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## NEARBY



### Bars to be allowed on trial basis in Delhi

NEW DELHI  
Bars in hotels, restaurants, and clubs will be allowed to function on a trial basis in Delhi from September 9 to 30, stated a DDMA order.

NORTH ▶ PAGE 5

### Kafeel Khan demands reinstatement in service

JAIPUR  
Gorakhpur paediatrician Kafeel Khan on Thursday demanded his reinstatement in the U.P. medical service. He said he was facing "state-sponsored victimisation" for trying to expose corruption.

NEWS ▶ PAGE 9

## Gen. Rawat pushes for Quad

CDS cautions Pakistan against taking advantage of India-China tensions

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

India wants the Quad to become a system to "ensure freedom of navigation (FoN) and freedom of navigation operations (FONOPS)" in the Indian Ocean and around, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat said on Thursday, while highlighting the threat of a combined challenge from Pakistan and China on two fronts, and cautioning Pakistan against taking any advantage of the tensions with China.

"As far as Quad is concerned, we feel this is a good arrangement which will ensure that the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) and all other oceans around... there is complete FoN without fear of any other nation singularly trying to dominate the oceans," Gen. Rawat said at a U.S. India Strategic Partnership Forum, when asked about the Quad grouping consisting of India, Australia, Japan and the U.S.



As far as Quad is concerned, we feel this is a good arrangement which will ensure that the Indian Ocean Region and all other oceans around, there is complete FoN (freedom of navigation) without fear of any other nation singularly trying to dominate the oceans

GENERAL BIPIN RAWAT, CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF

"We are very keen to ensure that there is complete FoN on the seas and in the airspace above," he said. On the border situation, Gen. Rawat said the threat from Pakistan would be mainly in the form of proxy war but should any threat develop on the northern borders, the neighbour could take advantage and create trouble there. "Therefore, we have taken adequate precautions to ensure

that any such misadventure by Pakistan is thwarted and they are not able to succeed in their mission. But, in fact, they may suffer heavy losses should they attempt any misadventure," he said.

On China, Gen. Rawat said there were border management protocols signed from 1993 onwards that had been modified continuously. "But of late, we have been seeing some aggressive actions by the Chinese but we are capable of handling these in the best suitable way," he said, without making any specific comment on the ongoing standoff in Ladakh.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8  
NEGOTIATIONS THE WAY FORWARD, SAYS MEA ▶ PAGE 9

### India is best place to invest, says Modi

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday made a pitch for India as an investment destination and reliable player in global supply chains.

Delivering the keynote address at the U.S. India Strategic Partnership Forum via video link, Mr. Modi said nobody could have imagined when 2020 began that the year would turn out this way, with a global pandemic impacting everyone. Looking forward, he called for "ramping up our capacities, securing the poor, and future proofing our citizens".

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8



### N. Ravi is Chairman of Kasturi & Sons Limited

N. Ravi was elected Chairman of Kasturi & Sons, the holding company of the Hindu Group, at the meeting of the company's Board on September 3, 2020.

businesses. He had brought his considerable experience in the media business extending over five decades to lead the group's business strategy.

A former Editor-in-Chief of *The Hindu* and currently the Publisher of the group's various newspapers, Mr. Ravi succeeds N. Murali.

The Board placed on record its appreciation of Mr. Murali's sterling contribution in steering the company during the period of expansion and the creation of subsidiaries to sharpen the focus on specific publications and

## Relief for borrowers in moratorium case

Don't declare loan accounts as NPA till further orders, SC tells banks



The Supreme Court is examining if banks can charge compound interest.

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI  
The Supreme Court on Thursday directed banks that loan accounts in the clear till the expiry of the moratorium on August 31 should not be declared as non-performing assets (NPAs) till further orders.

A Bench, led by Justice

declared NPA till August 31, 2020, shall not be declared NPA till further orders".

The direction was triggered by an assurance from senior advocate Harish Salve, on behalf of the bankers, that "no account shall become NPA at least for a period of two months".

The order was passed amid apprehensions raised by individual borrowers and representatives of various commercial sectors on whether their loans would be declared NPAs on Sep-

tember 1, the day after the expiry of the moratorium.

The court is examining the question whether compound interest (interest on interest) should be charged on loans deferred during the moratorium period. The Bench is also examining the powers of the Centre and the National Disaster Management Authority to provide relief to borrowers, reeling under the financial effects of the pandemic.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

## Ready to roll



A worker cleaning a metro coach ahead of resumption of services, in New Delhi on Thursday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA (REPORT ON PAGE 2)

## SC orders removal of slums along railway tracks in Delhi

'There should be no interference, political or otherwise'

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has ordered the removal of about 48,000 slum clusters located in safety zones along railway tracks in Delhi within three months.

In one of the last orders delivered by a Bench led by Justice Arun Mishra, who retired on Wednesday, the court declared "no interference, political or otherwise, should be there" against their removal. It said any order of interim stay passed by any court against the removal of these encroachments shall be deemed ineffective.

The court also directed stakeholders to prepare a comprehensive plan for removal of *jhuggis* (slum clusters). The plan is to be executed in a phased manner.

A railway affidavit in the court said there is a "predominant presence" of slum dwellings along 140 km of rail tracks in Delhi. "Of this, about 70 km route length of track is affected by large *jhuggi-jhopri* clusters existing in close vicinity of the



A slum cluster next to a railway bridge in New Delhi. ■ FILE PHOTO

tracks. These clusters sum up to about 48,000 *jhuggis*, the August 31 court order said.

### Waste removal

The court further directed the Railways and the local authorities in Delhi to remove plastic waste and garbage piled up alongside the tracks within three months.

It ordered that a meeting of the Railways, Delhi government, municipal corporations and the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board be called next week. Work to remove the garbage should start immediately thereafter. The Railways shall bear 70% of the expenses and the rest will be spent by the Delhi government.

The court said the EPCA report and the reply filed by the Railways indicate "nothing has been done so far and waste is being piled up".

## Assam Rifles asked to shift base from Aizawl

Mizoram CM meets the force's DG

RAHUL KARMAKAR  
GUWAHATI

Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthanga has asked the Assam Rifles to shift its base from the heart of State capital Aizawl to Zokhawng about 15 km away at the earliest besides stepping up vigil along the border with Myanmar to check drug trafficking. One of the battalions of the Assam Rifles, India's oldest paramilitary force established in 1835 as the Char Levy, had moved to the State capital in 2019.

The Mizoram National Front government had in 1988 asked the Assam Rifles to shift from Aizawl after the killing of 12 civilians in an "encounter".

The party returned to power in 2018.

A Mizoram government spokesman said on Thursday that the issue of shifting was taken up a day earlier at a meeting between Mr. Zoramthanga and Lt. Gen. Sukhdeep Sangwan, the Director General of Assam Rifles (DGAR), besides easing the stand-off over the force's alleged violation of COVID-19 protocols and boy-

cott of the Independence Day celebration. The DGAR also met Mizoram's Chief Secretary Lalnunmawia Chuaungo over the ongoing cold war.

The stand-off between the Mizoram government and the Assam Rifles began on August 18, when 15 personnel of the force's 46th Battalion allegedly forced their way into the State ignoring COVID-19 safety protocols.

### Complaint to MHA

On August 24, Mr. Chuaungo wrote to the Home Ministry complaining about the alleged violation and the I-Day "boycott" by the paramilitary force.

Shifting of Assam Rifles bases from urban centres in the Northeast has been a contentious issue, as the paramilitary force is seen as a reminder of many a conflict.

A long-pending demand in Manipur was fulfilled in November 2004 when the Assam Rifles moved out of Imphal's Kangla Fort, from where Manipuri kings ruled for 2,000 years. The paramilitary force had occupied the fort for 113 years.

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# Life in Delhi Metro in Unlock 4.0: here's what will change

Thermal scanners, sanitisers, restricted entry-exit to be the new normal

## NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY Notice Inviting Bid

Bid Package No. CAO-CON-EPC-I-2020 Dated : 05.09.2020

RFP for construction of Important Bridge No. 391 with well foundation & open web steel girder (17X61.00m) over river Ghaghra between Chowka Ghat and Ghaghra Ghat Stations of the Gonda-Burhwal section of North Eastern Railway in Connection with construction of 3rd line on EPC mode.

The President of India represented by the Ministry of Railways, Chief Administrative Officer Con. North Eastern Railway (the "Authority"), having its principal office at Gorakhpur-273012 (India) is engaged in the development of railways and related infrastructure, and as part of this endeavour, the Authority has decided to undertake "Construction of Important Bridge No. 391 with well foundation & open web steel girder (17X61.00m) over river Ghaghra between Chowka Ghat and Ghaghra Ghat Stations of the Gonda-Burhwal section of North Eastern Railway in connection with construction of 3rd line" (the "Project") through Engineering, Procurement and Construction (the "EPC") Contract and has decided to carry out the bidding process for selection of a Bidder to whom the Project may be awarded. A brief description of the project may be seen in the Information Memorandum of the Project at the Authority's website (<https://ireps.gov.in>). Brief particulars of the Project are as follows:

**Name of the Project:-** Construction of Important Bridge No. 391 with well foundation & open web steel girder (17X61.00m) over river Ghaghra between Chowka Ghat and Ghaghra Ghat Stations of the Gonda-Burhwal section of North Eastern Railway in connection with construction of 3rd line, **Length in km :- 1.2880, Estimate Project Cost (In Rs.) :- Rs. 114.22,42,434.91** (One hundred fourteen crores twenty two lakhs forty two thousands four hundred thirty four and paise ninety one). The complete Bid document can be viewed/downloaded from official portal of the Railway website <https://ireps.gov.in> from 05.09.2020 to 03.11.2020 (upto 17.00 Hrs. IST). Bidder must submit its Financial Bid and Technical Bid at <https://ireps.gov.in> or before upto 11.00 hours IST, on 05.11.2020. Bids received online shall be opened on 08.11.2020 at 16.00 hours IST. Bid through any other mode shall not be entertained. However, Power of Attorney and Joint Bidding Agreement etc. shall be submitted physically by the Bidder on or before 05.10.2020 at 11.00 hours IST. Please note that the Authority reserves the right to accept or reject all or any of the Bids without assigning any reason whatsoever.

**Executive Engineer/Con. CPO/R/W-88** Gonda

About any passenger amenity complaint SMS on Mob. No.: 09794845955

Do Not Smoke Bid/Cigarette in train

SHINJINI GHOSH  
NEW DELHI

Occupying only alternate stations, mandatorily using smart cards instead of tokens, getting restricted access to enter and exit stations – these are just some of the changes that commuters have to adapt to once Delhi Metro opens its doors.

Services on the Delhi Metro is set to resume after over five months from September 7 in a graded manner with staggered timings. As a crowd control measure, each station across the network will have only one or a maximum of two entry and exit gates functional. On Monday, the Yellow Line (Sainyapur Badli to Huda City Centre) and the Rapid Metro Gurugram will be made operational with the metro running between 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. and from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

At each of the entry gates, thermal scanners and sanitisers have been put in place.

"Passengers having temperature or signs of COVID-19 will not be allowed to travel. They will be directed to report to the nearest medical centre," said metro officials.

Once inside the station, a commuter will have to follow the signs and marks, drawn across platforms to indicate social distancing measures.

**Lift and escalator rules**

Only two or three persons will be allowed inside a lift. For the escalators, people will have to stand on alter-

## When the gates open

### Protocol

Masks mandatory for all	Mandatory usage of smart cards	Foot-operated landing call switches in 16 stations
Thermal screening and sanitization	Alternate seating inside coaches	
No Trains will not stop at containment zones		

### Earmarked gates for entry/exit at major interchange stations

Station	Gate No.	Nearest landmark
Kashmere Gate	7 & 3	Kashmere Gate ISBT, GT Road and Shambhav Marg
Rajiv Chowk	7	Connaught Place A Block
New Delhi	1 & 5	Opposite NDLS and main station exit on Ajmeri Gate side
Central Secretariat	3	Boat Club
Yamuna Bank	1	Near metro station parking
Mandi House	1	Towards Himachal Bhawan
Hauz Khas	1	Sarvapriya Vihar
Botanical Garden	1(Entry) 3(Exit)	Captain Vijayant Thapar Marg
Anand Vihar	1	Towards Anand Vihar ISBT
Lajpat Nagar	1 & 5	Metro Parking and Central Market Lajpat Nagar

stations.

The officials said in case of non-compliance of guidelines, fines will be imposed on commuters under the relevant law. Several stations like Kashmere Gate, New Delhi, Rajiv Chowk, Central Secretariat, IGI Airport and Yamuna Bank will have a new feature – foot-operated landing call switch in lifts – said officials.

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) has advised commuters to take extra time of 10-15 minutes for their daily commute. While parking facilities at metro stations will be operational, feeder bus services will remain suspended until further notice, the DMRC said.

### For stations in Haryana

On the other hand, holding a meeting with the DMRC officials on the resumption of the service, Gurugram Deputy Commissioner Amit Khatri on Thursday said a supervisory official would be appointed for coordination with the local metro officials for smooth running of the trains.

Besides, a Nodal official will also be appointed for overall supervision.

Five of the metro stations on DMRC's Yellow Line fall within the jurisdiction of Gurugram. Mr. Khatri asked the DMRC officials to chalk out a plan to avoid the gathering of passengers.

Haryana Auto Chalak Sangathan State president Mahavir Singh, also present in the meeting, said there would be separate auto stands to pick up and drop the passengers.

nate steps for social distancing. In a bid to prevent chances of transmission of the virus, all commuters will be required to use smart cards instead of tokens. Metro officials said the facility to generate tokens at the Token Vending Machines have been disabled.

They also said commuters will be able to use the "Autope" system, which will help recharge smart cards automatically at the AFC (Automatic Fare Collection) gates, from September 7.

Another feature – pre-recorded audio and visual announcements inside the metro coaches will reinforce the need to wear masks at all times and maintain social distancing – will also be added. Several messages to raise awareness on

COVID-19 and the necessary protocols have also been added inside the coaches.

The dwell (stoppage) time of trains at stations will increase from 10-15 seconds to 20-25 seconds once the operations resume. At interchange stations, the stoppage time will be increased from 35-40 seconds to 55-60 seconds.

"This will be done to ensure commuters have enough time to board and alight," officials added.

### Imposition of fines

To ensure compliance of the new guidelines and travel protocol, a team of 800 officials and staff will also be deployed across stations. Monitoring through CCTV will also be done for crowd management inside the

mid-tier networking vehicular radio integrated with GPS device, 10 panic buttons, a display for the driver, hooter, strobe and a two-way audio communication device for driver and conductor," the government said.

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

Delhi Transport Minister Kailash Gahlot on Thursday inspected a command centre and buses, which have recently been installed with safety features like a panic button, CCTV cameras, and automatic vehicle locator (AVL) system, at the Raighat Bus Depot.

The government had decided earlier to upgrade the fleet of around 5,500 Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) and cluster buses to ensure safety and security of the passengers.

The government said the new features would make travel for women safer.

During the inspection, Mr. Gahlot said, "We are trying to bring into focus more pet-



Kailash Gahlot .

ty and unnoticed crimes faced by women commuters in the buses. Today, I have inspected the working of the command and control centre and I am glad that even the smallest instance of any crimes can be captured and recorded."

He also said the presence of bus marshals would help reduce crimes in buses.

"By November this year, all DTC and cluster buses will be fitted with 3 IP Cameras,

mid-tier networking vehicular radio integrated with GPS device, 10 panic buttons, a display for the driver, hooter, strobe and a two-way audio communication device for driver and conductor," the government said.

### Working of panic button

The panic buttons, when pressed by a passenger, driver or conductor in case of any emergency, will send in real-time an alert to the command and control centre. From here, the operator will filter the alerts and forward them to respective agencies such as police, fire department or ambulance service,

all of which can find the location of the bus with the help of GPS coordinates installed in the vehicles.

## Gahlot reviews installation of safety features in cluster and DTC buses

Transport Minister says all work to be completed by November

### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

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## CISF chalks out safety plan for its personnel and commuters

Entry to be disallowed if number of passengers exceeds limit

### SAURABH TRIVEDI

NEW DELHI

After the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) announced that it will resume its services from September 7, the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has issued a Standing Operating Procedure (SOP) for its personnel on Thursday.

A senior CISF officer said the primary concern is health and safety of their personnel, DMRC employees, shopkeepers and the commuters. The CISF has prepared a Business Continuity Plan to ensure the safety and security of those at the metro stations. They said they will deploy personnel at the entry gates.

The CISF officer said queuing areas have been marked at the security points. He said a distance of two metres shall be maintained between the frisking and line-up points.

**One-metre distance**  
A distance of one metre shall be maintained between passengers waiting at the security point. In case of any suspicious baggage, the passengers will be asked to open their belongings.

The CISF instructed all personnel to wear a regular uniform with full sleeves, gloves and masks.

Friskers and X-BIS screeners should additionally wear face shield/visor to protect



A scene at Rajiv Chowk metro station during a preview on Thursday of the new travel protocols put in place by the DMRC. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

**The frisker shall continuously monitor the door-frame metal detector and simultaneously profile the passenger. Frisking shall be done only in case the security personnel have reasonable doubts.**

### BUSINESS CONTINUITY PLAN BY CISF

passenger. Frisking shall be done only in case the security personnel have reasonable doubts. Contactless frisking shall be carried out by using an extended hand-held metal detector at a minimum distance of 2.5 centimetres," reads the plan.

The CISF instructed all personnel to wear a regular uniform with full sleeves, gloves and masks.

Friskers and X-BIS screeners should additionally wear face shield/visor to protect

their face especially eyes from exposure. The personnel shall thoroughly clean their uniforms daily after completion of duties. All personnel must follow the new uniform code issued from time to time, said an officer, adding that sufficient PPEs at all stations must be kept reserve at the CCTV rooms for handling suspected passengers and their belongings.

### Word to passengers

Under the CISF safety plan, passengers have been advised to refrain from touching any surface inside the metro stations or trains.

Frequent sanitisation of station premises to be carried out with appropriate techniques. Security equipment and fixtures at security points, including baggage checking tables, should be sanitised every 30 minutes.

The CISF instructed all personnel to wear a regular uniform with full sleeves, gloves and masks.

Friskers and X-BIS screeners should additionally wear face shield/visor to protect

## JNU student beaten up in hostel

Najeeb was allegedly beaten up in the same building

### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

A JNU student was allegedly beaten up by a group of 16 students in his hostel room on Thursday. A complaint has been filed at Vasant Kunj police station.

The Mahi-Mandavi hostel where Mr. Pandey was allegedly attacked was the same hostel where Najeeb Ahmed was allegedly attacked by a group of students in October 2016, before he went missing.

Mr. Pandey claimed that the students attacked him at 1.30 a.m. at his Mahi-Mandavi hostel room without any provocation. He alleged they were "heavily drunk" and told the police that he could identify some of his attackers by face and knew four of them by name.

"I spent the entire night in the hospital, got my MLC done and then came to the police station to file a complaint. The police, finally, filed an FIR after making me wait for several hours. I appeal to the Delhi police to investigate the case and punish the culprits at the earliest," Mr. Pandey said.

The ABVP added that it is absurd to blame the ABVP for such unthoughtful incidents and if something really happened, then the university administration must conduct a fair inquiry. "Any further allegations with an intention to defame ABVP to will lead to legal course of action," it said.

The All India Students' Association (AISA) said that

Mr. Pandey was an activist with their organisation and was attacked as has always raised his voice against any anti-student policy. It alleged that he had been targeted before as well for his views.

## IN BRIEF



# लोक जनशक्ति पार्टी



श्री पशुपति कुमार पट्टनायक  
श्री चिरग पस्वान  
श्री महेश्वर सिंह कैसान  
श्री जगत् सिंह

श्रीजाती जुतुल सिंह  
श्री राज कुमार लाह  
श्री राज तिवारी  
श्री शाहजहां अहमद कैसानी

“आओ बनायें  
नया बिहार, युवा बिहार  
चलो चलें  
युवा बिहारी के साथ ”



[ गो लड़ रहे हैं हम पर राज करने के लिए  
और हम लड़ रहे हैं बिहार पर नाज़ू करने के लिए ]  
धर्म ना जात - करे सबकी बात

## Probe sought into lynching

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GUWAHATI

The Assam Human Rights Commission (AHRC) has directed the District Magistrate of Karimganj district to probe the mob lynching of three Bangladeshi nationals on July 18.

In an order on August 25, AHRC member N.K. Deka sought a magisterial inquiry into the circumstances that led to the death of the three who had allegedly intruded Bogrijan village near the India-Bangladesh border to steal cattle.

## Kejriwal trying to exploit virus crisis: Amarinder

Punjab CM says AAP worker held for circulating misleading video post; party denies he is a member

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHANDIGARH

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Thursday hit out at his Delhi counterpart Arvind Kejriwal, accusing him of trying to exploit the COVID crisis to instigate people in Punjab's villages, which have witnessed a spurt in fake news and provocative videos. At least one video-post found to have emanated from abroad, most likely Pakistan, was allegedly propagated here by an active work-

er of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

The Punjab AAP unit, however, denied that the person in question was a member of the party.

"AAP's Amarinder Singh has been arrested and is being questioned to ascertain who motivated him to circulate the outrageous post of a dead body to mislead the people of Punjab into believing that organs of dead corona patients were being removed by the Punjab health depart-

ment," said the Chief Minister.

**'Endangering safety'**  
The Chief Minister said the video-post propagated by the AAP worker was seen to be exhorting and provoking people not to cooperate with health authorities, thus endangering the health and safety of the citizens of the State.

"Such rumours are provoking a section of the community to resist proper med-

ical care which needs to be provided to all COVID-affected citizens, which is a clear case of a deadly criminal conspiracy against the people of the State who are already suffering due to the pandemic," said Captain Amarinder Singh, in a statement.

Capt. Amarinder said Mr. Kejriwal's announcement in the midst of the shocking viral campaign, asking AAP workers to go around villages and streets of Punjab with oxymeters to check people's ox-

ygen levels, raised serious questions on the role of his party in the conspiracy to undermine the Punjab government's efforts to keep the pandemic under check and save the lives of the people.

"The Delhi Chief Minister's decision could have grave repercussions for Punjab's security and integrity," he said. Capt. Amarinder asked the Delhi CM to stay out of Punjab and focus on managing COVID in his own State.

## May take 2 months to kill Assam well fire: Minister

OIL to divert gas to control the blaze

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GUWAHATI

Assam's Industry and Commerce Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary said the well-killing operation at the Baghjan blowout site in Tinsukia district may take another two months as Oil India Limited (OIL) has decided to partially divert the natural gas for controlling the fire at the well head.

Well No 5 at Baghjan, close to the Dibrugarh National Park, had a blowout, or uncontrolled escape of gas at very high pressure, on May 27. The well caught fire on June 9 and has been burning since despite having been capped on August 17 after two failed attempts.

"The operation to kill the blowout well at Baghjan will take another six to eight weeks. A team of experts with a sophisticated machine is expected to arrive soon," OIL spokesperson Tridiv Hazarika said from the exploration major's headquarters at Dibrugarh district.

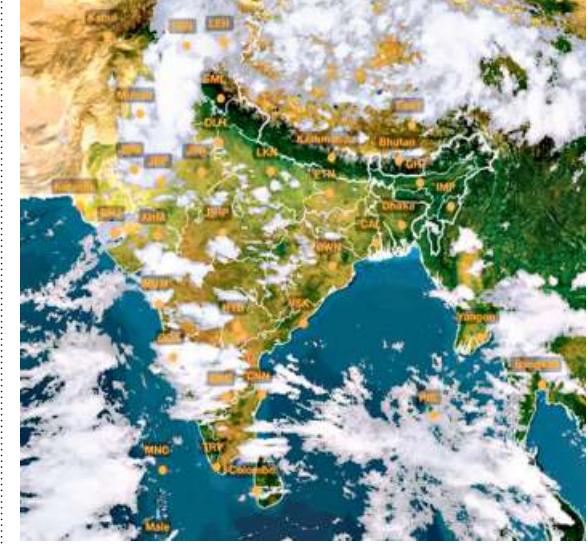
"This will help in reducing well head pressure for the snubbing operation planned," he added.

OIL officials said experts and a machine for diverting the gas were expected within three weeks to control the fire at the blowout site.

The operation at the blowout well has been outsourced to a Gujarat-based firm.

## WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE &amp; AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



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

**Forecast for Friday:** Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, central Maharashtra, south Konkan & Goa, coastal & south interior Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal and Kerala

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	3...35.5...	26.0	20.0	Kozhikode	6.6...	31.4...	24.2
Ahmedabad	—	33.8...	25.5	Kurnool	—	34.4...	24.3
Aizawl	2...	28.2...	20.2	Lucknow	—	35.1...	26.1
Allahabad	—	34.7...	25.3	Madurai	0.3...	34.5...	24.6
Bengaluru	29.8...	28.2...	20.5	Mangaluru	58.1...	30.3...	23.0
Bhopal	—	31.7...	23.8	Mumbai	—	32.7...	25.4
Bhubaneswar	1.6...	34.9...	25.6	Mysuru	1.5...	29.7...	21.5
Chandigarh	—	32.0...	28.0	New Delhi	—	34.8...	27.5
Chennai	4...	34.1...	26.3	Patna	—	35.6...	27.5
Coimbatore	23.5...	33.0...	22.0	Port Blair	3.8...	29.5...	25.4
Dehradun	—	32.3...	25.8	Puducherry	0.7...	33.0...	24.8
Gangtok	10.6...	22.2...	17.5	Pune	0.2...	33.1...	20.4
Goa	19.8...	31.4...	23.5	Raipur	—	33.7...	24.8
Guwahati	6.6...	35.8...	24.3	Ranchi	—	30.8...	23.0
Hubballi	—	28.0...	22.0	Shillong	—	24.5...	18.0
Hyderabad	—	32.7...	24.3	Shimla	—	24.3...	20.4
Imphal	—	32.1...	26.1	Srinagar	—	31.4...	17.3
Jaipur	—	31.8...	26.3	Thiruvananthapuram	10.1...	32.1...	23.9
Kochi	32.6...	30.8...	24.0	Tiruchi	0.2...	33.9...	25.0
Kohima	—	24.2...	19.0	Vijayawada	—	33.9...	26.4
Kolkata	1.2...	34.4...	26.1	Visakhapatnam	5.6...	33.5...	26.4

(Rainfall in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO	NO	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE	Yesterday
Ahmedabad	15	38	27	7.3	...92	...	
Bengaluru	10	33	56	—	...84	...	
Chennai	24	15	50	.95	—	...	
Delhi	31	49	79	.50	.130	...	
Hyderabad	.5	51	.8	.57	.73	...	
Kolkata	.5	29	54	.22	.27	...	
Lucknow	.6	23	22	.15	.139	...	
Mumbai	16	10	—	32	.102	...	
Pune	58	24	.58	.55	.56	...	
Visakhapatnam	.7	41	.20	.47	.63	...	

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Agra, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 168 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Kozhikode, Kerala recorded a healthy AQI score of 11

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

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

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

PM2.5 &amp; 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

## 2 policemen suspended after clash in UP's Ballia

Incident a fallout of 'custodial beating'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
LUCKNOW

A senior police officer and his gunner were among those injured after villagers, angered by the alleged custodial beating of a local in Ballia district, clashed with the police on Thursday.

A police outpost in-charge and a head constable were suspended for negligence in connection with the incident of assault, said Ballia police.

Both sides came to the local outpost and were questioned.

Pannal Rajbhar alleged that the outpost in-charge "misbehaved" with him and "thrashed" him in custody, said SP Ballia.

held up traffic.

Fifteen persons were detained in connection with the violence, said Ballia police.

Devendra Nath, SP, Ballia, said that a woman, Ramdulari, had submitted an application asking for the eviction of her brother-in-law's son Pananal Rajbhar from a room she had given out to him.

A police outpost in-charge and a head constable were suspended for negligence in connection with the incident of assault, said Ballia police.

Visuals from the Rasra area of Ballia showed angry villagers chase police personnel and pelt them with stones. The protesters also indulged in vandalism and

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### PUBLIC NOTICE

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

This public notice is in reply to the public notice dated 20th Aug 2020 in Dainik Jagran and The Hindu issued on behalf of Sh. Vishal Kumar S/o sh. Birendra Sharma. It is to inform general public that the contents of Public Notice dated 20th Aug 2020 are false and fabricated and was issued with the fraudulent intent to mislead the general public.

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Public notice is hereby informed that the DDA approved Structural Engineers, having atleast ten years' experience in structural audit of buildings, its restoration work. Interested firms are requested to submit their EOI to the Secretary, The Sethi Vihar CGHS Ltd, Sector 18A, Plot 4, Dwarka, New Delhi - 110078

for more details visit the website and then submit the proposal.

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Timings  
DELHI

FRIDAY, SEP. 04	
RISE 06:01	SET 18:39
RISE 20:08	SET 07:38
SATURDAY, SEP. 05	
RISE 06:02	SET 18:38
RISE 20:38	SET 08:29
SUNDAY, SEP. 06	
RISE 06:02	SET 18:37
RISE 21:08	SET 09:22

Delhi Weather	max min
Delhi City	35 28
Safdarjang	35 28
Palam	36 28

**Delhi Pali Today**  
33°C One or two spell of light rain likely at some places with cloudy sky and light to moderate winds.

**Delhi Pali Tomorrow**  
34°C Comfortable morning with light winds. Day would be slight humid with chances of light rain.

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**IN BRIEF**

**Court sends Sharjeel Imam to judicial custody**

NEW DELHI A Delhi court on Thursday sent JNU student Sharjeel Imam to judicial custody till October 1 in a case related to north-east Delhi riots. Imam, arrested by the police on August 25, has been booked allegedly being part of a premeditated conspiracy in connection to the riots during protests against the CAA. PTI

**Eight illegal buildings demolished by SDMC**

NEW DELHI Up to eight properties in South Delhi were demolished on Thursday by the South Delhi Municipal Corporation. Buildings in Chattarpur Enclave, Khirki Extension, Panchsheel Vihar, Greater Kailash-II, Lado Sarai and Toot Sarai were demolished, leaving no scope for further unauthorised construction, the SDMC said.

**Woman, partner held for trying to kill her husband**

NEW DELHI A 25-year-old woman and her partner have been arrested for allegedly trying to kill the former's husband in west Delhi's Rajouri Garden, the police said on Thursday. During interrogation, the accused allegedly told the police that he was having an affair with the woman.

**BJP indulging in corruption in garb of landfill work: AAP**  
Party spending ₹5 crore per month

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI The AAP on Thursday alleged that the BJP-ruled civic body is indulging in corruption in the name of reducing the height of Bhalswa landfill and has been lying to people about it.

"On August 30, a councilor from Jahangirpuri asked for a report regarding the estimated cost to reduce the height of Bhalswa landfill. The report shows that the BJP has spent ₹5 crore per month to reduce the height of the landfill. It also shows

# With record tests, COVID-19 cases continue upward trend in Capital

2,737 cases reported in past 24 hours; it isn't a second wave of infection, says Jain

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

With a record number of tests being done, Delhi witnessed the highest number of new COVID-19 cases in more than two months with 2,737 cases being reported in the past 24 hours, according to a health bulletin released by the Delhi government on Thursday. The total number of cases stood at 1,82,306.

Delhi conducted the highest number of COVID-19 tests in 24 hours – 32,834 – since the virus outbreak in the city, according to Thursday's bulletin.

Also, 19 more deaths have been reported, taking the total number of deaths to 4,500.

Of the total cases, 1,60,114 people have recovered and there are 17,692 active cases.

Thursday also witnessed an increase in multiple other parameters – number of ac-



A health worker conducts rapid antigen test at Jahangirpuri in north Delhi. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

tive cases, positive people under home isolation, and people admitted at hospitals.

**Case fatality ratio**  
Health Minister Satyendar Jain on Thursday said that case fatality ratio is 0.75 in Delhi, which is considered very good. "Yesterday, around 30,000 tests were

done. Today around 35,000 tests are done, we are trying to increase the tests," he said.

"When we find a [COVID-19] positive case and isolate the person, she will not infect 10 more people. Else, they will infect more people. You might think that cases are increasing, but after a while it will come down,"

## Virus spread

Total number of COVID-19 cases	Total deaths
1,82,306	4,500
New cases in the past 24 hours	New deaths
2,737	19

SOURCE: DELHI GOVERNMENT HEALTH BULLETIN

the Minister said.

Mr. Jain also said that it is not a second wave of infection in Delhi. "We say there is a second wave when the cases end and after a month or two, cases start showing up again," Mr. Jain said.

When asked about availability of beds, he said that about 70% beds are vacant. "Some people ask where was Satyendar Jain admitted and want to get admitted there. This is not right. There are a lot of hospitals where you can get treatment," he added.

# Bars to be allowed to function on trial basis from September 9

Establishments to operate with 50% seating capacity: DDMA

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Bars within containment zones will remain closed.

Adequate number of workers have to be deployed by the licensee for ensuring social distancing norms and only asymptomatic staffers will be allowed on duty on the premises. Employees have to wear gloves, face masks and maintain hygiene, such as frequent washing of hands, use of sanitiser etc., as per the guidelines.

**Warned of action**

The DDMA also warned hotels, restaurants and clubs of strict action, including cancellation of their licence, if they fail to comply with the directions issued by them. "Effective and frequent sanitisation within premises shall be done at regular intervals with particular focus on lavatories, drinking and hand washing areas. Rooms, other service areas, seats/tables will be sanitised each time a cus-

omer leaves," the SoP read.

Confederation of Indian Alcoholic Beverage Companies (CIABC) director general Vinod Giri said, "The CIABC welcomes Delhi government's decision to permit bars, restaurants, hotels and clubs to serve liquor. We have repeatedly requested for it and are glad to see the government yet again demonstrating its progressive and business-friendly outlook. Though this sector accounts for less than 10% of liquor sales, its rejuvenation is a major psychological milestone on road back to normalcy in Delhi. In our estimates, 15,000 cases of liquor are locked up in inventory with bars and restaurants, and liquidation of that will be great relief to the hospitality sector. It will also help in dealing with the livelihood crisis, which the workers were facing due to closure of this particular business."

# HC allows breath analyser test via tube process for air traffic controllers

Machine once used on a person won't be reused before 12 hours

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Thursday allowed breath analyser test (BAT) through tube process for air traffic controllers (ATCs) that was previously suspended in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Justice Navin Chawla allowed a plea by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), seeking modification of an earlier order and to implement the medical report of Directorate General of Medical Services (DGMS).

As per the DGMS medical board's recommendation, one machine once used to test a person shall not be reused for the next 12 hours.

The High Court said the



interest of ATCs and passengers has to be balanced and noted that BAT is being presently conducted on pilots also in a restricted manner and the medical report has been given by those who are experts in their fields.

The DGCA's application was filed in pending petition by the Air Traffic Controllers' Guild (India) which had sought direction to DGCA and the Airport Authority of India (AAI) to temporarily

suspend BAT through the current tube process to prevent further spread of the virus.

**Efficiency of BAT**

The DGCA said in pursuance to the High Court's earlier order, DGMS (Air) had convened a meeting with representatives from the DGCA and the AAI to formulate the alternative protocol to conduct BAT and it was concluded that BAT is the most efficient and reliable form of detecting alcohol in the breath of a person.

It said the other methods, such as the testing of blood and urine are neither considered to be practical nor there is any provision in any Civil Aviation Requirements (CARs) till date.

# Tepid response to bar licence renewal in Gurugram

Only 62 applications until now while the city has 280 bars and hotels serving liquor

ASHOK KUMAR

GURUGRAM

The Haryana government's decision to allow renewal of bar licences has evoked lukewarm response from the hospitality industry in Gurugram so far with just 60-odd applications received for the reissuance. The Millennium City has around 280 bars and hotels serving liquor.

Haryana Excise and Taxation Commissioner has allowed the renewal of bar licences in the State from Tuesday. However, only 62 bar owners have applied for the renewal of licence. Hotels with ratings of three stars and above were allowed to serve liquor in rooms through an order on July 16 and their licences were renewed, but were kept inoperative.

Deputy Excise and Taxation Commissioner (Excise, East) Aruna Singh told *The*



The Haryana Excise and Taxation Commissioner has allowed the renewal of bar licences in the State from Tuesday..

■ FILE PHOTO: V.V. KRISHNAN

ple of days.

National Restaurant Association of India's Gurugram chapter head Inderjeet Banga expressed apprehensions that around 50% bar owners might find it infeasible to operate due to high rentals and surrender their licences.

"The bars have been shut for five months and their opening now does not guarantee the return of the business. So most of the bars owners are finding it difficult to survive at the current high rentals. We need the support of landlords for three months," said Mr. Banga, who runs 'Pirates of Grill' at a shopping mall on Mehrauli-Gurugram Road. He said the government had offered 20% rebate to bar owners in case of upfront payment of licence fee for two quarters and was also considering waiver of fee for the ongoing month.

# Sub-inspector records SHO's corrupt practices; inquiry ordered

'SHO refused to call prime suspect for questioning in case'

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

In the DD entry, the SI has narrated an incident saying that he had called a suspect in a case of wrongful restraint but right after, he received a call from the SHO asking him not to trouble the suspect.

The SI allegedly told the SHO that he was the prime suspect but the SHO allegedly refused to call him for questioning. Later, the SI alleged that he got to know that a head constable had met the suspect's mother and took

findings.

In the DD entry, the SI has narrated an incident saying that he had called a suspect in a case of wrongful restraint but right after, he received a call from the SHO asking him not to trouble the suspect.

The SI allegedly told the SHO that he was the prime suspect but the SHO allegedly refused to call him for questioning. Later, the SI alleged that he got to know that a head constable had met the suspect's mother and took

₹32,000 from her. The HC also allegedly told the suspect's mother that he was the SHO's aide and that the sub-inspector is not important.

**Disciplinary action**

The SI said that he is aware that the SHO might recommend disciplinary action against him but he has no other option than putting it on record for senior officers to look at. He said that he feels "mentally tortured" and that other investigating officers feel the same.

# Health data management policy: plea on extension of consultation dismissed

Decide on representation made by petitioner: HC to Centre

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Thursday declined to entertain a petition seeking extension of the 15-day consultation process on Health Data Management Policy (HDMP), but asked the Centre to decide on a representation made on the issue by the petitioner.

A Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice Prateek Jalan said if such procedural aspects are made complicated, the government may not come out with policies.

"Don't make the procedural aspects so cumbersome or complicated that the government is incentivised against coming out with policies," the High Court said.

Petition by Satendra Singh, a doctor, to extend the notice period of the consultation of the 'National Digital Health Mission (NDHM): HDMP' till restrictions or the lockdown is in place under the Disaster Management Act for COVID-19 pandemic subsist, or for a minimum period of 60 days.

Dr. Singh had sent a representation to the Centre highlighting concerns about the unreasonably short deadline and inaccessible and exclusionary nature of the consultation for the 'NDHM: HDMP'.

The draft policy is part of the digital health ecosystem under the NDHM announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Independence Day, the plea said. Under it, "every Indian citizen will get a health

ID, which will be a repository of all health-related information of a person, such as medical tests, previous prescriptions, diagnosis, treatments, historical health records," the plea said.

"Even though the policy is currently at a draft stage, the Respondents [Centre] have reportedly already issued 55,700 health IDs in less than two weeks," the petition stated. It said that NDHM and its draft HDMP involve several complex issues, which require expertise in multiple disciplines.

"The hasty manner in which the public consultation is being conducted also shows complete disregard for the fundamental rights of persons with disabilities," it said.

The court directed that the amount be deposited within four weeks.

The petitioner, Dilip Kumar, had challenged the

construction of two additional floors in the building in question and had sought directions to the authorities to take action in accordance with law against the same.

He had claimed that he had sent complaints to the local bodies and the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) seeking action against the alleged unauthorised construction, but nothing was done and therefore, he moved the High Court.

"Further to the collapse of a span of under-construction elevated corridor on six-laning of NH-248A from Rajiv Chowk to Sohna on August 22, the NHAI has taken strict action against the concessionaire i.e. M/s Rajiv Chowk - Sohna Highway Pvt. Ltd. and its promoters i.e. M/s Oriental Structural Engineers Pvt. Ltd...the concessionaire has been debarred from participating in any NHAI bids (directly or in association) involving major structural works until they demonstrate reliable construction methodologies/designs and adequate safety measures at site; and demonstrate that such type of accidents do not occur in other parts of their works," said a statement by the NHAI.</



## Loyalty test

The Congress should seek to benefit from the agenda of the reformists instead of fighting it

**T**he concerns regarding the functioning of the Congress raised by 23 of its senior leaders appear to have been validated by the hostility generated against them by a coterie around the Nehru-Gandhi family. Rahul Gandhi, the de-facto decision-maker behind his mother, has always claimed to be in favour of open discussions and collective leadership in the party. Far from living up to that claim, he led the coterie in questioning the timing and intent of the reformists who did little more than echo his own views about the party's problems. Mr. Gandhi, often accused by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of ill intent and bad timing that help the enemies of India whenever he raised valid questions about the country's economy, national security and social harmony, must be the last person to allow the use of the same toolkit to settle an internal debate in the party. No one, least of all well-wishers of the Congress party, would find it difficult to disagree with the issues raised by the party leaders such as the erosion of the party base, particularly among the youth, a drift caused by the absence of a full-time president, the dismantling of all forums for discussions in the party, concentration of power, and the disuse of the merit-cum-consensus method of appointments within the party. While the Congress is crumbling, the BJP is advancing its contentious agenda, these leaders pointed out.

Mr. Gandhi thinks that a coterie undermined his fight against the BJP in 2019. Right or wrong, obsessing about that thought would further erode his capacity. He has shown the courage of conviction to consistently articulate a critique of the Narendra Modi government. But articulation is only the beginning, and mobilisation is the name of the game, and the Congress needs to get its act together. The notion of a conflict between loyalists and dissenters is being peddled by a gang of self-serving leaders to explain the churn in the Congress. The real dialectic is between reform and status quo. Those who may not play the obsequious roles conventionally scripted for a Congress leader are Mr. Gandhi's greatest allies if he were to push for the party's revival. It is possible that reformists also have a career agenda, but that is no sin in politics. Mr. Gandhi's whole idea of opening the doors of the Congress to fresh talent and new energy would ring hollow if people such as Shashi Tharoor, Kapil Sibal and Manish Tewari are put to an archaic loyalty test that clears the crooked as easily as it bars the upright. It is such misplaced understanding of loyalty that drove mass leaders such as Mamata Banerjee and Sharad Pawar out of the party. It is time Mr. Gandhi appropriated their agenda and led the reformists rather than fight them.

## Partial relief

AGR dues should not be allowed to impair customer-centric investments in telecom

**T**he Supreme Court's decision this week to allow their adjusted gross revenue (AGR) dues to the government comes as a partial relief to the debt-laden industry. This will give the older providers, especially Vodafone Idea, the crucial breathing space to figure out how they can reconfigure their business plans to stem the relentless flow of operational losses and garner the resources to make the sizeable annual payments to the Centre over the next decade. However, in setting a time frame, the Court, which acknowledged the troubled landscape facing the lynchpin industry, seemed to brush aside both the companies' requests for a longer horizon as well as the Centre's well-deliberated recommendation for a 20-year repayment period, merely terming it "excessive". The government having realised the enormity of the problem and its potential for significantly disruptive consequences to not just the industry but the larger economy as a whole had thrashed out the matter at various levels, including within the Cabinet, before submitting its view. Without naming any company, the Centre had made clear that were the AGR dues to be sought at one go, it could well push a service provider into insolvency proceedings. Such a turn could potentially impact millions of subscribers, with the surviving operators finding their capacities stretched to handle a sudden surge of mobile portability requests while simultaneously maintaining quality of service.

The Indian Banks' Association (IBA) had also explained its position in seeking a judicious and non-disruptive outcome. The IBA represented the various lenders, who have much at stake given that industry debt including that which is under resolution as part of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code process amounts to over ₹4-lakh crore. The Court, in its order, did take cognisance of the multiple threats to the industry's well-being: the depressed levels of average revenue per user; the fraught competitive landscape where a new entrant's tariffs had triggered a price war hurting revenues; a surge in data usage even as the price of such data plans remained almost unviable low; and an overall diminishing ability to continue to invest in capital spending for infrastructure upgradation and new technology including the upcoming adoption of 5G networks. While the companies themselves are yet to decide on whether to seek a curative review of the latest verdict, the future of India's ambitious dreams of enabling a pan-Indian digital ecosystem that seamlessly connects the remotest rural inhabitant with a plethora of e-enabled services hinge on ensuring the industry stays healthy and vibrant. For that, the government needs to look beyond the AGR issue and reimagine the way it prices and seeks to monetise the precious yet immutable public asset of radio spectrum in future.

# A politics of avoidance that must be questioned

The dropping of Question Hour, which helps the government feel the nation's pulse, goes against the grain of democracy



HAMID ANSARI

special significance in the proceedings of Parliament since it covers every aspect of government activity, domestic and foreign. The government of the day is thus helped to feel the pulse of the nation and give the public a view of the performance of both of its elected representatives and of the Ministers. Those who fumble are rarely forgotten.

The Rules of Procedure in both Houses prescribe the operational details. These include, *inter alia*, the notice period, conditions of admissibility, balloting, and a host of other procedural or regulatory prescriptions. Questions are addressed to a specific Minister of the government and can seek oral answers marked by an asterisk or a written one. The veracity of the answers given are matters of utmost importance and rules permit correction of inaccuracies by the Minister concerned. Copies of answers given are available to Members at the Notice Office before the start of the day's proceedings as also on the websites.

### Seeking the specifics

Since questions are generally 'pointed, specific and confined to one issue only', they tend to elicit specific information from the government; our parliamentary history records instances of answers given to questions leading to wider debates, inquiries, and even administrative scandals. Even otherwise the information so made available adds to public information essential to informed debates



on matters of interest or concern. The advantage to the government is that its position in the matter is authoritatively explained. By the same logic, incomplete or unsatisfactory answers induce resort to other forms of accountability mentioned above.

For this reason, Members of Parliament and the interested citizens attach much importance to questions in Parliament and have been taken aback by the peremptory announcement in parliamentary bulletins this week that in the forthcoming session of Parliament (monsoon session that starts on September 14) that 'there will be no Question Hour'. The stated reason for this is the situation created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Citing the pandemic is jarring

The gravity of the situation resulting from the spread of COVID-19 continues to be experienced by people the world over and by every citizen of the country. New disciplines have descended on us and we have experienced new norms and styles of existence, learnt to live with total and partial lock-

downs, and have moved from no activity to partial restoration of essential activities. Procedures of social distancing and the wearing of protective masks have been imbibed. Countries far and near have brought forth their individual response patterns; some of these show that legislative bodies have continued to function with new sets of 'dos and don'ts'. Finally, though belatedly, some of our State Assemblies took the initiative and now the Parliament of India has followed suit. The public has welcomed this.

In this context, the deletion of 'Question Hour' from the announced agenda of the day is baffling and has understandably been viewed as curtailment of the right to question the government. Subsequent clarifications have stated that the Unstarred Questions will continue to be received and answered and that the change will relate only to Starred Questions and the Supplementary questions emanating from them that require to be answered orally.

### Exploring options

The purpose of a Starred Question is to explore the intent and the alleged illegality or procedural lacuna that the government decision in question has sought to camouflage in the form of words and expressions used in the answer. The Oral Supplementary questions seek to unravel these. It is a form of verbal gymnastics not unknown in daily life. Perhaps greater sensitivity to parliamentary and public senti-

ments could have been displayed by exploring procedural options that would retain the substance if not the complete form of a Starred Question. One way could be to admit the Starred Question, reply to it in a set of prepositions and allow the Member concerned to table in writing the permitted number of follow up questions also to be answered in writing the following day.

Were these options explored and discussed with leaders of political parties and groups? The Chairman and the Speaker unquestionably have the final word on matters relating to the proceedings of their respective Houses. This can be, and has been supplemented, on occasions, by using a Motion to develop a consensus 'on matters of general public interest'. Was this explored on this occasion? And, finally, what public purpose is served when senior members of the ruling party describe the Opposition expression of concern as 'a fake narrative' since 'extraordinary times justify extraordinary measures'?

The test of a functioning democracy is its ability to face crises – social, economic, political – and seek correctives premised on institutions of democracy. A resort to what has been called 'the politics of avoidance' does not help the process. Executive accountability upfront cannot be allowed to become a thing of the past.

Hamid Ansari is the former Vice President of India, 2007-2017

# Mind the gaps in India's health care digital push

While the digitisation of health-care data could help, what many Indians face are unaddressed issues in the health sector



P. JOY OOMMEN & K.R. ANTONY

**T**he Independence Day address of the Prime Minister launching the National Digital Health Mission (NDHM) during an unprecedented novel coronavirus pandemic crisis, caught everyone's attention. Yet, despite all his eloquence it was not clear to many what to expect in substantial terms. 'Going Digital' has no doubt been a magic phrase that has often been repeated in multiple contexts in the country, and as yet another 'Mission' for the health sector, they waited for more news to emerge. On August 27 we learnt that the Ministry of Health was expecting feedback and public comments on the draft by September 3. Since then the date has been extended by another week. Even that leaves insufficient time for discussions among medical practitioners, hospital managements, associations of various stakeholders in the health-care sector and other members of civil society for any meaningful feedback.

### Some progress

There is no disputing the premise that capturing data relating to patients and its digitising could help patients, the doctors who attend to them and the health-care facilities where they seek treatment. In fact many States have already achieved some breakthroughs in these areas with the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and, subsequently, National Health Mission through the IT network connected to most public health centres even in tribal areas. Personal health data are generated by name till the primary health centre level but not transmitted to higher levels except aggregated numerical data. Some patients get referred to stan-

dalone specialists or tertiary hospitals or diagnostic facilities and then they go back to their original practitioner or health centre. They carry back with them hard copies of the reports or soft copies on their smartphones. Most practitioners, especially specialists without data entry staff, often extract only the relevant notes and return the hard copies. All larger health facilities generate and store computerised patient data, also for planning treatment, procurement of medicines and consumables.

Most patients avail medical services from doctors or health-care centres in their own State. But when they seek advanced care in other States or migrate to another State have they not been deprived of medical care? Was it then for want of past records or for want of a national network? Or, for want of a national policy on the issue? Ironically, many tertiary hospitals and medical colleges care little for diagnostic reports from peripheral centres or even the prescriptions of previous doctors. So what happens to all the cards created under the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana and the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana? Currently, for pan-India portability or for determining insurance cover, these cards were good enough without the need for the entire medical history at any centralised platform.

Without pretending that all is hunky dory now, one can still ask this: Is there a serious problem with the way patient-related information is managed today? Health is under the State-list subject. So did any State government ask for a national-level digitisation plan to help it in its tasks? Has there been a problem of not getting real-time State-wise aggregated data to the government of India? Have any associations of doctors or civil society organisations asked for digitisation?

Let us not brush aside the benefits from a plan of virtually Aadhaar-like proportions to digitise all

data relating to all patients available not just with government and private hospitals but also with diagnostic centres, laboratories and individual practitioners of all systems of medicine.

### The contours

The elegance of that proposed 'architecture' can send anyone into a daze. An IT consulting firm has been engaged to build a National Health Stack and a registry of over eight lakh doctors, 10 lakh pharmacists and over 60,000 hospitals is under preparation. At a later stage, online pharmacies, insurance companies and other stakeholders will be added to the 'Stack'. The Strategy Document states upfront that 'Your data is safe and confidential and would be stored only locally', 'Only anonymised data will be shared upwards, and your consent will be taken every time for sharing any personal identifiable information'.

Among the many benefits listed are that it 'would help patients save the burden of carrying medical reports to a specialist or other hospitals'. One can also avail Telemedicine support from renowned specialists if required. And it will be a cakewalk to get your hospital bills settled with insurance cover under government schemes or the higher value policies purchased by you. Overall, the scheme appears to promise an end-to-end, hands-free Digital experience.

The scheme also intends to replace existing data generation systems with a new homogenised software for all machines in the health sector in the country with a central processor that will extract the relevant data from individual records. There is a presumption that all the data entered in each

patient's file is accurate. Even entries made for Aadhaar Cards or Voter ID cards have not been error free. With all medical history recorded as 'truth' in the new software, insurance companies would be looking for multiple ways to reduce their obligations leading to many disputes.

### Extensive costs, dilemmas

On the face of it, from the side of health-care institutions, the NDHM is merely ensuring customisation of a new software and changes in current practices of data maintenance. However, it would become inevitable for all institutions in the government as well as private sector to upgrade their hardware too apart from considerable costs in customisation and transfer of existing data. In the government sector there are many existing practices and systems for compilation of data as in the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme and the Health Management Information System (IDSP-HMIS) apart from all learning acquired over the years by staff in those systems and practices. Some larger hospitals have already gone for robust and sophisticated software systems such as enterprise resource planning and would be in a dilemma as to whether they need to scrap them or run parallel software provided by the NDHM. Has anyone in the NDHM or the Ministry of Health attempted to estimate the costs of this massive transition to a new system? Public health professionals estimate the cost in thousands of crores for all government and private HIs to upgrade their hardware and connectivity systems, training of present staff, the entry of data afresh apart from other indirect costs.

Among independent practitioners at the grass-root level would continue to wonder if digitisation is the immediate problem facing the health sector or the best way to go about addressing data gaps. In their eyes, what millions face in the country are unreliable health-care facilities in both the government and private sectors, difficulties in getting timely care, availability of beds and hygienically maintained hospital premises, availability of doctors physically or online, and the continuous neglect of preventive and community health initiatives. If they oppose a new plan, it could either be because of its doubtful benefits to patients or because of worries regarding data leakage. They may be blamed for trying to delay the inevitable; the inexorable march to digitisation. Perhaps they need to discover that data is the only cure, for all our ills.

P. Joy Oommen is a retired civil servant who served as Chief Secretary to the Government of Chhattisgarh. Dr. K.R. Antony is a paediatrician and a public health professional who served UNICEF and the State Health Resource Centre, Chhattisgarh



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during this period of heightened prevalence of COVID-19 (Page 1, September 3). Allowing entry for 'asymptomatic' people and ensuring social distancing norms seem rather dubious in the present context when a record number of cases is being registered consistently across the country. The argument that 'resumption of economic activity is imperative' is also weak because a spike in COVID-19 cases at this juncture can only end up crippling the economy even further.

Dr. THOMAS PALOCAREN, Vellore, Tamil Nadu

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

### No Question Hour

The suspension of Question Hour is a step that fundamentally uproots democracy itself (Page 1, "Question Hour dropped in LS schedule of monsoon session", September 3). Of course the pandemic exists in the background, but the government should have strived instead to streamline the Question Hour mechanism by allowing select issues or select and short times. Resorting to total suspension is unwarranted and is nothing but autocratic rule and a bulldozing mechanism. The government of the day

should not take the law into its hands just because it is in an absolute majority.

R.S. RAGHAVAN,  
Bengaluru

■ The government of the day deserves to be congratulated on its brilliant strategy of disarming the Opposition by cancelling the dreaded Question Hour. Those who matter in the government should know this: "For the success of our parliamentary form of government and democracy and so that the will of the people shall prevail, it is necessary that people know what transpires in Parliament. This is not your House or my House. It

is the House of the People. The People have a right to know what their chosen representatives say and do..." The ruling party

appears to be celebrating the triumph of its victory over a truncated and helpless Opposition. Welcome to the 'new normal' in India's parliamentary democracy.

M. JAMEEL AHMED,  
Hubballi, Karnataka

■ The step is a blatant attempt not only to curb the voice of MPs but India's too. This amounts to a massacre of the democratic rights of people and the people who represent them. Let us remember that this is not an

emergency or *ad hoc* session, but a customary monsoon session. The cause and reason adduced, *viz.*, the ongoing pandemic, is laughable. People want to know from the horse's mouth what is being done about the pandemic, India's border troubles and the economic crisis.

RAGHAVENDRA A. CHOURHARI,  
Hubballi, Karnataka

■ The term 'pandemic' has now become a convenient excuse to use it the moment the government faces anything unpalatable to deal with. In the monsoon session, the people want answers to: the migrants

crisis; unemployment crisis; the economic slide to unprecedent negative levels; authentic information on the Chinese incursions and the GST compensation issue. It is strange that there is no 'pandemic' when it comes to laying the foundation for the Ayodhya temple, the Central Vista project or the Bullet Train project. Even when it comes to the monthly monologue, 'Mann ki Baat'. Why the contradictions?

V. PADMANABHAN,  
Bengaluru

**Metro resumption**  
The resumption of metro rail services is fraught with risks

# Should the age of marriage for women be raised to 21?

PARLEY

There is no evidence that tinkering with the age of marriage will benefit women in any way

*In his Independence Day speech, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that the government will soon take a decision on the age of marriage of women. Earlier, a task force had been formed to consider raising the age of marriage from 18 years to 21. Madhu Mehra and Jayna Kothari discuss the issue in a conversation moderated by Jagriti Chandra. Edited excerpts:*

**Do you agree with the move to increase the age of marriage for women to 21 years?**

**Madhu Mehra:** It is important that girls are not pushed into marriage early; marriage should not be compulsory for them to gain social and economic status. Yet, an increase in the minimum age of marriage to 21 years will be counterproductive. Minimum age of marriage does not mean mandatory age. It only signifies that below that age there could be criminal prosecution under the child marriage law.

Now, to increase the age of marriage to 21 years would mean that girls will have no say in their personal matters until they are 21. In our research at Partners for Law in Development, we looked at 10 years of use of the child marriage law. Overwhelmingly, the law was used by parents against eloping daughters. It has become a tool for parental control and for punishment of boys or men whom girls choose as their husbands. So, most cases that are taken to court are self-arranged marriages. And only one-third of the cases relate to arranged marriages, which are sometimes brought by parents or husbands to dissolve or to nullify marriages that have broken down because of domestic violence, dowry or compatibility issues. So, nowhere is age an issue in people's minds.

An increase in age to 21 years would mean further persecution of girls right up till 21 years. We've seen this in the Supreme Court and the Kerala High Court in the Hadiya case, where an adult woman's decision to marry was challenged by her parents. This is how it plays out in the Indian context.

The elementary right that the child rights convention bestows upon minors – the right to be

heard, the right for their views to be considered – will be denied to girls right up till 21, beyond adulthood.

**How does the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (PCMA), 2006, view underage marriages and how effective has it been on the ground?**

**MM:** The PCMA sets the minimum age of marriage at 18 years for women and at 21 for men. It treats underage marriages as valid, but voidable. It means that an underage marriage is valid as long as the minors involved in the marriage want it to remain valid. The PCMA also treats those underage marriages as void or having no legal validity, where they involve trafficking, enticement, fraud and deceit.

A valuable provision in the PCMA is that it allows the minor party to repudiate the marriage or to have it nullified right up till two years of attaining majority. This allows girls who elope with their partners to demand that their marriages are protected. This right should never be taken away.

There is also a provision for juncturing an underage marriage from happening, which allows social workers flexibility in negotiating with the families involved and in getting the help of the district administration, child protection agencies, as well as the police. They usually do not use the law to formally prosecute as the repercussions at the village level are very severe for those who interfere. We saw this with Bhanwari Devi who was gang-raped for stopping a child marriage.

Even if the law declares a child marriage void, in the eyes of the community, arranged marriages will have social validity. There are huge financial penalties, which go into lakhs of rupees depending on which caste and *biradri* you come from, for breaking a marriage which the law does not address or provide protection against. So the legal force of the PCMA and its flexibility, rather than prosecutions, enable social workers to prevent marriages.

**One argument for raising the age of marriage for women to 21 years is that it will make the**



**marriage age equal for both men and women. Do you welcome that?**

**Jayna Kothari:** I agree that the age of marriage should be uniform for men and women, but I don't welcome the move to increase it to 21.

Human rights activists, women's groups and child rights activists demand that the age of marriage should be equal for boys and girls. Under the previous 1929 law, the Child Marriage Restraint Act, there was a thinking that girls mature earlier than boys and therefore should have a lower age of marriage. That is a very outdated perception.

The Law Commission Report of 2008, on reforming family law, recommended a uniform age of marriage for boys and girls at 18 years and not 21. The National Human Rights Commission in 2018 recommended that there should be a uniform age of marriage for boys and girls.

Laws such as the Indian Majority Act, 1875 grant the right to vote, and to enter into contracts, for those who attain the age of 18. And they are equal for men and women. Even the Supreme Court, in the *Independent Thought* case, when it looked at child marriage, said that it's accepted universally that a child is someone who's under the age of 18, and that should be the age of marriage.

If we look at our international commitments, the CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women) Committee also recommends 18 as the age of marriage. If we're looking at law reform, we should not have these different ages for marriage.

At the current age of marriage for women and men, we find that implementation of the child marriage law is very hard. So there is no basis to increase it to 21. If the concern is

**We need to recognise child marriage as a human rights violation as it endangers the lives of young girls.**

**JAYNA KOTHARI**

that there should be fewer pregnancies or to avoid early pregnancies among young girls, there are different ways to address that.

Moreover, the unequal age of marriage impacts girls more adversely. Both girls and boys get two years' time after their age of marriage to repudiate their underage marriage under the PCMA, 2006, which for a girl is only till she turns 20, but for a boy it is until he turns 23. At 19 or 20, a girl is at a fairly young age to have the capacity or the wherewithal to annul the marriage.

**Do you agree with the principle of equality being applied here?**

**MM:** How do we understand equality is my question. My proposition is to enhance gender equality. It's only a theoretical discussion to revise the age of marriage because we don't have evidence that tinkering with age will be beneficial in any way.

In India, we widely practise hypergamy, where the boy has to be older, more educated, must have a higher income, and so on. If we bring the age of marriage down to 18, it is possible then that the most desirable bride for that boy would be 15 or 16 years old. I would say let's not touch the age of marriage because there is no evidence of particular harm in that regard.

As far as the issue of repudiation of marriage by girls is concerned, I believe it should be four years for girls and not two.

But if we are thinking about equality and non-discrimination, then another amendment is non-ne-

gotiable and of very high priority, that is the age of sexual consent. Currently, in elopement cases, boys are prosecuted for repeated rape of the minor wife, which is an aggravated offence punishable by a minimum of 20 years under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act. In contrast, in an arranged marriage, in the rare case when parents are prosecuted, the maximum punishment is two years. This disparity replaces honour killings by the rule of law. This is heinous, and the age of consent must be brought down immediately. To bring in the law for consensual, non-exploitative, non-coercive relations between peers is a big flaw that needs to be corrected.

**Jayna, the debate we're having emerges from the Supreme Court judgment of 2017 which said that sexual intercourse with a child bride under 18 years would be considered rape. As a result, the government is considering amending the law to make child marriages illegal or void ab initio. Do you think this will help girls?**

**JK:** I think it's important to have the PCMA declare child marriages void ab initio, which means that all child marriages would be considered as invalid marriages. It would help young girls who are forced into marriages and want to come out of it.

We need to recognise child marriage as a human rights violation as it endangers the lives of young girls by exposing them to increased domestic violence, marital rape, early pregnancies, etc. Rendering all child marriages invalid will also make them unacceptable. Of course, it has to go along with some measures to protect young girls such as maintenance and protection orders from domestic violence.

**Karnataka has amended the PCMA to make marriages void ab initio. What has been the impact of this in the State?**

**JK:** This amendment was brought about in 2017 based on the recommendations of a committee under Justice Shivraj Patil. There hasn't been much impact because the Karnataka government has not advertised this amendment to create any

awareness. Even the child marriage prevention officers are not trained.

Though I agree with Madhu that there shouldn't be criminalising or policing, I would also argue that the law has to prohibit child marriage. And that's not criminalising, that is just declaring child marriages void.

**Madhu, what do you think is an effective way of tackling underage marriage?**

**MM:** An issue like child marriage is a social issue, an economic issue. While there is the Right to Education Act, 2009, the quality of education is poor and doesn't show a way out of inter-generational poverty. Poor families don't see any value in continuing education. Second, a lot of parents are interested in private education because it is better, but they can't afford it. Third, poor families thrive on domestic work and a girl often gets pulled out of school to help at home. So, this myth that girls leave education because of marriage is not borne out by data.

We must ensure an increase in the scope of the Right to Education for girls right up to vocational studies. I would say that to introduce criminal law and punishment and to declare child marriage void is like saying hunger is a human rights problem and the way to address hunger is by criminalising those who have less food or eat one meal.

As far as the Karnataka situation is concerned, one social worker shared with us a case of a minor who was widowed. When she sought to claim the pension of the deceased husband, she was told that her marriage is not valid. We can say that they have the right to maintenance, but that is of no succour to a person who's continuing to be within that marriage but has no matrimonial rights, no right to inheritance, no right to stay in her marital home, and the man would face no legal consequences if he married again. The woman's life doesn't change merely by saying the marriage is void. She just becomes a de facto wife without any legal protection.

Many social workers did not agree with the recommendations of the Justice Shivraj Patil Committee as they thought those made their life more difficult. How do they help girls who have no recognition in the eyes of the law?



**Madhu Mehra**  
is the Executive Director of Partners for Law in Development India, and co-founder of the National Coalition Advocating for Adolescent Concerns



**Jayna Kothari**  
is the Executive Director of the Centre for Law and Policy Research and Senior Advocate at the Supreme Court



Scan the QR code to listen to the full interview online

## Towards inclusive syllabi

CBSE's history curriculum needs to be more representative of regions beyond north India

PRADEEP CHAKRAVARTHY

I earn my living by applying lessons from Indian history to human behaviour. Most people tell me they found history irrelevant and boring in school. Others liked it because their teacher was a great storyteller. But has it helped them in understanding their identity better, or in not repeating mistakes made in the past? Most often not.

**Bridging the divide**

How history can be taught differently is one conversation, and how the content can enable that is another. Scanning through the CBSE Class 7 textbook, a north-south divide is evident. Students in India are required to study the Delhi Sultanate and the Mughal empire, and six out of 12 chapters are dedicated to them. For the rest of the country, there is just about half a chapter on the Vijayanagara empire. In a country already divided on religion, let me not stoke the fire anymore. So, if we don't get into what should not be included, let us consider what can be. We must do this also in the context of the history syllabi for the higher classes, since every aspect of the subject cannot be taught in Class 7 alone. The North-east is ignored in the curriculum. A chapter on the Ahoms (or Tai-Ahom), and the oral history of other ethnic groups will make us, the "mainstream Indians", more educated about an important part of India.

Oral traditions can also open up exciting discussions in the classroom on what historians consider "valid proof" in historical research. African, South American and Asian traditions have long considered oral traditions valid proofs, whereas the western tradition considers what is in a book more truthful.

Given the founding mandate of the CBSE, it will always be nationally focussed. However, with more parents opting for CBSE rather than State Board schools, the former, today, is broad-based. At least for this new avatar, it can re-examine its syllabus.

Perhaps we can start with history that is closer to the child, rather than the farthest away, and hence abstract. Or we could start with local history and subsequently move to

State, national and international histories, over the many years children learn the subject.

**Focussed changes**

If those are the major changes, can incremental changes be made? Could chapters be different for each State? Children in Tamil Nadu know nothing of the Pandya dynasty that promoted Tamil. It was also one of the longest-ruling dynasties in India, besides the Mughals, Cholas and other famous empires of classical India. Kerala could have chapters about the Kulasekhara (who had a state-of-the-art observatory), Andhra Pradesh the Kakatiyas, and so on. A chapter on cultural history in medieval times, about what people ate, how they dressed, the nuances of irrigation, land cultivation, how they resolved fights and what games they played, would be fascinating for 11 to 12-year-olds. Perhaps a local history project could be implemented if the region has medieval remains.

At a time when the issue of Hindi imposition is gaining weight, a chapter on literature across the States of that time may work. Languages have much more than just religious verses – there are dramas, fun poems with onomatopoeia, word puzzles, or entire books where every stanza is a palindrome.

Teachers in CBSE schools are fired up much more by the passion to better the lives of children than the salary they earn. They work long hours and teach multiple classes, in addition to doing administrative work. The volume of north Indian content in the book will not help increase their passion, as teaching something that stoked their own passion for history would. If there can be an option of two, or even three chapters, aided by the reliable information we have on the Internet today, I am sure we can have more representative content for medieval Indian history, rather than something that means little to those outside Delhi. History should help children increase their sense of identity. One hopes there will be a re-examination soon.

Pradeep Chakravarty is a behaviourist who uses history to change behaviour in organisations

## NOTEBOOK

### Pranabda, the man with a remarkable memory

Journalists and politicians alike experienced his warmth and sometimes, anger

SUHASINI HAIDAR

It was well known to all journalists that if one planned to interview Pranab Mukherjee, one should be precise about dates. Because Mukherjee had a memory that could not be countered, and it would upset him if you got the dates wrong. What was left unsaid was what would happen if he did get upset, which I found out the first time I did a television interview with him when he was External Affairs Minister. As it happened, I did get my dates wrong while asking him a question about India's Tibet policy. Not very wrong, but enough to see his colour and tone change. "Don't assume we are fools, Madam," he said, controlling his temper just enough to let me complete the interview, albeit with my heart in my mouth. I later asked a bureaucrat in his office how he had such a good memory, and whether he was

right. The bureaucrat smiled and said, "Since no one has a better memory, we have never found out!"

It was during the 26/11 attacks that Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi received a dose of Mukherjee's temper we had all been taught to be wary of. On November 26, 2008, he was in Delhi for bilateral talks with his counterpart. After the terrorists struck, it was expected that Mr. Qureshi would head back immediately, or at least give some explanation of Pakistan's role in the attack, clearly orchestrated from its soil. Instead, Mr. Qureshi stayed back to address the Women's Press Corps the next day. In the middle of his talk, he received a call and stepped away. Years later, in his memoir, Mukherjee wrote about what he had said. "Mr. Minister, no purpose will be served by your continuing to stay in India," he began. Soon after, Mr. Qu

ureshi returned to Pakistan, his face ashen.

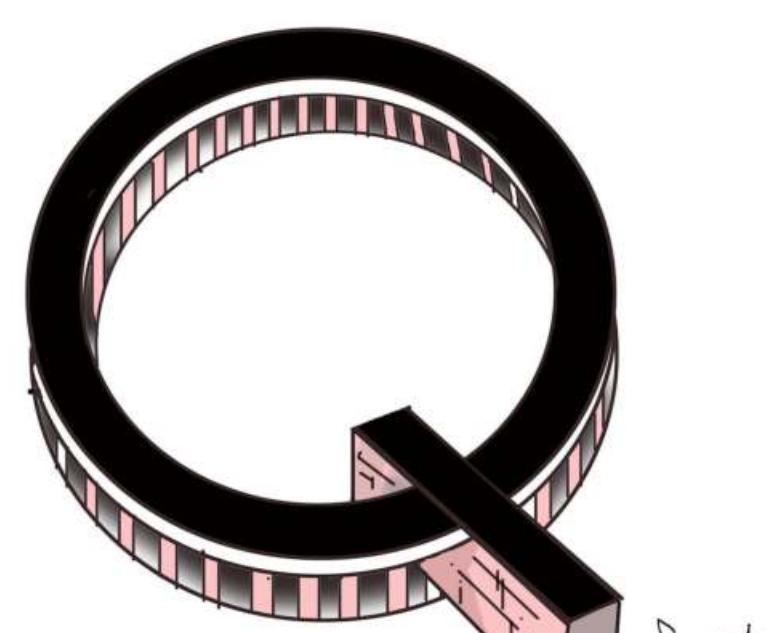
For the large part, however, Pranabda had a way of charming all with his sense of humour. Each of his bilateral interlocutors were left in awe of his knowledge of history. During a visit to Taxila in Pakistan, he recounted the ancient site's glorious history. He ran an open house for journalists throughout, and always had time for a chat during his visits abroad. As President, he was famous for increasing the number of journalists invited to all official events, and did away with the officious ropes that used to segregate journalists from other guests (the ropes have returned since then).

Being part of his entourage, one heard stories of his softness in personal ties as well. His soft corner for Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who had been looked after in Delhi by the Mukherjees after her father's assassination in 1975, was

well known. He also had a good relationship with the Bhutanese royalty and once presented the former King Jigme Singye Wangchuk with a scarf knitted by his wife.

My last official trip with him was when he was President. I travelled with him to Moscow in 2015 to join the 70th Victory Day celebrations. The Western world had boycotted the event, due to Russian actions in Crimea, and the impact of India's gesture was something Mukherjee saw first-hand, as his motorcade was stopped by large crowds of Russians who expressed their gratitude. He didn't mind the delay. On the flight home, he spoke at length about Indian foreign policy's traditional moorings. Even when I asked a contentious question about India's policy towards the Army's role in the World Wars, he smiled before beginning, "You clearly don't know your history, Madam..."

Bal Gangadhar Tilak was a Maratha of the Deccan. His sixty-five years were for the most part spent at Poona, the old capital of Maharashtra. It was from Poona that, forty years ago, he achieved his first conquest of the young generation, at that time no more politically conscious in the Bombay Presidency than it was in Bengal. The liberal vice-royalty of Lord Ripon had not yet stirred the reform movement.



**The Hindu**

**FROM THE ARCHIVES**

**FIFTY YEARS AGO** SEPTEMBER 4, 1970

**BBC row: Settlement urged**

The feeling is growing in left-wing circles in Britain that the recent confrontation between the BBC and India over the controversial film series of French TV producer Louis Malle was largely due to uncompromising positions taken by officials here [London, Sept. 2] and in India and that the dispute should be settled at the political level by the Indian Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi. In an editorial to-day the Daily Mirror which supports the Labour Party has said: "Mrs. Gandhi must set to extricate herself and her Government from a situation which disturbs all India's friends here". Hailing Mrs. Gandhi as "the famous daughter of a famous fighter for freedom and as a person respected throughout the world", the paper asks, "How can a woman of this stature, with such a great record and background, permit censorship which can only bring harm to her country?" Last week the Socialist Weekly, New Statesman commented that members of the Indian High Commission here had "encouraged their Government to escalate a minor matter of miffed feelings into virtually a nuclear confrontation."

**A HUNDRED YEARS AGO** SEPT. 4, 1920

**Tilak, a portent**

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## FROM PAGE ONE

## General Bipin Rawat pushes for Quad

Infrastructure development in the Tibet Autonomous Region, completion of the highway renovation project and development of strategic railway lines, in addition to the recently introduced military reforms by China are being monitored and their implications factored while devising future military strategy, Gen. Rawat said, stating that the formation of theatre commands improved the Chinese ability to "conduct synergised operations".

"Opportunities exist for us to develop strategic asymmetry in select military domains, especially operations at high altitudes," he noted.

He added that Chinese economic cooperation with Pakistan in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, along with continued military, economic and diplomatic support, mandates high levels of preparation and also poses the "threat of coordinated action on the Northern and Western fronts".

To offset this, Gen. Rawat said strategies have been devised to deal with the primary front and the secondary

front. "We have earmarked forces for that and we have conceptualised our strategies to deal with such threat scenarios emerging on both our borders," he said.

**India-U.S. cooperation**  
Asked about India-U.S. partnership, Gen. Rawat said several agreements have been concluded of late that had improved strategic cooperation.

Stating that the Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) signed in 2018 enables Indian military to get a better picture of the maritime activities in the IOR, Gen. Rawat said, "What we are looking for from the U.S. is information sharing and continued supply of high technology battle field systems that we can use to our advantage."

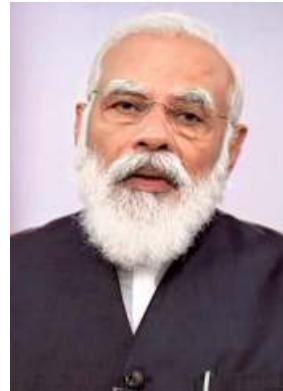
Highlighting aerospace systems, space technology, cyber and artificial intelligence as high technology areas for India-U.S. cooperation, he said, "With 74% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in defence, India should become a preferred destination for investment in defence manufacturing."

## India is best place to invest, says Modi

Without naming China, Mr. Modi said the pandemic had shown that trust was important for global supply chain decisions.

"This pandemic has also shown the world that the decision on developing global supply chains should be based not only on costs. They should also be based on trust," the Prime Minister said.

"Along with affordability of geography, companies are now also looking for reliability and policy stability. India is the location which has all of these qualities."



PM Narendra Modi delivering a special keynote address via video conferencing. ■ ANI

**Policy-stability**  
The U.S. industry has often described less than sufficient policy-stability in India as one of the challenges to investment in the country.

Mr. Modi emphasised that his Aatmanirbhar Bharat or Self-Reliant India project was not India turning its back on the world.

"Despite our large local needs, we did not shy away from our global responsibility. The responsibility of being the world's leading producer of generic medicines; we ensured constant supply to the world. We are also at the forefront of research on the vaccine for COVID-19," he said.

"A self-reliant and peaceful India ensures a better world," Mr. Modi said, adding that that the idea was to transform India from a passive market to an "active manufacturing hub at the heart of global value chains."

He highlighted what he called a transparent, predic-

table tax regime; the Goods and Services Tax as a unified IT-enabled tax system, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code reducing risk for the financial regime; labour reforms that were reducing compliance costs for employers and providing social security for workers.

"Friends, the road further ahead is full of opportunities," Mr. Modi said. "These opportunities are in the public and private sector. They cover core economic sectors as well as the social sectors."

In addition to highlighting the government's activities from housing to fintech, Mr. Modi described the government's opening up of the coal, mining, railway, defence, space and atomic energy sectors.

Mr. Modi also mentioned agricultural manufacturing reforms, and a \$14 billion agricultural financing facility (which was launched in August), and said that for the government, the ease of living was as important as the ease of doing business.

Borrowers are seeking a full waiver of interest chargeable during the moratorium.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, for the Centre and RBI, submitted that the impact of the pandemic was varied for each sector. Some like pharma have fared well during the lockdown.

The idea of moratorium was to defer repayment to ease the burden caused by COVID-19 and lockdown so that businesses can manage working capital. The idea was not to waive interest," Mr. Mehta said.

Moratorium was to help those in distress and not meant as an opportunity for those already defaulting in their loan payments.

CMK

## Most new cases added by Karnataka and A.P.

Incidence remains high, two States together add over 19,000 cases; Kerala shows Onam dip; 2,817 test positive in Telangana

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD

Telangana's COVID-19 case tally on Wednesday stood at 1,33,406, as 2,817 more samples tested positive. Ten more patients died.

Among those who tested positive, 92,050 did not have any symptoms, constituting 69% of cases.

Wednesday's cases included 452 from Greater Hyderabad.

### COVID-19

bad, 216 from Rangareddy, 164 from Karimnagar, 157 each from Khammam and Nalgonda, 129 from Medchal Malkajgiri, 120 from Siddipet, 116 from Suryapet, and 114 from Warangal Urban.

Andhra Pradesh reported 75 more deaths and 10,199 new infections on Thursday.

For the ninth day, the State witnessed over 10,000

new infections: over 94,000 in nine days.

Samples tested increased to 39,05 lakh as 62,225 were tested in the past day. The overall positivity rate of tests was 11.92%. East Godavari reported more than a thousand new infections and 10 new deaths, the highest tally and toll respectively among the districts.

Karnataka on Thursday recorded 8,865 new cases, taking the total to 3,70,206. Of the 96,098 active cases, 735 were monitored in ICUs. Bengaluru Urban reported 3,189 cases and 29 deaths.

Meanwhile COVID-19 fatalities in Karnataka cumulatively came to 6,054 on Thursday with 104 more deaths. The State added 1,000 deaths in a week after recording 5,000 deaths.

On testing, the State of fered 71,124 tests in all, including 32,403 rapid antigen

### Breach of rules

In spite of the measures taken by the government to contain the spread of COVID-19, people in many States are throwing caution to the wind. The graph shows the spread of the pandemic in the southern States



**Jam-packed:** Ignoring social distancing norms, people vie with each other to get their names registered at an Aadhaar enrolment centre in Vijayawada on Thursday. ■ K.V.S. GIRI

	TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES	ACTIVE CASES	RECOVERED CASES	DEATHS
KERALA*	79,625	315	57,728	21,516
TELANGANA**	13,3406	856	1,00,013	32,537
KARNATAKA***	3,70,206	6,054	2,68,035	96,098
TAMIL NADU	4,45,851	7,608	3,86,173	52,070
ANDHRA PRADESH	4,65,730	4,200	3,57,829	1,03,701

\*Kerala has a mismatch of 66 cases due to unaccounted deaths, missing persons; \*\*Telangana numbers are as of 8 p.m. on Wednesday; \*\*\*Karnataka has 19 non-COVID deaths

29 and confirmed on Thursday as COVID-19 deaths raised the toll to 315. Seven deaths were reported from Thiruvananthapuram, others in Ernakulam, Palakkad and Kannur. Community transmission contributed 92% new infections.

On a day when Tamil Nadu added another 5,892 cases of COVID-19, Chennai's daily count dropped to 968 after reporting 1,000-plus cases for 20 days.

The State's overall tally of cases climbed to 4,45,851. Another 6,110 persons were discharged, taking the total number of persons discharged to 3,86 lakh.

The toll continued to rise in the State as another 92 persons succumbed to the infection.

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

tests.

For the fourth day, Kerala registered a dip of about 1,000 COVID-19 cases over recent trends, indicating a

lull caused by Onam. On Thursday, testing rose and 30,342 samples were tested, yielding 1,553 new cases. The cumulative case burden was

79,625. The number of patients under treatment in hospitals was 21,516.

Ten more deaths which occurred between August 26-

### Direct to home



**Folk art:** Pulikali, the street pageant that enlivens Onam celebrations in Kerala's Thrissur, went online this year due to the COVID-19 protocols. A member of the Ayyantale Desham Pulikali team performing in front of a mobile phone camera, on Thursday. ■ K.K. NAJEEB

## Four go missing in Godavari

River level has been rising due to heavy rain, huge inflows

**RAJULAPUDI SRINIVAS**

Four persons travelling by a country boat in Godavari river have gone missing.

The river has been in spate for the last 20 days, and police in Andhra Pradesh had appealed to the villagers not to travel on small boats.

The missing were identified as A. Sri Hari and T. Yesu of Purushothapatnam and

Venkanna and Babi of Gani-dipochamma village in East Godavari district.

They ventured into the Godavari two days ago to collect firewood, but did not return, police said on Thursday.

ITDA, police and expert swimmers launched a search for the missing persons in the river at Gutala, Patha Polavaram and also downstream.

"We received information about the disappearance of the four youth through their family members, and irrigation officials and swimmers were asked to search in the flood waters at Rajamahendravaram and Sir Arthur Cotton Barrage at Dowleswaram," a police officer said.

The water level in the river has been rising due to heavy rain and huge inflows in the upstream areas.

Her name cropped up during the course of the investigation into the involvement of actors and singers in the Kannada film industry. "Ravi has been arrested for links with dealers and involvement in drug peddling," said Sandeep Patil, Joint Commissioner of Police. Ravi has been remanded in five days of police custody.

According to Mr. Patil, the anti-narcotics wing had detained 20 peddlers, who had previous cases, since Wednesday. Suspects in-

clude a hotelier and an event manager, who owns a casino in Sri Lanka with close ties to film stars.

Meanwhile, actor Indrajit Lankesh has reportedly submitted evidence on the racket. He, too, had been issued summons by CCB when he announced that he was aware of the nexus between people in the film industry and those in the drug trade.

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## SC to hear plea on English medium in A.P. schools

State challenged High Court's striking down of govt. order making it compulsory for Classes I to VI

**LEGAL CORRESPONDENT**

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday agreed to examine whether Andhra Pradesh can insist on making English the medium of instruction in schools.

A Bench led by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud will delve into whether imposing English on a multitude of schoolchildren, whose language of in-

struction is their mother tongue, will amount to depriving them of an effective education guaranteed to them under Article 21A (fundamental right to education) of the Constitution.

The Andhra Pradesh government approached the Supreme Court challenging the State High Court's decision to strike down a government order of November

2019, which made English medium education compulsory from Classes I to VI in primary, upper primary and high schools under all managements from 2020-21. It was to be gradually extended to each further class from the consequent academic year. The court issued notice but refused the State's plea to stay the High Court's order. The Bench ordered that

the case be listed after three weeks.

**Progressive measure'**

Senior advocate K.V. Vishwanathan, for the State, hailed the government order as a "progressive measure."

"It is progressive and practical. People are today moving out of government schools. Important to note that if not for English, I

would not have been able to address the court. English is important," Mr. Vishwanathan submitted.

Senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, for the petitioners who had approached the High Court and are now respondents in the top court, said the government order stripped the right of choice from the parents and the students.

## Many parents take children out of schools

Dislike for online classes, preference to homeschooling are some of the reasons

**TANU KULKARNI**

BENGALURU

Online classes may be the new normal for schools now, but not everyone is happy about this model. Many parents have decided to take their children out of private schools for the current academic year.

While some parents say they want to give their children a 'gap year' during the pandemic, others who are unhappy with the online mode of teaching have decided to homeschool their children.

Financial constraints or a worry that too much screen time will have a negative impact are the other factors at

play here. A marketing professional from Bengaluru, who has decided to pull his three-and-a-half-year-old son from school, said. "There was insane pressure on parents to ensure that homework was completed and submitted on the portal daily. There were a minimum of four periods every day, with only a 30-minute break for lunch. We felt it was a horrible thing to make a child, who is not even four, to sit in front of a computer to attend classes every day," he said.

He also acknowledged that it is not feasible for working parents to supervise their children during online classes. "I find that in online

classes, teachers do not acknowledge that children learn at their own pace. We don't want our child to join the race so early in life," he added. He and his wife have decided to homeschool their son for a limited time every day.

Sandhya Viswan, who started Homeschoolers' Nook, a social media page to build a community of parents who homeschool their children, has observed increasing interest in this form of education.

She has been fielding queries from parents over the last few months, once people realised that the number of COVID-19 cases was not

going to drop any time soon. "The number of parents who have approached me to discuss homeschooling has almost doubled in the last few months. From an average of a hundred enquiries every month, it has risen to 200," she said. Many families also say that they have no choice but to remove their children from school as their salaries have taken a hit or they have lost their jobs.

Appanna P.P., who lost his job, said his daughter, who is in Class 6 in a school for children with special needs, has been unable to attend online classes since last month as he has not been able to pay the fees.

**APPEAL**

2 years old Hashini needs your support in bringing a lasting change and a new life. She suffers from Neuro

# 'India is abusing national security, colluding with U.S.'

China hits out at India's move to ban 118 Chinese apps

**ANANTH KRISHNAN**

China on Thursday hit out at India's move to ban 118 Chinese apps, accusing New Delhi of "abusing the concept of national security" and suggesting India was coordinating with the United States in its actions against Chinese companies.

China also criticised U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Stephen Biegun's comments earlier this week on the border row, accusing the U.S. of "meddling".

"Regarding the China-India boundary issue, China always advocates finding a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution through peaceful and friendly consultations," the Chinese Embassy in New Delhi said in a statement.

"For a period of time, the two sides have been in touch and in talks at various levels to seek peaceful settlement of the boundary issue. China and India have the ability to resolve their border disputes bilaterally. We don't accept countries outside the region pointing fingers, let alone meddling or making instigation, which will only endanger the regional peace and stability."

In Beijing, both the Commerce Ministry and the Foreign Ministry issued statements hitting out at India's app ban. "The Indian side abused the concept of 'national security' and adopted discriminatory restrictive



Gao Feng

measures against Chinese companies, violating relevant WTO [World Trade Organization] rules. China urges India to correct its wrong practices," Ministry of Commerce spokesperson Gao Feng was quoted as saying by state media.

#### 'Mutually beneficial'

"India's ban against Chinese apps not only damages the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese investors and service providers but also harms the interests of Indian consumers and the investment environment of India as an open economy," he said. "China-India economic and trade cooperation is mutually beneficial and win-win. It is hoped that the two countries will jointly maintain the hard-won cooperation and development situation, and create an open and fair business environment for international investors and service providers, including Chinese companies."

In a separate statement, the Foreign Ministry in Beij-

ing suggested there was coordination between India and the U.S., which on Wednesday welcomed the move to ban 118 apps, which followed the previous June order to ban 59 Chinese apps.

"I have noted that the U.S. State Department on the same day said India banned more than 100 Chinese apps and called on other countries to roll out the Clean Network initiative. So I don't know if there is any correlation or interaction between India and the U.S.," said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying.

Ms. Hua accused the U.S. of carrying out "digital gunboat diplomacy" and "coercing and robbing Chinese businesses", and said China "hopes India could stay committed to its precious independence in decision-making".

"India is an ancient civilization with wise people, they should know what the U.S. has done in cybersecurity, for example Dirtbox, Prism, Irritant Horn, Muscular and undersea cable tapping," she said referring to reported wiretapping and malware programmes.

"We hope the people of India and the people of India can conduct normal exchange or cooperation in all sectors, and they should not, because of temporary short-sightedness, hurt the long-term interests of both countries and the peoples," Ms. Hua said.

## '60% of Question Hour lost'

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

In an attempt to nullify the Opposition parties' objection to the suspension of Question hour, the Rajya Sabha's research wing has pulled out statistics from the past five years which reveal that nearly 60% of the time allotted for the hour has been lost due to disruptions.

Between 2015 and 2019, the Rajya Sabha held 332 sittings. Of the 332 hours available for Question Hour (one hour per sitting), only 133 hours and 17 minutes were spent raising questions and obtaining oral replies from the concerned Ministers.

**Lowest in 2018**

The lowest time on Question Hour was spent in 2018 when only 22% of the allotted time was utilised for asking and answering questions.

The best performance in the five years was in 2017 when 57.73% of the available time was used.

"If there is a detention order against us, please show it. Why are we not being allowed?" Mr. Lone, who was stopped at the gate of his residence, said.

In widespread outrage, Opposition parties had accused the government of using the COVID-19 pandemic as an excuse to do away with all instruments of accountability.

Neil Potts, Public Policy Director of Facebook, has said, "First and foremost, we want to take this opportunity to state that we are

confines of our office. House detention has become our routine," party leader and former Minister Nayeem Akhtar told *The Hindu*.

PDP general secretary Ghulam Nabi Lone Hanjra had called the party meeting "to discuss the present situation in J&K and chalk out the future strategy".

He had sought permission from the Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, and Inspector General of Police (IGP), Kashmir, for the meeting.

"If there is a detention order against us, please show it. Why are we not being allowed?" Mr. Lone, who was stopped at the gate of his residence, said.

It was a closed door meeting. Sources said Mr. Azad and Congress leader in the Lok Sabha, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, will write to Chairman of the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha Speaker to restore Question Hour.

Thursday's meeting, that included another member of G23, Anand Sharma, was the first after Ms. Gandhi re-jigged the parliamentary group last week, a move that was largely seen as a snub to dissenters.

party chief Sonia Gandhi questioning the party's functioning, had received a lot of flak from colleagues.

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# Kafeel Khan asks Adityanath to reinstate him in his U.P. job

Gorakhpur doctor calls HC judgment quashing his detention under NSA 'historic'

MOHAMMED IQBAL  
JAIPUR

Gorakhpur paediatrician Kafeel Khan, released from the Mathura jail after the Allahabad High Court set aside his detention under the National Security Act, on Thursday demanded his reinstatement in the Uttar Pradesh medical service. He said he was facing "state-sponsored victimisation" for trying to expose corruption in the system.



Dr. Kafeel Khan addressing a press conference in Jaipur on Thursday. ■ PTI

Dr. Khan was suspended from Gorakhpur's Baba Raghav Das Medical College on charges of medical negligence and dereliction of duty in 2017, when 63 children died apparently because of lack of oxygen cylinders. He has not been reinstated despite two government inquiries clearing him of the charges.

Addressing a press conference here, Dr. Khan said the High Court's judgment holding his detention under the NSA illegal was historic, as it had proved that his seven-month incarceration was based on fictitious charges. The case was registered against him for delivering a speech against the Citizen-

## Quizzed only about terror cases: activist

OMAR RASHID  
LUCKNOW

After spending more than seven weeks behind bars in Aligarh, student-activist Sharjeel Usmani walked out of the district jail on bail on September 1.

Mr. Usmani was arrested in July for allegedly inciting students of the Aligarh Muslim University during the protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) that led to a clash with the police on December 15, 2019. He said the police barely touched the topic during interrogation.

"My grievance is that I was arrested by the ATS (Anti-Terrorism Squad). Their line of questioning was only about terror cases," Mr. Usmani told *The Hindu* on phone. "Ten years ago, some alleged terrorist was nabbed in Nepal by RAW. What do you know about him? He was from your region. These were the type of questions asked. They didn't ask me anything on the CAA or the AMU violence," he said.

## 'Power of contempt misused to stifle speech'

Its jurisdiction is dangerous: Bhushan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

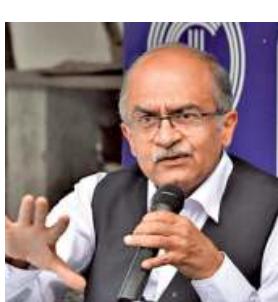
Activist lawyer Prashant Bhushan, convicted and fined by the Supreme Court for contempt of court, said this power is sometimes misused or abused to stifle free speech or discussion about the judiciary.

He called the contempt of court jurisdiction "very dangerous" and said it should be abolished.

"Every citizen in a democracy, those who are familiar with the working of the judicial system and the Supreme Court, should be able to speak freely but unfortunately that has also been treated as contempt of court by scandalising," he said.

"In this the judge acts as accuser, prosecutor and as a judge," Mr. Bhushan said at a webinar, 'Freedom of Speech and The Indian Judiciary', organised by the Foreign Correspondents' Club of South Asia.

"It is a very dangerous jurisdiction in which judges act in their own cause... It is only continued in a few countries like India," he said.



Prashant Bhushan

The top court had imposed a token fine of ₹1 on Mr. Bhushan for his tweets against the judiciary.

He said the power of contempt of court is sometimes abused or misused by the judiciary to stifle free speech or free discussion about the judiciary. "I am not saying there are no vile or scandalous, scurrilous allegations being made against judges. They are. But they are dismissed for what they are. People understand that these are scurrilous and unsubstantiated allegations. The respect for the judiciary does not stand on the ability of the court to stifle this kind of criticism even if it is sometimes scurrilous and unfair," he said.

"It is a very dangerous jurisdiction in which judges act in their own cause... It is only continued in a few countries like India," he said.

in another concocted case in Uttar Pradesh. My family felt that Rajasthan is safe... It is a Congress-ruled State. I want to spend some quality time with my family here."

Dr. Khan also thanked the Congress and Samajwadi Party leaders for extending support to his family. "Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi spoke to my mother when I was in jail. I am also thankful to [SP leader] Akhilesh Yadav," he said, adding that he had sought an appointment to meet Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot.

Dr. Khan alleged that he was tortured by the Special Task Force of Uttar Pradesh police after his arrest in Mumbai on January 29 and was ill-treated in the jail. "The STF sleuths asked me weird questions like if I had invented a powder to kill people and had visited Japan to topple the government. I was not given food for several days in the jail."

On a sarcastic note, Dr. Khan said he wanted to thank the STF for not killing him in an encounter while taking him from Mumbai to Aligarh. The case against him had affected his family, he said, while pointing out that his aged mother and wife had to run around for approaching the courts during the pandemic and the businesses of his two brothers were destroyed.

### 'U.P. govt. victimised me'

"My one-and-a-half-year-old son does not recognise me, as I have been mostly away to jails in a series of cases. The Yogi Adityanath government has victimised me because I tried to expose the system which involved regular commissions or purchase of equipment to those sitting in Lucknow," he said.

Dr. Khan said he would go to the flood-affected areas in Assam and other States after spending some time in Rajasthan and arrange multiple free medical camps for treatment of people suffering from water-borne diseases. Another project initiated by his family for establishment of a 500-bedded encephalitis centre on the Uttar Pradesh-Bihar border had been stalled because of the cases registered against him, he said.

## Chouhan asks EOW to probe substandard rice supply

SIDHARTH YADAV  
BHOJAL

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Thursday handed over to the Economic Offences Wing the investigation into distribution of substandard rice through the public distribution system in Mandla and Balaghat districts of the State.

### 'Won't tolerate graft'

"Good rice is being sold outside, while substandard rice stocks land at fair price shops," said Mr. Chouhan at a meeting here attended by Chief Secretary Iqbal Singh Bains and Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection Department Principal Secretary Faiz Ahmed Kidwai. "We will not tolerate corruption at any cost. Such a situation should not repeat," said Mr. Chouhan.

Rice stocks across the State are being withheld from distribution from depots until the sample collection process for inspection has concluded, the Department's Director Tarun Kumar Pithode told *The Hindu*.

## Mid-sea disaster



Smoke rising from *New Diamond*, a fully loaded crude tanker chartered by the Indian Oil Corporation, after it caught fire off the east coast of Sri Lanka while on its way to Paradip in Odisha. One crew member is missing and another was injured. ■ PTI

## 5 CSIR labs got no money from technology transfer

RTI responses indicate wide variance in earnings

JACOB KOSHY  
NEW DELHI

Some labs of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) – India's premier laboratory research network – have earned no money from technology transfer since at least 2015, according to data by the Council accessed by *The Hindu* via the Right to Information Act.

Of the 38 labs of the CSIR, 11 responded with information to *The Hindu's* queries, posed in February, on the number of technologies developed, numbers licensed and the money earned from technology transfer since 2015. Some said they were unable to respond because of COVID-19 restrictions.

Five of the labs that responded said they had received "no royalty from technologies commercialised 2015-2020". These were the CSIR-IMTECH (Institute of Microbial Technology), Chandigarh; CSIR-AMPRI (Advanced Materials and Processes Research Institute), Bhopal; CSIR-IIP (Indian Institute of Petroleum), Dehradun; CSIR-Fourth Paradigm, Bengaluru; CSIR-CBRI (Central Building Research Institute), Roorkee.

Other labs reported signif-

### Unequal distribution

Among the 11 labs under the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research that responded to *The Hindu's* queries, the Advanced Materials and Processes Research Institute received the most money from technology transfer

Institute	Technology fee
Indian Institute of Petroleum	0
Central Building Research Institute	0
Fourth Paradigm Institute	0
Advanced Materials and Processes Research Institute	0
Institute of Microbial Technology	0
Structural Engineering Research Centre	1.07
Institute of Minerals and Mines Technology	5
Central Electronics Engineering Research Institute	169
Central Food and Technological Research Institute	277.2
Central Leather Research Institute	403
Advanced Materials and Processes Research Institute	707 (in ₹ lakh)

icant revenue. The CSIR-IICT (Indian Institute of Chemical Technology), Hyderabad, reported earnings of ₹2 crore last year and three out of four years before that, at least ₹1 crore from licensing technologies. The CSIR-CEERI, Pilani (Central Electronics and Engineering Research Institute), reported earning ₹25 lakh last year and ₹15 lakh the year before, and the CSIR-CFTRI (Central Food Technological Re-

search Institute) ₹ 60 lakh and ₹75 lakh in preceding years. The CSIR's revenue isn't from technology transfer alone but also from providing consultancy services and the RTI response didn't include such revenues.

Not all research labs of the CSIR are for technology development and several have a mandate of developing technologies for poorer sections of society, according to a CSIR official.

## Study links rice intake to diabetes

Over one lakh individuals from 21 countries were observed over 9.5 years



**High risk:** Decreased physical activity and high intake of carbohydrates doubles the risk, says an author ■ GETTY IMAGES

Milton Health Sciences and McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada.

Commenting on the results, Bhavadharini Balaji, from the PHRI, first author of the paper, said, "This is the largest study on white rice intake and incident diabetes ever done. It is also one of the first to be done across different countries and confirms that white rice intake is one of the contributors to the diabetes epidemic in South Asia."

The study acknowledges the role of reduced physical activity as a contributing fac-

tor, as also increase in obesity rates, while it does adjust for various other diabetogenic factors, including family history.

### Other factors too

"We cannot say that eating white rice is the only cause for diabetes. There are indeed other factors. However, it is clear that the combination of decreased physical activity and high consumption of carbohydrates doubles the risk of getting diabetes," said V. Mohan, chairman, Madras Diabetes Research Foundation and se-

cond author of the paper.

Trying to establish the link, the paper advances a couple of theories. "It is known that excess rice consumption leads to postprandial glucose spikes that, in turn, lead to compensatory hyperinsulinemia [excess secretion of insulin] to maintain euglycemia [normal blood sugar levels]. Over time, the b-cells become exhausted, leading to b-cell failure and diabetes," the paper argues. Further, it reasons that it is possible that the type of rice is different in China (sticky rice), that the vegetables, pulses or meat consumed with the rice blunts the GL (Glycemic Load) of the rice, or that the consumption of rice itself has decreased in China in recent times. "Our recommendation is not to stop eating white rice completely. We are saying, instead of making it 70%-80% of your meal, cut it down by 20%-30% and replace it with proteins, salads and vegetables, and healthy fats from nuts and seeds," Dr. Mohan added.

Other labs reported signif-

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<b>TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF A.P. LIMITED, VIJAYAWADA</b>					
<b>'e' PROCUREMENT NOTICE</b>					
1. The APTRANSCO (Transmission Corporation of Andhra Pradesh Limited) invites bids on e-procurement platform for supply of following equipment.					
S. No.	Tender Specification No.	Part Description	Unit	Quantity	Tender Availability Date
1	PMM22-e-23/2020	Supply, Installation, Testing & commissioning of Relay & Protection panels with substation Automation system (SAS) compatible to IEC 61850 protocol at various 220 and 132 KV substations in Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada Zones	Nos	10 No.s Substations & Bay extensions at other ends	04.09.2020
2	PMM32-e-21/2020	220V, 200AH Battery Sets	Sets	10	
3		Double I suspension Hardware for 220KV Zebra with AGS Clamp	Sets	112	
4		Single Tension Hardware fitting for 220KV Zebra	Sets	373	
5	PMM32-e-22/2020	Double Tension Hardware for 400KV Twin Moose ACSR Conductor	Sets	10	
6		Double I suspension Hardware suitable for 400KV, 4x Moose ACSR Bundle conductor with AGS Clamp	Sets	42	
7		Quad Tension Hardware suitable for 400KV, 4x Moose ACSR Bundle conductor	Sets	44	
2. The interested bidders are required to enrol themselves on the "e-procurement market place" at <a href="http://www.tender.approcurement.gov.in">www.tender.approcurement.gov.in</a>					
3. Complete set of bidding documents are available at <a href="http://www.tender.approcurement.gov.in">www.tender.approcurement.gov.in</a>					
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## SC rejects women Army officers' plea

No relaxation given in cut-off date

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday declined to hear a plea by a batch of Short Service Commission women officers seeking benefits of permanent commission in the Army.

These officers completed 14 years of service only in March.

The court had held that only women officers who had completed 14 years of service before or by February 17 would be considered for permanent commission.

"If we relax that date of cut-off, then there will be no-stop. Where do we draw the line?" Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, heading a three-judge Bench, asked.

The court pointed to advocate Meenakshi Lekhi, appearing for the 19 applicants, that their plea amounted to a review of the court's verdict itself.

Ms. Lekhi said that



## Centre's plans are haphazard, says Ministers' petition

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

A three-judge Bench of the Supreme Court led by Justice Ashok Bhushan is scheduled to hear on Friday a petition filed jointly by Ministers from six States against the conduct of the JEE Mains and the NEET-UG amid the pandemic.

They have sought a review of the court order on August 17 refusing to entertain a petition by students to postpone the two tests. They said lakhs of students should not fall prey to the Centre's "knee-jerk" and "haphazard" plans, which would prove "worse than the disease itself".

The other judges on the Bench are Justices B.R. Gavai and Krishna Murari.

The National Testing Agency (NTA) had notified



**Tough test:** Candidates undergoing thermal scanning outside a JEE centre in Kolkata on Tuesday. ■PTI

the JEE between September 1 and 9. The NEET for medical seats are scheduled for September 13.

The JEE Mains is slated to be conducted over 660 exam centres, with 9.53 lakh students taking it. The NEET will see 15.97 lakh students in 3,843 centres across the country.

Ministers Moloy Ghatak of West Bengal, Rameshwar Oraon from Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh's Amarjeet Bhagat, Maharashtra's Uday

Ravindra Samant and Raghu Sharma and Balbir Singh Sidhu of Rajasthan and Punjab, respectively, had moved the Supreme Court through lawyer Sunil Fernandes.

The petition was filed shortly after a meeting was held among Congress chief Sonia Gandhi and six Chief Ministers of States not ruled by the BJP.

The Ministers said the situation was grave enough to recall or postpone the exams.

## Attendance was 54% on Day 1 of JEE

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Just over half the students who had registered for the B.Arch. and B.Planning papers on the first day of JEE-Main turned up to write the examination on Tuesday. The second and third day of the examination, which were for BE and B.Tech. admissions, saw 80% attendance.

To put it in context, over 94% of registered students wrote the B.E/B.Tech. papers in the same examination last year, while the B.Arch. and B.Planning papers saw more than 80% attendance.

Overall, attendance has been lower this year due to fear of infection and difficulties in transportation.



Narendra Modi

U.S. President Barack Obama, billionaire Elon Musk, Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates, Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos and Apple.

However, the hack of Mr. Modi's account, as per investigation by Twitter, was not due to a compromise of its systems or service. There was no indication or evidence of any correlation between this account compromise and the incident that took place in July, it added. The Twitter account of his website has 2.5 million followers, and follows 968 accounts.

## 'Talks key to resolving India-China tensions'

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar to meet Chinese counterpart Wang Yi in Moscow

SUHASINI HAIDAR  
NEW DELHI

The solution to the India-China situation at the Line of Actual control has to be found in diplomacy, said External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, repeating his recent statements on the importance of talks to resolve tensions.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) confirmed that Mr. Jaishankar will travel to Moscow for the SCO Foreign Ministers' meeting on September 10, where China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi will be present.

"We have to work our way through this," he said, referring to the stand-off at the LAC in Ladakh over the past four months, at the launch of



S. Jaishankar

ankar and Mr. Wang, with its actions at the LAC.

Mr. Jaishankar, who was in conversation with Observer Research Foundation president Samir Saran, said that it is important to take a long view of the relationship

between India and China, which has been "difficult" in more recent times, but has been "good in many parts" as well.

"This is not the easiest of times in the relationship, but I have taken the long view [in the book]," he said. "It is imperative and vital for both [India and China] to reach an accommodation."

When asked about the seeming contradiction in his planned meetings with Russian and Chinese leaders in the next week at the virtual BRICS and the SCO FMs meets, while also preparing for the meeting with U.S. Secretary of State and Foreign Ministers of Quad Allies Australia and Japan next month, Mr. Jaishankar said that it

may seem "curious" but it is the current reality of the world to belong to different groupings for different issues.

### On multilateralism

He also said that the most "impactful and startling shift" in the world has been wrought by the "changed approach of the United States" towards multilateralism and towards its alliance partners.

During the launch, Mr. Jaishankar was congratulated by a range of world leaders through video messages, including the Foreign Ministers of Australia, the UAE and Singapore, as well as Maldivian Speaker and former President Mohamed Nasheed, who praised the book.

## NCB detains another suspect in Sushant case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has detained another suspect for questioning as part of the probe into the drug angle in actor Sushant Singh Rajput's death case.

They had earlier arrested Bandra resident Basit Parikh, after he purportedly disclosed that he knew one of the persons under the scanner in the Sushant case.

At his instance, the NCB zeroed in on the suspect, identified as Kaizam Ibraham, said the agency. It got fresh leads while probing another case in which raids were conducted in Mumbai in August last week and two persons, Abbas Lakhani and Karn Arora, were arrested

for allegedly possessing bud (cured marijuana).

+

The follow-up investigation uncovered the linkages of Lakhani with one Zaid Vilattra, an alleged drug peddler, the NCB said. It picked up Zaid and during subsequent searches, about ₹9.55 lakh in cash and foreign currency (\$2,081, £180 and 15 Dirham) were seized.

"Zaid disclosed that he ran an eatery in Bandra, which was not doing well since the lockdown. He then got into peddling drugs, through which he earned a substantial amount of money," an NCB official had said.

The ED, during the money laundering probe in the Sushant case, had identified a possible drug angle.

## Bombay HC asks media to show restraint

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Thursday told the media to exercise restraint in reporting the investigation into the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput.

"We urge and expect the media to exercise restraint in reporting of the investigation with respect to the death, [such that it] would not hamper investigation in any manner," the court said, posting the matter for September 10.

A Division Bench of Justices A.A. Sayed and S.P. Tavade was hearing two public interest litigation (PIL) petitions by former Director Generals of Police (DGP) and former Commissioner of Police against the "unfair, malicious and false media campaign" against Mumbai Police in the case of the death of the actor.

The Bench said it would like to first see what the Centre and the CBI have to say in response to the pleas.

Former DGP and CP M.N. Singh and former DGP Parvinder Pasricha, D. Shivanandan, Sanjeev Dayal, Satish Mathur and K. Subramanyam and additional DGP Krishipal Raghuvanshi, along with former CP Dhananjay Jadhav were represented by senior advocate Milind Sathe.

The other PIL was filed by filmmaker Niles Navlakha, Mahibub D. Shaikh, editor of a regional newspaper, and Subhash Chander, a retired civil servant.

## Clause in secular marriage law violates right to privacy, says plea

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

A secular marriage law that makes accessible to all and sundry the personal details, including mobile phone numbers, of adults who want to enter wedlock has come under challenge in the Supreme Court.

The Special Marriage Act is intended to help consenting adults, especially those who belong to different religions or castes, to marry. But certain provisions of the Act, like Section 6, require

the personal details of the couple to be published for 30 days at the Marriage Registrar's office.

The details include their names, date of birth, age, occupation, parents' names and details, address, pin code, identity information, and phone number.

The provisions in the Act allow anyone to submit objections to the marriage if they come to know of it through this public notice. The Marriage Officer is empowered to enquire into

these objections. Law student Nandini Praveen, represented by advocates Kalleswaram Raj and Nishe Rajen Shonker, said the publication of private details was a violation of the privacy of couples.

"In other words, couples are asked to waive the right to privacy to exercise the right to marry. This infringes the rights of autonomy, dignity and the right to marry, of various couples," Ms. Praveen argued in her petition.

## Experts flag concerns on EIA notification

Rapporteurs to the UN write to the Centre

JACOB KOSHY  
NEW DELHI

A group of Special Rapporteurs to the United Nations has written to the Centre expressing concern over the proposed Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) notification 2020 and sought the government's response on how the provisions of the notification were consonant with India's "obligations under international law".

Special Rapporteurs are

independent experts working on behalf of the United Nations. They work on a country or a thematic mandate specified by the United Nations Human Rights Council.

In their letter, the five experts say the proposed notification appeared to have clauses that obstructed people's rights to a safe, clean and healthy environment.

These were the clauses that exempted several large industries and projects from public consultation – as part of the environment impact assessment process – and the rapporteurs argued that



Rapporteurs work on a mandate specified by the UN Human Rights Council.

the exemptions were unwarranted, particularly when there was a serious gas leak from (LG Polymers) chemical plant in Visakhapatnam on May 12.

Environment Ministry Se

cretary, R.P. Gupta, told *The Hindu* that nothing in the proposed EIA, 2020 violated the UN Declaration of Human Rights and that the rapporteurs' concerns were "misplaced". The proposed EIA was still a draft and issued for public consultation and that there were several imperfections in the existing EIA that were to be amended in the new notification. With regard to post facto clearances, the violation of not taking prior approval would be "punished as per law" and projects that were already running would be considered only on merit.

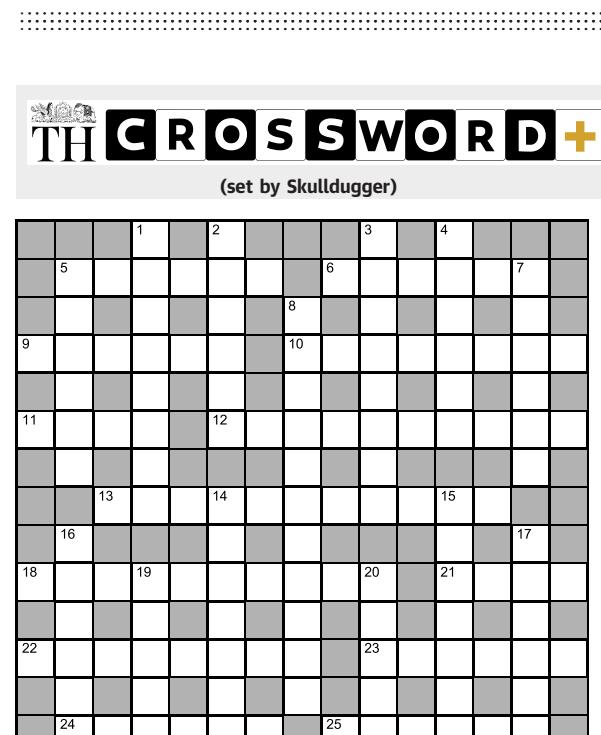
## FAITH

### Self knowledge is essential

The self is to be recognised as the only eternal and all pervading consciousness on which the entire universe with all its infinite form and variety is manifest. The Upanishads know that the jivatma is sure to miss this aspect of his own self when he is immersed in the world of joy and sorrow and is engaged in daily activities of the world. Hence they repeatedly exhort the jivatma to reflect on his inner eternal reality as against the external and ephemeral contexts to which he is constantly exposed, pointed out Sri R. Rajagopal Sarma in a discourse.

The self is always non-dual. But when it is manifest in embodied form, it reveals itself in two ways, as the individual existential reality and also as the cosmic principle. When associated with an individual body the self is called the jiva and is in micro form; but when it is manifest as the collective body it is called Isvara and is in macro form. Both the micro and the macro forms are said to have three types of sarira, the gross or sthula sarira, the subtle or the sukshma sarira and the causal body, the karana sarira. But the self is distinct from all the three bodies which are categorised as the non-self or anatma. Their nature consists in unreality, inertness, and misery.

It then follows that the self is not the five kosas that envelop it, the annamaya, pranamaya, manomaya, vijnanamaya, and anandamaya kosas. It is of the essence of existence, knowledge and bliss. This truth can be surmised by discriminatory analysis of the waking, dream and deep sleep states which every one experiences. It will be seen that in all the states, the self remains a witness. The experience of the deep sleep state when recalled by anyone is seen to be beyond any association with the senses, mind and intellect.



- De-stress at home with some fun brain teasers. Try out at never-before prices  
<https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn>
- 13 Manage a limo, develop narcissistic personality disorder (11)  
18 Birds flying past margin (10)  
21 Excellent base (4)  
22 Modern perception presidents ignored catastrophically (8)  
23 Fired drunk (6)  
24 Comedy routine in small boat (6)  
25 Badger and hound (6)
- DOWN
- 1 More income by and by (8)  
2 Every so often, permit child porridge (6)  
3 White chemical substance derived from Asian gem (8)  
4 Mark-up on revolutionary Gulf country's dessert (6)  
5 Heaved novice and alumnus onto garden plot (6)  
7 Capable of being polished off and put away! (6)  
8 Exuberance represented by a flamenco (11)  
14 Trippy stoner music? (4,4)  
15 Exemption for married Frenchman breaching international accord (8)  
16 Unrestrained, extremely eager, singular creatures (6)  
17 Rush wildly through one's life's work (6)  
19 Corrupt internet torrent partially backed up (6)  
20 Almost ooze confidence (6)

## SUDOKU

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to puzzle 13031

A	F	I	N	E	B	A	L	A	N	C	E





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PRABALIKA M BORAH

It began in late March, when the first bout of nationwide lockdowns forced restaurants to shut, turning us all into reluctant chefs. As film celebrities and CEOs did their own dishes, they also mopped, dusted their houses and cooked, while professional chefs turned teachers. Katrina Kaif was seen doing dishes, Malaika Arora was photographed making healthy versions of pancakes and *paniyaram*. With everyone dining together, meals became a family affair, requiring food that was easy to make and tasty. With time on hand and nowhere to go, a leisurely search for recipes followed, especially among food groups on social media.

We trawl through six months of content to see what you have been eating, cooking and photographing the most.

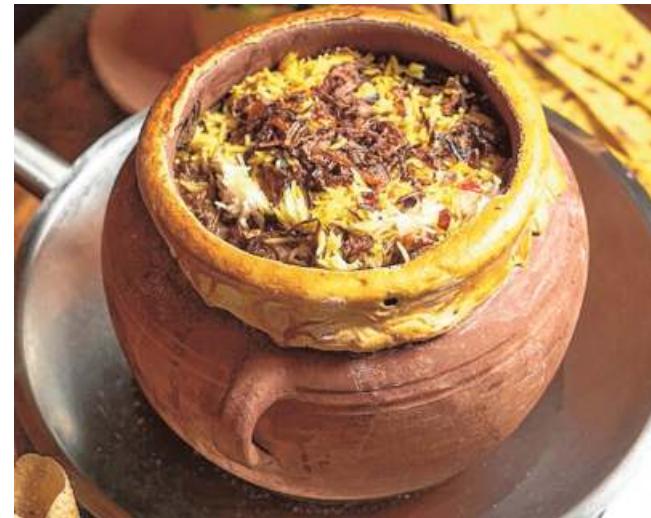


As the country enters Unlock 4.0, we look back at the foods that have been trending in home kitchens, Facebook groups and on Instagram hashtags during lockdown

# Viral from my kitchen

## Dal makhani and naan

A desi dish that garnered a lot of 'recipe please' requests is dal makhani. This is where an OPOS dal makhani post went hot. Many recipes did the rounds and almost everyone seemed happy with the outcome. A good dal makhani might be time-consuming if you are going the non-OPOS way, but that did not deter enthusiasts. As its popularity shot up, even friendly Facebook food groups saw recipes garnering tens of thousands of views. Where there is dal makhani, can tandoori naan be far behind? Culinary experts demonstrated how a naan can be made without a tandoor and made it seem pretty simple. Pat water on the side of a rolled-out naan so that it sticks to the iron *tava* and then hold it face down over medium flame. Slather some butter and voila, butter naan is ready!



ISTOCK/SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

**Ginger garlic paste**  
It is not glamorous, but it is true. Is it a sign of the energetic mood due to the prolonged lockdown that home chefs report an increased demand to know the right proportions of ginger and garlic for the best paste? While there is no foolproof recipe, 50:50 is considered the ideal proportion.

## Biryani

Can any discussion on food be complete without a mention of *biryani*? Not about which is the real *biryani*, but of various types. The only debate people wasted time over was why a *biryani* with vegetables and paneer should be called a *pulao*. Others simply cooked and relished their versions. Thanks to home chefs and YouTuber chefs, the popular dum biryani, Dindigul biryani and biryani in a pressure cooker all went on to see the light of the day in many homes.



## Pani puri

Indians cannot survive for long without *chaat*. With the fear of eating out overpowering the cravings of the palate during the pandemic, fans of street food favourite once again turned to social media for the ideal *pani puri* recipe. The inevitable chain reaction saw every *chaat* lover find a way to get their *pani puri* fix, at home. Such was the craze that recipe videos by chefs and YouTubers have raked in millions of views.



## Bread

It all began with breaking bread. Everyone wanted to bake bread on their own, so the demand for bread recipes was so high, it made many wonder what bakeries would do after life returns to normal. Such was the demand for baking bread that supermarket shelves were cleared of yeast stock. And ordering it online proved futile. Until Unlock 2.0, silicon spatulas were also out of stock. Once everyday bread was mastered, it was time for home chefs to learn to make sourdough. However, that did not get popular in India as sourdough baking is no cakewalk.

As summer peaked, people found a new use for overripe bananas in banana bread. This fascination lasted until the focaccia gardens bloomed. Then, this bread not only added flavour but brought out the inner artist baker, with each one making use of colourful vegetables to depict scenery, like flowers in a garden against the setting sun.

## Dalgona

The coffee that took the world into its fold during the lockdown. Even though preparing dalgona coffee needed a lot of wrist work, coffee lovers enjoyed the whisking session and churning out many many cups of sweet, creamy and frothy cold coffee. Many point out that dalgona is a fancy name given to the *pheteli* coffee that is mostly served in old Parsi joints and North Indian homes. And yet, till date, a search of #dalgona throws up over five lakh posts on Instagram.

## Spinach and potato tikki

### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 kilo red boiling potatoes, scrubbed and quartered (for even a healthier version use sweet potato instead)
- 4 firmly packed cups of finely chopped, stemmed, washed spinach (or small packet frozen chopped leaves)
- 1 fresh, hot green chilli, finely chopped
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh coriander leaves
- 1 tsp garam masala
- 1/2 tsp cayenne pepper
- 1/2 tsp ground black peppercorn
- Salt to taste
- 2 tbsp fresh lemon juice
- 1 cup panko or chickpea flour (you will not use all of it)
- 2 tbsp neutral oil



MEGHNA MAJUMDAR

In the midst of the everyday chaos and stress that comes with working and studying from home, who can resist munching on a light little something? Unlock 4.0 is here, but many of us are entering a sixth month of the lockdown life, and there is no denying that snacking is a bigger part of our routine than it was before the pandemic hit. "Snacking is the honest reality of our lives, but it is not a healthy thing to do," says Chef Suvar Saran, the man behind Gurgaon's The House of Celeste and the only chef on the nutrition advisory board to Brigham & Women's Hospital at Harvard Medical School.

Saran adds, "You have to see it as an occasional thing, a reward for practising mindful eating most of the time." Over a phone conversation about National Nutrition Week, Saran also points out that the snacks we pick have to be wholesome and mindful: "Okra (ladies finger) that has been dried and reduced to a chip is no better than a usual potato chip; you have to ask if what you are munching on is the closest possible form to the whole food." Having said that, the chef also has a few tricks up his sleeve to turn your favourite homemade snacks more healthy, "even while they continue to taste like the junk food we crave to feel better".

His recipes are many, but he recommends tikkis made of spinach and sweet potato – "or instead of regular potato, if you are diabetic or just want to be healthy" and mushroom and farro burger – "farro is commonly found online around the world these days, but you can switch it with millets or quinoa".

There is also a fire-roasted eggplant caviar – "essentially a *bharta*, but with curd for your milk protein requirements," he says, adding that this particularly recipe has little story behind it. "One summer night, a local dairy farmer, and his fiancée stopped by. Neither could say whether or not they were fans of eggplant before sampling the dip, but about 15 minutes after I set it on the counter with toasted pita triangles, half of it was gone! It's so cooling, refreshing, and healthy that it doesn't just taste good to eat, it feels good to eat too. I usually char the eggplant right on my gas stovetop. It does make a bit of a mess, but it's easy enough. Feel free to grill the eggplant on a gas or charcoal grill," he signs off.

Steam potatoes over one inch of boiling water until tender, about 15 minutes. Transfer to a wide bowl and mash with a fork. Add remaining ingredients except panko or chickpea flour and oil and mix well with your hands, squeezing the ingredients together. There will still be small chunks of potato and potato skin in the mixture. Taste and adjust seasoning. Scoop out about 1/2 cup of the spinach-potato mixture, roll it with the palm of your hand to make a ball, and coat with panko or chickpea flour. Then press down to flatten to a three to 3.5-inch cake. Continue with remaining mixture. Chill for at least 1 hour. When you're ready to cook, place a rack over a sheet pan. Heat two tbsp of oil in a large frying pan over high heat. Swirl pan to coat with the hot oil. Lower heat to medium. Place four to five patties in the pan (do not crowd), and cook until well browned on one side, about 4 minutes. Turn and brown for about four more minutes. Remove to the rack. Heat remaining oil in pan and cook remaining patties. Keep patties in a low oven until ready to serve. Serve with a salad and your choice of toppings, such as the usual (ketchup, mustard, relish), or yogurt raita, garlic yogurt, or chutney.

## How mindful is your snack?

National Nutrition Week has been celebrated since 1982. This year, we mark it by giving a healthy twist to your favourite work-from-home nibbles

## Fire-roasted aubergine caviar

### INGREDIENTS:

- 2 large eggplants/aubergine/baingan (about 1/2 kilo each)
- 2-3 halved and finely chopped red onions
- 2 large tomatoes, cored, halved, and finely chopped
- 1-2 hot green chillies, finely chopped (seeded and ribbed for less heat)
- 2 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 cups/490 gm plain yogurt
- 1/2 cup finely chopped fresh coriander leaves
- Juice of 1/2 lemon
- 1/4 tsp Aleppo pepper or coarse Kashmiri mirchi
- 1/8 tsp sumac, optional
- 1/2-1 tsp sea salt, or to taste
- 1/2 tsp freshly ground black pepper
- 4 whole wheat pita breads, warmed in the oven or over a burner and sliced into quarters

### METHOD:



Place the whole eggplant on a burner and set the flame to medium-high. Char the eggplant using tongs to turn it often (I turn it every 2 minutes or so), until the skin is completely black and papery and the eggplant is deflated, about 10 minutes total. Transfer it to a plate and cover with plastic wrap. Set aside until the eggplant is cool enough to handle, and then halve it, scoop out the pulp, roughly chop it, and place it in a large bowl. Add the onions, tomatoes, pepper, and olive oil to the eggplant and gently stir to combine. In a medium bowl, whisk together

the yogurt, coriander, lemon juice, Aleppo pepper, sumac, salt, and pepper. Pour the mixture over the eggplant and toss to combine. Serve immediately with the pita, or cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate for up to two days before serving.

## HORS D'OEUVRES



## A song for the hilsa

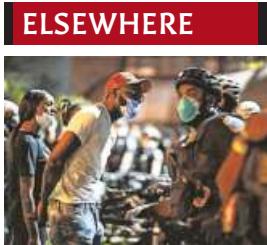
As the beloved *ilish* or hilsa makes its appearance in the fish markets this season, home chefs and Bengali restaurants across the country are leaving no stone unturned to tempt *ilish* lovers. Recipes are doing rounds on social media; the most discussed ones in food groups are *bhapa* (steamed) *ilish*, *shorshe* (mustard) *ilish* and *ilish bhaja* with *ilisher dim* (*ilish* fry with the roe or egg). Also returning for its annual rounds of social media, alongwith the recipes, is a song about the fish: 'Ilish Ilish Ilish' by Sawan Dutta. This two year-old song never gets old when the topic of *ilish* come to the fore.



## Confetti in my cake

Adding joyful colour and fun to rainbow cakes are rainbow confetti cakes. We are not talking about sprinkling confetti over the frosting, nor about confetti-studded frosting. These cakes are a lockdown creation, where cake makers have gone the extra way and stuffed cakes with Cadbury's gems and gummy bears to edible confetti to make cake cutting extra fun for children. So that when the cake is cut, there is some drama with confetti rolling out of it. Some cake makers on Instagram are also making confetti cakes their signature style. They are a little higher in sugar levels than regular cakes, and need a spoon for the confetti to be scooped up along with the cake, but who's complaining?





**Black man shot dead by police in U.S. capital**

WASHINGTON  
Police shot dead an African-American man in the U.S. capital Washington on Wednesday, the force said. The man, said to be aged 18, was shot in as officers were following up on a tip about guns allegedly stashed in a vehicle. Police said two guns were also recovered. **AFP**

**Arrest warrant issued against Nawaz Sharif**

LAHORE  
A Pakistani court on Thursday directed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to execute a non-bailable arrest warrant against former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in a 34-year land allotment case, according to reports. The warrant against Mr. Sharif comes two days after the Islamabad High Court gave him a "last chance" to surrender in another case. **PTI**

## Afghan govt. frees 400 Taliban prisoners ahead of Doha talks

A few militants still in custody over objections by foreign nations

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
KABUL  
The Afghanistan government said on Thursday it had released 400 Taliban prisoners under an exchange deal with the militants, except for "a few" opposed by foreign nations, and expected peace negotiations to start soon.

The two warring sides are set to launch direct talks in Qatar, tying up the end of a contentious and months-long prisoner exchange.

## Sri Lankan Cabinet appoints panel to draft new Constitution

Move follows Rajapaksa brothers' election pledge to abolish the 19th Amendment

MEERA SRINIVASAN  
COLOMBO

The Cabinet has set up an experts' committee to draft Sri Lanka's new Constitution, even as the government gazetted the draft of the 20th Amendment that would reverse the preceding 19th Amendment, a 2015 legislation that clipped certain executive powers of the President.

The move follows the ruling Rajapaksa brothers' poll pledge to abolish the 19th Amendment, introduced by the former government. After securing a comfortable two-thirds majority in the August general elections, the government took up the promise swiftly.

In his inaugural address to Parliament on August 20, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa announced that Sri Lanka



**Tightening their hold:** Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa greeting lawmakers in Colombo on August 20. **AP**

would draft a new Constitution, jettisoning the 19th Amendment that sought to strengthen Parliament and independent institutions, besides curbing presidential powers.

**Two-step process**

The government's amendments to the Constitution will be carried out in two

steps, Minister Udaya Gammanpila told the weekly Cabinet press briefing on Thursday. While the 20th Amendment would "correct anomalies" in the current Constitution, a completely new Constitution would replace it soon after, authorities said.

Earlier, on examination of the draft amendment, the

Attorney General told the government that it could be passed with a two-thirds parliamentary majority, and did not require a national referendum.

Government sources said the public would have about two weeks to go through the draft and petition the Supreme Court if they have objections.

Once the Supreme Court gives its determination on the draft to Parliament, it would be taken up for debate in the House, a senior official told *The Hindu*, requesting anonymity. Asked what time frame the government was looking at to complete the process, the official said: "As soon as possible."

The committee tasked with drafting the new Constitution will be led by senior lawyer Romesh de Silva.

## Kremlin rejects accusations that it poisoned Navalny

There is no reason to discuss sanctions against Moscow'

REUTERS  
MOSCOW

The Kremlin on Thursday rejected accusations that Russia had been responsible for the poisoning of opposition politician Alexei Navalny and said it saw no grounds for sanctions to be imposed against Moscow over the case.

Government sources said the public would have about two weeks to go through the draft and petition the Supreme Court if they have objections.

The Kremlin was speaking a day after German Chancellor Angela Merkel said Mr. Navalny had been poisoned with a Soviet-style Novichok nerve agent in an attempt to murder him.

Mr. Navalny, 44, is an outspoken opponent of Russian President Vladimir Putin and has specialised in high-impact investigations into official corruption. He was air-lifted to Germany last month after collapsing on a domestic flight after drink-



Alexei Navalny

ing a cup of tea that his allies said was poisoned.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Moscow rejected any suggestion that Russia had been behind the attack on Mr. Navalny and warned other countries against jumping to hasty conclusions.

There are no grounds to accuse the Russian state. And we are not inclined to accept any accusations in

this respect," Mr. Peskov told reporters.

Mr. Peskov said there was, therefore, no reason to discuss sanctions against Moscow.

Ms. Merkel has said Germany would consult its NATO allies about how to respond to the poisoning.

**Gas pipeline**

She faced growing pressure on Thursday to reconsider the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, which will take gas from Russia to Germany, after her statement on Mr. Navalny, who is being treated in a Berlin hospital.

Nord Stream 2 is set to double the capacity of the existing Nord Stream 1 pipeline in carrying gas directly from Russia to Germany. It is more than 90% finished and due to operate from 2021.

## FB to ban political ads in week before U.S. election

It vows to fact-check premature claims of win; Zuckerberg warns of a 'risk of civil unrest' after vote

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
WASHINGTON

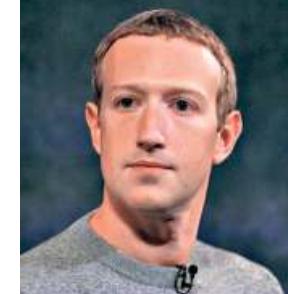
Facebook says it will ban political advertising the week before the U.S. election, one of its most sweeping moves against disinformation yet as CEO Mark Zuckerberg warned of a "risk of civil unrest" after the vote.

The social media giant also vowed to fact check any premature claims of victory, stating that if a candidate tries to declare himself the winner before final votes are tallied "we'll add a label to their posts directing people to the official results."

And it promised to "add an informational label" to any content seeking to delegitimise the results or claim that "lawful voting methods" will lead to fraud.

"I'm concerned about the challenges people could face when voting. I'm also worried that with our nation so divided and election results potentially taking days or even weeks to be finalised, there could be an increased risk of civil unrest across the country," Mr. Zuckerberg said in a post.

Democrats have long warned that President Donald Trump and his supporters may try to sow chaos with false claims on November 3, when the vote will take place amid unprecedented



Mark Zuckerberg

health and economic crises, social unrest and protests for racial justice.

The U.S. remains the epicentre of the world's worst coronavirus outbreak, and voters are expected to shift to mail-in voting, with an estimated three-quarters of the population eligible to do so.

As a result, officials are warning that the final tally may not be revealed until well after voting day – spurring fears that paranoia and rumor-mongering could hit an all-time high.

Mr. Trump – a prolific user of social media who is

trailing Democratic challenger Joe Biden in the polls – has recently hurtled down a rabbit hole of conspiracy theories filled with claims that he is victim of a coup and/or plans to rig the polls.

Almost daily, he claims that increased mail-in voting is a gambit to "rig" the election against him, and he has refused to say whether he will accept the results.

He has also opposed more funding for the cash-strapped U.S. Postal Service (USPS), acknowledging the money would be used to help process ballots.

## Xi praises China's spirit of resistance

Beijing marks the 75th anniversary of the end of Second World War in the Pacific

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
BEIJING

President Xi Jinping on Thursday praised China's spirit of resistance in commemorating the 75th anniversary of the end of Second World War in the Pacific, saying any attempt to alter the nation's course under Communist Party rule would be resisted by all of its 1.4 billion citizens.

Mr. Xi led government officials in a minute of silence and presentation of floral wreaths at a memorial hall dedicated to soldiers and civilians, who participated in the war, in which China endured a brutal invasion and occupation of much of its territory by Japan.

"The Chinese people will refuse any person or any force that attempts to distort the history of the Communist Party, its character or its mission," he said.

Mr. Xi's remarks come as China faces increasing political and economic pressure from the U.S., friction along its border with India and push-back from European countries and Southeast Asian nations over its economic and territorial ambitions.

**Japanes invasion**  
Japan launched a full-on invasion of China in 1937, marked by urban warfare and atrocities such as the notorious Rape of Nanking. While armies under Nationalist Party leader Chiang Kai-shek fought most of the major battles, Communist Party guerrillas under Mao Zedong



Xi Jinping forced Japan to divert soldiers and resources from battlefields elsewhere with low-level engagements.

Although Japan formally surrendered aboard the USS Missouri on September 2, 1945, China marks the end of the war on September 3 when it first held nationwide celebrations.

The Communists swept to power in 1949 following renewed civil war against the Nationalists and continue to

uphold the struggle against Japan as a source of their legitimacy to rule. Chiang relocated his Republic of China government to Taiwan, where it continues to enjoy strong, though unofficial, U.S. support after making a transition to full democracy more than two decades ago.

On the mainland, the Communist Party has retained one-party authoritarian rule and crushed all efforts to mount a political opposition or even question its legitimacy. In the process, Mr. Xi has taken control of all major levers of power and eliminated term limits, effectively setting him up to be China's leader for the rest of his life.

Thursday's relatively low-key commemoration reflected social distancing rules in place during the pandemic and contrasted sharply with how China has marked other significant anniversaries.

## Presumed Israeli strikes kill 16 in Syria: observer

Those killed include pro-Iran fighters

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
BEIRUT

Presumed Israeli air strikes on eastern Syria killed 16 Iran-backed fighters on Thursday, a war monitor said, hours after Damascus said it intercepted Israeli missiles fired at a central air base.

Those killed were "Iraqi paramilitary fighters loyal to Iran, seven of whom were killed outside the city of Mayadeen," Rami Abdul Rahman, head of the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, said.

The other nine were killed in strikes south of the city of Albu Kamal, on the Iraqi border further east.

Turkey has reacted angrily to the U.S. move that it said went against the "spirit of alliance" between Washington and Ankara. It also warned that it would harm efforts to reunify Cyprus.

second such strike in less than 24 hours and the third this week.

Late Wednesday, Syrian air defences intercepted missiles fired by an Israeli warplane at the T4 air base in central Syria, state news agency SANA reported.

"Our air defences intercepted most of them," it said, adding the attack caused only material damage.

On Monday, Israeli strikes killed one civilian, three government troops and seven allied foreign fighters, the Observatory said.

Mondays strikes hit Syrian Army positions south of Damascus and facilities used by Iran-backed paramilitaries, including fighters of Lebanon's Hezbollah, the Observatory said.

There was no immediate comment from Russia on the exercises, which Turkey announced after the U.S. said it was partially lifting a

33-year-old arms embargo against ethnically divided Cyprus.

It's unclear why NATO-member Turkey would announce such drills on Moscow's behalf, but the two countries have in recent years significantly strengthened their military, political and economic ties. They are coordinating closely on their military presence in Syria, while Turkey has purchased Russia's advanced S-400 missiles and has broken ground on a Russian-built nuclear power plant on the Mediterranean, where Turkish seismic research vessels are operating.

There was no immediate comment from Russia on the exercises, which Turkey announced after the U.S. said it was partially lifting a

Ankara is boosting ties with Moscow

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
ANKARA

Turkey has announced that Russia will hold live-fire naval exercises in the eastern Mediterranean, amid escalating tensions between Turkey and its coastal neighbors Greece and Cyprus over rights to search for energy resources in the region.

The navigational notice issued on Wednesday said the Russian exercises will take place during September 8-22 and September 17-25 periods in areas of the Mediterranean, where Turkish seismic research vessels are operating.

There was no immediate comment from Russia on the exercises, which Turkey announced after the U.S. said it was partially lifting a

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**MARKET WATCH**

	PRICE	CHANGE
Sensex	38,991	-0.24
US Dollar	73.47	-0.60
Gold	51,755	-1.03
Brent oil	43.80	-3.29

**NIFTY 50**

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	366.00	6.10
Asian Paints	1978.00	34.05
Axis Bank	474.95	-9.45
Bajaj Auto	2896.40	15.85
Bajaj Finserv	6355.55	-9.50
Bajaj Finance	3619.70	-48.95
Bharti Airtel	538.00	-12.55
BPCL	413.40	-0.55
Britannia Ind	3746.85	-52.35
Cipla	738.60	0.35
Coal India	135.70	-0.60
Dr Reddys Lab	4433.15	80.40
Eicher Motors	2231.15	61.30
GAIL (India)	98.10	0.80
Grasim Ind	724.75	46.30
HCL Tech	706.75	4.80
HDFC	1808.75	-18.45
HDFC Bank	1130.90	-3.25
HDFC Life	582.20	1.35
Hero MotoCorp	2934.40	-2.15
Hindustan	192.00	-4.20
Hind Unilever	2139.15	-2.50
ICICI Bank	382.75	-9.65
IndusInd Bank	631.85	-8.70
Bharti Infratel	218.50	22.45
Infosys	935.55	11.55
Indian Oil Corp	85.10	-0.20
ITC	191.60	0.25
JSW Steel	293.40	0.40
Kotak Bank	1396.70	-26.80
L&T	961.15	5.60
M&M	644.65	1.90
Maruti Suzuki	7072.60	151.85
Nestle India Ltd.	16393.75	401.20
NTPC	97.70	-1.25
ONGC	79.05	-1.25
PowerGrid Corp	178.50	-2.70
Reliance Ind	2112.10	-16.10
State Bank	213.15	-3.10
Shree Cement	20429.00	-134.60
Sun Pharma	523.45	8.95
Tata Motors	151.85	1.55
Tata Steel	438.10	-0.55
TCS	2299.50	34.35
Tech Mahindra	759.55	24.35
Titan	1185.30	64.00
UltraTech Cement	3949.00	7.30
UPL	521.85	21.00
Wipro	282.85	9.15
Zee Entertainment	220.25	2.10

**EXCHANGE RATES**

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	73.27	73.59
Euro	86.66	87.04
British Pound	97.47	97.90
Japanese Yen (100)	68.92	69.22
Chinese Yuan	10.72	10.77
Swiss Franc	80.43	80.82
Singapore Dollar	53.72	53.98
Canadian Dollar	55.97	56.22
Malaysian Ringgit	17.69	17.79
Australian Dollar	53.51	53.79

Source: Indian Bank

**IN BRIEF**

**Fund pooling can help add capital: Goyal**

**EESL to procure 250 Tata, Hyundai electric vehicles**

**Tata Power signs supply pact for TML's 'carport'**

**Plexconil unveils app-based marketplace**

**TVS Motor invests ₹30 cr. more in EV firm**

**DRL to sell ADHD drug Concerta generic in U.S.**

**CMYK**

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

NEW DELHI

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal pitched for more Indian businesses – traditional as well as new-age unicorn start-ups – pooling in funds to enable access to Indian capital that can be used to help youngsters, exploring new ideas, overcome the hurdle of insufficient capital.

While he was not stopping anybody from importing technologies, Mr. Goyal said, India also had the tremendous potential to innovate and build business.

"Very often, the detriment is adequate capital," he said. [The] government has its own limitations in understanding new businesses, providing adequate funding and really assessing the potential of new businesses," he said at a CII event. The CII could also look at creating such a fund among its members, he added.

EESL will procure the

**To utilise \$5 mn ADB grant for purchase**

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

NEW DELHI

Energy Efficiency Services Limited, which comes under the Ministry of Power, said on Thursday it will procure 250 electric vehicles from Tata Motors and Hyundai Motor India.

While Tata Motors won the bid to supply 150 Nexus EVs, Hyundai Motor India will supply 100 Kona electric vehicles for government use. "The companies were selected through an international competitive bidding process, which was aimed at increased participation. The letter of award for the procurement was presented to the two companies," EESL said in a statement.

This procurement will utilise \$5 million from the recent grant provided by the Asian Development Bank towards financing high priority areas like demand side energy efficiency sector projects.

EESL will procure the

**Nexon EV for ₹14,86 lakh each, which is cheaper by ₹13,000 than the ex-showroom price of ₹14,99 lakh, whereas Kona Electric, which offers a higher range, will be procured at an 11% lower price band of ₹21,36 lakh.**

"These EVs will replace the existing fleet of petrol and diesel vehicles of the Central and State Governments," it added.

"A shift to EVs, facilitated by our e-mobility programme will reduce dependence on oil imports and promote power capacity addition in India," Saurabh Kumar, Executive VC, EESL, said.

**COVID-19, NEP fuel fund raising by education technology firms**

**Companies say \$3.5-bn sector to clock double-digit growth**

**LALATENDU MISHRA**

MUMBAI

The recently announced National Education Policy (NEP) has come at the right time and can lead to a double-digit growth for the estimated \$3.5 billion education technology (ed-tech) sector, say industry players.

With schools shut and online education gathering pace, ed-tech players are firming up plans to raise funds to transform schools through digitalisation and digital training of teachers even as students are confined to 'home schooling.'

They are of the opinion the education sector is poised for a telecom and banking-like revolution.

A day after Eruditus announced raising \$113 million, Tech Avant-Garde announced plans to raise up to \$30 million in the first round

**Boom coming:** The education sector is set for a telecom- and banking-like revolution, say industry captains. ■R.V. MOORTHY

of fund raising. In June, Byju's had raised an unspecified amount reportedly valuing the firm at \$10.5 billion. In July, Vedantu had raised \$100 million.

"NEP and COVID-19 are

stimulating digital transformation and holistic learning of schools," said Ali Sait, CEO, Tech Avant-Garde.

**Apparel exports set to rise by 40%**

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

COIMBATORE

Apparel exports are expected to increase 40% this financial year mainly because of the focus on medical textiles, according to industry body AEPC.

"We are working with a target to achieve a 40% increase in apparel exports this financial year with major focus on new medical textiles," said A. Sakthivel, chairman, Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC).

"This will take our total

apparel exports up from

\$15.4 billion last financial year to about \$22 billion in

2020-2021," he said.

Mr. Sakthivel also said with the government lifting export ban on many PPE items, apparel exporters should venture into man-made fibre-based (MMF) garments in a big way.

The council is also setting up an R&D centre at its head office in Gurugram.

**Vodafone Idea surges ahead of board meet**

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**

NEW DELHI

Shares of Vodafone Idea on Thursday zoomed nearly 30% ahead of its board meeting on Friday to consider fund raising through various means.

Bankers gave an assurance that they had started the process of identifying eligible borrowers and will comply with the RBI's timelines, the statement added.

Ms. Sitharaman advised lenders to try and extend the maximum possible relief to borrowers before the festive season. So far, only 36% or ₹1.1 lakh crore had been disbursed out of the ₹3 lakh crore Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme aimed at medium, small and micro enterprises. ₹1.58 lakh crore has been sanctioned so far.

**IndiGo to lift capacity to 60% by Diwali, says COO**

'Airline in no rush to add destinations'

**JAGRITI CHANDRA**

NEW DELHI

IndiGo aims to raise its passenger capacity or flights to 60% of pre-COVID-19 levels by Diwali, a top official said.

"We welcome the government's announcement to allow airlines to operate up to 60% of daily flights," said Wolfgang Prock-Schauer, president and COO.

"We believe there is an underlying demand waiting to be tapped. In the first 100 days, we were not able to fully utilise the capacity permitted because of various restrictions, including on the part of airports like Mumbai and Chennai," Mr. Prock-Schauer added.

The board would consider "proposals for raising of funds in one or more tranches by way of a public issue, preferential allotment, private placement, including a qualified institutions placement or through any other permissible mode," the company had said in a filing.

900 by Diwali in November.

To utilise its grounded aircraft, IndiGo, much like other airlines, started cargo and chartered flights for repatriation. To a question on whether the airline planned to add to its network some of the new international destinations it flew to, the airline's president said it would wait to study whether there is sustained demand.

IndiGo had long planned to start operations to London, which, however, did not materialise even while some of its competitors such as Vistara had started flying to the UK. Capital to gain from the demand from a large presence of Indian expatriates. The airline said its priority now was to stay afloat despite the challenges posed by COVID-19 and the plunge in demand.

"There is no need for us to rush into that [introducing flights to London]. Our first goal is to improve the economics, and establish our network to pre-COVID-19 levels. But we keep our mind open."

**Eyes 900 daily flights**

In the first week of September, it had reached 600 flights and targets to achieve

unlock value, as per a survey by IBM Institute for Business Value.

Indian enterprises are expected to spend almost half of their cloud budget on hybrid over the next three years, said IBM.

Business executives in the country are increasingly planning to invest in hybrid multi-cloud platform strategies and capabilities to drive business transformation and

increase the share of spend on hybrid from 42% to 49% by 2023.

The majority of the cloud budgets are being allocated to hybrid cloud platforms even as public cloud

+ spend is set to reduce from 50% share to 43% by 2023.

The survey covered 6,000 executives globally, including 412 from India, across industries, job titles and geographies.

**Firms to raise spend on hybrid cloud'**

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

BENGALURU

Indian enterprises are expected to spend almost half of their cloud budget on hybrid over the next three years, said IBM.

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unlock value, as per a survey by IBM Institute for Business Value.

Indian companies

## TV PICKS

**US Open:** SS Select 1 (SD & HD), 8.30 p.m.; SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 9.30 p.m.

**Italian Grand Prix:** Practice, SS Select 2 (SD & HD), 2.20 p.m. & 6.20 p.m.

**Nations League:** Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 9.30 p.m. & 12.30 a.m. (Saturday); Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 12.30 a.m. (Saturday).

**England vs Australia:** T20I, Sony Ten 3 & Sony Six (SD & HD), 10.30 p.m.

**NBA:** Sony Six, 6.30 a.m.

**PGA Tour:** Eurosport (SD & HD), 10.30 p.m.

**Tour de France:** Eurosport (SD & HD), 5 p.m.

## IN BRIEF



**Butler holds his nerve as Heat pips Bucks**

**MIAMI** Miami Heat went down to the wire to take a 2-0 lead over top-seeded Milwaukee Bucks in their NBA Eastern Conference semifinal series. Jimmy Butler, fouled on a potential game-winner at the buzzer, calmly made two free throws to seal a 116-114 victory.

**The results: EC semifinals:** Miami Heat 116 (Dragic 23) bt Milwaukee Bucks 114 (Antetokounmpo 29, Middleton 23) **Heat 2-0; WC first round:** Houston Rockets 104 (Gordon 21, Covington 21) bt Oklahoma City Thunder 102 (Dort 30) **Rockets win series 4-3.** AFP

**Ignite is Princepal's NBA G League team's name**

**NEW YORK** The NBA G League has unveiled NBA G League Ignite as the name for its new team of elite prospects, including India's Princepal Singh, who recently began training with head coach Brian Shaw in Walnut Creek, California. PTI

**Three wrestlers test positive at National camp**

**NEW DELHI** Three wrestlers – Deepak Punia (86kg), Navin (65kg) and Krishan (125kg) – tested positive for COVID-19 during mandatory testing at the SAI Centre in Sonipat ahead of resumption of the National training camp on Tuesday. The three have been shifted to hospital as a precautionary measure and for further monitoring.



**Williams family to quit F1 this weekend**

**LONDON** The Williams family will leave the team founded by Frank Williams after the Italian Grand Prix this weekend, the Formula One outfit announced on Thursday. Claire Williams, who has acted as the de facto boss of the British team since 2013, revealed she would be departing her role as deputy team principal. AFP

## Iniyian wins title

**K. KEERTHIVASAN**

**CHENNAI** India's GM P. Iniyian won the 48th annual world open chess tournament (online) recently. Usually held in Philadelphia, the USA, the tournament was conducted online following classical time control.

In a strong field that had 31 GMs, Iniyian scored 7.5 points from nine games. Iniyian and Sanan Sjugirov (Russia) were tied on points but the former won on better tie-break.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Iniyian said, "the tournament had a lot of GMs since it was held online. So, it was very tough." Iniyian became richer by \$3100.



P. Iniyian. ■

CM YK

# Garcia stuns top seed Pliskova; Osaka sails through

Djokovic rallies from first-set loss to beat Edmund; Mladenovic suffers a meltdown after leading 6-1, 5-1 against Gracheva

## US OPEN

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
NEW YORK

Novak Djokovic overcame an early scare to move into the third round of the US Open on Wednesday but women's top seed Karolina Pliskova crashed out in the tournament's biggest shock so far.

Djokovic extended his undefeated run in 2020 to 25 matches even as Pliskova was stunned in straight sets by France's Caroline Garcia, the World No. 50.

## Thinking positive

World No. 1 Djokovic dropped the first set against Britain's Kyle Edmund but rallied to progress 6-7(5), 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 inside a subdued, spectator-free Arthur Ashe Stadium at Flushing Meadows.

Pliskova – the 28-year-old World No. 3 from the Czech Republic – suffered a miserable 6-1, 7-6(2) loss to a confident Garcia.

In the women's draw, 2018 champion Naomi Osaka sailed into the third round, dismantling Italy's Camila Giorgi 6-1, 6-2 in just one hour and nine minutes. Unseeded Russian Varvara

Gracheva dumped out French 30th seed Kristina Mladenovic 1-6, 7-6(2), 6-0.

## Remarkable collapse

Mladenovic's exit came after a remarkable collapse.

The Frenchwoman led 6-1, 5-1 and failed to convert

## IMPORTANT RESULTS

## Second round: Men

1-Novak Djokovic (Srb) bt Kyle Edmund (GBR) 6-7(5), 6-3, 6-4, 6-2; 28-Jan-Lennard Struff (Ger) bt Mihail Mmoh (USA) 6-2, 6-2, 7-5; 20-Pablo Carreno-Busta (Esp) bt Mitchell Krueger (USA) 6-1, 6-2, 6-1; 19-Taylor Fritz (USA) bt Gilles Simon (Fra) 7-5, 6-3, 6-2; 26-Filip Krajinovic (Srb) bt Marcos Giron (USA) 6-4, 6-1, 6-3; 7-David Goffin (Bel) bt Lloyd Harris (RSA) 7-6(5), 4-6, 6-1, 6-4; 27-Borna Coric (Cro) bt Juan Ignacio Londero (Arg) 7-5, 4-6, 6-7(5), 6-2, 6-3; 3-Mikhail Kukushkin (Kaz) bt 13-Christian Garin (Chi) 6-2, 6-1, 3-6, 4-6, 7-5; 4-Alejandro Davidovich (Esp) bt 24-Hubert Hurkacz (Pol) 6-4, 1-6, 6-2, 6-2; 32-Adrian Mannarino (Fra) bt Jack Sock (USA) 7-6(5), 7-5, 6-2; 5-Alexander Zverev (Ger) bt Brandon Nakashima (USA) 7-5, 6-7(8), 6-3, 6-1.

## Women

Caroline Garcia (Fra)

1-Karolina Pliskova (Cze)

6-1, 7-6(2); 28-Jennifer Brady

four match-points as Gracheva came roaring back to win.

India's Divij Sharan and Serbian partner Nikola Cacic fought hard before going down 4-6, 6-3, 3-6 to eighth seeds Nikola Mektic and Wesley Koolhof in one hour and 46 minutes.

(USA) bt Catherine Bellis (USA) 6-1, 6-2; 17-Angelique Kerber (Ger) bt Anna-Lena Friedsam (Ger) 6-3, 7-6(6); Ann Li (USA) bt 13-Alison Riske (USA) 6-0, 6-3; 18-Aliaksandra Sasnovich (Blr) bt 12-Marketa Vondrousova (Cze) 6-1, 6-2; 23-Yulia Putintseva (Kaz) bt Vera Lapko (Blr) 6-3, 6-3.

Varvara Gracheva (Rus) bt 30-Kristina Mladenovic (Fra) 1-6, 7-6(2), 6-0; 8-Petra Martic (Cro) bt Katerina Bondarenko (Ukr) 6-3, 6-4; 4-Naomi Osaka (Jpn) bt Camila Giorgi (Ita) 6-1, 6-2; Marta Kostyuk (Ukr) bt 31-Anastasija Sevastova (Lat) 6-3, 7-6(5); 24-Magda Linette (Pol) bt Danka Kovinic (Mne) 6-1, 6-7(2), 7-6(4).

14-Anett Kontaveit (Est) bt Kaja Juvan (Slo) 6-4, 6-1; Shelby Rogers (USA) bt 11-Elena Rybakina (Kaz) 7-5, 6-1; Madison Brengle (USA) bt 19-Diana Yastremska (Ukr) 6-2, 6-3;

6-Petra Kvitova (Cze) bt Katerina Kozlova (Ukr) 7-6(3), 6-2.

## Day Three in numbers

2 Victory over Pliskova was only Garcia's second in 16 matches against top-20 opponents at Majors

3 Only the third time in his career that Djokovic lost the first set in either the first or second round at the US Open (vs Donald Young

2006, 1st round, and Raděk Štěpánek 2007, 2nd round)

3 Only the third time in the Open era a women's No. 1 seed has lost before the third round of the US Open ( Halep 2018 and Ivanovic 2008)

## FALLEN SEEDS

## MEN

13-Garin; 24-Hurkacz

## WOMEN

1-Pliskova; 11-Rybáková;

12-Vondrušová; 19-Yastremska;

30-Mladenović; 31-Sevastova

## QUOTESIDE

PLISKOVÁ, THE TOP SEED, AFTER HER EXIT FROM NEW YORK

I didn't serve that great, especially early in the match. But that's how it is. I'm not a robot, so I don't have to play amazing every day

CAROLINE GARCIA

I saw Sofia Kenin in her suite and I asked her if she approved one of our freedom

MLADENOVIĆ, AFTER HIS WIN OVER EDMUND WHICH WAS WATCHED BY KENN

FRIDAY'S PICKS

MEN: 1-Djokovic vs. 28-Struff |

4-Tsitsipas vs. 27-Coric | 5-Zverev vs.

32-Mannarino

WOMEN: 4-Osaka vs. Kostyuk |

6-Kvitová vs. Pegula |

17-Kerber vs. Li

Messi might stay at Barca



Lionel Messi. ■REUTERS

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
MADRID

Staying with Barcelona may be an option for Lionel Messi after all.

A day after the Spanish club reaffirmed its position not to facilitate a transfer, Messi's father-agent did not dismiss the possibility of his son reconsidering his decision to leave.

Jorge Messi left the prospect open after being briefly questioned on Thursday on whether he was considering the possibility of Messi staying for now and leaving for free next year. The affirmation came a day after there was no agreement in the meeting between Jorge Messi and Barcelona president Josep Bartomeu.

... and the training continues for IPL 2020



Sweating it out: Vignettes from the pre-tournament preparation in the United Arab Emirates. ■TWITTER

# 'Virat is a fast-bowler's captain'

Umesh says Kohli's aggressive mindset helps pacers

AYAN ACHARYA

India international and Royal Challengers Bangalore seamer Umesh Yadav feels the depth in India's pace resources has been built with a captain who likes fast-bowlers and believes in them.

"Virat [Kohli] is a fast-bowler's captain," Umesh told *Sportstar* from the UAE, where he is training with the RCB squad for IPL 2020.

"His aggressive brand of captaincy suits the team in all formats. Fast-bowlers, especially in Twenty20 cricket, enter with an aggressive mindset. It is about maintaining an attacking attitude and not a defensive one. When you are always looking to take wickets, your head is in the right place."

The conditions could bring spin into the equation. Umesh feels the bowling group should be prepared to adapt accordingly.

"Going by the net sessions here so far, the practice



Hitting the deck: Umesh feels the bowling group should be prepared to adapt to the conditions. ■TWITTER/RCB

wickets have been a bit sticky, slightly on the flatter side," said Umesh.

"If there is no seam or swing movement and there is no pace off the pitch, then you need to hit the deck hard to extract pace."

"It depends on the surfaces during the tournament: if it's medium and gets slower as the match progresses, then we have to adapt accordingly."

Umesh praised RCB head

## POWERPLAY



Impressed with boys regaining rhythm: Harris

DUBAI

Delhi Capitals bowling coach Ryan Harris is impressed with the pace at which the players are getting back into shape after months of inactivity. "Watching them bat and bowl, and seeing some shots flying over the fence, I've been impressed with them," said Harris. ■PTI

Valvoline Cummins to be SRH's principal sponsor

HYDERABAD Valvoline Cummins Pvt. Ltd. has announced its association with Sunrisers Hyderabad as the principal sponsor for IPL 2020. The players will sport Valvoline's logo on their jerseys.

Must be more rigid on bio-bubble: Wadia

NEW DELHI

KXIP co-owner Ness Wadia says only those people in the IPL bio-bubble who are "really required" should be with the players. "The CSK incident has taught us that it can happen to anyone even when the best of precautions are taken and therefore we must be more compliant and rigid on the bio-bubble protocols." ■PTI

# Top-ranked T20 sides go head to head

England meets a full-strength Australia in the first match of the series today



## AUS IN ENGLAND

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SOUTHAMPTON

Denied a Twenty20 World Cup this year because of the coronavirus