedicated structures for the end users to interact with academia and industry towards fostering innovation and indigenisation for self-reliance in defence in keeping with the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat," the Navy said in a statement.

The NIIO is a three-tiered organisation. The Naval Technology Acceleration Council (NTAC) will bring together the twin aspects of innovation and indigenisation and provide apex level directives. A working group under the NTAC will implement the projects. A Technology Development Acceleration Cell (TDAC) has also been created for induction of emerging disruptive technology in an accelerated time frame, the Navy stated.



Rajnath Singh

propulsion. However, there is heavy reliance on imports for armaments, called the 'fight' component.

Ships of all sizes

Vice Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Ashok Kumar said that over 130 ships of all sizes and types had been designed in-house, from small boats to the aircraft carrier under construction at Kochi. "Every type of ship and submarine is now built in Indian shipyards, including nuclear submarines. In the last five years, over 70% of our capital budget has been spent on Indian vendors," he stated. During the launch, the Navy signed four memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with the Uttar Pradesh Expressway Industrial Development Authority, Raksha Shakti University, Gujarat; Maker Village, Kochi; and the Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers.

NSEL scam: CBI seeks Finance Ministry view

P. Chidambaram faces charges

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The CBI on Thursday told the Bombay High Court that due to clauses in the Prevention of Corruption (PC) Act, the agency is unable to conduct investigation into the National Stock Exchange Limited (NSEL) scam allegedly involving former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram without approval of the competent authority.

The affidavit was filed in a criminal petition filed by 63 Moons Technologies limited also known as Financial Technologies Indian Limited.

The six-page affidavit filed by Rakesh Kumar, Inspector, CBI, said, "In the absence of any supporting documents in support of the allegations from the complainant and due to the technical nature of the complaint, it was decided to for-



P. Chidambaram

ward it to the Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) of Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance for expert examination at their end and also to revert mination if allegations are substantiated. It was informed in the letter that the matter may be referred to the CBI along with due approval of the competent authority of the PC Act for taking up formal enquiry in the matter."

Countdown on



National colours: A woman selling flags of various sizes in Delhi on Thursday, ahead of Independence Day. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

IFFI schedule remains, but with virtual offering

Theatre screenings if situation permits

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The International Film Festival of India (IFFI) will be held as scheduled from November 20-28, officials at the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting said, but the format will be changed in the wake of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

In accordance with the regulations formulated by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, the festival will screen films on its official digital platform, along with a theatrical screening during the festival in Goa "subject to the then prevailing conditions".

Protocols in place

Senior officials at the Ministry said that all the necessary precautions and COVID-19 protocol will be followed.

The Ministry has called

Too few forensic labs delaying evidence analysis, says NHRC

Cases could be solved sooner with better infrastructure'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Members of the National Human Rights Commission have raised concerns over the inadequate number of forensic science laboratories in the country that delays evidence gathering, leading to cases pending in courts and undertrial prisoners remaining behind bars.

Speaking to *The Hindu* on Thursday, NHRC member Jyoti Kalra said if forensic evidence was collected and preserved on time, particularly in sexual assault cases, the case could be resolved sooner. In addition, she highlighted the importance of ballistics.



Forensic labs help preserving evidence, especially in sexual assault cases.

At a recent webinar attended by Union and State government as well as police forces' representatives, Ms. Kalra said the experts informed the officials that 70%

of the weapons used in the country are "country-made" and do not comply with

specifications that can be traced.

She said Joint Secretary in the Union Home Ministry Punya Salila Srivastava, who attended the webinar, informed the gathering that the Centre had allocated ₹200 crore out of the Nirbhaya Fund to States to ramp up forensic science infrastructure. Ms. Kalra said the NHRC would follow up on the matter, seeking action-taken reports as needed.

During the webinar on Monday, NHRC member Justice P.C. Pant had said the Commission had been raising the issue of the number of pending cases at forensic labs, a statement said.

so leaving the party. These is a sense of disillusionment after Faesal's exit and his recent statements," a young party leader, who also quit the party, told *The Hindu*.

Promise of change

Scores of youth were attracted to the party that pledged to "fight corruption and push for peaceful resolution of the Kashmir issue". Mumbai-based Kashmire businessman-turned-politician, Feroze Peerzada, has taken over as the president of the party.

"My first priority is to give confidence to those who joined the party because of (Bureaucrat-turned-politi-

Maharashtra govt. evaluating feasibility of conducting CET

Decision in a week, says Higher Education Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PUNE

The State government will take a decision on conducting the Common Entrance Test (MHT-CET) in the next seven-eight days only after considering all feasibility assessments, said State Higher and Technical Education Minister Uday Samant here on Thursday.

He also said the authorities of the CET cell were carrying out feasibility surveys to see if exam centres could be created at the taluk and district levels.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent lockdowns have cast a shadow on the CET, for which more

than six lakh candidates across Maharashtra have registered. The crucial entrance exam determines admissions to 14 technical and professional courses.

Exam centres

"We are trying to work out the logistics for setting up centres at the taluka level. Can we get five-and-a-half lakh students to centres at the taluka, district or divisional levels? We also have to see whether exams can be held by taking due precautions like physical distancing to ensure the health and safety of students. Once authorities present their feasibility assessments over the next

week or so, only then can we take a decision after consulting with them," Mr. Samant said.

He also said the Education department was mulling over the alternative of giving students an entry on the basis of marks secured in their Class 12 or Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) exams. "Generally, students study harder and prepare more intensely for cracking the CET than for the HSC exams. So, it would be unfair if entry is given only on the basis of Class 12 marks. All these variables have to be considered before we take a concrete decision," the Minister said.



Singer-actor Zubeen Garg attacked

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Unidentified miscreants attacked Assamese singer-actor Zubeen Garg in Guwahati on Thursday while he was travelling to his residence from an audiovisual studio.

The incident happened days after the Assam government proposed his name as the State's ambassador for the agriculture and allied sectors.

According to the first information report that Mr. Garg lodged at the city's Dispur police station, six youths travelling in a white sedan overtook and stopped his SUV in the Ganesguri area at about 12.40 a.m.

"They hurled abuses at me and had beer bottles in their hands. They used unparliamentary words when I tried to defend myself," Mr. Garg said in the FIR. He said he was accompanied by his driver and two security persons.

"He alleged that six people accosted and abused him but there was no physical assault. We are investigating the matter," Guwahati's Commissioner of Police Munna Prasad Gupta said.

U.P. govt takes action on MLA's complaint

Station house officer suspended

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GAZIABAD

The Uttar Pradesh government has suspended the station house officer (SHO) of the Gonda police station and transferred the Superintendent of Police (Rural) of Aligarh district after Iglas MLA Raj Kumar Sahayogi alleged that he was assaulted inside the station on Wednesday when he went to question a cross FIR registered against a Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) worker.

Sources said the orders were issued from the Chief

J&KPM future uncertain after Shah Faesal's exit

New party chief promises to stay the course

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

Launched with a lot of fanfare with prominent, young faces 17 months ago, J&K's youngest political party, the J&K Peoples Movement (J&KPM), is struggling to stay afloat.

Days after IAS topper Shah Faesal announced his decision to quit politics, the other well-known face of the party Javed Mustafa Mir, a former legislator and minister, also has quit.

"Many young faces are al-

so leaving the party. These is a sense of disillusionment after Faesal's exit and his recent statements," a young party leader, who also quit the party, told *The Hindu*.

Promise of change
Scores of youth were attracted to the party that pledged to "fight corruption and push for peaceful resolution of the Kashmir issue".

Mumbai-based Kashmire businessman-turned-politician, Feroze Peerzada, has taken over as the president of the party.

"My first priority is to give confidence to those who joined the party because of (Bureaucrat-turned-politi-



cian) Faesal. We are trying to restore the party system. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is not possible to reach out to masses on the ground. But we are intact as a party and will not dissolve it," Mr. Peerzada told *The Hindu*.

However, he also said, on hindsight, if the party leaders had had any inkling about the events of August 5, 2019, "Me and Faesal may not have floated the party".

On rumours of Mr. Faesal returning to the civil services, Mr. Peerzada said, "Faesal's passport was impounded following the slapping of the Public Safety Act (PSA) on him. If he is given the passport back and allowed to travel, his first priority would be to go abroad for studies."

He said Mr. Faesal is "also hurt that no one came to his

support the way he expected and shed tears with his family during his detention".

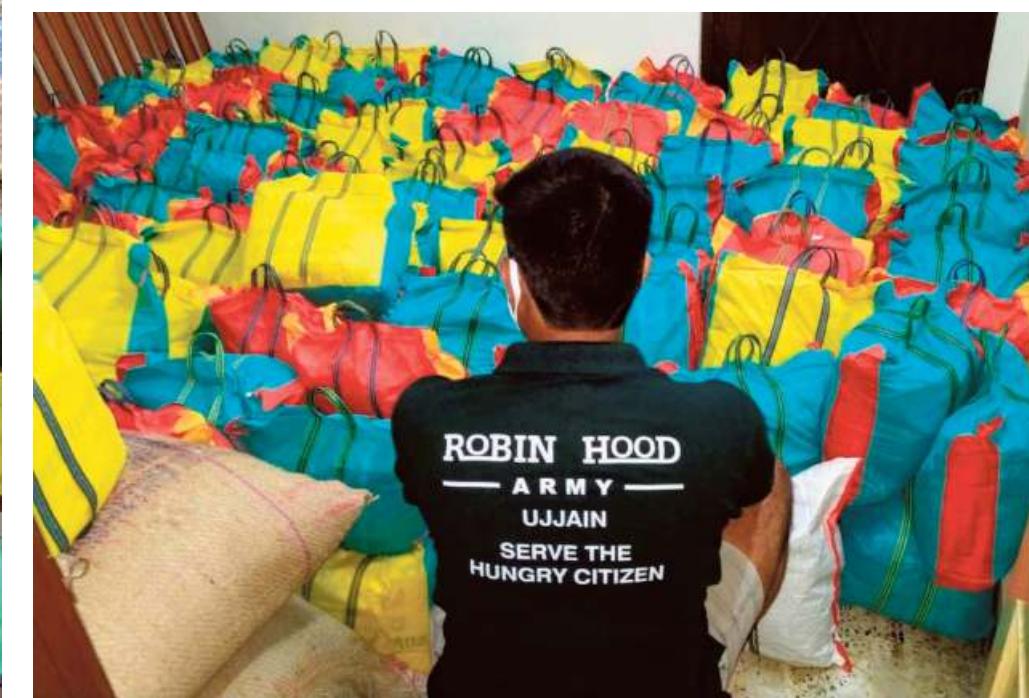
Mr. Peerzada said Mr. Faesal was a very popular across the country.

"At a party in Mumbai, Bollywood actor Shahrukh Khan praised his (Faesal) decision saying 'he is brilliant', he added.

Unusual situation
Disagreements with the former IAS officer over "political parties not having much role now in J&K" post August 5, 2019, Mr. Peerzada said, "Time heals every wound. It's a matter of time. We are hopeful statehood will be restored soon."



In 150 cities across India, the Robin Hood Army has seen a massive rise in people volunteering to help feed the needy. The reason? Lockdown worries, and an innate desire to lend a helping hand



On the ground
(Clockwise from far left)
Robin Hood Army's volunteers in Kolkata, Ujjain and Aurangabad
▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

MEGHNA MAJUMDAR

"Our 20-kilogram happiness pack contains 12 kilos of rice, five kilos of dal, two kilos of sugar, one kilo of salt and two litres of oil... it is a little more than 20 kilos, but that is the pack," reels off Neel Ghose, co-founder of Robin Hood Army (RHA), over a phone call from Delhi.

This – and a 10-kilogram package containing half the rations – is what "Robins" by the hundred have been handing out in cities and villages across the country over the past few months, to help fellow citizens tide over the string of lockdowns in place to stem the COVID-19 pandemic.

Change of plans

This is not how the volunteer-driven organisation usually operates: the key task of this 'army' has always been to provide hot, fresh-cooked meals to those who would otherwise not have access to it. That was the aim when it began as a two-person outfit supported by a few restaurants in Delhi's Hauz Khas area in 2014; and that is the aim it has retained so far in all of its 182 chapters spread across 13 countries.

The difference this year is two-fold, says Neel: "First, restaurants' food count had gone down because most of them had temporarily closed. Second, we had to rethink how we went about serving. Once the pandemic hit, our Robins were at risk. So we pivoted: we started a senior patrol, where anybo-

Serving solidarity



ROBIN HOOD ACADEMY

An offshoot of the army is the Robin Hood Academy, which aims at helping street-children get an education

Present in 81 cities, the academy has a three-level curriculum that volunteers follow to teach children, but the ultimate goal is to get them enrolled in schools in as many cases as possible

It is currently present in 84 cities in India and has reached out to 7,328 students so far, over 1,700 of whom are now enrolled in formal schools

The curriculum at each level covers Math, Science, language, Social Studies, Art and Craft and values (like good habits and sharing)

There is also an "intellectual" segment at each level, covering things such as reading clocks and basic digital technology

rules and safety equipment were figured out, and regular operations resumed with a few rules in place.

From 2014 to 2020, and from cooked meals to raw rations, Neel insists that the spirit of generosity in people in general, remains the same. "When Anand Sinha and I had begun this in 2014, our idea was to hand out the surplus food from restaurants at the end of each day. When we started putting the word out, restaurants offered to cook fresh food for us to distribute instead. 'We make staff meals anyway, we will just make more of it,' they said," he recalls.

It is the same kindness that he attributes to this year's growth spurt. "Before the lockdown, we had been serving about 800 to 1,000 meals a month, on an average. For the last two or three months, it has been around two million meals a month. I think that there is a lot more civic consciousness: everyone wants to know how to help in their own capacity, whether as a company or as an individual. I think we now have access to sources of food and ration that we didn't earlier," says Neel.

The organisation's biggest strength, he states, is the "high level of ownership" in each Robin. "Someone who is leading a team in Pune or

Hyderabad, who is 16 or 17 years old, does not think that someone sitting in Delhi is running it. For them, it is their own baby. And you don't mess with that," he points out, adding that RHA wants to retain this by staying zero-fund and completely volunteer-driven. This, despite a 2018 Harvard Business School case study delving into the army's operations and wondering if it is sustainable on an expanded scale.

Neel believes that the organisation's overseas expansions have already proven that it really is: "Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Nepal have been growing rapidly. Bahrain and Malaysia have increased activities in the last mission. And then there are places such as Botswana and Guinea, where we have drives once a month or so."

One thing that evidently matters to Neel, is brand value on the ground, even at the hyper-local level. "In Karachi, which is at this point our strongest chapter, our brand is such that if a restaurant has a Robin Hood Army sticker, more people are likely to dine there. So restaurants give us food not just out of goodwill, but also from a business point of view."

The economics behind Araku coffee

As US-based Rockefeller Foundation picks Hyderabad's Naandi Foundation to be one of the 'Top 10 Visionaries' worldwide for its Food Vision 2050 Prize; we revisit Naandi's 'Arakunomics'

NIVEDITA GANGULY

From large patches of forest lands 20 years ago, Araku, the valley nestled in the Eastern Ghats bordering Visakhapatnam, today stands as a award winning model of agro-economy. The region is home to many Adivasis, who are now proud coffee growers.

What started as a livelihood project for the tribals of Araku by Naandi Foundation is today synonymous with one of the world's finest coffee producing hubs. Coffee in this region is grown under shade with a rich quality of Arabica beans. For its 'Arakunomics', the Rockefeller Foundation selected Naandi Foundation as one of the 'Top 10 Visionaries' in the world for the Food Vision 2050 Prize which was announced in New York on August 6.

The award recognised the application of the 'Arakunomics' model in regions of Araku in Telangana, Wardha in Maharashtra, and New Delhi, leading to the Food Vision 2050.

So what is Arakunomics? It is an integrated economic model that ensures profits for farmers and quality for consumers through regenerative agriculture. "More than two decades ago, the people of Araku were known as forest dwellers. Coffee changed their lives. Today, 955 villages from Araku Valley are involved in bringing out some of the world's best coffees under the Arakunomics model," says Manoj Kumar, CEO of Naandi Foundation.

The journey from a remote tribal hamlet to worldwide acclaim involved commitment, and a systematic engagement with tribal people so that they can effectively look after the estates. Over the years, Naandi has trained 14,000



Long haul The foundation's work with Araku's tribals spans 20 years ■ KR DEEPAK

farmers on sustainable farming practices while protecting their fragile ecosystem.

Araku Coffee has consistently won ratings as high as 90 out of 100 from professional cuppers associated with the well-regarded Specialty Coffee Association of America (SCAA). This is a first for any coffee from India. In 2018, Araku Coffee also won the gold medal for best coffee pod in the 2018 Prix Epicures OR in Paris.

Naandi procures around 75 tonnes of Araku coffee every year. "Hundred per cent of this lot is speciality coffee," explains Manoj.

What makes the coffee world-class is a combination of Araku's unique climatic conditions, bio-dynamic agriculture, and the involvement of world's

top coffee experts in every stage of production.

"We understood that villagers of the tribal hamlets cherished nothing more than regaining the forest that they had lost over the years. We trained 450 farmers on sustainable farming practices and on harvesting the best cherries. They, in turn, became our 'farm schools' and gave training to the villagers in remote tribal hamlets," says Manoj.

Naandi has now replicated the success of Arakunomics to support the livelihoods of farming communities in villages of agrarian distress-hit Wardha, and also in New Delhi.

Araku Coffee will soon open its first

fé and roastery in the country, in Bengaluru. It will be Araku coffee's second outlet globally, the first being the Araku Cafe and store in the heart of Paris in 2017, offering a sip of India's Eastern Ghats.

GLOBAL RECOGNITION

Naandi competed with over 1,300 entries in a two-level contest that was spread over almost a year

The recognition fetches Naandi a prize money of \$200,000

Naandi's vision titled "Arakunomics" was based on work with tribal farmers in Araku over nearly 20 years

The economic model is a tribute to the tribal farmers of Araku region for the world class coffee produced and launched in Paris in 2017, as well as for the high carbon landscape transformation they did in over 955 villages there by planting 25 million trees



HORS D'OEUVRES



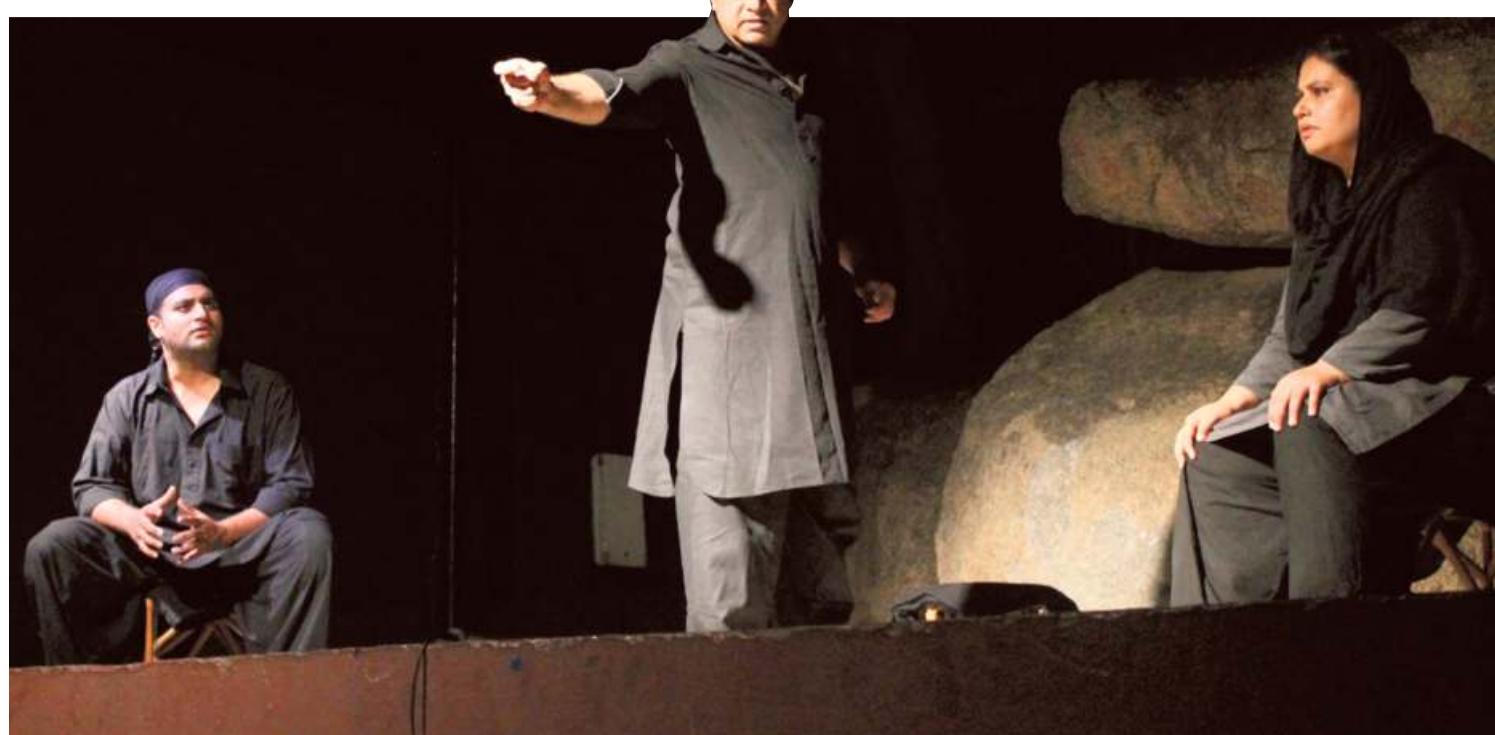
Khichdi gets snazzier

Don't look at khichdi as an ailing person's food. Khichdi Experiment, already serving different regional variants of the dish through its cloud kitchens in multiple cities, has launched an array of new variants under the health and international fusion categories. The idea is to carry their experiments with the classic khichdi forward and introduce a twist in the ingredients. The new flavours are currently available in Bengaluru and will be available pan-India shortly. Cheesy Italian khichdi is a desi videsi collaboration. It comes with an assortment of zucchini, baby corn, broccoli, and capsicum, topped with grated mozzarella cheese and seasoned. Chicken Mexicana khichdi has Mexican flavours with chicken, capsicum, tomatoes, jalapeños and smoked paprika. There is also smoked chicken sausage khichdi, multigrain khichdi, and a seven-grain and vegetable khichdi made from seven grains with zucchini, broccoli, baby corn and capsicum. There are spinach multigrain and masala quinoa options as well.



Brownie points

With people making the most of their time at home and the opportunity to experiment with ingredients as well as with recipes, the avocado seems to finding a way to sneak into more than just smoothie bowls. Those who thought it a tricky fruit are now ripening it at home, then putting it to good use. Guacamole is just the beginning, we are told — if you are an avocado fan you must try avocado brownies. Weight watchers who prefer to maintain a safe distance from calorie-rich desserts but still want to give in to the sweet craving are actively promoting avocado brownies. There are two versions — bake and no-bake — and both use dark chocolate. How does it taste? Opinions are divided, but no one has written it off as tasteless. The bake version, which also requires peanut butter and eggs, "tastes more like a chocolate pudding and pairs perfectly with coffee," says @fork-n-fable, an Instagram handle from Singapore. The no-bake version, "tastes like a brownie if you are not looking at eating anything too sweet."



Manto's musings on Partition

Sutradhar theatre group will present a live dramatised reading of Sadat Hasan Manto's *Siyah Haashiye* today

SANGEETHA DEVI DUNDOO

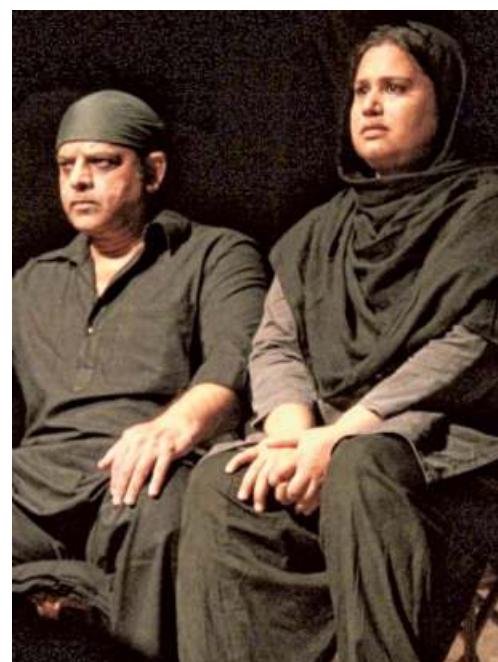
Sadat Hasan Manto's *Siyah Haashiye*, first published in 1947, is a collection of 32 short and very short stories on the brutal, grim realities of Partition. On August 14, 6 pm, Hyderabad-based Sutradhar theatre group will present a live, dramatised presentation of the stories on Mumbai Theatre Guide's Facebook page. The 50-minute presentation will feature Vinay Varma, Deepi Girotra and Rahim Amiral Lalani.

Sutradhar first staged *Siyah Haashiye* in 2011 in Hyderabad. Directed by Deepi, the production had its actors wearing sombre colours on a stage that had minimal props. Manto's hard-hitting words were enough to transport the viewers into the bloody aftermath of

Partition. The play has since been staged in different cities, including Ahmedabad and Indore, and each time the presentations have been tweaked to bring in novelty.

New beginnings

This will be the first live, virtual presentation of *Siyah Haashiye* for the theatre group and Vinay, much like many other theatre artistes concedes that the pandemic has necessitated them to explore new possibilities: "We have so far done three digital performances (as ticketed shows on Bookmyshow); we are doing our best and are excited, because it gives us something to look forward to and we don't get rusty. Virtual performances don't match up to the energy of staging a play in front of a real-time audience."



Going live
Team Sutradhar at an earlier staging of the production
■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The pandemic has been tough for those in the performing arts, particularly theatre groups, but the actors are hopeful of a turnaround, though they can't be sure when this will happen. Some of the members meet at the Sutradhar office for rehearsals, maintaining COVID-19 safety protocols, says Vinay.

The three actors have been rehearsing for a week and are geared up for the live performance, after a tech run with the Mumbai Theatre

Guide team for light and sound. "We will begin with an introduction on Manto and what prompted him to write these stories. Some of the stories are very short, but convey so much in a line or two. *Siyah Haashiye* will be a composite performance, combining reading and performance," says Vinay.

Siyah Haashiye will be performed live on Mumbai Theatre Guide's Facebook page on August 14; 6 pm



The written word (From left) Narayana Bhattachari and Mehmood Ahmad Shaikh at work; Achyut Palav
■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



through hard times, we calligraphers are doing our bit to keep people motivated and instil patriotism," he adds.

The video will be released on the official Facebook pages of Palav (www.facebook.com/achyut.palav) and MIT ADT University (www.facebook.com/mitadtuniversity/) today at 5 pm.



A festival of LETTERS

Akshar Bharat gets calligraphers from across the country to showcase lyrics of the National Anthem in 15 native scripts

ATHIRA M

When the nation turns 73 on August 15, calligraphers from across the country are coming together to celebrate the linguistic richness of India. Akshar Bharat, a virtual event conceptualised by National Award-winning calligrapher Achyut Palav, honours the National Anthem through different scripts of the country.

"In 2016, I had done a project,

Jan Gan Man, where I inscribed the National Anthem on a large canvas in Devanagari script. This year I wanted to feature regional scripts as well, thus making it a festival of letters. You get to see the beauty and magnificence of each script," Achyut says.

Akshar Bharat brings together 15 scripts, 15 calligraphers and 15 vocalists. As the National Anthem is rendered, the calligraphers will showcase the lines in

different scripts. The video will be released on August 14.

The scripts and calligraphers to be featured in the video are Odia (SK Mohanti), Telugu (Nava-

Kanth Karide), Kannada (GV Sreekumar), Malayalam (Narayana Bhattachari), Gujarati (Gopal Patel), Urdu (Mehmood Ahmad Shaikh), Tamil (Manoj Gopinath),

Kashmiri (Anwar Lolabi), Bengali (Hiren Mitra) and Assamese (Manisha Nayak). Achyut Palav will write in Devanagari script. Prabhsimar Kaur will write in

Gurumukhi. While Ketak Gaidhani will write in Modi script, an ancient variation of the Devanagari used from the 15th to the 17th century, Rupali Thombare will pen a line in Maithili, an Indo-Aryan language spoken in Bihar and Jharkhand. Siddham script, once used to write Sanskrit, will be used by Avdhut Vidhate.

"It feels good that calligraphy is being highlighted on such a momentous occasion. I have written the line 'Thava shubha naame jaage' for the initiative," says veteran Malayalam calligrapher Narayana Bhattachari (Artist Bhattachari).

This is a joint venture of MIT University, Pune, and Achyut Palav School of Calligraphy.

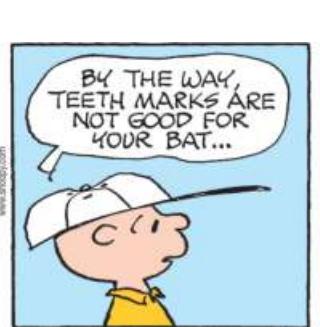
Adinath Mangeshkar, son of Hridyanath Mangeshkar and secretary-general of MIT Viswasant Sangit Kala Academy (MITVSKA) has composed music for the video. The 15 vocalists are from MITVSKA.

"When the country is going

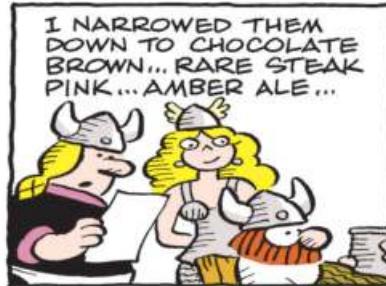
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



PEANUTS



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



CALVIN AND HOBBES



TIGER



HOMING IN

Growing up in Indonesia on a steady diet of K Balachander and Mani Ratnam movies, filmmaker **Madhumitha's** **Watchlist** for this week will resonate with every cinephile out there

SRIVATSAN S

Children of Heaven

I was exposed to a lot of world cinema during my college days in Singapore.

The course was more theoretical than hands-on filmmaking; we were to analyse subtexts and write reviews. *Children of Heaven* was the film that made me want to pursue a career in films.

Free Willy

1992 was the year when we moved to Indonesia on a steady diet of K Balachander and Mani Ratnam movies, filmmaker **Madhumitha's** **Watchlist** for this week will resonate with every cinephile out there

Kannathil Muthamittal

It is one of my most favourite works of Mani sir. I was so enamoured by the film's theme on adoption. Ours is a culture where adoption is perceived as a last resort when you can't have a baby, right? But here, the film dealt with the subject with utmost sensitivity. When I was doing my Master's in Los Angeles, I made a short film on adoption. The inspiration came from *Kannathil Muthamittal*.

Rashomon

In real life too, I believe there is more than one truth. Let us say there is an argument between a husband and wife. It is not a question of who is right, but a question of one's perspective versus the other's. In fact, my life policy came from *Rashomon*: that you can tell stories in so many different ways and everybody will have their own version.

We would love to know how you are keeping busy at home. Tell us who you are watching live, at metro@thehindu.co.in.



Kill Bill

It is my favourite film of Quentin Tarantino just because of the stark difference in its style and presentation, with a female protagonist and lots of action sequences. I enjoy films that are relatable and have emotional connect. That happened with *Kill Bill*, and QT is an inspiring filmmaker. I met him at a film festival when someone told him that his *Reservoir Dogs* was remade in Hindi as *Kaante*. Filmmakers usually get offended when you say that, but he said he actually enjoyed *Kaante* and it was a different take on his film. That confidence is something I learnt from him.

Biden, Harris vow to 'rebuild' America

People are 'crying out for leadership' to overcome racial injustice & a ravaged economy: V-P nominee

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

WILMINGTON

Joe Biden and Kamala Harris launched their joint White House bid on Wednesday, with the newly-minted vice presidential nominee saying Americans are "crying out for leadership" to overcome the triple crisis of a pandemic, racial injustice and a ravaged economy.

Making their first appearance as running mates, before a small crowd of reporters and staffers at a Delaware high school closed to the public due to COVID-19 concerns, the Democratic duo vowed to end Donald Trump's presidency and, in Mr. Biden's words, "rebuild this country."

"Everything we care about," said Ms. Harris. "It's all on the line."

A formidable 55-year-old U.S. Senator from California and a daughter of immigrants, Ms. Harris has already made history as the first woman of colour tapped for a major party presidential ticket.

Describing a country at the crossroads, she left little



Strong message: Kamala Harris, right, listening to Joe Biden during their first joint press conference in Wilmington, Delaware, on Wednesday. ■ AFP

doubt of her determination to go on the attack, saying Mr. Trump "just isn't up for the job" and has left the nation "in tatters."

"America is crying out for leadership, yet we have a president who cares more about himself than the people who elected him," said Ms. Harris.

Despite the awkwardly intimate setting, a far cry from the typical campaign rollout

featuring an audience of thousands, Ms. Harris appeared telegenic and confident in her first speech as vice presidential nominee – for which she and Mr. Biden both arrived wearing facemasks.

Failures of leadership'

"The case against Donald Trump and Mike Pence is open and shut," said the former California Attorney

General as she assailed the President's "failures of leadership" on containing the deadly pandemic and an economy hobbled by measures to fight the contagion.

The daughter of Indian and Jamaican immigrants to the U.S. sought to tap into the nationwide upheaval over police violence and racial disparities. "We're experiencing a moral reckoning with racism and systemic in-

justice that has brought a new coalition of conscience to the streets of our country demanding change."

For Mr. Biden – who leads Mr. Trump in most national polls and in swing States like Florida and Wisconsin despite conducting the campaign mostly from his Wilmington, Delaware home – his vice presidential reveal marks a crucial moment as he aims to build a broad coalition of voters to defeat Mr. Trump.

Mr. Biden spoke of why he chose Ms. Harris as his partner, stressing she was a tough and experienced legislator who is "ready to do this job on Day 1."

'America's story'

And he said that Ms. Harris' story as the child of immigrants and a woman of colour, who fought her way to the top ranks of U.S. legal and political circles will inspire the country.

"Her story's America's story," Mr. Biden said. "She's worked hard (and) she's never backed down from a challenge."

UAE, Israel reach agreement to establish diplomatic ties

Israel will suspend plans to annex parts of West Bank

ASSOCIATED PRESS

DUBAI

President Donald Trump said on Thursday that the United Arab Emirates and Israel have agreed to establish full diplomatic ties as part of a deal to halt the annexation of occupied land sought by the Palestinians for their future state. The announcement makes the UAE the first Gulf Arab state to do so and only the third Arab nation to have active diplomatic ties to Israel.



UAE Crown Prince
Mohammed bin Zayed

Asia despite being governed by autocratic rulers.

Joint statement

A joint statement from the U.S., the UAE and Israel was issued immediately after Trump's tweet. It said delegations would meet in the coming weeks to sign deals on direct flights, security, telecommunications, energy, tourism and health care. The two countries also will partner on fighting the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Opening direct ties between two of the Middle East's most dynamic societies and advanced economies will transform the region by spurring economic growth, enhancing technological innovation and forging closer people-to-people relations," said the statement by Mr. Trump, Mr. Netanyahu and Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed, the day-to-day ruler of the UAE. It said the leaders had a three-way call discussing the deal.

Kamala: a shining star of Jamaica

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

JAMAICA

Kamala Harris's boundary-breaking run at the U.S. vice presidency has inspired hope and dreams in her father's native Jamaica, where locals claimed her as their own.

She might have been born in California to an Indian mother, but it was her Jamaican roots and historic candidacy that got people in Kingston excited on Wednesday.

"My heart is soaring for all the kids out there who see themselves in her and will dream bigger because of this," said Felicia Mills, a 36-year-old executive secretary.



Kamala Harris with her great-grandmother Iris Finegan in Jamaica. ■ AP/FILE

where he taught and carried out research. He served as a consultant to Jamaica's government and its PMs.

Her father and mother, breast cancer researcher Shyamala Gopalan, separated

ed when Ms. Harris was about five years old and she and her sister Maya were raised by her mother, who died in 2009.

Popular Jamaican political commentator Kevin O'Brien Chang said Ms. Harris's candidacy shined a positive light on the island.

"She has spoken positive about Jamaica in the past, she is aware of her heritage and proud of it," he said.

"It shows greatness, and it translates well, that the daughter of two immigrants born in the U.S. could aspire to the second most powerful job in America," Mr. Chang added.

Belarus detains hundreds more

Protests continue against strongman leader Lukashenko over his re-election

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

MINSK

Mr. Lukashenko's opponents accuse him of rigging Sunday's election to defeat his main rival, popular opposition candidate Svetlana Tikhanovskaya, who left the ex-Soviet country on Tuesday for neighbouring Lithuania.

Prominent Belarusians including Nobel Prize-winning author Svetlana Alexievich have condemned the violence and urged Mr. Lukashenko, who has ruled Belarus with an iron grip since 1994, to step down.

For the second day in a

row on Thursday, dozens of women, many dressed in white and holding flowers, formed a human chain in the capital Minsk to condemn police violence.

Illegal gatherings'

The Interior Ministry said 700 more people had been arrested for taking part in illegal gatherings on Wednesday, bringing the total number detained since Sunday to more than 6,700.

The Ministry said there had been fewer demonstrations on Wednesday than on

Lebanon Parliament declares a state of emergency in Beirut

Military gets sweeping powers as political uncertainty rises

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BEIRUT

Lebanon's Parliament approved on Thursday a state of emergency in the capital, Beirut, in its first session since the tragic explosion last week, granting the military sweeping powers amid rising popular anger and political uncertainty.

The blast that killed more than 170 people and injured at least 6,000 others changed the face of the capital and forced the government to resign.

Before resigning, the government declared a state of emergency in Beirut that granted the military sweeping powers, including the power to declare curfews, prevent public gatherings and censor media as well as refer civilians to military tri-



A protester flashing the victory sign during a demonstration in Beirut. ■ AP

bunals for alleged security breaches.

'Silencing dissent'

The move has been criticised by rights groups and other critics who say the civilian government was already operating with increased powers because of the pan-

demic. Some pointed to the heavy military crackdown on protesters last week, fearing extended power could lead to increased use of force to silence dissent.

Parliament is convening outside its regular location to observe social distancing and because of protests outside the Parliament building by angry Lebanese, who want the entire political class to step down.

The session opened with a moment of silence for those killed in the blast. It then moved to discuss the resignation of nearly a dozen lawmakers who quit last week in protest of the government's handling of the August 4 blast.

A major Christian party bloc is boycotting the session.

Israel attacks, sanctions Gaza

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

GAZA CITY

Israel attacked targets of Islamist group Hamas in Gaza and halted fuel supplies to the enclave Thursday in the latest retaliation against fire bombs suspended from balloons that have been released from

the Palestinian territory.

Israeli warplanes and tanks struck overnight in the fourth military attack in last week, causing no reported casualties on Thursday but leaving one unexploded missile inside a UN-run school's compound in a refugee camp.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT CHENNAI KANYAKUMARI INDUSTRIAL CORRIDOR PROJECT

BID NOTICE NO. OCB/CKICP/MC-2/EPC-02/01, Dated.10.08.2020

- The Superintending Engineer (H), PIU, CKICP for and on behalf of Governor of State of Tamil Nadu invites bids for "Upgrading Kanchipuram - Arakkonam - Thiruthani Road (SH-58-II) from km 66.940 to km 86.345, km 103.260 to km 108.719 and construction of Arakkonam bypass from km 86.345 to km 103.260 (16.915km) to two (2) lane with paved shoulders for a total length of 41.779 km and maintenance of entire project stretch of 41.779 km for 7 years (in the State of Tamil Nadu on Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) Mode)".
- The bid document will be available online in the website, www.tntenders.gov.in from 19.08.2020 at 16.00 hours (IST).
- Pre-bid Meeting will be held on 02.09.2020 at 11.30 hours (IST). Kindly refer the Invitation For Bid (IFB) uploaded in www.tntenders.gov.in for further details.
- A non-refundable fee of Rs.20,000/- (inclusive of tax) is required to be paid towards Bid Document Fee.
- Deadline for online submission of bids: on or before 15.00 hours (IST) on 07.10.2020.
- Online Technical Bid opening at 16.00 hours (IST) on 07.10.2020.
- Further Addendum in this regard will be available only in e-procurement portal www.tntenders.gov.in, if any.

Superintending Engineer (H),

PIU, Chennai Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor Project
CKICP Complex, HRS Campus, 76 Sardar Patel Road, Guindy,

Chennai- 600 025. Tamil Nadu, India. Telephone No: +91 44 2235 0610

Email:sepiuckip@gmail.com / Website:www.ckicp.tnhighways.gov.in

DIPR/3043/Tender/2020

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT CHENNAI KANYAKUMARI INDUSTRIAL CORRIDOR PROJECT

BID NOTICE NO. OCB/CKICP/MC-2/EPC-04/01, Dated. 10.08.2020

INVITATION OF BID THROUGH e -TENDERING				
Bid Identification No-15/EE/RWSS/2020-21/Bpt Dated.10.08.2020				
01. Name of the work :- As per ANNEXURE - A				
Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender online for bidding on office hour only	From	To
1	2	3	4	5
Executive Engineer, Kalahandi RWS&S Division, Bhubanapatna	15/EE/RWSS/2020-21/Bpt Dated- 10.08.2020	18.08.2020 10.00 AM	01.09.2020 05.30 PM	02.09.2020 10.00 AM onwards

Cost of tender paper & payment of EMD to be made online payment system.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <http://tenderodisha.gov.in>.

Executive Engineer, Kalahandi RWS&S Division, Bhubanapatna

OPIR-25005/11/0003/2021

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&C)				
IDCO, IDCO TOWERS, BHUBANESWAR-751022, ODISHA				
RFP Call Notice No.IDCO/H.O/P&C/ESTIE-1536/04/2020 1112 Date : 10.08.2020				
NOTICE INVITING REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL UNDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement				
1. Name of the Work : Fixation of rates for Supply, Installation, testing & commissioning of Fire fighting fixture.				
2. Other details				
Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-Line for Bidding	From	To
1	2	3	4	5
Chief General Manager				

MARKET WATCH

	PRICE	CHANGE
Sensex	38,310	-0.15
US Dollar	74.84	0.00
Gold	53,132	0.35
Brent oil	45.26	-0.22

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	347.65	6.45
Asian Paints	1802.55	5.30
Axist Bank	448.10	-3.00
Bajaj Auto	3017.95	-5.05
Bajaj Finserv	6350.00	-7.20
Bajaj Finance	3419.65	1.40
Bharti Airtel	535.35	-12.35
BPCL	421.15	-0.65
Britannia Ind	3808.25	-1.50
Cipla	760.25	-1.85
Coal India	128.95	0.25
Dr Reddy's Lab	4502.25	-15.90
Eicher Motors	21672.95	-443.70
GAIL (India)	97.40	-0.65
Grasim Ind	631.85	5.70
HCL Tech.	724.60	7.50
HDFC	1804.85	-9.35
HDFC Bank	1059.05	-4.65
HDFC Life	599.75	-9.00
Hero MotoCorp	2809.65	35.65
Hindustan	183.55	7.75
Hind Unilever	2198.65	3.55
ICICI Bank	368.05	1.20
IndusInd Bank	518.75	-1.90
Bharti Infratel	201.40	6.75
Infosys	951.20	-3.75
Indian Oil Corp	86.85	1.00
ITC	201.45	-2.75
JSW Steel	258.60	1.80
Kotak Bank	1336.25	1.15
L&T	990.70	40.95
M&M	631.45	-3.50
Maruti Suzuki	6731.65	1.35
Nestle India Ltd.	16474.20	-6.65
NTPC	87.25	-1.45
ONGC	78.60	0.50
PowerGrid Corp	178.75	0.70
Reliance Ind	2122.05	-5.55
State Bank	201.90	-1.40
Shree Cement	21237.00	-141.90
Sun Pharma	520.80	-11.35
Tata Motors	131.15	5.80
Tata Steel	413.10	-1.40
TCS	2254.45	-2.90
Tech Mahindra	697.05	5.00
Titan	1097.65	41.30
UltraTech Cement	4047.30	47.65
UPL	489.15	2.00
Wipro	277.00	0.80
Zee Entertainment	162.30	1.05

EXCHANGE RATES		
Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on August 13		
CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar.....	74.63	74.95
Euro.....	88.38	88.76
British Pound.....	97.75	98.21
Japanese Yen (100).....	69.86	70.16
Chinese Yuan.....	10.75	10.80
Swiss Franc.....	81.97	82.33
Singapore Dollar.....	54.43	54.68
Canadian Dollar.....	56.41	56.68
Malaysian Ringgit.....	17.79	17.89
Australian Dollar.....	53.52	53.76

Source: Indian Bank

IN BRIEF

Zydus to sell remdesivir generic at ₹2,800 a vial
NEW DELHI
Zydus Cadila said it has launched a generic version of remdesivir, used for treating patients suffering from severe COVID-19 symptoms, at ₹2,800 per 100 mg vial in the Indian market. PTI

CUB Q1 profit drops 17% on provisioning

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI
Private sector lender City Union Bank Ltd.'s (CUB) standalone net profit for the first quarter ended June, contracted by 17% to ₹154 crore on account of higher provisioning.

Net interest income rose 4.8% to ₹437 crore. Gross non-performing assets (NPAs) rose to 3.9% from 3.34% and net NPAs to 2.11% from 1.89%.

The bank raised provisions and contingencies towards NPAs to ₹202 crore from ₹166 crore. An additional ad hoc provision of ₹100 crore was made towards meeting future contingency measures arising out of COVID-19, it said.

Biological E. in vaccine pacts with J&J, Baylor

Deals pertain to COVID-19 shots

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD
Biological E. (BE.) has entered into separate agreements with Janssen Pharmaceutical NV and Baylor College of Medicine for COVID-19 vaccines.

The agreement with Janssen Pharmaceutical, one of the pharmaceutical companies of Johnson & Johnson, is for creation/enhancement of manufacturing capacities for drug substance and drug product for Johnson & Johnson's COVID-19 vaccine candidate, Ad26.COV2.S.

The vaccine candidate is currently undergoing clinical trials, BE. said.

"Given the magnitude of the COVID-19 pandemic, our ability to mount an effective response will be predicated on the ability to supply the

Inflation accelerates to 6.93% dimming chances of a rate cut

July's quickening fuelled by surge in food prices; June rate revised up to 6.23%

REUTERS
NEW DELHI

India's retail inflation accelerated to 6.93% in July on higher food prices, remaining above the RBI's medium-term target for a tenth straight month, according to government data released on Thursday.

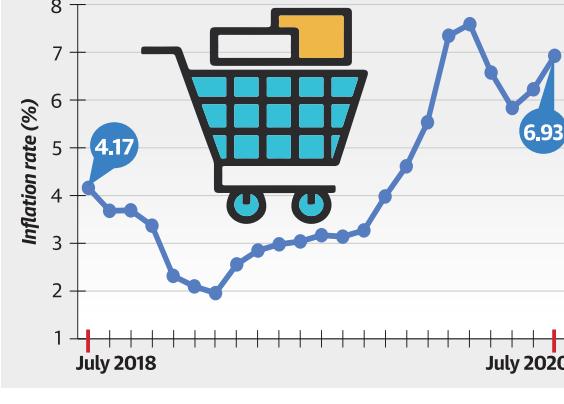
July's figure was higher than the 6.15% forecast in a Reuters poll of analysts and the revised 6.23% recorded in June.

Food prices soared due to supply-side disruptions caused by lockdowns. They rose 9.62% compared to a jump of 8.72% in June.

A steady increase in COVID-19 cases has disrupted the supply chain as lockdowns have continued at regional levels.

Sharp uptick

Retail inflation touched a six-month high of 6.93% in July. Data for April and May were not released



Fearing a sharp acceleration in inflation the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) last week kept interest rates on hold, after reducing the repo rate

by a total of 115 basis points since February. The RBI's medium-term inflation target is set at 4%.

India's economy is expect-

ed to contract more than 4.5% in the current fiscal, but some analysts do not expect the central bank to cut rates further this year.

"Given the distortions in supply chains and transportation, I don't expect a rate cut in the remaining part of 2020," said Rupa Rege Nitire, economist at L&T Financial Holdings.

Core inflation

Core inflation for July ranged between 5.8% and 5.9%, according to two analysts.

Monsoon rains are expected to be 104% of a long-term average in August and September, indicating bumper harvests and helping to alleviate some of the economic damage caused by the novel coronavirus pandemic.

IndiGo adds share as air traffic drops 82% in July

Carriers see marginal uptick from June

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

At a time when passenger demand continues to remain weak, IndiGo has been able to consolidate its position further by cornering 60% of the domestic market share in July, monthly data from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) show.

Pre-COVID-19, IndiGo's market share had hovered between 42% in January 2019 and 48% in February 2020.

Together, Indian carriers ferried 21 lakh passengers last month – an 82% decline from July 2019.

However, last month's numbers were marginally better than in June, when the total number of passengers was at 19.84 lakh. With the government regulating air fares and fixing maximum and minimum ticket

costs that airlines can levy, the reason for IndiGo's higher market share is likely to be its large number of aircraft in operation – nearly 150 out of the total 256.

Its ability to keep its aircraft flying despite poor sales in the industry is also likely to be an important factor. Of the total unique passenger trips, IndiGo accounted for 12.72 lakh. It was followed by SpiceJet (15.7%) in the second spot.

Air India, which the Centre is trying to privatise, saw its share dropping to 9.1% from 12% pre-lockdown. AirAsia ferried 6.2% of the total passengers, Vistara 4.2% and GoAir 3.8%.

A large number of seats continued to fly empty. SpiceJet sold 70% of its seats on average, IndiGo 60.2%, AirAsia 56.2%, Vistara 53.1% and GoAir 50.5%.



Tata Steel posts Q1 net loss of ₹4,648 crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Domestic steel major Tata Steel on Thursday reported a consolidated net loss of ₹4,648.13 crore for the quarter ended June, mainly on account of reduced income. The company had posted a consolidated net profit of ₹714.03 crore a year earlier, Tata Steel said in a filing.

Total income dropped to ₹24,481.09 crore, from ₹36,198.21 crore earlier.

The company's expenses also fell to ₹27,892.09 crore from ₹34,447.42 crore in the April-June period of the preceding fiscal.

States' sales tax receipts may rise up to 9% in FY21

Petro products to drive uptrend: Crisil

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Sales tax collections by States on petroleum products (such as petrol and diesel) is likely to recover sharply, driven by a rebound in volume, the full impact of increase in Central and State taxes, and firmer crude oil prices, Crisil Ratings said in a report.

If these drivers sustain, there could be a 7-9% on-year rise in sales tax receipts by November, the annual volume decline may be restricted to 11-12% this fiscal, the agency said. Crude oil prices, which averaged more than \$60 per barrel last year and fell to \$30 in Q1, have rebounded to \$40. A \$10 increase in crude oil price provides an additional ₹1 per litre of fuel sold, to the State exchequer, it said.

The first quarter saw petro and diesel sales volume plumping by a third year-on-year because of the COVID-19 induced lockdown," said Manish Gupta, senior director, Crisil Ratings. "But

Grasim Q1 net profit declines 67% to ₹621 cr.

Revenue down by more than a third

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Grasim Industries Ltd. said first-quarter consolidated net profit declined 67% to ₹621 crore. Revenue from operations dropped 32% to ₹13,621 crore.

The results should be seen in light of the unprecedented disruption in economic activities due to the COVID-19 induced lockdown in all the major markets during the quarter and the resultant demand and supply chain disruptions," the company said.

Grasim said its inherent financial strength, operational excellence, and diverse product portfolio (cement, financial services, viscose and chemicals), it is well poised to withstand temporary disruptions and sustain leadership position.

MF SIP inflows hit 22-month low in July

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Investments in mutual funds through Systematic Investment Plans (SIPs) hit a 22-month low of ₹7,831 crore in July amid market volatility.

Inflows through SIP have slowed down in the past four months, but experts believe the route still continues to be the preferred one for retail investors to invest in mutual funds as it helps them reduce market timing risk.

Besides, equity mutual funds, which mainly depend on SIP for flows, saw a withdrawal of ₹2,480 crore, data from Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi) showed.

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS: TIRUPATI VIGILANCE & SECURITY DEPARTMENT e-TENDER NOTICE

e-Tenders called for "Entrustment of providing total management services for collection, Transportation and Handing over of pilgrims baggages / cell phones / shoes / other electronic items in Free Luggage counters / cell phone counters / shoe keeping counters at Tirumala, Alipiri, Srivari Mettu" under works contract.

DATE OF OPENING TENDER:

TV PICKS

Champions League: Sony Ten 1 & 2 (SD & HD), 12.30 a.m. (Saturday)
Spanish Grand Prix: Practice, SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 2.20 p.m. & 6.20 p.m.
NBA: Sony Six (SD & HD), 6.30 a.m. & 4 a.m. (Saturday)
England vs Pakistan: Sony Six (SD & HD), 3.30 p.m.
Magnus Carlsen Chess Tour Finals: Eurosport (SD & HD), 8.30 p.m.
LPGA Scottish Open: Eurosport (SD & HD), 4.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Pacers hold off Rockets as Harden toils in vain

MIAMI
 Myles Turner and Justin Holiday scored 18 points apiece as Indiana Pacers withstood a 45-point performance from Houston Rockets star James Harden in a 108-104 NBA victory on Wednesday. The Pacers snapped a five-game losing streak against the Rockets.

Other results: Miami Heat bt Oklahoma City Thunder 116-115; Toronto Raptors bt Philadelphia 76ers 125-121; LA Clippers bt Denver Nuggets 124-111.

Djokovic to play the US Open

PARIS
 Novak Djokovic confirmed on Thursday he will play at the US Open, ending speculation about his presence at the first Grand Slam tournament since the coronavirus restart. "It was not an easy decision to make with all the obstacles and challenges on many sides, but the prospect of competing again makes me really excited," he tweeted. AFP

INOX is Indian Olympics team sponsor

NEW DELHI
 The INOX group will be the official sponsor of the Indian team for the rescheduled Tokyo Olympics, the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) announced on Thursday.

Dramatic win for PSG

French side overcomes Atalanta with last-gasp strikes

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

REUTERS
 LISBON

Paris Saint-Germain scored two late goals, including a stoppage-time winner from substitute Eric Choupo-Moting, to beat outsider Atalanta 2-1 and end the Serie A side's Champions League dream in their quarterfinal on Wednesday.

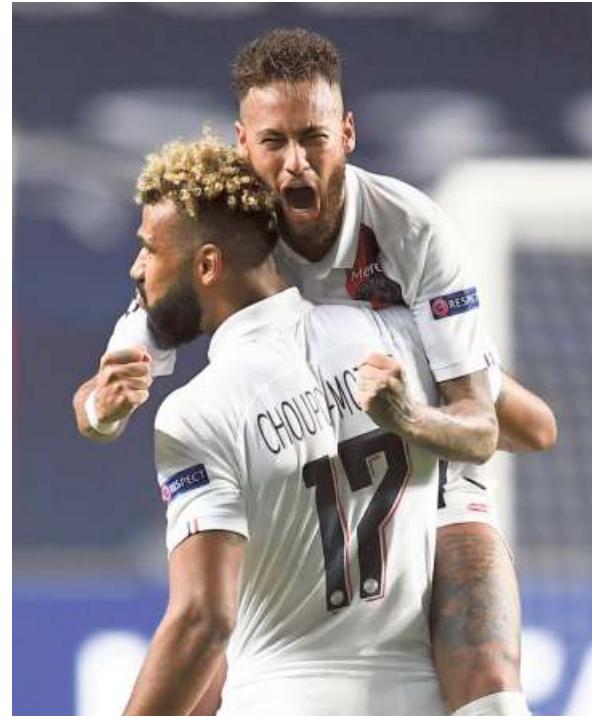
Despite boasting only a fraction of PSG's spending power, Atalanta was more than equal on the pitch and went ahead when an exchange of passes ended with the ball falling to Mario Pasalic who curled his shot past Keylor Navas.

Squandering it

The first half was all about Neymar who had four good chances but squandered them all as the French side failed to find the equaliser.

Berat Djimsiti should have increased Atalanta's lead after the break but sliced the ball wide and the game turned when PSG introduced striker Kylian Mbappe, who had not started because of an ankle injury.

Mbappe and Neymar



Chuffed! Neymar is ecstatic after Eric Choupo-Moting's goal took PSG to the semifinals. —AP

were both denied by Marco Sportiello but, as PSG ramped up the pressure, Atalanta finally cracked. Choupo-Moting's cross found Neymar and he touched the ball to Marquinhos to fire home from close range.

Minutes later, Neymar sent Mbappe down the left and his low cross was turned in by Choupo-Moting.

The result:

Paris Saint-Germain 2 (Marquinhos 90, Choupo-Moting 90+3) bt Atalanta 1 (Pasalic 27).

SCOREBOARD

Pakistan — 1st innings: Shan Masood lbw b Anderson 1, Abid Ali c Burns s Sam Curran 60, Azhar Ali c Burns b Anderson 20, Babar Azam (batting) 25, Asad Shafiq c Sibley b Broad 5, Fawad Alam lbw b Woakes 0, Mohd. Rizwan (batting) 4; Extras (b-4, lb-7); 11; Total (for five wkts. in 45.4 overs): 126.

Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-78, 3-102, 4-117, 5-120.

England bowling: Anderson 15-3-35-2, Broad 13-4-31-1, Sam Curran 10-2-23-1, Woakes 7-4-1-26-1.

Toss: Pakistan.

Test in 11 years, without scoring.

Sam Curran, Stuart Broad and Chris Woakes picked up a wicket each after James Anderson had struck the first two blows.

Earlier, Anderson picked

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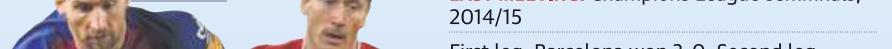
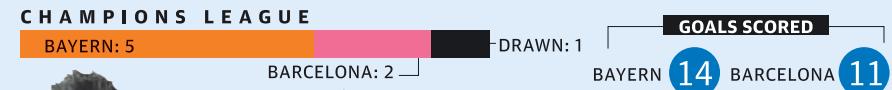
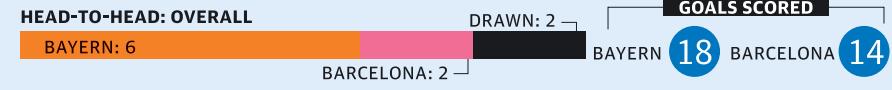
wad Alam, playing his first

European giants collide

Bayern and Barcelona meet in a high-profile Champions League quarterfinal clash on Friday. Though the German outfit begins

as favourite, thanks to its current form, any team with Messi in its ranks cannot be taken lightly.

BAYERN VS BARCELONA IN NUMBERS



First leg: Barcelona won 3-0; Second leg: Bayern won 3-2 (Barcelona prevailed 5-3 on aggregate)

- Barcelona went on to win the title and complete a treble that season (LaLiga crown and Copa del Rey)
- Since then, the Catalans have not progressed beyond the semifinals of the Champions League

- The two also met in the Europa League semifinals in 1995/96 season which Bayern won 4-3 on aggregate after two legs
- The teams will be playing each other at a neutral venue for the first time

Most goals (current CL campaign)

Bayern: Robert Lewandowski: 13

Barcelona: Luis Suarez: 4

Most assists

Bayern: Lewandowski: 4

Barcelona: Lionel Messi: 3

COMPILED BY ANANTAJITH RA

Carlsen escapes to victory

RAKESH RAO
 NEW DELHI

Magnus Carlsen just about managed to slip out of the tightening grip of Ding Liren and escaped to a 3.5-2.5 victory in the fourth set for a 3-1 triumph in the semifinals of the \$300,000 Magnus Carlsen Chess Tour Finals on Wednesday.

Before Carlsen entered the final, with a set to spare, against Hikaru Nakamura for the best-of-seven-set title-clash beginning on Friday, Ding checkmated the World No. 1 in the second rapid game and then made his rival suffer in three games.

Finally, Carlsen pulled off a stunning win in the second blitz game after Ding appeared close to forcing the deciding set.

Carlsen, who said his rival "put up an unbelievable fight," was far from happy with his display.

India gave me the belief I could win: Sheikh Ahmed

dia, am close to the people and love the food," said Sheikh Ahmed, who took up the sport when he was 34 after hunting was banned.

Giving a glimpse of what went into winning UAE's first Olympic medal – gold – Sheikh Ahmed said that if he shot about 40,000 cartridges for trap during training, he shot about 150,000 in double trap.

"I trained three or four times a week for trap. For double trap, I trained for five to six days a week, and shot 300 cartridges in six rounds.

"In trap, you concentrate when your turn comes to shoot. In double trap, I trained for five to six days a week, and hope to have five grounds in India. I feel at home in India."

NEXA

Pakistan's top-order crumbles

Abid Ali hits chancy half-century

REUTERS
 SOUTHAMPTON

Pakistan lost three quick wickets, after a sedate start, to be reduced to 126 for five in 46.5 overs when rain stopped play on the opening day of the second Test at the Rose Bowl on Thursday.

Resuming at 85 for two after tea, Pakistan quickly lost opener Abid Ali who rode his luck for a dogged 60, Asad Shafiq for five and Fawad Alam, playing his first

Test in 11 years, without scoring.

Sam Curran, Stuart Broad and Chris Woakes picked up a wicket each after James Anderson had struck the first two blows.

Earlier, Anderson picked the first two wickets – trapping

Shan Masood for one and

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KAMESH SRINIVASAN

NEW DELHI

The newly inducted I-League team, Sudeva Delhi Football Club, wishes to play its matches at the historic Ambedkar Stadium, bringing the action closer to the fans.

Dream come true

Addressing a media conference on the web, co-founders of Sudeva Anuj Gupta and Vijay Hakari, said it was a "dream come true", to

have a team representing the Capital.

"We grew up watching East Bengal, Churchill Brothers, Mohun Bagan playing at the Ambedkar

Stadium," said Gupta.

"We want to be part of the merged league, ISL in three or four years. Next year is important for us. We want to be in the top five,"

said Gupta.

"No foreign players now. We need to give more match-time to the young talent in the right positions.

Our aim is to give many good players to the national team," he said.

Hakari pointed out that the focus would be on improving the quality of football, which would automatically attract fans to the ground.

"We are planning to have academies in Uttarakhand and Kolkata. Next year, we hope to have five grounds in Delhi," Hakari said.

"If you organise the Olympics, I will come back and shoot. The first time I believed I could win was in India. I feel at home in India," Hakari said.

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