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CBI raids places linked to Karnataka Congress chief D.K. Shivakumar
page 8



We are well-positioned to take on China, says IAF chief Bhadauria
page 9



Djokovic, Tsitsipas and Kvitova reach French Open quarterfinals
page 13



Axar stars as DC crushes RCB, goes to top of the table
page 13

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NEARBY



Arvind Kejriwal launches anti-pollution campaign

NEW DELHI
Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday launched an anti-pollution campaign Yuddh Pradushan Ke Virudh to reduce air pollution levels in Delhi during winter. The campaign will include release of a Green Delhi app, creation of a war room to monitor progress, processing liquid solution for farms in order to curb stubble burning, and hotspot-specific action plans.

CITY ▶ PAGE 2

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Court orders adequate security to Umar Khalid

NEW DELHI
A Delhi court has ordered adequate security for former Jawaharlal Nehru University student Umar Khalid, who has been remanded in 14-day judicial custody – after spending three days in police custody – in connection with the north-east Delhi riots. Through his counsels, Mr. Khalid reiterated that he had not signed any statements while in police custody.

CITY ▶ PAGE 2

U.P. police allege bid to trigger caste violence

Hathras victim's family is being instigated, say FIRs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

LUCKNOW

Under fire for mishandling the Hathras case, the Uttar Pradesh police on Monday claimed that there was a "conspiracy" by some groups and individuals to instigate caste and communal violence in the State in the aftermath of the alleged gang-rape and subsequent death of a Dalit girl.

At least six FIRs have been lodged in Hathras, including one invoking sedition and criminal conspiracy, against persons and parties for allegedly trying to instigate the victim's family, violating COVID-19 and Cr.P.C. Section 144 norms through illegal assemblies in and around the affected village, and for trying to spread caste discord through misleading statements, the police said.

Additionally, 13 FIRs were lodged and five persons were arrested in Bijnor, Hathras, Saharanpur, Bulandshahr, Prayagraj, Ayodhya and Lucknow on charges of posting offensive statements over the incident on social media.

The allegations came amid charges of highhandedness levelled against the police by Opposition parties who have faced difficulties in trying to meet the family of the victim over the past week. On Sunday, the police lathi-charged RLD vice-president Jayant Chaudhary and his colleagues while they were on the way to meet the family.

The police also used force against the Samajwadi Party workers and booked members of the Bhim Army.

CM's charge

The police narrative that there was a "conspiracy" over the issue came a day after Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath claimed, while hinting at the role of Opposition parties, that those who do not like development "want to trigger caste and communal riots in the State as well as in the country".

Mr. Adityanath, without taking names, alleged that his opponents were indulging in "newer conspiracies" to derive political mileage.

In an official statement, the police said though the government had recommended a CBI probe into the matter, some groups and individuals wanted to create a frenzy by triggering communal and caste violence to defame the State government.

The police, also without specifically naming anyone, claimed groups were circulating misleading and malicious information on social media and violating prohibitory orders through unnecessary assembly near the house and village of the victim.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

RELATED REPORTS ON ▶ PAGE 9

Militants kill two CRPF jawans in J&K

Three jawans injured as LeT men open fire on patrol team

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

SRINAGAR

Two CRPF jawans were killed and three others injured as two motorcycle-borne militants shot at a patrol team on the outskirts of Srinagar on Monday.

The deceased were identified as Shaileendra Singh and Dhirendra Tripathi of the IIO Battalion.

Inspector General of Police Vijay Kumar said the two bike-borne Lashkar-e-Taiba militants fired indiscriminately at a road opening party of the CRPF at Kandizal, near Pampore. He added



Security personnel cordoning off an area in Pampore on the outskirts of Srinagar on Monday. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

that the injured personnel were stable.

Mr. Kumar said one of the attackers had been identified

as Saifullah, a Pakistani militant, and the other is a local.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

+ Virus researchers get Nobel for medicine

They identified the Hepatitis C virus



A screen displaying the winners of the Nobel Prize in Medicine during a press conference in Stockholm. ■ AFP

REUTERS
STOCKHOLM / BERLIN
Two Americans and a Briton won the 2020 Nobel Prize for Medicine on Monday for identifying the Hepatitis C virus, in work spanning decades that has helped to limit the spread of the fatal disease and develop antiviral drugs to cure it.

The discoveries by scientists Harvey J. Alter, Charles M. Rice and Briton Michael Houghton meant there was now a chance of eradicating the Hepatitis C virus.

The three share the 10 million Swedish crowns (\$1.1 million) award for discovering and proving that a blood-borne virus could cause Hepatitis C, which afflicts more than 70 million people and causes about 4,000,000 deaths each year.

Nominations for this year's award preceded the global spread of the new coronavirus pandemic, but the choice of winners recognises the importance of identifying a virus as the first step in winning the battle against a new disease, said Thomas Perlmann, secretary general of the Nobel Assembly.

It's the second Nobel Prize for Medicine for hepatitis research, after Baruch Blumberg won in 1976 for determining that one form

of blood-borne hepatitis was caused by a virus that came to be known as Hepatitis B.

Three steps
The shared prize recognises research dating back to the 1960s when Dr. Alter, working at the U.S. National Institutes of Health, found liver disease could be spread by blood transfusions that weren't caused by Hepatitis A or B. It was a team led by Dr. Houghton, then working for pharmaceuticals firm Chiron, which was able in the mid-1980s to create a clone of a new virus from fragments found in the blood of an infected chimpanzee.

This virus, belonging to the Flavivirus family, was named Hepatitis C.

Its identification made it possible to develop tests to screen bloodbank supplies and greatly reduce the spread of the disease, which can cause cirrhosis and liver cancer.

The final piece of the jigsaw puzzle came when Dr. Rice, then at Washington University in St. Louis, was able to use genetic engineering to generate a version of the Hepatitis C virus and demonstrate that it alone could cause symptoms in a chimpanzee comparable to an infection in humans.

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GST Council split on borrowing options

It extends cess term beyond 2022; to meet on Oct. 12

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council on Monday failed to iron out differences between States ruled by non-NDA parties and the Centre over a plan to get the States to borrow from the market to meet an estimated ₹2.35 lakh crore shortfall in compensation cess collections this year.

Following a "long-drawn", fractious seven-hour meeting, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman asserted that she did not take "anybody for granted" as alleged by some State representatives in the Council during Monday's discussions.

Money matters

A look at some of the decisions taken at the GST Council meet

- Estimate of cess inflow shortfall for the year due to GST implementation raised from ₹97,000 crore to ₹1,10,000 crore

- GST compensation cess collection period extended beyond 2022 to repay proposed borrowings

States to get ₹45,000 crore of cess collections and IGST dues by the end of next week

Deadline continues
No consensus reached on plan to get States to borrow to meet GST compensation cess shortfall

So far 20-21 States are ready to borrow... we won't deny dues to any State

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN, UNION FINANCE MINISTER

cess collections will be used to repay borrowings to be made this year for meeting the compensation shortfall, and will remain "for such period as may be required to meet the revenue gap".

Immediate funds
While the Council will meet again on October 12 to resolve the impasse, the Centre decided to release ₹45,000 crore of GST dues to the States by next week to help them meet immediate spending needs amid the pandemic.

This includes ₹20,000 crore of GST compensation cess collected so far in 2020-21, which Ms. Sitharaman said would be disbursed to the States by late Monday night itself.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Noida police to probe Priyanka manhandling incident

Women's commission also seeks explanation, condemns 'insensitive behaviour'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GHAZIABAD



The Gautam Buddha Nagar police have launched a probe into the alleged manhandling of Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra when she, her brother Rahul Gandhi and party workers were stopped from crossing the DND flyover on Saturday afternoon.

They were on their way to meet the family of the woman who died after she being allegedly gang-raped in Hathras.

In the images of the incident that created outrage on social media, when Ms. Vadra got out of her car and

tried to shield a few party workers, a police officer, wearing a helmet, could be seen pushing her and also attempting to hold her by the kurta.

Regret incident

"

Noida Police profoundly regrets the incident with Priyanka Gandhi while handling an unruly crowd at the DND. The DCP headquarter has taken suo motu cognisance of it and ordered an inquiry to be conducted by a senior la

dy officer. Noida Police is committed to ensure safety and dignity of women," said Noida Police in a statement.

The National Commission for Women has also sought an explanation from the U.P. police over the incident. In a tweet, it condemned the alleged manhandling and said "this insensitive behaviour is totally unacceptable".

NW Chairperson Rekha Sharma has asked the Director General of U.P. Police to respond at the earliest.

Explain action on Kamath panel report +

SC Bench notes Centre yet to address issues of borrowers

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday asked the Centre and the Reserve Bank of India about the steps taken to implement the K.V. Kamath Committee report on recommendations

to bail out sectors affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

A Bench led by Justice Ashok Bhushan noted that an additional affidavit filed by the government late last week did not address "several issues" raised in writ petition

tions highlighting the plight of borrowers, small and big, who were being charged compound interest, post the pandemic moratorium which expired on August 31.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

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IN BRIEF

Teenager gang-raped; one accused arrested

NEW DELHI
A 14-year-old girl was allegedly gang-raped by two men in north-west Delhi's Jahangirpuri, the police said on Monday. One of the two accused nabbed, they said. The duo committed the crime when she was going to buy vegetables, the victim alleged. Teams are looking for absconding accused.

Woman takes to peddling drugs after losing job, held

NEW DELHI
A 50-year-old woman has been arrested for allegedly peddling drugs, the police said on Monday. The accused worked as a house help but lost her job during the lockdown and committed the crime to support her children.

Court orders to provide security to Umar Khalid

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI
A Delhi court on Sunday ordered to provide adequate security to former Jawaharlal Nehru University student Umar Khalid, who was sent back to judicial custody after three days in police custody.

Through his counsels – Rakshanda Deka and Santa Kumar – Mr. Khalid also reiterated that he had not signed any statements while in police custody. Mr. Khalid requested the court that he be provided security while in judicial custody, be allowed to wear spectacles, and have two legal interviews using video call facility for 30 minutes each. The court allowed the same and ordered the jail superintendent “to provide adequate security to the accused/applicant taking proper precautions that no harm should be caused to the accused/applicant and to provide other facilities asked for by the accused/applicant”.

CM announces anti-pollution campaign ahead of winter

Kejriwal to launch Green Delhi app soon, implement hotspot-specific action plans

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday announced an anti-pollution campaign – Yuddh Pradushan Ke Virudh – to reduce air pollution levels in Delhi for the upcoming winter season.

Mr. Kejriwal said various measures to combat pollution such as the launching of the Green Delhi app, creation of a war room to monitor steps on a real-time basis, processing liquid solution for farm fields to prevent stubble burning, implementing hotspot-specific action plans would be a part of the campaign.

“Every year, the level of pollution rises in October, November, and December here. One of the biggest reasons for this is burning of crop stubble. This year, air pollution can be deadly because of CO-



Arvind Kejriwal

VID-19,” he said at a digital briefing.

“In the last five years, the people of Delhi have done commendable work to control levels of pollution. In Delhi, the pollution levels have actually decreased between 2014-2019. The average PM2.5 in 2014 was 154, and PM2.5 in 2018-19 was 115,” he added.

Following a meeting with government departments and agencies earlier during the day, Mr. Kejriwal said the government would be declaring a war against pollution. The foremost aspect of this

campaign, he said, would require dealing with the pollution due to crop stubble burning every year. The Pusa Agricultural Research Institute had devised a fermented liquid solution to be sprayed on the fields to soften the stubble and prevent its burning, which Delhi would use.

‘Heavy fines’

“We are also launching an intensive anti-dust drive from today [Monday] under which various action plans will be implemented. Our inspection teams will visit the construction sites across Delhi and impose heavy fines if they are found not following anti-pollution measures in construction sites,” he said.

He said mechanical sweepers would be used by civic bodies across Delhi to ensure no pollution due to road dust. He

said he had also instructed agencies to repair potholes. Anti-smog guns had also been installed across the city to reduce the impact of pollution.

There are 13 points in Delhi where the impact of pollution is the maximum; those areas have been identified and the government has done detailed planning for each of the hotspots. “We will also be launching the Green Delhi App this month,” he said.

“We are also creating a war room against pollution for monitoring of various measures that are implemented and have to be implemented in the coming days. I will get the daily report of the frequency, impact and success of these activities. We are also drafting the tree transplantation policy,” he said.

“Delhi has shut down its own two plants,” he added.

Protests over Hathras continue

Students' organisations demand Adityanath's resignation

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

Protests against the Hathras incident continued on Monday with several students' organisations gathering at Jantar Mantar to demand Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's resignation.

Students' organisations like the All India Students' Association (AISA) and the Krantikari Yuva Sangathan (KYS) were a part of the demonstration where Mr. Yogi's effigy was burnt.



Activists at a demonstration seeking justice for the Hathras victim, at Jantar Mantar on Monday. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

there is not even a shred of pretence about a fair trial as we are seeing how the victim's family is being treated. We are going to continue pursuing this issue.”

Activist Kavita Krishnan said that “filing blank FIRs was a sinister move”.

‘Counter narrative’

“The ruling party and the government is trying to run a counter narrative and say that there was no rape and it's an honour crime. This is being said even after there

is evidence that the victim till the end kept saying that she had been sexually assaulted. It is being seen that every time there is an incident the perpetrators are protected while the victims are blamed, locked up and killed. We are not going to allow these things to be hidden away,” said Ms. Krishnan.

Protesters also demanded action against senior police officers for allegedly intimidating the victim's family.

Life goes on



Washermen on the banks of the Yamuna in Delhi on Monday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

High Court seeks NADA reply on plea by athletes

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI
The Delhi High Court on Monday sought response from the Centre and the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) on petitions by two athletes challenging certain provisions of the NADA Rules 2015.

A Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice Praetek Jalan gave the direction on petition by Dharam Raj Yadav and Chunni Lal, who

has additionally sought compensation claiming that they were suspended illegally.

Identical petitions

In their separate but identical petitions, Mr. Yadav, an international discus throw athlete and Mr. Lal, an international fencing athlete, stated that they were wrongfully placed under suspension on March 5, 2019, on the basis of a wrongfully decided Anti-Doping Agency (ADR), 2015

violation. Both of them said they were wrongfully placed under suspension from March 05, 2019, to March 06, 2020, which effectively deprived them of competing in any fencing tournament for a period of one year. They argued that the NADA Rules require the athlete to pay for procuring the laboratory documentation package (LDP). Since they had limited means, they had to wait for a

re-analysis report to be prepared in March 2020 which found them to have not committed an anti-doping rule violation.

Mr. Lal is the winner of the gold medal in both Senior and Junior National Fencing teams (2018) and a Silver Medal in the Junior Commonwealth Games (2018). Mr. Yadav said he has won numerous medals in both National and International Athletic Meet.

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL MANAGER CTU & DIRECTOR TRANSPORT UT. CHANDIGARH

PUBLIC NOTICE

Sh. Tarwinder Singh, Driver No. 576 of Chandigarh Transport Undertaking Depot-II Chandigarh was Charge sheeted in Memo No.6395/EC/G-2/CTU/2019 dated 09.04.2019 for absenting from duty w.e.f. 23.06.2018 onwards. He did not furnish any reply to the Charge sheet. A regular Departmental Enquiry was ordered to enquire into the charges. During the enquiry proceeding Sh. Tarwinder Singh, Driver No. 576 deliberately avoided his presence from the enquiry proceeding inspite of numbers of notices summons issued to him. Therefore, the Inquiry Officer held that the charges leveled against Sh. Tarwinder Singh, Driver No. 576 stand proved ex parte. A copy of Enquiry Report was sent at his home address vide letter No. 7106/EC/G-2/CTU/2020 dated 31.07.2020 and again vide letter No.8609/EC/G-2/CTU/2020 dated 17.09.2020 through a registered post but the same received back undelivered with the remarks of the postal Authority “Baar Barr Jane te Banda Ghar Nahin Milda hai Ate Ghar nu Tala Lagya hoya Hai Is karke Regd. Itte Vapis Keeti” A letter for personal hearing was sent at his permanent address available in the official record through a registered post but he failed to appear before the competent Authority. In these circumstances, this office is left with no other option but to intimate and call him through this public notice for personal hearing in the interest of justice.

Therefore, Sh. Tarwinder Singh, Driver No. 576 is hereby called upon through this public Notice to appear before the Undersigned on 15.10.2020 at 11.00 A.M. for personal hearing, failing which it shall be presumed that he has nothing to say in this regard and ex parte decision will be taken against him without any further notice.

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CAA, stirs gave rise to hate speeches before riots

Provocative speeches on social media led to environment of violence, says report

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

An environment for violence was created before the riots broke out in the Capital in February, a recent report released by Citizens and Lawyers Initiative has stated.

The report, titled ‘Delhi Riots of February 2020: Causes, Fallout and Aftermath’, claims that the implementation of Citizenship Amendment Act and the protests that followed gave rise to hate speeches, “which stoked the flames of communal violence”.

Kapil Mishra’s speech

“This culminated in the communally charged Delhi election campaign, which was eventually won by the Aam Aadmi Party without challenging the vitriolic content of its main Opposition. This gave rise to well-publicised gun-wielding vigilantes. The environment was as charged as a powder keg that just needed a spark to erupt. Kapil Mishra’s provocative speech in Jaffrabad, and the incendiary Facebook Live posts by Ragini Tiwari aka Janki Behen, appear to have had that effect; bolstered by

The failure of the law and order situation arose as a result of reported incidents of police partaking in the violence, providing tacit support to Hindu mobs

DEHLI RIOTS OF FEBRUARY 2020:
CAUSES, FALLOUT AND AFTERMATH

rumour and misinformation on social media,” the report stated.

According to the report, “ambiguous” role of police, inaction, “selective” complicity with Hindu rioters, and other factors lead to the escalation. The report also stated that the violence had

multiple aspects, including the strategic deployment of rampaging mobs, local vigilantism and social media playing a role in coordinating and mobilising attacks and spreading misinformation to incite.

The failure of the law and order situation arose as a result of reported incidents of police partaking in the violence, providing tacit support to Hindu mobs, and failing to take appropriate action to staunch the loss of lives, livelihoods, and properties,” the report read.

Talking about the compensation offered by the government, the report stated that it was less than what was offered during the Mu-

zaffarnagar riots and there were also gaps in what was promised and what was delivered.

Mentioning “political parallelism” in the investigation, the report claimed that the police put forward the narrative of the ruling party and that they chose to base their ‘analysis’ of the event on selective aspects of the witness statements “that conform to their existing narrative”.

The report recommended the formation of a multi-stakeholder accountability team to supervise the investigation, institute adequate rehabilitation package, publish an account of compensation promises and disbursed, conduct trust drives.

Former Supreme Court judge B.N. Srikrishna, who presided over the Commission of Inquiry into 1992-93 Bombay riots, who has written the prologue of the report, said: “It is time that the State machinery and constitutional functionaries display greater seriousness in the investigation of the causes of such riots and take appropriate steps to prevent their recurrence”.

Snatcher kills 24-year-old civil defence volunteer

Accused flees spot with phone, on the run

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

A 24-year-old civil defence volunteer was stabbed to death and his friend was injured allegedly by two persons while trying to resist a snatching bid at GB road in Central Delhi, the police said on Monday.

The incident happened at 11.30 p.m. on Sunday when the victim, Aman from Noida, along with his friends – Aniruddh, Hari Om and Raju – went to GB Road for some work. A person suddenly tried to snatch Aman’s mobile phone but failed as the group caught him.

The men started beating the snatcher when the latter’s accomplice came to the spot and stabbed Aman. He also attacked Aniruddh, the officer said, adding that the accused fled the spot with the phone.

Both men were rushed to Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital where Aman was declared dead by doctors while Aniruddh is undergoing treatment. “We received information at 1.54 a.m. from RML Hospital,” said DCP

Central Sanjay Bhatia. A case was registered under Sections 302 (murder), 307 (attempt to murder), 394 (voluntarily causing hurt in committing robbery), 397 (robbery or dacoity, with attempt to cause death or grievous hurt) and 34 (Acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) at Kamla Market police station and probe is under way, he added.

“Aman’s younger sister’s marriage was scheduled on November 11. He was preparing for it. He was our only son. I demand the Delhi Police arrest the accused at the earliest,” said Aman’s mother.

Aman had come to meet his friends in GB Road at the time of the incident.

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

(Central) Sanjay Bhatia. A case was registered under Sections 302 (murder), 307 (attempt to murder), 394 (voluntarily causing hurt in committing robbery), 397 (robbery or dacoity, with attempt to cause death or grievous hurt) and 34 (Acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) at Kamla Market police station and probe is under way, he added.



Burnt vehicles after the riots that broke out in north-east Delhi in February. ■ FILE PHOTO

rumour and misinformation on social media,” the report stated.

According to the report, “ambiguous” role of police, inaction, “selective” complicity with Hindu rioters, and other factors lead to the escalation. The report also stated that the violence had

multiple aspects, including the strategic deployment of rampaging mobs, local vigilantism and social media playing a role in coordinating and mobilising attacks and spreading misinformation to incite.

The failure of the law and order situation arose as a result of reported incidents of police partaking in the violence, providing tacit support to Hindu mobs, and failing to take appropriate action to prevent their recurrence”.

Timings DELHI	
TUESDAY, OCT. 06	
RISE 06:17 SET 18:01	
20:50 SET 09:55	
WEDNESDAY, OCT. 07	
RISE 06:18 SET 18:00	
21:31 SET 10:50	
THURSDAY, OCT. 08	
RISE 06:18 SET 17:59	
22:16 SET 11:45	

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	35	19
Safdarjung	35	19
Palam	35	21

Delhi Palam Today
36°C Pleasant morning and sunny warm day with light winds.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
36°C Warm afternoon likely. Dry weather with mainly sunny sky.

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IN BRIEF

Air quality likely to be 'moderate' for next 2 days
NEW DELHI

Delhi's air quality is expected to be in the 'moderate' category for the next two days, said government-run monitoring agency SAFAR (System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research). However, there is an increase in fire count in Punjab and Haryana and the air quality is likely to deteriorate later this week.

'Civic bodies not obeying order on workers' salary'

NEW DELHI
The AAP on Monday attacked the BJP-ruled civic bodies for allegedly not complying with a High Court order to pay ₹32,000 instead of ₹14,000 as salary to about 3,500 employees who help the corporations fight against dengue and malaria. "AAP demands that the BJP-ruled civic bodies must release the fund for these warriors and follow the court order," said AAP leader Durgesh Pathak while addressing a press conference.

New COVID-19 cases below 2,000 as testing dips by 30%

Active cases decrease for seventh consecutive day; containment zones 2,707 now

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

As many as 1,947 new COVID-19 cases were reported in Delhi in the past 24 hours, taking the total number of cases to 2,92,560, according to a health bulletin released by the Delhi government on Monday.

However, only 35,593 tests were done in the past 24 hours which is about 30% less than last week's average daily tests of 51,004. Bulletins on Mondays usually show lesser number of tests as the data represents tests done on Sundays.

Also, 32 more deaths have been reported, taking the total number of deaths to 5,542.

As per the bulletin, 3,588



A medical worker collects a patient's blood sample at a COVID care centre at Commonwealth Games Village on Monday.

• R.V. MOORTHY

people have recovered in the past 24 hours and in total, 2,63,938 people have recovered so far.

The number of active cases, which fell below the 25,000 mark after almost 25

rantine came down for the fourth straight day.

COVID-19

Out of the total 15,840 beds available for COVID-19 treatment in the city, 63.3% were vacant, as per government data on Monday. However, 59.5% of the ICU beds with ventilators have been occupied and 66.3% of such beds without ventilators are full.

The positivity rate was 5.4%, which is lower than September's average. The overall positivity rate till now is 8.8%.

The number of containment zones in the city on Monday jumped to 2,707, which is the highest so far.

Audit team to investigate Waqf Board 'irregularities'

Amanatullah's tenure under scanner

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government has launched a special audit into alleged irregularities by former Delhi Waqf Board chairman Amanatullah Khan during his tenure.

"The special audit is concerned with the irregularities committed by Amanatullah Khan in the capacity of the Delhi Waqf Board chairman, with effect from March 2016 to March 2020," the letter stated.

Elected again
The AAP Okhla MLA was unanimously elected as Waqf Board member again but his election is yet to be notified

by the government.

He was the chairman of the Board before the Delhi Assembly elections earlier this year when his term as a member of the Board expired.

The letter from the office of Principal Secretary (Revenue) directed the Delhi Waqf Board to provide "all concerned auditable records and information as per scope and period of audit" to the audit team.

Mr. Khan previously served as the chairman of the Board for around six months in 2016 before resigning in May, and again from September 2018 to March 2020.

NGT pulls up Haryana over environment norm violations

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Following a plea alleging violation of environmental norms by a housing project in Faridabad, the NGT has pulled up the Haryana government over "repeated serious violations" and directed the Chief Secretary to convene a meeting with authorities concerned and take appropriate action.

The NGT said, "For protection of environment and public health, the State authorities must take appropriate action which may be monitored by Haryana Chief Secretary by calling a meeting of statutory authorities concerned in a month."

THE HINDU
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THE HINDU
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the perspective year of current Regional Plan-2021 is approaching. Planning for a vast and diverse NCR can be achieved only through an inclusive, consultative exercise with active participation of all stakeholders. I am happy to note that a comprehensive consultative exercise of 17 full-day workshops was undertaken by the NCRPB," said Mr. Puri.

capital region globally by 2030.

Haryana CM Manohar Lal; Urban Development Ministers from Delhi, U.P. and Rajasthan; Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Secretary, Durga Shanker Mishra and other representatives were present.

Cost of projects

The Minister said that the cumulative projects sanctioned so far by the NCR Planning Board were 366, out of which 269 were completed and 97 were under various stages of implementation. The estimated cost of these 366 projects was ₹31,853 crore, out of which ₹15,393 crore was sanctioned by the Board and ₹12,441 crore released so far.

Regional Plan-2041 a chance to plan better future, says Puri

It will be challenging given the rise in area and population'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT GURUGRAM

The forthcoming Regional Plan with 20-year horizon of 2041 would be challenging and also a unique opportunity to plan for a better future, said Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep S. Puri on Monday, speaking at the 39th meeting of the NCRPB.

Mr. Puri said the NCR area

and population had grown gradually and the forthcoming Regional Plan with 20-year horizon of 2041 would, therefore, be very challenging. "It will also be a unique opportunity for all of us to plan for a better future 2041. Presently, NCRPB Secretariat is engaged in preparation of Regional Plan-2041 as

Homage



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NEXT IAS

328 Selections in Civil Services Examination, 2019

74 Selections from CLASSROOM COURSES in CSE 2019

7 AIR Ganesh Baskar Essay Course	8 AIR Abhishek Saraf Essay Course & Answer writing	12 AIR Ajay Jain GS Foundation & Essay Course	23 AIR Nidhi Bansal Essay Course	29 AIR Mayank Mittal GS Foundation, Optional (EE) & Essay Course	34 AIR Apur Chauhan Optional Course (Sociology)	52 AIR Om Kant Thakur Essay Course	63 AIR Patil Y. Ashokrao Essay Course	69 AIR Navneet Mittal GS Foundation & Essay Course	73 AIR Abhishek Kumar Essay Course & Answer writing	81 AIR Anil Kr. Rathore GS Advance Course, Essay Course & Answer writing	83 AIR Shivendu Bhushan Optional Course (EE)	84 AIR J. Kartik Nagajibhai Essay Course & CA
85 AIR Shubhang Mishra Essay Course	95 AIR Singa R. R. Reddy GS Foundation, Optional (EE) & Essay	98 AIR Y. Megha Swaroop GS Foundation	145 AIR Rishi Anand GS Foundation	162 AIR Umesh Prasad G. Optional Course (EE)	163 AIR Siddharth Dhopola Essay Course	164 AIR Ahinsa Jain Essay Course	191 AIR Vidhu Shekhar Essay Course & Answer writing	198 AIR G Chandees GS Foundation & Essay Course	201 AIR Sohan Lal Essay Course	205 AIR Ankur Kr. Jain Optional Course (Sociology) & Essay Course	206 AIR Brijesh J. Upadhyay Essay Course	
215 AIR Chirag Jain Essay Course	219 AIR Nitesh Kumar Jain Essay Course	226 AIR Shinde A. Sanjeevan GS Foundation	229 AIR Arushi Mishra Optional Course (Sociology) & Essay Course	241 AIR Sofia Essay Course	245 AIR Abhinav Tyagi Essay Course	246 AIR Maninderjit Kaur Optional Course (Sociology)	255 AIR Abhishek Bhal Essay Course	260 AIR Mukul Jamloli Essay Course	264 AIR Anu Joshy Optional Course (Sociology)	277 AIR Gajraj Bachhawat Essay Course	283 AIR Gorijala M. Krishna Essay Course	
288 AIR Abhishek Kumar Essay Course	305 AIR Abhinav Gopal Optional Course (Sociology) & Essay Course	308 AIR Prashant Jadeja Optional Course (CE)	326 AIR M. Bharani Optional Course (Sociology)	356 AIR Pratik Jain Essay Course	360 AIR Shivam Tiagi GS Foundation, Optional (ME) & Essay Course	375 AIR Ritesh Singh GS Foundation, Optional (ME) & Current Affairs	398 AIR Kumar Ashish Essay Course	415 AIR Ajay K. Gautam Essay Course	420 AIR Rahul Modi Essay Course	424 AIR Pankaj Kumawat Answer writing	441 AIR Yogesh Kr. Patel Optional Course (CE)	
486 AIR Abhimanyu Optional Course (CE)	521 AIR Kushal Chouksey GS Advance, CA & Essay Courses	539 AIR VY Rashi Sekhar Optional Advance (Sociology)	544 AIR Manoj Kr. Rawat GS Advance & Essay Course	546 AIR Narendra Rawat Essay Course	549 AIR Sarvesh Panwar Optional Advance (Sociology)	552 AIR Abhijeet Kumar Essay Course	579 AIR Mohammad Aaqib Optional Advance (ME)	612 AIR Juvanapandi Mahesh Optional Advance (EE)	617 AIR Kumari Manisha Optional Advance (Sociology)	637 AIR D. Abhishek Dilip Essay Course	654 AIR Santanu Kr. Singh Essay Course	
696 AIR Kumar Saumya GS Advance & Essay Course	707 AIR Harsh Bansal Optional Advance (Sociology) & Essay Course	731 AIR Rajiv Kumar Essay Course	750 AIR Vineet Kumar GS Foundation & Optional (Sociology)	752 AIR Gaikwad N. Shrikant Optional Advance (Sociology)	764 AIR K. Shashikanth GS Foundation & Answer writing	779 AIR Hemant Singh GS Foundation, Essay Course & Answer writing	787 AIR Sarvesh Sonwani Essay Course	796 AIR Nunavath Praveen Essay Course	810 AIR M. Sameer Vijay GS Advance & Essay Course	825 AIR Pragyagni GS Foundation & GS Advance	826 AIR Chandan Kumar GS Foundation, Essay Course & Answer writing	

254 Selections from TEST SERIES, POSTAL AND IGP

List of Candidates Selected in Top 100 from Test Series, Postal and Interview Guidance Program

4 AIR Himanshu Jain IGP	6 AIR Vishakha Yadav IGP	11 AIR Nupur Goel IGP	16 AIR Gunjan IGP
18 AIR Lavish Ordia Test Series & IGP	19 AIR Shrestha Anupam Test Series	22 AIR Patki M. Jayantara IGP	26 AIR Pradeep Singh IGP
27 AIR Himanshu Gupta IGP	31 AIR Simi Karan IGP	33 AIR Navneet Mann IGP	37 AIR Natisha Mathur IGP
39 AIR Ruchi Bindal IGP	41 AIR Ayushi Jain IGP	43 AIR Shubham Bansal IGP	44 AIR Kulkarni Ashutosh Test Series & IGP
49 AIR Yuvraj Seddharth IGP	50 AIR Shishir Gupta IGP	56 AIR Pankaj IGP	62 AIR Avadh Singh IGP
65 AIR Aashima Goyal IGP	66 AIR Saurav Pandey IGP	71 AIR Yashaswini. B IGP	72 AIR Chandrima Attri IGP
77 AIR Katta Ravi Teja IGP	78 AIR Shashwat Tripari IGP	87 AIR Muskan Jindal IGP	88 AIR Shubhangi S. IGP
91 AIR Narwade V. Tejao IGP	94 AIR Anisha Tomar IGP	96 AIR Hardik Agarwal IGP	99 AIR Archana PP IGP

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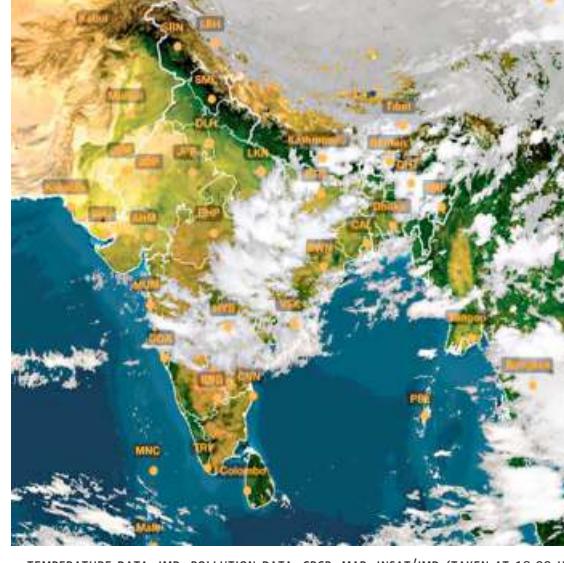
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Prelims 2020 Answer Key - Check Website

PUBLIC NOTICE**PUBLIC NOTICE**

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



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

Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Odisha and south interior Karnataka. Moderate thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Gangetic West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, coastal Andhra Pradesh and Kerala

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	4.2	33.0	26.4	Kozhikode	2.2	32.2	23.4
Ahmedabad	—	35.8	25.0	Kurnool	—	32.4	23.9
Aizawl	12	27.3	18.1	Lucknow	—	36.0	24.7
Allahabad	—	35.6	26.0	Madurai	—	38.6	23.7
Bengaluru	0.2	28.2	19.0	Mangaluru	—	31.1	23.6
Bhopal	—	34.0	18.6	Mumbai	—	31.6	25.0
Bhubaneswar	0.2	29.5	24.4	Mysuru	—	30.0	23.4
Chandigarh	—	36.2	19.7	New Delhi	—	35.2	19.3
Chennai	—	36.2	27.5	Patna	—	32.8	26.6
Coimbatore	—	33.2	23.2	Pond Blair	1.4	31.0	25.2
Dehradun	—	32.0	18.6	Puducherry	—	35.6	25.6
Gangtok	1.6	22.2	17.4	Pune	—	31.4	21.8
Goa	0.1	30.0	24.5	Raipur	1.4	31.4	24.4
Guwahati	—	35.0	24.5	Ranchi	—	29.6	22.2
Hubballi	—	28.0	21.0	Shillong	—	24.0	16.6
Hyderabad	—	32.3	22.8	Shimla	—	27.5	17.5
Imphal	6.9	31.2	20.6	Srinagar	—	27.1	5.6
Jaipur	—	36.6	21.2	Thiruvananthapuram	—	32.0	24.0
Kochi	0.4	30.2	24.0	Tiruchi	—	35.5	24.5
Kohima	17.2	27.4	17.9	Vijayawada	—	33.8	26.2
Kolkata	—	32.7	26.4	Visakhapatnam	0.6	32.3	25.7

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

Yesterday

CITIES	SO ₂	NO _x	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	32	64	32	.115	.103	■■■■■
Bengaluru	11	.22	.46	.56	.73	■■■■■
Chennai	43	.43	.20	.52	—	■■■■■
Delhi	9	.54	.25	.23	.241	■■■■■
Hyderabad	44	.33	.10	.83	.119	■■■■■
Kolkata	11	.13	—	.52	.56	■■■■■
Lucknow	.6	.67	.58	.321	.229	■■■■■
Mumbai	22	.49	.20	.47	.76	■■■■■
Pune	—	—	—	—	—	■■■■■
Visakhapatnam	.20	.7	.48	.78	—	■■■■■

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

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

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

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

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

Maharashtra records lowest COVID-19 case surge in 45 days

10,244 fresh cases, 263 deaths on Monday; recovery rate rises to 80%

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

PUNE

In its lowest case surge in over 45 days, Maharashtra reported just 10,244 new COVID-19 cases on Monday as the State's total tally reached 14,53,653 of whom 2,52,277 are active.

Hearteningly, the State's recovery rate rose to 80% as recoveries outpaced cases yet again with 12,982 patients being discharged to take the cumulative recoveries to 11,62,585. Recoveries have been outweighing cases for the better part of the last 10 days. Yet, this spike has to be viewed in the context of relatively low samples tested – 58,000 – in the last 24 hours as opposed to the daily average of 85,000-90,000.

With 263 more deaths, the State's death toll has now climbed to 38,347.

"Of a total 71,69,887 laboratory samples tested thus

'Uddhav will soon decide on reopening places of worship'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MUMBAI

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray is holding discussions with various religious organisations and he will soon take a decision on reopening places of worship in the State, Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut said on Monday.

Mr. Raut said this when some reporters pointed out that restaurants have been allowed to operate

far, 14,53,653 (20.27%) have returned positive with around 58,000 samples across the State being tested in the last 24 hours," State

again with their capacity not exceeding 50% or as prescribed by local authorities, but temples have not been reopened in the State.

The Chief Minister has maintained from the beginning that things will be unlocked in a phased manner...you can impose 50% restrictions on restaurants while reopening them, but it is not possible in the case of temples," he said.

Surveillance Officer Dr. Pradeep Awate said, adding that the State's case fatality rate currently stood at 2.64%.

Pune district – in its low-

est daily surge in over a month – reported a little over 1,000 cases to take its total tally to 3,04,353 while 30 deaths saw its fatality toll touch 6,002. As per the Pune district administration, the recovery rate has reached 85.30% with the number of active cases down to 36,500.

Mumbai reported 1,836 cases to take its total case tally to 2,15,488 of whom 26,392 are active ones. As many as 47 fatalities saw the city's death toll rise to 9,155.

Nagpur district in Vidarbha reported over 650 cases, taking the district's total tally to 82,396 of whom 11,222 are active. As many as 20 deaths saw the death toll climb to 2,197. In western Maharashtra, Satara reported 15 deaths to take its death toll to 1,123. A spike of 486 fresh cases saw the total case tally reach 39,755 of whom 7,882 are active.

If COVID-19 patient dies due to negligence, family should get compensation, says HC

SONAM SAIGAL

MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Monday said if the State government accepted that victims of COVID-19 had died due to culpable negligence, their family members should be entitled to compensation.

A Division Bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice G.S. Kulkarni was hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by BJP MLA Ashish Shelar.

The PIL raised an issue about the proper management of bodies of COVID-19 victims, which is also pend-

ing adjudication before the Supreme Court. It said that hospitals, including Sion hospital, should have considerably large areas for a mortuary hall and a post-mortem hall for dealing with bodies. The PIL sought a direction to the State government to set up a committee to look into this. The court directed Mr. Shelar to suggest additional measures that could be adopted by the State for better management of bodies in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.

An additional affidavit was filed by Mr. Shelar on July 10 in which he had referred to 11

instances of death of patients, either at State-run hospitals or hospitals operated by various municipal corporations, amid the pandemic. According to him, such instances would suggest culpable negligence on the part of those responsible for running the hospitals.

The court on Monday said, "If the instances referred to by Mr. Shelar were true and the State accepts the allegations of the petitioner that there has been culpable negligence, the unfortunate victim's family members should be entitled to compensation."

Hathras case: RSS, BJP view women as commodities, says Prakash Ambedkar

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE

PUNE

Attacking the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) over the alleged gang rape of a 19-year-old girl in Hathras in Uttar Pradesh, Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA) chief Prakash Ambedkar on Monday said that the Sangh and its political arm envisaged women only as "commodities".

Mr. Ambedkar, the grandson of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, also lashed out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his "conspicuous si-

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Monday reserved judgement on a plea filed by actor Kangana Ranaut after the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) demolished portions of her bungalow in Bandra.

A Division Bench of Justices S.J. Kathawalla and R.I. Chagla stayed the demolition process on September 9. Soon thereafter, affidavits were filed by the actor and the civic body had replied to them. The 33-year-old actor also amended her petition and sought a compensation of ₹2 crore from the BMC.

On September 22, the court impleaded Shiv Sena's chief spokesperson and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Raut as a respondent in the petition. This was done after Ms. Ranaut's advocate Birendra Saraf submitted a DVD containing Mr. Raut's statements against the actor, which she

tended to see youth coming out in large numbers to protest crimes against women, in Ut-tar Pradesh.

"The heinous Hathras incident has been protested at all levels of society...the younger generation is now looking at the oppression of women from a different perspective. In this changing scenario, it is worth noting that the mentality of the Sangh and its political arm envisaged women only as commodities".

"Youngsters recognise that a woman, too, has inalienable rights and that she should be able to live the way she wants to. The new generation has no tolerance against such brutal oppression of women. The fact that they are hitting the streets in such great numbers across the country is evidence of this fact," he said.

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CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH 62ND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sumit Deb

CMD, NMDC Limited

Dear Shareholders,

I have great pleasure in welcoming you to the 62nd Annual General Meeting (AGM) of NMDC Limited, which is being organised via video conferencing. Organising AGM through video conferencing have given us an opportunity amidst Covid-19 pandemic challenges to get closer to digitalization. Another advantage is, a larger number of shareholders are able to participate in the AGM from safety of their respective locations. I request all of you with your near and dear ones to stay safe and healthy.

This is my first address to our shareholders since accepting the role as Chairman and Managing Director of NMDC Ltd. I am honoured and humbled to be leading our great company with more than 60 years of rich legacy in responsible mining along with a great team. The Director's Report and the audited Balance Sheet of your Company for the period ended 31st March, 2020 have already been mailed to the shareholders of the Company. With your permission, I take them as read.

To begin with let me delve upon our FY20 performance and the key factors leading to the financial performance.....

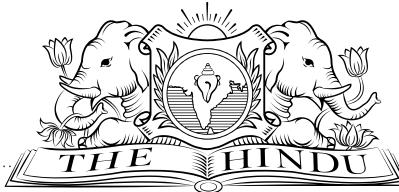
As the largest iron ore producer in India we are steadily progressing as an environment friendly miner with a positive thrust on economic and social development of our country. We continue to advance in our mission to acquire and operate various iron ore, coal and other mineral assets in India.

During the year all the five mining leases of Bailadila Iron Ore Mines in Chhattisgarh have been extended.

Under Section-5 of the Coal Mines (Special Provision) Act, 2015 Ministry of Coal has declared NMDC as successful allottee of Tokisud North Coal Mine (Non Coking Coal) & Rohne Coal Mine (Coking Coal).

CY2019 has been a challenging year for the global as well as Indian economy. Global growth in CY19 recorded its weakest pace since the global financial crisis a decade ago. This global slowdown has common influences across countries along with country-specific factors. Rising trade tensions and associated uncertainties weighed on business sentiment and economic activities in emerging market economies such as India, Brazil, Mexico and Russia.

From manufacturing steel components to infrastructure development, steel is the key reinforcing element in the economic growth. In 2019, India had become the second largest crude steel producing country in the world, with a crude steel production of 111 Mt. However, the growth rate was much lower compared to the previous year, i.e., CY19 & Q1 of CY20 the growth in the construction and infrastructure sector weakened due to falling investments in fixed asset formation. Abrupt plunge in the private consumption led to weaker growth in automotive and consumer durables. Adding that the tighter liquidity conditions impacted credit availability in the manufacturing sector. The unfavourable economic conditions were further impacted due



People's court

By-elections in Madhya Pradesh will likely redefine its politics over the longer term

The ruling BJP and the opposition Congress are face-to-face in by-elections in 28 Assembly constituencies in Madhya Pradesh scheduled for November 3. Unfortunate circumstances – deaths of three sitting MLAs – and resignations of 25 Congress MLAs have led to these by-elections, within two years of the election in 2018 that had brought the Congress to power with the support of independents and smaller parties. The BJP displaced the Congress in March, following the defection of 22 Congress MLAs. Three more followed suit in later months. Most of these 25 are likely to enter the fray as BJP candidates this time. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan is leading the BJP campaign and he needs to win at least nine seats to have an absolute majority in the Assembly of 230. The BJP now has 107 MLAs. The Congress has 88 MLAs and it needs to win all the 28 seats to return to power on its own. If it wins 21, four Independent MLAs, two BSP MLAs and one SP MLA will be in play again. The BJP has the advantage of being in power at the Centre and in the State, but the Congress led by former Chief Minister Kamal Nath is trying to wrest power by drawing attention to its own record over a period of more than a year, and the failings of the present government.

Most of these seats are around Gwalior, areas considered as the sphere of influence of Jyotiraditya Scindia who led the Congress defectors to the BJP. The entry of adversaries has complicated power balances within the BJP in the State. Mr. Chouhan's effectiveness in the usurpation of power has not extended to governance in the following months, and Madhya Pradesh's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic has been chaotic. The Congress campaign puts the spotlight on the mismanagement of the pandemic, and it has promised a government job to each family that has lost a member to the disease. A considerable population from these northern regions of the State used to work in urban centres outside the State and they had to return in distress during the lockdown. Several instances of police brutality earned the State government infamy in recent months. The defector-MLAs will be required to explain their conduct as the Congress accuses them of betraying the 2018 mandate. Along with Mr. Chouhan, Mr. Scindia too is facing a test. Now a Rajya Sabha member from the BJP, he is hoping to be inducted into the Union Cabinet and the results of the by-elections will reflect his political clout in the region and impact his own standing in his new party, the BJP. His exit has ended the infighting in the Congress and opens the possibility of a new politics for it in the Gwalior region. Regardless of the outcomes, these by-elections will signify the reshaping of both the Congress and the BJP in Madhya Pradesh.

Pandemic peak

The economy needs to be unlocked with caution, without resort to irrational optimism

The Finance Ministry in a report said that while the pandemic was far from over in India, the country may be "past its peak" of the COVID-19 case load. It premised this on a declining case load from September 17-30 when the daily positive cases dipped from 90,000 to 83,000 a day. This, along with an increase in testing had led to a falling test-positivity (or the number of tests needed to find a positive case) and so was a sign that India ought to be 'further freeing up its economy.' The pandemic being past its peak in India is irrational optimism. Last week the chief of the Indian Council of Medical Research, while announcing the results of the second all-India serology survey, said only 7% of Indians had been exposed to the virus. The Health Minister too, referencing the same survey, said that India was "far from any sort of herd immunity." The decline from 90,000 cases a day to around 75,000 for over a fortnight is certainly welcome but can be deceptive. In the United States, daily cases steadily plummeted from 70,000 in July to 24,000 in September, to ascend again to 50,000 this week. India's test positivity is declining but not substantially. On September 23 it was 8.52% and as of October 4 had fallen to 8.29% – an improvement but not close to the World Health Organization-suggested safety barrier of less than 5%.

What further complicates projections based on ephemeral undulations in cases is that it does not take into account the dynamic nature of the virus itself. The early optimism that its spread may be contained by changes in the weather, behavioural modifications and imposing a sudden, stringent lockdown has been belied. If a complete shutdown could not stop it, it is hard to fathom how allowing public transport and religious congregations, permitting schools and educational institutions to restart, opening up malls in a season that is particularly conducive to viruses, will not catalyse the movement to a new peak. The so-called peak is a statistical artefact closely connected to the number of tests a country administers. If testing were to decline, more cases would be undetected, and conversely, an increase in tests could push this hypothetical point even further. Therefore, it is only after sufficient time has elapsed and in retrospect that a country's peak can be inferred. India has been opening up the economy and this increases the average person's exposure to the virus. Countries with much fewer cases have been far more cautious with opening. The lockdown had shown the disruption in the economy, and it is understandable if Finance Ministry officials seek a justification for opening up. But just as it would be surprising for epidemiologists to forecast GDP growth, officials ought not to be prognosticating outside their ken merely to revive economic sentiment, when several alternatives based on fact and reason exist.

Farm Acts – unwanted constitutional adventurism

There is a case to argue that the three Acts have poor legal validity, may be unconstitutional and weaken federalism



R. RAMAKUMAR

The passage of the three Farm Acts by Parliament has led to a constitutional debate. These Acts are: the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020; the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020, and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020. Does the Union government have the authority to legislate on what are rightfully the affairs of States? Many States have questioned the constitutional validity of the Farm Acts and are reportedly exploring legal options.

The issue

Agriculture is a State subject in the Constitution, listed as Entry 14 in the State List (List II). This apart, Entry 26 in List II refers to "trade and commerce within the State";

Entry 27 refers to "production, supply and distribution of goods"; and Entry 28 refers to "markets and fairs". For these reasons, intra-State marketing in agriculture was always considered a legislative prerogative of States.

Seen in this perspective, Parliament's passage of the Farm Bills was an extraordinary step. For this purpose, the central government invoked Entry 33 in the Concurrent List (List III). Entry 26 and 27 in List II are listed as "subject to the provisions of Entry 33 of List III". Entry 33 in List III is the following: 33. Trade and commerce in, and the production, supply and distribution of, – (a) the products

of any industry where the control of such industry by the Union is declared by Parliament by law to be expedient in the public interest, and imported goods of the same kind as such products; (b) foodstuffs, including edible oilseeds and oils; (c) cattle fodder, including oilcakes and other concentrates; (d) raw cotton, whether ginned or unginned, and cotton seed; and (e) raw jute.

Amendment and dissent

Entry 33, in its present form, was inserted in List III through the Constitution (Third Amendment) Act, 1954. That its import was significant is clear in the heated constitutional debates around the Amendment. After tabling in the house, the Constitution (Third Amendment) Bill was referred to a Joint Committee. In the Joint Committee, there was severe opposition to the Bill from seven members: N.C. Chatterjee, K.S. Raghavachari, A. Krishnaswamy, Parvathi Krishnan, Birbal Commar Ghosh, V. Venkataramana and Harish Chandra Mathur. In the final report, these members also wrote an important note of dissent (<https://bit.ly/30BqRzv>).

The contention of the dissent was the following. As per Article 369 in the original version of the Constitution, the responsibility of agricultural trade and commerce within a State was temporarily entrusted to the Union government for a period of five years beginning from 1950. The 1954 Amendment attempted to change this into a permanent feature in the Constitution. But according to the dissenting members, "the Constitution makers did not desire to place matters enumerated in Article 369 in the Concurrent List". If indeed they were placed in List III, "State autonomy would be rendered illusory and State powers and rights



would be progressively pulverised...," and "...the legislative authority of State legislatures is *pro tanto* abrogated". As a result, the Amendment would be "...permanently depriving the State legislatures from effectively exercising their legislative judgement in respect of certain vital matters..."

Parliament discussed the Bill in September 1954 (<https://bit.ly/2GCIOL4>). In his opening speech, Minister for Commerce and Industry T.T. Krishnamachari clarified that the Amendment was required because many States were deficit in food production, and the Centre had to "safeguard the interests of the weaker units in the Union". His point was that it was the adverse food situation in the country that necessitated the Amendment.

But many eminent Opposition members were not impressed, and pointed to the spirit of the dissent note. In their eloquent elaborations, Asoka Mehta and K.K. Basu argued that States such as Bihar, Bombay, Travancore-Cochin and Assam had explicitly opposed the Bill. Basu said that Article 369 was retained as a temporary feature in the Constitution because "the situation in the country [after 1947] was abnormal" and "the food situation was very bad..." But the Constitution-makers knew that the situation would return to "normal" in a few years. That was why they did not vest the listed powers with the Centre for more than five years.

Hence, its conversion into a permanent provision was unwarranted.

Asoka Mehta warned that if the Centre truly wanted control on trade and commerce in States, then, over time, it would also want to have "control over crop planning and cultivation". Thus, the Bill would lead to "an expanding encroachment on the rights of the States"; "a progressive erosion of State powers"; and "the possibility of side stepping of democratic processes". According to K.K. Basu, "passage of the Bill would transform the Indian Constitution into a 'unitary Constitution' instead of a 'federal Constitution'" and reduce "all the States' powers into municipal powers". A "reactionary legislation" was being introduced as "an innocuous piece of legislation".

Notwithstanding the strong dissenting voices, the Bill was passed. But history appears to have proven the dissenters right. In September 2020, the same Entry 33 was invoked to usurp the same powers of the States that the dissenters feared would be taken away.

What the judiciary said

In many of its judgments after 1954, the Supreme Court of India has upheld the legislative powers of States in intra-State agricultural marketing. Most notable was the ruling of the five-judge Constitution Bench in *I.T.C. Limited vs. Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) and Others*, 2002. The Tobacco Board Act, 1975 had brought the development of the tobacco industry under the Centre. However, Bihar's APMC Act continued to list tobacco as an agricultural produce. In this case, the question was if the APMC in Monghyr could charge a levy on ITC for the purchase of unprocessed tobacco leaves from growers. An earlier judgment had held that the State APMC Act will be repugnant to the Central Act, and hence was *ultra vires*.

But the Constitution Bench upheld the validity of the State APMC Act, and ruled that (a) market fees can be charged from ITC under the State APMC Act; (b) State laws become repugnant only if the State and Centre enact laws on the same subject matter under an Entry in List III; and (c) in those cases outside List III, one has to first examine if the subject matter was an exclusive entry under List I or List II, and only after determining this can one decide on the dominant legislation that would prevail. In the case of the Farm Acts of 2020, the applicable points are (a) and (c). With regard to (a), States could continue to charge *mandi* taxes from private markets anywhere in the notified area regardless of the Central Act. With regard to (c), the State legislation should prevail as agriculture is an exclusive subject matter – Entry 14 – in List II.

In summary, first, it was unwise on the part of the Centre to use Entry 33 in List III to push the Farm Bills. Such adventurism weakens the spirit of federal cooperation that India needs in this hour of crisis. Second, agriculture is exclusively a State subject. Everything that is ancillary or subsidiary to an exclusive subject in List II should also fall under the exclusive legislative purview of States. Most importantly, Entry 28 in List II – i.e., "markets and fairs" – is not subject to Entry 33 in List III. In short, there appears to be a strong case to reasonably argue that the Farm Acts have poor legal validity, if not being outrightly unconstitutional.

R. Ramakumar is Professor, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai

Re-imaging education in an India at 100

In 2047, a teacher's role, based on five principles, will be to oversee the transformative re-birth of citizens



DEBASISH CHATTERJEE

After 34 years, India rekindled the conversation on its National Education Policy (NEP) in 2020. A policy is as good as it is actualised in practice and it would be ideal to explore the contours of national education practices leading to 2047 when politically independent India becomes 100 years old. From a teacher's perspective, the next education practices can be viewed through the following five design principles.

To excel is key

Autonomy: Currently, the clamour for autonomy in education practices is a mixed bag of pretentious idealism and hard-nosed practicality. The Indian Institutes of Management (IIM) Bill, 2017 granting autonomy to the IIMs has now become an Act. In helming a first generation IIM for two terms, one has seen no dramatic variation in the nature of autonomy of the IIMs. The reason for this is that the IIMs, as indeed the Indian Institutes of Technology, have been performing institutions with robust self-correcting systems. The greatest insurance for autonomy is excellence in students' outcomes rather than a piece of legislation. As long as institutions continue to excel, they will earn their autonomy through social, community

and citizens' sanctions. Legislation may help. However, institutions and institutional leaders who are trained for blind conformity will find exercise of autonomy rather difficult even if the law is on their side. In practice, autonomy cannot be defined by entitlement nor limited by unlawful encroachment. Mere assumption of autonomy does not ensure exercise of autonomy. By 2047, autonomy has to be imbibed as an institutional culture rather than a personal perquisite of a vice chancellor, principal or a director. There will be autonomy in teaching methods, autonomy of the learner in creating her own curriculum, autonomy of thought and self-governance – *Swaytata*.

Technology-rich settings

Learning: In 2047, six billion people in the world would constitute the middle class. With little money but with enormous hunger for learning, they will define the learner base for a networked global university system. Technology will proliferate intelligence from hardware to software to everywhere. Smart schools and smart classes may soon morph to smart chairs and smart desks. Intelligence can be embedded into everything. Smart chairs will have sensors to map the flow of attention in the classrooms. On the other hand, the intangibles of the teaching learning process such as creativity, mentorship and facilitation of learning will give birth to the quest for mastery. Teachers will evolve from ring masters to zen masters, raising awareness rather than delivering content. The four core tasks



of the university: creation; dissemination; accreditation and monetisation of knowledge will require a sweet synthesis of algorithm and altruism. Learning will involve mobilisation of knowledge for a specific person; is a specific context to face specific challenges or problems. In the ultimate analysis, learning will be about propagation of crucial questions rather than pre-determined answers. Pressure of performance will have to co-exist with the pleasure and ecstasy of learning – *ananda*.

Coherence across fields

Trans-disciplinarity: The new National Education Policy (NEP) roots for multi-disciplinary institutions rather than standalone schools. Multidisciplinarity involves experts from different disciplines working together, each drawing on their unique disciplinary knowledge. In a world that is going to be more complex and volatile, expertise from multiple disciplines will be required to construct an understanding of the real life problems we will face. The challenges that COVID-19 has thrown before us require medical scientists, economists, historians, architects, health workers and political scientists and more experts to bring their disciplinary depth to the table. Frequent flooding of our

cities is at once an urban planning issue, an engineering issue, environmental issue, public health issue, and of course a political issue that requires many diverse fields to create an understanding of the nature of the problem and its solution. However, by 2047, trans-disciplinarity rather than multi-disciplinarity will be the norm. Transdisciplinarity is about creating a coherence of intellectual frameworks beyond the disciplinary perspectives. Knowledge in 2047 will move from discipline-based units to the unity of meaning and understanding. The reductionist knowledge of the West that explains the whole as the sum of parts will yield space to the quest for the part less whole that the *rishi*s of the Upanishads described as *purnatwa*.

School as a connecting hub

Technology-innovation: Technological innovation will take learning from cognition to immersion. The content of knowledge has evolved from text that had to be cognised to include visual, audio and tactile immersive experiences. Traditionally, students of professional courses learnt through field and factory visits. Today, it is possible for a factory experience to be simulated in a classroom. A leading global engineering company, ABB, is using virtual reality to simulate a factory experience inside a school. A classroom will not be a place but a space. In 2047, school will not be a brick and mortar house but a connecting hub that will digitally decode, deliver and disperse knowledge. Disruptive innovation will enable tech-

nology to give greater access to hitherto exclusive knowledge and fulfil unmet learner needs. A vice chancellor's office will look a lot more like a tech-studio. Technology will not be a cosmetic add-on but serve a strategic purpose. Leading schools of the world will harness talent and technology seamlessly.

Nurturing minds with values
Values, mindset and culture: By 2047, Indian teachers will be engaged in nurturing global mindsets based on three classical values of India: *satyam* (authenticity), *nityam* (sustainability) and *purnam* (wholeness). Mindsets will be based on how learners receive information and not what information they receive; on how to think rather than what to think. Education is finally about creating and sustaining wholesome cultures rather than serving the templates of outmoded civilisations. The post-colonial Indian education system has managed to create mindsets of clerks and coders and imitators to serve a civilisation that bets on material values of exploitation of nature and increasing consumption. While civilisation is about what we acquire, culture is concerned with who we become. The most valuable outcome of education is the becoming of a competent and compassionate human being. In 2047, a teacher's role will be to midwife this transformative re-birth of citizens of our great nation.

Debasish Chatterjee is the author of *'Timeless Leadership'* and the Director of IIM Kozhikode

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Hathras case

It is clear that the law and order situation in Uttar Pradesh is in a terrible state. First, we have the Hathras case. Then the State government looks the other way when a large upper caste gathering in support of the accused takes place, even when Section 144 is in force. Finally, some leaders from the Opposition are manhandled during their attempt to offer solace to the family of the victim. The government and the law and order machinery seem to be working in tandem to suppress the truth.

K.R. SRINIVASAN,
Secunderabad

Insolvency resolution

Nowhere in the article, "Transforming business and the insolvency system" (Editorial page, October 5), have the writers mentioned even a line about the huge haircuts (sacrifices) lenders have had to endure in the process of insolvency resolution in India. For example, in a prominent case involving a leading steel manufacturer, the promoters came back with a bag full of funds that was equal to the loans plus interest. Generally, the misdeeds of the original directors are forgotten. Special courts should be established and banks given the freedom to value the assets of the

borrower company and sell them.

SASTHAMANI V.,
Coimbatore

Language in India

It is a travesty of truth to say that English is an Indian language (OpEd, "English is an Indian language", October 5), and the writer, as a parliamentarian, may be saying this more out of his eagerness to please certain political constituents. English is only a link language. Take for example, those from Kerala; they are able to find jobs anywhere in India due to the three-language formula. I would like to point out that the Food Corporation of India was

set up in Chennai in the early 1960s by then Food Minister C. Subramanian and the line is that it was to provide more jobs especially for those from Tamil Nadu to work anywhere in India. But in reality, those from Kerala reaped the benefit due to their command over Hindi. Had Tamil Nadu adopted the three-language system, it would have led the State elsewhere. K. CHELLAPPAN, Chennai

■ The issue of teaching Hindi in non-Hindi speaking States needs a rethink. We are a Bengali-speaking family living in Karnataka and I help my granddaughter with her

eighth grade Hindi lessons. Her classmates and playmates do not speak Hindi; nor is it at home. Not having any exposure to the spoken language and at the same time being required to study a highly stylised literary language from the textbook, I find the girl and her classmates struggling to find the relevance of what is being taught. Having lived and worked for three decades in Uttar Pradesh, I know Hindi well and I wonder what the prescribed texts seek to achieve. It helps to learn Hindi, but what needs to be taught is a practical version of the language which is close to what is spoken on the street. It should not be made

SANATH KUMAR T.S., Thrissur, Kerala

To read more letters online, scan the QR code

India needs a rainbow recovery plan

Such an approach would require integration of ecological protection and tackling inequality



Ashish Kothari

The world could emerge from COVID-19 so much the worse by attempting 'business as usual', or it could take pathways to a more just, sustainable future. In Europe and the U.S., a 'green new deal' (GND) proposed by some from the political mainstream puts the climate and employment crises at the centre of economic recovery. In India, we have a chance to build on our genius and heritage to forge a multihued approach – a rainbow new deal (RND).

By RND, I refer to a seamless integration of ecological protection and tackling of wealth inequality and economic vulnerability of several hundreds of millions of people. Green meets red, so to speak. But 'green' itself is a restricted environmentalism; the oceans and rivers and natural deserts and mountains together are a lot more colours. I also include here recognition of multiple genders and sexualities from whose movements I borrow the symbol of the rainbow.

What would RND entail?

Our most urgent task is to generate dignified, sustainable livelihoods for the vast majority of the population and workforce that is today living precarious lives. And this has to be built on regenerating and safeguarding the country's soil, natural ecosystems, water, biological diversity, and air. We should never forget that the more we destroy it, the more we invite crises, from COVID-19 to climate.

The nearly 200 million small farmers, pastoralists, and fishers can be enabled to sustain or switch to organic, ecologically sustainable production, with their own food security as the highest priority, and with local marketing links. This would include over 10 million people who appear to have gone back to agriculture in the COVID-19 period.

Next, the RND could encourage lifestyles and livelihoods that obtain substantial food, medicines, household items and other needs, as also sustainable livelihoods, from natural



Kudumbashree workers at a rally against the use of plastic in Kochi. ■ THULASI KAKKAT

ecosystems. Forest-based livelihoods alone, for instance, can support 100 million people.

Third, it would entail reviving and sustaining India's incredible diversity of crafts, and decentralised production of most goods and services, across all villages and towns, with a massive investment in the small and medium sector enterprises. This could gainfully employ 200 million people. All such production could be run democratically as producer companies or cooperatives. For all the above, schemes like the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme could be re-oriented and extended, including for urban livelihoods.

Then, the RND would entail substantial investments in public health, education, housing, transportation and other basic needs. If these are run in a decentralised way, with appropriate training, they could generate many more millions of jobs. The same could be for other services like digital networks and communications, as also decentralised infrastructure development by worker collectives. All of this would be within ecologically sustainable limits, and specially focused on empowering and benefiting the most marginalised

people.

In such a recovery, big companies need to be kept out. Soap, footwear, furniture, clothes, energy, and myriad other items of everyday use can be produced by community-run units across the country. 'Made in India' should be 'Handmade in India' by local workers. In a recent webinar, Suresh Chhanga, sarpanch of Kunariya village in Kachchh in Gujarat, proposed that they can save ₹40 lakh a month on such items by producing them locally. Elango Rangasamy, former Dalit sarpanch of Kuthambakkam village in Tamil Nadu, proposes a 'network economy', in which clusters of villages can be self-reliant for most basic needs, and exchange with neighbouring clusters what they cannot produce or grow. Ela Bhatt, founder of SEWA, has proposed the '100 mile radius' as a region within which the objective of self-reliance can be met. These are all currently relevant versions of Mahatma Gandhi's focus on self-reliance.

There are hundreds of initiatives already demonstrating the feasibility of such an approach. Many are run by workers and communities themselves. Government-sponsored programmes like Kudumbashree in Kerala and Jharcraft in Jharkhand show

how they can be significantly scaled with state support. During the COVID-19 lockdown, community resilience based on such initiatives was amply demonstrated.

But let's be clear: such RND will succeed only if there is a fundamental move away from a privatised, capitalist economy, and an authoritarian state, and head-on tackling of casteism, patriarchy and other structures of inequality. There are many successful initiatives at empowering women, Dalits, Adivasis, landless, the LGBTQ+ community and the disabled to learn from.

This also means a serious attempt at land reforms, including recognising collective rights over the commons: forests, grasslands, coastal and marine areas, biodiversity, wetlands, water, and knowledge. Legislation similar to the Forest Rights Act, and community mobilisation to implement it, is needed for all other ecosystems.

Wealth redistribution

Where substantial public investments are needed, serious wealth redistribution is called for. As economist Prabhat Patnaik has pointed out, a mere 2% wealth tax coupled with a 33% inheritance tax on the richest 1% of India could generate more revenue than the total recovery package the Government of India announced in May 2020.

It is of course foolish to expect the government to go for such RND. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' programme, with all its doublespeak on 'self-reliance', places India's economy even more into the hands of private capital and big players. Massive, informed public mobilisation is needed to counter this policy regression.

The recent protests by lakhs of young people against the regressive Environment Impact Assessment Notification 2020 and against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and National Register of Citizens provide hope. If these diverse strands of resistance, feminist, worker, farmer, and other mobilisations of the marginalised, and myriad grassroots initiatives at alternative living all can be synergised, RND kind of transformation may yet be on the horizon.

Ashish Kothari is with Kalpvriksh, Vikalp Sangam, and Global Tapestry of Alternatives

Breaking the law over Brexit

Boris Johnson's Brexit position completely overlooks constitutional developments in the U.K. since the late 1990s



AMIR ALI

The latest spectacular development in the Brexit saga is the Internal Market Bill that was passed in the House of Commons. The Bill has caused uproar in the U.K. and across the world as it breaks international law by going back on the Withdrawal Agreement Bill signed by the Boris Johnson government in January 2020. That a country that considers itself home of the rule of law would break international law is ironic. Brandon Lewis, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland in the U.K. government, admitted in the House of Commons that the Bill would break international law in "a very specific and limited way". The European Union (EU) has initiated legal action against the U.K. over the Bill.

The possibility of destabilisation

More dramatic is the possibility that Brexit could bring about the Balkanisation of the U.K. into its constituent nations of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Island. The term 'tukde tukde', coined in noisy news debates in India and translated for the British as fragments of the nation, could actually be applicable to Britain, which stares at the possibility of destabilisation. Among the nations that constitute the U.K., Scotland and Northern Ireland would become the major lines of fracture. While the Brexit process and Mr. Johnson's hard Brexit stance have been believed to be the catalyst for the current situation in the U.K., Mr. Johnson has suggested that the threat to the territorial integrity of the U.K. comes from the EU.

The unfolding of the Brexit process has revealed the likelihood of a hard border between Northern Ireland, which is part of the U.K., and the Republic of Ireland, which is part of the EU. To prevent such a possibility, the EU had negotiated an earlier backstop arrangement with the previous Theresa May-led British government. The backstop arrangement was akin to an insurance policy to prevent the possibility of a restrictive hard border that would impede the flow of goods and people. Mr. Johnson had always balked at the idea of a backstop. In the Withdrawal Agreement Bill that he had signed with the EU, the Northern Ireland protocol was introduced to eliminate the possibility of a hard border and achieve the aims of the earlier backstop. It is the provisions of the protocol that he himself signed that Mr. Johnson is now backtracking on with the new Bill.

Mr. Johnson's Brexit position completely overlooks constitutional developments in the U.K. since the late 1990s, beginning with the 1998 Good Friday Agreement. A major achievement of the Tony Blair government, the Agreement ended violent decades of troubles in Northern Ireland and brought peace and stability in the region in the last two decades. It is this stability that the Brexit process threatens to undo. Following closely on the heels of the Good Friday Agreement, significant devolution of powers was effected with the nations that constitute the U.K., resulting in regional parliaments in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

Ostensibly, the Johnson government's Internal Market Bill seeks to create a single uniform market across the four nations of the U.K. A measure taken by one of the parliaments would have to be accepted across all four nations to maintain the viability of the unified internal market. The reality could actually be a significant undermining of the rigorous food, health and safety regulations that have been hitherto upheld by the EU. The example that has most often been used is the possibility of chlorine washed chicken imported from the U.S. filling up shelves in U.K. supermarkets.

On a decline

Since the end of World War II, the U.K. has been on a decline. Yet, on account of a fortuitous combination of soft power through the reach of its cultural exports, the prestige of its university system, and the vast scale of London as a leading financial centre, it has maintained its position somewhere near the top in the league table of nations. Ardent Brexiteers in the true spirit of 'Rule, Britannia!' seek to restore the glory days of Britain's dominance. For this to happen, in their view, Britain has to stop being a more or less equal partner with Germany and France in the EU and ride subordinate on the coat-tails of the U.S. For Brexit critics, the phenomenon is just one more confirmation of the implosion of the U.K.

Perhaps Mr. Johnson and his special adviser Dominic Cummings could heed a bit of oriental advice. A wise ruler explained his ability to keep his countrymen together by suggesting that the tie that bound him to many of them in far-off provinces could sometimes be as fragile as a single strand of hair that he would never break. When his countrymen pulled, he would loosen his hold, and when he felt them relaxing their hold, he would make it a point to pull them closer. Brexit, with its extreme centripetal tendencies, is just the opposite of this sagely advice.

Amir Ali teaches at the Centre for Political Studies, JNU, New Delhi

An unconstitutional harvest

The best way forward for aggrieved States is to challenge the constitutionality of the new farm laws

ADITYA MANUBARWALA & PRANAV VERMA

These laws, as they lay out the items in which any trade beyond the mandis can take place. Including the vast majority of agricultural produce in such definitions amounts to an egregious breach of legislative competence by the Union government as it is the States which are empowered to enact laws regulating 'agriculture'.

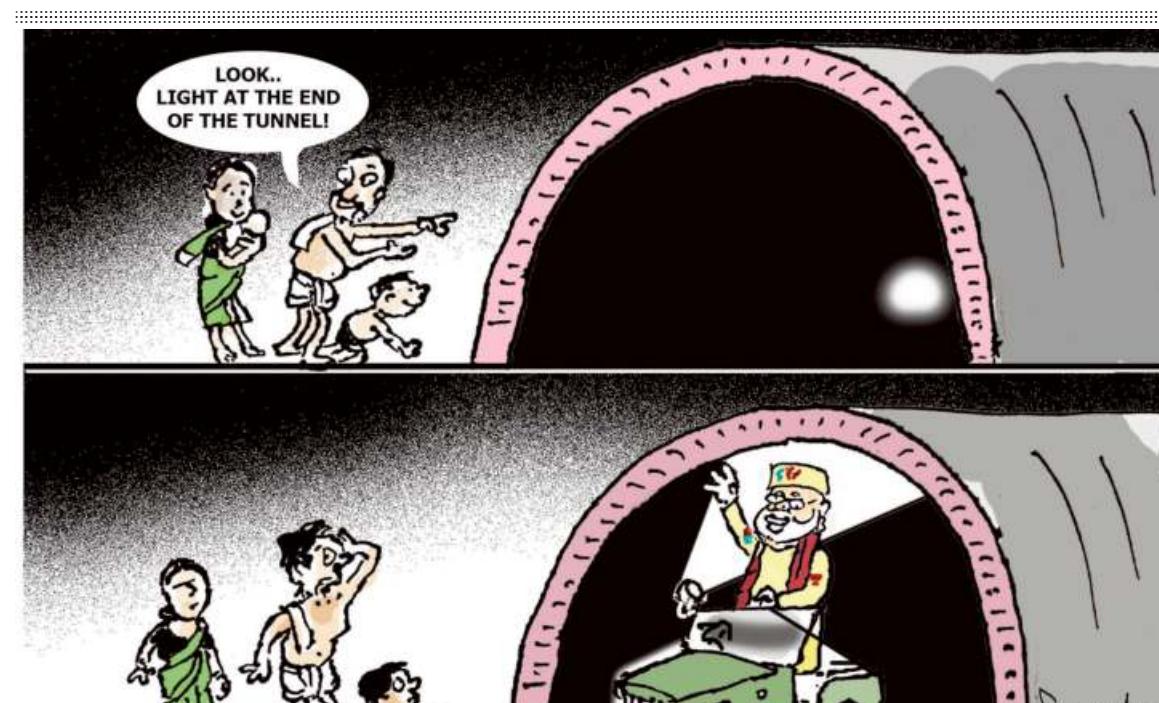
Despite this clear constitutional position, the statement of objects and reasons accompanied with these Acts attempts to give an impression of being intended towards reform in the agricultural sector while drawing upon purported powers under Entry 33, despite the Entry not explicitly including within its ambit the expansive definition of farming produce as referred to in the Acts. In short, this is a case of abuse of federalism.

The way forward

States like Punjab are considering declaring all of their territory as 'mandi' to circumvent the effect of these laws. However, it is doubtful if their respective APMC Acts permit the same; and in any case such knee-jerk reactions would surely involve scrutiny from the courts. Constitutionally speaking, however, there exists a strong case for aggrieved State Governments to invoke Article 131 of the Constitution and file a suit challenging the vires of the two laws.

Whilst doing so, State governments could also explore the potential of granting MSP a legislative backing, at least within the mandis, since any MSP is a matter of government largesse, and not a legally enforceable right with farmers. This move would incentivise farmers to sell their produce at the mandi at assured rates rather than expose themselves to the whims and caprices of private players. At the same time, demands from opposition parties to impose MSP upon private players could be at loggerheads with the free market economy principle enshrined under Article 301 of the Constitution. It is in view of these complexities that the best way forward for the States is to challenge the very constitutionality of these laws.

Aditya Manubarwala and Pranav Verma are LLM candidates at the University of Cambridge



DATA POINT

Ignored priorities

Only 6% of agricultural households in India sell their produce at the Minimum Support Price (MSP), latest available data show. Then, why has MSP become a contentious issue? Two surveys show that even in States where there was limited procurement, farmers wanted the MSP programme to continue. In fact, banning intermediaries, a key promise of the new farm laws, was not among the chief concerns of the farmers. The protests have spilled over to States such as Karnataka, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu where procurement was relatively lower than in Haryana and Punjab. This shows that farmers fear that the laws pose an indirect threat to the MSP programme, regardless of procurement levels. By **The Hindu Data Team**

FARMER FEEDBACK | In a 2018 RBI survey, >50% farmers identified "MSPs for crops" as the most helpful scheme. Also, farmers prioritised reliable weather forecasts and storage facility as measures that may help in price realisation over the middlemen issue

Govt. schemes helping farmers (% respondents)

None	10%
Cannot say	12%
e-NAM	19%
Denotification of products	34%
Readily available market	37%
MSPs for crops	51%

Measures that may help in right cropping decision/better price realisation (% respondents)

Food processing centres	13%
Ban intermediaries	25%
Procurement at MSPs	29%
Timely information on market prices (app based)	35%
Govt. advisory on crops	48%
Storage facility	49%
Reliable weather forecasts	60%

USES of MSP | In a Niti Aayog study (FY08-FY11), even in States where awareness about the MSP and sale to procurement agencies were poor, an overwhelming share of farmers wanted the programme to continue. Apart from procurement, the MSP helped farmers escape exploitation even when they sold their produce to private traders

State name and the share of respondents who knew about the MSP or sold under the MSP

State name and the share of respondents who knew about the MSP or sold under the MSP	Reasons given for continuation of the MSP
A.P.: All were aware about the MSP in the selected districts of Nalgonda and Godavari	Protects farmers from exploitative practices
Bihar: Majority of the farmers surveyed were aware in Jehanabad (55% sold at MSP), Munger (22%) and West Champaran (5%) districts	Helps plan for the next season and improve productivity
Gujarat: Only 33.3% of the surveyed farmers were aware of the MSP in Rajkot and Narmada. Over 12% of the farmers in the State sold at the MSP	All in Rajkot wanted it to continue as it provides remunerative prices
Karnataka: In Bellary, 80% of the surveyed farmers were aware in three villages; in the fourth, only 50% knew. In Mysuru, 80% were aware in three villages; in the fourth, all were aware. However, none in the State sold at the MSP	Majority of the stakeholders wanted the MSP to continue as it prevents local prices from falling too low by ensuring a minimum price
Maharashtra: In Yavatmal, 75% were aware of the MSP, in Latur, 33%, and in Kolhapur, 28%. Overall, close to 28% in the State sold at the MSP	56% wanted the MSP to continue as it gives an ensured price
Odisha: In Khurda, 57% of farmers were aware of the MSP. In Mayurbhanj, in two villages, 70% and 90% were aware. In Bargarh, all the respondents were aware. Overall, 20% in the State sold at MSP	All the respondents wanted it to continue as it saves farmers from exploitation and increases productivity
Rajasthan: 56% were aware in Bundi, Sri Gangaragar and Rajsamand	Most wanted it to continue as it provides protection from middlemen
Tamil Nadu: In Pudukkottai and Tiruvarur, all farmers were aware	Everyone wanted it to continue as it stabilises market prices and acts as a floor rate so that prices offered by private dealers do not fall below the MSP
U.P.: In six selected districts, all the farmers were aware of the MSP. However, only 28% sold at it	The MSP ensures income security for farmers
Uttarakhand: In Hardwar, all farmers were aware and also sold at the MSP	It ensures marketability of produce

Source: *2015 Shanta Kumar committee report; "Supply chain dynamics and food inflation in India", RBI study; Evaluation report on efficacy of MSP on farmers, Niti Aayog, January 2016

The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO OCTOBER 6, 1970

Checking price rise

The Union Finance Minister, Mr. Y.B. Chavan, has said the increase in prices in the country "was certainly causing concern", though it was not alarming. It was, therefore, his "first concern" to keep the prices under check, he told a press conference here to-day [Madras, October 5]. Mr. Chavan, however, said that the price rise was a trend noticed in all developing countries, and one could not hope to keep the prices stabilised "for all time to come". "As economic activities increase, as production rises and as demands go up, there is bound to be some sort of price increase, but it should not go beyond a certain level", he said. The Union Minister said the prices showed a tendency to shoot up on account of complex processes in the working of the economy. Production of agricultural commodities was an important factor which had a bearing on the prices. The prices of foodgrains had not gone up appreciably. But the production of some of the agricultural raw materials like cotton and oilseeds was not sufficiently high and this had its pressure on the prices. The Government was trying to import these materials, though it could not be done on a massive scale.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO OCTOBER 6, 1920

Non-Co-operation is beginning to be taken seriously in this country [London]. Just before the Congress meet at Calcutta, the newspapers gave prominence to messages holding the movement up to scorn, and predicting its utter failure. They are, however, realising that Mr Gandhi and his colleagues are not indulging in idle threats, and that therefore, non-co-operation cannot be laughed out of court, and they are naturally beginning to sing a different tune.

Views of British Correspondents: The "Times" Bombay correspondent, for instance, frankly confesses that "none dare to forecast the position" in India. While, in his opinion, the boycott of schools, colleges, and the law courts, and foreign goods is bound to fail, he concedes that public resentment is running so high, and anti-B

FROM PAGE ONE

U.P. police allege bid to trigger caste violence

The main FIR lodged at Chandrapur police station alleged that "some anti-social elements" tried to instigate the family of the victim, pressurised them to give wrong statements and even tried to offer them an inducement of ₹50 lakh as part of a "criminal conspiracy" to spoil peace in the State and spread caste discord.

GST Council split on borrowing options

The balance ₹25,000 crore pertains to Integrated GST dues from 2017-18 that had to be reconciled between States that got more than they ought to have and those that got less than their dues at the time.

"So the Council cleared that borrowings will have to be done and repaid through the extended cess collection period... 20-21 States had written to us stating they will take the first borrowing option we had given. One State has proposed a third option to the Prime Minister. From among those who have not chosen any option, the argument is that the Centre should borrow instead of the States," Ms. Sitharaman said.

While compensation cess collections this year are expected to be just around ₹65,000 crore, recompense due to States is around ₹3 lakh crore. The Centre had argued that ₹97,000 crore shortfall arises due to GST implementation itself, while the remaining ₹1.38 lakh crore is due to the impact of COVID-19.

At Monday's meeting, this calculation was revised with the Centre submitting that ₹1.10 lakh crore of the shortfall is due to GST implementation and the balance due to the pandemic.

The FM said interest re-

'Explain action on Kamath panel report'

During the hearing, the court asked the government whether it had so far issued any circulars, policy decisions and so on, based on the Kamath panel report, which has made suggestions for a loan resolution or restructuring scheme for 26 pandemic-distressed sectors.

'Nothing to hide'
The court said the government and the RBI had brought nothing on record to show what had been done to implement the report. At one point, Justice Bhushan asked why the report itself had not been placed on record in the court.

"We have nothing to hide. We will put it on record. It [report] is available in the public domain," Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for both the government and the RBI, replied.

Senior advocate V. Giri, also for the RBI, said the government was deliberating on further improvements in the loan resolution plans. Charging of compound interest post moratorium had hit hard the ordinary person, he acknowledged. He assured the court that the report would be placed on record.

The court said it was not

Militants kill two CRPF jawans in J&K

The militants were chased by a joint team of the Army and the CRPF after the attack, which took place near the Srinagar-Baramulla highway in the afternoon. However, they managed to escape.

"A hunt is on to track them down. I am hopeful they will be neutralised

soon," Mr. Kumar said.

Mr. Kumar said militants tend to attack near the highway "because they find it easy to target the security forces". "Highway is a busy place where civilian vehicles pass every day. If we retaliate and fire indiscriminately too, there will be civilian casualty," he said.

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U.P. police book Bhim Army chief

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GHAZIABAD

A day after Bhim Army chief Chandra Shekhar Azad visited the family of the woman who died after being allegedly assaulted and gang-raped by four men, the Uttar Pradesh police on Monday lodged an FIR against Mr. Azad for violating Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, which prohibits large gatherings.

An FIR has also been registered against Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD) vice-president Jayant Chaudhary under Section 188 of the Indian Penal Code.

The police had lathi-charged RLD workers on Sunday after they tried to break a barricade at Boolaghari village.

Around 400 workers of the RLD and the Bhim Army have also been booked.

Hathras: SC to hear plea today

Petition asks for the trial to be shifted to Delhi

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI



In solidarity: Congress leaders and workers at a satyagraha against the Hathras rape in New Delhi. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Hospital, including media reports about the police rushing through a midnight cremation in the absence of her family.

The family alleged that they were not allowed to perform her last rites.

The case has created a public furor with the National Human Rights Commission issuing notice to the Uttar Pradesh administrative and police establishments. The Delhi Commission for Women chief has already written

to the Chief Justice of India to take *suo motu* cognisance of the case. The State government has set up a fast-track court.

The police authorities had not performed their duties towards the victim and are trying to shield the accused persons for reasons best known to them... The family of the victim was victimised by upper-caste persons and no action has been taken by the authorities or the police," the petition said.

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"The police authorities had not performed their duties towards the victim and are trying to shield the accused persons for reasons best known to them... The family of the victim was victimised by upper-caste persons and no action has been taken by the authorities or the police," the petition said.

Ink thrown at AAP MP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GHAZIABAD

Aam Aadmi Party MP Sanjay Singh came under an "ink attack" on Monday outside Boolegarhi village in Hathras when he, along with a party delegation, was returning after meeting the relatives of the victim who died after a brutal assault on September 29.

Mr. Singh and party MLA Rakhi Birla were addressing the media when a youth identified as Deepak Sharma sprayed ink on them shouting, "Brokers of PFI, go back". Mr. Sharma is believed to be a member of the Rashtriya Swabhiman Dal.

Demanding justice for the family, Mr. Singh said the government seemed to be protecting the perpetrators of the crime.

Cong. demands judicial probe into Hathras rape

Party repeats call to dismiss DM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday demanded a judicial inquiry into the Hathras gang rape and the immediate removal of the District Magistrate (DM) Praveen Kumar Laxkar, whom the victim's family has accused of misbehaviour.



Sushmita Dev

ting judge of the Supreme Court," Ms. Dev said.

The party also released a nine-minute video "Hathras: fight for justice" on the visit by Congress leaders to the victim's family on Mr. Gandhi's Facebook page and YouTube channel.

In the video, Mr. Gandhi is seen assuring family members that "none can remove [you]... because it is your house, your land. If they try to do so, I will be here".

Centre says UN statement 'unwarranted'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The government reacted sharply to a statement by the UN resident coordinator in India Renata Lok-Dessallien, who had expressed concern over the cases of alleged rapes of young girls in Hathras and Balrampur, calling the statement "unwarranted".

"The U.N. Resident Coordinator in India should be aware that these cases have been taken extremely seriously by the government. Since the investigation process is still under way, any unnecessary comments by an external agency are best avoided," said MEA spokesperson Anurag Srivastava.

The statement had that it was essential that authorities ensure that the perpetrators are brought to justice speedily.

'IAF fully prepared for two-front war'

Air chief says ready for any scenario

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Chief of the Air Staff R.K.S. Bhadauria on Monday asserted that India was fully prepared for a two-front war. "We are ready and very well positioned to take on China and there is no scenario where they can get the better of us," the Air Chief Marshal (ACM) said at the annual press conference ahead of the 88th Air Force Day.

"The next three months will depend on how the talks progress. The current progress is slow; what we see is an effort to dig in for the winter... We are taking action accordingly. Our further action will depend on the ground realities," he said.

The Indian Air Force (IAF) had the capability to "shoot first and strike deep and hard" as it was "very well positioned", he stated.

Mr. Bhadauria, however, noted that the Air Force was not underestimating the adversary. "Their [China] strength lies in surface-to-air systems they have put up in the area. They have long missile systems. We cater to those in our matrix... We can take on that threat," he said.

Deployment along LAC
On deployment in Ladakh along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with the stand-off going on for five months now, the Air Force chief said Ladakh was a small part of the Air Force's deployment. "We have de-



The next three months will depend on how the talks progress

R.K.S. BHADAURIA
Chief of Air Staff

ployed to all relevant areas. We are firmly and strongly deployed to take on any scenarios."

He said the IAF realised what the Chinese were doing in May. "It is not correct to say we were surprised. It showed our ability to respond and there was no delay."

On Chinese air activity along the LAC, he stated that there was no step-up in deployments after the initial developments. "It has remained largely the same."

Talking of the collusive threat on the northern and western borders, he pointed to full preparations to meet all contingencies, including a simultaneous two-front war with China and Pakistan.

Mallik, former RJD State secretary of SC/ST cell, was gunned down on October 4 at his residence and a country-made pistol and an empty cartridge were seized from his room.

Chirag pens an open letter

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PATNA

A day after the Lok Janshakti Party announced that it will contest the Assembly poll outside the NDA while maintaining alliance with the BJP, LJP president Chirag Paswan wrote an open letter to the people of Bihar on Monday saying "even a single vote to JD(U) candidate will force your child to migrate from the State".

Cong. clears 46 names

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Central Election Committee of the Congress on Monday is learnt to have cleared 46 names for the forthcoming Bihar Assembly polls. Party chief Sonia Gandhi presided over the videoconference.

Tejashwi faces murder case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PATNA

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav, his brother Tej Pratap Yadav and four others were on Sunday booked over the killing of a Dalit leader in Purnia town of Bihar.

Malik, former RJD State secretary of SC/ST cell, was gunned down on October 4 at his residence and a country-made pistol and an empty cartridge were seized from his room.

With LJP's solo act, BJP likely to gain in Bihar

By fighting more seats than ever before, it can score more than JD(U) and take over the mantle in NDA

NISTULA HEBBAR
NEW DELHI

These are strange days in Bihar politics – the BJP is fighting the Assembly election in an alliance with the Janata Dal(U) and is openly committed to getting a Chief Minister from its ally back in the chair, while its another National Democratic Alliance (NDA) partner, the Lok Janshakti Party (LJP), is going it alone in the polls, to ensure that the BJP can occupy that post.

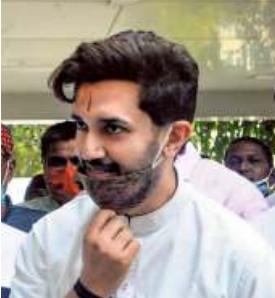
This extraordinary turn of events has happened because of LJP leader Chirag Paswan's decision that his party will contest the polls on its own, but at the same time vowing only to put up candidates in seats where the JD(U) is the NDA party in the fray, while not doing so in BJP seats.

Chief Minister and JD(U) leader Nitish Kumar and the BJP have maintained silence since Sunday, when the decision was announced by Mr. Paswan, but analysts say it

clearly points to the BJP's firm bid, for the first time since 1995, to capture the Big Brother status in Bihar in the NDA. The BJP had traditionally deferred to Mr. Kumar and the JD(U) in the past when it came to the Assembly polls, in terms of seats fought and the claim over the top job.

This despite many leaders within the BJP consistently having questioned the party's deference to the JD(U) despite the BJP having a better strike rate in all the polls, and being dominant in the Lok Sabha numbers. Coalition dharma was however observed, some would say more than sincerely. Then came the breach between the BJP and the JD(U) in 2013, when Mr. Nitish Kumar walked out of the NDA refusing to accept the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He forged a seemingly impossible alliance with the Lalu Prasad-led Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) sweeping the



Chirag Paswan

2015 Assembly polls and forming a government.

The BJP has learnt many lessons from the 2015 defeat: one, that people vote differently in State and national elections, even if a leader has immense popularity, and two, in a polity run by caste arithmetic, the JD(U) can be an important ally to help undercut a total polarisation of the forward and backward castes.

The return of the JD(U) in 2017 to the NDA fold was therefore eagerly sought for, and the BJP and the JD(U)

went to the Lok Sabha polls as equal partners. The BJP wanted this new equality in Bihar NDA to extend to Assembly seats. This was resisted by the JD(U), but the party gave in, agreeing to fight 122 seats to the BJP's 121, with the understanding that the LJP would be accommodated.

NEWS ANALYSIS

ed by the BJP from its share of seats.

This is when things got interesting. Several surveys and the BJP's own assessment through the COVID-19 lockdown period with its exodus of migrants from other States returning home to Bihar, in many cases on foot, as well as the handling of other governance-related issues made it plain to the BJP that Mr. Kumar was at the nadir of his popularity, while Prime Minister Narendra Modi retained his appeal.

But the lessons of 2015 were also clear that nothing must be done to make it seem as though the BJP was an upper caste outfit unable to keep a partner who could bring in backward caste votes. Mr. Chirag Paswan's move to fight separately, and only put up candidates against the JD(U) may help BJP, now fighting more seats than ever before in Bihar, emerge as the single largest party and lay claim to the Chief Minister's chair. A consequence that encourages the feeling that Mr. Paswan is doing all this at the behest of the BJP. The BJP has had, even in the elections it lost in Bihar, an excellent strike rate on seats. And even if the LJP does not win many seats, but manages to make sure the JD(U) loses some, Mr. Paswan's key result area will be delivered. How this rather forked-tongue policy and campaign will play out among the State's politically astute voters is another matter. For now though, what till two months ago looked like a one-sided poll is split wide open.

ODISHA STAFF SELECTION COMMISSION
Barrack No.I, Unit -V, Bhubaneswar - 751054
No.IIIA-35/2020 - 3346 / OSSC Date : 05.10.2020

NOTICE

Odisha Staff Selection Commission invite sealed proposal from reputed bidders in respect of the "Request for Proposal" (RFP) for selection of System Implementation Partner (SIP) for conducting Computer Based Recruitment Examinations (CBRE) for Odisha Staff Selection Commission. For details the interested bidders are requested to visit the Commission's website www.ossc.gov.in to go through the proposal and the details of RFP Scheduled. The last date and time of receipt of the proposals is **03.11.2020 03.00 PM**. The Odisha Staff Selection Commission reserves the right to accept / reject any / all proposals / bids without assigning any reason thereof.

By Order of Commission Secretary
OIPR-0900511/0045/2021

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
PUBLIC LIBRARY DIVISION, PURI, ODISHA**
Phone : 06752-223447 / e-Mail - eephpuri@gmail.com

INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)
Government of Odisha - "e" Procurement Notice

Bid Identification No. 30 of 2020-21 Dated.03.10.2020

01. Name of the Work : Procurement of DI Pipes under State Action Plan
02. Estimated Cost : Rs.193.49 Lakhs
03. Period of Completion : 2 (Two) Months
04. Date and Time of availability of bid documents in the portal : 12.10.2020 (11.00 A.M) to 27.10.2020 (5.00 P.M.)
05. Last Date /Time for receipt of bids in the Portal : 5.00 P.M. of 27.10.2020
06. Date and Time of opening of bids : 12.30 P.M. of 28.10.2020.
07. Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid : Executive Engineer,P.H Division, Puri Phone: 06752-223447, Fax: 06752-223447 E-Mail: eephpuri@gmail.com
08. The bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only.

Sd/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, (P.H, PURI)
OIPR-13010/11/0004/2021

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH, CHANDIGARH
ADMISSION NOTICE No. 09/2021

Online applications are inviting for admission to the following courses for the January 2021 session through Computer Based Test (CBT) to be held on 04.12.2020 at various cities across the country as per detail given below:

Courses	Closing Date for Online Submission of application
Post Doctoral Fellowship/Fellowship	27.10.2020
Ph.D	
M.Sc/M.Sc (MLT)	

For eligibility criteria, number of seats and other details, applicants are advised to read the prospectus and instructions given thereon carefully before starting online registration and filling of application form. The prospectus of admission is available on Institute's website i.e. www.pgimer.edu.in. The candidates are requested to visit the PGIMER website regularly for all subsequent changes/ update on entrance examination/ communications/addendum/corrigendum.

REGISTRAR

KSEB KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED - E -TENDER NOTICE
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER, CIVIL CONSTRUCTION NORTH - KOZHIKODE

Tender ID : 2020_KSEB_387723-1 * Construction of Administrative Complex at Iratty , Kannur * PAC : Rs.1,19,62,045/- I*
Last Date : 30-10-2020
Visit www.etenders.kerala.gov.in and www.kseb.in
Ref: PR/MC1/E236/E-Tender/2020

ANDHRA PRADESH TECHNOLOGY SERVICES LTD
3rd Floor, R & B Building, Labbipet, M.G. Road, VIJAYAWADA-520 010.
Ref.No. ITC51-2021/22/2020-INFRA-APTS, Dated 06-10-2020
Tender Call Notice (2nd Call) for Selection of System Integrator (SI) for Upgrading APSWAN to APSDWAN for ITE & C Department, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh. **Bid Closing Date : 21-10-2020**.
For further details, please visit [https://www.apsvts.gov.in/tenders.aspx](http://www.apsvts.gov.in/tenders.aspx) or www.approcurement.gov.in/.

**Sd/- Managing Director,
A.P. Technology Services Ltd.**

DIPR 359PP/CL, Dt.05.10.2020

**D/- Superintending Engineer,
Irrigation Circle, Nellore.**

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS: TIRUPATI CHITTOR DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH.
Adv.No.34/D3/CE/TTD/2020-21

Sl. No.	NIT No.	Name of the Work	Estimate Amount Rs. In Lakhs & Time for completion	Schedule Download Start Date	Down Load End Date & Last Date for Bid Submission
1	2	3	4	5	6
SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER-I					
1	55/SE-I/TTD/2020-21	Construction of Additional Hostel Block for	880.00 9 months	05.10-2020 5.00 p.m.	21-10-2020 1.00 p.m. & 3.00 p.m.
2	56/SE-I/TTD/2020-21	Facility Management Services for House keeping, Sanitation and all maintenance of Srinivasam Multistoried Complex, SVRH (Main & Annexure) and Archakas Accommodation Dormitory Hall (SWETA), Transit Camp Rest House, Alipiri and Information Center, Renigunta Areas at Tirupati for a period of 3			

IN BRIEF



Congress leader Naseeb Pathan dies of COVID-19

NEW DELHI
Naseeb Pathan, Uttar Pradesh Congress leader and two-time member of the U.P. Legislative Council, died of COVID-19 in Lucknow on Sunday. Expressing grief, party president Sonia Gandhi on Monday termed Pathan's death an irreparable loss to the party. Former party chief Rahul Gandhi tweeted Pathan's last video from the hospital room where he slammed the Yogi Adityanath government.

\$2.5 million grant for Bengaluru biotech firm

NEW DELHI
A Boston University-based non-profit CARB-X has said it is awarding up to \$2.5 million (about ₹18 crore) to a Bengaluru-based biotech firm GangaGen Biotechnologies, to develop novel antibacterial proteins that could potentially be used to treat multi-drug resistant infections. Tanjore S. Balanesh, president of GangaGen Biotechnologies, said, "We are delighted to receive CARB-X's support to progress the klebsicin programme."

Usha Martin, its MD arraigned in graft case

NEW DELHI
Usha Martin Limited and its managing director, Rajeev Jhawar, have also been arraigned in the case in which the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested its retired Superintendent of Police, N.M.P. Sinha, on a graft charge. The FIR alleges that Mr. Sinha conspired with the other accused persons to receive bribe in lieu of the favours extended to them in another case registered against Usha Martin in 2016, which pertained to an iron ore mining lease.

New guidelines out for schools

No student must be forced to attend class without parents' consent: Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Union Education Ministry on Monday issued detailed guidelines for the reopening of schools after October 15 in a graded manner, in accordance with the Union Home Ministry's directions. No student will be forced to attend school without parents' consent, said Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal.

"States/UTs [Union Territories] should take the consent of parents/guardians before their child/ward begins attending schools. Students willing to study from home with the consent of the parents may be allowed to do so," say the guidelines.

The Ministry has ordered thorough cleaning and disinfecting of all areas, furniture and equipment on the campus, and ensuring air flow in the indoor spaces.

Schools have to form task teams for emergency care support and response, commodity support, hygiene in-



New normal: Students following protocols in Vijaywada after schools opened partially in September. ■ PTI

spection and allied responsibilities. "Schools may be encouraged to make their own SOPs [standard operating procedures] based on the guidelines issued by States/UTs for the following, keeping in view the safety and physical/social distancing norms, and ensuring that notices/posters/messages/communication to parents are prominently displayed/ disseminated."

The schools will ensure physical distancing while planning seating arrangements and staggered time ta-

bles, besides entry and exit timings and points. Functions and events have to be avoided. All the students and staff will be required to wear face cover/mask. Students, parents, teachers, community members and the hostel staff have to be sensitised to the pandemic-related challenges, based on the guidelines issued by the Ministries of Education, Health and Home.

The schools have to plan the academic calendar changes for all classes, particularly in relation to breaks

and exams and ensure that all students have access to prescribed textbooks before the school reopens.

They have to ensure availability of a full-time trained health care attendant, nurse or doctor and counsellor to take care of the physical and mental health of students. Regular health check-up of students and teachers has to be organised. The schools have to adopt a flexible attendance and sick leave policies and encourage the students and staff to stay at home when sick.

The schools should focus on the most vulnerable students, including those with special needs and those directly affected by death or hospitalisation due to COVID-19 in their family. Directives have been given to ensure nutritional requirements of children.

The schools will ensure smooth transition of students from home-based schooling during lockdown to formal schooling.

Restart talks at 'PM level' without conditions: Muivah

NSCN(IM) releases letter written to Modi seven months ago

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

The Isak-Muivah faction of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland, or NSCN (IM), wants the peace talks to be restarted at the level of the Prime Minister without any precondition and in a third country.

These were the conditions the outfit, which now prefers to be called the National Socialist Council of Nagalim, had set before declaring a ceasefire with the armed forces in mid-1997. The first few rounds of talks were held abroad.

Thuingaleng Muivah, general secretary of the NSCN (IM) and a key negotiator in the peace process, had acquainted Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the outfit's desire in a letter seven months ago. His group released the letter to the media on Monday for the sake of "accountability to the Nagas" and to inform them about the delay because of the lack of response from the office of the Indian Prime Minister.

Mr. Muivah is the *Ato Kilonser*, meaning Prime Minister, in the "government" run by the NSCN (IM). A PM-level dialogue means talks between him and Mr. Modi.

"On the official invitation of the GoI [Government of India], we first arrived in India in 2002 and after our subsequent visits, we have

Protests in WB after murder of BJP leader

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

The murder of BJP councilor Manish Shukla in Barrackpore subdivision of West Bengal's North 24 Parganas late on Sunday triggered protests and hectic political activity in the district and Kolkata on Monday. Mr. Shukla was shot dead late in the evening by unidentified men on a motorbike close to the Titaragarh police station.

The BJP's 12-hour bandh call in Barrackpore saw clashes between party workers and the police.



Peace pursuit: Narendra Modi with NSCN(IM) chief Thuingaleng Muivah at the signing of the accord. ■ FILE PHOTO

2015... "However, in the given circumstances and to save the political dialogue, the talks should resume at the PM level without precondition and outside India. And if our stay in India is no more welcome, all necessary arrangements must be made for us to leave India and the political talks be resumed in a third country," the letter said.

Flag, constitution

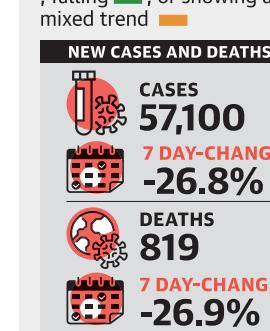
Stating that most of the important issues, except for the Naga flag and constitution, have been resolved, Mr. Muivah brought to Mr. Modi's notice "some matters of serious concern" regarding the activities of the Union Home Ministry and its agencies.

The design and intent of the Home Ministry are deliberate and calculated policies of the GoI to downgrade the political negotiation to India's internal law and order issue. The Nagas are observing a repeat of the militarisation and a consciously carried out state terrorism in the Naga areas and against the Naga people through a show of force, arrest and allegation against NSCN members for terror funding, imposing check-gates, frequent raids. The design and intent of the Home Ministry and its agencies are unjustifiable and a serious provocation that goes against the principle and spirit of the political negotiation and the FA."

The NSCN (IM) leader was critical of the "activities" of the PMO's representative and Nagaland Governor R.N. Ravi, consciously functioning within the law and order purview of the Constitution of India in "deliberate deviation" from his appointment as the Centre's interlocutor in the Naga talks.

Viral tracker

With 57,100 COVID-19 cases recorded on Monday, India's tally stood at 66,79,369. As many as 819 new deaths were registered, taking the toll to 1,03,570. The graphs depict new cases and deaths in the last 14 days in select States. The States are classified based on where cases/deaths are rising — ; falling — ; or showing a mixed trend —.



SC asks Vijay Mallya to come clean on proceedings in U.K.

Clarify by Nov. 2, it tells businessman facing extradition

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday ordered the lawyers for businessman Vijay Mallya to come clean about the nature of "confidential" proceedings going on after the rejection of his appeal against extradition in the U.K. Supreme Court.

At the start of the hearing, the government informed a Special Bench of Justices U.U. Lalit and Ashok Bhushan that Mr. Mallya's extradition case in the U.K. was over, but some 'secret' proceedings were on.

"Extradition was ordered by the highest court of the U.K. But it [extradition] is not happening. Instead, some 'secret' proceedings are happening. We have not been made aware of these proceedings. We are not a party. They [Mr. Mallya's side] have not served us with anything," Rajat Nair, advocate appearing for the government, submitted.

Justice Lalit turned to Mr. Mallya's counsel, and asked him to explain the nature of



this confidential proceeding.

But the lawyer said he would have to first take instructions on this issue.

"We want to know what is going on? What is pending there now?" Justice Lalit asked the lawyer.

The court ordered Mr. Mallya's side to clarify by November 2 the nature of this confidential proceedings, when it will end and by when the businessman will appear before it to accept his sentence for contempt.

On August 30, the apex court had dismissed Mr. Mallya's review petition against

a May 9, 2017, verdict of contempt.

The court had found no merit in his three-year-old review plea against his conviction.

The court had in May 2017 found Mr. Mallya guilty of contempt for wilful disobedience of its order to come clean about his assets and not disclosing \$40 million (₹600 crore) he received from British liquor major Diageo Plc following his resignation as chairman of United Spirits Ltd. in February 2016.

In his original arguments before the court in 2017, Mr. Mallya had informed it that the \$40 million was one among "thousands of transactions" he did and could not be counted as an asset.

He said he had no control over that money now as he had already disbursed it among his three adult children, who are U.S. citizens.

The court had ordered him to provide the banks with a list of his assets so that they could recover ₹9,200 crore due to them.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will meet his counterparts in the Australia-India-Japan-United States Quadrilateral or Quad in Tokyo on Tuesday, which is seen as a significant turning point for the grouping, led by growing concerns over China in the region.

Officials aware of the agenda say that cooperation on 5G connectivity, cybersecurity, a supply chain initiative for manufacturing, maritime cooperation and infrastructure and connectivity, as well as distribution plans for the COVID-19 vaccine are all areas where alternatives to Chinese initiatives will be discussed.

Beijing has already criticised the meeting as an "exclusive clique", an "anti-China frontline" and even a "mini-NATO" led by the U.S.'s "Cold War mentality", making it clear it will watch the outcomes closely, even as its tensions with each of the Quad countries grows.

The meeting on Tuesday will begin with a "regional assessment", including de-

velopments in the South and East China Sea, the six-month stand-off at the Line of Actual Control (LAC), Hong Kong and Taiwan, where China's aggressive moves have been most marked.

The four Ministers will also discuss the issue of including Australia in the next edition of the Malabar naval exercises, scheduled to be held in November. However, there is still no clarity on the final decision. Any announcement on Malabar would be made by the Ministry of Defence, a government official said.

Building trade ties is also on the agenda, as Japan is keen to push a plan for a trilateral "Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI)" with India and Australia to reduce dependence on Chinese manufacturing, especially as India has refused to be a part of the ASEAN-led Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

India will also discuss how other Quad countries can help with building "East-West" connectivity from India to ASEAN countries, to counter the "North-South connectivity" from China, as well as joint funding for infrastructure and connectivity projects in the Indo-Pacific region.

A U.S. plan for a "Blue Dot Network" to rate



High-level talks: Marise Payne with S. Jaishankar at the East Asia Summit. China Foreign Minister Wang Yi is seen. ■ FILE PHOTO

keen to push a plan for a trilateral "Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI)" with India and Australia to reduce dependence on Chinese manufacturing, especially as India has refused to be a part of the ASEAN-led Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

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A U.S. plan for a "Blue Dot Network" to rate

the questions on hate speech and offensive speech in media should be examined by the court irrespective of what the government decided with regard to the Sudarshan TV issue.

The government had taken up the matter while the Bench had been examining questions of hate speech and offensive speech in the media. The Bench was looking into the exact point when free speech in the media crossed the Rubicon to breach the dignity of a community.

Advocate Shadan Farasat, for one of the parties, said

infrastructure projects for funding, announced in January, is likely to be discussed as well.

Bilateral meetings

Mr. Jaishankar will also hold bilateral meetings with Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi and his Australian and U.S. counterparts Marise Payne and Mike Pompeo separately during his two-day Tokyo visit, where bilateral defence cooperation will be a common theme.

Each of the foreign ministers had made a special effort to attend this meeting, said diplomatic sources, indicating that the Trump administration was particularly keen to hold the meeting before U.S. elections next month so that a common understanding on China, as well as the road map for the future year could be reached.

Secretary of State Mr. Pompeo is travelling despite health concerns over President Donald Trump, who is in hospital with COVID-19. Mr. Pompeo has cancelled trips to Seoul and Ulan Bator scheduled this week.

the mandate of the bioassay laboratory at the THSTI is to provide validated assays for vaccine development on a par with global standards.

Renu Swarup, Secretary, DBT, said in a statement:

"The DBT has been supporting efforts for COVID-19 vaccine development. More than 30 vaccines are at different stages of development with three in human trials and nearly four in advanced stages of preclinical testing."

DRDO successfully tests ASW missile system

'All the mission objectives were met'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on Monday successfully test-fired the missile-assisted release of a light-weight anti-submarine torpedo system for anti-submarine warfare (ASW), Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART).

All the mission objectives including missile flight up to the range and altitude, separation of the nose cone,

Fresh show-cause notice issued to Sudarshan TV, SC told

Content of its show *Bindas Bol* had accused Muslims of 'infiltrating' the civil services, says govt.

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Union government informed the Supreme Court that a fresh show-cause notice had been issued to Sudarshan TV on Monday with regard to the content of its controversial show, *Bindas Bol*, which accuses Muslims of "infiltrating" the civil services with the help of funding from terror-linked organisations abroad.

Appearing before a Bench led by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta said an inter-

ministerial committee had watched the episodes of the show. The proceedings on the basis of the notice would be held on October 6.

The court agreed to adjourn the hearing till October 26.

First notice

In the previous hearing, the government told the court about the first notice issued on September 23 to Sudarshan TV under the Cable TV Network Act with regard to the show content. The court had stayed the

further telecast of the programme episodes on September 15. Four episodes had been telecast by the time it issued the injunction.

"Had the court not intervened, the programme would have been over by now," Justice Chandrachud had told Mr. Mehta.

The government had taken up the matter while the Bench had been examining questions of hate speech and offensive speech in the media. The Bench was looking into the exact point when free speech in the media crossed the Rubicon to breach the dignity of a community.

Advocate Shadan Farasat, for one of the parties, said

the manner of portrayal of the Muslim community in *Bindas Bol* was

Against the whistleblowers

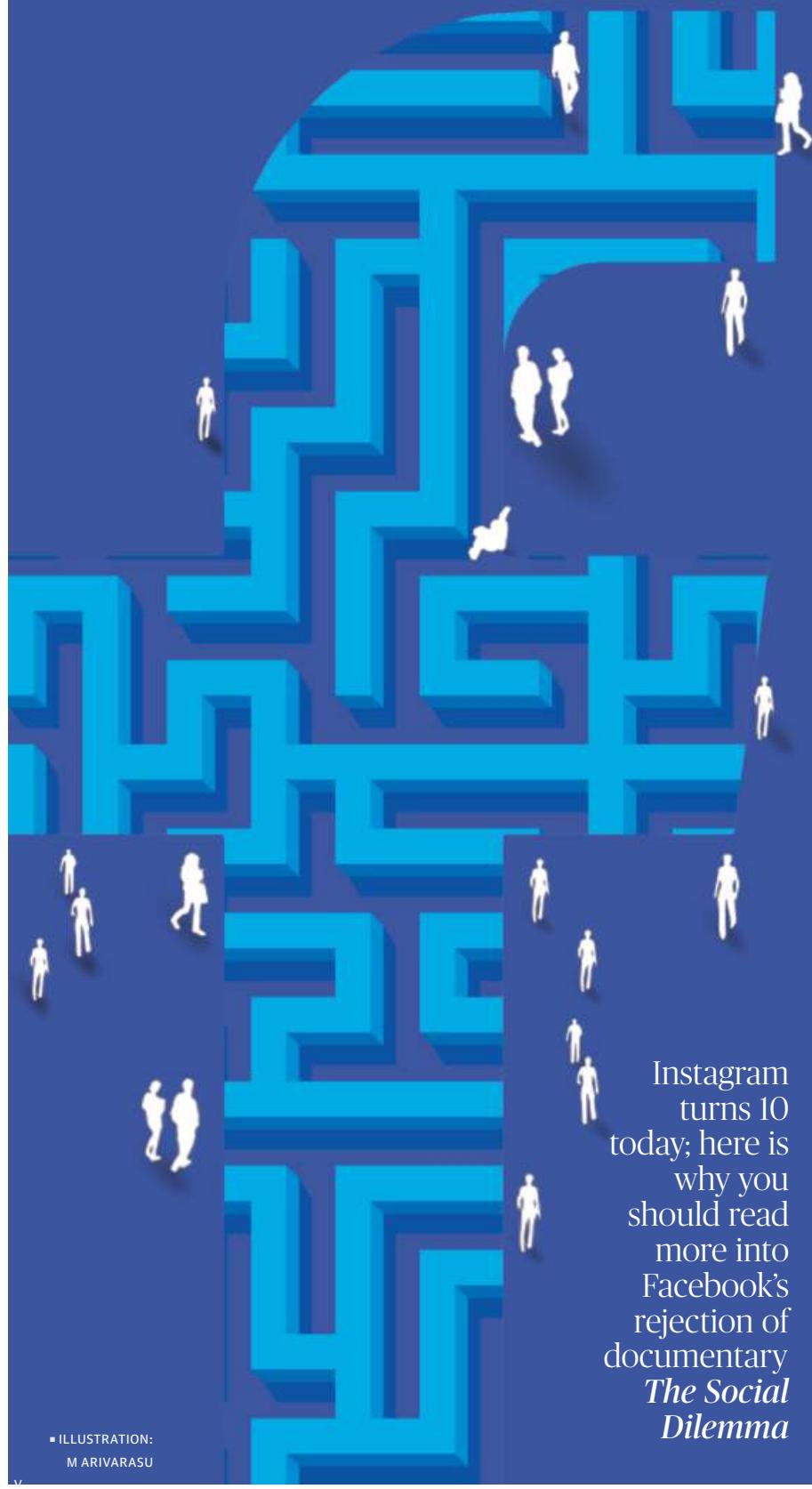


ILLUSTRATION:
M ARIVARASU

Instagram turns 10 today; here is why you should read more into Facebook's rejection of documentary *The Social Dilemma*

DIVYA KALA BHAVANI

Watched *The Social Dilemma*? Perhaps it has shaken up your household's perspective of how your offline lives are mediated by the ones lead online.

The Jeff Orlowski-directed documentary, which struck a chord with many netizens upon its global release in September, has already been bookmarked as a favorite among anti-trust regulators who are more than eager to see the downfall of the world's largest social media entities.

The film, serving as a 'burn book' of all the big Internet companies, features first-person accounts from several 'whistleblowers' who have worked at Facebook, Twitter, Google and more. All of them left these organisations based on ethical concerns. Facebook has now published a rebuttal to *The Social Dilemma*; it addresses the platform's notoriety for bypassing users' privacy, the rapid spread of misinformation, fake news and hate speech, the advancement of political polarisation, and threats against the inherent values of elections.

The report by Facebook, a seven-part breakdown of the corroborated arguments made in *The Social Dilemma*, was posted on its official website and attributed to no particular spokesperson. "The film's creators do not include insights from those currently working at the companies or any experts that take a different view of the narrative put forward by the film. They don't acknowledge the efforts already taken by companies to address many of the issues they raise," it states, adding the film is "distorted" in its approach.

Mental health and fear
Facebook claims its News Feed, is "not incentivised to build features that increase time-spent on our products. Instead, we want to make sure we offer value to people, not just drive usage."

The platform refers to a 2018 change to News Feed wherein they adjusted the ranking in users' timelines "to prioritise meaningful social interactions and de-prioritise things like viral videos. The change led to a decrease of 50 [million] hours a day worth of time spent on Facebook." The company points out they have been actively working with mental health organisations to further understand the effects social media has on users. For example, in April 2020, Facebook released Quiet Time, a digital well-being feature that helps users spend certain time slots on the platform – but few know of this feature.

Probably one of the more mind-boggling arguments Facebook, to its credit, acknowledges is its leveraging of algorithmic power just as Netflix does, "to determine who it thinks

should watch *The Social Dilemma* film."

Facebook seemingly waves off the concern around algorithms. Yes, algorithms are the norm but be aware of the concept's evolution. While algorithms started out as a way for technology to help rank searches according to the user's shared data, they have been developed to become one of Internet companies' favourite surveillance tactics. In this case, Facebook states, "portraying algorithms as 'mad' may make good fodder for conspiracy documentaries, but the reality is a lot less entertaining." However, many who have watched *The Social Dilemma* would not necessarily categorise it as 'entertainment' but more as a reality check.

We cannot speak of algorithms without speaking of advertising. Facebook claims they are "funded by advertising so that it remains free for people... We don't sell your information to anyone." The platform insists that they "provide advertisers

with reports about the kinds of people who are seeing their ads and how their ads are performing, but [they] don't share information that personally identifies you unless you give [them] permission."

Facebook-owned Instagram, which turns 10 today, has one of the most contentious News Feeds across social networking platforms; its evolution has gone from simply featuring posts in a chronological order in publishing of those in a user's circle to interspersing algorithm-driven sponsored and recommended posts across the basic News Feed and Explore pages. Sadly, Instagram still tells you what you need to see.

The Social Dilemma makes strong references to the Cambridge Analytica data breach of 2018, which led to Facebook CEO and founder Mark Zuckerberg sitting through a grueling Senate hearing that same year. Zuckerberg was asked whether or not Facebook would still have access to a user's information should they delete their information and account from the platform. Zuckerberg responded Facebook will not be able to access any information or content a user shared in the past. However, some third-party apps may still have access to some of this data. Interestingly, even when users delete their accounts, it can take up to 90 days for Facebook to remove content such photos and updates stored in backup systems.

Social media and politics
Polarisation and populism have existed long before social media. This point may be a little 'grey area' simply because polarisation is still a fairly fluid term, where one can use it in both macro (platform integrity and diversity) and micro (smaller scale partisanship) senses.

Notably, *The Social Dilemma* addresses the scope of radicalisation through social

media; in the film's dramatised parallel storyline, a teen is exposed to a vague form of it through YouTube and Facebook.

"The overwhelming majority of the content that people see on Facebook is not polarising or even political – it's everyday content from people's friends and family," Facebook states. "We reduce the amount of content that could drive polarisation, including links to clickbait headlines or misinformation."

In May 2020, *The Wall Street Journal* published an exposé, based on internal documents and interviews with current and former employees, on how Facebook actually encourages divisiveness across its users. The article 'Facebook Executives Shut Down Efforts to Make the Site Less Divisive' states, "Our algorithms exploit the human brain's attraction to divisiveness," read a slide from a 2018 presentation. "If left unchecked," it warned, "Facebook would feed users 'more and more divisive content to gain user attention and increase time on the platform."

The aforementioned makes for a natural segue to elections and misinformation. "We've acknowledged that we made mistakes in 2016. Yet the film leaves out what we have done since 2016 to build strong defences to stop people from using Facebook to interfere in elections," says the Facebook report, referring to its use of around 3000 Russian-backed ads.

Facebook states they do not benefit from misinformation, adding, "We don't want hate speech on our platform and work to remove it... We know our systems aren't perfect and there are things that we miss." The company adds they have removed over 22 million pieces of hate speech in the second quarter of 2020, over 94% of which they found before someone reported it. They say this is an increase from a quarter earlier when they removed 9.6 million posts, over 88% of which they found before some reported it to the platform.

The Social Dilemma has stirred an online uprising around not just privacy but about mental health, and the power held by these companies. If the film's mission was to further fracture our trust in the online, it has worked on a great many – and Facebook knows it. To be fair, many have questioned the film's inherent purpose: 'do we boycott these platforms altogether (is that even possible?); and 'what can do about it now when erasing a digital footprint is near impossible?'

Facebook's report aims to serve as a reminder of its positive (albeit slow) change after years of ongoing scandal and their regular statements of 'we are working to change this'. Despite policy changes and international hearings, *The Social Dilemma* reminds us we need to perhaps reverse-engineer the situation, and start at home.

TECH-A-BYTE

Assamese added to Translator

Microsoft added Assamese as the latest Indian language to its Azure-based service, Microsoft Translator, providing real-time translation and transliteration support for the language. Users will also be able to translate speech into Assamese text or to translate Assamese text into another language with speech output. Microsoft now supports 12 Indian languages viz., Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Odia, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu, and Urdu.

This Joker runs rampant

Joker malware, also known as Bread, has appeared on multiple security reports recently from security firms such as Zscaler, and Zimperium, Ars Technica reported. A new batch of the malware has infected 17 apps with a total of around 1.2 lakh downloads. Another report found 64 new variants of Joker. The malware is known for subscribing users to premium services without their knowledge or consent. In January, Google had removed six Joker malware infected apps – Safety AppLock, Convenient Scanner 2, Push Message-Texting & SMS, Emoji Wallpaper, Separate Doc Scanner and Fingertip GameBox – with nearly 2 lakh downloads.



Call of Duty Mobile celebrates

Call of Duty Mobile's first anniversary of worldwide launch was celebrated on October 1. To put the game's success into perspective, players have spent nearly one billion hours (850 million) playing the game in peak month of its first year. In fact, the game also reached the 100 million download milestone across both the App Store and Google Play Store, within 20 days of its launch, significantly faster than other core games. In another update, Call of Duty Black Ops Cold War will be launched on November 13.

Compiled by Ishan Patra

GAMESPOT

Space aces

Experience Star Wars' epic space battles from both sides in the latest Star Wars Squadrons



JULIAN ALMEIDA

One of my favourite moments of *Star Wars* was when Luke Skywalker takes on the Death Star in his X-wing fighter, expertly piloting it into the claustrophobic walls of the shaft with Darth Vader hot on his trail. Lightsabers aside, *Star Wars* has always been about the giant space battles, as tiny Tie Fighters and X-Wings zip in between Star Destroyers. This was something I've always wanted to do and classic games like X-Wing versus Tie Fighter allowed that.

Now, *Star Wars Squadrons* presents a new chance to fly space fighters, both on screens and in VR.

In the ensuing chaos after the events of *Return of the Jedi*, the Empire is in turmoil, and the Republic has a new lease on life, taking the fight to

them. The story masterfully jumps between the Empire's Titan Squadron and the Republic's Vanguard Squadron as they fight for control and freedom respectively.

Yes, you play a relatively unknown pilot, but the characters you encounter are bigger than life.

Otherworldly details
The story is interesting, but the stakes never get high enough to capture you. It is mostly standard fare, and you only get to experience it when you are in the hangar.

However, the beauty of the game happens when you are in the seat of your fighter. *Squadrons*, as a game, captures the feel and scale of a *Star Wars* space battle perfectly. Your little window out into space from your claustrophobic cockpit makes everything



STAR WARS: SQUADRONS

DEVELOPER: Motive Studios

PUBLISHER: EA

PRICE: ₹2,499 on PlayStation 4, Xbox One and PC

more real; I found just manoeuvring to avoid a star destroyer only to find another massive ship jumping in front of me to be visceral. Those familiar with the films would've seen the cockpits of these famous fighters, and the amount of detail that has gone into recreating them for *Star Wars Squadrons* is astounding. There are even tiny details like your pilot flicking little switches to bring the readouts to life. These details make dog-fighting a quasi-realistic experience as you glance at your readouts while manoeuvring to get your enemy in your sights. Squadrions straddles that fine line between arcade style flying and fight simulation-like complexity. It is interesting to see how you can reroute power to your lasers or your shields or even your engines in the heat of the battle for that added defence or offense. The throttle is easy to use with the left stick, and things like de-accelerating quickly to make tight turns are critical to you not being blown to smithereens. As you play, you unlock the ability to set your own loadouts which is crucial to winning and finding your identity – especially in multi-player.

There is so much detail in each frame, with massive set pieces, that it is so easy to lose your target in the chaos. However, if you own a PlayStation VR or Oculus Quest, then this is the killer app that VR has been wanting for years. In this format the game takes on

In a galaxy far, far away
Screenshots from the video game • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

a whole new dimension. Turning your head lets you see the entire cockpit of the different spaceships you get to fly. Dog-fights are made more real because you can make use of peripheral vision and all your senses to peel those layers of chaos. This game is best played in VR, and if you do own a flightstick, that is an added bonus.

Electronic Arts has been really doing their *Star Wars* games justice; from *Star Wars Jedi: Fallen Order* to *Squadrons*, they have taken the mythos a lot further with excellent storytelling and incredible gameplay. While we have covered mostly single player with *Squadrons*, it also does have a robust 5v5 multi-player which is an engaging. *Squadrons* is an excellent game, made even better in VR, with a lot of organic 'OMG' moments to be had.

The writer is a tech and gaming enthusiast who hopes to one day finish his sci-fi novel

Stark reality IN BLACK AND WHITE

Graphic artist Priyanka Borar talks about her work and how she uses art as a tool to tell the stories of rural Indian women



RUTH DHANARAJ

over a phone call from Hyderabad.

"When this series began, there was a concern of using photographs – they could not be used as the identity of the women needed to be protected. Sainath remembered my work from 2017 and when he asked, I readily agreed," says.

As one of the artists working on the series, Priyanka has illustrated around 13 of the 50 stories and each of them has been fashioned in a different style, even though all are in black and white. "I was illustrating one story at a time, which is why each one has been created with a distinct technique," she says, adding: "I would receive a draft of the story from PARI to get a sense of what a particular study was about – the context, the emotions. I would also ask reporters from the field to share photographs if they had any."

Priyanka says that for most of the



Telling images Priyanka Borar relied on stories from seasoned reporters for the series ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

tails in the story. It was a great experience going through the drafts of those seasoned reporters who had a keen eye for detail."

Some of these details conjure up a mental image or montage for Priyanka. For example, in the image 'After 12 children...' the Aravalli mountains are the backdrop to the woman's loss of loved ones and the mining that takes place in her area.

A graduate of NID and new media graphic artist by profession Priyanka works on graphic narratives whenever she takes a break from commercial work. Her initial work appeared in *First Hand*, a collection of non-fiction graphic narratives on India, featuring various artists.

'It is no one and everyone I know'



Revathi Suresh will be in conversation with author Shalini Srinivasan on October 6 to talk about Revathi's new book as part of IIHS' Public Texts series

APARNA NARRAIN

As part of the Public Texts series by Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS), Shalini Srinivasan (author of *Varnala, the Cephalopod*) will be in conversation with Revathi Suresh about her new book, *In Now & Then*, on October 6.

The book, a sequel to *Jobless Clueless Reckless* (2013), catches up with the characters, including the no-longer-a-teen protagonist Kavya; her younger brother, Dhritiman aka Ditto; Amma and Appa; Mads and Mark, her aunt and uncle; Kiran, the blue-eyed boy Kavya has a crush on, and Lara, Kavya's friend.

While Revathi says she finished writing the new book in 2018, there was no plan to always have a sequel. "When the

first book got over, I pretty much thought I had finished the story. But then there were people who said, 'Oh, it looks like there can be a sequel'. While I hesitated initially and thought where would that story go anyway, as the years passed, I could see that there was potential for a sequel for many reasons," she says.

The new book deals with various subjects such as polyamory, gender identity and mental health. On whether her approach is to ensure that certain themes or subjects find a place in her writing, especially with regard to young people, Revathi says, "No, I don't write that way. It doesn't work for me to say at the starting point that I'm going to put all of these things in. The things that were happening in my mind were to do with

the way that I could see young people living their lives or what they seemed to be going through. I am not saying as a collective, they are all going through this but just coming across something, such as in the news. It is no one I know and everyone I know."

As for who the book is aimed at: young adults or older people, she says, "I don't see it being pigeon-holed one way or the other. That the protagonist happens to be a certain age is one thing, but the fact is there are others around her who are not her age and are very much a part of her life. So, I think anyone of any age, any gender can read and enjoy it."

The session will begin online at 6.30 pm on Zoom. Register at bit.ly/RevathiSuresh

POOCHE CAFE



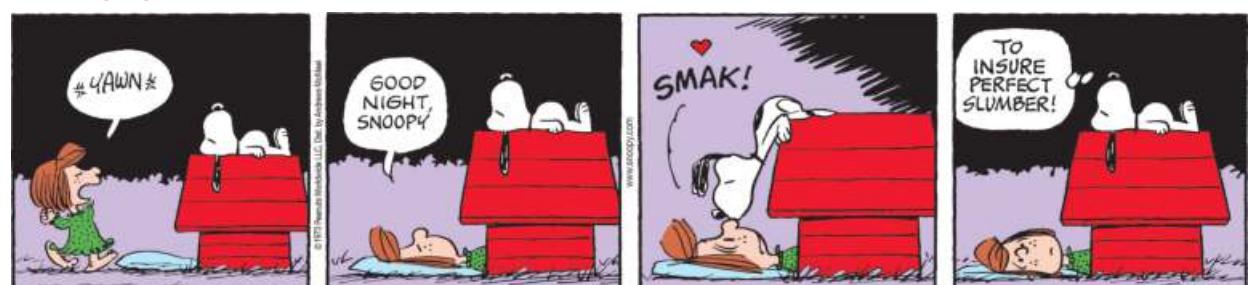
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



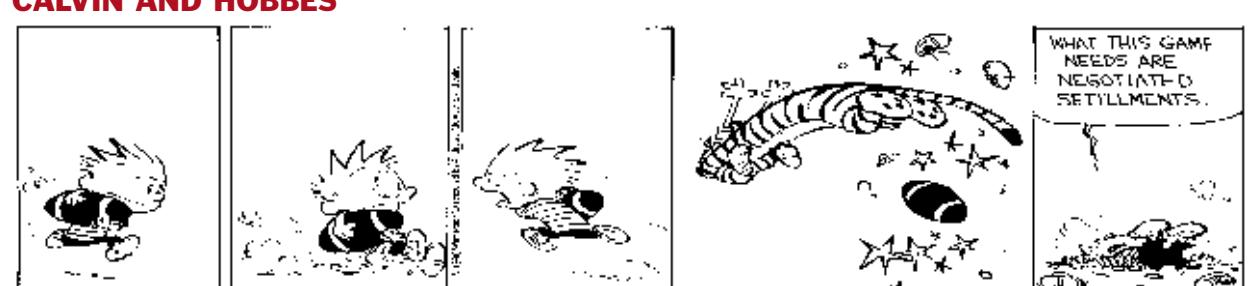
TIGER



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBES



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



Ignoring concerns, Trump takes a car ride

Virus-infected President ventured out of hospital to greet supporters, disregarding guidelines

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BETHESDA

Infected and contagious, President Donald Trump briefly ventured out in a motorcade on Sunday to salute cheering supporters, a move that disregarded precautions meant to contain the deadly virus that has forced his hospitalisation and killed more than 2,09,000 Americans.

With one month until election day, Mr. Trump was eager to project strength despite his illness. The President surprised supporters who had gathered outside Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, driving by in a black SUV with the windows rolled up. Secret Service agents inside the vehicle could be seen in masks and other protective gear.

The move capped a week of contradictions that fuelled confusion about Mr. Trump's health, which has imperilled the leadership of the U.S. government and upended the final stages of the presidential campaign. While Mr. Trump's physician offered a rosy prognosis on his condition, his briefings lacked basic information, including the findings of lung



Risky joyride: U.S. President Trump waves from the back of a car in a motorcade in Bethesda, Maryland. • AFP

scans, or were quickly muddled by more serious assessments of the President's health by other officials.

'This is insanity'

In a short video released by the White House on Sunday, Mr. Trump insisted he understood the gravity of the moment. But his actions moments later, by leaving the hospital and sitting inside the SUV with others, suggested otherwise.

"This is insanity," said Dr. James P. Phillips, an attending physician at Walter Reed who is a critic of Mr. Trump and his handling of the pandemic. "Every single person

Joe Biden's campaign, meanwhile, said the Democratic presidential nominee again tested negative for COVID-19 on Sunday. The results come five days after Mr. Biden spent more than 90 minutes on the debate stage with Mr. Trump. Mr. Biden, who has taken a far more cautious approach to in-person events, had two negative tests on Friday.

For his part, Mr. Trump still faces questions about his health.

It was the second straight day of obfuscation from a White House already suffering from a credibility crisis. And it raised more doubts about whether the doctors treating the president were sharing accurate, timely information with the American public about the severity of his condition.

Conflicting messages

Pressed about conflicting information, Dr. Sean Conley said that he had tried to present a sunnier description of the President's condition.

"I was trying to reflect the upbeat attitude that the team, the President, that his course of illness has had. Didn't want to give any infor-

mation that might steer the course of illness in another direction," Dr. Conley said. "And in doing so, you know, it came off that we were trying to hide something, which wasn't necessarily true. The fact of the matter is that he's doing really well."

Medical experts said Dr. Conley's revelations were hard to square with his positive assessment and talk of a discharge.

"There's a little bit of a disconnect," said Dr. Steven Shapiro, chief medical and scientific officer at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

According to CDC guidelines, "In general, transport and movement of a patient with suspected or confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection outside of their room should be limited to medically essential purposes."

Even before Mr. Trump's motorcade outing on Sunday, some Secret Service agents have expressed concern about the lackadaisical attitude toward masks and social distancing inside the White House, but there isn't much they can do, according to agents and officials who spoke to.

Sri Lanka sees a sudden spike in COVID-19 cases

Country recorded at least 101 new infections on Monday

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

Months after successfully containing the spread of the coronavirus, Sri Lanka on Monday reported a sudden spike in COVID-19 cases – whose source remains unclear – raising questions over possible community transmission that authorities have so far denied.

On Monday evening, Sri Lanka's Health Promotion Bureau had recorded at least 101 new cases, in the last 24 hours, raising the total number of COVID-19 cases to about 3,500. Sri Lanka has so far reported 13 deaths since the outbreak in March.



Two women wearing masks in Colombo on Sunday. • AFP

dra Silva, who heads the National Centre for the Prevention of COVID-19, told local news portal *Colombo Gazette* that "contingency plans were in place".

The government has also urged the public to refrain from non-essential travel and large gatherings.

The recently tested COVID-19 cases come at a time when Sri Lanka is mulling re-opening the country to tourists to help revive its pandemic-hit economy. With its vital export sector and foreign remittances badly affected, Sri Lanka is due to repay some \$3 billion of

its external debt this year. On Friday, the government settled a \$1 billion-worth International Sovereign Bond, amid persisting fiscal strain.

The island nation was among the few countries in the world that contained the spread of infection with early interventions, by public health officials and the Army, including a stringent curfew and aggressive contact tracing.

International leaders and agencies, including the World Health Organization, have commended Sri Lanka's effective response to the pandemic.

Further, the government has also restricted the return of several thousand Sri Lankan migrant workers, stuck in West Asian countries where they are employed, fearing they might bring home the virus. Though Sri Lanka boasts of a relatively low COVID-19 death rate, 64 Sri Lankan migrant workers have died from contracting COVID-19 so far in their host countries, according to the Sri Lanka Bureau of Foreign Employment.

Mali frees over 100 jihadists

It seeks the release of politician, charity worker in return

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BAMAKO

Insurgency-hit Mali has freed over 100 alleged or convicted jihadists to secure the release of a top politician and a French charity worker, sources close to the talks said Monday.

This is a rare mass release of prisoners in the fragile West African country, which is struggling with an eight-year-old Islamist insurgency.

Soumaila Cisse, a former

opposition leader and three-time presidential candidate, was abducted on March 25 while campaigning in his home region of Niafounke ahead of legislative elections.

Sophie Petronin, a French charity worker, was abducted by gunmen on December 24, 2016, in the northern city of Gao. She is presently the last French national held hostage in the world.

"As part of the negotia-

tions to obtain the release of Soumaila Cisse and Sophie Petronin, more than one hundred jihadist prisoners were released this weekend," a person in charge of the negotiations said.

An official at the security services confirmed the information.

The prisoners were released in the central region of Niono and in Tessalit in the north after arriving by plane, the official said.

As part of the negotia-

Jewish student attacked outside German synagogue

Crime is being probed as an attempted murder with anti-Semitic intent; Merkel calls act a disgrace

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BERLIN

German investigators said on Monday that they were probing an attack on a Jewish student outside a synagogue in Hamburg as attempted murder with anti-Semitic intent, a case condemned by Chancellor Angela Merkel as a "disgrace".

The 26-year-old student was badly injured on Sunday by a man who repeatedly struck him on the head with

a shovel outside the synagogue where the Jewish community was celebrating Sukkot, also known as the Feast of the Tabernacles.

The assault came a year after two people were shot dead by an extremist who tried and failed to storm a synagogue in the eastern German city of Halle.

Jewish leaders and top politicians led condemnation of the latest attack, which Ms. Merkel's spokes-

man described as a "repulsive" assault.

"Such an attack is repulsive, no matter what investigations about the motivation and the condition of the perpetrator might show," said spokesman Steffen Seibert.

Suspect arrested

"And it must be clearly stated by everyone in this society: in Germany, every such act is a disgrace."

The suspect, 29, was ar-

rested by police officers who were assigned to protect the synagogue in the northern city.

Dressed in combat fatigues, he had a piece of paper with a hand-drawn swastika in his pocket, said police and prosecutors in a statement.

"The current assessment of the situation suggests that this is an anti-Semitic motivated attack," they said, adding that investigators are

treating the case as "attempted murder with grievous bodily harm".

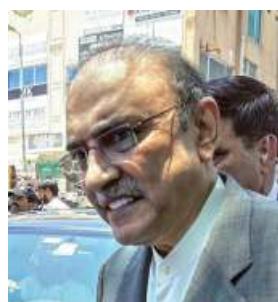
Ronald Lauder, leader of the World Jewish Congress, demanded action, saying that the attacker "must be held responsible as must all who engage in any expressions of hate or intolerance".

Anti-Semitic crimes have increased steadily in Germany in recent years with 2,032 offences recorded in 2019, up 13% on the previous year.

Pakistan charges former President Zardari

He is facing two corruption cases

ASSOCIATED PRESS
ISLAMABAD



Asif Ali Zardari

A Pakistani court on Monday officially charged the country's former President Asif Ali Zardari in two corruption cases, escalating the legal challenges facing the now leading opposition lawmaker and widower of assassinated former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

The development came as Mr. Zardari's party and a key anti-government ally were preparing for a massive rally against Prime Minister Imran Khan later this month. Mr. Zardari was released on bail on medical grounds last December, six months after his arrest.

During Monday's court appearance in the capital, Islamabad, Mr. Zardari pleaded not guilty to money

Eight killed in attack on Afghan Governor

President Ghani leaves for Doha talks

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
JALALABAD

A suicide attack targeting an Afghan provincial Governor killed at least eight people on Monday, officials said, as the President travelled to Qatar, where peace talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban.

Mr. Ghani will first stop in Kuwait to offer condolences over the death of Emir Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

Doha talks have stalled over disagreements on how to frame a code of conduct that will guide the broader talks.

The Taliban, who are Sunni hardliners, are insisting on adherence to the Hanafi school of Sunni Islamic jurisprudence, but the government negotiators say this could be used to discriminate against Hazaras and other minorities in the country.

It comes as President

Ashraf Ghani on Monday left for Doha to meet with Qatari officials, three weeks after the launch of landmark peace talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban.

Mr. Ghani will first stop in Kuwait to offer condolences over the death of Emir Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad Al-Sabah.

The Interested Contractors / Agencies may participate in the tendering process. The details such as Tender Fee, EMD, Tender Documents etc., are available on e-Procurement Portal from 12.10.2020.

"KSPH & IDCL reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without assigning any reasons."

Note: Henceforth any changes / modifications in the tender will be updated only on e-Procurement portal.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer – Contracts I/c

KARNATAKA STATE POLICE HOUSING & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
59, Richmond road, (Gen K.S. Thimmaiah Road) Bengaluru-25. Ph: 080-25584102 / 25594893
Website: www.kspchc.org, e mail: eecontractksphc@gmail.com, aeecontractksphc@gmail.com

No. EE/KSPH&IDCL/CNT/TND/2020-21/259

Date: 03.10.2020

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER

KSPH & IDCL invites online tender through e-procurement portal <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> for the following work.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Approx. Amount put to tender (Rs. In Lakhs)	Contract Period (including Monsoon) in months	Class of Contractor
1	Construction of Integrated Police Bhavan Building including Command Centre at 1st Battalion, Richmond road, Bangalore.	6000.00	30	Class-I & above

The Interested Contractors / Agencies may participate in the tendering process. The details such as Tender Fee, EMD, Tender Documents etc., are available on e-Procurement Portal from 12.10.2020.

"KSPH & IDCL reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without assigning any reasons."

Note: Henceforth any changes / modifications in the tender will be updated only on e-Procurement portal.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer – Contracts I/c

Government of Karnataka

Department of Mines & Geology

49, Kanhia Bhawan, Race Course Road, Bengaluru-01. E-mail: dir-mines@karnataka.gov.in
No.DMG/MLS/KW/2nd attempt auction/2020-21

Date: 05.10.2020

NOTIFICATION AND NOTICE INVITING TENDER

(2nd attempt of auction of Kannur Wadi Limestone Block)

"Invitation of bids for grant of Mining Lease for Limestone Block"

In exercise of the powers conferred under Section 10(B) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and in accordance with the Minerals (Evidence of Mineral Contents) Rules, 2015 and the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 and Mineral (Auction) Amendment Rules, 2017 notified thereunder, the Government of Karnataka has identified one limestone block for electronic auction for grant of Mining Lease.

Only the end-users proposed or engaged in production of cement will be eligible to take part in the auction and also who satisfies the eligibility criteria can participate in the auction. The State Government invites tender for the below listed limestone block.

List of Limestone Block for auction.

Sl. No.	Name of the block	Concession Area in Ha.	Estimated resource (in MMT)
1	Kannur (Wadi Area) Limestone Block	550	376.51

Technical and financial bids for the above listed block are invited online. Apart from technical bids, which are to be submitted online, bidders will also have to submit duly executed original physical copies of their Technical Bids to the Tender Inviting Authority i.e. the Director, Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Karnataka.

Eligibility conditions, terms and conditions, date and time for participating in the electronic auction are provided in the Tender Document. Tender Documents, notifications, updates and other details for the e-auction process shall be available in electronic form only at MSTC Limited (<http://www.mstccommerce.com/auctionhome/mlcl/index.jsp>).

Interested and eligible bidders can register themselves at the above website. On successful registration, bidders will obtain login ID and password, which are necessary for participation in the e-auction process. Model Tender Document and summary of the block shall be available free of cost at the website of MSTC Limited (<http://www.mstccommerce.com/auctionhome/mlcl/index.jsp>). For participating in the bid process, the registered bidders will have to purchase block specific tender document from the website of the MSTC Ltd by payment of Rs 5,

MARKET WATCH

	PRICE	CHANGE
Sensex	38,974	-0.71
US Dollar	73.29	-0.22
Gold	51,192	-0.75
Brent oil	41.47	3.55

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	350.35	-2.95
Asian Paints	2028.00	-12.45
Axis Bank	444.15	0.45
Bajaj Auto	2952.30	-33.10
Bajaj Finserv	5881.15	-172.45
Bharti Finance	3382.90	-59.90
Bharti Airtel	424.45	-7.90
BPCL	354.15	0.85
Britannia Ind	3830.45	21.85
Cipla	778.65	5.65
Coal India	118.40	1.15
Divis Lab	3126.20	61.30
Dr Reddy's Lab	5159.50	47.45
Eicher Motors	2210.15	12.50
GAIL (India)	87.00	-1.40
Grasim Ind	750.15	-4.40
HCL Tech	824.20	11.25
HDFC	1785.10	-5.55
HDFC Bank	1114.35	7.40
HDFC Life	574.75	5.55
Hero MotoCorp	3129.20	-22.25
Hindalco	179.05	4.95
Hind Unilever	2111.05	16.05
ICICI Bank	373.10	3.90
IndusInd Bank	601.55	9.35
Infosys	1048.70	31.05
Indian Oil Corp	75.55	1.45
ITC	169.25	-1.60
JSW Steel	290.10	8.05
Kotak Bank	1314.60	9.55
L&T	896.95	-5.85
M&M	607.00	-3.15
Maruti Suzuki	6818.85	22.55
Nestle India Ltd.	16033.15	32.65
NTPC	84.45	-0.45
ONGC	69.20	0.05
PowerGrid Corp	162.85	-1.75
Reliance Ind	2212.20	-13.05
SBI Life	824.95	6.05
State Bank	188.75	-1.55
Shree Cement	2031.80	-47.20
Sun Pharma	523.10	16.20
Tata Motors	133.90	0.40
Tata Steel	382.30	17.35
TCS	2705.80	182.35
Tech Mahindra	841.25	18.75
Titan	1194.35	-4.30
UltraTech Cement	4047.15	-50.60
UPL	507.10	1.45
Wipro	333.95	20.90

EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	73.09	73.41
Euro	85.84	86.22
British Pound	94.68	95.10
Japanese Yen (100)	69.18	69.49
Chinese Yuan	10.76	10.81
Swiss Franc	79.71	80.06
Singapore Dollar	53.67	53.92
Canadian Dollar	55.07	55.31
Malaysian Ringgit	17.57	17.66
Australian Dollar	52.46	52.70

Source: Indian Bank

IN BRIEF



RGICL allies with SatSure for crop insurance data

HYDERABAD Reliance General Insurance Company Ltd. (RGICL) has partnered SatSure Analytics for satellite-based crop monitoring and predictive analytics support for better risk management and improving efficiency of its crop insurance business. RGICL will supply extensive ground observation data and generate timely reports through SatSure's SAGE platform, as per a release.

JLR retail sales fall 12% in July-Sept. quarter

NEW DELHI Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) on Monday reported an 11.9% decline in sales in the second quarter this fiscal to 1,13,569 units as compared to the year earlier period. However, sales improved by 50% during the July-September quarter as against 74,067 units in the April-June period of the current fiscal, JLR said. China sales during the period under review rose 14.6% over the previous quarter and 3.7% year-on-year, JLR added. PTI

Business returning to pre-COVID levels: HDFC

NEW DELHI HDFC Ltd. said its individual loan disbursements in Q2 of 2020-21 reached 95% of the level in the year earlier period and September saw the strongest recovery since the COVID-19 outbreak, suggesting business was returning to pre-crisis levels. Individual loan business had continued to see a month-on-month improvement in July-September, it said in a filing on Monday. PTI

UPASI elects Bansari as president, Cherian as VP

BENGALURU The United Planters' Association of Southern India (UPASI) has elected Prashant Bhansali as president for the year 2020-21. Mr. Bhansali is the chief executive officer of Kairbetta Estates in the Nilgiris. M.P. Cherian, managing director of The Cottanad Plantations and The Nilambur Rubber Company, has been elected as vice president of UPASI for the year ending September 30, 2021.

PNB to add 4,000 jobs, open 500 branches in FY21, says Rao

Managing Director says lender to focus on the South, West for expansion

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

Public sector lender Punjab National Bank (PNB), which has set its sights on the South and West for expansion, will open about 500 branches and add about 4,000 jobs during the current fiscal, said its MD and CEO Ch. S.S. Mallikarjuna Rao.

"We have completed the business and human integration of United Bank of India and Oriental Bank of Commerce with the PNB," said Mr. Rao. "It migration will happen by December and February 2021 respectively," he added.

The bank, which currently operates 11,000 branches predominantly in the North



Better times: Mr. Rao said the lender expected the economy to pick up in the second half of this fiscal. ■ SHANKER CHAKRAVARTY

and East, plans to expand in the South and West. Initially, the bank plans to open about 500 branches during FY21.

The merger will lead to high incidence of rationalisa-

tion of branches," Mr. Rao said. "If there are two branches within 500 metres, we will club them together and then use the licence to open a new branch in the

South or in the West. That way, we hope to open 500 branches and will be writing to the RBI."

By November 15, PNB will be adding almost 4,000 employees to its payroll with 990 of them absorbed in the officer cadre.

On loss-making branches, Mr. Rao said they would number about 350 and the bank was finding ways to reduce their count through innovative marketing of services or introduction of region-specific products.

Noting that the bank's financial performance was muted in the first half due to COVID-19, he said the lender expected the economy to pick up in the second half.

Shares rise buoyed by TCS buyback plan, banking gains

Promise of moratorium interest waiver spurs bank stocks

REUTERS

BENGALURU

Indian shares ended higher on Monday as Tata Consultancy Services' market capitalisation touched ₹10 lakh crore (\$136.46 billion) – on share buyback plans – and banking stocks gained after the government said it would waive interest levies on some loans under moratorium.

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Burden or blessing: The Supreme Court will have its next hearing on the interest waiver case on October 13. ■ PTI

3.47%. Shares in TCS, Wipro Ltd. and Infosys Ltd. were among the top percentage gainers on the blue-chip Nifty 50. The Centre had told the apex court it would waive the compounding interest component on loans up to ₹2 crore under a COVID-19 support plan, a legal

filing showed. The Supreme Court will have its next hearing on the interest waiver case on October 13.

The NSE Bank index ended 0.56% higher, with shares of IndusInd Bank rising as much as 6.5% and Canara Bank Ltd. shares closing 0.6% higher.

Shouldn't let AI become weapon of non-state actors, says Modi

'Collective responsibility to ensure trust in how it is used'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Vowing to make India a global hub for artificial intelligence (AI), Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday stressed the need for transparency and accountability to protect against weaponisation of the technology by non-state actors.

"It remains our collective responsibility to ensure trust in how AI is used. Algorithm transparency is key to establishing this trust. Equally important is accountability. We must protect the world against weaponisation of AI by non-state actors," the PM said at the inauguration of RAISE 2020, a virtual summit organised by the Centre. Stakeholders from about



123 countries are expected to participate in the event.

'Unique advantages'

Stating that creativity and emotions continued to be the greatest strengths of humans, Mr. Modi said these attributes were unique advantages that humans had over machines. "Even the

smartest of AI cannot solve mankind's problems without blending with our intellect and empathy," he said.

Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani stressed the urgent need for a regulatory framework on data, which he said was the raw material for AI.

Observing that intelligent data was 'digital capital' and a vital national resource, he said, "In the coming decades... nations will increasingly compete on digital capital."

"We are confident that the government will introduce a sound data regulation framework to protect this national resource and ensure data privacy," Mr. Ambani added.

Angel Broking lists at 10% discount

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Angel Broking Ltd., a Mumbai-based broking house, on Monday listed at ₹275 a share on the BSE, a discount of more than 10% compared with the issue price of ₹306.

The ₹600-crore IPO was subscribed four times.

The stock hit the day's high of ₹296.45 and a low of ₹256.60 before settling at ₹275.85 on the BSE.

A total of 8.94 lakh shares were traded on the first day and based on the closing price, the market capitalisation of the company was estimated at ₹2,256 crore. On the NSE, the shares fell 10.4% from the issue price to ₹274.25 apiece.

(With PTI inputs)

Google defers Play Store billing move to March '22

Firm 'mindful of local needs, concerns'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Google

on Monday said it was extending the deadline for developers in India to integrate with the Play Store billing system by six months to March 2022, while adding that it would also be setting up "listening sessions" with leading Indian start-ups to understand their concerns.

The development comes

after several Indian start-ups voiced their displeasure

against Google

over the

company's

requirement

that apps

mandatorily

use the

Play

Store's

billing

system

for in-app purchases of

digital

goods.

Paytm

Capitals demolish Royal Challengers

Stoinis' muscular fifty and Rabada's incisive strikes power Delhi to 59-run win

IPL 2020

SPORTS BUREAU

Delhi Capitals outclassed Royal Challengers Bangalore by 59 runs at the Dubai International Stadium on Monday. A fourth win in five matches took DC to the top of the IPL points table.

Faced with a huge target of 197, RCB stumbled to a disappointing 137 for 9. Only Virat Kohli (43, 39b, 2x4, 1x6) got among the runs for RCB, and when the skipper edged paceman Kagiso Rabada to the wicketkeeper, it was game over.

Rabada added three more wickets to his kitty, returning figures of four for 24.

Axar, Nortje shine

Axar Patel (two for 18), Anrich Nortje (two for 22) and R. Ashwin (one for 26) were impressive as well, choking the RCB batters by keeping a tight



Game-changers: Stoinis and Rabada were the architects of Delhi Capitals' facile win. ■ BCCI/IPS

line and length. Spinners Axar and Ashwin were not afraid to give the ball air, tempting batsmen into playing false shots.

Nortje contributed by getting the key wicket of A.B. de

Villiers (9, 6b, 2x4), whose slog only went as far as Shikhar Dhawan at mid-wicket.

Earlier, Marcus Stoinis (53 n.o., 26b, 6x4, 2x6) and Rishabh Pant (37, 25b, 3x4, 2x6) provided the late impetus to carry DC to a big total.

Stoinis and Pant came together when DC was struggling for momentum, at 90 for three. The duo got cracking, putting on an 89-run stand in 6.5 overs. Stoinis, his muscular frame exuding power, notched up his second fifty of the tournament.

Openers Prithvi Shaw (42, 23b, 5x4, 2x6) and Dhawan (32, 28b, 3x4) gave DC a good start, scoring 68 in 6.4 overs.

It took a brilliant catch to

Innings scan

DC	Dots	RCB
34	46	
18	Fours	11
7	Sixes	2
63/0	PP	43/3
9.80	RR	6.85

get rid of form batsman Shreyas Iyer (11, 13b, 1x4).

Shreyas struck a full delivery from Moeen Ali to deep mid-wicket, where Devdutt Padikkal threw the ball in the air before stepping out of the field of play and then jumping back in to claim the catch.

RCB spinner Washington Sundar was once again impressive, giving just 20 runs in his four overs.

Toss: RCB; MoM: Axar.

Capitals won by 59 runs.

SCOREBOARD

DELHI CAPITALS

Prithvi Shaw c de Villiers b Siraj 42 (23b, 5x4, 2x6), Shikhar Dhawan c Moeen b Udana 32 (28b, 3x4), Shreyas Iyer c Padikkal b Pant 11 (13b, 1x4), Rishabh Pant b Siraj 37 (25b, 3x4, 2x6), Marcus Stoinis (not out) 53 (26b, 6x4, 2x6), Shimron Hetmyer (not out) 11 (7b, 1x6); Extras (lb-4, w-4, nb-2): 10; Total (for four wkt. in 20 overs): 196.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-68 (Shaw, 6.4 overs, 2-82 (Dhawan, 9.4), 3-90 (Shreyas, 11.3), 4-179 (Pant, 18.2).

RCB BOWLING

Udana 4-0-40-1, Washington 4-0-20-0, Saini 3-0-48-0, Chahal 3-0-29-0, Siraj 4-0-34-2, Moeen 2-0-21-1.

ROYAL CHALLENGERS

Devdutt Padikkal c Stoinis b Ashwin 4 (6b), Aaron Finch c Pant b Axar 13 (14b, 1x4), Virat Kohli c Pant b Rabada 43 (39b, 2x4, 1x6), A.B. de Villiers c Dhawan b Nortje 9 (6b, 2x4), Moeen Ali c Hetmyer b Axar 11 (13b, 1x4), Washington 3-0-48-0, Ashwin b Rabada 17 (11b, 3x4), Shivam Dube b Rabada 11 (12b, 1x6), Isuru Udara c Shreyas b Rabada 1 (3b), Navdeep Saini (not out) 12 (12b, 1x4), Mohammed Siraj b Nortje 5 (4b, 1x4), Yuzvendra Chahal (not out) 0 (Ob); Extras (lb-4, w-7): 11; Total (for nine wkt. in 20 overs): 137.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-20 (Padikkal, 2.6), 2-27 (Finch, 3.6), 3-43 (de Villiers, 5.5), 4-75 (Moeen, 11.6), 5-94 (Kohli, 13.3), 6-115 (Washington, 15.6), 7-118 (Dube, 17.1), 8-119 (Udana, 17.3), 9-127 (Siraj, 18.6).

CAPITALS BOWLING

Washington 4-0-24-4, Nortje 4-0-22-2, Ashwin 4-0-26-1, Axar 4-0-18-2, Harshal 4-0-43-0.

Toss: RCB; MoM: Axar.

Capitals won by 59 runs.

Ashwin turns down 'Mankad' opportunity

SPORTS BUREAU

In a surprising departure from his natural instinct, Delhi Capitals (DC) spinner R. Ashwin turned down the chance to 'Mankad' a batsman.

In the Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) chase, opener Aaron Finch wandered well out of his crease before Ashwin had delivered the ball.

Ashwin, a vocal proponent of the 'Mankad' dismissal, only shot an angry look at Finch and walked back to

Next assignment

DC: Oct. 9 vs. RR Sharjah, 7.30 p.m. IST

RCB: Oct. 10 vs. CSK Dubai, 7.30 p.m. IST

Bhuvneshwar, and Mishra out of IPL



Bhuvneshwar. ■ BCCI/IPS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA DUBAI

Sunrisers Hyderabad pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Delhi Capitals' leg-spinner Amit Mishra were on Monday ruled out of the IPL with injuries.

The thigh muscle injury could also end Bhuvneshwar's hopes of being on India's tour of Australia later this year. Bhuvneshwar sustained the injury while bowling the 19th over of the match against Chennai Super Kings on October 2. He hobbled off the field after just one ball.

The 37-year-old Mishra fractured his ring finger while going for a low return catch offered by Knight Riders' Nitish Rana in the October 3 game.

Mishra is the second highest wicket-taker in the IPL with 160 scalps, 10 less than Lasith Malinga, who opted out of this season for personal reasons.

Shaky Royals take on rampaging MI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ABU DHABI

Rajasthan Royals may need to rejig its line-up when it takes on a supremely confident Mumbai Indians here on Tuesday.

Starting with a bang at Sharjah, Royals have suddenly hit a slump on bigger grounds of Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

Mumbai Indians, on the other hand, has been solid and is currently second in the table. Kieron Pollard is consistent as ever, Ishan Kishan has looked solid and Hardik Pandya is also finish-

ing games with the bat.

Royals would like to arrest the slide before Ben Stokes completes his quarantine and is available from the Oct. 11 game.

TODAY'S MATCH



ABU DHABI, 7.30 P.M. IST

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Played: 20

MI 10 | RR 10

In 2019 Played 2 | RR 2 | MI 0

STAR SPORTS 1 & SELECT 1 (SD & HD)

After the RCB-DC match on Oct. 5

Selection for Oz tour likely next week

AMOL KARHADKAR MUMBAI

The national selection panel, headed by Sunil Joshi, is set to be asked next week to pick India's squad for the series in Australia, with Cricket Australia (CA) and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) having all but agreed on the itinerary for the tour.

A BCCI official confirmed that after weeks of discussions, both Boards have "virtually decided" on beginning the series on November 27 with the first of three T20Is, followed by three ODIs from December 4. The four-Test series is likely to begin with the Adelaide day-night Test on December 17.

It is understood that CA has informed the BCCI that the venues for the Tests will be finalised in approximately a fortnight.

The members of India's touring party, including coaching staff, support staff and Test specialists such as Cheteshwar Pujara and Hanuma Vihari, are likely to leave for the UAE in the last week of October.

The national team is set to leave for Australia from the UAE in two batches.

Djokovic and Tsitsipas cruise

Rublev downs Fucsovics; Kvitova and Kenin enter last eight

FRENCH OPEN

REUTERS PARIS

Top seed Novak Djokovic passed his first real test at this year's French Open with flying colours as he went past Russia's Karen Khachanov 6-4, 6-3, 6-3 on Monday to reach the quarterfinals for the 14th time.

It was the Serb's fourth successive straight-set victory in his latest quest for a second Roland Garros title.

Earlier, Stefanos Tsitsipas reached the last eight of a Grand Slam for the second time as he brushed aside Grigor Dimitrov 6-3, 7-6(9), 6-2.

The Greek fifth seed will next face Russian 13th seed Andrey Rublev, who hit back to beat Hungary's Marton Fucsovics 6-7(4), 7-5, 6-4, 7-6(3).

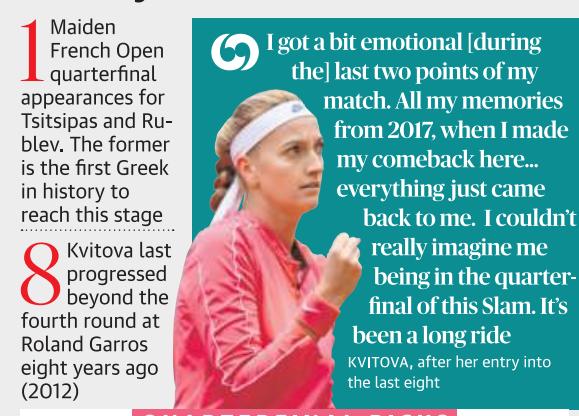
Siegemund advances

In the women's section, Czech left-hander Petra Kvitova reached the quarterfinals for the first time in eight years as she overpowered China's Zhang Shuai 6-2, 6-4.

Fallen seeds

Men: 15-Khachanov; 18-Dimitrov

The Day in Paris



I got a bit emotional [during the] last two points of my match. All my memories from 2017, when I made my comeback here... everything just came back to me. I couldn't really imagine me being in the quarter-final of this Slam. It's been a long ride

KVITOVA, after her entry into the last eight

QUARTERFINAL PICKS

MEN 3-Thiem vs. 12-Schwartzman | 2-Nadal vs. Sinner

WOMEN 3-Svitolina vs. Podoroska | Swiatek vs. Trevisan

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 2

to set up a meeting with unseeded German Laura Siegemund, who beat Paula Badosa 7-5, 6-2.

Later, Australian Open champion Sofia Kenin overcame France's Fiona Ferro 6-3 in one hour and 45 minutes.

IMPORTANT RESULTS

Men: Fourth round: 1-Novak Djokovic (SRB) bt 15-Karen Khachanov (RUS) 6-4, 6-3, 6-3; 13-Andrey Rublev (RUS) bt Marton Fucsovics (HUN) 6-7(4), 7-5, 6-4, 7-6(3); 5-Stefanos Tsitsipas (GRE) bt 18-Grigor Dimitrov (BUL) 6-3, 7-6(9), 6-2.

Boys' singles: First round: Antoine Ghibaudo (FRA) bt Dev Jaiyan (IND) 6-4, 3-6, 6-3.

The result: Miami Heat 11 (Butler 40) bt LA Lakers 104 (James). Lakers 2-1.

(L.)

LeBron James had 25 points for Lakers while Anthony Davis, a dominant force in the first two games, got in early foul trouble and lacked rhythm as he managed just 15 points.

The Heat, well aware that no NBA team has ever come back from a 0-3 series deficit to win, squandered a 14-point third-quarter lead but dug deep in the fourth to avoid being pushed to the brink of elimination.

Miami was without injured starters Bam Adebayo and Goran Dragic for a second consecutive game but got a sensational outing from All Star forward Butler, who scored a game-high 40 points to go along with 11 rebounds and 13 assists.

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(L.)

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