

Previous Year IAS Qs helped me to prepare a topic in its entirety and strongly.

- Kanishak Kataria, AIR 1st CSE 2018

### UPSC Previous Year Qs (PYQs) Topic - wise

- 40 Years Question Papers of UPSC Prelims Topic-wise with solution and explanation
- PYQs help you to know which topic is relatively more important than other
- Many questions in GS appear from PYQs
- 20 year Question Papers of UPSC Mains Topic-wise with solution and explanation
- PYQs develop your reading skills
- PYQs help you to analyse the trends of questions
- PYQs help you in time management & books management

### UPSC Warrior Program 2021

For Working Professionals, housewives and those with limited time to study

1. Complete notes of GS Prelims, Mains, CSAT & Essay including CA
2. Video Lectures covering all topics of GS Pre/ Mains & CSAT
3. Topic-wise old/ new NCERT & NIOS PDF
4. Test Series for GS Prelims & Essay - weekly & monthly tests - with video explanation
5. Previous 40 Year UPSC Qs - Topicwise with Explanation
6. 50-pages week-wise study plan specific to Warriors Program
7. 90+ Pages Guided Action Plan (GAP) - Horoscope of 358 Topics of the UPSC Syllabus
8. Mentorship with our Director on weekly basis
9. Expert live video sessions on weekly basis for CSAT
10. Monthly Current Affairs (eBooks)

### 10 RED BOOK COURSE for GS Prelims

1. Complete GS notes covering NCERTs (Old & New) and 55 Major Books
2. Topic wise 1.5 Yr Current Affairs from 14 sources PIB, The Hindu, TOI, IE, HT, ET
3. Synopsis of IYB, Eco Survey, Budget
4. Video lectures on important topics
5. Week-wise study plan

Based on 40 Yrs UPSC Pre Yr Qs!

crack IAS.com  
Arrow Education

crackias.com

921-7070707

crackiasquery@gmail.com

www.shikshak.com

### NEARBY



# Terror funding: Saeed gets 10 years in jail

Second conviction for JuD chief from Pakistan's anti-terrorism court

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

LAHORE

Mumbai terror attack mastermind and Jamat-ud-Dawa (JuD) chief Hafiz Saeed was on Thursday sentenced to 10 years in jail by an anti-terrorism court in Pakistan in two more terror financing cases.

Saeed, a UN-designated terrorist on whom the U.S. has placed a \$10 million bounty, was arrested on July 17. He was sentenced to 11 years in jail by an anti-terrorism court in February this year in two other terror financing cases.

The 70-year-old JuD chief is presently lodged at Lahore's high-security Kot Lakhpat jail. "The Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) of Lahore on Thursday sentenced four JuD leaders, including its chief Hafiz Saeed, in two more cases," a court official said.

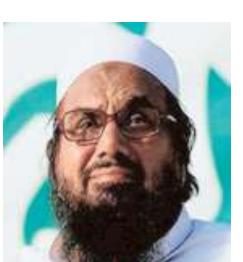
**Three others sentenced**  
Saeed and his two close aides – Zafar Iqbal and Yahya Mujahid – have been sentenced to 10 and a half years each, while the JuD chief's brother-

in-law Abdul Rehman Makki was sentenced to six months imprisonment.

"Judge Arshad Hussain Bhutta of ATC court No. 1 heard the case filed by the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD), in which the verdict has been announced after the statements of witnesses were cross-examined," the official said.

A total of 41 cases have been registered by the CTD against the JuD leaders, of which 24 have been decided while the others are pending in the ATC courts. Four cases have been decided against Saeed so far.

Thursday's sentencing comes weeks after the Paris-based global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog – the Financial Action Task Force – retained Pakistan on its grey list till February 2021 as Islamabad failed to fulfil the agency's six key obligations, including failure to take action against two of India's most wanted terrorists – Saeed and Maulana Masood Azhar.



Post-operation checks: Security personnel inspecting the site of the encounter at Ban Toll Plaza near Nagrota in Jammu on Thursday. ■ ANI

## 4 militants killed, 2 policemen injured in toll plaza gunfight

Jammu police say they could have infiltrated very recently

### PEERZADA ASHIQ SRINAGAR

Just ahead of the district polls in Jammu and Kashmir, four recently infiltrated militants were killed and two policemen injured in a gunfight at the Ban Toll Plaza near Nagrota on the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway on Thursday.

"The terrorists were travelling in a truck when they were intercepted at a checkpoint around 5 a.m. The driv-

er managed to flee as the infiltrators opened heavy fire. All the four terrorists, likely from the Jaish-e-Mohammad, were killed in a three-hour-long gunfight," Mukesh Singh, Inspector General of Police, Jammu, said.

The police said a large quantity of arms and ammunition, including 11 AK-47 rifles, 29 grenades and three pistols, was recovered from the encounter site. They said that the militants could have infiltrated through the International Border in Jammu recently.

Mr. Singh said the identity and affiliation of the slain militants were being established. "Two policemen who were injured in the shootout are stable," he said.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha visited the injured policemen at the Government Medical College in Jammu.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

## Kerala gold case: row over 'leaked' audio

It hints at ED bid to coerce accused

### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A 'leaked' audio recording of an accusatory mobile phone conversation, purportedly between gold smuggling case accused Swapna Suresh and an anonymous person, has kicked up a row.

The audio appears to suggest that the Enforcement Directorate had attempted to coerce Swapna into giving a statement implicating Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan in her questionable financial transactions with persons in the UAE. Swapna is currently at the Attakulangara Women's Prison here.



count of events and its agents asked her to sign what they had written down after questioning.

The theme of the voice clip seemed to echo the Left Democratic Front's contention that the ED wanted to foist a case on Mr. Vijayan to destabilise the government and rob it of its mandate. Former Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister Sivasankar had said in a court filing that the ED had arrested him on money-laundering charges because he had defied the agency's diktat to implicate Mr. Vijayan in the case.

The CPI(M) State secretariat said the statements of the accused pointed to a deep-rooted conspiracy to target Mr. Vijayan.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

+ HC raps Delhi govt. on rising COVID cases

### STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Thursday called out the AAP government over its handling of the COVID-19 situation in the Capital, saying it was "disheartening" that the daily number of deaths had steadily climbed from 71 on November 9 to 131 on November 18.

"You (Delhi government) saw from November 1 which way the wind was blowing. The bell should have rung loud and clear when the numbers were spiralling," a Bench of Justices Hima Kohli and Subramonium Prasad remarked.

The High Court questioned the Delhi government on why it waited till November 11, when the Bench intervened, to act on issues such as decreasing the number of persons who can participate during marriage ceremonies to 50.

"Do you know how many lives were lost during this period? Can you explain it to those who lost their near and dear ones," the court told the Delhi government.

"You (Delhi government) should have put your house in order. You knew Delhi gets worse during this period due to air pollution... You knew it was a cocktail of death for those living in Delhi," the Bench said.

The High Court also expressed concern over the statements made by Ministers and high-ranking officers that the third wave had already peaked in the city and cases of COVID-19 were gradually going down.

On the fines collected for violation of social distancing norms, the court said: "While South, South West and West districts have been seriously affected by the rise in COVID-19 infection, the fines imposed in the said districts are proportionately very small."

## Bihar Education Minister quits hours after assuming charge

Two-time JD(U) MLA is an accused in a recruitment scam

### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

PATNA

the portfolio.

Mr. Choudhury, a two-time JD(U) MLA from Tarapur in Munger district, had taken oath as Minister in Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's Cabinet on November 16. On Thursday afternoon, he assumed charge as Education Minister.

The Governor accepted his resignation with immediate effect. Building Construction Department Minister Ashok Choudhary was given additional charge of

ing Mr. Kumar about his "zero tolerance" for corruption claim following Mr. Choudhury's induction into the Cabinet.

Mr. Choudhury, former Vice-Chancellor of Bihar Agriculture University of Sabour in Bhagalpur district from 2010 to 2015, was an accused in a scam in the recruitment of assistant-cum-junior scientists (2012-13).

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

**LAW AMBITION LAW INSTITUTE** Since 2001 **ONLINE OFFLINE COURSE**

Your Key to Success Requires Ambition

**JUDICIARY & IAS TOPPERS 2018-19**

RANK 1 IN IAS AKANKSHA TIWARI	RANK 1 IN IAS SHIPRA DHANKAR	RANK 1 IN IAS POONAM TODI	RANK 1 IN IAS NAZISH	RANK 1 IN IAS MONIKA	RANK 1 IN IAS ADITYA	RANK 1 IN IAS AKSHAY
RANK 1 IN PCS AMIT DAHIA	RANK 1 IN DJS ABHINAV PANDEY	RANK 1 IN HS PURSHOTAM KR.	RANK 1 IN HS LOKESH GUPTA	RANK 8 IN IAS VAISHALI SINGH	RANK 9 IN IAS SAUMYA SHARMA	RANK 14 IN IAS NEHA JAIN

**JUDICIARY FOUNDATION : 25 NOV WEEKEND : 20 DEC ☎ 8800662140, 8800660301**

**CLAT FOUNDATION : 4 DEC WEEKEND : 5 DEC ☎ 8800660380**

**न्यायिक सेवा फाउंडेशन : 28 JAN, 2021 ☎ 8800662130**

**IAS (LAW) FOUNDATION : 15 JAN, 2021 TEST SERIES : 8 NOV ☎ 8800662140**

**Kind Attention : Law Book Sellers & Readers ☎ 9312548656**

**Prebook Bare Acts of AMBITION PUBLICATIONS in new form which are full of recent cases, amendments, simple meaning.**

**FEE TILL NOV. END IS HEAVILY CONCESSIONAL DUE TO COVID-19**

**Watch FREE Lectures on You Tube Channel of ambition law institute**

In association with **LET'S CRACK CSE**

Three Farm Bills on agriculture Market Reforms | Aman peace talks | Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) and Ease of Doing Business | Ordinance to amend the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code | Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Act, 2019 | Right to Information (Amendment) Act, 2019 | Keshavananda Bharati Judgments and its Relevance | Labour Code bills: 2020, Constitution, Working System, Analysis, Response, a political subcategory, Belt, On, Cooperative, Opportunity, transparency, Related, Blockchain, environment, Maharashtra, Pharma looks to, Opportunity, Biofuels, Opposition to Nuclear energy | Market Reforms that Indian Agriculture Needs (Context of three recent farm bills.) | How the Covid-19 pandemic has impacted India's MSMEs Sector | Be it elections in Bihar or the US, it's the economy that is at centre. Transparency and Accountability in the Indian Judicial System.

**Discover the truth**  
Hidden amidst noise

**Launching Unacademy Let's Crack CSE Column Every Monday**

**A weekly column on Critical Issues by Unacademy Educators**

Scan the Code

QR code

To learn for CSE

## Three held in Gurugram woman murder case

Accused remanded in police custody

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GURUGRAM

Three persons have been arrested by the Gurugram police in connection with the murder of a woman employee of a multinational company earlier this month. The accused are involved in around 100 robberies, thefts and snatching, besides another murder in Gandhi Nagar here, the police said.

Acting on a tip-off, the accused, Irshad, Hari Om and Jitender, were arrested in Bhondsi village on Wednesday. The police claim to have seized the car used in commission of the murder of the woman and other crimes. The car belonged to Irshad, a resident of Nuh. Hari Om is from Madhya Pradesh while Jitender is from Sector-10, Gurugram.

### Signalled to stop

During interrogation, the three told the police that they were roaming on Golf Course Extension Road in Sector 65 on November 3 night looking for a potential target when they spotted the woman, Pooja Sharma, 26, and her friend, Sagar



The accused in police custody. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Manchanda, 30, in a car and signalled them to stop to rob them.

The accused asked them to roll down the window, and opened fire when the duo did not heed. Manchanda ducked and escaped unharmed, but a bullet hit Pooja in the head. She died at a hospital two days later during treatment.

On November 14, the trio shot dead another man, Gaurav, 22, over personal enmity. "The three confessed to their involvement in around 100 incidents of snatching, robbery and theft of mobile phones across the district. They were produced before the court and remanded in four-day police custody," said ACP (Crime) Preet Pal Sangwan.

He said that his father's ex

HEMANI BHANDARI  
NEW DELHI

The family of a Delhi Police Head Constable, who died of COVID-19 in July, has been denied ex gratia of ₹1 crore by Delhi government. The rejection letter stated he was not on COVID-19 duty.

Head Constable Leela Dhar was posted in south Delhi's Defence Colony police station and was mostly on picket and patrolling duty, his family, which resides in Srinivasapuri, said.

Dhar's son Chandrashekhar said that his father fell sick on July 10 and complained of fever and body ache after coming back from work and he was tested for the virus the next day. After his result, he was quarantined near Mandoli jail but we didn't like the facilities, so we got him shifted to a quarantine centre in Shahdara. But he fell severely sick and had breathing problems. He was then shifted to Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality Hospital where he passed away on July 31," Mr. Chandrashekhar said.

The letter, signed by the Sub Divisional Magistrate, read: "I am directed to inform you that the above case has been examined and is not found covered under the Cabinet decision No 2835 dated 13.05.2020 as the deceased was performing his routine duty assigned to him and was not deployed for COVID-19



Head Constable Leela Dhar, who died of COVID-19.  
■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

gratia file with all the required documents was prepared by the department and sent to the government department concerned. However, on November 6, they were informed that the ex gratia has been denied.

The letter, signed by the Sub Divisional Magistrate, read: "I am directed to inform you that the above case has been examined and is not found covered under the Cabinet decision No 2835 dated 13.05.2020 as the deceased was performing his routine duty assigned to him and was not deployed for COVID-19

Disappointed, he said: "Every officer who is on the field is on COVID-19 duty. This is just the government's way to escape from giving the money."

Earlier, families of Assistant Sub Inspector Shesh Mani Pandey and Constable Yogen, both of who died of COVID-19, were denied ex gratia.

## AQI likely to be 'very poor' in Delhi today

City recorded season's minimum temperature of 9.4°C

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The air quality of Delhi and Noida deteriorated slightly and continued to be in 'poor' category on Thursday and Gurugram's fell to 'poor' category, as per the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). The air quality of Delhi is predicted to be in 'very poor' category on Friday.

Also, the Capital recorded a minimum temperature of 9.4 degrees on Thursday night, which was three degrees colder than the average for the season.

The minimum temperature, which has been consistently below normal this month due to the absence of any cloud cover, was kept in check due to the influence of a western disturbance on Monday, but then started falling again. The Met department forecast shows that it is likely to fall further as clear skies are likely to continue.

The maximum temperature settled at 25.6 degrees Celsius, which was also two degrees below normal.

"The AQI is set to deteriorate and is forecast to be in the 'very poor' category for tomorrow [Friday]. Howev-



A man sitting near a fire to warm himself at GTB Nagar in New Delhi on Thursday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

er, from Sunday, AQI is forecast to marginally improve but remain in the lower end of 'very poor' category on Saturday and Sunday. It is mainly due to accelerated local surface winds, with slight lowering of inversion layer height leading to relatively better ventilation conditions," said a statement by the government-run monitoring agency SAFAR.

## MPD-2041: consultation scheduled for Nov. 27

'Aim is to discuss challenges, solutions'

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) on Thursday said that a public consultation pertaining to the preparation of the Master Plan for Delhi (MPD) 2041, with industry associations will be held on November 27.

"The objective of the meeting is to understand and discuss challenges and possible solutions with respect to industrial development in Delhi. The public consultation will be held with representatives from industries, chambers of commerce and industry associations comprising manufacturing, services, construction and hotel industries among others,"

The urban body has been conducting a series of public consultations in the run-up to the preparation of the new master plan for Delhi. Meetings with RWAs, market trader associations, real estate sector and the city's youth have already been held.

## Three held for duping people by promising jobs via portal

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Three men were arrested for allegedly duping people on the pretext of providing jobs by posing as executives of online job portal, police said on Thursday.

The accused have been identified as Gaurav Sharma (41), Sonu Jaiswal (28) and Harish Kumar Gupta (31), all residents of Shakarpur.

Police said that one Sunny Sharma lodged a case at Govindpuri police station where he alleged that in June, he registered on an online job portal. On June 15, he received a call regarding the job as a ground staff in an airline. The alleged person asked him to send his documents and ₹3,000 for registration, a senior police officer said.

The complainant transferred the money and sent his documents. Later, he transferred ₹45,000 in four different transactions, police said. But when no job letter or intimation arrived, he sought refund. However, the accused convinced him that the money will be refunded as they are the sister concern of the job providing firm, the police said.

During probe, police found that the account was registered in the name of Gaurav and not the airline as stated in the emails. "It was found that there were five complaints against the bank accounts of Gaurav," DCP (South East) R.P. Meena said.

## Bengal tiger dies in Delhi zoo

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A 15-year-old male Bengal tiger, 'B-2', died at the National Zoological Park, also known as the Delhi zoo, on Thursday morning, according to zoo officials.

The Director of the zoo, Ramesh Pandey, said that the tiger, also known as Bittu, was suffering from kidney ailment since July and

was under treatment.

"In July, during an inspection, it was found that the tiger's creatinine levels were high and since then he was under treatment by experts from Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Bareilly. We had given the tiger fluid therapy, special food and he was under intensive care. His condition had not been good since the past few days

and he died at 9.25 a.m. on Thursday," Mr. Pandey said.

The zoo now has a pair of Bengal tigers, which was acquired on Wednesday from the Kanpur zoo under 'Conservation Breeding Programme'. Also, there are three pairs of white tigers.

The tiger's autopsy has been done and viscera samples have been sent to the IVRI for further examination.

### Tribute in tricolour



An artist making a portrait of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on her 103rd birth anniversary, outside Shakti Sthal in New Delhi on Thursday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

## Three robbers' gangs busted, eight arrested

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Delhi Police has busted three lifafa (envelope) and robbers' gangs and arrested eight members from the national capital, the police said on Thursday.

The accused have been identified as Israr (23), Pradeep (35), Kamal (32), Aman (23), Uma Shankar (56), Nazim (23), Ankit (29), all residents of Trilokpuri, and Monu (30), a resident of Geeta Colony, they said.

The police said it was found that the accused used to target commuters by offering them lift in their car and later on the pretext of police checking, they would ask the commuters

to put their belongings in a lifafa.

They used to play pre-recorded voice messages on their communication devices which looked like walkie-talkie. After taking their cash, ATM and its PIN, they used to deboard victims at isolated places, the police said.

When the victims checked their envelopes later, they would realise that their valuables had been replaced, they said.

The police recovered three cars used in the crime, jewellery, communication devices, 30 cards cut in the shape of credit or debit cards, 100 envelopes, Delhi Police masks and other things from them.

## Man involved in armed robbery case arrested

The 22-year-old was wanted in 2 cases

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A 22-year-old man, who was involved in an armed robbery followed by firing at Deputy Commissioner of Police, was arrested by Special Cell, they said on Thursday.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Special Cell) Pramod Singh Kushwah said that the accused has been identified as Nadeem, a resident of Uttar Pradesh's Hapur, who was arrested late Wednesday night after a brief exchange of fire.

Police said that the operation was undertaken by Inspectors Shiv Kumar and Ka-

ramvir Singh under the supervision of Assistant Sub Inspector Attar Singh around 11.40 p.m. in Ghaziabad.

"In the exchange of fire, Nadeem got injured in his right leg. A semi-automatic pistol and six live cartridges were recovered from his possession," Mr. Kushwah said, adding that seven rounds were fired from both sides.

### More charges

During interrogation, police said, it was revealed that he was wanted in two sensational cases of attempt to murder and robbery in Tilak Nagar and firing at police in Ranjeet Nagar in July.

**Office of the Executive Engineer, Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (JPDC), Batote Power Development Department**

Email: [pddbatote@gmail.com](mailto:pddbatote@gmail.com)

e-NIT No: 42 of 2020 Dated 17.11.2020

**1.INITIATION:-**  
For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, the Executive Engineer, Electric Division JPDC, Batote (Distribution), hereinafter referred as 'Employer', invites online e-bids from Class 'A' registered contractors or Self Help groups for SUPPLY, ERECTION, TESTING & COMMISSIONING FOR REHABILITATION, STRENGTHENING, SHIFTING AND LAYING OF ELECTRICAL UTILITIES COMING IN THE ALIGNMENT OF 4 LANING OF NATIONAL HIGHWAY FROM KMS 189.350 TO SOUTH PORTAL JAMMU PROVINCE FALLING UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF ELECTRIC DIVISION BATOTE (JPDC).

1. Bidders are advised to study the Bidding Document carefully. Submission of e-Bid against this SBD shall be deemed to have been done after careful / conscious study and examination of the procedures, terms and conditions of the Standard Bidding Document with full understanding of its implications.

2. The tender document is available at website <http://iktenders.gov.in>. Interested Bidders may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarification and submit their e-Bid online up to the date and time mentioned in the table below:

A	Tender Document Sale/Download Start Date	17.11.2020: 12:00 Hrs
B	Tender Document Sale/Download End Date	25.11.2020: 12:00 Noon

**-Sd/-**  
Executive Engineer  
Electric Division, JPDC  
Batote

DIPR/J-2595-P

## KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA Sector - 03, Pushp Vihar, New Delhi - 110017

### Tender Notice

Tenders are invited from firms having GST No., Licence & Experience for providing **Manpower for Watch & Ward & Housekeeping Services**. Interested firms may collect Tender Form on Payment of Rs. 500/- and other details from Vidyalaya office (Between 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM) & submit the same within 15 days of publication of this notice (including day of publication) through Speed Post / Courier only.

Principal

## GOVERNMENT OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE ITANAGAR

No. PHQ(Prov)-23/2020-21  
Dated Itanagar, the 16th November,2020

### TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, Director General of Police, Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar invites Sealed Tenders under two Bid systems (Technical & Financial Bid) from the manufacturers, authorised agents / dealers / suppliers of reputed firms for entering into contract for supply of equipments for combating Ilicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances in Arunachal Pradesh. For details please visit our web site: [www.arunpol.nic.in](http://www.arunpol.nic.in)

Sd/-  
Director General of Police  
Arunachal Pradesh, Itanagar.

CM YK

HP / 4393/20-21

HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAMPAK

Government of Jammu & Kashmir  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL HOSPITAL AND CENTRAL HEATING DIVISION SRINAGAR

-----Telefax:- 0194-2496089, Email ID:- [xenmhchdk@yahoo.in](mailto:xenmhchdk@yahoo.in)-----

Gist of e-tender  
Short term

NIT No: MHCHD/TS /2020-21/195/e-tendering

Dated: 17.11.2020

For and on behalf of LT. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited from Reputed and experienced firms for the below mentioned work:-

Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In rupees)	Earnest Money (Rs)	Time of completion (in Days)	Position of AAA/ funds
1	2	3	4	5	6
Servicing ,Repairs/Replacements of various items and Comprehensive Maintenance Contract of Central Heating System at Sales Taxes Department, Srin					

**Timings****DELHI**

FRIDAY, NOV. 20	RISE 06:48 SET 17:26
SATURDAY, NOV. 21	RISE 11:51 SET 22:31
SUNDAY, NOV. 22	RISE 06:49 SET 17:26
	RISE 12:35 SET 23:31
	RISE 06:50 SET 17:26
	RISE 13:13 SET 00:00

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT****NEW DELHI**

**Delhi Weather** max min  
Delhi City 26 09  
Safdarjung 26 09  
Palam 23 12

**Delhi Palam Today**  
25°C A cold morning with mist.  
Dry cool winds and pleasant sunny day.

**Delhi Palam Tomorrow**  
24°C Marginal drop in morning temperature. Pleasant dry day with cool winds likely.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2019  
All rights reserved.

**Three arrested for snatching foreign currency****STAFF REPORTER**

A 26-year-old social media influencer and her two friends were arrested from Goa for allegedly snatching foreign currency from a person in south Delhi, the police said on Thursday.

The accused used the money to stay in five-star hotels in Goa and play poker in casinos, they said.

They have been identified as Amrita Sethi, a resident of Rajouri Garden, Akshit Jham (25), a resident of Tilak Nagar, and Kushaal. A case has been filed and a probe is on.

# Penalty for not wearing mask in public up from ₹500 to ₹2,000

CM visits DDU, which increased ICU beds from 50 to 100, to review preparedness

**TOP ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Fine for not wearing mask in public places raised from ₹500 and ₹2,000
- CM asks people to celebrate Chhath Puja at home
- All political parties will do their best to ensure people wear masks
- All private hospitals asked to reserve 80% ICU beds for COVID-19 patients
- 60% non-ICU beds at private hospitals will be reserved for COVID-19 patients
- Private hospitals asked to defer all non-critical planned surgeries for a few days



Devotees throng markets for last-minute shopping on the eve of Chhath festival at Dabri Mor in New Delhi. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR



According to experts, if 200 people enter a pond and even if one person is infected then all those who are in the water will 100% get the virus

ARVIND KEJRIWAL  
Chief Minister

a few days until the peak of cases passes, Mr. Kejriwal added.

Commenting on an all-party meet that was held on Thursday morning, Mr. Kejriwal said he took suggestions from all parties and would work on implementing them.

"Delhi is going through a tough phase. This is not the time to play politics and issue statements against par-

ties but to work together," Mr. Kejriwal said. He appealed to all parties and social organisations to ensure that people wear masks.

Mr. Kejriwal also visited the Deen Dayal Upadhyay (DDU) Hospital to review its preparedness, which has increased the number of ICU beds from 50 to 100.

**Fewer deaths**

He thanked doctors and all healthcare workers for working to ensure that there are fewer deaths in the Capital. He added that compared to other major cities across the world that saw a peak in cases, Delhi was handling the situation much better.

He alleged that videos had surfaced from cities across the world like New York when there were a high

number of daily cases that showed people lying on the roads because they were not able to avail beds in the hospitals. "The situation was grave, and the number of deaths was high and bodies were lying one over the other. The same type of visuals was received from Sweden, France, Italy, when novel coronavirus was at a peak in their countries," Mr. Kejriwal said.

He added that today, there are around 8,500 daily cases but "our medical fraternity has done a commendable job in COVID management. Delhi still has 7,500 beds and 450 ICU beds available for COVID-19 patients. There are no patients lying in corridors or on roads, even after the peak hit Delhi," the Chief Minister said.

## All District Magistrates told to double testing centres

City sees 7,546 new cases in past 24 hours

**STAFF REPORTER****NEW DELHI**

Delhi witnessed 7,546 new COVID-19 cases in the last 24 hours, taking the total number of cases to 51,0630, according to a health bulletin released by the Delhi government on Thursday.

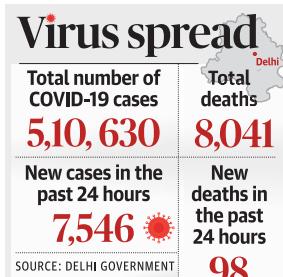
Also, 98 more deaths have been reported in the past 24 hours, taking the total number of deaths to 8,041. Of the total cases, 4,59,368 people have recovered and there are 43,221 active cases.

About 89.9% of ICU beds with ventilators for COVID-19 treatment in the city were occupied by Thursday night and 86.2% of the ICU beds without ventilators were full, as per Delhi government data. Also, out of the total 16,965 beds available for COVID-19 treatment, 55.9% were occupied.

The Delhi government on Thursday directed all 11 District Magistrates (DMs) to double COVID-19 testing centres in their districts.

**Manpower required**

"It is therefore directed that all DMs/CDMOs will take steps to double the testing centres in all districts immediately. The locations will be finalised by November 19, 2020 and actual scaling up will be done latest by November 21. The manpower required for the new testing centres may be hired from open market, if required," read an order is-



sued by S.M. Ali, Special Secretary of Health and Family Welfare Department (H&FW) of the Delhi government.

The order also said non-compliance will be viewed "seriously". Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday had given directions to double testing in Delhi. The government has also issued an order that COVID-19 hospitals can engage fourth and fifth year MBBS students and interns to assist doctors.

**MBBS students**

"In view of COVID-19 pandemic and increased demand of ICU beds & medical HR in the hospitals of GNCTD Delhi for management of COVID-19, all MDs/ Directors of COVID Hospitals of GNCTD are permitted to engage 4th & 5th year MBBS students, Interns and BDS pass doctors to assist the duty doctors at the honorarium of ₹1,000 [8 hours shift] and ₹2,000 [12 hours shift]," an order issued by the H&FW Department on Wednesday read.

**150 ICU beds added in last 3 days: MHA**

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT****NEW DELHI**

As many as 150 Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds have been added in the last three days in Delhi, tweeted the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

The Ministry said 500 isolation beds at a COVID-19 care centre in south Delhi's Chhattarpur will be converted to beds with oxygen facility by the end of the week. The MHA also said train coaches at Shakur Basti railway station will soon become functional.

Home Minister Amit Shah had reviewed COVID-19-related infrastructure on Nov. 15. "Following HM's directive, about 150 ICU beds have been added in the last three days in Delhi. Also, the current capacity of 3,652 ICU beds will be further ramped up. Train coaches with 800 beds at Shakur Basti railway station will become functional and doctors and paramedics from CAPF will man these coaches," the MHA said.

"To ramp up the infrastructure, all 75 doctors and 251 paramedics from CAPF have reported for duty. Fifty doctors and 175 paramedics have been deployed at Chhattarpur and Shakur Basti COVID-19 care centre. The government asked to refer patients needing critical care to these facilities," another tweet read. "MHA has advised Haryana and U.P. govt. to hold a survey of private hospitals in their districts on the lines of Delhi," the tweet said.

## 'Construction workers can register via doorstep delivery'

Sisodia says labourers will get certification within five to six days at their homes

**STAFF REPORTER****NEW DELHI**

Construction labourers in Delhi can use the government's doorstep delivery services to register themselves with the construction board to avail various welfare schemes, said Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Thursday.

"The labourers can call at 1076 and say that they want to register for welfare schemes of the government and our executive will go to his house at the time he chooses. They do not have to visit government offices now," Mr. Sisodia said.

The application will be approved online and an acknowledgement SMS and a call confirming the registration will be sent. "They will also get the registration certification at their homes



Manish Sisodia

in five to six days," the Minister said.

**Removal of middlemen**

Mr. Sisodia said that construction workers' welfare cess is collected from construction companies and the amount is used for the welfare of workers. To avail this amount, a construction worker needs to be registered with the board.

He said due to the com-

plex process of registration and renewal, middlemen illegally ended up taking anything between ₹1,000 and ₹2,000 from labourers in the name of filling up their forms. Moreover, the workers then repeatedly go to the labour office and spend hours in queues. This leads to a loss of daily wages.

The Minister said under the law, the definition of a construction worker is fairly broad, including builder, painter, blacksmith, and crane operator among others.

He added that a watchman at construction sites, plumbers, carpenters, electricians, fitters, welders, shuttering workers, pump operators and others are also categorised as construction workers.

He added that a watchman at construction sites, plumbers, carpenters, electricians, fitters, welders, shuttering workers, pump operators and others are also categorised as construction workers.

Registered workers can avail an amount of anything between ₹35,000 to ₹51,000 for their child's marriage. Health benefits of ₹2,000 to ₹10,000 and maternity benefit of up to ₹30,000, a monthly pension of ₹3,000 for workers over the age of 60, compensation of ₹2 lakh in case of accidental death, ₹1 lakh in case of natural death, ₹10,000 for covering the costs of a funeral, and ₹1 lakh as disability cover. Additionally, monthly scholarships ranging from ₹500 to ₹10,000 are also given for a worker's child's education," an official statement said.

"Until now, only 1,11,000 workers have been registered in Delhi even though the city has an estimated 10 lakh workers working," the Minister said.

## JNU to establish special centre for systems medicine

University forms committee to discuss measures related to NEP implementation

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT****NEW DELHI**

The Academic Council of Jawaharlal Nehru University on Thursday announced the decision to establish a special centre for systems medicine (SCSM) at the university and deliberated on the possibility of converting the existing three-year BA programmes into four-year courses in accordance with the National Education Policy, 2020.

**National hub**

Vice-Chancellor M. Jagadesh Kumar said, "The proposed centre would serve as a national hub for the development of India's specific clinical and molecular data and its application in the area of systems medicine".

He added that this is in tune with the global trends



Systems medicine is an approach to understand the complexity of the interactions of molecular and cellular determinants involved in the patho-physiology of a disease.

and Indian universities have great opportunity to develop systems medicine for efficient and customised healthcare in the country.

The university said that systems medicine is an approach to understand the complexity of the interactions of all the molecular and cellular determinants in

involved in the patho-physiology of a disease.

**Course period**

The 155th Academic Council meeting also formed an apex committee consisting of representatives from different schools and centres to deliberate and come up with its recommendations in how to

implement the NEP. Rector 1 Chintamani Mahapatra said that some of the major issues that came under focus at the meeting were the possibility of converting the existing three-year BA courses into four-year programmes and starting new four-year undergraduate programmes.

The council also deliberated offering master's level programmes in online mode on subjects which do not require lab or experimental work, he added.

On intake of students, the council discussed how to strengthen its inclusive policy to provide better opportunities for students coming from socially and economically disadvantaged sections as well as increasing the intake of international students.

## HC transfers judge hearing Akbar case

**STAFF REPORTER****NEW DELHI**

The Delhi High Court on Thursday transferred the judge — hearing former Union Minister M.J. Akbar's defamation case against journalist Priya Ramani for her tweets accusing him of sexual harassment — to another court.

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Vishal Pahuja, who presided over a special MP/MLA court in Rouse Avenue District Court, has been transferred to Kardooma District Court as Senior Civil Judge-cum-Rent Controller. Judge Pahuja's transfer is part of HC's administrative order to transfer over 120 judges to a different court. Another 94 newly-inducted judges were also allotted different courts across the city.

The court order also said the postings or transfers in the Delhi Judicial Service will be with immediate effect. The defamation case filed by Mr. Akbar is at the final stage of hearing.

## Centre inks \$500-million loan deal with NDB for RRTS project

Transit corridor to help in economic development across NCR

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT****NEW DELHI**

A \$500-million loan agreement was signed between the Union government, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, National Capital Region Transport Corporation Limited and the New Development Bank (NDB) on Thursday for the 'Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System Project' to provide fast, reliable, safe and comfortable public transport system in the NCR.

Signing the agreement on behalf of the NDB, the bank's vice-president and chief operations officer Xian Zhu said the funding would be provided to finance rolling stock for modern design, energy efficient operations and interoperability across corridors.

**Fund utilisation**  
The NDB funds will also be utilised for procuring signalling, telecommunication and train control system with advanced features

The project can serve as a demonstration for developing high-capacity rapid urban transit corridors in other urban areas of India

XIAN ZHU  
NDB vice-president and chief operations officer

such as automatic train operation, automatic train protection, automatic train supervision and integration with platform screen doors. The project can serve as a demonstration for developing high-capacity rapid urban transit corridors in other urban areas of India," said Mr. Zhu. The loan has a tenure of 25 years with an eight-year grace period.

Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Baldeo Purushartha said the seamless high-speed connectivity will result in balanced economic development across the region, leading to economic benefits to all strata of society.

The daily passenger traffic along the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor in NCR is estimated at 0.69 million of which 63% utilise private vehicles for commuting.

## CLASSIFIEDS MART

TO ADVERTISE:

www.thehinduads.com

011-43579738 • 43579797

## PUBLIC NOTICE

## EDUCATIONAL

## COSMOPOLITAN CLUB

## NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

CIN: U9241TN1934NPL000349

Regd. Office: 63, Anna Salai, Chennai 600 002

Phone: 044-2858353 Fax: 044-28414356

E-mail: [cosmetoncentre@gmail.com](mailto:cosmetoncentre@gmail.com)Website: [www.cosmopolitanclubchennai.com](http://www.cosmopolitanclubchennai.com)Notice is hereby given that the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of the Club is scheduled to be held on Saturday, the 12<sup>th</sup> day of December 2020 at 10:35 a.m. through Video Conferencing/Other Audio Visual Means organized by the Club to transact the agenda as set out in the Notice calling for the AGM.Notice of Annual General meeting dated 30.10.2020 forming part of Annual Report for the year 2019-20 was dispatched to all members by Courier on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

The Club is providing the facility of voting through electronic means ("remote e-voting") in compliance with Section 108 of the Companies Act 2013 read with Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014. The business as set out in the aforesaid Notice will be transacted through electronic voting facility provided by M/s Central Depository Services (India) Limited (CDSL). The Executive Committee has appointed Sri K M Subberamanian, Advocate, as Scrutinizer to oversee the remote e-voting.

The remote e-voting period begins on Wednesday, 9.12.2020 (9.00 a.m.) and ends on Friday, 11.12.2020 (5.00 p.m.). The e-voting module shall be disabled for voting after 5.00 PM on 11.12.2020. During this period, Members whose name appear in the Register of Members as on 18.11.2020 and those who are eligible, as per Article 48 only shall be entitled to exercise their vote through e-voting process.

Only those Members, who participate in the AGM through VC/DAVM facility and have not cast their vote on the Resolutions through remote e-Voting shall be eligible to vote through e-Voting system available during the AGM. The facility for e-voting will be available during the AGM proceedings and will be disabled after 1.00 pm on 12.12.2020.

The notice of the meeting is displayed in the club's website [www.cosmopolitanclubchennai.com](http://www.cosmopolitanclubchennai.com) and the e-voting website of CDSL: [www.votingindia.com](http://www.votingindia.com). In case of grievances connected with the facility for voting by electronic means may be addressed to Mr. Rekha Dalvi, Manager (CDSL) Central Depository Services (India) Limited, A Wing, 25th Floor, Marathoon Futurex, Matalf Mill Compounds, N.M.Joshi Marg, Lower Parel (East), Mumbai - 400013 or send an e-mail to [helpdesk.evoting@cDSLindia.com](mailto:helpdesk.evoting@cDSLindia.com) or call us 022-23058738 / 022-23058542/43

/ By order of the Executive Committee /

Place: Chennai SP: Sivalingam

Date: 20.11.2020 President

## ALPHABET IAS - UPSC Civil Services

Optional coaching &amp; test series for : Sociology &amp; Psychology optional.

Free library facility for students.

Best fees structure.

For admission contact at: [mail@alphabetas.com](mailto:mail@alphabetas.com), Mob: 704210021

(whatsapp). Address: F-97, Katwari-

asaral, New Delhi-16

UPSC - AGRICULTURE &amp; PUB-ADMN OPTI-

TIONAL FACULTY REQUIRED FOR A RE-

PUTED INSTITUTE. CONTACT:

7838720288

## SITUATION VACANT

## OVERSEAS

## WANTED FOR U.K. CLIENT

► General Manager - Restaurant (2)

► Specialist Chef - Tandoor &amp; Curry (2)

► Specialist Chef - South Indian (1)

► Specialist Chef - Bakery (1)

► Specialist Chef - Indian Sweets (1)

► Selling Gross Salary Rs.2,07,381pm

3 yrs Degree (or) / yr Certificate Course,

with IELTS 5.0 Band and 6 to 10 yrs

Work Exp. is a must.

Mail your CV to: [info@hrjs.biz](mailto:info@hrjs.biz)

## PERSONAL

## LOST &amp; FOUND

I. Vipul Verma, S/o B. S. Verma, F-54/16B, Sadh Nagar, Hari Colony-45

have Lost my Original CBSE Mark-

Sheets of 10th Roll No. 615646 &amp;

12th 624931. Call: 8700332478.

## BUSINESS OFFER

BUSINESS ASSOCIATES are invited for an Existing Agri Product Suppliers, Agri Yard &amp; Supermarket mohaexports.in / 730502574

## PUBLIC NOTICE

## Public Notice

1. Original Site Possession Letter DDA

2. Original Litter DDA

3. Original Possession Letter DDA

4. Original N.O.C. Letter for water &amp; Electricity DDA

5. Original Power of attorney

6. Original Agreement to sell

7. Original All Payments Challan

8. Other Original Documents DDA.

Urmita Sharma

83-A, Ground Floor, DDA Flat,

Sunlight Colony-II, Hari Nagar

Ashram, New Delhi-110014.

Call: 8527739136

## Public Notice

NOTICE is hereby given that RAMBEER SINGH S/o PREM SINGH R/o A-91, KH.NO.3/11, 3/32/20, STREET NO-19, GURU NANAK VIHAR, CHANDER VIHAR, NILOTHI EXTN., NEW DELHI-110041 OF AFGHANISTAN is applying to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry of Home Affairs for Naturalization and that any person who knows any reason why Naturalization should not be granted should send a written signed statement of the facts to the said Secretary.

## Public Notice

NOTICE is hereby given that HARMOHAN SINGH S/o PREM SINGH R/o A-91, KH.NO.3/11, 3/32/20, STREET NO-19, GURU NANAK VIHAR, CHANDER VIHAR, NILOTHI EXTN., NEW DELHI-110041 OF AFGHANISTAN is applying to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry of Home Affairs for Naturalization and that any person who knows any reason why Naturalization should not be granted should send a written signed statement of the facts to the said Secretary.

## Policewomen suspended for assault in U.P.

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

LUCKNOW

A gang rape victim in Uttar Pradesh on Thursday accused two woman constables of the Ayodhya police of assaulting her inside a police station when she went to record her statement. Not only did the constables refuse to believe her, they also beat her with boots, hit her with belts and pressured to change her version, she said.

A probe was launched and two woman constables – Shikha and Neetu – were suspended.

## Raped by two men

The woman from Mahajganj police station area of Ayodhya alleged that she was raped by two men, identified as Vishal and Mahendra, when she stepped out to answer nature's call.

Talking to local media, the woman alleged that two women constables questioned the credibility of her allegations and beat her.

## Govt. fixes rates for virus treatment in pvt. hospitals

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

JAIPUR

Private hospitals in Rajasthan will give treatment to COVID-19 patients at the rates fixed by the State government and increase the number of beds for admitting serious patients. The State government has issued these directions to the hospitals in view of the winter season when infections are likely to increase.

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, who reviewed the pandemic situation at a high-level meeting here on Wednesday, has asked the administration and the Medical and Health Department to ensure that patients admitted to private hospitals do not face any inconvenience.

The number of beds in intensive care units and other facilities at both government and private hospitals should be enhanced, he said. Mr. Gehlot also said pulse oximeters would be provided to accredited social health activists across the State to facilitate checking of oxygen level of people.

## Sufficient beds'

Medical and Health Secretary Siddharth Mahajan said at the meeting that the death rate of COVID-19 patients in the State was only 0.91%, while a sufficient number of beds were available for patients at the dedicated government health facility in Rajasthan University of Health Sciences Hospital in Jaipur.

## CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE &amp; SECURE NOIDA

## New Okhla Industrial Development Authority

Administrative Building, Sector - 6, Noida - 201301 (U.P.)

Website : [www.noidaauthorityonline.com](http://www.noidaauthorityonline.com)

## E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited from eligible contractors/firms for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened/downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: [www.noidaauthorityonline.com](http://www.noidaauthorityonline.com) & <https://etender.up.nic.in>. Please ensure to see these websites for any changes/amendments/ & corrigendum etc.

S. No	Job No./Work Name	Amount
1	127/D(H)/DD(H)-III/2020-21, D/o Park in Sector- 91 Wetland with two year Maintenance	Cost Rs. 97.29 Lacs

Which can be uploaded by date 26/11/2020 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 27/11/2020 at 11.00 AM.

Office Sector-39 Director (Hort.) Noida

## CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE &amp; SECURE NOIDA

## Gehlot reviews pandemic situation

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHANDIGARH

Haryana Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala on Thursday dismissed the Congress party's remark surrounding 'mistrust among the ruling BJP-JJP coalition government', saying the government was strongly moving ahead in the State and instead it was the Congress, which was suffering from factionalism, that should introspect.

"Since 27% of deaths due to COVID-19 in Rajasthan have been reported from the rural areas, the people residing in villages should remain alert and follow all health-related protocols," he said, adding that a team of experts may also study if a modification in medical protocol was required to deal with the changing symptoms of the virus.

"The government has procured the kharif (summer) crops from farmers at the Minimum Support Price and curbed the paddy crop brought from other States being sold illegally.

## Paddy transportation

"For the first time, the State government has made provision of paddy transportation from grain market or procurement centre to warehouse and mills, due to which the crop is being lifted on time. The State government has procured 55,07,000 metric tonnes of paddy from about 200 grain markets or procurement centres in the State till November 18, out of which 53,65,000 metric tonnes have been delivered to warehouses and mills. Paddy of most of the registered farmers of Haryana has been procured," he said.

Mr. Chautala said the go-

## Congress leaders should introspect, says Dushyant

Deputy CM dismisses party's remark of cracks in BJP-JJP ties



Dushyant Chautala

vernment has procured the kharif (summer) crops from farmers at the Minimum Support Price and curbed the paddy crop brought from other States being sold illegally.

## Paddy transportation

"For the first time, the State government has made provision of paddy transportation from grain market or procurement centre to warehouse and mills, due to which the crop is being lifted on time. The State government has procured 55,07,000 metric tonnes of paddy from about 200 grain markets or procurement centres in the State till November 18, out of which 53,65,000 metric tonnes have been delivered to warehouses and mills. Paddy of most of the registered farmers of Haryana has been procured," he said.

Mr.

Chautala said the go-

## Fissures in proposed Assam grand alliance

## AIUDF becomes bugbear for parties

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI

Like the All India Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen in Bihar, the All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) appears to have become the bugbear for political parties in poll-bound Assam.

Mainstream and regional parties, old and new, have tagged the AIUDF led by perfume baron Badruddin Ajmal as the 'B-team' of each other with the Assembly elections due by May 2021.

The AIUDF, seen as pro-migrant Muslims in the State polarised between the indigenous and the outsiders, has also become a factor in differences cropping up within the parties expected to form a grand alliance for stopping the BJP from returning to power.

"The AIUDF becomes the

B-team of whichever party rules Assam or Delhi, whether it is the Congress or the BJP," said Adip Kumar Phukan, spokesperson of Asom Jatiya Parishad (AJP), formed by two major students' organisations in the State.

Badruddin Ajmal survives on the politics of polarisation. He helps the party in power to save his business interests," said Bhasco D. Saikia, leader of Rajior Dal, another new regional party formed by several NGOs, including that of jailed activist Akhil Gogoi.

Their views on the AIUDF followed Mr Ajmal's assertion that Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma was financing the new regional parties with the objective of dividing the Muslim voters who have been backing the AIUDF.

## Assam artists detained for Gogoi mural

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI

Members of an Assam art group were detained on Thursday for painting a mural detailing the arrest of rights activist Akhil Gogoi but were let go after they erased the "protest artwork".

Pranjali Kalita, a member of the art collective named Anga, said they had used the expansive wall of a building in Guwahati's Basistha area to protest the "witch-hunting" against Mr. Gogoi.

## THE HINDU

DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher &amp; Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director, or Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

**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 Friday:** Thunderstorm with lightning/hail likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Kerala, Mahe and Lakshadweep

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	...30.6	18.0	10.1	Kozhikode	...33.8	25.5	22.6
Ahmedabad	...30.5	16.2	10.1	Kurnool	...34.1	22.6	16.4
Aizawl	...22.3	12.8	10.1	Lucknow	...25.5	16.4	17.8
Allahabad	8.6	26.8	17.8	Madurai	15.1	29.2	22.8
Bengaluru	...28.1	20.0	15.1	Mangaluru	2.6	35.6	24.3
Bhopal	0.2	31.3	19.4	Mumbai	...33.3	25.0	20.0
Bhubaneswar	...33.4	21.8	15.1	Mysuru	...28.2	20.0	17.6
Chandigarh	...22.5	11.2	9.4	New Delhi	...25.6	9.4	11.2
Chennai	...31.3	25.0	17.6	Patna	...24.8	17.6	11.2
Coimbatore	4.9	29.2	22.8	Port Blair	...32.2	26.1	17.6
Dehradoon	24.0	10.0	10.0	Puducherry	...30.7	23.8	17.6
Gangtok	14.6	9.3	9.3	Raipur	...34.4	21.0	19.4
Goa	...35.0	24.3	24.3	Ranchi	...29.0	18.2	15.8
Guwahati	28.0	15.8	15.8	Shillong	18.5	7.5	21.7
Hubballi	...30.0	21.0	21.0	Shimla	...15.0	4.6	21.7
Hyderabad	31.6	21.7	21.7	Srinagar	...11.7	0.1	21.7
Imphal	24.8	8.2	8.2	Thiruvananthapuram	0.4	33.4	24.1
Jaipur	25.6	15.3	15.3	Tiruchi	7.2	32.9	24.0
Kochi	32.0	23.8	23.8	Vijayawada	...32.2	24.6	24.0
Kohima	19.8	8.2	8.2	Visakhapatnam	...32.2	24.2	24.2
Kolkata	32.4	22.1	22.1				

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

**Pollutants in the air you are breathing**

**Yesterday**

CITIES	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>x</sub>	CO	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	PM <sub>10</sub>	CODE
Ahmedabad	23	67	47	101	115	■■■■■
Bengaluru	11	45	65	44	67	■■■■■
Chennai	...10	33	63	...59	...59	■■■■■
Delhi	17	121	94	320	271	■■■■■
Hyderabad	5	74	12	59	92	■■■■■
Kolkata	20	18	12	250	155	■■■■■
Lucknow	12	81	76	318	182	■■■■■
Mumbai	5	24	54	214	110	■■■■■
Pune	...41	42	92	82	21	■■■■■
Visakhapatnam	12	25	28	147	128	■■■■■

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)  
SO<sub>2</sub>: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

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

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

PM<sub>2.5</sub> & PM<sub>10</sub>: 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

# BJP MLA from Aurangabad booked for embezzlement

FIR also against 15 others for misappropriation of Gangapur sugar factory funds

**SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE**  
PUNE

An FIR was registered by the Aurangabad rural police late on Wednesday against BJP legislator Prashant Bamb and 15 others for alleged embezzlement of funds from the Gangapur Cooperative Sugar Factory.

Mr. Bamb, the BJP's MLA from Gangapur in rural Aurangabad, has been accused, along with the others, of defrauding committee members of the Gangapur sugar

factory of up to ₹15.75 crore by allegedly using fake documents.

Mr. Bamb, a three-time MLA from Gangapur, who has won consecutive State Assembly elections since 2009, was chairman of the now-dysfunctional Gangapur sugar factory.

According to the complaint filed by Krushna Patil Dongarkar, the State government had taken control of the factory, which had been shut since 2008 for default-

ing on its loan payments.

Following this, the then board of directors had rushed to the local court to prevent the sale of the sugar factory by the bank concerned.

The directors had managed to raise the loan arrears (exceeding ₹15.75 crore) while the court proceedings were on and the sale of the factory was subsequently cancelled. The court had directed the amount to be credited to the factory's ac-

count. However, a section of the factory's committee members alleged that Mr. Bamb and the working director, B.M. Patil, had embezzled the fund amount by showing that the factory was a partnership.

The committee members further alleged that Mr. Bamb and Mr. Patil used fake documents to prove their 'partnership' and had opened illegal accounts with a local bank to deposit the fund amount.

## BJP, Sena politics over 'Hindutva' hots up

Sena distances itself from party worker's video on Karachi sweets shop

**STAFF REPORTER**  
MUMBAI

As the tripartite Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government nears one year in office, the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has intensified its anti-government stand with focus on Hindutva and attempts to paint its former ally Shiv Sena as anti-Hindu.

Unperturbed by these attacks, Sena on Thursday said people in Mumbai and Maharashtra know who is the flag-bearer of 'pure saffron'.

Former chief minister Devendra Fadnavis, while launching the BJP's Mission Mumbai on Wednesday, had

said that his party will turn the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) into 'pure saffron' by derailing Sena in 2022. For months now, the State unit of the BJP has been targeting Sena over issues related to Hindutva.

### Controversy over name

Meanwhile, the video of a little-known Sena leader Nitin Nandaonkar, asking the owner of the famous Karachi sweet shop in the western suburbs of Mumbai to remove the word Karachi from its name, went viral on Thursday, kicking up a row in political circles. The Sena

was quick to distance itself and said this was not the party's official stand. Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Raut took to Twitter and said, "Karachi bakery and karachi sweets have been in mumbai since last 60 years. They have nothing to do with Pakistan. It makes no sense to ask for changing their names now. Demand for changing their name is not shivsena's official stance."

Two months back, it held protests across the State demanding reopening temples. A newly-formed spiritual front of the BJP alleged that the Sena-led MVA govern-

ment wants to open wine shops but not temples. The government's decision to not allow chhath puja amid the corona pandemic is also being labelled by the BJP as anti-Hindu.

The Sena on the other hand has chosen not to counter the BJP except occasionally. Mr. Raut on Thursday left it to the people of the State to decide who carries the pure saffron flag. "Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and late Balasaheb Thackeray were sensitive about saffron flag. Adulterated saffron flag will never fly high on the BMC," said Mr. Raut.

## Maharashtra reports more recoveries, but Pune, Mumbai see post-festivity case spike

**SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE**  
PUNE

Maharashtra's recoveries barely outpaced its case surge with just 5,860 patients being discharged on Thursday as opposed to 5,535 new COVID-19 cases.

Pune district and Mumbai city, which had been reporting low case surges for some weeks, saw a noticeable rise in fresh cases post-Deepavali.

The cumulative recoveries have risen to 16,35,971 with the State's recovery incrementally increasing to 92.79%. The total case tally stands at 17,63,055 while the active cases have come down to 79,738. With 154 deaths, the fatality toll has climbed to 46,356.

"Of a total 99,65,119 laboratory samples tested thus far, 17,63,055 (case positivity rate of 17.69%) have returned positive with nearly 65,000 samples being tested in the last 24 hours," State Surveillance Officer Dr. Pradeep Awate said, adding that the case fatality rate currently stood at 2.63%.

Pune district reported an alarming spike of 789 new cases to

take its total tally to 3,44,002 while 11 deaths saw its toll climb to 7,206. As per Pune district administration figures, the active cases have shot up as compared with Wednesday's figure, rising to 9,349 while its recovery rate has come down to 94.75%.

The higher-than-usual case spike reported in the district during the last 48 hours has caused a tremor of alarm among district administration authorities fearful of a possible second wave of the virus post-Deepavali festivities.

However, speaking to *The Hindu*, Pune district Collector Rajesh Deshmukh quashed any immediate cause for concern, stating that the district's medical infrastructure and manpower in hospitals was more than adequate to cope with any crisis.

"Furthermore, Pune's sample testing has been drastically increased to 8,000 per day," he said.

An advisory issued by the State Directorate of Health Services last week, which predicted a possible second wave of the pandemic

in January-February next year, has asked authorities to increase testing capabilities. It has further directed authorities to identify potential 'super-spreaders' which include grocers, labourers, security guards in housing societies, police personnel, and home guards.

The circular has also instructed authorities to keep up the survey of people with influenza-like illnesses, while ensuring that house-to-house surveys and contact-tracing processes be carried on a war-footing with emphasis on the screening of a co-morbid population.

Along with Pune, Mumbai city, too, reported a heightened post-festivity spike of 924 cases to take its total tally to 2,72,455 of whom 11,694 are active. As many as 12 fatalities saw the city's death toll rise to 10,627.

Nagpur district in Vidarbha reported 369 new cases, taking the district's total tally to 1,09,631 of whom just 2,619 are active. Seven deaths saw the fatality toll reach 2,896.

Country's first dual cord blood transplant through unrelated donor

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

MUMBAI

Community Cord Blood Banking, a stem cell banking initiative introduced by LifeCell in 2017, has helped save the life of a seven-year-old girl from Nashik in Maharashtra who was suffering from aplastic anaemia.

A team of senior doctors from LOTUS Institute of Haematology, Oncology and Bone Marrow Transplantation, recently conducted India's first dual cord blood transplant through an unrelated donor.

The transplant was challenging because no apt bone marrow donors were available and the cost of retrieval of matching units from public cord blood banks would have been high.

The girl's parents placed a request for two matching cord blood units after the child's sibling was found to be only a 50% (4/8) match. Two high-quality matches (7/8) were found in the registry, which fulfilled the requirement for umbilical cord blood transplantation. The parents could withdraw the matched units at no extra ex-

"Luckily, since the family was a part of LifeCell's community banking programme, they could gain quick, free access to the huge inventory of over 50,000 qualified units, which provides greater than 97% probability of finding a match."

In majority of blood-related disorders, patients' own stem cells are not suitable. Hence, the best donor is a close family member. However, in this case, there was only a 50% match with the sibling, thus needing a match from an unrelated donor, LifeCell said in a statement. While a regular stem cell transplant requires a dose of 25 million cells per kg of the patient's weight, for aplastic anaemia, the recommended minimum dose is 40 million cells per kg, which is not easy to find.

The community banking model made it possible and the child received a timely transplant. Just 18 days after the transplant, white blood cells were completely engrafted, and platelets and red blood cell production also increased drastically, the statement added.



**Success story:** The seven-year-old girl from Nashik with her parents. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

pense, which would have cost around ₹45 lakh per unit.

While stem cells from the umbilical cord blood can be procured from global public banks, the probability of finding a match for a patient of Indian origin is less than 10% because of the low inventory of available units plus the big issue of donor dropouts. Mayur Abhyava, MD, LifeCell International



## Curbing on-air bigotry

The distinction between free speech and hate speech should be at the heart of regulation

The Supreme Court's posers to the Union government on the measures it can and is willing to take against communally slanted television coverage should not end in undesirable consequences. The questions appear to be an attempt to elicit a commitment to a course of action that will curb inflammatory journalism on broadcast media. However, the Court's warning that if the government fails to explain its mechanism to deal with the problem, it would create one on its own may take the debate down a slippery slope. The Court is hearing petitions against the communal colour given by some channels to the incidence of large clusters of COVID-19 infections among those who attended a Tablighi Jamaat event in New Delhi. The portrayal of the participants as intentional super-spreaders was vicious and motivated. Curiously, the Centre seems reluctant to intervene, while the Court seems to be batting for greater media regulation. The Centre's affidavit stated that media coverage "predominantly struck a balanced and neutral perspective" and that it was open to the viewers to choose from a number of varying perspectives given by different media channels. However, the Court is keen to know what action has been taken under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act against offending broadcasters. One hopes that the Centre's position arises from a commitment to media freedom, and is not based on a partisan leniency towards channels that peddled a certain narrative that suited its interests.

The Court appears unconvinced that the present mechanism of self-regulation, the National Broadcasting Standards Authority, is effective. It would be in order if the self-regulation mechanism deals with departures from normative journalism. And the government is, in any case, empowered under the Act to prohibit transmission of programmes that violate the programme or advertising codes (Section 19) and even an entire channel, in public interest (Section 20). In the past, channels have been asked by the I&B Ministry to take some programmes off the air. There is no doubt that egregious violations of norms are not uncommon. Depending on the damage done to individuals or institutions, or even society at large, there is enough scope for action under the penal law. However, there is a class of violation of norms in broadcasting that stands apart. The case of Sudarshan News, which began a series that propagated hate against Muslims, is a flagrant example. The government has merely administered a 'caution' to the channel and asked it to moderate the content of future episodes and avoid breaching the Programme Code. In September, while ordering the suspension of further episodes, the Court distinguished between free speech and 'hate speech'. The distinction should be at the heart of any order creating a new mechanism, if at all one is needed, to deal with broadcast media excesses.

## Another bailout

Overall banking sector health is a concern despite the RBI's pre-emptive rescue efforts

The RBI's decision to recommend the imposition of a one-month moratorium on Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB) and almost simultaneously announce a draft scheme of amalgamation that entails the Indian unit of the Singapore government-controlled DBS Bank taking over the capital-starved private lender marks a welcome intervention by the banking regulator. The well-choreographed move will protect the interests of depositors and employees, while shareholders will see the value of their holdings written off once the merger is operationalised. Coming just about eight months after another failing private lender, Yes Bank, was rescued by an RBI-orchestrated capital infusion, the Karur-based bank's proposed bailout signals that the regulator is keen to proactively step in to ward off risks to wider financial sector stability. That the LVB had become a candidate for regulatory intervention was evident after its continuous losses, steady erosion of its net worth and inability to raise fresh capital to bolster its balance sheet. Despite being placed under the RBI's Prompt Corrective Action framework in September 2019, the lender's finances deteriorated to the point where its gross ratio of non-performing assets to advances shot up to 25.4% in March 2020 and the Tier 1 Capital ratio turned a negative 0.88% at the end of that quarter. The capital ratio subsequently worsened to -4.85% by the end of September, tipping the central bank's hand.

Overall banking sector health, however, remains a significant concern notwithstanding this latest rescue effort. On Wednesday, Gita Gopinath, the IMF's chief economist, flagged the wide-ranging damage the COVID-19 pandemic had inflicted on the global economy and warned of deeper legacy scars – more stress on corporate balance sheets and governments burdened with large debt. For all its liquidity bolstering measures since March, the RBI now faces the prospect of having to maintain a heightened vigil over scheduled commercial banks, as well as non-banking financial companies and mortgage lenders, given the threat of contagion from a failure here. The RBI had in its Financial Stability Report in July pointed out that its stress tests indicated that the gross NPA ratio of commercial banks could worsen to 14.7% by March 2021, from 8.5% a year earlier, if the pandemic's adverse economic impact caused the GDP to contract by 8.9% in the current fiscal. In October, the bank forecast India's GDP would shrink by 9.5% and earlier this month cautioned that "lurking around the corner" was the major risk of stress intensifying among households and firms that could spill over into the financial sector. The RBI has its task cut out in ensuring it keeps the crucial engine of credit ticking over as the economy strives to revive.

# A world in chaos and a moment of truth

International autocracy is the latest danger that threatens democracies



M.K. NARAYANAN

**C**hange is the essence of time. We have been fed on stories on how men in authority take critical decisions after deep and deliberate introspection. Recent events, however, are testimony to the fact that this is no longer true in today's world. This is possibly the 21st Century's 'moment of truth'.

**America's divide and beyond**  
The presumption that existence of acutely sharp divisions between liberals and conservatives, and competition between ideologues and hardcore practitioners alone are endangering democracy in today's world would hardly be correct. The shenanigans currently taking place in the world's oldest democracy, and efforts by the U.S. President, Donald Trump, to negate the verdict of the recently held presidential elections, partake of a new set of tactics, previously seen only in dictatorships. The extent to which Mr. Trump has been willing to go in his attempt to negate the election, and the fact that a very sizeable segment of the U.S. population seems to be backing him in this attempt, suggest that this is the 'new reality', which not only the U.S., but also the world, may have to reckon with in times to come.

The lack of shame-facedness on the part of the U.S. authorities even as they engage in this, while lecturing the world about the virtues of democracy, represent a new pole in the utilisation of fake news.

The spectre that confronts democracy today is a grave one. In the case of the U.S., one of the world's oldest democracies, what we are witnessing is a deep divide, one that is equally true of many other democratic nations today, even if fingers are not being pointed at them. Bridging the divide between Mr. Trump's entrenched

supporters and the victorious camp of President-elect Joe Biden will, hence, be difficult. If the size of a vote bank is an index of an individual's popularity in an election, it will be difficult to wish away the 70 million and odd votes that Mr. Trump has secured in this election – way higher than what he obtained in 2016. Clearly, his support comes from a segment that has serious grievances against policies favoured by so called liberal segments', and in turn, the neglect of their interests. This is true of many other democracies as well and must be viewed as a wake-up call.

What is evident is that issues of identity, or threats to identity, are becoming an important issue in elections across democracies. Democracies already confront such problems, but it will become still more evident as time passes. Manipulation of grievances by using psychometric techniques (*a la* Cambridge Analytica), and the use of 'deep fakes' made possible through Artificial Intelligence, further enhances the threat to current notions of democracy.

**Europe's problems**  
Meanwhile, much of the world is equally beset by other problems of no mean magnitude. Europe, grappling with a resurgent COVID-19 pandemic, will need for instance, to reckon with the reality that, notwithstanding any change in leadership in Washington, it is destined to recede further in terms of importance in global politics. An uncertain Brexit will further damage the prospects of both the United Kingdom and Europe. Russia, under Vladimir Putin, remains an enigma, for despite its military strength and strategic congruence with China, its future appears increasingly uncertain.

France displays even greater fragility than many other European nations. French values, for instance, appear to be undergoing major changes. All embracing secularism, with overarching emphasis on social cohesion, seems to be going out of the door in the face of new social and political challenges, much of it coming from the actions of a growing Mus-



lim population in France. The recent wave of terrorist attacks, beginning with the beheading, recently, of a Paris schoolteacher by an Islamic State (IS) supporter, followed by IS violence in Nice, have been a major trigger, raising questions about long-held secular beliefs.

Recent terrorist attacks coming on top of other events in recent years do appear to have shattered France's vaunted claim of being different from most other European and world powers. French President Emmanuel Macron and French leaders have been openly railing against radical Islam, causing Muslim world leaders and Turkish President, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, to accuse Mr. Macron of Islamophobia.

**Terror is returning**

Other issues exist which act as catalysts to this emerging situation. Terrorism is resurfacing, and with renewed vigour. The al-Qaeda is again becoming prominent. The IS, which many thought had been vanquished following the victories achieved in Syria and Iraq towards the end of 2018, has returned in full force. In recent weeks, it has carried out spectacular attacks in France – Paris and Nice – and in Austria (Vienna), a reminder of the transnational character of the threat it poses to democratic countries. The newer IS recruits are in many ways an even greater threat than their predecessors. They combine symbolism with spectacular violence. The intent is to shock the public at large, and produce a reaction across the entire Muslim world, reigniting the fading embers of a religio-cultural conflict.

Alongside this, is the growing concern across the globe about increasing efforts to manipulate information in order to perpetuate power. Dictatorships and authoritarian regimes were previously accused of resorting to such tactics, but these tactics are no longer confined to repressive regimes. Manipulation of information – and also events – to achieve certain desired ends, is becoming the stock-in-trade of many a democratic regime as well. Mr. Trump's claims while still in office, that he is the winner in the just concluded U.S. presidential elections and that a fraud had been committed on the voting public by his opponent, have a great deal of resonance given his status and authority. Many democratic nations today resort to manipulating data to support or prop up the government's version of events. International autocracy is, hence, the latest danger that threatens democracies.

### The issues in India

India's democracy has its own problems, though of a dissimilar kind. In some regions, specially where mid-term elections are scheduled, as in West Bengal, the atmosphere today is highly polarised. Meantime, while the COVID-19 pandemic might have reduced the intensity of protests, the ghosts of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and the National Register of Citizens have by no means been laid to rest. Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) is witnessing a kind of surface calm, but beneath this there are evident tensions. Aggravating this situation are Pakistan's efforts to push in terrorists in ever larger numbers, leading to large scale casualties, especially among the Indian Army and security forces personnel. At the political level, in J&K, new equations are being forged for further confrontation, as evidenced by the setting up of the seven party People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration.

India's external environment remains uncertain. The downward spiral in its relations with China has not been arrested. A misplaced belief is being perpetuated that the display of military strength, *vis-à-vis* China in the La-

dakh heights, has greatly increased our bargaining power. On the other hand, as evident from the announcement made on November 15, that 15 Asia-Pacific nations, including China, had signed on to the world's biggest trade bloc, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) – from which India has been excluded – this seems hardly true. The RCEP, which covers almost a third of the world's economy, is perceived as the springboard for future economic recovery across the region. Among the key signatories (along with China), are Japan and Australia, who are members of the Quad. Whatever be the reasons adduced by India for this, it does represent not only a cardinal failure of India's bargaining strategy but, equally, a true reflection of the current economic and political power equations in Asia and the Asia-Pacific region.

Confirming India's isolation is the fact that even a weak Pakistan, currently wracked by internal problems, is pursuing a policy of provocation *vis-à-vis* India confident that the latter is in no position to impose its will – the latest provocation being the holding of Assembly elections in Gilgit-Baltistan. India is again being steadily marginalised in Afghanistan, where the control of the Taliban is increasing, with all other players in the Afghan imbroglio, acquiescing in this situation.

### China's goal

A contrast to the prevailing near disruption among the democracies of the world would be China. No disruptive leadership changes are likely here in the near future. If anything, Chinese President Xi Jinping is expected to emerge stronger after the 20th Party Congress, in 2022, giving a further impetus to the transformation of China into a superpower by 2035. While new foreign policy initiatives may be few, major reform initiatives will be confined to the economy, the energy sector and new innovation systems.

*M.K. Narayanan is a former National Security Adviser and a former Governor of West Bengal*

## India's mask of economic liberalism is off

Trade protectionism seems to be the official policy, with the government following the path of its ideological leanings



PRABHUSH RANJAN

**I**ndia's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar recently disapproved of free trade and globalisation. Sound like a politician of the bygone era where the government shielded the domestic industry from competition by putting up protectionist barriers, he said, "in the name of openness, we have allowed subsidies products and unfair production advantages from abroad to prevail... justified by the mantra of an open and globalised economy. It was quite extraordinary that an economy as attractive as India allowed the framework to be set by others." He was speaking at a "dialogue" (<https://bit.ly/3nQAFte>). Taking a dig at free trade agreements (FTAs), the Minister said, "the effect of past trade agreements has been to de-industrialise some sectors."

The fact that these observations were made just a day after 15 countries of the Asia-Pacific region signed, on November 15, the Regional Comprehensive Economic

Partnership (RCEP) agreement, the largest regional trading arrangement, is no coincidence. The Minister tried hard to rationalise the government's decision to walk away from RCEP last year. However, there are several flaws in Mr. Jaishankar's arguments.

**Rhetoric versus reality**  
First, by refusing to sign RCEP – a sign of weakness, not boldness – India is now truly at the margins of the regional and global economy. With trade multilateralism at the World Trade Organization (WTO) remaining sluggish, FTAs are the gateways for international trade. By not being part of any major FTA, India cannot be part of the global value chains. India's competitors such as the East Asian nations, by virtue of them being embedded in mega-FTAs, are in a far superior position to be part of global value chains and attract foreign investment.

Second, has India embraced the economic openness that Mr. Jaishankar laments about? While India is surely a much more open economy than it was three decades ago, globally, India continues to remain relatively closed when compared to other major economies. According to the WTO, India's applied most favoured nation import tariffs are 13.8%, which is the highest



for any major economy. Likewise, according to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, on the import restrictiveness index, India figures in the 'very restrictive' category. From 1995-2019, India has initiated anti-dumping measures 972 times (the highest in the world), zealously endeavouring to protect domestic industry (<https://bit.ly/3nGUzO>).

Third, in blaming FTAs for the woes of India's manufacturing, the External Affairs Minister is contradicting his own government's economic survey presented earlier this year, which concluded that India has benefitted overall from FTAs signed so far. Moreover, impugning FTAs for deindustrialisation means being oblivious to the real problem of the Indian industry – which is the lack of competitiveness and absence of structural reforms.

Fourth, the External Affairs Mi-

nister, following the finest traditions of the Narendra Modi government, criticised the past governments for compromising India's interests by doing business as per the 'framework' set by others. However, he did not share why his government utterly failed in the last six years to convince 15 other RCEP nations about a framework that would be advantageous to India.

Finally, in criticising economic openness and globalisation, the External Affairs Minister wholly ignored the fact that India has been one of the major beneficiaries of economic globalisation – a fact attested by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Post-1991, the Indian economy grew at a faster pace, ushering in an era of economic prosperity. According to the economist and professor, Arvind Panagariya, poverty in rural and urban India, which stood at close to 40% in 2004-05, almost halved to about 20% by 2011-12. This was due to India clocking an average economic growth rate of almost 8% with international trade being a major engine of progress (<https://bit.ly/39Atner>).

### Economic illiberalism

The comments of the External Affairs Minister give us a window to understanding the larger ideologi-

cal moorings of the Narendra Modi government on free trade. When Mr. Modi became the Prime Minister in 2014, it was widely perceived that while his government might be socially conservative, it would be economically liberal and advocate globalisation and free trade. This was even though all ideological gurus of the Sangh Parivar, whether Deen Dayal Upadhyay or Dattopant Thengadi, championed *swadeshi* (indigenous products) over *videshi* (imports). Over the last few years, the Narendra Modi government has started walking on the path shown by its ideological gurus. Tariffs have been increased, FTAs are being demised, and 'focal for local', which strikes at the heart of international trade and globalisation, is the new mantra.

The Prime Minister's desire to make India a global destination for foreign investment is a pipe dream because it is naive to expect foreign investors to be gung-ho about investing in India if trade protectionism is the government's official policy. The mask of economic liberalism is finally off and the real ideological colours are there for everyone to see.

*Prabhush Ranjan is a senior assistant professor of law at South Asian University. The views expressed are personal*

## 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.

### Article 32 petitions

The remark of the Chief Justice of India, that the Supreme Court is 'discouraging Article 32 petitions' is disturbing. The very language of the said Article makes it clear that the right to move the Supreme Court is as much a fundamental right as the other fundamental rights guaranteed under the Constitution. The CJI's remark, just after the issue of the arrest of a TV anchor only dampens hopes despite Justice D.Y. Chandrachud's recent remarks on personal liberty. It is now left to the top court to re-establish the faith that the said TV

anchor's case will not be a case of individual dispensation, but is also for all those who are undergoing arrest, trial and detention. There needs to be a full Bench to decide the issue of personal liberty in the case of such persons who have been detained for challenging the value system and seeking peoples' liberty – all the more urgent in the context of linked issues such as the CAA and Article 370. N.G.R. PRASAD, K.K. RAM SIDDHARTHA, Chennai

### Gupkar Alliance

It is unfortunate that the country's Home Minister

has used the word "gang" to describe the Gupkar Alliance (Page 1, November 18). Its dictionary meaning implies an intent to "often deliberately cause trouble". How can the Home Minister label the parties which his party had an alliance with and describe a few of the leaders have served as Union Ministers this way? If the government has apprehensions about these parties, why does it not approach the Election Commission with 'evidence' of their 'anti-national activities' and demand their derecognition?

N. NAGARAJAN, Secunderabad

**Forgotten leader**  
The nation seems to have forgotten Indira Gandhi – no report or comment. She was responsible for many a historic event – bank nationalisation, abolition of the privy purse and the formation of Bangladesh. There is much to ponder over in her policies *vis-à-vis* developments in today's political context.

A.P. MATHIVANAN, Chennai

■ I am not a person to be pressured by anybody or any thing, but I must say that most in India seem to have forgotten India's first woman Prime Minister. Her struggles and leadership in building

the nation should be remembered.

BALAGOPAL GOPINATH, Keerikad, Alappuzha, Kerala

### Book and syllabus

The haste in which Manonmaniam Sundaranar University removed the book, *Walking with the Comrades*, from its syllabus, does not seem to be an issue that will go away in a hurry (Tamil Nadu, "Restore Arundhati Roy's book in syllabus", November 18). The Vice-Chancellor needs to place the objections raised by the ABVP – said to be the agent behind the move – in the public domain to enable us to form our opinions.

MANI NATARAJAN, Chennai

### Vaccines and trials

The race for the most efficacious COVID-19 vaccine is gathering steam. Although their claims of success are well above the benchmark of 50% set by the World Health Organization, and is very encouraging, mere assertions without releasing crucial safety data and verification by independent panels and statutory bodies can be counterproductive. The controversial case of hydroxychloroquine, which received emergency use authorisation for COVID-19 and was later found to be ineffective, is a case in point.

Dr. THOMAS PALOCAREN, Vello

# Is India facing a two-front threat?

PARLEY

Diplomacy and military thinking will have to evolve more rapidly than we assumed

*While the India-China stand-off continues in eastern Ladakh, the Line of Control (LoC) is yet again at the boil. Lieutenant General D.S. Hooda and Harsh Pant discuss whether India faces the prospect of a two-front war, in a conversation moderated by Dinakar Peri. Edited excerpts:*

**The possibility of a two-front war with Pakistan and China has been debated in the past. The ongoing stand-off with China in eastern Ladakh has brought India closer to that reality. Are we really staring at such a prospect?**

**Lt. Gen. D.S. Hooda:** I don't think a two-front war is a prospect in the near future, but a two-front threat has become more real. Earlier, the military and political establishment felt that we could stave off any military action from China through political and diplomatic action. That if conflict was imminent, it was most likely to happen with Pakistan. And because of our conventional superiority, we could handle that front quite easily. I think that notion has now been disabused by Chinese actions in eastern Ladakh. The threat from China has become more real than it was in the past.

**Experts have said in the past that a two-front war would mean a failure of Indian diplomacy. Where does the current stand-off put that situation?**

**Harsh V. Pant:** This is a structural problem: two major nations with whom you don't have good relations straddling you on two sides of the border. There has always been an assumption that we may manage the Line of Actual Control (LAC) better than the LoC because of certain factors. We have now come to a phase where disengagement is not possible because of what the Chinese are doing. And clearly for a while, they have been signalling that they will be more coordinated in their response to India. This is also because India has become more assertive and vocal in terms of what it believes to be its own role in the region, how it defines its parameters,



Lieutenant General  
**D.S. Hooda**  
(retd.) is a former Northern Army Commander



**Harsh V. Pant**  
is Director, Studies at the Observer Research Foundation and Professor of International Relations, King's College London



Scan the QR code to listen to the full interview online

## Reading the Bihar verdict

In the new India, filial entitlement, once the norm, is now looked at askance

PULAPRE BALAKRISHNAN

In Bihar, the NDA is back, though with lower numbers for Nitish Kumar's party. He may have returned as the Chief Minister but his wings are clipped, for as the largest party in the coalition, the BJP may now be expected to call the shots. The main constituents of the Mahagathbandhan – the Rashtriya Janata Dal and the Congress – finished with even fewer seats than in the last assembly. So it is a vote for status quo in the State. This is surprising. Mr. Kumar has been in the saddle for 15 years. Despite claims made of high economic growth, the State remains among the poorest in the India. Its people are forced to migrate long distances across the country to find work, live under precarious conditions when they reach their destination and walk all the way back home during an emergency. Mr. Kumar has provided an explanation for the economic condition of his State in it being landlocked, without access to ports. There are, however, States in India such as Punjab and Haryana which are among its richest despite being landlocked. We see television visuals of poor conditions in Bihar's hospitals and the inability of the State government even to conduct fair school examinations. These are governance issues having little to do with economic capacity. So, why despite 15 lacklustre years have the people of Bihar voted back the government?

**No credible challenge to the BJP**  
A kind of lazy theorising popular with sections of the commentariat would put the outcome down to the opiate of Hindutva politics offered by the BJP, but it would be without traction. The BJP was turned out of the assembly in the last election in Rajashtan despite having a strong and self-assured Chief Minister. This shows that there is nothing invincible about the BJP at the level of the States even when it is firmly entrenched at the Centre. As in the Lok Sabha elections in 2019, now in Bihar, the verdict reflects only the Opposition's inability to mount a credible challenge to the BJP. What would constitute such a challenge? It would be a comprehensive programme and evidence of sub-

stantial leadership capacity. As Mr. Kumar's economic record is not remarkable, the outcome in Bihar boils down to how its electorate viewed the leadership promise of his opponents despite their promise of development. Surely, the electorate sees both Tejashwi Yadav and, especially, Rahul Gandhi as inexperienced scions of political families, who have not had to earn their mantles. In the new India, with a preponderance of youth, filial entitlement, once the norm, is now looked at askance.

### Course correction

Recently, India's democracy has been decidedly weakened by a state violating civil liberties and established parliamentary procedures. Moreover, the national economy is performing poorly for the majority. In both Bihar and at the Centre, the ruling dispensation has survived only because of a weak Opposition. India needs course correction in several spaces. As we have just seen in the U.S., this can be brought about by democratic means. However, of late, India's democracy appears unable to course correct despite repeated elections. It is important to recognise that it was not always so. In a spectacular course correction, the Indian electorate had defeated Indira Gandhi after the Emergency in 1977. Unlike in Bihar this time, the Opposition then had included stalwarts of Indian politics such as Morarji Desai, Atal Bihari Vajpayee and George Fernandes. They may have benefited from the tailwind of the Jayaprakash Narayan movement but they were recognisable as politicians with long experience in public life.

A necessary element in the course correction Indian politics needs would be inner-party democracy within the Opposition parties. After all, democracy can be restored only through democracy. Inner-party democracy alone can ensure that parties promote the ablest and seek accountability from their leaders. A hopeful reading of the Bihar verdict would be that India's democracy is maturing. The demos has shown its impatience with family rule.

Pulapre Balakrishnan teaches at Ashoka University, Sonipat



the debate on Article 370, Aksai Chin, etc. So, for the first time, we are seeing China reacting to something that India is doing. That back and forth means that both the LoC and the LAC will be equally volatile.

I don't particularly see this as being a problem – that Indian diplomacy failed and therefore this happened. I think Indian diplomats and military strategists recognise the challenge. The issue is that we now have in China a regime that believes its time has come and also believes that India is taking certain steps that are important to be countered in real time. The combination of these variables means that Indian diplomacy and military thinking will have to evolve more rapidly than we had earlier assumed.

**While deliberations continue on a possible proposal for disengagement and de-escalation to end the stand-off, the close proximity of deployments leaves a possibility for escalation. If so, what are India's strengths and weaknesses?**

**LGDSH:** In case there is a two-front conflict or threat, we will need to designate a primary and secondary theatre based on who presents the greater danger. We can't have matching strengths on both the fronts. If the primary threat is from China, that presents a much greater challenge to India. So, when talking about strengths and weaknesses, I'll talk about China being the sort of primary theatre of operations. India and the Indian military have some distinct strengths. Over the years, we have built extremely strong defences along the border. These high altitude areas are not easy for the People's Liberation Army (PLA) to apply major force because of logistical and terrain constraints. The Air Force has a geographical advantage over the PLA Air Force and has also built a fairly strong strategic airlift capability. Our Navy has a significant edge over the PLA Navy in the Indian Ocean and there is pretty good maritime domain awareness.

Having said that, there are also some weaknesses. China has a much greater military potential. And if they're able to bring this mil-

itary potential to bear, we could have a big challenge, even in the Indian Ocean. The PLA also has a technology edge in some very critical areas like ballistic missile, electronic warfare, cyber, air defence, etc., which are going to play a significant role in future warfare. And finally, despite all our efforts, there are shortfalls in infrastructure along the northern borders.

**Army Chief General M.M. Naravane had termed Siachen as the closest point of 'collusivity' between China and Pakistan. And Chinese troops continue to block Indian Army patrols in the Depsang Plains. How detrimental would a setback in Depsang mean and will Siachen now be a bigger flashpoint?**

**LGDSH:** When we talk of Siachen, we are talking of the Saltoro ridge with heights ranging from 18,000 ft to more than 20,000 ft. This is a geographical barrier that is not going to be easy to breach. We should not look at 'collusivity' of China and Pakistan purely in geographic terms but in strategic terms. Siachen is important but geographically it is very difficult to carry out major military operations there. Depsang is strategically important to us not just because it gives access to Siachen, but because it's an area where we have the DS-DBO road which is a vital link to the northern areas of Ladakh and to the DBO airfield. The terrain in Depsang lends itself to fairly large mechanised manoeuvres. It's an area where an attacking force has an advantage. When we are looking at resolving the current crisis and the focus is on the North and South Bank of Pangong Tso, strategically Depsang is more important. Therefore, it must be a part of our disengagement process.

**C The idea that it is possible to disentangle China from Pakistan should be put to rest because India doesn't have instrumentalities to make it possible.**

HARSH PANT

**A few days ago, Pakistan accused India of supporting terror attacks on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). Will the CPEC emerge as a major point of friction with Pakistan and China?**

**HVP:** Yes, it has already emerged as a major variable in terms of how we define our relationship with both Pakistan and China. We always knew that China and Pakistan were getting closer, but with CPEC, a new dimension has been added to that relationship. And the more China feels vulnerable in the CPEC, the more open and explicit its policies have become vis-à-vis India. This has also allowed India to be more open about its policies with China. So, it's not all negative. And if the CPEC is the fulcrum around which a China-Pakistan collusion is emerging or will emerge in the future, then India knows the challenge is emanating from a particular pressure point and needs to have countervailing mechanisms in place. But the larger idea at one point that many in India had – that it is possible to disentangle China from Pakistan – that should now be put to rest because India doesn't have instrumentalities to make it possible. In Indian foreign policy and policymaking circles, we do see Pakistan as part of a larger China problem.

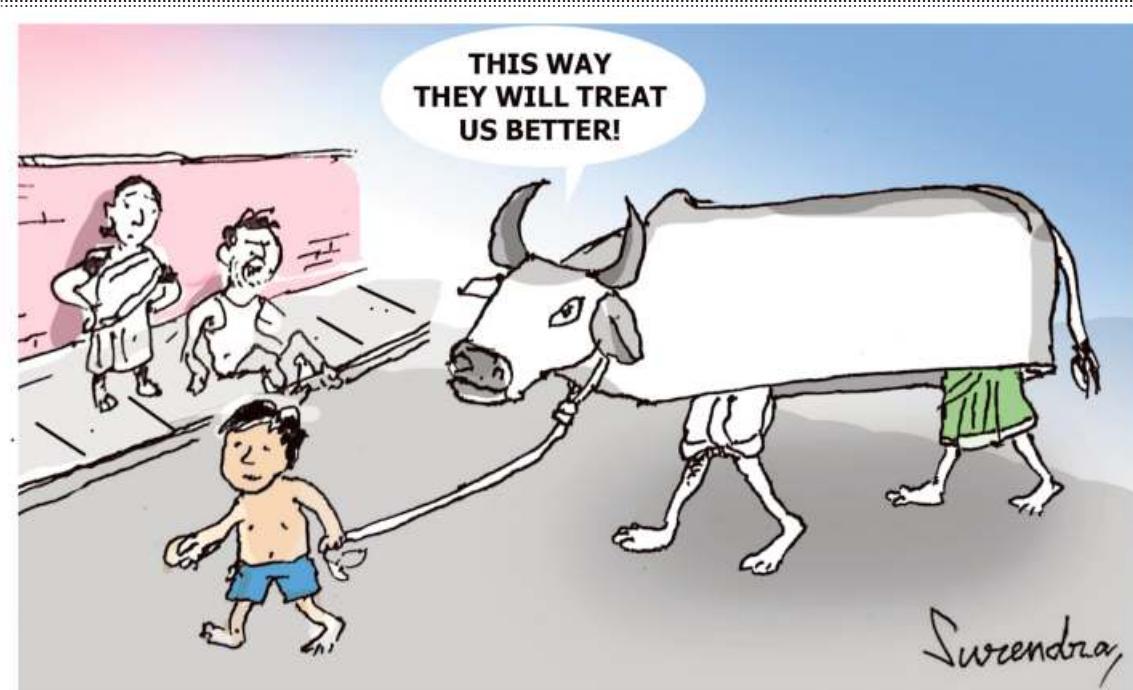
**In the evolving security and diplomatic architecture in the Indo-Pacific, how will the geopolitics of the three play out?**

at some of these partnerships that India had now getting operationalised in real time. That will have a bearing on how China views the world. The Chinese have been very sensitive about the Quad and Indo-Pacific. They were insistent that Indo-Pacific as a narrative should not really catch up. Now they have lost that battle, because the Indo-Pacific is widely accepted as a framework through which you look at the region and at the maritime dynamic. And Chinese behaviour itself is a major driver of the challenge.

**There is now a new dynamic and a new normal on the LAC. How is it going to go forward once this stand-off is over?**

**LGDSH:** Even if the current crisis is resolved peacefully, I don't think we are getting back to the status quo as it existed. We are going to see greater militarisation along the LAC, if I may use the word. The old protocols and agreements that guided the conduct of soldiers on both sides have all broken down. So, greater distrust is going to now be the new normal for the next few years, at least until such time, if at all, we can put in place new protocols, new agreements, get a degree of trust again between the two militaries. Not only in Ladakh, we will see it all along the LAC in Sikkim and even Arunachal Pradesh. At the larger level, we were conscious that at some stage China will emerge as the greater military threat, as far as India is concerned. And that moment seems to have sort of come now. We also must be conscious of the fact that the power differential between India and China is only set to grow in the future. At the strategic level, there needs to be greater dialogue between the civil and military leaderships to see how this can be bridged. Unfortunately, our state of civil-military relationship and the structures that are in place don't really encourage an open dialogue between the military leadership and the political leadership. That's something the government needs to look at and see how it can be changed. Even our strategic and doctrinal thinking of how we are going to handle a two-front threat if it comes requires very extensive debate between the political leadership and military leadership. The size of the defence budget is decreasing, which is also a challenge.

**HVP:** The attempt from the Indian side diplomatically was to have these bilateral engagements and agreements with major powers it felt very comfortable with, partly because India has been reluctant to join any alliance framework. Unlike in the past, where relationships were seen as constraining India's strategic autonomy, now the argument is that these relationships enhance India's space to manoeuvre vis-à-vis China in particular. I don't think the challenge of China and how it needs to be managed is going to go away soon. So, we are looking



### NOTEBOOK

## Looking for greatness in small gestures

When leaders write their memoirs, it is the finer points that remain

SUHASINI HAIDAR

If I had blinked, I would have missed the gesture. The crowd in the East Room of the White House grew more hushed, as it became clear that U.S. President Barack Obama and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh would be coming out any minute now. The room had an equal mix of officials and journalists, both Indian and American, waiting to record their initial remarks of the visit, which was the first state visit the Obamas had hosted since Mr. Obama's swearing-in (2009).

I found myself jostled into a corner that would allow me to see only the backs of the leaders when they came out, and resigned myself to getting no great pictures. But what I saw instead gave me a glimpse of the small gestures that go into being great. As Mr. Obama fin-

ished speaking, he stepped back to make way for Dr. Singh, but not before putting out one shoe, and neatly pulling out a footstool that would allow the considerably shorter Prime Minister Singh to stand at the podium with the mike at the right height for him. The move was done with respect and a smile for Dr. Singh, and it showed a leader not unwilling to carry out a task normally handed to staff or security officers.

In Mr. Obama's book for example, it is his brutal honesty about Michelle Obama's distaste for politics, and his description of the tensions over his decision to run for office, that make the book relatable. His relationship with his daughters, who he fears are growing up too fast, or moments with his dogs; the mementos Mr. Obama holds most dear (a magazine cover of the Selma March, a brick out of Lin-

coln's legal office, a pair of Muhammad Ali's boxing gloves); or the ordinary emotions like fear and nervousness he feels when taking major decisions on the campaign trail, the invasion of Libya, or ordering the raid that killed Osama bin Laden make the experiences memorable.

The President himself ends an account of his visit to the pyramids in Egypt just after his famous Cairo address, where he finds a rock carving of a man with big ears "like handles" quite like his own.

Comparing his plight to those of the Pharaohs, Mr. Obama recounts how the ruins made him realise the impermanence of his actions.

"Just as every speech I'd delivered, every law I passed and decision I made would soon be forgotten. Just as I and all those I loved would someday turn to dust," he writes.

The Hindu

### FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 20, 1970

Question on sex in advertisements

A question on nudity and sex appeal in newspaper advertisements gave the Lok Sabha today [November 19, New Delhi] an opportunity to burst into peals of laughter. Mr. Raghuvin Singh Shastri, who asked the main question, flourished newspapers which, he said, were copies of a Bombay weekly containing photographs of nude women. He quoted from another Bombay weekly in which three girls had demanded publication of photographs of nude males and not the photographs of glamour girls alone. The Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, Mr. I. K. Gujral, said the Centre was examining the question in all its aspects with a view to evolving suitable measures in consultation with the interests concerned to curb the tendency of exploiting sex appeal in advertisements. While Mr. Raghuvin Singh Shastri complained of an advertisement showing a boy and a girl under one blanket, Mr. Jameshwar Mishra said these advertisements were mostly seen by people above 50 (Laughter).

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO NOV. 20, 1920

National forgiveness  
(From an editorial)

The call for truce is still going on. The advice to forgive and forget the wrongs inflicted on the nation during the Punjab disturbances is being insistently pressed upon the Indian public with an almost Christian fervour by those who are themselves responsible for the ignoble tragedy. But national and international wrongs cannot be so easily forgotten without due regard for future safety. The necessity for discretion in the exercise of these virtues in national affairs is only increased when the appeal for peace comes from the erstwhile wrong-doers themselves, without any of the assuring manifestations of a repentant mind. No doubt a section of our countrymen, enamoured of the new dispensation, have shown only a too ready willingness to forget the insult and join in the chorus for an unreal peace. But the nation at large have awakened to the fundamental issues involved in the question and realised the serious dangers of passing lightly over such significant episodes in foreign domination. Hence it had refused to forgive or forget the memory of the Punjab until sufficient reparation for the past and adequate guarantees for the future are made by the grant of Swaraj.

## FROM PAGE ONE

## 4 militants killed in toll plaza gunfight

"No outside forces can derail us from our mission of peace and progress in J&K," Mr. Sinha said.

Mr. Singh said the police were receiving inputs about a possible infiltration bid by the JeM and Lashkar-e-Taiba in Jammu, ever since the announcement of the District Development Council (DDC) polls.

"We had kept all our teams deployed at check-points," he stated.

The truck was heading to Kashmir. "They [militants] seemed to be planning a big

strike in Kashmir. It is the first time in the past few years that such a large quantity of weapons have been recovered from slain militants. Pouches, mobile phones and other incriminating material were also recovered," he added.

The operation was carried out jointly by the police, the CRPF and the Army.

It is the second such encounter at the toll plaza this year.

Three militants were killed in similar circumstances on January 30 last.

## Gold trafficking case: row over 'leaked' audio



V. Muraleedharan

afterthought aimed to benefit the CPI(M) politically," he said.

Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee president Mullaipally Ramachandran said Mr. Vijayan's media advisers had scripted the 'drama' to divert public attention from multiple scandals that have beset the government. Leader of the Opposition Ramesh Chennithala demanded an inquiry into the matter.

Alleging that the Central agencies had offered inducements to the suspects to depose against Mr. Vijayan, the party said a court in Kochi had also doubted the grounds for the arrest of Sivasankar.

The BJP and the United Democratic Front were behind the plot to destabilise the government, the CPI(M) said, adding that it would build a wall of popular resistance against the move to rob the government of its mandate.

## Oppn. response

However, Minister of State for External Affairs V. Muraleedharan said the 'leaked' audiotape was a bid by Mr. Vijayan's office to whitewash the 'sleazy' record of the government and play the victim ahead of the local body polls. "The tape is an

## Bihar Minister quits hours after taking charge

An FIR was lodged against him at the Sabour police station under Sections 409, 420, 467, 468, 471 and 120(B) of Indian Penal Code. Some accused persons were arrested, but Mr. Choudhury secured bail.

## Fabricated case

"Chargesheet against me in the case has not been filed," Mr. Choudhury told presspersons on Wednesday. The investigation is still on. "It was a fabricated and false case against me... filing an FIR doesn't mean one is guilty," he said.

JDU leader K.C. Tyagi said, "This reflects Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's zero tolerance for corruption and it has set precedent for others." Party leader and spokesperson Neeraj Kumar said, "Mr. Choudhury's resignation has shown a mirror to others."

But RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav took a dig at Mr. Kumar. "You made him a Minister and handed him the Education department. Later you create a drama over his resignation. But, first of

all, why did you make him a Minister? You're the real culprit."

Party spokesperson Mrityunjay Tiwari, said, "Mr. Choudhury resigns after Opposition's continuous attack on the Chief Minister's zero tolerance for corruption... but, the question is how was he induced into the Cabinet by Mr. Kumar despite knowing about corruption charges against him?"

Senior State Congress leader and party spokesperson Prem Chandra Mishra said, "by inducing a person like Mewalal Choudhury into his Cabinet, Nitish Kumar has been thoroughly exposed on his zero tolerance for corruption claim."

Meanwhile, former Bihar Chief Minister and president of the Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular) Jitan Ram Manjhi was sworn in as the pro-tem Speaker. He was administered the oath of office by Governor Phagu Chauhan.

A five-day inaugural session of the newly constituted Assembly is scheduled to begin on November 23.

## Ayurveda can be used in mild COVID-19 cases'

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Going back on its order that qualified AYUSH doctors may not prescribe any drug as a cure for COVID-19, the Kerala government has now decided to incorporate the National Clinical Management Protocol based on Ayurveda and Yoga, endorsed by the AYUSH Ministry, in the management of mild COVID-19 patients.

Accordingly, patients who are either asymptomatic or have only mild or uncomplicated disease may be administered Ayurveda strategies for the mitigation and rehabilitation of COVID-19, a new order issued by the State Department of AYUSH said.

## S. ANIL RADHAKRISHNAN

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The willow warbler (*Phylloscopus trochilus*), one of the longest migrating small birds that breeds throughout northern and temperate Europe and the Palearctic, has been sighted for the first time in the country in Thiruvananthapuram.

The bird was spotted by Nirmal George, Associate Professor in Pharmacology and programme officer of the National Service Scheme (NSS) of Sree Gokulam Medical College and Research Foundation, Venjaramoodu, on November 14.

## Unique behaviour

"The abnormal behaviour, shape, and non-familiarity with other warblers com-

monly seen in this area was what caught my attention. The photographs were taken from a distance. Although I visited the area again in the evening to get more photos of the bird, I had to return home disappointed," says Dr. George.

**Tiny traveller:** The willow warbler, one of the longest migrating small birds, seen in Kerala. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

posting of the photographs of the bird on the WhatsApp group of his birding team and consultations with 10 international experts helped identify the bird.

"It is the first time that *Phylloscopus trochilus* is being sighted and reported in

the country," he said. The bird weighs around 10 g and it has long wing feathers that help it fly long distances. Usually seen in European and the Palearctic regions, the birds migrate to sub-Saharan Africa during early winter.

Warblers are generally difficult to identify owing to the small size and change in plumage twice a year.

They are also the most difficult groups of birds to identify in the field for their striking resemblance to each other.

Dr. George has identified 163 species of birds and photographed over 100 species. Most of them are from Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Pathanamthitta, and Idukki districts.

As many as seven species of warblers have been recorded from the Vellayani-Punchakkari fields, of which Blyth's reed warbler and clamorous reed warbler are common.

**APPEAL**

Name of Patient: Master Himadri Bishayee, 18 months. Hospital Name: Christian Medical College, Vellore. Diagnosis: Chronic Granulomatous Disease (CGD). This is the best treatment option for him would be to undergo Allogenic Peripheral Blood Stem Cell Transplant (PBSCT). The estimated cost of Hemopoietic transplant at our centre will come to approximately Rs. 25,00,000/-

We request Kind Hearted Philanthropists to save him, kindly write A/C Himadri Bishayee S/IB Account No. 20000913487, State Bank of India, Raj Annamalaiapuram Branch, and IFSC CODE: SBIN001655, which is exempted under 80G of I.T.C.

Contact: SAVE POOR LIVES REGISTERED PUBLIC CHARITABLE TRUST, (ADMIN DIVISION) Flat No. A1, Ceebos Garden, Ground Floor, Old No.76, Kamrajara Salai, Raj Annamalaiapuram, Chennai - 600 028. Ph: 044-42044165, Mobile: 9884607377, E-mail: savepoorlives@gmail.com . Our website: www.savepoorlives.com Donation sent in October month for Rs. 2,37,160/-

## Top Kerala bureaucrat indicted in flyover case

Industries Secretary Mohammed Hanish denies Vigilance Bureau's charges of corruption in construction of Kochi flyover

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau (VACB) on Thursday indicted Kerala's Industries Secretary A.P.M. Mohammed Hanish for corruption in the "shoddy" construction of the recently commissioned flyover bridge at Palarivattom in Kochi.

Mr. Hanish was the managing director of the Road and Bridges Development Corporation of Kerala (RBDC) at the time of implementation of the scheme.

Officials at the VACB here said the agency filed an addendum in the court of the Enquiry Commissioner and Special Judge, Vigilance, Muvattupuzha, naming Mr. Hanish as the 10th accused in the corruption case.

The VACB alleged that Mr. Hanish had recommended to the government to advance ₹9 crore to the builder as a loan to expedite the work. He allegedly wrote a letter to the then Public Works Secretary T.O.

Sooraj, currently an accused in the corruption case, seeking a credit advance for the builder.

The agency alleged that the Public Works Department (PWD) had subsequently extended a loan to the builder at a nominal rate interest and brazenly advantageous terms of repayment, thus stacking the decks in favour of the borrower at considerable loss to the public exchequer.

The VACB also accused the government of not ensuring a security deposit from the contractor.

Officials said the PWD had initially decided not to award the contract to financially unsound builders. It had also ruled out extending credit to those who undertake public works.

However, the PWD had waived the stipulations for the private builder as a one-off case, pointing to favouritism, the agency alleged.

It said that the govern-



DYFI activists marching in Palarivattom, seeking the resignation of MLA Ebrahim Kunju on Thursday. ■ THULASI KAKKAT

ment's 'largesse' to the builder had, by a conservative estimate, cost the public exchequer ₹82 lakh in terms of interest alone. It pegged the total loss to exchequer caused by the faulty construction at more than ₹30 crore.

Mr. Hanish had denied the charges. By one account, Mr. Hanish stated that he had merely forwarded a letter from the builder seeking a

'mobilisation advance' to jump-start the project to the PWD. Mr. Hanish had also denied that he had indulged in any corruption.

## Seeks medical report

Meanwhile, the VACB has sought the formation of a medical board to ascertain the health condition of former Public Works Minister V.K. Ebrahim Kunju, MLA, who was arrested on Wednesday

in connection with the Palarivattom flyover construction scam.

The VACB, which sought the custody of the legislator till November 21 before the court of the Enquiry Commissioner and Special Judge, Vigilance, Muvattupuzha, wanted his health condition to be evaluated as Mr. Kunju was admitted to a private hospital for medical treatment.

Mr. Kunju was intentionally refusing to cooperate with the investigation and reluctant to reveal what he knew. Hence, his custodial interrogation was inevitable for the investigation of the case, the agency submitted.

Sumeet Goyal, managing director of RDS Projects Limited; V.V. Nagesh of Nagesh Consultancy, Bengaluru; T.O.

Sooraj, former Public Works Secretary; and officials of Kitco and the Roads and Bridges Development Corporation, Kerala, are the other accused in the case.

The allegation against the accused is that they con-

spired and committed criminal misconduct by abusing their official positions as public servants.

The accused, by corrupt or illegal means, acted without any public interest causing pecuniary advantage to RDS Projects Limited and corresponding loss to the State government.

There were also reasons to believe that the accused persons gained undue pecuniary advantage in the work of the flyover, which was a sub-standard one, the agency submitted.

The accused compromised on the quality and quantity of the materials used for the construction of the flyover, thereby jeopardising public safety.

Counsel for Mr. Kunju, who denied the allegations of corruption, sought time for submitting more documents in the case.

The agency wanted the custody of the accused till November 21. The court will consider the custody application on November 24.

## KTR warns against divisive politics

R. RAVIKANTH REDDY



K.T. Rama Rao

agenda of "hated politics".

Mr. Rao warned that any effort to incite trouble in the city would be crushed with an iron hand and the TRS would not let anyone hinder the city's growth.

## Central agencies are being misused: CPI(M)

Accused in gold smuggling case were pressured to name political leaders'

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The CPI (M) Polit Bureau in a statement condemned the manner in which the Enforcement Directorate and other central investigating agencies were being "misused" to "destabilise" the democratically-elected Left government in Kerala and target Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

"Central investigations into the gold smuggling case under the UAPA over the allegation that the money received through such smuggling was being used for anti-national activities is instead being used to implicate the political leadership of the ruling LDF government

in Kerala," the statement said.

The statement said two of the accused, who are now in custody, have said they were being pressured to name the political leadership in return for being allowed to turn approvers, from being charged as accused.

## Unconstitutional move

"This is absolutely atrocious and unacceptable. BJP Central government is using the Central agencies to undermine the basic tenets of the Indian Constitution and grossly misuse them to advance their political interests through such unconstitutional means," the statement added. The party said it is

confident that the people of Kerala will give a befitting reply to the machinations by the BJP.

Earlier in the day, in the latest edition of its mouthpiece, *People's Democracy*, the Communist Party of India (Marxist) alleged that the four central agencies – the National Investigation Agency, Customs, Enforcement Directorate and Central Bureau of Investigation – probing the gold-smuggling case, are "using it as a springboard to extend their enquiries into various government projects and schemes".

The editorial said when the smuggling of gold through diplomatic baggage was discovered in July, the editorial further said that the Congress and BJP in the State were working together.

Chief Minister had promptly asked the Centre to investigate the case through one of its appropriate agencies, as was necessary since the goods were smuggled from abroad.

## No case prima facie

It alleged that the Union Home Ministry entrusted the case to the NIA, even though there was no prima facie ground to suspect any terror funding or national security threat. It then went on to describe the roles played by the other investigating agencies in the case.

The editorial said when the smuggling of gold through diplomatic baggage was discovered in July, the editorial further said that the Congress and BJP in the State were working together.

## Kerala records further dip in test positivity at 8.54%

Positivity in Andhra Pradesh at 1.75%; Karnataka witnesses 26 deaths

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala registered 5,722 new COVID-19 cases on Thursday, when 67,017 samples were tested, showing a further dip in test positivity at 8.54%.

The Health department recorded 26 more COVID deaths. Eight deaths were re-

ported from Malappuram, five from Kozhikode, four from Thrissur, three from Thiruvananthapuram, two each from Ernakulam and Kottayam and one each from Kannur and Alappuzha.

Telangana conducted 38,757 tests on Wednesday. Till mid-June, only around 1,000 samples were tested in

A sharp spike daily testing was recorded from August 25, when around 60,000 people were tested. This continued till September 11 and gradually decreased thereafter. In November, between 40,000 and 45,000 samples were tested.

On Wednesday 1,058 tested positive, while four more patients died. The new cases included 168 in Greater Hyderabad, 93 in Medchal Malajigiri, 91 in Rangareddy and two in Jogulamba Gadwal, besides four in Adilabad.

Karnataka reported 1,849 new cases and 26 deaths on Thursday. Bengaluru urban district, though witnessing a reduction in incidence, added maximum new cases to the State's tally at 1,048.

Tumakuru reported 103 new cases.

Andhra Pradesh reported 1,316 new infections and 11 deaths on Thursday. At

## Parliamentary panel questions Twitter

MPs raise Kunal Kamra's tweets

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Data Protection Bill questioned representatives of Twitter on the "selective removal and suspension of accounts", specifically giving the example of stand-up comic Kunal Kamra's recent tweets attacking the Supreme Court for granting TV anchor Arnav Goswami a reprieve after his arrest in an abetment to suicide case.

The panel had asked Twitter to explain its policy regarding suspension of accounts and removing "offensive" tweets. Twitter representatives were called in on Thursday after the panel found that their written response was inadequate.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, committee Chairperson Meenakshi Lekhi said, "Twitter, in their written response, claimed that they do not promote obscenity and profanity. We showed them Mr. Kamra's tweets and asked them how exactly are these tweets still running." She said that Mr. Kamra's tweets showed disrespect to the constitutional



Meenakshi Lekhi

head of the justice system of the country.

Twitter was also asked if it was because of the algorithm or manual intervention that some "content" got promoted over others.

According to sources, members across party lines questioned the Twitter representatives.

Meanwhile, Standing Committee Chairman for Information and Technology Shashi Tharoor questioned the mandate of the joint committee to take up these issues.

In reply, Ms. Lekhi said, "I expected better understanding of law and jurisdictional issues from someone who is heading the Standing Committee on IT."

## Digital India is now a way of life, says PM

'Technology first' is our governance model, India's local solutions can go global, says Modi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Digital India mission, launched five years ago, is not being seen as any regular government initiative and has now become a way of life, especially for the poor and marginalised and those in the government, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday. He asserted that 'technology first' was their governance model.

"India is uniquely positioned to leap ahead in the information era. We have the best minds as well as the biggest market. Our local tech solutions have the potential to go global ... It is time for tech solutions that are designed in India but deployed for the world," he said in a virtual address at Bengaluru Tech Summit 2020.

Addressing the summit, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison said India and Australia had unlimited possibilities of working together in space research, critical minerals, 5G, Artificial Intelligence, quantum computing and much more.

**Tech and COVID-19'**  
Mr. Modi said that at the peak of the COVID-19 lockdown, it was technology that ensured that the poor received proper and quick assistance.



Important forum: Narendra Modi addressing the Bengaluru Tech Summit 2020 on Thursday. ■ PTI

"It is technology that gave confidence that we could vaccinate our large population in a short period of time. Technology has also played a vital role in the success of world's largest healthcare scheme, Ayushman Bharat," he said.

Talking of the government's 'Swamritva' scheme, Mr. Modi observed that giving land titles to millions of people in rural areas was an ambitious scheme and it would be achieved through technology like drones.

"This will not only bring to an end many disputes but will also empower people. Once property rights are given, technology solutions can ensure prosperity," he said.

He called on youth to play a big role in devising robust cybersecurity solutions which, he noted, could effectively "vaccinate digital products against cyberattacks and viruses".

The Prime Minister said, "We are in the middle of information era and change was 'disruptive and big'.

Achievements of the industrial era are in the rear view mirror, and now, we are in the middle of the information era. Future is coming sooner than anticipated." The government had taken measures to ease the compliance burden on the IT industry, he added.

Highlighting the differences between the industrial age and the information age, he said that in the information era, the first mover did not matter, the best mover did, and that "anyone can make a product any time that disrupts all existing equations of the market". In the industrial era, boundaries mattered, but the information era was "all about going beyond boundaries", he said. Technology was also setting the pace for the defence sector to evolve, said Mr. Modi, adding that from software to drones to UAVs, technology was redefining the defence sector.

Mr. Morrison said they would soon launch the Australia-India cyber and critical

Panel mulls if MPs can teach at universities

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Joint Parliamentary Committee on Office of Profit headed by BJP MP Satya Pal Singh on Thursday deliberated on whether an MP can continue to teach at a university and if this draws the provisions of 'Office of Profit' rules.

Two Rajya Sabha members - RJD's Manoj K. Jha and BJP's Rakesh Kumar Sinha - along with Lok Sabha member Sukanta Majumdar, are full-time academics. So far, the committee has not taken any call on the issue. Representatives of the Ministry of Law and Justice have reportedly sought more time from the panel. The committee has also called representatives from Delhi University, where Mr. Jha and Mr. Sinha teach, and from University of Gour Banga, Malda, West Bengal, where Mr. Majumdar teaches, in the next meeting.

Under Article 102 (i) and Article 191 (i) of the Constitution, an MP or an MLA (or an MLC) is barred from holding any office of profit under the Central or State government.

₹8 cr. gold looted from firm in Odisha

STAFF REPORTER  
BHUBANESWAR

In a major robbery at a financial firm, miscreants decamped with gold ornaments worth ₹8 crore to ₹10 crore from India Infoline Finance Ltd. (IIFL), a gold-loan leasing company, in Cuttack on Thursday.

Four persons, wearing helmets, entered the IIFL's Nayasak branch around the opening hour and committed the robbery at gunpoint, with only a few customers around.

"They took away around ₹4.3 lakh in cash and gold worth ₹8 crore to ₹10 crore. Only a few packets containing gold are lying inside the bank. The exact worth of gold would be known once the audit report is tallied," said Satya Pradhan, IIFL manager.

Cuttack Deputy Commissioner of Police, Prateek Singh, told mediapersons that four robbers had come on motorbikes and fled the spot after filling bags with gold ornaments.

"A special team has been formed to nab the culprits. We are examining CCTV footage," he said. Last February, robbers looted about 30 kg of gold worth ₹12 crore from an IIFL branch in Ludhiana.

## Naqvi kick-starts campaign in J&K

Gupkar front is 'Gumrahi gang', he says

PEERZADA ASHIQ  
SRINAGAR



Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi in Kupwara on Thursday. ■ PTI

Senior BJP leader and Union Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi on Thursday kick-started the party's campaign for the District Development Council (DDC) polls in Kupwara of in north Kashmir on Thursday, and described the Gupkar alliance as the "Gumrahi gang" of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).

"The Gupkar Declaration will prove to be a dying declaration for dynastic and destructive politics of the Congress and alliance in J&K. The Gupkar Gang has become Gumrahi Gang, which is trying to create confusion among people for narrow-minded political interests," said Mr. Naqvi, who arrived in Srinagar on Thursday.

**'A conspiracy'**  
He said the alliance was a well-thought-out conspiracy against the people of J&K. "Dynamic and feudal arrogance of those people has been shattered who were involved in loot of public money sent for the development of Jammu-Kashmir and Leh-Ladakh by using

## Bypoll to RS seat from Bihar on Dec. 14

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission said the bypoll to fill the Rajya Sabha seat from Bihar, that fell vacant after the death of Ram Vilas Paswan, will be held on December 14. It said the notification would be issued on November 26 and the last date of filing nominations would be December 3.

the shield of Article 370."

Mr. Naqvi was addressing the first major public rally in Kupwara ever since the polls were announced this month. It was also the first major rally since the Centre ended J&K's special status last year. All the top leaders of the Gupkar alliance have lain low so far and decided against organising public rallies in the Valley.

On the alliance's decision to contest the polls, Mr. Naqvi said, "Those parties are also contesting the polls that claimed that they would not do it unless the August 5 decision is reversed." He said it was after the dilution of Article 370 that the rights of the people of Jammu-Kashmir and Leh-Kargil have been provided absolute constitutional protection.

## Cong. issues notice to former Jharkhand MP

Furkan Ansari had said Rahul needs 'political advisers instead of MBA graduates'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Mr. Ansari said Mr. Gandhi needed "political advisers" instead of the MBA graduates in his office.

Stating that he has written to party chief Sonia Gandhi and Mr. Gandhi on the need to revamp the organisation, Mr. Ansari said people who attended Mr. Gandhi's election rally at Bihar's Kahalganj did not understand what he said.

Following the Bihar election debacle, where the party contested 70 seats but managed to win only 19,

The former MP from Godda also attacked the All India Congress Committee (AICC) in charge for Jharkhand, R.P.N. Singh, claiming that he did not deserve to be even a block president.

Acting against such an outburst, the Jharkhand Pradesh Congress Committee asked Mr. Ansari, whose son is an MLA, to explain his remarks that have violated party discipline. The party's move is aimed at sending a clear message to all the leaders not to speak out of turn on the recent polls as well as the leadership.

Soon after the Bihar polls, the Congress again witnessed rumblings, with senior leader Kapil Sibal questioning the silence of the top leadership over the poor show.

## HC notice to Centre on same-sex marriage plea

Court tells govt. to submit its response

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court (HC) on Thursday issued notice to the Union government on a petition seeking a direction to recognise same-sex unions under the Hindu Marriage Act (HMA) and the Special Marriage Act (SMA).

The court asked the Centre to submit its response within four weeks and listed the case for hearing along with two other pleas seeking similar relief.

The petition was filed by members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community and activists Abhijit Iyer Mitra, Gopi Shankar M., Giti Thadani and G. Oorvasi.

The plea said that in 2018, the Supreme Court decriminalised consensual homosexual sex. It said there was nothing in the HMA that mandated that marriage should take place only between a Hindu man and a Hindu woman.

"Section 5 of the [HMA]

Act clearly lays down that marriage can be performed between 'any two Hindus' under the Act," the plea said.

While there was no bar under the HMA and the SMA against gay marriages, they were not being registered throughout the country and in Delhi. "As a result of the same, there are many benefits that would otherwise be available to heterosexual married couples that are not available to them," the plea said. It argued that the prohibition of marriage of LGBT people on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity was violative of the right to equality.

The court is also seized of two other petitions. One of them is filed by two women living as a couple for eight years. The other has been moved by two men, who got married in the U.S., but their marriage registration was denied under the Foreign Marriage Act as it excluded same-sex marriage.

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD.  
KOTA SUPER THERMAL POWER STATION, Kota-324008  
Ph./Fax 0744-277134/2370061, E-mail: ctceps@gmail.com

E-TENDER NOTICE

Online E-tenders are invited for procurement and works contract of TN-15174(RVU2021GLOB01271) Supply and replacement of different sized metallic expansion joint, 15175(RVU2021GLOB01274) Supply of Hot end, Hot intermediate end & cold end heating elements for air pre heaters & 18185(RVU2021GLOB01266) Repair/Replacement of 200 TR capacity HVAC plant of stage-I including supply, erection, Testing & commissioning. Tender details are available on websites <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> (for e-tender), [www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in) & [www.sppr.rajasthan.gov.in](http://www.sppr.rajasthan.gov.in).

RJN\_Samwad/C20/6865

Chief Engineer(KSTS)

Tender No.

Material Description

Due Date

202113 Procurement of Liquid Chlorine 04.12.2020

003787

202113 Procurement of 720 GSM Kraft Corru. Circular Disc (5 Ply) - 97 cm for Unit-I and Unit-II 04.12.2020

003829 Terms & conditions, Specifications, Qty., Tender Fee, EMD are available in Tender document at our Websites: [www.tnpl.com](http://www.tnpl.com) / [www.tenders.tn.gov.in](http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in)

DIPR/4325/Tender/2020

TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper

GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT,  
FINANCE DEPARTMENT  
Thiruvananthapuram  
http://www.etenders.kerala.gov.in, E-Tender Notice (CORRIGENDUM)  
Tender ID: 2020\_FIN\_391774\_1  
**INVITATION FOR REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)**  
for Implementing Medical Insurance Scheme for State Employees and Pensioners (MEDISEP) CORRIGENDUM  
The Finance Department, Government of Kerala, publishes Corrigendum with reference to the Request for Proposal (RFP) for implementing Medical Insurance Scheme for State Employees, and Pensioners (MEDISEP).  
For details visit <http://www.etenders.kerala.gov.in>  
1867/F4/2020/I&PR

KSEB KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED - E-TENDER NOTICE  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER , PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT - PALAKKAD

Tender ID : 2020\_KSEB\_393751\_1 \* Laying, Testing and Commissioning of 13.5 Km of 11kV XLPE Aluminium UG Cable by HDD & conventional methods (12.5 kms AAA) at various locations under Electrical Circle, Palakkad \*

PAC : Rs.2,64,63,458/- Last Date : 30-11-2020, 3 PM

Visit [www.etenders.kerala.gov.in](http://www.etenders.kerala.gov.in) and [www.kseb.in](http://www.kseb.in)

Ref: PR/MC/1/E 250/E-Tender/2020

**SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF T. S. LTD.**

Chief General Manager Operation, Ranga Reddy Zone, KPHB Colony, Hyderabad

e-Procurement Tender Notice (Paper Notification)

TSSPDCL intends to float (i) tenders for procurement of GI wire 4mm, GI Stay Wire 7/2.5 mm, GI Stay Wire 7/3.15 mm, 33K Polymer Pin insulators with GI Pins, 11KV Polymer Insulators (C&T), 100 Sq.mm AAA Conductor and Integrated Spot Billing Machines (ii) Auctions for Various scrap materials available in all district stores of TSSPDCL and Survey reported scrapped vehicles on e-procurement platform.

For further details, please visit [www.tts.tlengana.gov.in](http://www.tts.tlengana.gov.in) and [www.auction.tlengana.gov.in](http://www.auction.tlengana.gov.in). Phone: 040-23431319, 1026, 1360, 1033, 1035 Sd/- (U, BALASWAMY) R.O.NO.1143-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2020-21 Chief General Manager (P&MM)

**K-Rail KERALA RAIL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED**

E Tender

E Tenders are invited for Geotechnical investigations along the corridor between Thiruvananthapuram to Kasaragod for Semi High Speed Rail Corridor (Silver Line).

Tender No KRDC/L/18/2020

Tender documents can be downloaded from [etenders.kerala.gov.in](http://etenders.kerala.gov.in). For more details visit [www.keralarail.com](http://www.keralarail.com)

**RajCOMP Info Services Limited (RISL)**

C-Block, 1st Floor, Yojana Bhawan, Tilak Marg, C-Scheme, Jaipur.

## INTERVIEW | BHUPESH BAGHEL

# 'Anyone can be arrested now by being branded an urban naxal'

Real action against urban naxals has been taken by the Chhattisgarh government by arresting those supplying materials to naxals, says State Chief Minister

VIJAYA SINGH  
SANDEEP PHUKAN

*Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel raises concerns over reduction in Central funding to combat naxalism and questions the National Investigation Agency (NIA)'s tardy progress in probing major encounters.*

What is the extent of the spread of Left-wing Extremism (LWE) in Chhattisgarh?

■ Half of Chhattisgarh is affected by LWE. So far, the policy to solve the problem of naxalism has been a bullet in response to a bullet. Because of this policy, many tribals were arrested or killed; they were sandwiched between naxals and the security forces. Top naxal leaders have either been arrested or killed. In the year 2017-18, around 350 Naxals surrendered, this year already 302 naxals have surrendered... A solution cannot be reached only at the point of a gun, this is a political, social and economic issue.

In 2018, the Union Home Ministry removed three districts of Chhattisgarh from the list of LWE-affected districts? Any other districts being removed soon?

**IN BRIEF**

**SURAKSHA CHALLENGE**  
19 Nov 2020 - 15 Aug 2021  
y, 19 November 2020 2:30 PM on

**Mechanised sewer cleaning plan launched**

**NEW DELHI**  
The Union Housing and Urban Affairs (HUA) Ministry on Thursday launched a challenge for 243 cities to switch over to mechanised cleaning of sewers and septic tanks by April 30, 2021. Launching the Safaimitra Suraksha Challenge, HUA Minister Hardeep Puri said there should not be any casualty due to manual cleaning of sewers. The Centre, States and private-public partnerships would give funds to municipalities to buy cleaning machines.

**Ensure journalists' safety, Guild urges Assam govt.**

**GUWAHATI**  
The Editors Guild of India has requested the Assam government to ensure a safe environment for journalists to work in. In a letter to Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, the Guild cited the assault on Milan Mahanta, a print reporter and the death of TV reporter Parag Bhuyan, in an accident. While Mr. Mahanta said he was attacked for his reportage against gambling and land mafias in Kamrup, the death of Bhuyan is being probed as a possible murder for exposing illegal activities in Kakopather.

**Punjab Chief Minister's son appears before ED**

**NEW DELHI**  
Raninder Singh, son of Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, on Thursday appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in Jalandhar to record his statement under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), said a senior agency official. The ED probe is linked to the Income-Tax Department's alleged findings that certain assets acquired abroad were not disclosed in 2005-07. The department had carried out a reassessment of the disclosures and detected the assets located overseas.

**I am still a Minister and in Trinamool: Adhikari**

**KOLKATA**  
Trinamool Congress leader and Minister Suvendu Adhikari on Thursday said he was still a primary member of the party and a Minister in Mamata Banerjee's Cabinet. His recent utterances and public appearances without party flags and symbols have created discomfort in the party. "I am still a primary and active member of a party. I am still a Minister of the Cabinet. Neither has the Chief Minister expelled me nor have I resigned," he said at a public gathering at Ramnagar in Purba Medinipur district.

a camp so that the distance between camps reduces to 5-10 km from the current 50 km.

**The NIA and the Maharashtra police arrested several activists including Sudha Bharadwaj in the 2018 Bhima Koregaon case. Ms. Bharadwaj has been active in Chhattisgarh for the past several years. What is the State police assessment on her role?**

There still exists a large area which is out of bounds for the administration?

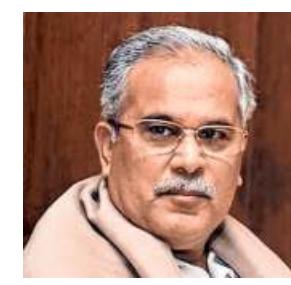
■ The Abujhmaad area falls in Maharashtra as well as Chhattisgarh. Some areas in Bijapur and Narayanpur districts are beyond reach. Naturally, conducting operations is not feasible there... We have sought the Centre's permission to build prefabricated steel bridges. Many jawans die while performing security duty during road construction. We do not have any deployment in areas touching the Andhra Pradesh border. Recently we got permission to deploy five battalions of Central forces in those areas... trying to open

and supplied money to the naxals. They are the real urban naxals...they had an approach till the top.

We know Sudha Bharadwaj, she has worked in my constituency too... I have seen her work as a lawyer; we do not have any information on her links with naxals, but if she has been arrested, it is possible that there are some secret inputs against her. We do not have such information.

They have not been given bail for over two years...

■ Ask this question to the Centre. The Jharam Ghati



**The State police FIR named all the big naxal leaders but when NIA probed the matter they deleted the names**

and supplied money to the naxals. They are the real urban naxals...they had an approach till the top.

We know Sudha Bharadwaj, she has worked in my constituency too... I have seen her work as a lawyer; we do not have any information on her links with naxals, but if she has been arrested, it is possible that there are some secret inputs against her. We do not have such information.

They have not been given bail for over two years...

■ Ask this question to the Centre. The Jharam Ghati

case (2013) was given to the NIA to investigate but they could not find any evidence. Now we want to investigate that case but Centre is denying us [permission]. A BJP MLA was killed in 2019 general elections, we had completed the probe then all of a sudden the Centre announced an NIA probe. All the documents were taken away by NIA. The agency started interfering that we should give the entire case diary to them. Who are they trying to save?

Who according to you is the NIA trying to shield?

■ We raised this issue during the Chief Ministers' meet at Vigyan Bhavan (August 2019). Give us the probe when you cannot do anything. What has NIA got till now? They have not agreed that it is a conspiracy; many leaders like Vidya Charan Shukla and Mahendra Karma were martyred, they were identified and then killed. Naxals do not ask for names and then kill; they just blow up the entire convoy and flee the scene. [However, in this case] they waited hours and pumped bullets after asking

Isn't it an intelligence failure

their names – was this not a conspiracy?

The FIR filed by the State police names all the big naxal leaders, but when NIA probed the matter they deleted the names. When NIA court ordered to record the statement of Gudsa Usendi (top Maoist leader who surrendered in January 2014) who is lodged in Andhra Jail, why hasn't NIA recorded his statement yet?

Who are the big leaders you are referring to?

■ Ganapathy (top Maoist leader) is there, why was his name removed? He leads the naxals. Why is the NIA not questioning Gudsa Usendi?

So where is Ganapathy?

■ We are after him; we do conduct operations. He has not been caught by any agency or police force yet. There are some areas bordering Maharashtra-Telangana and Odisha, dense forests are there, we have not been able to nab him but if he is arrested then we will definitely take action.

During the corona period, there have been so many meetings including that of Congress Working Committee via video conferencing. And we have all got opportunities to put forth our views. I don't think such a senior leader [Mr. Sibal] should

speak like this. There have been meetings almost every month.

So, you don't agree that Congress lacks a proper forum for leaders to openly articulate their views?

■ Congress is the only democratic party where workers can put their views. You don't have this in other parties. How can put your views in parties that don't even have a party constitution? Everyone has a right to put forward their views but some people want to talk through the media and that's unfortunate.

Your party doesn't have a full-time president. Do you think Rahul Gandhi should return or should the party try out a non-Gandhi?

■ I have already said that party issues should be spoken in a party forum. However, I feel Rahul Gandhi is most suitable to become party president as he understands the country, its people as well as the needs of our workers. It is my personal view that there is none else better suited for the post.

## Vaccine plan ready: Vardhan

Healthcare workers and those aged above 65 will get priority, says Minister

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI



**Key lessons:** A worker sanitising a classroom in Mumbai on Thursday. The Maharashtra government has allowed schools to reopen for Classes IX to XII from November 23. ■ VIVEK BENDRE

of age, and then those from 50-65 years of age have been prioritised. Then those below 50 years who have other diseases," he said.

**Early planning**

Mr. Vardhan said everything was being decided by experts with a scientific point of view. "We have made a very detailed meticulous plan on this," he said. "What we would have to do in March-April next year, we have

started planning for it from now only," Mr. Vardhan said. "Nearly 20 vaccines are in different stages of development," the Minister said.

He said COVID-19 could be tackled to a great extent by protecting and motivating others. "You can protect yourself from this deadly virus with small precautions like wearing a good quality mask properly, maintaining social distance and hand hygiene," he noted.

## SC defers hearing in Sudarshan TV row

Ministry wanted programme modified

**LEGAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI



The Supreme Court has given the parties two weeks to respond.

tent breached the Programme Code," the order said.

**Series of directions**

The Ministry gave a series of directions for future telecast, including that the content aired should not offend good taste or decency. The channel was asked to avoid "attacks on religions or communities or visuals or words contemptuous of religious groups". The Ministry said programmes should not contain "anything obscene, defamatory, deliberate, false and suggestive inuenodos and half-truths".

The order asked the channel to comply and report back to the Ministry before the telecast.

The court had stayed the further telecast of the programme episodes on September 15.

## Did not ignore borrowers' plight: Centre

Financial packages were in place as early as March, govt. informs Supreme Court

**KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL**  
NEW DELHI

The Centre took strong objection to averments made in the Supreme Court on Thursday that it would not have budged to protect borrowers from financial ruin triggered by the pandemic lockdown, had the court not intervened on time.

Appearing before a Bench led by Justice Ashok Bhushan, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said submissions like that were painted in "political colour".

Mr. Mehta said financial packages were in place as early as in March, during the advent of the COVID-19 virus, to help citizens sail through the economic backlash. "We had started immediately with the financial

packages in March," Mr. Mehta said.

The court was hearing individual borrowers, power, industry and business sectors on the compound interest or interest-on-interest pay-back scheme introduced by the government and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for borrowers struggling to make ends meet after the expiry of the six-month moratorium period on August 31.

Mr. Mehta said the court

should now dispose of the petitions post the implementation of the pay-back scheme by November 5. Any grievances from specific sectors can be addressed directly to the government itself.

"This is a fiscal policy matter. Government is on top of it. Grievance redressal mechanism lies within the system itself. To ask for sector-specific reliefs from the court will not be a remedy available under Article 32 of the Constitution," Mr. Mehta submitted.

The main petitioner, Gajendra Sharma, who represents individual borrowers in the Supreme Court, has already expressed satisfaction with the government scheme to pay back the difference in the compound interest and simple interest charged during moratorium for eight categories of loans worth up to ₹2 crore.

The scheme covers MSME, education, housing, consumer durables, credit card, auto, personal and consumption loans.

However, senior advocate A.M. Singhvi, for power producers, said there are still loopholes left to plug or the "big borrowers" may go down under.

Probably by 2024, every Indian would get vaccinated, he said at the Hindustan Times Leadership Summit, 2020.

"It will probably take two or three years for every Indian to get inoculated, not just because of the supply constraints but because you need the budget, the vaccine, logistics, infrastructure and then, people should be willing to take the vaccine."

Mr. Poonawalla said the Oxford vaccine was affordable, safe and could be stored at a temperature of two to eight degrees Celsius, which was an ideal temperature for it to be stored in the cold storages of India.

He said the SII planned to make about 10 crore doses a month from February.

Medical Council Committee through online application on the basis of the rank obtained in NEET-2020," said the Ministry.

Covid-19 warriors are public healthcare providers, including community health workers, who may have to be in direct contact and care of patients and who may be at risk of being impacted by the virus.

The State/Union Territory governments would certify the eligibility for this category. "The selection of candidates will be made by the

Ministry.

Five MBBS seats have been reserved for this category for 2020-21, said a re-

lease issued by the Ministry.

Minister for Health and Family Welfare Harsh Vardhan on Thursday said this move was aimed to dignify and honour the noble contribution made by the COVID-19 warriors.

The State/Union Territory governments would certify the eligibility for this category. "The selection of candidates will be made by the

Ministry.

Five MBBS seats have been reserved for this category for 2020-21, said a re-

lease issued by the Ministry.

Minister for Health and Family Welfare Harsh Vardhan on Thursday said this move was aimed to dignify and honour the noble contribution made by the COVID-19 warriors.

The State/Union Territory governments would certify the eligibility for this category. "The selection of candidates will be made by the

Ministry.

Five MBBS seats have been reserved for this category for 2020-21, said a re-

lease issued by the Ministry.

Minister for Health and Family Welfare Harsh Vardhan on Thursday said this move was aimed to dignify and honour the noble contribution made by the COVID-19 warriors.

The State/Union Territory governments would certify the eligibility for this category. "The selection of candidates will be made by the

Ministry.

Five MBBS seats have been reserved for this category for 2020-21, said a re-

lease issued by the Ministry.

Minister for Health and Family Welfare Harsh Vardhan on Thursday said this move was aimed to dignify and honour the noble contribution made by the COVID-19 warriors.

The State/Union Territory governments would certify the eligibility for this category. "The selection of candidates will be made by the

Ministry.

Five MBBS seats have been reserved for this category for 2020-21, said a re-

lease issued by the Ministry.

Minister for Health and Family Welfare Harsh Vardhan on Thursday said this move was aimed to dignify and honour the noble contribution made by the COVID-19 warriors.

The State/Union Territory governments would certify the eligibility for this category. "The selection of candidates will be made by the

Ministry.

Five MBBS seats have been reserved for this category for 2020-21, said a re-

lease issued by the Ministry.

Minister for Health and Family Welfare Harsh Vardhan on Thursday said this move was aimed to dignify and honour the noble contribution made by the COVID-19 warriors.

The State/Union Territory governments would certify the eligibility for this category. "The selection of candidates will be made by the

Ministry.

# Give your leftovers a makeover

Leftovers can be put to use to whip up fancy dishes, with just a little thought and planning

PRABALIKA M BORAH

Loathe to waste that leftover dal that you don't want to have anymore? Make a *paratha* with it. Perhaps one of the best options is to opt for a 'leftover makeover'. Leftovers are a reality in any kitchen and all of us would have tried to transform them with a few makeovers. Those looking for more options may find #loveyourleftover on Instagram, a useful hashtag to follow. So widespread is the leftover makeover habit that it finds place in some standup comedy acts too.

## Happy meals

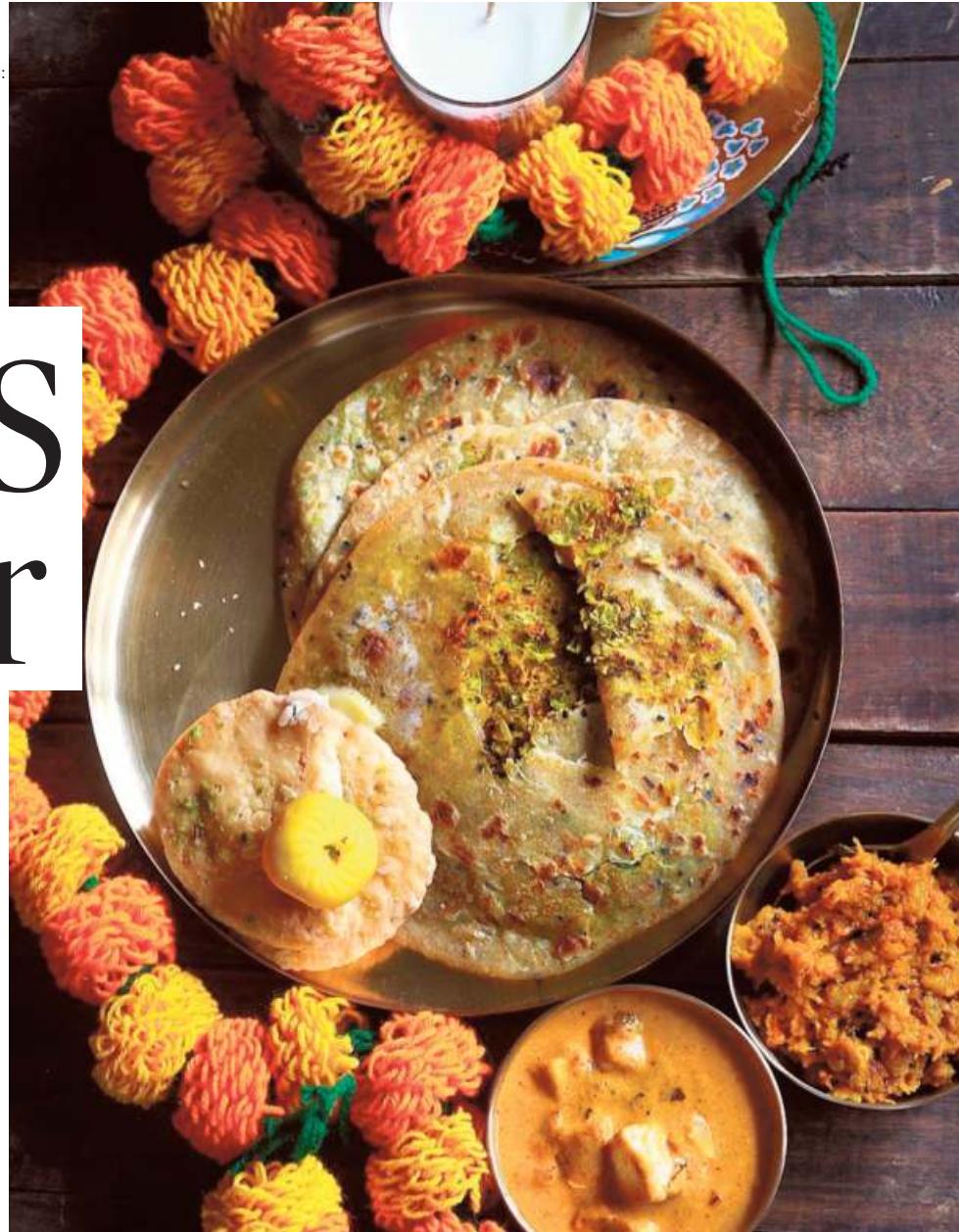
Rice for instance, is very popular for its many makeover avatars; simple steamed rice is easily consumed in the form of *pulihora*, vegetarian or non-vegetarian fried rice, *baath*, *appam*, snacks, sweets and more. Leftover rice also finds a mention in Australian chef Kylie Kwong's recipes. During summer in some parts of India, leftover rice, is left to ferment overnight and consumed the next morning with a choice of sides.

During the lockdown, when actor Sameera Reddy along with her mother-in-law Manjri Varde showed a quick recipe of *rotla* made with leftover rice, it garnered over five million views on

Instagram. In her 'messy mama' series, Sameera admitted that unlike others, she had nothing fancy to show for her cooking skills. She adds, "But I have the *rotla* from leftover rice. The video was appreciated because of the simplicity of the dish and the fact that it required no extraordinary culinary skills. All one has to do is soak leftover rice in some curd, add chopped chillies, onions, coriander leaves and chilli powder, then add some flour and make it into a soft dough, roll it into a shapeless *roti*, drizzle some oil, cook until crisp."

Raipur-based food photographer and author of *My Indian Kitchen* Swayampurna Mishra however, likes to give her leftover rice a fancy twist. She loves making something like *arancini*. She says, "Arancini is made with leftover risotto. However I do something similar with *basmati* rice instead of arborio, because, let's face it, no one makes risotto enough to have leftovers. I add some spices to the rice, which is slightly overcooked. Then add paprika, garlic powder, onion powder, oregano and

During summer in some parts of India, leftover rice, is left to ferment overnight, and consumed the next morning with sides



salt and cracked black pepper. I also make a filling with sundried tomato pesto or roasted red bell pepper purée. To make them, wet your hands and spread a spoonful of the rice-spice mix, add a little cream cheese or mozzarella, add the filling (make it slightly spicy for a real flavour bomb), add a bit more rice on top and shape into balls. Once this is done, dip them in beaten egg, coat with fine breadcrumbs (I use only Panko breadcrumbs, but grind it a bit for a finer texture). Add seasoning to the crumbs before rolling in the rice balls. Fry in oil, remove, drain on kitchen napkin and serve immediately with your choice of condiment."

However, Swayampurna's go-to leftover makeover recipe is the *matar* (peas) *paratha*. She

New from the old (Clockwise from left) *Matar parathas*; *arancini* with leftover rice and the *rotla* made famous by Sameera Reddy, cooked by her mother-in-law

■ SWAYAMPURNA MISHRA, SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT, GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK



says "It is easy and my absolute favourite."

Mumbai-based blogger Kalyan Karmakar, in one of his blogposts, mentions how he repurposed leftovers from the fridge into spectacular dishes during the lockdown. He also says #loveyourleftover has been his anthem during this time. "I love using leftover kebabs to make kathi rolls for breakfast. I made a truly epiphany lunch with orange emulsion that accompanied a dish – an almond and coriander-crusted John Dory – I had ordered from the Trident BKC. I had a feeling that it would go well with offal. I took out some chicken liver from the freezer, thawed it and tossed it in a pan with sliced onions, green capsicum salt and pepper in olive oil. I added a bit of the orange emulsion to the sautéed chicken liver at the end before turning off the flame. Any longer and it would get burnt and bitter. I drizzled in a bit more of the orange emulsion on the plate before serving it with grilled sourdough bread."

He adds, "Later a reader, Rahul Jha, DM-ed me on Instagram saying that Heston Blumenthal apparently has a dish called 'meat meets fruit', which also involves liver, orange and sourdough."

## The trick with dal

Did you know that leftover dal can be used to knead flour and the resultant rotis or parathas turn out soft, fluffy and tasty? Hyderabad-based home baker Arundati Rao often mentions this during her cooking classes. She says plain leftover dal made with red lentil and *tuvar* is best to knead flour with. Alternatively, if there is too much left over, add chopped onions, chillies and spices to turn your dal into a dhaba-style dal *tadka*.

Kalyan also alters gravy from chicken curry by adding boiled eggs and turning it into egg curry. A similar taste, but a whole new dish to tuck in to.

# There's no chef like Mom

Zayka Ka Tadka, founded by Vijay Haldiya and daughter, Apeksha, is an online platform for mothers to post vegetarian recipes

Team of two (Right) Apeksha and her mother Vijay; (below) a lunch thaali from one of their episodes ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



ATHIRA M

"Jo dikhta hain, wahi banta hain Zayka Ka Tadka mein (What you see is what is made in Zayka ka Tadka)." That is Apeksha reeling off her trademark dialogue in the midst of a busy shoot with Shveta Sheth, as the latter prepares a paneer dish at her kitchen in Mumbai for Zayka Ka Tadka.

Founded by Apeksha and her mother, Vijay Haldiya, it is an online platform where mothers from across the country can upload their vegetarian recipes. Around 700 moms have been covered on the platform, which was launched as a food blog in 2014.

It now has over 4.6 million followers on Facebook, over five lakh subscribers on YouTube, 2.8 lakh followers on Instagram @zaykaka-

tadka) and a website by the same name.

"Cooking has always been a passion. When I cook, I feel stressed. Now it is like meditation," says 60-year-old Vijay. Growing up in a joint family in Rajasthan, Vijay took to cooking at a young age. Eventually, social media opened up a new world for her. She cites herself as the best example for how women can use technology to realise their dreams. In fact, Zayka's Instagram page declares that 'This account is handled by Vijay Haldiya'.

But without her daughter Apeksha, Vijay's social media outing would not have happened. "Mom was part of an online group of home chefs. One day she got removed from it because she was getting more attention than the other members! That disheartened her.

So I started a blog, Zayka Ka Tadka, for mom to post her recipes. She gained so much appreciation that it did wonders to her confidence," says Apeksha, who gave up her corporate job to start the platform.

Within a few months the blog became an online recipe-sharing community, then a text recipe-sharing platform in 2017 and, a year later, a platform to post videos.

The page has a diverse platter with recipes specific to different parts of the country being uploaded by women of different age groups. Besides featuring both new and experienced cooks, it has also brought grand old homemakers from villages in North India to the limelight.

"We keep it real and organic by making them cook in their comfort zone, which is their own kitchen.

Any mom who can cook can contact us via our social media handles. We will be at their kitchen to shoot the video. But for the pandemic we would have travelled to more places, especially to states in South India," says Apeksha.

Videos of new recipes are posted everyday on the Facebook page. In addition to traditional and regional recipes, five-minute recipes are also posted. Segments on chutneys and sauces, paneer, lunch recipes, dishes prepared with left-over food, parathas and chaats are some of the popular series on the page. Cooking tips and contests (like the Zayka Premier League) are uploaded as well.

"During the lockdown, we put up recipes that are easy to prepare. The traffic on the page has increased since then. In fact, men who have never entered the kitchen are now avid cooks," says Apeksha.

An achievement, the duo says, has been bringing visually challenged women on board to showcase their culinary skills. "We organised a cooking contest for them in 2018. It was inspired by a speech by Sheshkar Naik, former captain of the national cricket team for the blind under whom India had won two World cups. He helped us organise the competition," Apeksha adds.

The mothers, too on the other hand, are ecstatic about being part of Zayka. Shveta says, "There was a time when I didn't want to try anything new. But that has changed. When everybody starts loving the food you cook the feeling is beyond words."

Apeksha points out that Zayka Ka Tadka will continue to feature more mothers. "At the same time, if men evince interest, they are also welcome," Apeksha says.



Ready to serve  
Zulfikar and Shaheena at Amina Puttu Kada; (below) some of their creations ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

# Puttu, as you like it

Amina's Puttu Kada at Kuttichal in Kerala serves *puttu* to suit your political inclinations and taste

SARASWATHY NAGARAJAN

'Political *puttu*' is a hot-seller in Amina's Puttu Kada, a small, no-frills hotel in Kuttichal, about 28 kilometres from Thiruvananthapuram. With the local body elections around the corner, this 'political *puttu*' is much in demand, and Zulfikar, the proprietor and chef, is only too happy to oblige.

*Puttu*, usually a mix of rice flour and grated coconut steamed in cylindrical

containers, is a breakfast staple in the state. The 'political *puttu*' is in the colours of the flags of Kerala's political parties.

"For supporters of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and the CPI, there is red *puttu*, coloured naturally with beetroot. Orange *puttu*, flavoured and coloured with carrots, is for followers of the Bharatiya Janata Party while the 'Congress *puttu*', aka 'Sabari *puttu*' [named after the area's MLA KS Sabarinathan], comes in orange, white and green.

I make the green by mixing edible leaves and herbs. For the Muslim League, there is the green-coloured *puttu*," explains Zulfikar.

Amina's Puttu Kada was born five years ago when Zulfikar, a mill owner, decided to open a small restaurant that sold only *puttu*. Since he wanted to be different from the hotels and joints at Kuttichal junction, he decided to specialise.

According to Zulfikar, the star on the menu is 'Sundari *puttu*', which comes in

six colours and flavours. "So, there is rice flour, carrot, beetroot, greens, cornflour and ragi flour. It is healthy too, since it is filled with vegetables," he adds.

In March, just before the lockdown, Zulfikar was selling 61 kinds of *puttu*, ranging from several varieties of sweet *puttu* to those made from ragi, cornflour, wheat and rice. "Children used to enjoy the *puttu* I used to make with chocolate, chocolate milk powders, biscuits, dates etc. I have stopped making those as most families are still not venturing out of home," he points out, adding, "The lockdown was not easy to negotiate. So I added dosa, Kerala porottas and idiyappam to the menu."

Business is limping back to normal, and Zulfikar hopes it will go full steam soon. He says that once the Elephant Rehabilitation Centre at Kottoor reopened, visitors started trickling in during holidays. Nevertheless, Amina opens only at 4 pm now. "Before lockdown, diners used to come all the way from the city to have *puttu*, served with meat and chicken curries and fries, *kadala* curry, *payar* and *pappadam*," he says. At present, Zulfikar is cook, hotel and waiter at Amina's. His only assistant is his wife, Shaheena. "Since I have a mill, all the flour can be ground there. The rest of the work is done by one of us. I want to make sure that the *puttu* tastes the same every day. That is the USP," he asserts.

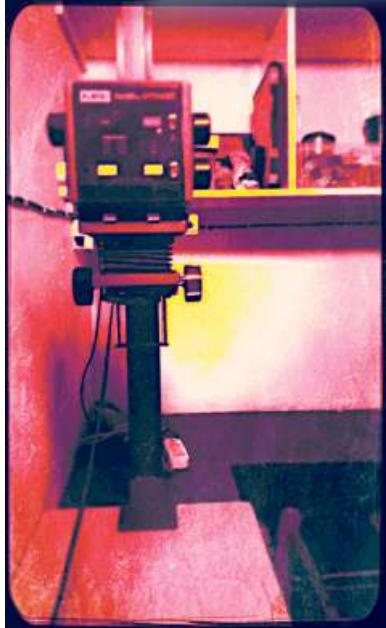
The varieties of *puttu* are priced between ₹20 and ₹25.



CM



**For posterity** (Clockwise from far left) Fresh prints, a portrait shot by Varun, The Analogue Approach Project, Satyajit's Dark Room, Madras Atelier's dark room ■ THE ANALOGUE APPROACH PROJECT, VARUN GUPTA, C P SATYAJIT



# GRAINY PRINTS and UNTOUCHED NEGATIVES

As more dark rooms crop up across the country, film photography is seeing a comeback. Are the challenges, surprise element, or the old-world charm responsible for this resurgence?

GOWRI S AND PRIYadarshini Paitandy

There is something distinctly Harry Potter-esque about how a film develops. A blank sheet of paper transforms and suddenly, as it lies immersed in a chemical bath, has an image surfacing on it. Quite like magic.

Chennai-based Photographer CP Satyajit is cooped up in his new lab in Adyar, Chennai, developing a black-and-white print. Despite doing this for two decades, there is childlike enthusiasm in him. And as the image starts to take shape, those gathered around, gasp. This element of surprise is perhaps the

USP of analogue photography.

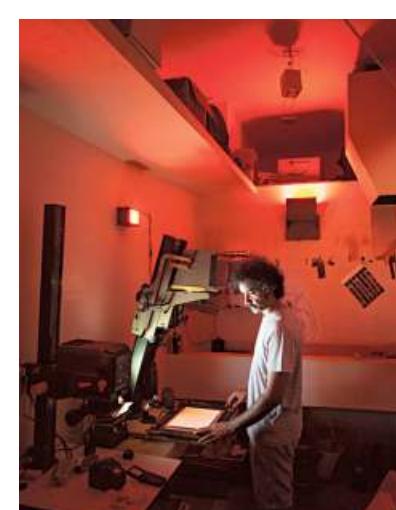
Film photography was written off in the late-1990s when the digital camera was introduced as a much simpler alternative. But, today's millennials are steadily going back to older techniques: lockdowns and extra time in hands only aide this interest. As dark rooms crop up across the country – the latest to join the bandwagon being Satyajit's Dark Room and photographer Varun Gupta and Karthik Thorai's Madras Atelier; both in Chennai – analogue frames, with their raw, labour-intensive approach, nostalgic hue and grainy textures, have crept into the hearts of amateur and professional photographers.

"Personally, for me the journey when it came to analogue was about trying to declutter," says Varun, who learned photography in the digital era. The meditative process of being in a dark room is something he took to later on, while studying in the US. Weighing the cons of the digital process, Varun continues, "Since it's easy to shoot, we are often stuck with so much noise. I have a backlog of almost 2,00,000 pictures. You rarely get the opportunity to revisit them." On the other hand, analogue frames are carefully constructed and limited in number; consequently unique.

Trust, skill and an element of chance are what make up an analogue frame. Chance is what interests Varun the most. In analogue, sometimes one comes back with technically not-so-sound, foggy, grainy shots, different from what the photographer had in mind. But, they have their own character. "Almost like a Pointillism painting," Varun adds.

## Give and take

Known for its black-and-white film and other photographic materials, erstwhile giant Ilford Photo's comeback to the Indian market in recent years, via companies like Kodak, Fujifilm, Harman Technology and independent distributors, has played a role in the resurgence of the film community. Access is key. Commercial darkrooms (mostly set up by independent photographers) and projects that activate the community, like Delhi-based The Analogue Photo Project, are showing the way forward.



Analogue is perceived as an affordable option for photographers who are looking for a headstart

Delhi photographer Srinivas Kurangi started off his career by working with film. That was the only option at the time. Four to five months ago, his desire to get back in the darkroom led him and curator Rahab Allana of the Alkazi Foundation, resulting in The Analogue Approach Project: operating out of a darkroom studio in Delhi, they explore the culture of printmaking by sharing stories of hands-on experience.

Srinivas, creative collaborator of the project says, "Interestingly, there are a

lot of people who have shot on film but have never actually printed. And, sometimes, I have noticed that photographers have a specific idea of how they want their prints to be. But, I always ask them to try out different ways." The project caters to those who have had some experience in the darkroom.

Srinivas continues, "Film cameras have gotten much cheaper and seeing film photography around, people want to test it out. Institutions like National Institute of Design (NID) have workshops in film photography. These students also tend to get back." Recently, he has observed that photographers are more concerned about whether they have shot in analogue or digital, rather than the image itself. Film photography is often romanticised, he adds.

## Young love

A lot of youngsters who started off in the digital era are interested in the technical aspects and the chemistry behind the process. Independent photographer Arun, for instance, has a small-scale dark room setup in his bathroom where he develops his films. "I usually shoot for a week and come back and develop. The medium also teaches you how to be a chemist." He sources the chemicals and mixes them himself instead of relying on a developer and says, "all of this information is easily available on the Internet". He has a developing tank for 35 mm and another for 120 mm films. "And a changing bag, two measuring cylinders, a thermometer and a couple of bottles of distilled water."

Analogue is also perceived as an affordable option for photographers who are looking for a headstart

It is encouraging to know that many have darkroom setups at home. Srinivas adds. It activates conversation, as peers learn from each other and lend tips.

For the digital generation, Satyajit feels, this could be a new fancy; learning and experiencing a bit of history and understanding the roots. "As for the older photographers who have shot on film, it is getting back to the roots, revisiting the basics, testing one's skills and instincts and maybe detoxing the undesirable ones, potential of a new business and the feeling of the real thing."

**Banana business** (Clockwise from far left) Banana fibre being dried; Rovisatu Naprantsu and Nengneithem Hengna; banana fibre paper ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

have been affected. We envisage banana fibre products as a cottage industry that can generate skilled employment," states Hengna.

With a bright smile, she adds, "Our next stop is using banana fibre to produce animal feeds, fertilisers, shopping bags, greeting cards and other utility products."

GreenHills has taken an ambitious proposal to the The Investment and Development Authority of Nagaland (IDAN) to generate funding to the tune of ₹96 lakhs. If approved, it would help create a network of 12 training centres across Nagaland. Naprantsu explains, "Our future business plan is to tailor our product line to meet international standards, creating a market for artisan-made Naga items, based on a model of community engagement."

Visit [@runway.nagaland](#) on Instagram or call 7085059325.



ANISHA MENEZES

based in Dimapur, and Kuda Tech Creation, based in Kiruphema. It combines the skill-building capacity of flourishing small businesses, with research and development on banana fibre products, and a keen eye on conservation.

Mepuliba Walling, proprietor at Amity says, "When we first started, it was a family affair, but we gradually realised the need to grow and hence we teamed up with our friends, to create this company."

GreenHills comprises Amity Banana Fiber and Allied Products, Runway Nagaland, both

## POOCHE CAFE



fibre products can be a useful and sustainable alternative," explains Nengneithem Hengna, founder of Runway Nagaland.

## From pulp to paper

The process at the training centres in Kiruphema and Dimapur, from fibre extraction to creating products, is zero-waste and natural. Banana fibres are extruded, the strands washed and sun-dried. The fine threads are segregated to make products like planters, baskets, earrings and

home decor items.

The waste generated in the extraction process is mixed with finely shredded banana pulp. This slurry forms the base of the textured, earthy-hued banana fibre paper. An eight-hour shift by an artisan results in around 50 sheets of 20x14-inch paper that can be used for crafting and gift-wrapping.

The first batch was lapped up by Zeinorin Stephen, founder of HillWild, a Manipur-based artisanal chocolate business that also dabbles in local spices and dried fruit. "I bought banana fibre to include in my brand's festive hamper as product wrappers," says Stephen. While the unique paper, and fibre baskets have generated quite a buzz on social media, scaling up is a challenge. "It's a new fibre and there are no machines developed for it, so mass production becomes challenging," explains Rovisatu Naprantsu, proprietor of Kuda Tech.



Rovisatu Naprantsu and Nengneithem Hengna

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

home decor items.

The waste generated in the extraction process is mixed with finely shredded banana pulp. This slurry forms the base of the textured, earthy-hued banana fibre paper. An eight-hour shift by an artisan results in around 50 sheets of 20x14-inch paper that can be used for crafting and gift-wrapping.

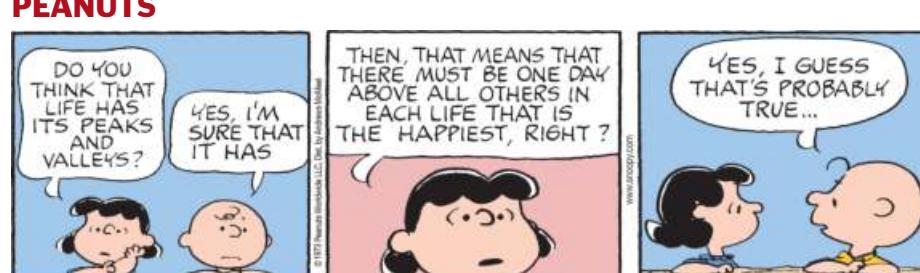
The first batch was lapped up by Zeinorin Stephen, founder of HillWild, a Manipur-based artisanal chocolate business that also dabbles in local spices and dried fruit. "I bought banana fibre to include in my brand's festive hamper as product wrappers," says Stephen. While the unique paper, and fibre baskets have generated quite a buzz on social media, scaling up is a challenge. "It's a new fibre and there are no machines developed for it, so mass production becomes challenging," explains Rovisatu Naprantsu, proprietor of Kuda Tech.

The majority of our population that moved to cities in search of stable jobs, were forced to return to their villages during lockdown. We are conducting free training programmes for low-income families, whose earnings

## PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



## PEANUTS



**MAYBE JOURNALING WAS A BAD IDEA.**



## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



## TIGER



## CALVIN AND HOBBES



# Trump campaign targets vote certification

Two Republican officials in Michigan backtracked from their initial approval to the election outcome

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
WASHINGTON

Getting nowhere in the courts, President Donald Trump's scattershot effort to overturn Joe Biden's victory is shifting toward obscure election boards that certify the vote as Mr. Trump and his allies seek to upend the electoral process, sow chaos and perpetuate unsubstantiated doubts about the count.

The battle is centred in the battleground States that sealed Mr. Biden's win.

In Michigan, two Republican election officials in the State's largest county initially refused to certify results despite no evidence of fraud, then backtracked and voted to certify and then on Wednesday, flipped again and said they "remain opposed to certification". Some Republicans have called on the GOP statewide canvassers to do the same. In Arizona, officials are balking at signing off on vote tallies in a rural county.

The moves don't reflect a coordinated effort across the battleground States that



Last-ditch efforts: A Donald Trump supporter arguing with a counter-protester during a march in Washington. ■AP/FILE

broke for Mr. Biden, local election officials said. Instead, they seem to be inspired by Mr. Trump's incendiary rhetoric about baseless fraud and driven by Republican acquiescence to broadsides against the nation's electoral system as State and federal courts push aside legal challenges filed by Mr. Trump and his allies.

## No precedent

Still, what happened in Wayne County, Michigan, on Tuesday and Wednesday was a jarring reminder of the disruptions that can still be caused as the nation works

through the process of affirming the outcome of the November 3 election.

There is no precedent for the Trump team's widespread effort to delay or undermine certification, according to University of Kentucky law professor Joshua Douglas.

"It would be the end of democracy as we know it," Mr. Douglas said. "This is just not a thing that can happen."

Certifying results is a routine yet important step after local election officials have tallied votes, reviewed procedures, checked to ensure votes were counted correctly

and investigated discrepancies. Typically, this certification is done by a local board of elections and then, later, the results are certified at the state level.

But as Mr. Trump has refused to concede to Mr. Biden and continues to spread false claims of victory, this mundane process is taking on new significance.

Among key battleground States, counties in Michigan, Nevada and Wisconsin have all made it through the initial step of certifying results. Except for Wayne County, this process has largely been smooth. Arizona, Pennsylvania and Georgia still haven't concluded their local certifications. Then all eyes turn to Statewide certification.

In Wayne County, the two Republican canvassers at first balked at certifying the vote, winning praise from Mr. Trump, and then reversed course after widespread condemnation. A person familiar with the matter said Mr. Trump reached out to the canvassers, Monica Palmer and William Hartmann, on Tuesday evening

after the revised vote to express gratitude for their support. Then, on Wednesday, Ms. Palmer and Mr. Hartmann signed affidavits saying they believe the county vote "should not be certified."

Time is running short for Mr. Trump. Across the nation, recounts and court challenges must wrap up and election results must be certified by December 8. That's the constitutional deadline ahead of the Electoral College meeting the following week.

Matt Morgan, the Trump campaign's general counsel, said last week the campaign was trying to halt certification in battleground states until it could get a better handle on vote tallies and whether it would have the right to automatic recounts. Right now, Mr. Trump is requesting a recount in Wisconsin in two counties, and Georgia is doing an audit after Mr. Biden led by a slim margin of 0.3 percentage points, but there is no mandatory recount law in the State.



Xi Jinping

together 21 Pacific Rim countries, accounting for about 60% of global GDP.

It was not immediately clear if Mr. Trump, wounded by his election loss to Joe Biden, would take part in the two-day gathering or send a high-level delegate in his place.

In a speech that veered into triumphalism over China's economic "resilience and vitality" in bouncing back from the virus, which first emerged in the central city of Wuhan, Mr. Xi warned countries who insist on trade barriers would suff-

er self-inflicted wounds.

"Openness enables a country to move forward while seclusion holds it back," he said.

"China will actively cooperate with all countries, regions and enterprises that want to do so. We will continue to hold high the banner of openness and co-operation."

## Bargaining chip

But Mr. Xi's rhetoric may raise eyebrows in capitals where China has either restricted trade or used its giant economy as a bargaining chip in wider geopolitical disputes.

Australian exports of beef, wine and barley to China – their biggest market – have been restricted.

The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, which excludes the US, is viewed as a major coup for China and further evidence that Beijing is setting the agenda for global commerce as Washington retreats.

# Pompeo visits West Bank settlement

First such visit by a top U.S. official is seen as a parting gift to Netanyahu

REUTERS  
WEST BANK

Mike Pompeo on Thursday paid the first visit by a U.S. Secretary of State to an Israeli settlement in the occupied West Bank, in a parting show of solidarity with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu by the outgoing Trump administration.

Palestinians accused Mr. Pompeo of helping Israel to cement its control over West



Mike Pompeo

Bank land that they seek for a State after he made a trip to the Shaar Binyamin winery near the settlement of Psagot, just north of Jerusalem.

To Israel's delight and Palestinian dismay, Mr. Pompeo in 2019 broke with decades of American foreign policy to announce that the U.S. under President Donald Trump no longer viewed Israel's settlements as "inconsistent with international law".

After meeting with Mr. Netanyahu on Thursday morning Mr. Pompeo travelled to the West Bank to visit the set-

tlement winery, which has a blend named after him.

He also issued guidelines for Israeli products made in settlements to be labelled "Made in Israel" or "Product of Israel" when imported to the United States, removing the distinction between products made within Israel and those produced in occupied territory.

Mr. Pompeo's visit departed from past policy that had kept top U.S. officials away from settlements, which Palestinians view as obstacles to a viable future State.

# Face reality on HK, Beijing tells 'Five Eyes'

U.S., U.K., Australia, Canada and New Zealand had slammed its Hong Kong policy

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
BEIJING

China on Thursday rejected the latest attack on its Hong Kong policy by the U.S. and several of its allies, saying they "should face up to the reality" that the former British colony has been returned to China.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian was responding to a statement on Hong Kong issued by the U.S., U.K., Australia, Canada

and New Zealand, which together make up an intelligence partnership known as the Five Eyes.

"No matter if they have five eyes or 10 eyes, if they dare to harm China's sovereignty, security and development interests, they should beware of their eyes being poked and blinded,"

he said at a daily briefing.

The Foreign Ministers of the five nations said that a new Chinese government re-

solution that led to the disqualification of four pro-democracy lawmakers in Hong Kong appears to be "part of a concerted campaign to silence all critical voices."

The joint statement called the resolution a breach of China's international obligations and its commitment to grant Hong Kong a high degree of autonomy and freedom of speech.

Mr. Zhao said Hong Kong is an inalienable part of Chi-

na and that public officials must "be loyal to the motherland. This is a basic political ethic in every country in the world, right?"

The four disqualified lawmakers were earlier barred from running for reelection because of their calls for foreign governments to impose sanctions on China and Hong Kong. They had remained in office because elections were postponed for one year.

## Australian special forces 'killed' 39 in Afghanistan

'They engaged in body count contests'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
CANBERRA

Ethiopia slams WHO chief for backing Tigray

COURT GIVES 3 MONTHS TO FRANCE FOR CLIMATE ACTION

In a ruling hailed by campaigners as "historic", France's top administrative court on Thursday gave the government a three-month deadline to show it is taking action to meet its commitments on climate change. AP

REUTERS  
ISLAMABAD

A final investigation into a 2016 air crash in Pakistan found that three technical faults caused the accident that killed all 47 on board, the country's civil aviation authority said on Thursday.

The Pakistan International Airlines aircraft smashed into a mountain in Havelian, 50 km short of its destination, Islamabad, after taking off from Chitral in December, 2016.

The faults, according to the Aircraft Accident Investigation Board (AAIB) report, included the fracture of one of the engine's power turbine blades, a broken pin and "probably pre-existing contamination" inside a propeller valve.

## Riyadh to invest \$20 bn in AI by 2030

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
RIYADH

Ethiopia's Army chief Gen. Birhanu Jula has accused WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, a fellow Ethiopian, of lobbying neighbouring countries to provide arms to the Tigray region. He, however, did not cite any evidence. AP

COURT GIVES 3 MONTHS TO FRANCE FOR CLIMATE ACTION

In a ruling hailed by campaigners as "historic", France's top administrative court on Thursday gave the government a three-month deadline to show it is taking action to meet its commitments on climate change. AP

REUTERS  
ISLAMABAD

A final investigation into a 2016 air crash in Pakistan found that three technical faults caused the accident that killed all 47 on board, the country's civil aviation authority said on Thursday.

The Pakistan International Airlines aircraft smashed into a mountain in Havelian, 50 km short of its destination, Islamabad, after taking off from Chitral in December, 2016.

The faults, according to the Aircraft Accident Investigation Board (AAIB) report, included the fracture of one of the engine's power turbine blades, a broken pin and "probably pre-existing contamination" inside a propeller valve.

stories concocted, lies told and prisoners killed," General Angus Campbell said, apologising "sincerely and unreservedly" to the people of Afghanistan.

## Shameful record

"This shameful record includes alleged instances in which new patrol members were coerced to shoot a prisoner in order to achieve that soldier's first kill, in an appalling practice known as 'blooding'."

The report also reported

evidence that troops were

engaged in "body count competitions", and covered up unlawful killings by staging skirmishes, planting

weapons and adding names to target lists retrospectively.

## In visit to Afghanistan, Pak. PM vows to help stem bloodshed

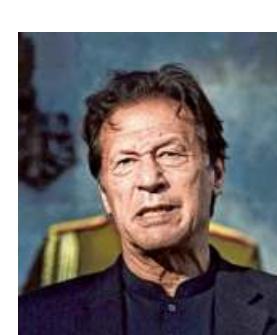
Pak. is working on truce between Afghan forces and Taliban'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
KABUL

Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan visited war-torn neighbour Afghanistan on Thursday, where he vowed to help reduce spiralling violence and push for a ceasefire between the Taliban and Afghan forces.

Mr. Khan's maiden visit to Kabul comes amid surging violence across Afghanistan that has worsened despite Afghan government negotiators and the Taliban launching peace talks in the Qatari capital Doha in September.

"We notice with concern that the level of violence despite the talks in Qatar... is rising," Mr. Khan told reporters after meeting with Afghan



Imran Khan

President Ashraf Ghani.

"Pakistan will do everything, whatever is possible, we will do to help reduce this violence and in fact move towards a ceasefire."

Mr. Khan said it was Pakistan that first persuaded the Taliban to talk to Washington

## Technical faults + caused Pak. plane to crash

REUTERS  
ISLAMABAD

A final investigation into a 2016 air crash in Pakistan found that three technical faults caused the accident that killed all 47 on board, the country's civil aviation authority said on Thursday.

He also credited Islamabad's efforts in helping start the peace talks in Doha. "We the people and government of Pakistan have only one concern, and that concern is... that we want peace (in Afghanistan)," Mr. Khan said.

Diplomatic ties between Pakistan and Afghanistan have long been strained.

Many Afghans are furious with their eastern neighbour, which they accuse of meddling in domestic affairs, aiding the Taliban and deliberately destabilising Afghanistan.

MEERA SRINIVASAN  
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's growing emphasis on tapping the emerging Asian market would make the China-led Regional Cooperation Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement seem an ideal forum to build trade ties in the region. But given the island nation's current economic challenges and India's decision to opt out of the grouping, the road is far from easy for Sri Lanka, according to economists.

Few would dispute Sri Lanka's distinct advantage, thanks to its strategic location in the Indian Ocean, along one of the busiest shipping routes in the world. "We must develop the [southern] Hambantota and Colombo Ports together with the Airports to be a centre in the international commercial processes," Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa said on November

17, unveiling his government's maiden Budget. He also underscored his government's priority to swiftly developing the China-backed \$1.4 billion Colombo Port City as a hub for international business and investment.

"I believe that our neighbouring India will be a powerful economy in the world in the next decade. I also believe China, together with several other Asian countries, will be amongst the five most powerful economies in the world," Mr. Rajapaksa said, of the "high growth Asian Market".

**Trade vision**  
While he made no direct reference to the RCEP that was signed just days prior to his speech, his message reiterated the President Gotabaya Rajapaksa administration's stated trade vision, as well as former Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe's passion-

ate argument that Sri Lanka

needed to turn more eastward in its economic and trade diplomacy. While it is unclear if the Sri Lankan government is considering seeking RCEP membership, Colombo seems open to the idea.

In the current situation amid a global pandemic, no country can stick to an isolationist policy. Countries have to work together, putting aside their political differences. Sri Lanka is pro-trade and we will explore all multilateral arrangements, including the RCEP to explore what they can offer," Tharaka Balasuriya, State Minister of Regional Co-operation, told *The Hindu*.

However, even if Sri Lanka

were to make overtures or

tap at the RCEP's door,

"there may well be a queue", said Dushni Weerakoon, economist and executive director of the Colombo-based In-

stitute of Policy Studies.

"Given Sri Lanka's emphasis on Asia-centred trade, RCEP would seem a natural choice. But it is not that straightforward," she said, pointing to at least three main factors. To start with, Sri Lanka's current trade policy "remains unclear". Following the coronavirus outbreak early this year, the government slapped significant import restrictions to conserve its draining foreign reserves. Moreover, the government's position on Free Trade Agreements (FTA) has not been consistent.

For instance, the proposed Economic and Technology Cooperation Agreement (ETCA) with India is "in limbo", while Colombo has expressed interest to revive FTA negotiations with China.

Further, while the U.S.

and the EU are Sri Lanka's

two largest export markets,

India and China are the two

biggest sources of imports,

and Asian countries have largely engaged as sources of imports,

development financing and FDIs, she added, pointing to Sri Lanka's challenges in navigating a complex trade terrain.

**Lessons for Sri Lanka**

In terms of overall economic strategy, the RCEP offers lessons to Sri Lanka, according to Indrajit Coomaraswamy, a Sri Lankan economist

## MARKET WATCH

	PRICE	CHANGE
Sensex	43,600	-1.31
US Dollar	74.27	-0.11
Gold	49,714	-1.07
Brent oil	44.14	-0.43

## NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	381.90	-9.20
Asian Paints	2161.70	-34.05
Axis Bank	611.50	-24.80
Bajaj Auto	3034.25	-3.65
Bajaj Finserv	7823.40	-33.45
Bajaj Finance	4536.55	-117.20
Bharti Airtel	468.55	-9.85
BPCL	383.70	0.65
Britannia Ind	3511.35	11.00
Cipla	742.10	-0.85
Coal India	122.05	-6.20
Divis Lab	3435.05	-16.75
Dr Reddys Lab	4707.70	3.90
Eicher Motors	2551.25	-62.90
GAIL (India)	93.65	-0.30
Grasim Ind	836.75	-12.20
HCL Tech.	804.55	-9.75
HDFC	2324.60	-40.30
HDFC Bank	1374.35	-34.35
HDFC Life	646.05	-18.75
Hero MotoCorp	2988.50	5.50
Hindalco	213.85	-5.50
Hind Unilever	2130.75	-1.35
ICICI Bank	478.75	-18.90
IndusInd Bank	818.00	-10.30
Infosys	1096.75	-13.80
Indian Oil Corp	84.70	-0.55
ITC	187.90	3.85
JSW Steel	331.20	-11.40
Kotak Bank	1826.35	-4.25
L&T	1134.25	-13.90
M&M	703.90	-1.85
Maruti Suzuki	6963.30	-91.00
Nestle India Ltd.	16934.15	61.55
NTPC	89.80	1.50
ONGC	72.15	0.20
PowerGrid Corp	189.80	4.40
Reliance Ind	1973.15	-14.05
SBI Life	846.75	-11.20
State Bank	239.75	-12.25
Shree Cement	23661.65	-407.60
Sun Pharma	507.35	-5.65
Tata Motors	167.95	-5.55
Tata Steel	523.60	6.40
TCS	2636.90	10.25
Tech Mahindra	822.90	-13.20
Titan	1292.45	-12.35
UltraTech Cement	4778.00	-149.50
UPL	416.50	-9.80
Wipro	342.60	-2.70

## EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	74.07	74.39
Euro	87.59	87.97
British Pound	98.10	98.53
Japanese Yen (100)	71.13	71.46
Chinese Yuan	11.24	11.29
Swiss Franc	81.09	81.45
Singapore Dollar	55.02	55.26
Canadian Dollar	56.49	56.74
Malaysian Ringgit	18.07	18.15
Australian Dollar	53.84	54.08

Source: Indian Bank

ICICI PRUDENTIAL MUTUAL FUND & BusinessLine Present SMART INVESTOR An Investor Education Program



## Webinar on 'MFs: How to get started?'

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI

ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund and *The Hindu BusinessLine* will conduct a webinar on the topic 'Mutual Funds: How to get started?' at 5 p.m. on November 21.

The webinar will focus on aspects such as why should investors consider investing in MFs and how do they compare with other investments such as bank FDs, ULIPs, small savings on risk and return?

The webinar will be a conversation between Dhirendra Kumar, founder & CEO, Value Research, and Lokeshwarri SK, Associate Editor, *The Hindu BusinessLine*.

To register for this free webinar, log on to: <https://bit.ly/ICICIMF>

## IFIN to sell external corporate loan book

IL&FS unit to auction ₹5,000 cr. loans

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

IL&FS Financial Services (IFIN), a 100% subsidiary of scam-hit IL&FS, has decided to sell its external corporate loan book.

As per the decision, corporate loans of ₹5,000 crore would be auctioned through a bidding process, IL&FS said in a statement.

"The book includes loans to over 70 companies that have turned NPAs. The public process of inviting bids will start this week," the company said.

The sale would be concluded on cash consideration basis, IL&FS added.

IFIN has an asset under management (AUM) of approximately ₹18,000 crore involving external and in-

# Oxford Economics cuts India's 2020-25 growth average to 4.5%

'Country's post-COVID-19 economic scars could be among the worst in the world'

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI  
Global forecasting firm Oxford Economics on Thursday revised downwards its India growth forecast over the medium term to an average 4.5% over 2020-25, from its pre-pandemic projection of 6.5%.

In a research note, it said India's post-COVID-19 scars could be among the worst in the world.

"We forecast India's growth equilibrium to worsen substantially over the medium term, with potential growth averaging just 4.5% over 2020-2025 in our latest baseline, as opposed to our pre-virus forecast of 6.5 %," Oxford Economics said.

## Harsh Lodha removed from 4 Birla firms

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI  
Amid the decade-long legal battle between the Birlas and the Lodha Group, Harsh Vardhan Lodha has been removed as a director from the boards of four MP Birla Group investment firms. Mr. Lodha has challenged the move terming it "illegal".

Harsh Lodha has ceased to be a director on the boards of four MP Birla Group investment companies – East India Investment, Baroda Agents & Trading Co, Punjab Produce & Trading Co, and Punjab Produce Holdings – according to information available on the corporate affairs ministry's MCA21 portal as of November 18.



**Growth pangs:** Headwinds hampering growth prior to 2020, such as elevated bank NPAs, will worsen. ■ V. SREENIVASA MURTHY

It said an adequate and well-designed fiscal stimulus would halve this impact by limiting deterioration in pre-COVID-19 headwinds.

"But, given the low likelihood of such a comprehen-

sive response, we project India's GDP per capita to be 12% below our pre-virus baseline even in 2025," Oxford Economics said.

It added that the Indian government has announced

## RBI move on LVB to aid sector stability: S&P

'Initiative will keep contagion at bay'

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI  
S&P Global Ratings on Thursday said the Reserve Bank of India's 'swift' move to help resolve the woes of troubled Lakshmi Vilas Bank would keep 'contagion at bay' and help maintain stability in the banking system.

The Reserve Bank has proposed merging Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB) with DBS Bank India Ltd. (DBIL).

As part of the proposal, DBIL, the wholly owned subsidiary of Singapore-based DBS Bank, will inject ₹2,500 crore into the merged entity to support its financial position.

S&P said the deal was positive for India's banking

sector and would bring much-needed relief to LVB, which has been struggling for many years.

The Reserve Bank had placed the private-sector lender under prompt corrective action (or under watch) in September 2019, and the search for a white knight had been on since then.

## DRL probing graft plaint in Ukraine

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD

Drugmaker Dr. Reddy's Laboratories (DRL) on Thursday said it was probing a complaint that improper benefits were extended to healthcare professionals in Ukraine.

A detailed investigation has commenced into an anonymous complaint that alleged "healthcare professionals in Ukraine and potentially in other countries were provided with improper benefits in violation of U.S. laws," DRL said.

The investigation is being conducted by a reputed independent U.S. law firm, it said in a filing.

Ukraine is a part of the emerging markets for Dr. Reddy's and the company has an office there.

Shares of DRL closed little changed at ₹4,707.30 on the BSE on Thursday.

Narendra Modi

embourg Stock Exchange. Luxembourg-based investment funds hold substantial banking and asset management market share in portfolio investments in India.

Mr. Modi spoke about possible cooperation in dealing with the economic and health challenges posed by the pandemic, and invited Luxembourg to join the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).

Luxembourg is one of the most important financial centres globally. Several Indian companies have raised capital by issuing Global Depository Receipts at the Lux-

embourg Stock Exchange. Luxembourg-based investment funds hold substantial banking and asset management market share in portfolio investments in India.

Mr. Modi spoke about possible cooperation in dealing with the economic and health challenges posed by the pandemic, and invited Luxembourg to join the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).

Narendra Modi

embourg Stock Exchange. Luxembourg-based investment funds hold substantial banking and asset management market share in portfolio investments in India.

Mr. Modi spoke about possible cooperation in dealing with the economic and health challenges posed by the pandemic, and invited Luxembourg to join the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).

Narendra Modi

embourg Stock Exchange. Luxembourg-based investment funds hold substantial banking and asset management market share in portfolio investments in India.

Mr. Modi spoke about possible cooperation in dealing with the economic and health challenges posed by the pandemic, and invited Luxembourg to join the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).

Narendra Modi

embourg Stock Exchange. Luxembourg-based investment funds hold substantial banking and asset management market share in portfolio investments in India.

Mr. Modi spoke about possible cooperation in dealing with the economic and health challenges posed by the pandemic, and invited Luxembourg to join the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).

Narendra Modi

embourg Stock Exchange. Luxembourg-based investment funds hold substantial banking and asset management market share in portfolio investments in India.

Mr. Modi spoke about possible cooperation in dealing with the economic and health challenges posed by the pandemic, and invited Luxembourg to join the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).

Narendra Modi

embourg Stock Exchange. Luxembourg-based investment funds hold substantial banking and asset management market share in portfolio investments in India.

Mr. Modi spoke about possible cooperation in dealing with the economic and health challenges posed by the pandemic, and invited Luxembourg to join the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).

Narendra Modi

embourg Stock Exchange. Luxembourg-based investment funds hold substantial banking and asset management market share in portfolio investments in India.

Mr. Modi spoke about possible cooperation in dealing with the economic and health challenges posed by the pandemic, and invited Luxembourg to join the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).

Narendra Modi

embourg Stock Exchange. Luxembourg-based investment funds hold substantial banking and asset management market share in portfolio investments in India.

Mr. Modi spoke about possible cooperation in dealing with the economic and health challenges posed by the pandemic, and invited Luxembourg to join the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).

Narendra Modi

embourg Stock Exchange. Luxembourg-based investment funds hold substantial banking and asset management market share in portfolio investments in India.

Mr. Modi spoke about possible cooperation in dealing with the economic and health challenges posed by the pandemic, and invited Luxembourg to join the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).

Narendra Modi

embourg Stock Exchange. Luxembourg-based investment funds hold substantial banking and asset management market share in portfolio investments in India.

Mr. Modi spoke about possible cooperation in dealing with the economic and health challenges posed by the pandemic, and invited Luxembourg to join the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).

Narendra Modi

embourg Stock Exchange. Luxembourg

# Indian football's tryst with the brave new world begins today

The seventh edition of ISL — the biggest sporting event to be held in the country after the lockdown — will look to fill the prime-time slot vacated by the IPL

## ISL 2020-21

N. SUDARSHAN

The post-lockdown revival of sporting activity in India will witness its most significant marker yet when Kerala Blasters and ATK Mohun Bagan (ATKMB) set the ball rolling in the 2020-21 Indian Super League (ISL) opener at the GMC Stadium in Bambolim, Goa, on Friday.

Sport in spectator-less, bio-secure bubbles may have become the norm the world over, but India has only taken gingerly steps towards hosting events, the most notable being the I-League Qualifiers held in Kolkata last month, comprising five teams and 10 matches. The ISL, on the other hand, is an 11-team, 115-match behemoth spread over five months.

The foremost challenge therefore will be to maintain the sanctity of the bubble. Reports of two NorthEast United FC players testing positive have come as a wake-up call. Once on the pitch, a closed-door tournament means players have to find motivation from within.

ISL stadium attendances may have been dwindling — from a match average of 26,000 in 2014 to around 13,000 last season — but clubs such as Bengaluru FC

(BFC), Kerala Blasters and FC Goa will miss their passionate fan-base.

So will legendary Kolkata rivals Mohun Bagan (now ATKMB) and East Bengal (now SC East Bengal), who played in front of 63,756 fans in January, while still in the I-League. Silence will rule during their debut meeting in the ISL on November 27, but the clubs, with more than a century's history behind them, are sure to enlarge the tournament's footprint.

**No real home advantage**

With just three stadiums being used, home advantage stands negated. FC Goa, playing in its home environs, may have a slight edge, but even that is expected to even out over the course of the competition.

Being closeted in a bio-bubble for a long duration requires enormous mental strength, but for unsettled outfits — nine of the 11 teams have appointed new coaches and seen player upheavals — the setting could act as a glue, at least in the first half of the campaign.

However, the lack of a full-fledged pre-season to offset an eight-month break from competitive action has made coaches wary. An exception has been made to allow five substitutes instead of three, but teams are feeling ham-

strung, with a few foreign players in quarantine until last week.

### Retaining the core

Regardless, defending champion ATKMB (ATK before the merger) appears best-placed, having retained the core from last season, and added quality defenders such as Subhasish Bose and Sandesh Jhingan. Similarly, the Sunil Chhetri-led BFC is also a settled unit and, with increased firepower upfront, looks set to contend for the top prize again.

Sergio Lobera, who coached Goa to top-three finishes for three consecutive seasons and earned it the coveted spot in the 2021 AFC Champions League, has moved to Mumbai City FC. Owen Coyle, after leading two-time champion Chennaiyin FC to the final last season, is now with Jamshedpur FC.

There is therefore an expectation that the 2020-21 edition will be a lot closer. A steady stream of players arriving from the Australian League has added to this perception. If India's top division manages to be competitive enough to beat the seemingly real digital fatigue and seamlessly slip into the prime-time television slot just vacated by the IPL, it will be a grand success.

## Top hits

As the seventh edition is all set to kick off, a look at the players and teams who have dazzled on Indian football's biggest stage

### INDIVIDUAL RECORDS

#### ▪ Most goals (overall):

48 (57 matches) Ferran Corominas (FC Goa).

Not playing this season

#### ▪ Most goals (season): 18

(20) — Ferran Corominas (FC Goa), 2017-18

▪ Most assists (overall): 18 (63) — Marcellinho

(Dynamos/Pune City/Hyderabad FC). Will play for Odisha FC this season

### Mandar Rao Dessai (FC Goa)

Will don the Mumbai City FC colours this time

### TEAM RECORDS

#### Top scorer

▪ 205 goals in 108 contests — FC Goa

#### Highest wins

▪ 51 in 108 — FC Goa

▪ It is the only team to register more than 50 victories in the competition

#### WHAT'S NEW FOR 2020-21

▪ 11 teams will battle for honours, making it the largest field ever

▪ The Kolkata Derby (ATK

Mohun Bagan vs SC East Bengal) will be witnessed for the first time in the ISL. The first match between the two will be played on November 27

#### The five substitutes rule will be applied

▪ Goa will be the only host and the matches will be played at three venues (Bambolim, Vasco and Fatorda)

### HONOURS BOARD

2014: ATK | 2015: Chennaiyin FC

2016: ATK

2017-18: Chennaiyin FC

2018-19: Bengaluru FC

2019-20: ATK

Will take longer to settle down: Blasters coach

STAN RAYAN  
KOCHI

ATK Mohun Bagan (ATKMB), which meets Kerala Blasters in the opener on Friday, did not play any friendly matches during the pre-season.

"For me, the friendly matches did not have the conditions necessary for playing. So, it was better to play against ourselves," said Antonio Habas, ATKMB coach.

Since teams did not enough time to prepare, Blasters' head coach Kibu Vicuna felt that settling down will take longer this season.

"It is better to have more friendly games in pre-season but some players came late because of visa issues."

### Will get better and better

"For sure, we are going to be better next month and better than that in two months," said Vicuna, who helped Bagan win the I-League title last season.

### TODAY'S MATCH

Kerala Blasters vs ATK Mohun Bagan  
7.30 p.m.

STAR SPORTS 1, 2 (SD & HD) AND 3



SOURCE: INDIANSUPERLEAGUE

## Medvedev stuns Djokovic, books semifinal spot

Thiem slumps to a defeat against Rublev in an inconsequential match

## ATP FINALS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
LONDON

Daniil Medvedev shocked Novak Djokovic in straight sets to book a place in the last four at the ATP Finals on Wednesday.

The Russian fourth seed went toe-to-toe with the World No. 1, coming out on top 6-3, 6-3 in an absorbing, energy-sapping contest at the empty O2 Arena.

Top seed Djokovic is seeking to match the record of six-time winner Roger Federer,

er, who is absent from the season-ending tournament with an injury.

Medvedev, who won the Paris Masters last week, refused to allow Djokovic to dictate in the first set, earning a clutch of break points and eventually making one count in the seventh game, which lasted 11 gruelling minutes.

The Russian held serve easily in the next game and seized the opening set 6-3 when a rattled Djokovic served a double-fault.

An increasingly confident Medvedev, 24, won the first

service game of the second set to love in just 60 seconds.

Djokovic was broken again in the next game, giving the Russian his sixth game in a row as he maintained an incredibly high level of tennis in the round-robin match.

Medvedev survived a mini-wobble and Djokovic stemmed the rot on his serve but the Russian kept his nerve to see out the win.

### Still in with a chance

The victory takes Medvedev through to the semifinals but five-time winner Djokovic

still has a chance to progress in a shootout with Alexander Zverev on Friday.

Austria's Dominic Thiem, who had already ensured a semifinal spot, was well below his best as he slumped to a 6-2, 7-5 defeat against Andrei Rublev in a dead rubber on Thursday. Rublev broke the third seed twice to race to a 3-0 lead before Thiem arrested the slide with a service hold. However, he could not make inroads into the Russian's serve and the set was over in just 25 minutes.

In the second set, Rublev, who was in his element, broke Thiem in the third game for the third time in the match.

At 4-4, the Austrian appeared to be back in the contest but was broken again in the 11th game. Rublev sealed the win with an ace.

**The results:** Group London 2020: 7-Andrey Rublev (Rus) bt 3-Dominic Thiem (Aut) 6-2, 7-5.

**Group Tokyo 1970:** 4-Daniil Medvedev (Rus) bt 1-Novak Djokovic (Srb) 6-3, 6-3.

**Doubles:** Group Mike Bryan: 8-Lukasz Kubot (Pol) & Marcelo Melo (Bra) bt 5-Wesley Koolhof (Ned) & Niklas Mektic (Cro) 6-4, 6-7(2), [10-8].

**Group Bob Bryan:** 7-Jurgen Melzer (Aut) & Edouard Roger-Vasselin (Fra) bt 6-John Peers (Aus) & Michael Venus (NZ) 2-6, 7-6(4), [12-10].



Red-hot Russian: Medvedev brought his A-game into play against Djokovic. ■REUTERS

## Rohit begins training at NCA



Rohit Sharma. ■FILE PHOTO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
BENGALURU

Rohit Sharma started his fitness training at the National Cricket Academy here on Thursday.

Rohit is not part of India's limited-overs squad but was included in the revised Test squad. Though Rohit said he was absolutely fine, the BCCI felt he needed more time to recover from the hamstring injury he had suffered during the IPL.

On Wednesday, Ishant Sharma, who is also doing his injury rehab at the NCA, bowled full tilt under the supervision of chief selector Sunil Joshi and NCA head Rahul Dravid.

The top two teams at the end of the league stage in

## Australia displaces India at top of WTC

Change occurs after ICC alters ranking system to deal with disrupted series

### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Australia has displaced India at the top of the World Test Championship (WTC) as a fallout of the change in calculation of points for the inaugural edition because of the COVID-19 outbreak.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) Board on Thursday accepted the recommendation of the Cricket Committee and the Chief Executives' Committee to not put any team at a disadvantage for being unable to participate in a WTC series due to the pandemic.

Meanwhile, it is understood that the stalemate over Shashank Manohar's successor as ICC chairman couldn't be resolved during the ICC Board meeting as the first round of voting remained inconclusive as per the regulations.

**Inconclusive**

According to ESPNcricinfo, Greg Barclay of New Zealand had a 10-6 lead over interim ICC chairman Imran Khan of Singapore, but could not garner the prescribed majority of 11 votes.

## Pujara gets into the groove

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
SYDNEY

Cheteshwar Pujara had extensive nets here on Thursday and looked comfortable facing the fast bowlers as he geared up for the Test series against Australia.

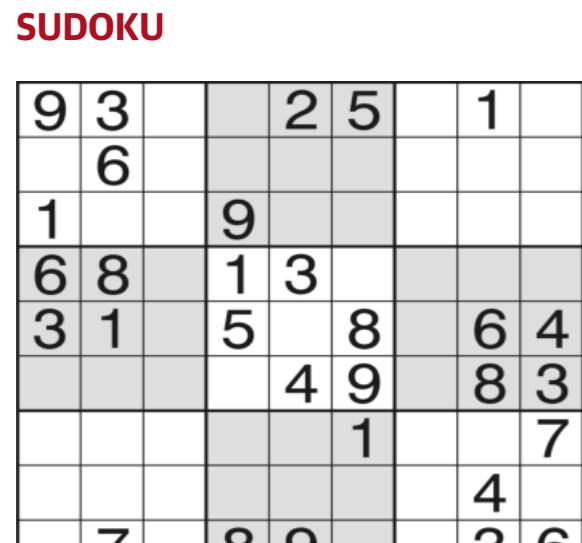
Pujara faced Ishan Porel, Kartik Tyagi, who are with the team as net bowlers, Umesh Yadav and R. Ashwin. The BCCI posted a video of Pujara's nets on social media.

India's throwdown specialist Raghu, who could not fly out with the other support staff as he tested positive for COVID-19 back home, has landed here and is in quarantine.



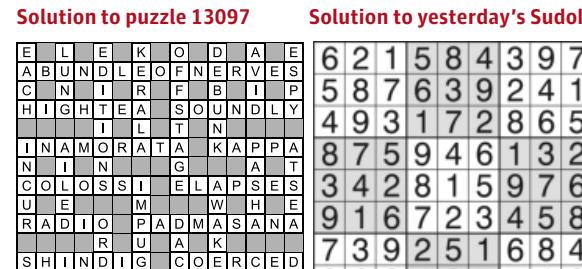
Pujara. ■FILE PHOTO

## SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 13097

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku



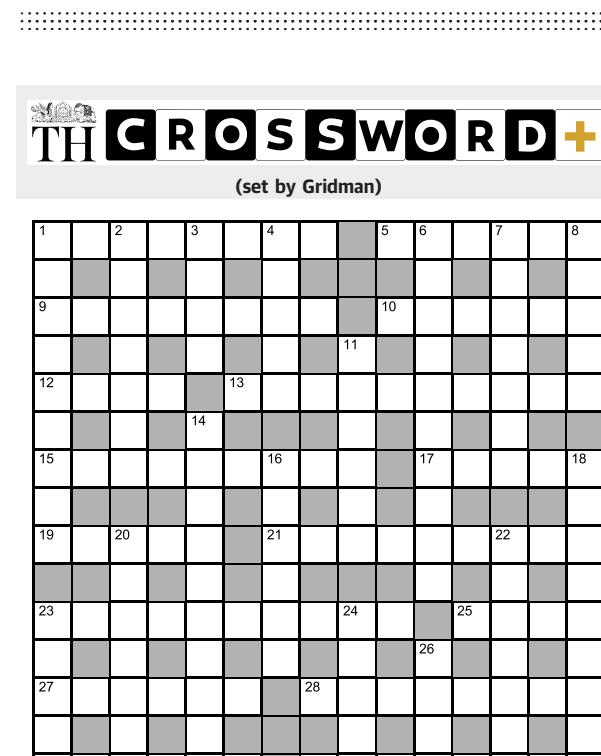
## FAITH

### Life is just a game

It is because we do not give a thought to how short life on earth is that we run after things that have a temporary charm. Our attachment to our family is excessive because of our ajnana. None can love us more than our parents, and yet they are our parents only in this birth. Who knows who will be our parents in the next janma? Nampillai gave an example to make us realise this, said Kidambi Narayanan in a discourse.

One day, Nampillai saw some boys playing on the banks of the Cauvery, in Srirangam. They were building houses of sand. They divided their houses into different sections and said one was the living room, one was the dining room, one was the kitchen and so on. One of the boys pretended to be a mother. Another was a father, and a few others were children. Nampillai watched while they played. After some time, they demolished the houses of sand, which they had built, and began to play some other game.

Nampillai then said to them, "You were so long playing the roles of father, mother, children etc. But now, suddenly, you have forgotten those roles." The children said, "Now we are playing a new game, so our roles have changed." Nampillai used this simple game that the children played to explain how, in life, we merely play roles. A person is daughter to someone, wife to someone, mother to someone. But when life ends, all this comes to an end, in the same way that all the role playing of the children ended. That being the case, is attachment to people or things in life justified? Our attachment must be only to Lord Narayana, for there is none equal to or superior to Him. This is what the Upanishadic statement, Ekam eva adviteeyam, stresses. Bhagavan is the only constant, and we must focus on Him.



**ACROSS**  
1 Call to dog to get bird (8)  
5 Alien, not I, with another alien, rushes to get a kite (6)  
9 One leaves several around post office in volatile condition (8)  
10 Large victim of predatory bird (6)  
12 Sound sense in quote (4)  
13 Agent's hearty turn with fiction writer to buy back (10)  
15 Union leader in running blue Fiat — lovely! (9)

Free your mind from lockdown.  
Solve

## TV PICKS

**ISL:** Star Sports 1 & 2 (SD & HD) & Star Sports 3, 7.30 p.m.  
**ATP Finals:** Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Saturday).

## Italy, Belgium qualify

## AGENCIES

SARAJEVO

Romel Lukaku helped fire Belgium into the UEFA Nations League finals by scoring twice in a 4-2 win over Denmark on Wednesday, while Italy also secured a place in the last four with a 2-0 win away to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

**The results:** League A: Group 1: Bosnia and Herzegovina 0 lost to Italy 2; Poland 1 lost to the Netherlands 2. Group 2: England 4 bt Iceland 0; Belgium 4 bt Denmark 2.

**League B:** Group 1: Northern Ireland 1 drew with Romania 1; Austria 1 drew with Norway 1. Group 2: Israel 1 bt Scotland 0; Czech Republic 2 bt Slovakia 0. Group 3: Serbia 5 bt Russia 0; Hungary 2 bt Turkey 0. Group 4: Republic of Ireland 0 drew with Bulgaria 0; Wales 3 bt Finland 1.

**League C:** Group 2: Armenia 1 bt North Macedonia 0; Georgia 0 drew with Estonia 0. Group 3: Kosovo 1 bt Moldova 0; Greece 0 Slovenia 0. Group 4: Kazakhstan 1 lost to Lithuania 2; Albania 3 bt Belarus 2.

## Carlsen sees bleak future for classical time format chess

'Not realistic to expect fans to watch long games online'

RAKESH RAO

NEW DELHI

World chess champion Magnus Carlsen is unsure about any further growth of mass interest in the classical time format of the game.

The Norwegian genius, the most dominant player across formats, continued his supremacy among the world's best players in the inaugural million-dollar online Chess Tour named after him this year.

## Growing interest

Carlsen's argument is augmented by the growing interest in the shorter formats in online competitions. In an interview to *Chess Life Online* published this week, Carlsen said: "In general, the future of classical chess, as it is now, is a little bit dubious.



Sad, but...! Magnus Carlsen says only a drastic change can revive interest in the classical format. ■ FILE PHOTO

There are going to be a lot of draws when the best players in the world play classical chess over-the-board."

He said it was not realistic to expect people to play or fans to watch with interest long games online. "I think the rapid format is excellent for online play because you

keep at least some semblance of high quality chess and it also doesn't take too long," he said.

He would compete a World championship but not playing as much classical chess in the next one year as he did last year, he said.

## Focus on online tour

"There is going to be, at least for the next year, a lot of focus on the online tour that is coming up, so I cannot spend all my time travelling," he said. Despite domi-

nating world-class opposition and winning almost every title on offer, Carlsen said: "I want to be a lot more dominant than I've been. I think I played well in one of the events, the Chessable Masters. Apart from that, it has been fairly mediocre.

"I haven't reached my full potential in these formats and, I would say certainly during the last St. Louis event, I was just basically going through the motions. I had no energy or creativity. I was just not playing well at all."

## AITA postpones National camp

KAMESH SRINIVASAN

NEW DELHI

The All India Tennis Association (AITA) has been forced to postpone the National camp for men and women owing to a spike in COVID-19 cases in the Capital.

## Top players missing

"The camp has unfortunately been postponed again due to the massive surge in COVID cases in Delhi and also since most of the top men's players are outside the country till at least mid-December," said Akhouri Bishwadeep, CEO, AITA.

The AITA had planned to conduct the camp for the top players by the end of November, and follow it up with an invitational National championship.

The junior tennis events started on Monday with the Talent and Championship series events, including the one in Delhi. However, the changed scenario in the Capital has forced the DLTA to cancel the junior tournament scheduled for next week.

**Abhinav Bindra named brand ambassador for Airtel Delhi Half Marathon**

The Airtel Delhi Half Marathon organisers have named Olympic gold medallist shooter Abhinav Bindra as the event ambassador for the 16th edition to be held on November 29.

"The ADHM has motivated individuals to adopt a healthy lifestyle and run for a cause. In spite of the challenges this year, the amateurs have the opportunity to participate from different parts of India but finish together in spirit through the ADHM mobile app," Bindra said.

**Sporting Club and Sehgal & Chaudhary Academy in quarterfinals**

Delhi Ranji Trophy player Hiten Dalal and Abhimanyu Yadav scored half-centuries and Yogesh Kumar picked up three wickets as Sporting Club beat Ravi Brothers by 135 runs to reach the quarterfinals of the Ganaur Premier League.

In another match, Surender Dahiya (47) and Sunil Dagar (38) added 76 runs for the 7th wicket to help Sehgal &

Chaudhary Academy beat Niz Haryana Academy by one wicket and enter the last eight.

**The scores:** Sporting Club 208/2 in 20 overs (Hiten Dalal 72, Abhimanyu Yadav 71 n.o.) bt Ravi Brothers 73 in 10.1 overs (Yogesh Kumar 3/7, Prince Yadav 2/8, Pradeep Sangwan 2/25, Pawan Suyal 2/28).

Niz Academy 127/7 in 20 overs (Avneesh Sudha 38, Akshay Saini 34) lost to SCA 131/9 in 19.5 overs (Surender Dahiya 47, Sunil Dagar 38, Poonish Mehta 3/30).

**Om Nath Sood cricket begins today with 22 teams in the fray**

The 30th edition of All India Om Nath Sood memorial tournament will be played from Friday at the DDA Complex,

Pitampura with Sethi

and 22 teams in the fray.

**Easy for Uday Gupte Academy**

Delhi Under-23 player Gagan Vats top-scored with 98 and Dhanur Sikri made

80 as Uday Gupte Academy beat Arush Sports by 89

1,664 (6 tkts.).

**The scores:** Sporting Club 208/2 in 20 overs (Hiten Dalal 72, Abhimanyu Yadav 71 n.o.) bt Ravi Brothers 73 in 10.1 overs (Yogesh Kumar 3/7, Prince Yadav 2/8, Pradeep Sangwan 2/25, Pawan Suyal 2/28).

Niz Academy 127/7 in 20 overs (Avneesh Sudha 38, Akshay Saini 34) lost to SCA 131/9 in 19.5 overs (Surender Dahiya 47, Sunil Dagar 38, Poonish Mehta 3/30).

**On Nath Sood cricket begins today with 22 teams in the fray**

The 30th edition of All India Om Nath Sood

memorial tournament will be held simultaneously.

Entries close with

Manmeet Bhatia (7861000999) on

November 23.

## NEW DELHI ROUND-UP

## Abhinav Bindra named brand ambassador for Airtel Delhi Half Marathon

The Airtel Delhi Half

Marathon organisers have named Olympic gold medallist shooter Abhinav Bindra as the event ambassador for the 16th edition to be held on November 29.

"The ADHM has motivated

individuals to adopt a healthy lifestyle and run for a cause. In spite of the challenges this year, the amateurs have the opportunity to participate from different parts of India but finish together in spirit through the ADHM mobile app," Bindra said.

**Sporting Club and Sehgal & Chaudhary Academy in quarterfinals**

Delhi Ranji Trophy player Hiten Dalal and Abhimanyu Yadav scored half-centuries and Yogesh Kumar picked up three wickets as Sporting Club beat Ravi Brothers by 135 runs to reach the quarterfinals of the Ganaur Premier League.

In another match, Surender Dahiya (47) and Sunil Dagar (38) added 76 runs for the 7th wicket to help Sehgal &

Chaudhary Academy beat Niz Haryana Academy by one wicket and enter the last eight.

**The scores:** Sporting Club

208/2 in 20 overs (Hiten Dalal 72, Abhimanyu Yadav 71 n.o.)

bt Ravi Brothers 73 in 10.1

overs (Yogesh Kumar 3/7, Prince Yadav 2/8, Pradeep Sangwan 2/25, Pawan Suyal 2/28).

Niz Academy 127/7 in 20 overs (Avneesh Sudha 38, Akshay Saini 34) lost to SCA 131/9 in 19.5 overs (Surender Dahiya 47, Sunil Dagar 38, Poonish Mehta 3/30).

**Om Nath Sood cricket begins today with 22 teams in the fray**

The 30th edition of All India Om Nath Sood

memorial tournament will be held simultaneously.

Entries close with

Manmeet Bhatia (7861000999) on

November 23.

## Sports and Youth Cricket Club facing off in the inaugural game.

Twenty-two teams have confirmed participation including defending champion Haryana Cricket Academy, runner-up Sporting Cricket Club, Collage Group, Telefunken CC, LB Shastri CC among others.

All the matches will be of 40 overs a side on a knockout basis.

**Shamsheer hits seven goals in Achievers ONN's thumping win**

Shamsheer Ali smashed seven goals in helping Achievers ONN outclass 61st Cavalry 13 goals to 2-1/2 in a league match of the Velocity-48 Maharaja Hari Singh Cup 10-goal polo tournament at the Jaipur Polo ground here on Thursday.

In the other match of the four-team league, Sahara Warriors beat Jindal Panther 5-2.

**The results (league):** Sahara Warriors 5 (Padmanab Singh 5/32, Daniel Otamendi 2) bt Jindal Panther 2 (Simran Shergill, Dhruv Godara).

Achievers ONN 13 (Shamsheer Ali 7, Abhimanyu Pathak 3, Dhananjay Singh 3) bt 61st Cavalry 2-1/2 (Arjun Patil 2, handicap 1/2).

**Delhi State billiards and snooker to begin on November 25**

The Delhi State Billiards and Snooker championship will be held at the Mega Pool Snooker Academy, Dwarka, from November 25.

The finalists will represent Delhi in the National Championships scheduled to be held early next year. The junior and sub-junior championships will be held simultaneously.

Entries close with

Manmeet Bhatia (7861000999) on

November 23.

## Born To Be wins Dodla Pratap Chander Reddy Memorial Million

**HYDERABAD:** N.V. Rohin Kumar's Born To Be (A.A. Vikram up) claimed the Dodla Pratap Chander Reddy Memorial Million, the main attraction of the opening day's races on Thursday (Nov. 19). The winner is trained by D. Netto. Jockey Suraj Narredu rode three winners on the day.

**1 BEGINNERS PLATE (1,100m), rated 120 to 45 (Cat. II): BRILLIANT VIEW (Suraj Narredu) 1, Four One Four (Kuldeep Singh) 2, Capricornia (Ashad Asbar) 3 and Magic Street (Darshan R N) 4. Nk, 8-3/4, 1-1/4, 1-1/2, Im, 0-24s, 312 (w), 9, 21 and 8 (p), SHP: 45, TPH: 26, TRP: 27, FP: 46, Q: 44, Tanala: 138. Favourite: Lombardy. Owners: Ms. Simone Zavaray Poonawalla rep. Poonawalla Racing & Breeding Pvt. Ltd., Mr. Rishad N. Pandole and Mr. Aditya P. Thackersey. Trainer: L.R.V. Deshmukh.**

**2 DECCAN STAR PLATE (Div. I) (1,200m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II): SITARA (Akshay Kumar) 1, Rapid Fire (Jitendra Singh) 2, Blazer (P. Trevor) 3 and Conscious Gift (A. Sandesh) 4. Nk, 1-1/2, 1-2, 1, Im, 13.66s. ₹7 (w), 5, 17**

(p), SHP: 40, TPH: 26, TRP: 27, FP: 45, Q: 44, Tanala: 138. Favourite: Lombardy. Owners: Ms. Simone Zavaray Poonawalla rep. Poonawalla Racing & Breeding Pvt. Ltd., Mr. Rishad N. Pandole and Mr. Aditya P. Thackersey. Trainer: L.R.V. Deshmukh.

**3 GRAND ENTRY PLATE (Div. II) (1,400m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II): LOMBARDY (P. Trevor) 1, Galloping Gangster (Santosh Raj N) 2, Premier Action (Akshay Kumar) 3 and Dandy Man (Suraj Narredu) 4. Nk, 1-1/4, Im, 27.28s. ₹5 (w), 9, 13 and 9 (p), SHP: 45, TPH: 26, TRP: 27, FP: 46, Q: 44, Tanala: 138. Favourite: Lombardy. Owners: Ms. Simone Zavaray Poonawalla rep. Poonawalla Racing & Breeding Pvt. Ltd., Mr. Rishad N. Pandole and Mr. Aditya P. Thackersey. Trainer: L.R.V. Deshmukh.**

**4 DECCAN STAR PLATE (Div. II) (1,200m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II): STRATEGIST (Ivan Singh) 1, Dinkirk (Darshan R N) 2, 3. Best In Show (Kuldeep Singh) 3 and Max (S. Zer-**

van) 4. Nk, 1-1/4, hd, sh., 1m, 14.22s. ₹9 (w), 9, 43 and 17 (p), SHP: 41, TPH: 55, TRP: 49, FP: 46, Q: 46, Tanala: 138. Favourite: Max. Owner: Col. S.B. Nair. Trainer: S. Sreekant.

**5 SRISAILAM PLATE (1,200m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): HIDDEN HOPE (Suraj Narredu) 1, Good Connection (P. Trevor) 2, Angel Tesoro (B.R. Kumar) 3 and Aerial Combat (Akshay Kumar) 4. Nk, 1-1/4, Im, 27.28s. ₹5 (w), 9, 13 and 9 (p), SHP: 45, TPH: 26, TRP: 27, FP: 46, Q: 44, Tanala: 138. Favourite: Lombardy. Owners: Mr. Vijay Kumar Gupta rep. Vijay Racing & Farms Pvt. Ltd., Mr. Susheel Kumar Gupta, Mr. Zavaray S. Poonawalla & Ms. Simone Zavaray Poonawalla rep. Poonawalla Racing & Breeding Pvt. Ltd. Trainer: Laxman Singh.**

**6 DODLA PRATAP CHANDER REDDY MEMORIAL MILLION (1,100m), (Termis) Maiden 2-y-o only: BORN TO BE (A.A. Vikram) 1, Akido (Nahat Singh) 2, Ashwa Jauhar (Suraj Narredu) 3 and Galwan (Irvan Singh) 4. Nk, 1-1/4, Im, 27.28s. ₹5 (w), 9, 13 and 9 (p), SHP: 45, TPH: 26, TRP: 27, FP: 46, Q: 44, Tanala: 138. Favourite: Lombardy. Owners: Ms. Simone Zavaray Poonawalla rep. Poonawalla Racing & Breeding Pvt. Ltd., Mr. Rishad N. Pandole and Mr. Aditya P. Thackersey. Trainer: L.R.V. Deshmukh.**

**7 GRAND ENTRY PLATE (Div. I) (1,400m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II): ASHWA BRAVO (Suraj Narredu) 1, British Empress (Rohit Kumar) 2, Mind Reader (B.R. Kumar) 3 and Lockhart (Ajeeth Kumar) 4. Nk, 1-1/4, Im, 27.28s. ₹5 (w), 9, 13 and 9 (p),**