



Senior party leaders should maintain discipline: Congress  
Page 9



Anganwadis to reopen after a gap of more than seven months  
Page 10



Biden set to appoint Antony Blinken as Secretary of State  
Page 11



Medvedev staves off Thiem's challenge to win ATP Finals  
Page 13

PRINTED AT • CHENNAI • COIMBATORE • BENGALURU • HYDERABAD • MADURAI • NOIDA • VISAKHAPATNAM • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • KOCHI • VIJAYAWADA • MANGALURU • TIRUCHIRAPPALLI • KOLKATA • HUBBALLI • MOHALI • MALAPPURAM • MUMBAI • TIRUPATI • LUCKNOW • CUTTACK • PATNA

## NEARBY



Capital sees 4,454 new cases as testing declines

NEW DELHI

With lesser number of tests, Delhi witnessed 4,454 new COVID-19 cases in the last 24 hours, taking the total number of cases to 5,34,317, according to a health bulletin released by the Delhi government. A total of 37,307 tests were conducted in the past 24 hours, which is very less compared to over 60,000 tests carried out on many days last week.

CITY ▶ PAGE 2

'Love jihad': Kanpur SIT doesn't find conspiracy

LUCKNOW

A Special Investigation Team probing cases of alleged "love jihad" in Kanpur has found criminality in 11 out of the 14 instances but found no evidence of foreign funding or organised conspiracy. The SIT was formed after 14 cases emerged in which the parents alleged that "Muslim boys had deceived their daughters and trapped them in love relationships", said IG (Kanpur) Mohit Agarwal.

NORTH & EAST ▶ PAGE 4

**theMCQbank.com**  
**Dhriti** देवतारीज  
**Prelims 2021**  
Test Series  
9799180074, 7827565701  
themcqbank@gmail.com

## Oxford vaccine is 70% effective

200 million doses will be ready by year-end, says pharma major

REUTERS  
LONDON

Pharma major AstraZeneca said on Monday its COVID-19 vaccine could be as much as 90% effective, giving the world's fight against the global pandemic a new weapon, cheaper to make, easier to distribute and faster to scale-up than rivals.

The British drugmaker said it will have as many as 200 million doses by the end of 2020, around four times as many as U.S. competitor Pfizer. Seven hundred million doses could be ready globally as early as the end of the first quarter of 2021, it said.

**Status check |** Among the 54 vaccine candidates undergoing clinical trials, 13 are currently in phase 3 while six have been approved for limited use

▪ Pharmaceutical major AstraZeneca announced on Monday that its vaccine, being developed with University of Oxford, had **an average efficacy of 70%**, according to interim data  
▪ On November 9, New York-based Pfizer and Germany-based BioNTech said their vaccine candidate was over **90% effective**, according to preliminary data  
▪ The U.S.-based company Moderna on November 16 announced that a preliminary

The vaccine on average prevented 70% of COVID-19 cases in late-stage trials in Britain and Brazil; the success rate rose to 90% if the vaccine was administered as a half dose followed by a full dose. The efficacy was 62% if the full dose was given twice, as it was for most study participants. No serious safety events were confirmed, the

company said.

However, AstraZeneca's shares fell 4%, on track for their worst daily performance in six months, as investors perceived the efficacy data as disappointing compared with rivals. Pfizer and Moderna, which reported that their vaccines prevented around 95% of cases, had set the bar for success sky-high.

The AstraZeneca shot does, however, have some advantages over offerings from U.S. rivals. The drug's cost to governments works out at just a few dollars a shot, a fraction of the price of shots from Pfizer and Moderna, which use a more unconventional technology.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8  
SC SEEKS REPORTS FROM STATES ▶ PAGE 10

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD



## Kerala puts new libel law on hold

We will seek debate on amendment: CM

We are not intending to implement the amended Act. A detailed discussion will be held in the Assembly and further steps will be taken after hearing views from various quarters  
PINARAYI VIJAYAN, Kerala Chief Minister

It is unfortunate that the Governor gave his assent to the amendment Act, which curtails media freedom  
MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN, Kerala Congress chief

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala government on Monday decided not to put into immediate effect an ordinance that sought to empower the police to prosecute persons disseminating defamatory content.

Announcing the rollback, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said various quarters had aired scepticism about the recent revision to the Kerala Police Act, 2011. Hence, the government had decided not to implement the ordinance signed into law by Kerala Governor Arif Mohammad Khan last week.

Alternatively, the government would seek a consensus by placing the amendment for debate in the Assembly, he said.

The decision came after Mr. Vijayan held discussions with members of the CPI(M) State secretariat and the Left Democratic Front (LDF).

Earlier, CPI(M) general se-

cretary Sitaram Yechury indicated in New Delhi that the Kerala government would "reconsider" the implementation of the contentious amendment.

The LDF and the government had come under criticism from opposition parties, journalists and civil rights activists for promulgating a "black law" that threatened free speech and the freedom of the press.

LDF convener and CPI(M) acting State secretary A. Vijayaraghavan said concerns raised by progressive persons had prompted the rethink. The misuse of social media as a potent vehicle for slander targeting women, children and families had necessitated the law, he said.

Alternatively, the government would seek a consensus by placing the amendment for debate in the Assembly, he said.

The decision came after

Mr. Vijayan held discussions with members of the CPI(M) State secretariat and the Left Democratic Front (LDF).

Earlier, CPI(M) general se-

Move to allow corporates to set up banks attracts flak

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

The RBI working group's proposal to allow corporate houses to set up banks is a "bombshell" and at this juncture, it is more important to stick to the tried and tested limits on involvement of business houses in the banking sector, says an article written by former RBI governor Raghuram Rajan and ex-deputy governor Viral Acharya.

The authors said the proposal is "best left on the shelf".

"The history of... connected lending is invariably disastrous – how can the bank make good loans when it is owned by the borrower? Even an independent committed regulator, with all the information in the world, finds it difficult to be in every nook and corner of the financial system to stop poor lending," the article said.

An Internal Working Group (IWG) set up by the RBI, had last week made various recommendations, including that a large corporate may be permitted to promote banks after necessary amendments to the Banking Regulation Act.

Referring to the group's proposal, the article said, "Its most important recommendation is a bombshell."

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

## SC extends Perarivalan's parole by one week

It was set to end on November 23; court orders police escort be given to convict

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday extended the parole of Rajiv Gandhi assassination case convict A.G. Perarivalan by a week. He was on parole from November 9 till 23.

Senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan and advocate Prabu Ramasubramanian, for Perarivalan, informed a Bench led by Justice L. Nageswara Rao that the convict was not given police

escort for a hospital visit. The court ordered that Perarivalan be given police escort.

Additional Advocate General Balaji Srinivasan appeared for the State.

**Remission debate**

During the short hearing, the Centre raised a point of debate about the Governor's power to grant remission to Perarivalan under Article 161 of the Constitution.

Significantly, this submis-

sion comes on the heels of a CBI affidavit that said it was entirely up to the Governor to pardon Perarivalan. Mr. Sankaranarayanan objected to this, arguing that the convict was free to choose between the President and the Governor for pardon.

The advocate referred to the Constitution Bench's judgment in the Union of India versus Sriharan of December 2015, which said the "exercise of executive clemency" is "vested in the Pre-

sident or the Governor."

Mr. Sanakaranarayanan said the Centre's rejection, in April 2018, of the Tamil Nadu government's proposal to remit the sentence of convicts under Section 432 of the Code of Criminal Procedure did not stop them from separately moving the Governor for pardon under Article 161 of the Constitution.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

## Supreme Court dismisses Delhi govt. plea against bail to riot accused

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed an appeal filed by the Delhi government against a High Court decision to grant bail to a SIM card salesman who was arrested under the Unlawful Activities

(Prevention) Act (UAPA) in connection with the northeast Delhi riots.

A three-judge Bench, led by Justice Ashok Bhushan, refused to set aside or intervene with the bail granted to Faizan Khan by the Delhi High Court on October 23.

The High Court had noted that the prosecution did not produce any evidence to link Mr. Khan directly with the conspiracy to riot in the background of the anti-Citizenship (Amendment) Act protests.

Dismissing the appeal, the

Bench said the remarks made by the High Court would not prejudice the trial. "We, however, make it clear that observations made by the High Court in the impugned judgment are only for the purpose of granting the bail and shall not be

treated as any expression of opinion during trial," the top court said.

The High Court had pointed out that there was no allegation against Mr. Khan that he engaged in any form of terror funding or such other ancillary activity. "For invok-

ing the UAPA against the present petitioner [Khan], it is the duty of the investigating agency to demonstrate that the petitioner had 'actual knowledge' that the said SIM card would be used for organising the protests," the High Court had said.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Bhutan border village on disputed land

Media claims it is on Chinese territory

### Focal point

The map shows the location of Pangda, the new border village said to be built by China in disputed territory



▪ The area is east of the India-Bhutan-China trijunction on the Doklam plateau, the site of a 72-day stand-off in 2017

▪ Chinese media said the village had 27 households, a public square, a village committee, a health room, a police room, a kindergarten, a supermarket and a plastic runway

ANANTH KRISHNAN

Chinese media on Monday claimed that a new border village built by China near Bhutan was on Chinese territory, but released images of the village show its location on territory disputed by the two countries.

The Global Times said "according to open records, authorities in Yadong county of Southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region confirmed that 27 households with 124 people voluntarily moved from Shangdui village of Duina prefecture of Yadong county to Pangda village in September 2020," adding the village was 35 km away from the county.

Chinese media reported there were 27 households, and the village was covered by asphalt roads and "has a public square, village committee, health room, police room, kindergarten, supermarket and a plastic runway".

China has in the past sought to bolster its territorial claims in disputed areas by building civilian settlements there, as on disputed South China Sea islands.

Bhutan's denial

Last week, however, Bhutan's officials denied the village was on their territory.

Bhutan's Ambassador in India Vetsop Namgyel told The Hindu, "There is no Chinese village inside Bhutan."

**SHUBHRA RANJAN**  
Always Ahead

**PERSPECTIVE : CURRENT AFFAIRS PROGRAM 2021**

**DR. JAYESH KHADDAR**

- Weekly lectures (Saturday and Sunday).
- Duration of each lecture is 2.5 hrs.
- Holistic coverage of all Prelims and Mains 2021 issues.

**LIVE Live Q&A Session + Value Addition Sessions**

**COURSE DURATION**  
18<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2020 – 1<sup>st</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021  
(COURSE WILL BE CONDUCTED IN ONLINE MODE ONLY)

SCAN HERE TO KNOW MORE



**NURTURE : GS TEST SERIES 2021**

**A RESULT ORIENTED PATH**

- Under the Personal Guidance of Shubhra Ranjan
- 40 Tests (21 Prelims and 19 Mains).
- Tests designed by Expert Faculties.
- Post Test Discussion by Faculties.
- Qualitative Model Answers prepared by Faculties.
- Timely Evaluation and Detailed Feedback.
- Mentorship with personalized attention.
- All test can be availed in online/offline\* format.

\*offline availability is subject to Govt. Directions due to COVID19

**BATCH STARTING**  
17<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2020

SCAN HERE TO KNOW MORE



delhi@shubhraranjan.com

www.shubhraranjan.com

25, First Floor metro station, Pusa Road,

Karol Bagh, New Delhi 110005

011 - 45612719 ; +919910812719

**SPJIMR**  
Bharatiya Vidyabhawan

Courage. Heart

**BHARATIYA VIDYA BHAVAN'S**  
S P JAIN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT & RESEARCH

**Post Graduate Diploma in Management (PGDM) 2021-2023** (Equivalent to MBA)

- Building value-based leaders with a global mindset
- Rural and International immersion
- Ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> among Indian B Schools and 36<sup>th</sup> in the world by the Financial Times, MIM 2020</

## HC rejects plea for another lockdown

Petition filed without doing homework'

### STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI  
The Delhi High Court on Monday declined to entertain a petition to immediately place the Capital under lockdown in view of the rising COVID-19 cases and air pollution levels, saying it was a policy decision.

A Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice Prateek Jalan remarked that the petition was filed without doing any homework.

The Bench asked the petitioner, Kaushal Kant Mishra, whether he had studied the reports on ineffectiveness of imposing a lockdown.

### Plea withdrawn

The Bench asked Dr. Mishra whether he will withdraw the petition or should it be dismissed with costs. To

this, Dr. Mishra's lawyer agreed to withdraw the plea and sought liberty to move a representation before the appropriate authorities.

The High Court, however, declined to grant any such liberty and said "petition is dismissed as withdrawn".

During the brief hearing, Delhi government additional standing counsel Gautam Narayan, said that there is specific direction from the Central government to all States and Union Territories that no lockdown be imposed without its permission.

The counsel said petition ought to have made the Central government a party in the matter as without its concurrence the Delhi government cannot impose a lockdown.

Also, 121 more deaths have been reported in the past 24 hours, taking the total number of deaths to 8,512.

Of the total cases,

### STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI  
With lesser number of tests, Delhi witnessed only 4,454 new COVID-19 cases in the last 24 hours, taking the total number of cases to 5,34,317, according to a health bulletin released by the Delhi government on Monday.

Only 37,307 tests were done in the past 24 hours, which is very less compared to over 60,000 daily tests conducted on many days last week. The number of tests has been usually low on bulletins on Mondays, as it represents tests done on Sunday.

Health Minister Satyendar Jain on Monday said that there was heavy pollution due to stubble burning along with the pandemic and it

### Jain says pollution due to stubble burning has led to higher number of deaths



A health worker collects a swab sample for COVID-19 testing in Delhi on Monday. • R.V. MOORTHY

was a "double attack" and that could have led to the higher number of deaths.

"The pollution due to stubble burning was problematic. This effect will remain for two to three weeks. People had COVID and there was smoke from stubble. The effect will reduce in two to

three weeks. The pollution from stubble burning has reduced in the past two to three days, cases will come down and the number of deaths will also come down in one to two weeks," the Minister said.

"The reason for the (higher number of) deaths, it feels, is because there was pollution from stubble burning and there was corona also, so it was a double attack... Slowly, slowly positivity is coming down and cases are also coming down," Mr. Jain added.

On the closing of two markets in West Delhi, he also said the shutting down of markets was "too strict" and action should be taken against individuals who violate rules.

ed to marginally improve by

Thursdays.

The AQI of Delhi was 295 on Monday. The contribution of stubble burning in neighbouring States to PM2.5 level in Delhi was estimated to be 6% on Monday.

### Stubble burning

In a related development, the chairperson of the Environment Committee of Delhi Assembly and AAP MLA Atishi on Monday met members of the Commission on Air Quality Management and requested them to resolve the stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana with the bio-decomposer technology used in Delhi.

She also demanded that the commission take action against Punjab and Haryana governments for ongoing burning of stubble.

The air quality is expect-

## Air quality to worsen to 'very poor' today

Calm surface winds lead to deterioration

### STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI  
The air quality of Delhi and Gurugram deteriorated slightly to the upper end of the 'poor' category on Monday and Noida's worsened to 'very poor', as per the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data. The air quality of Delhi is predicted to deteriorate to the 'very poor' category on Tuesday.

"The Air Quality Index (AQI) is likely to deteriorate towards the high end of 'very poor' by Tuesday and likely to stay at the high end of 'very poor' on November 25. The AQI may reach 'severe' in a few locations for short period. This scenario is valid if prevailing low fire counts remain but if counts increase then it may further deteriorate," said SAFAR.

## Govt. revokes order to shut two markets

Order was issued for violating norms

### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI  
A day after the government ordered closure of two markets, authorities on Monday revoked the order.

The district administration on Sunday had ordered the shutting down of two prominent local markets for not adhering to COVID-19 norms in west Delhi.

According to relevant sections of the PLI [Public Liability Insurance] Act (1991): "The source of the fund is the insurance premium to be

closure was withdrawn.

The subsequent order was issued late on Sunday night following which the local police de-sealed shops located in the market, which had been sealed hours earlier.

### Lack of permission

Delhi government sources claimed the reason for the withdrawal of the order was lack of the Centre's permission to be able to affect such shutdowns for non-adherence to COVID-19 norms.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, last week, had announced that the Delhi government had written to the Centre to seek powers to affect shut downs in city markets if they were found flouting COVID-19 norms.

## No respite from chill as mercury dips to 6.3°C

It was five degrees colder than normal

### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI  
The minimum temperature in Delhi fell further to settle at 6.3 degrees Celsius on Monday, which was five degrees colder than normal for the season. The maximum temperature during the day settled at 26.3 degrees Celsius on a partly cloudy day.

This year's November has seen below-average minimum temperatures on all but one day, when the minimum temperature rose due to Western Disturbance, which brought rain and provided some relief from the cold nights. The Met department has attributed the cold wave conditions to the lack of cloud cover and the impact of cold winds blowing from the Himalayas, which has received fresh snowfall.

The forecast for the city predicts there will be partly



Poor visibility in Delhi. • SHIV KUMAR PUSHKAR

cloudy skies on November 24 with mist/shallow fog in the morning. The maximum and minimum temperatures are likely to be around 25 and 7 degrees Celsius respectively. The extended forecast shows there will be partly cloudy sky with the possibility of very light rain/dizzle on November 26 morning. It may increase the temperature slightly.

On Sunday, the city had recorded a minimum of 6.9 degrees Celsius and a maximum of 24.2 degrees Celsius, the lowest day-time temperature this month.

The iron gate and stone signage were brought to the ground by the high-speed impact, said an official of the ASI Delhi circle.

A Delhi police officer said an FIR has been filed for rash driving (Section 279 of the Indian Penal Code) and under provisions of the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act, 1984 and the Motor Vehicles Act.

The officer said the car was driven by Vijay Bahri, a 32-year-old Delhi resident.

He rammed into the main entrance of Safdarjung Tomb from the Lodhi Road side and further hit

## Plea for paid leave during menstruation

High Court issues notice to Centre, Delhi government

### STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI  
The Delhi High Court on Monday told the Union and Delhi governments to take a decision on a petition seeking grant of paid leave to women employees during menstruation by treating it as a representation.

A Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice Prateek Jalan said the issues raised in the petition by the Delhi Labour Union should be decided as per law applicable to such matters as soon as possible and practicable.

It said there was very little consideration or even recognition of the emotional, physical, hormonal and physiological trauma that these employees underwent during their menstrual cycle.

Advocate Agarwal said there was a stark absence of official recognition of this actual, tangible physical condition and gave the example of some private companies such as Zomato and Culture Machine, which have introduced paid menstruation leave for their employees.

were depriving the employees of their human dignity.

The union sought grant of paid leave for four days a month to all classes of women employees, including daily wage, contractual and outsourced workers and to pay overtime allowance to menstruating women employees if they opt to work during that period.

The plea filed through advocate Rajiv Agarwal said by not providing separate toilet facilities or breaks to maintain hygiene, the authorities

# SWEATER & JACKETS SALE WINTER COLLECTION

Hi-Fashion winter Collection 2020  
Best Brands Sweaters, Jackets sweat shirts, Lower, Cardigan & winter wears  
upto 60% Off  
By Economy Sales: 9212758425

**ARROW raymond PARK AVENUE LOUIS PHILIPPE**

**PUNCHKUAN ROAD, Garwal Bhawan, (Near Jhandewalan, Gole Chkr.)  
WAZIRPUR A-5, Near Richi Rich Banquet (Opp. Shalimar Bagh)  
JANAKPURI B-1/2, Main Najafgarh Road, Opp. Metro Pillar 543  
NOIDA, Nirula's Sec-2, Near Metro Station, Sec-15, Noida, UP  
LAJPAT NAGAR, 49, Main Ring Road, Adj. Haldi Ram, Near Moolchand Crossing**

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, TRANSMISSION LINE MAINTENANCE DIVISION-VIII, JKPTCL, AMBEDKAR CHOWK, RAILWAY ROAD, JAMMU  
e-mail: xentlcld20@gmail.com Tel No.: 0191-2451732

**CORRIGENDUM**

**NOTICE FOR EXTENSION OF DATE**

**Sub:- Extension of e-NIT no:- TLMD-VIII/J/18 of 2020-21 Dated:- 21/10/2020.**

**Due to poor response and queries raised by the bidders of e-NIT No.TLMD-VIII/J/18 of 2020-21 dated: 21.10.2020 issued by this office is hereby extended as per following:-**

1 e-Bid submission (end) date and time	25-11-2020 up to 1600 Hrs.
2 Online Commercial and Technical e-Bid opening date and time.	27-11-2020 at 1500 Hrs.

Hard copy of Tender Fees must be delivered to the Office of the Executive Engineer Transmission Line Maintenance Division-VIII, Jammu on or before the last date of submission of e-Bid.

-Sd/-  
Executive Engineer,  
TLMD-VIII, JKPTCL,  
Jammu.

**DIP/J-2679-P/20**

**HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT E-Procurement Notice INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

The Executive Engineer HPPWD Ghumarwin Distt Bilaspur H.P on behalf of Governor of H.P invites the online bids on item rate basis, in electronic tendering system, of from the eligible class of contractor registered with HPPWD for the works as detailed in table.

Sr. Name of work	Estimated cost	Starting Date for downloading	Earnest Money	Deadline for submission of Bid
1. C/o Veterinary Dispensary building at Thadra Thesil Ghumarwin Distt. Bilaspur HP (Sh-C/o Veterinary Dispensary building l.e. building portion and WS & SJ ground portion)	Rs. 595896/-	15/12/2020	Rs. 12000/-	30/12/2020
2. C/o Health Sub Centre building at Bhrpal (Sh-C/o building portion, septic tank and WS & SJ)	Rs. 162000/-	15/12/2020	Rs. 33000/-	30/12/2020
3. AMP for the year 2020-21 for rural road (VR) PMGSY incentive (SH-P/L 30mm thick bitumen concrete on Targat El Farouq road in Km 2/20 to 3/0 and interlocking paver block at RD 2/0 to 2/020)	Rs. 878993/-	15/12/2020	Rs. 17600/-	30/12/2020
4. AMP for the year 2020-21 for rural road (VR) PMGSY incentive (SH-P/L 30mm thick bitumen concrete on Sumari to Lower Bhrpal road in Km 4/0 to 5/0)	Rs. 859615/-	15/12/2020	Rs. 17200/-	30/12/2020
5. AMP for the year 2020-21 for rural road (VR) PMGSY incentive (SH-P/L 30mm thick bitumen concrete on Jol to Domehar road in Km 4/0 to 5/0)	Rs. 769157/-	15/12/2020	Rs. 15400/-	30/12/2020
6. C/O Link Road Mehran Nain Pagwara Talai Mohmand-Kull-Basti Takreha Jalan Mandi Kull Road KM 0/0 to 3/000 (SH- F/C, C/D Works, GSB, M/T Work, Drain, Parapets and KM-Stones in between km 0/000 to 2/630) (under NABARD RIDF XXIV)	Rs. 1176234/-	15/12/2020	Rs. 151000/-	30/12/2020

The bidder are advised to note other detail of tenders from the department website [www.hptenders.gov.in](http://www.hptenders.gov.in) Executive Engineer Ghumarwin Divn. HPPWD Ghumarwin On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh HP/4525/20-21

Timings		
DELHI		
TUESDAY, NOV. 24		
RISE 06:51	SET 17:25	
RISE 14:17	SET 01:22	
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 25		
RISE 06:52	SET 17:25	
RISE 14:46	SET 02:14	
THURSDAY, NOV. 26		
RISE 06:53	SET 17:25	
RISE 15:15	SET 03:06	

Delhi Weather max min  
Delhi City 30 18  
Safdarjang 30 18  
Palam 31 18

Delhi Pala Today  
28°C A cloudy and comfortable day lies ahead. There are chances of rain and thunder-shower activities.

Delhi Pala Tomorrow  
28°C A dry and warm day with partly cloudy sky to prevail. Night will be pleasant and dry.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2019  
All rights reserved.

THE HINDU  
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of any information or statement responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD, the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the accuracy of any statement made by an author or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Editor, Director, Employee or the staff of the said company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

## IN BRIEF

### Greater Noida school holds two-day webinar

NEW DELHI  
Grads International School, Eta-II, in Greater Noida organised a two-day webinar on November 21-22 to observe Child Rights Week. The webinars were streamed on the Grads International School Facebook page and can be watched even now. On Saturday, the webinar was on 'Understanding Child Rights and Protecting them' by child and women's rights activist and SC advocate Charu WaliKhanna. Sunday's webinar focussed on 'Why and how to say no to drugs'.

# 404 trees being transplanted for new Parliament

While approving the redevelopment project, the Union Environment Ministry had said only 233 trees would be transplanted

NIKHIL M BABU  
NEW DELHI

A total of 404 trees are being transplanted for the new Parliament and the Delhi government has given permission for the same, as per official documents. The Union Environment Ministry, while approving the project, had said that only 233 trees would be transplanted.

"Project proponent has also informed the Expert Appraisal Committee that there are 333 trees at Plot No. 118. Out of these, 100 trees to be retained and 233 trees to be transplanted and no trees will be cut. In addition, other vegetation will also require to be cleared to develop the new

Parliament building," the Ministry had said in the environmental clearance for the project on June 17.

Following an inspection, the Delhi government's Environment Department issued a notification on September 16 giving permission for 404 trees to be transplanted.

Also, as compensatory plantation for the transplanted trees, 4,040 saplings will have to be planted, as per the notification.

"The transplantation has started and the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) has to inform the Delhi government after it is completed. As per the government's transplantation policy, 80%



Uprooted trees near Parliament, all set to be taken for transplantation, on Monday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

of the transplanted trees have to survive after a year. There will be an inspection to ascertain it," a Delhi government

official told *The Hindu*. "The trees are five to over 50 years old and they are of different sizes," the official

added. Uprooted trees from the site are being moved out in trucks for replantation.

**Will they survive?**  
Experts differ in their opinion on the survival of the trees being transplanted during the winter season.

C.R. Babu, professor emeritus at Centre for Environmental Management of Degraded Ecosystems of Delhi University, said: "I am not in favour of transplantation, particularly of old trees. In my experience, transplantation is not successful in India.

Transplantation survival rate will be much lesser during winter as root and shoot formation is less and very slow during the cold season."

Vijay Dhasmana, curator of Aravali Biodiversity Park in Gurugram, however, had a different opinion: "This is not the worst time for transplantation, if you provide soil moisture. But it should be ideally done during January and March."

He added that it is easier to transplant young trees, and that very old and big trees "may die".

Kanchi Kohli, senior researcher at Centre for Policy Research, said that it is not right that the government is transplanting trees as several issues about the project are still pending before the Supreme Court.

Court to take up chargesheet against Umar and Sharjeel

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court will hear on Tuesday the issue of taking cognizance of the supplementary chargesheet filed against former Jawaharlal Nehru University students Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam in a riots case.

Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat said the court will also decide on Tuesday whether to pass an order to supply a copy of the supplementary chargesheet to the accused in the wake of a recent order of the High Court staying trial in the matter.

## Special cut-off list for UG applicants

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Delhi University on Monday released a special cut-off list for admission to vacant seats in merit-based undergraduate courses.

Several colleges have kept the cut-offs in various courses above 95%.

Lady Shri Ram College for Women, which had asked for a perfect score for psychology honours in the first cut-off list, has now set the cut-off at 99%.

At Miranda House, the cut-off for both economics and English honours have been set at 97.75%, while at Gargi College the cut-off for the same is 96.75% and 96.25%, respectively.

History honours aspirants will require 96% for Gargi College and 97.25% for Kirori Mal College.

## Two govt. office blocks on K.G. Marg, Africa Avenue to be ready by March'

The shift will make way for new residences for PM, V-P

DAMINI NATH  
NEW DELHI

Two new government office complexes on Kasturba Gandhi Marg and Africa Avenue are scheduled to be ready by March to shift offices from the Central Vista to make way for a new residence and office for the Prime Minister, office of the Special Protection Group director and Vice-President's residence, officials of the Central Public Works Department said on Monday.

CPWD Director-General Vinit Kumar Jayaswal said construction at the two sites started in August and pre-engineered building technology had been deployed, reducing construction time from 24 months to eight months. He said the projects

were environment-friendly as the steel structures were being built in other locations and assembled at the sites, making it "dust-free".

### Defence agencies

Together, the two sites will be able to accommodate 15,000 employees of Defence agencies, who will be re-located from the humbers around North Block and South Block, an official said. The plots that will be cleared have been earmarked for the Prime Minister's Office, PM's residence, SPG Director's office and Vice-President's residence as a part of the Central Vista redevelopment project.

The buildings at K.G. Marg and Africa Avenue will cost ₹532 crore, an official

said. Mr. Jayaswal said the initial cost was higher than that for constructing a concrete building. However, the pre-engineered buildings have the advantage of durability, reduced construction time and lower environmental impact. He added that the buildings would have a life-span of 100 years.

No trees were cut or transplanted for the projects, which require less water for construction and once completed, the buildings would have 30% of the energy consumption of a conventional building, the official said.

Construction on the Parliament project is set to start in December and the 10 office buildings are at a "planning stage", Mr. Jayaswal said.

## Plea against felling of trees for project

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday asked the Centre and the city government to respond to a petition challenging an order by the Forest Department for felling and transplantation of 315 trees for redevelopment of Ayur Vigyan Nagar here.

An HC Bench asked the Environment Ministry, Delhi government's Deputy Conservator of Forests (South) and the National Buildings Construction Corporation to respond to the plea by next date of hearing on 21 December. Advocate Varun K. Chopra, representing Mr. Dutt, said "rights of citizen to breathe clean air is being abrogated by removal of 315 green lungs in Delhi".

## DU likely to release BA results in a week

University giving provisional certificates

SHINJINI GHOSH  
NEW DELHI

Delhi University is likely to announce the results of 13,000 BA (Programme) students, who took their open book examination a few months back, within a week.

Dean of Examinations D.S. Rawat said: "There were a few delays in the assessment of the papers due to issues with the OBE portal. In some instances, students had emailed the answer scripts, which were in a drive and it became difficult to access those files. Sorting out the issues and getting the papers corrected has led to some delay. However, only four to five undergraduate courses are now left for declaration of results out of

which BA (Programme) is the biggest chunk."

DU officials said provisional certificates are being issued to those who require the results for admissions to other universities.

"There are many students who have approached the examination branch stating that they need their marksheets either for applying to jobs or to other universities. We are fast-tracking the process for them and in some instances, examiners have been asked to assess the respective papers immediately after checking the roll numbers," he said, adding that around 450 such provisional mark sheets have been issued for both undergraduate and PG students.

# NEXT IAS

✓ Quality Teaching ✓ Well Planned Curriculum

✓ Current Based Approach

Under the leadership of

**Mr. B. Singh**  
Chairman &  
Managing Director



**Vibhas Jha**  
Indian Economy  
Ex. Faculty, Vajiram & Ravi  
Now at NEXT IAS



**Awadh Ojha**  
History  
Ex. Faculty, Vajiram & Ravi  
Now at NEXT IAS



**Abhishek Parmar**  
History  
Ex. Faculty, Vajiram & Ravi  
Now at NEXT IAS



**Rajkumar Rai**  
Indian Society,  
Social Justice, Ethics  
Ex. Faculty, Vajiram & Ravi  
Now at NEXT IAS



**Atish Mathur**  
Polity / Governance  
Ex. Faculty, Vajiram & Ravi  
Now at NEXT IAS



**Puneet Singh**  
Aptitude  
(CSAT)



**Rahul Sengar**  
Art & Culture  
and Current Affairs  
Now at NEXT IAS



**Mohit Sharma**  
Disaster Management  
& General Science

**TOP FACULTIES**  
JOIN  
**NEXT IAS**  
FORM  
**INDIA'S BEST GS TEAM**



**Bhawani Singh**  
Current Affairs &  
Contemporary Issues



**A.P. Singh**  
Polity, Environment  
& Ecology and  
Current Affairs



**Ruchiika Bhardwaj**  
International Relations,  
Internal Security & Essay



**Sikandar Khan**  
Geography



**K.M. Pathi**  
Ethics-Integrity  
and Aptitude



**Ayaz Khan**  
Science and  
Technology

**S. Handa (IRS Retd.)**  
Answer Writing,  
Time Management &  
Preparation Strategy

**Admissions Open**  
from 7th Dec, 2020

## GS FOUNDATION COURSE for CSE 2022

**LIVE CLASSES**

From 7th Jan, 2021  
(8 AM - 11 AM)

**OFFLINE CLASSES**

From 25th Feb, 2021  
(8 AM - 11 AM)

**MADE EASY Celebrating 20 Years of Excellence**

Avail special offer on this occasion

**40%**

Discount  
For Ex. NEXT IAS &  
Ex. MADE EASY Students

**20%**

Discount  
For other  
aspirants

Offer valid from  
7 Dec to  
27 Dec, 2020

**Economics Optional  
Through questions** for CSE 2020

100+ questions based on theory and applications including economics oriented current affairs covering the most important areas will be discussed with emphasis on answer writing skills.

**Live Classes** from 1st Dec, 2020  
(11:30 AM to 1:30 PM) **Duration : 2 Weeks**



**Indian Economy (GS Paper III)  
Through questions** for CSE 2020

100+ questions covering the most important areas of syllabus will be discussed with emphasis on answer writing skills.

**Live Classes** from 1st Dec, 2020  
(2:00 PM to 4:00 PM) **Duration : 2 Weeks**

**Optional Foundation for CSE 2021**

Hathras rape accused in Gandhinagar for lie test

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GHAZIABAD

The Central Bureau Of Investigation (CBI) team probing the murder and alleged gang rape of a Dalit girl in Hathras took the four accused to Gandhinagar for brain mapping and polygraph test on Saturday.

Pramod Kumar Singh, Jailer of the Aligarh district prison, where the four accused have been lodged, confirmed they have been taken to Gandhinagar Forensic Science Laboratory after permission was granted by CBI court. He said one head warden had been sent with them.

Official sources said it would take around a week for the tests to be completed and during the time the accused will be lodged in Gandhinagar jail.

**Victim named accused**  
Sandeep, Ravi, Ramu, and an alleged minor were arrested before the victim died in Delhi's Safdarjung hospital on September 29. The accused were named by the victim in her statement for assault and rape.

Following a recommendation by the Uttar Pradesh government, the case was handed over to the CBI. The agency registered a case and began its investigation on October 13.

## Panipat SP, two other policemen booked

Alleged role in death of ex-councillor

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GURUGRAM

and my father on 11 charges the next day. All this was done at the behest of SP Manisha Choudhary. We were treated like terrorists. For five days, the police kept pressure on us. My father was mentally harassed and he eventually jumped into the Birjhola canal on November 19 morning. His friend Rajesh Sharma also jumped behind him to save him," said the councillor's daughter, the complainant in the case.

The councillor had jumped into a canal last Thursday due to alleged police harassment and his body was fished out on Sunday.

Then Tehsil Camp Police Post in charge Baljit Malik and Assistant Sub-Inspector Mahabir Singh are the other two policemen named in the First Information Report (FIR).

According to the FIR, registered at the Model Town Police Station on Monday, Baljit and Mahabir pushed around the councillor on November 14 evening when he objected to them allegedly barging into his neighbour's house and making videos.

**'Policemen were drunk'**  
The two policemen were in an inebriated state and not accompanied by a woman police officer, said the FIR.

"I gave a written complaint to the Station House Officer concerned against the two policemen, but no action was taken. A case was registered against me

Haryana Home Minister Anil Vij last week formed a three-member committee headed by ADGP Sandeep Khirwar to probe allegations of harassment by police.

*Suicide prevention helpline: Sanjivini, Society for Mental Health, Telephone: 011-4076 9002, Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-7.30 p.m.*

## SIT in Kanpur does not find conspiracy in 'love jihad' cases

In 11 out of the 14 cases, some form of crime was found and 11 persons were jailed

OMAR AGARWAL  
LUCKNOW

A Special Investigation Team probing cases of alleged "love jihad" in Kanpur has found criminality in 11 out of the 14 instances but found no evidence of foreign funding or organised conspiracy, a senior police officer said on Monday.

Legally unrecognised, "love jihad" is a political term used by right-wing groups and political parties including the BJP as a slur against relationships involving a Muslim man and a Hindu woman to allege a conspiracy.

The SIT was formed in Kanpur after 14 cases emerged in which the parents of the girls had alleged that Muslim boys deceived their daughters and "trapped them in love" relationships, said Inspector General (Kanpur) Mohit Agarwal.

"The SIT probe did not find any solid proof that the accused worked in an organised manner as part of a conspiracy," said Mr. Agarwal, also dismissing angle of alleged funding.

He, however, said that the accused changed their names and in many cases es-

tablished relationships with minor girls.

In 11 out of the 14 cases, some form of crime was found and 11 persons were sent to jail, Mr. Agarwal told reporters. In three cases, the girls were found to be adults who fell in love or were with Muslim boys through their free will, added the officer. No action would be taken in such cases, he said.

In three cases, the boys hid their real names and tried to influence the girls with false names and later the girls found out that the boys belonged to other reli-

gions, said Mr. Agarwal.

"We have added sections of fraud in such cases," said Mr. Agarwal.

### Proposed law

The SIT probe comes at a time when Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath recently said his government would bring an "effective law" against "love jihad".

Legal experts, however, have questioned the scope of the government move saying a law restricting marriages between a Muslim man and a Hindu woman would not stand in law.

Odisha Bill to penalise people for 'illegal' strike

STAFF REPORTER  
BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha government proposed to impose penalty on individuals who would spend money in furtherance or in support of "illegal" strike and make such offences punishable with imprisonment.

A Bill titled 'The Odisha Essential Services (Maintenance) Amendment Bill, 2020' which sought amendment to Odisha Essential Services (Maintenance) Act, 1988 was passed by the State Assembly on Monday.

### Imprisonment, fine

"As per a new provision, it was proposed to impose penalty against an individual who expends or supplies any money in furtherance of or in support of strike which is illegal under this Act making such offence punishable for a term which may extend to one year or with fine which may extend to ₹5000 or both," Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik stated introducing the Bill. In the present Act, there is no provision for disciplinary action against an employee who participates in strike which is illegal.

## 62% turnout in Rajasthan panchayat polls

Election held with strict security arrangements and adherence to COVID-19 norms

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
JAIPUR

About 62% of the 72.38 lakh voters cast their votes in the first phase of elections to panchayat bodies in 21 districts of Rajasthan on Monday.

The polling was held for electing 1,310 members of 65 Panchayat Samitis and the respective Zila Parishads.

The polling started at 7:30 a.m. amid strict security ar-

rangements with adherence to the COVID-19 public health guidelines at 10,131 polling booths and ended at 5 p.m. Nearly 25,000 electronic voting machines were used in the first phase, while more than 50,000 government employees were deployed for conducting the polls.

The polling was conducted peacefully in all the districts, except some stray inci-

dents of altercation between the supporters of different candidates reported from a few places. Some unruly youths threw firecrackers at two polling stations in Bandawara village of Ajmer district's Bhinay tehsil.

Elections were held in the first phase in Ajmer, Banswara, Barmer, Bhilwara, Bikaner, Bundi, Chittorgarh, Churu, Dungarpur, Hanumangarh, Jaisalmer, Ja-

lore, Jhalawar, Jhunjhunu, Nagaur, Pali, Pratapgarh, Rajasamand, Sikar, Tonk and Udaipur districts.

According to the State Election Commission, the polling will be held on November 27 for the second phase, December 1 for third and December 5 for the fourth and final phase.

The counting of votes for all the four phases will be held on December 8.

## Digital concert series supports folk artistes during pandemic

Initiative will present some renowned performers

MOHAMMED IQBAL  
JAIPUR

A digital COVID-19 relief concert series, titled "Padharo Mhare Des", has been launched here to support folk artistes, deprived of regular livelihood for several months, in the remote areas of Rajasthan. The fund-raising series will present some renowned performers and promote virtual tourism during the pandemic.

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, who inaugurated the series on Sunday, said the initiative would play a crucial role in the growth of art forms in the State and extend support to the artistes solely dependent on their performances for livelihood.

The series has been planned and organised by Jaipur-based Arpan Foundation.

The series will feature about 70 folk artistes from the interiors of Jodhpur, Jaisalmer and Barmer districts in western Rajasthan, highlighting the rich heritage of Vishwa Mohan Bhatt on

traditional music and dance forms of the Thar desert. The teams of entertainment professionals have reached out to far-off regions and recorded performances of artistes at their native places.

Arpan Foundation's founder and singer Maneesh Agarwal said the renowned artistes to participate in the series would include Dapu Khan Mirasi of the 'Mumal' fame from Jaisalmer, singing sensation of Kalbeliya Sugni Devi from Jodhpur, Thamu Khan and Tarif Khan of Chala Mama Project and Mehesha Ram and his group of Meghwals from Jaisalmer.

Ms. Agarwal said the folk artistes who formed an integral part of the folk music performances and dance by the Langas and Kalbeliyas from Jodhpur and Manganiyars from Barmer.

**Database drive**  
The initiative follows a drive launched by the State government to prepare a database of artistes practising in different spheres of crafts and techniques with the help of crowdsourcing. The database includes basic details along with genre of art forms, such as performing arts, visual arts, literary arts, dying arts, wandering arts, folk arts and tribal arts.

Ms. Agarwal said the folk artistes who formed an integral part of the folk music performances and dance by the Langas and Kalbeliyas from Jodhpur and Manganiyars from Barmer.

## CLASSIFIEDS MART

TO ADVERTISE:

www.thehinduads.com

011-43579738 • 43579797

### EDUCATIONAL

**LAW AMBITION LAW INSTITUTE**  
Since 2001  
www.ambitionlawinstitute.com  
Your Key to Success Requires Ambition

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

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

**न्यायिक सेवा**  
परीक्षार्थी : 28 JAN, 2021  
8800662130

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

FEE TILL NOV. END IS HEAVILY CONCESSIONAL DUE TO COVID-19  
Watch FREE Lectures on YouTube Channel of ambition law institute

## PAVAN KUMAR'S IAS

(An Academy of General Studies & Public Administration)

**Spectacular Performance**  
by our Students in General Studies & Public Administration

I immensely benefited from Pavan Sir's classes, discussions & guidance in my Civil Services Examination preparation for both General Studies and Public Administration." Pradeep Singh (AIR-1)

NUPUR GOEL (AIR-11), DIPANKAR CHAUDHARY (AIR-42), ASHISH KUMAR (AIR-53), ANISHA TOME (AIR-94), Y MEHGA SWAROOPI (AIR-98) and many more selections... Heartiest congratulations to all.

Offline/Online NEW BATCHES Admissions are open

### REGULAR BATCHES

GENERAL STUDIES (PCM) 30th Nov.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION 4th Dec.

### GS MODULES

ETHICS 30th November

INDIAN POLITY, GOV. & IR 30th November

ECONOMY 30th November

ESSAY 30th November

Call to subscribe to our YouTube & Telegram channels.  
www.pavankumarias.com  
8447412868, 8447532310, 991366520  
184, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Old Rajinder Nagar, Opp. Aggarwal sweets, New Delhi-110060

CYK

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GURUGRAM

Panipat SP, two other policemen booked

Alleged role in death of ex-councillor

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
LUCKNOW

and my father on 11 charges the next day. All this was done at the behest of SP Manisha Choudhary. We were treated like terrorists. For five days, the police kept pressure on us. My father was mentally harassed and he eventually jumped into the Birjhola canal on November 19 morning. His friend Rajesh Sharma also jumped behind him to save him," said the councillor's daughter, the complainant in the case.

The councillor had jumped into a canal last Thursday due to alleged police harassment and his body was fished out on Sunday.

Then Tehsil Camp Police Post in charge Baljit Malik and Assistant Sub-Inspector Mahabir Singh are the other two policemen named in the First Information Report (FIR).

According to the FIR, registered at the Model Town Police Station on Monday, Baljit and Mahabir pushed around the councillor on November 14 evening when he objected to them allegedly barging into his neighbour's house and making videos.

**'Policemen were drunk'**  
The two policemen were in an inebriated state and not accompanied by a woman police officer, said the FIR.

"I gave a written complaint to the Station House Officer concerned against the two policemen, but no action was taken. A case was registered against me

According to the FIR, registered at the Model Town Police Station on Monday, Baljit and Mahabir pushed around the councillor on November 14 evening when he objected to them allegedly barging into his neighbour's house and making videos.

**Highway blocked**  
The family and supporters of the deceased blocked traffic on the NH-44 on Sunday, accusing the police of abetting his suicide, after the body was recovered.

**EDUCATIONAL**

An Initiative of  
**ALOK RANJAN'S IAS** and **CAREERWILL**  
(A Unit of Digmani Educations)

**सामान्य अध्ययन**

(प्रारम्भिक एवं मुख्य परीक्षा-FOUNDATION BATCH)

For UPSC/PCS EXAMS

ONLINE LIVE CLASSES & RECORDED CLASSES

DOWNLOAD ON CAREERWILL APP

आलोक रंजन सर के संरक्षण एवं मार्गदर्शन में  
तथा भारत के प्रत्यावर्ती विशेषज्ञों की टीम

OUR TEAM OF EXPERTS

CSAT Only with GS Programme  
Rakesh Yadav & Team

BATCH STARTS 10th December

ADMISSION OPEN...

More Information:  
Call us : 9311958007/08, 9891290953 Email : dianageducations@gmail.com website : www.careerwill.com App download : Careerwill App

10th December COMING SOON WITH TOP DELHI FACULTIES

ENGLISH MEDIUM

3:00 TO 5:00 PM

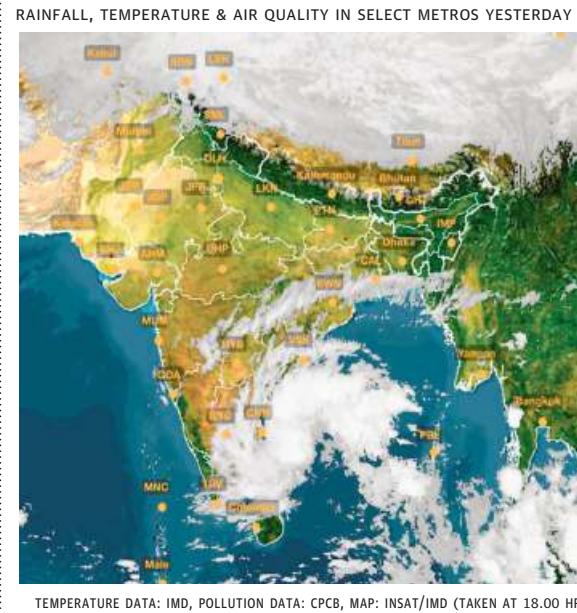
HINDI MEDIUM

9:00 TO 11:00 AM

FEES STRUCTURE IAS ₹35500/1249/- PCS ₹25000/8499/-

IN THE COURT OF PRINCIPAL DISTRICT JUDGE, JAMMU Present: Sanjeev Gupta

**WEATHER WATCH**



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

**Forecast for Tuesday:** Heavy/rainfall likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam and Rayalaseema. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Gilgit-Baltistan, Muzaffarabad, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	... 27.9	13.5	13.5	Kozhikode	... 34.2	23.0	23.0
Ahmedabad	... 31.4	13.3	13.3	Kurnool	... 31.9	22.6	22.6
Aizawl	... 22.1	11.6	11.6	Lucknow	... 25.7	8.6	8.6
Allahabad	... 26.9	9.6	9.6	Madurai	... 31.2	21.5	21.5
Bengaluru	... 27.6	17.4	17.4	Mangaluru	... 32.0	20.5	20.5
Bhopal	... 28.8	12.2	12.2	Mumbai	... 33.7	20.0	20.0
Bhubaneswar	... 29.2	18.1	18.1	Mysuru	... 29.5	18.3	18.3
Chandigarh	... 23.5	10.5	10.5	New Delhi	... 26.2	6.3	6.3
Chennai	... 31.1	24.0	24.0	Patna	... 24.4	9.4	9.4
Coimbatore	... 31.5	18.4	18.4	Pond Blair	... 12.3	30.8	24.9
Dehradun	... 21.4	8.9	8.9	Puducherry	... 29.5	22.2	22.2
Gangtok	... 14.0	7.9	7.9	Pune	... 22.4	31.3	18.7
Goa	... 35.0	22.2	22.2	Raipur	... 29.6	15.6	15.6
Guwahati	... 26.5	13.4	13.4	Ranchi	... 25.0	10.1	10.1
Hubballi	... 29.0	19.0	19.0	Shillong	... 17.9	6.5	6.5
Hyderabad	... 29.8	18.6	18.6	Shimla	... 16.6	9.0	9.0
Imphal	... 24.7	8.2	8.2	Srinagar	... 2.2	8.4	1.6
Jaipur	... 26.0	10.3	10.3	Thiruvananthapuram	... 32.7	23.7	23.7
Kochi	... 31.4	23.0	23.0	Tiruchi	... 31.1	22.4	22.4
Kohima	... 2.2	19.0	7.6	Vijayawada	... 13.2	29.6	23.4
Kolkata	... 29.6	15.6	15.6	Visakhapatnam	... 28.7	25.2	25.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

**Pollutants in the air you are breathing**

CITIES	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>x</sub>	CO	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	PM <sub>10</sub> CODE
Ahmedabad	24	105	50	165	146
Bengaluru	10	17	47	83	102
Chennai	10	2	29	128	—
Delhi	15	110	63	407	368
Hyderabad	.5	93	10	158	133
Kolkata	17	20	48	.266	.174
Lucknow	.6	103	49	.351	.224
Mumbai	.8	22	12	.218	.129
Pune	.1	3	42	.114	.103
Visakhapatnam	14	.12	37	.155	.112

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh recorded overall air quality index (AQI) score of 365 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh recorded a satisfactory AQI score of 52

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

In contrast to Mumbai city

# Maharashtra adds over 4,000 cases; 3,700 recoveries reported

Mumbai city reports 800 infections, 14 deaths; slight dip in cases in 'sugar belt'

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
PUNE

Maharashtra reported just 4,153 new COVID-19 cases on Monday as opposed to just 3,729 recoveries.

The total case tally has risen to 17,84,361 with the number of active cases climbing to 81,902.

The cumulative recoveries stand at 16,51,064 with the State's recovery standing at 92.74%.

However, the number of deaths was comparatively lower at 30, taking the total fatalities to 46,653.

"Of a total 1,02,81,543 laboratory samples tested thus far, 17,84,361 (case positivity rate of 17.35%) have returned positive with over 67,000 samples being tested in the last 24 hours," said State Surveillance Officer Dr. Pradeep Awate, adding that the State's case fatality rate had declined incrementally to 2.61%.

Pune district reported over 500 new cases to take its total case tally to 3,46,961 while just two deaths saw its total death toll reach 7,291.

As per district administration figures, the district's active cases crossed the 10,000-mark, rising to 10,042 while its recovery rate incrementally dipped to 94.58%.

Mumbai city reported 800 cases to take its total case tally to 2,76,514 of whom 12,707 are active. With 14 fatalities, the city's death toll rose to 10,689.

Nagpur district in Vidarbha reported over 350 new cases, taking the district's total case tally to 1,11,280 of whom just 3,082 are currently active. No deaths were reported on Monday.

The Chief Minister said,



**Battling corona:** A health worker getting ready to conduct swab tests at Dadar in Mumbai on Monday. ■ EMMANUEL YOGINI

and Pune, cases and fatalities in the three 'sugar belt' districts in western Maharashtra remained well under control: Satara reported three deaths to take its cumulative death toll to 1,608. As many as 84 fresh cases saw

the total case tally rise to 51,235 of whom 2,470 are active. Neighbouring Sangli reported just 43 cases and no deaths as the district's reported cases reached 48,262 of whom 1,132 are active.

Kolhapur recorded its

## No crowd at Chaityabhoomi on December 6

**STAFF REPORTER**  
MUMBAI

Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has appealed to people to not crowd Chaityabhoomi in Mumbai on Mahaparinirvan Diwas, the death anniversary of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar on December 6.

Mr. Thackeray held a meeting with the Mahaparinirvan Diwas coordination committee and senior government officials on Monday. The committee has already appealed to Ambedkarites to not travel to Mumbai on December 6 and instead pay their respects from home.

The Chief Minister said, "Respects will be paid to the

memory of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar without any fault. There will be no compromise. But Mumbai staves at the possibility of second wave of coronavirus outbreak. Therefore I appeal to people to not crowd Chaityabhoomi."

The State government will make arrangements for day-long online broadcast of the ceremony to pay tributes, and also a floral shower from a helicopter.

Mr. Thackeray said that throughout his life, Dr. Ambedkar fought against injustice. "It is time to show our maturity through our actions. It will not be proper to endanger our life while paying tributes to him. We have

been celebrating all our festivals with austerity. This is an occasion of seriousness and I appeal all to pay their tributes from wherever they are instead of coming to Mumbai," he said.

Nagpur Kamble, secretary of the coordination committee, said that an appeal has already been issued to Ambedkarites to not travel to Mumbai on December 6 and instead pay their respects from home. The Chief Minister said, "Respects will be paid to the

memory of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar without any fault. There will be no compromise. But Mumbai staves at the possibility of second wave of coronavirus outbreak. Therefore I appeal to people to not crowd Chaityabhoomi."

The State government will make arrangements for day-long online broadcast of the ceremony to pay tributes, and also a floral shower from a helicopter.

Mr. Thackeray said that throughout his life, Dr. Ambedkar fought against injustice. "It is time to show our maturity through our actions. It will not be proper to endanger our life while paying tributes to him. We have

been celebrating all our festivals with austerity. This is an occasion of seriousness and I appeal all to pay their tributes from wherever they are instead of coming to Mumbai," he said.

Nagpur Kamble, secretary of the coordination committee, said that an appeal has already been issued to Ambedkarites to not travel to Mumbai on December 6 and instead pay their respects from home.

The Chief Minister said, "Respects will be paid to the

memory of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar without any fault. There will be no compromise. But Mumbai staves at the possibility of second wave of coronavirus outbreak. Therefore I appeal to people to not crowd Chaityabhoomi."

The State government will make arrangements for day-long online broadcast of the ceremony to pay tributes, and also a floral shower from a helicopter.

Mr. Thackeray said that throughout his life, Dr. Ambedkar fought against injustice. "It is time to show our maturity through our actions. It will not be proper to endanger our life while paying tributes to him. We have

been celebrating all our festivals with austerity. This is an occasion of seriousness and I appeal all to pay their tributes from wherever they are instead of coming to Mumbai," he said.

Nagpur Kamble, secretary of the coordination committee, said that an appeal has already been issued to Ambedkarites to not travel to Mumbai on December 6 and instead pay their respects from home.

The Chief Minister said, "Respects will be paid to the

memory of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar without any fault. There will be no compromise. But Mumbai staves at the possibility of second wave of coronavirus outbreak. Therefore I appeal to people to not crowd Chaityabhoomi."

The State government will make arrangements for day-long online broadcast of the ceremony to pay tributes, and also a floral shower from a helicopter.

Mr. Thackeray said that throughout his life, Dr. Ambedkar fought against injustice. "It is time to show our maturity through our actions. It will not be proper to endanger our life while paying tributes to him. We have

been celebrating all our festivals with austerity. This is an occasion of seriousness and I appeal all to pay their tributes from wherever they are instead of coming to Mumbai," he said.

Nagpur Kamble, secretary of the coordination committee, said that an appeal has already been issued to Ambedkarites to not travel to Mumbai on December 6 and instead pay their respects from home.

The Chief Minister said, "Respects will be paid to the

memory of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar without any fault. There will be no compromise. But Mumbai staves at the possibility of second wave of coronavirus outbreak. Therefore I appeal to people to not crowd Chaityabhoomi."

The State government will make arrangements for day-long online broadcast of the ceremony to pay tributes, and also a floral shower from a helicopter.

Mr. Thackeray said that throughout his life, Dr. Ambedkar fought against injustice. "It is time to show our maturity through our actions. It will not be proper to endanger our life while paying tributes to him. We have

been celebrating all our festivals with austerity. This is an occasion of seriousness and I appeal all to pay their tributes from wherever they are instead of coming to Mumbai," he said.

Nagpur Kamble, secretary of the coordination committee, said that an appeal has already been issued to Ambedkarites to not travel to Mumbai on December 6 and instead pay their respects from home.

The Chief Minister said, "Respects will be paid to the

memory of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar without any fault. There will be no compromise. But Mumbai staves at the possibility of second wave of coronavirus outbreak. Therefore I appeal to people to not crowd Chaityabhoomi."

The State government will make arrangements for day-long online broadcast of the ceremony to pay tributes, and also a floral shower from a helicopter.

Mr. Thackeray said that throughout his life, Dr. Ambedkar fought against injustice. "It is time to show our maturity through our actions. It will not be proper to endanger our life while paying tributes to him. We have

been celebrating all our festivals with austerity. This is an occasion of seriousness and I appeal all to pay their tributes from wherever they are instead of coming to Mumbai," he said.



## Overbroad, overboard

Kerala disregarded settled law while issuing an ordinance to curb abusive content

Kerala has sought to make amends by keeping in abeyance its obnoxious proposal to abridge free speech by conferring unbridled powers on the police to arrest any one expressing or disseminating any matter deemed threatening, abusive, humiliating or defamatory to a person or a class of persons in any manner. But Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan should take heed of criticism and drop the measure altogether. It is worrying that such a draconian and ill-conceived ordinance was even promulgated. It is incredible that a State government crafted a law with elements declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court, ignoring a major apex court verdict on the law of defamation, and which is repugnant to the provisions of the IPC, a central law, in two ways, besides going against one provision in the Cr.P.C. His defence that the amendment only targeted defamatory social media posts and would not curb reportage, political satire or expression of opinion is quite hollow, when seen in the light of the absence of any such narrow definition of the offence introduced by Section 118A in the Kerala Police Act. In *Shreya Singhal vs. Union of India* (2015), the top court struck down Section 66A of the IT Act. The section had criminalised the sending of any message through a computer resource that was grossly offensive, menacing, or caused annoyance, inconvenience, danger, insult, injury and intimidation. The Court found the offence was 'overbroad', that is, it was defined so widely that both innocent and offensive messaging could be brought under its ambit. The failure to define the offence narrowly fell foul of the constitutional protection for free speech and expression. The same judgment, for the same reason, also struck down Section 118(d) of the Kerala Police Act, which made causing annoyance in an indecent manner through verbal comments or on telephone an offence.

The new offence is also vaguely defined, and is made cognisable, whereas criminal defamation under the IPC is non-cognisable. Moreover, while upholding the validity of criminal defamation, the Court made it clear that no police officer can register an FIR for the offence; it can only be prosecuted as a private complaint, for Sec.199 Cr.P.C. says no court shall take cognisance of defamation unless the aggrieved party files a complaint. Further, Section 118A lays down a three-year prison term; it is two years under the IPC. By making defamatory utterances cognisable and raising the prison term, the Kerala ordinance effectively amends the IPC and Cr.P.C., a move for which the Centre's assent is mandatory, as it is in conflict with central laws. The ordinance itself required prior presidential assent. It is regrettable that the State sought to arm itself with extraordinary powers to deal with a problem that can be dealt with through other provisions relating to stalking, harassment, criminal intimidation and verbal abuse.

## Matchmaking

The AIADMK needs allies, but cannot afford to be seen as anything but the dominant partner

The ruling AIADMK's declaration on continuing its ties with the BJP for the 2021 Tamil Nadu Assembly elections was no surprise. With the Congress and the Left aligned with the DMK, the AIADMK needs all the electoral partners it can get. The Jayalalithaa strategy of taking advantage of a three-way split in votes is no longer possible. But by dispensing with conventional negotiations and internal consultations, and making the announcement after a single meeting with Home Minister Amit Shah, the party leadership has given the impression of being politically vulnerable to pressures from the party ruling at the Centre. Indeed, Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami seemed keen to avoid any such impression. Just a day before the announcement, he told senior leaders that the party was not under any pressure from the BJP and need not feel obliged to anyone. The party mouthpiece had sharply criticised the BJP's 'Vetivel Yatra', a religious-political roadshow being conducted without necessary permission. Though Deputy Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam has described the ties as the "continuation of a victorious alliance", the alliance made no impact in the 2019 Lok Sabha election. The BJP's 3.7% vote share mirrored the performances of some newer players. Since 2006, most BJP candidates have forfeited deposits in successive Assembly elections, with only a marginal increase in the vote share – 2.02% to 2.84%. Hence, it is only logical for some in the AIADMK to deem the national party an electoral liability. However, the AIADMK seems to be banking on the BJP's heft as the dominant party at the Centre and hoping that the wide appeal of Prime Minister Narendra Modi will extend to Tamil Nadu.

The DMK-led Secular Progressive Alliance, after its impressive gains in the Lok Sabha and rural local body elections, appears intact. The Congress and other allies are unlikely to ditch it. Naturally, the AIADMK would want to retain the ambitious PMK and DMDK and perhaps turn to the BJP for intervention, should the need arise. While the possibility of actor Rajinikanth floating a party appears remote, if the BJP eventually gets him to back the ruling alliance, it would be a bonus for the AIADMK, and could offset anti-incumbency. The help the BJP could extend, if V.K. Sasikala, the jailed aide of Jayalalithaa, chooses a political role upon her release in January 2021, might have been another factor. In addition to these, central assistance to deal with COVID-19's economic implications would be crucial before polls are notified. While all these could help in the short term, the party may have to play its cards carefully during seat sharing or else risk being overrun by the BJP in the long term. The AIADMK cannot afford to be seen as anything but the dominant partner in the alliance.

# Some of the COVID-19 mortality was avoidable

In India, the varying death rate across States during the pandemic points to the neglect of health in public policy



PULAPRE BALAKRISHNAN &  
SREENATH K NAMBOODHIRY

Eight months into the COVID-19 epidemic, there is an understandable longing for a return to normalcy in our everyday lives. With the slowing of the growth of infection we want to go about our business and social life in a way that we are used to. However, there is one area in which we cannot afford to return to the old normal and that is the attention paid, actually the lack of it, to health in public policy. We are by now in a position to at least tentatively quantify how much its neglect has cost us in the past eight months.

### Public expenditure on health

Repeated reference to the relatively low death rate in India compared to parts of the Americas has meant overlooking the wide variation in the death rate across the States of India. In our work we have tried to see whether it is possible to make sense of this pattern. As there is variation in the per capita income of States, we commenced by looking for a relationship between income levels and deaths. We found that far from income contributing to the prevention of death from COVID-19, States with a higher per capita income often had higher death rates. It suggests that the wealth of a State has not acted as a shield against death for a section of its population.

So what then can explain the varying death rate across India? Data suggest that it is the level of public

expenditure on health. There is high variation among India's States in the public expenditure on health as a share of the domestic product, and the death rate is negatively related to it. This even having allowed for the possible impact of the age profile of the population and its density. In the interest of communication, we have suppressed all technical details relating to methodology and measurement. The study is available from us on request.

A small additional detail in our findings may be mentioned. While there is a strong relationship between the death rate and public health expenditure, there is much less between the death rate and medical infrastructure in the public sector, be it hospitals or hospital beds per person. The clue to this most likely lies in the observation made by the well-known surgeon, Dr. Devi Prasad Shetty that: "it is doctors who treat patients, not hospital beds" (NDTV, October 2, 2020).

### Funding is important

Actually, during an epidemic, much needs to be done beyond treating patients in intensive care units at the final stage of the disease. There is detection, contact tracing and isolation needed even before treatment. Now, an effective combination of medical expertise, protocols and management practices becomes central to the effectiveness of the response to an epidemic. Health professionals at the World Health Organization have observed that sufficient funding is what enables this to occur within the short span afforded by a health emergency.

The data that is by now available on the progress of COVID-19 across India allows us to at least take a view on whether some deaths may have been prevented



even at the income level that we have. If we apply the death rate in the State with the median level of public health expenditure to the national population we would get an estimate of what would have been the number of deaths were public expenditure on health across the country the same as that of the median Indian State. The difference between actual deaths and this figure gives us an estimate of how many deaths could have been saved had the laggard States spent more of their income on public health.

### Growth over health

When this computation is done, we find that approximately 72% of the 1.25 lakh deaths that had occurred till November 7 could have been saved. This estimate should be treated with caution. It is possible that the State with the median health expenditure has some unique characteristics that reduce the death rate from COVID-19. It is also possible that its death rate is underestimated. As there is no certainty on these issues as of now, we treat our estimate of lives that could have been saved as indicative of the potential of a well-funded public health system rather than being definitive by itself.

A secondary finding of our study is that the State-wise pattern of public expenditure on health is in-

versely related to the per capita income of the States. Simply put, the health spend of the richer States in relation to their domestic product is lower than that of the poorer States. So the neglect of health in public policy can be termed a choice made by these States. They prioritised economic growth over the health of their populations.

### The example of the northeast

We tested our hypothesis on the role of public health expenditure in preventing death from COVID-19 over diverse fields. We first took it to north-eastern India, which has registered much lower death rates than the rest of the country. This pattern has led to speculation on the innate characteristics of the population of this region and claims of its lower exposure to the virus. On the second of these, actually the percentage of the population infected in the northeastern States is not much lower than that in the rest of the country. On the first, no reference to population genetics is needed to explain the northeastern experience. The States of the northeast are among the highest spenders on public health in the country. Only the State of Jammu of Kashmir, prior to its dismemberment, was in the same league.

Next, we tested our finding across the eight countries of South Asia. Here, there is a particularly marked negative relationship between public expenditure on health and the death rate from COVID-19. And, generally, the richer countries spend proportionately more on public health. Apparently, the inverse relationship between national income and public health expenditure is a pathology peculiar to India's States.

Finally, whatever may be our findings on the role of public health expenditure in preventing

death from COVID-19, it would be naive to imagine that health security can be achieved by throwing money at the problem.

### The governance challenge

Even once the COVID-19 virus has become less deadly, we are likely to continue to suffer from air pollution, a medically recognised threat to life. It is significant that again it is the richest part of the country that is most threatened by it. But Delhi's battle with poor air quality cannot be overcome through more money with its government. It is closely related to the governance challenge at the heart of Indian democracy. Air pollution in Delhi is caused by a combination of stubble burning in the neighbouring States and rampant construction activity, motor vehicles and garbage burning within its own territory, all of which can be mitigated through public policy interventions.

With respect to the first, it has actually been suggested that public funds be used to pay farmers to stop burning their stubble. This would not just be a reversal of the commonly accepted principle in environmental economics that 'the polluter pays' but untenable from the ethical standpoint. In most of the cases mentioned above, it is a relatively better-off section of the population that is impairing the lives of the rest by their pursuit of personal gain. Economic policy that prioritises growth, even by default, can lead to environmental damage, and a political process without ethical awareness cannot confront it at its source.

*Pulapre Balakrishnan is Professor of Economics, Ashoka University and Sreenath K Namboodhiry is Academic Associate, Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode*

## Banking health and the 'K Curve' dynamics

Focusing on trends in valuation metrics can provide clues; more stronger banks are needed



SRINIVASAN VARADARAJAN

As the financial ecosystem navigated one more pothole last week, with depositors in Lakshmi Vilas Bank Limited (LVB) getting bailed out, the implications of the Reserve Bank of India's sleight of hand have got all stakeholders thinking about the way forward. Throw in the non-banking financial companies, or NBFCs, into this cocktail and you sense a lot of pieces are likely to move in this jigsaw puzzle. While different stakeholders may have their own opinions on the way forward for the financial sector, markets, to a large extent, incorporate those differing views and reflect it in the price performance of individual banks. Such price action of banks can give us very useful insights on how the financial system dynamics are likely to change in the coming years. Focusing on the trends in valuation metrics since the ILF&S crisis can give us some important pointers on how the system is likely to take shape. What is the market prognosis right now?

### A key metric

Any sector expert would tell you that the key metric for financial companies would be the 'Price to Book Value' ratio (P/BV). The P/BV holds the mirror on the two critical attributes the market values most: adequacy of current capital

and runway available to the entity for profitable growth.

A P/BV ratio above 1 indicates that the market believes that the company can grow and generate Return on Equity (RoE) above the hurdle rate that investors expect. The faster it can grow or the greater the spread of the ROE above the hurdle rate, the greater the P/B multiple (above 1). A P/BV below 1, on the other hand, indicates that the market either does not believe the bank has recognised all its bad loans or has the business model to deliver returns above the hurdle rate. This may be because the bank does not have a good deposit franchise, has bad cost discipline or a broken lending model.

### Private banks' dispersion

Now let us see what the market is telling us through prevailing P/BVs (need to look at a bank's P/BV over a period). You have banks that have a P/BV above 4 while some others languish at much below 1, even at 0.25. With NBFCs, the P/BV range is even wider, with some NBFCs being valued in excess of 7. The growth trajectories of these entities with dispersed P/BV will be varied, resulting in a classic K Curve playing out. The K Curve depicts the inequality existing between different financial entities in terms of their attributes that determine their future growth and profitability. Widening of the arms of the 'K' would imply that the inequality is increasing, while narrowing of the span of the 'K' would mean the opposite.

Looking at private sector banks, one can clearly see a couple of banks which have always had their P/BV above 3 on a consistent basis.

Capital is available in plenty for these banks and the market is betting that these banks will grow much above system average and generate attractive RoE. This would imply that these banks will have disproportionate incremental market share on both assets and liabilities.

Next comes the set of banks which have had P/BV of above 1.5 for most periods of time. The market insight on these banks is that they are long-term bets, have access to sufficient capital but have to demonstrate a business model that works across cycles. As comfort levels increase on the business model, the P/BV should climb as runway for growth is available for these banks. Both the above set of banks ('Alpha banks') would form one arm of the K, having adequate access to capital and the intrinsic ability to grow market share. The only constraint for these banks would be their ability to grow their liability franchise as changes in market share on deposits are much slower than changes on the asset side.

The other private sector banks have a P/BV of around 1 or much below 1. For some of them which have demonstrated an ability to raise capital even through COVID-19 times, it is a business model issue and whether they have strengths to grow profitably in a

sustained manner. The new generation banks amongst these have to demonstrate consistent growth and stability on the liability side to earn their stripes for a higher P/BV again. Quite a few of the old generation private sector banks have an issue with the credibility of their business model and their ability to generate above hurdle RoE through the cycle. While they may have a reasonably stable liability franchise, the market perceives issues with their lending practices and thereby, asset quality. That is the reason their P/BV is at very low levels. They need to transform themselves by upgrading technology, add skilled manpower and improve management quality and governance.

### Road map for public banks

Coming to public sector unit (PSU) banks, their current governance model depresses valuations. Their P/BV would better reflect their intrinsic strengths when the banks are run in a professional manner with an ability to decide their own destiny. The largest bank in the country is surely part of the Alpha banks as its ability to attract capital and grow profitably is well accepted. The other PSU banks are viewed by the market broadly as a homogenous set with similar business models and skill sets. Along with the government move to consolidate PSU banks into few large banks, a new vision needs to be drawn out for these banks to ensure that they have differing value propositions to offer to the economy and market. There needs to be a clear level playing field amongst all banks and the government should move to paying transpa-

rent and fair compensation for services rendered to various State-sponsored programmes to all players. PSU banks should be free to adopt human resource practices to on-board lateral talent to fill in skill set gaps and adapt to the new digital world. This, coupled with better governance, is the recipe for higher P/BV for PSU banks.

### More Alpha banks needed

So what happens from here on? The consensus opinion would be that the Alpha banks widen the gap with respect to the rest, thereby widening the K curve even more and squeezing out the weak banks. If one looks at the financial performance of banks over the last few years, this trend is palpably seen, lending more credence to the widening K curve hypothesis. However, there is clearly more room for banks to migrate into the Alpha banks set. Vision, perseverance and consistent execution will make that happen. For the wheels of the economy to grind faster and higher, we need more than the current handful of Alpha banks to propel it and it is in all stakeholders' interest to do their bit to make that happen. The multi-baggers lie in spotting the bank that can straddle the K. The system can ill-afford another LVB.

For NBFCs, it is a more scary thought. Would both arms of the 'K' remain in the moot question for them. Or, would the more valued NBFCs be the ones that become part of the Alpha banks in the long term?

*Srinivasan Varadarajan is a veteran banker and market expert*

## 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.

### Vaccination strategy

Initially, COVID-19 was largely prevalent only in the urban areas, which went out of control as social distancing went for a toss even with a lockdown. The sudden lockdown announced in March caught the labour community, especially the migrants, unaware. In their desperation to leave for home, they ended up as carriers to the rural areas. Hence, the priority of administering vaccine should begin from Tier One and Tier Two cities where people are more vulnerable due to population density. With the possibility of adverse reactions to the

vaccine, especially persons with co-morbidities, there should be a system in place to extend medical assistance. If urban areas are taken care of first, rural areas can breathe a little easier. The system needs to take care of the most vulnerable sections (Editorial page, "In vaccine race last lap, the key steps for India", November 23)

V. SUBRAMANIAN,  
Chennai

**Congress party fading**  
After the Bihar election results, the Congress seems to be finding itself at the receiving end of political barbs. Not only the rival BJP but also partners in the

Mahagathbandhan are looking down on it, asserting that it has lost its political relevance. Even as some have begun to question the captaincy of the Gandhis, a truth is that most of those who now pooh-pooh the Congress do not have a national outlook. Of course, the BJP has reasons to be happy, but, overall, the situation does not look congenial for sustaining our democracy in the absence of a coherent and strong Opposition. It is time the party is freed from family rule, inefficiency and unprincipled coalitions.

P.R.V. RAJA,  
Pandalam, Kerala

**Ayurveda students**  
The notification that post graduates of Ayurveda could be allowed to perform types of surgical procedures is surprising. The study and practice of medicine demand a high level of knowledge, skills, training and practice. An expert in traditional medicine cannot be considered an expert in modern medicine and vice-versa. The clarification that Ayurvedic practitioners are already practising surgery holds no water. Traditional medicine deserves the government's attention, but not this way.

Drs. D.V.G. SANKARARAO,  
Nellimarta, Andhra Pradesh

■ Surgery requires anaesthesia which the Ayurvedic pharmacopeia does not possess. Ayurveda is most appropriate to use as a system of primary care. Instead of training ayurveda doctors to operate in specialty areas such as

### CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:

A quote in a front-page story titled "Bhutan says no Chinese village on its territory" (Nov. 21, 2020) attributed to Bhutan Ambassador Vetsop Namgyel needs to be amended as follows to accurately reflect the envoy's statement: "There is no Chinese village inside Bhutan," said Ambassador Namgyel, categorically denying reports in the media that suggested settlements are near the area of the 2017 confrontation between Indian and Chinese troops on the Doklam plateau."

It is the policy of The Hindu to correct significant errors as soon as possible. Please specify the edition (place of publication), date and page. The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-28418297/28576300 (11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday); Fax: +91-44-2852963; E-mail: readerseditor@thehindu.co.in; Mail: Readers' Editor, The Hindu, Kasturi Buildings, 859

# A conspiracy against inter-faith love

Laws to curb intermarriages are part of a communal agenda



ANJALI MODY



"The Supreme Court affirmed in the case of Hadiya (formerly Akhila) and Shafin Jahan that no one had a right to interfere in the marriage of consenting adults." Hadiya and Shafin Jahan in Kozhikode in 2018. •K. RAGESH

In India, intermarriages between people of different regions, castes or religions have to a large extent been prevented by casteism, religious conservatism, and fear of parental authority. In a country as large and diverse as this, intermarriages are still a rarity. There are few inter-caste marriages and even fewer inter-religious ones. Surveys large and small confirm that the vast majority of Indians (between 95% and 99% depending on the State) have arranged marriages, which are, by nature, intra-caste and intra-religious. Between 70% and 80% of Indians across all age groups and religions disapprove of inter-caste or inter-religious marriage. Those of us and our forbears who married across caste groups or across religious communities are a very small minority of around 5% and about 2%, respectively.

Yet, for decades, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), through its affiliates, has kept up an attack on the 2%, trying to prevent or break up marriages between Hindus and people of other faiths, primarily Muslims. Despite all its very recent protestations to the contrary, the Sangh Parivar is known to hold that Muslims (and Christians), whose holy sites are outside India, are not truly "Bharatiya". Groups owing allegiance to the Parivar scour court notices for marriages under the Special Marriage Act and use persuasion, threats, intimidation and even violence to try and stop marriages from taking place. When Muslim women marry Hindu men (even abroad), they try to have them "convert" to Hinduism.

**No evidence of 'love jihad'**  
But it is only quite recently that they conjured up a conspiracy theory in support of their campaign. Starting in coastal Karnataka and northern Kerala in the mid-2000s, Sangh vigilantes claimed that Hindu-Muslim romances were a well-thought-out conspiracy to seduce Hindu women in

order to convert them to Islam and produce Muslim children. It was among these vigilantes that the term 'love jihad' was bandied about. A Karnataka Criminal Investigation Department (CID) investigation into complaints of 'love jihad' in 2009 concluded that there was no 'love jihad', only love and marriage between consenting adults. But the conspiracy theory, and the term 'love jihad', were exported to north India in the run-up to the 2014 general election. Over the next few years, as the Bharatiya Janata Party gained political ground, the term gained currency, adding another dimension to the Sangh Parivar's programme of communal polarisation.

A National Investigation Agency (NIA) probe was ordered following continuing claims in Kerala in 2018. In Uttar Pradesh, whose current Chief Minister issued a public death threat to men he claimed were involved in 'love jihad', the police investigated 14 complaints. The NIA reached the same conclusion as the Karnataka CID did in 2009: there was no conspiracy to convert Hindu women, nothing called 'love jihad', all the women concerned had married and/or changed religions as independent thinking adults. The U.P. police have found that the majority of the cases probed were consensual. And in the cases identified as 'suspicious' by the police, neither is there

evidence of forcible conversion nor of the fact that the women did not make their own choices.

But keeping the conspiracy theory alive seems to be an important part of the RSS-BJP's communal political programme. And so, under the guise of anti-conversion laws, a few BJP State governments have now announced their intention to make 'love jihad', a conspiracy theory, a crime punishable by imprisonment. The conspiracy theory has evolved along the way. Its central premise is that no Hindu woman will fall in love with a man she knows to be a Muslim; Muslims disguise themselves as Hindus to get their way with obedient Hindu women and having ravished them, force them to convert.

**Exercising choice**  
Characterising Hindu women as dim-witted and easily led is socially more acceptable than the idea that a woman can love outside artificial social boundaries and exercise choice. This is borne out by the many examples from across the country of parents using provisions of criminal law on rape and kidnapping to try and break up their daughter's relationship or marriage, entered into by choice. There are also examples from across the country of families that have conspired to murder their daughter or her husband or both, because their falling in love is an affront to family

authority and to the social order determined by caste and religion.

The insidious linking of inter-faith relationships with 'forcible conversion', however, gives this campaign a powerful toxicity. The Supreme Court affirmed in the case of Hadiya (formerly Akhila) and Shafin Jahan that no one had a right to interfere in the marriage of consenting adults. What the BJP State governments are proposing is a law that overturns this premise, by making the validity of a marriage subject to investigation on the basis of third-party complaints. It makes every Muslim marrying a Hindu suspect. It characterises Muslims as conspirators in a project of proselytisation and colonisation of Hindu wombs. And it provides legal cover for Sangh organisations to carry on their decades-old campaign of harassment, and worse, against Hindu-Muslim marriages.

To be sure, the RSS and its affiliates have been able to pursue their flagrantly anti-constitutional and unlawful methods in trying to prevent inter-religious marriages because their agenda feeds the casteism and religious anxiety of the majority of Indians. This is why, all these years, they have had the easy support of court officials, the police, and in too many cases also the families of young people who have dared to love.

The changes in law proposed by a few BJP State governments, if they go through, will create a decidedly hostile legal environment for Hindus and Muslims to marry. What is already difficult, because of family, community and Sangh Parivar pressures, will become impossibly hard.

Nazi Germany's Nuremberg laws prohibited sexual relations and marriages between Jews and non-Jews. Violation of the law led to imprisonment and later, incarceration in a concentration camp. Segregationist U.S. and apartheid South Africa had laws prohibiting inter-racial marriages and sexual relations. In South Africa, the law was enforced through surveillance and police raids. In both countries, violations were punishable by imprisonment. In India, the Sangh Parivar can achieve the same ends without a law explicitly banning such marriages, so long as those who are unable to see beyond caste and religion conspire in its plan.

Anjali Mody is a journalist

# Time for an Asian Century

India's challenge is in securing an 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' in the emerging world order



MUKUL SANWAL

In an irreversibly more equal world, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) has immediate geopolitical and economic implications, with the West adapting to Asian rules and marking the end of the colonial phase of global history. Will we see the world returning to the centrality of Asian civilisations sharing prosperity, with the U.S. adjusting to a triumvirate? Or will the Asian giants be irreconcilable rivals with the U.S. rules-based order maintaining peace and prosperity? India's challenge is in securing an 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' in the emerging digital order, navigating the U.S.-China technology and supply chain clash.

## Asian-led world order

The mega trade deal was led by ASEAN, not by China, and includes Japan and Australia, military allies of the U.S., all opting for the Asian Century as they do not see China as a threat the way the U.S. does. 'ASEAN centrality' rejects the current frame of the West setting the agenda. RCEP's principles and objectives allow individual countries to choose the scope and product categories for bilateral tariff schedules, and exclude divisive issues like labour and environment. The new frame goes beyond transfer of goods and services, focuses on integration and facilitating supply chains for sharing prosperity, requiring a very different calculus for assessment.

RCEP's new rules on electronic commerce could offset losses in declining trade in goods. 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' will leverage endogenous technological strength, data and population. Both China and India are breaking the monopoly of the West in wireless telecommunications, AI and other emerging technologies. India has also, in the UN, questioned Western domination calling for a "reformed multilateralism". The dilemma for the West is that sharing power will mark the end of its primacy in global affairs. The dilemma for the U.S. is more acute. With China having developed the capacity to bridge the technological gap, the U.S. weaponised interdependence by banning export of semiconductor chips and forcing sale of innovative Chinese technology. China's response is a 'dual circulation' strategy for self-reliance and military-technological prowess to surpass the U.S. The global governance role of the U.S. is already reduced. The U.S. Congressional Research Service report dated October 30 identifies four key elements of

this role: global leadership; defence and promotion of the liberal international order; defence and promotion of freedom, democracy, and human rights; and prevention of the emergence of regional hegemons in Eurasia. The U.S. now exercises power with others, not over them. Despite its military 'pivot' to Asia, the U.S. needs India in the Quad, to counterbalance the spread of China's influence through land-based trade links. India, like others in the Quad, has not targeted China and also has deeper security ties with Russia. With the ASEAN 'code of conduct' in the South China Sea, both the security and prosperity pillars of the U.S.-led Indo-Pacific construct will be adversely impacted.

## Atmanirbhar Bharat

No country has become a global power relying on others. India needs a new strategic doctrine and mindset. Strategic analysts ignore the severity of colonial exploitation that made the most developed country, India, among the less developed when they compare it with China. Military strategists' excessive reliance on Western doctrines and equipment ignores why the 4th Infantry Division, described as "one of the greatest fighting formations in military history", collapsed. We have drawn the wrong lessons on both the intentions and capability of China (the Henderson-Brooks Bhagat Report remains classified, but its conclusions are available). With the Rafale aircraft purchase, India has recognised that there will be no technology transfer for capital equipment. Military Theatre Commands should be tasked with border defence giving the offensive role to cyber, missile and special forces based on endogenous capacity, effectively linking economic and military strength. The overriding priority should be infrastructure including electricity and fibre optic connectivity; self-reliance in semiconductors, electric batteries and solar panels; and skill development. Leveraging proven digital prowess to complement the infrastructure of China's Belt and Road Initiative will win friends as countries value multi-polarity.

The RCEP already includes India's priorities such as rules of origin, services and e-commerce. The time-bound upgradation of national capacity through 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' should enable agreements with individual ASEAN countries. RCEP members have expressed their "strong will" to re-engage India, essentially to balance China. There are compelling geopolitical and economic reasons for shaping the building blocks of the Asia-led order, which is not yet China-led, to secure an 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', and place in the emerging triumvirate.

Mukul Sanwal is a former UN diplomat

## Weaker germs, stronger cures

'One Health' is the optimum approach to counter the impact of antimicrobial resistance

TOMIO SHICHIRI & RAJESH BHATIA

The advent of antibiotics ignited the hope of elimination of infectious diseases in humans and animals. However, this did not happen because of two reasons: the ingenuity and survival instinct of germs and the irrational use of antibiotics in humans and animals. Most of the germs have acquired the capacity to resist the action of affordable antibiotics. This phenomenon is known as antimicrobial resistance (AMR). The inability of antibiotics to treat patients and animals is wreaking havoc on human health, nutrition safety and economies. The long-term impact of AMR is almost comparable to that of the COVID-19 pandemic. AMR is estimated to cause 10 million deaths annually by 2050, unless concerted actions are initiated now. It will result in 7.5% reduction in livestock production and negatively impact the global GDP by 3.5%.

**Tackling the AMR challenge**  
There are two major possible solutions to combat the AMR menace: discovery of new drugs, before the emergence of resistance in germs; and prudent use of available antibiotics. The first is an expensive and unpredictable process. Since 1984, no new class of antibiotics has been developed. The estimated cost for developing a new antibiotic exceeds \$1 billion. With rapid development of resistance, the life of new antibiotics becomes limited and the return on investment on new molecules gets diminished. This discourages the pharmaceutical industry to invest in these initiatives. The world is left with only one option: to use the available antibiotics carefully to ensure their efficacy for as long as possible.

The World Health Organization Global Action Plan on AMR (2015) provides a road map for tackling this challenge. This plan has been endorsed by the UN General Assembly. Almost 80 countries have developed their respective national action plans in alignment with this Plan.

The rational use of antibiotics in humans, animals, and agriculture warrants coordinated action in all sectors. These multi-sectoral, multi-disciplinary and multi-institutional

actions constitute the 'One Health' approach. This has gained currency across the world as an efficient and cost-effective response to AMR and several other challenges, especially endemic zoonoses (diseases transmitted between animals and humans) and pandemics. It is reinforced by the fact that all the epidemics in the current millennium (SARS, MERS, bird flu and COVID-19) have originated from animals because of unwanted excursion of humans into animal domains. The COVID-19 pandemic has emphasised the urgency of implementing One Health. India's National Action Plan on AMR is an excellent example of the One Health approach and can be used as a guiding document to develop a workable road map for the country to respond to other similar public health challenges.

### One platform for experts

One Health should not be construed as a standalone or new programme that has to be built de novo. This endeavour utilises existing expertise and infrastructure in various sectors with a focus on inter-sectoral coordination, collaboration, and communication. The purpose of One Health is to provide a formal platform for experts to plan and work together towards shared objectives.

Implementation of One Health warrants a strong and continuous national narrative on zoonoses. It advocates a multi-sectoral response to public health problems, particularly pandemics, as also to address issues related to AMR. The approach supports focussed actions on the human-animal-environment interface for the prevention, detection and response to the public health events that influence global health and food security. AMR is one of the biggest challenges to human and animal health. There is a need to optimally utilise emerging technologies to improve human health and development. One Health has been acknowledged as the optimum approach to counter the impact of AMR and future pandemics and must be adopted expeditiously.

Tomio Shichiri is FAO Representative in India and Dr. Rajesh Bhatia is Technical Advisor, FAO India



### DATA POINT

## Learning impacted

**1. Access issues** | The table presents figures as a % of students who used to attend in-school classes. Only 42% were able to attend online classes, according to the teachers surveyed. While close to 90% of the parents owned a smartphone, only about 20% had more than one.

	IS (%)	NIS (%)*	Total (%)
Children attending online classes	38	45	42
Children for whom a smartphone was easily available	28	27	28
Parents have a smartphone	91	85	87
Parents have more than one smartphone	20	24	22

**2. Lack of connect** | Most teachers found it difficult to maintain an emotional connect with the students during online classes. The table shows the share of teachers who felt it was easy/difficult to maintain an emotional connect during online classes

	IS (%)	NIS (%)
Easy	16	11
Difficult or impossible	84	89

\*Note: When posing questions in non-implementing States, the questions were framed differently. For example, in table 2, the figures for NIS represent "teachers who felt [it was] easy/difficult to maintain emotional connect in the eventuality of online classes"

About 60% of students from government schools did not attend online classes, according to a survey of teachers and parents across five States. Smartphone unavailability was a major reason. As most teachers found it difficult to maintain an emotional connect with the students, the quality of education suffered. Consequently, an overwhelming majority of parents were willing to send their children to school if they reopen. Chhattisgarh, M.P. and Rajasthan have implemented online learning in public schools (IS), but Karnataka and Uttarakhand have not (NIS)

**3. A bad fit** | Over 60% of parents said that they did not find online classes suitable for their children. The share was higher in the States that have implemented online learning

	IS (%)	NIS (%)	Total (%)
Suitable	31	46	39
Not suitable	69	54	61

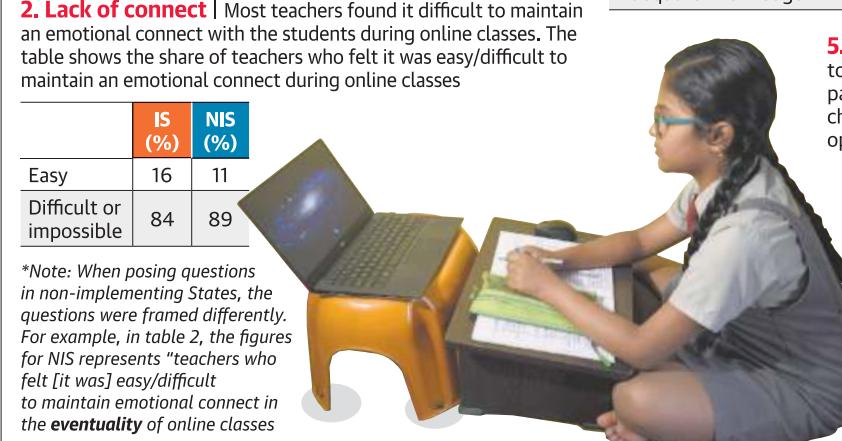
**4. Technical shortcoming** | More than half the teachers in both IS and NIS said they did not have adequate knowledge and experience of online teaching platforms and models

	IS (%)	NIS (%)	Total (%)
Inadequate knowledge	53	56	54
Adequate knowledge	47	44	46

**5. Risky conclusion** | Contrary to popular perception, 90% of parents were willing to send their children to schools when they opened with necessary precautions

	IS (%)	NIS (%)	Total (%)
Not willing	1	18	10
Willing	99	82	90

Source: Myths of Online Education, Field Research Group, Azim Premji University. Survey was conducted in September



For the last two or three days, Delhi has been experiencing a refreshing change from the murky politics of the Congress split – and the gloom and despondency of the present political scene – to the high excitement of man's conquest of the moon eloquently brought back to memory by the American and Soviet space heroes who have come to attend the Federation Aeronautique Internationale conference. The President and the Prime Minister have honoured them on behalf of the people of India as pioneers and pathfinders who have opened up new horizons in the exploration of the universe and in the process given a new dimension to the concept of brotherhood of man. The Lok Sabha to-day [November 23, New Delhi] gave a standing ovation – a rare gesture by a sovereign Parliament – to the two American astronauts, Neil Armstrong, the first man who set foot on the moon, and Charles Conrad, who led the second moon-landing mission, before the House paid homage to the memory of Noble Laureate, Dr. C.V. Raman. The two top-ranking Soviet cosmonauts, Boris Volinov and Yevgeny Khurlov, will be similarly honoured when they pay a visit to Parliament before leaving Delhi.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO NOV. 24, 1920

Boycott of schools

## FROM PAGE ONE

**Single dose of Oxford vaccine is 70% effective**

It can also be transported and stored at normal fridge temperatures, which proponents say would make it easier to distribute, especially in poor countries, than Pfizer's, which needs to be shipped and stored at -70C.

The faster roll-out means both rich and poor countries that had been drawing up plans to ration vaccines can distribute them more widely. In poor countries, where the logistics of distributing rival vaccines posed a bigger challenge, the effect of a cheaper and easier alternative could be even more pronounced.

**Kerala puts new libel law on hold**

Arch rivals Congress and BJP found themselves on the same page opposing the newly introduced Section 118 A of the Act.

The amendment proposed a three-year prison term and a fine of up to ₹10,000 for those convicted of producing, publishing or disseminating derogatory content through any means of communication to intimidate, insult or defame any person.

Opposition parties pointed out the law did not restrict itself to curbing "vile and inhumane social media posts against women and children" alone, as claimed

**Move to allow corporates to set up banks attracts flak**

"... it proposes to allow Indian corporate houses into banking. While the proposal is tempered with many caveats, it raises an important question: Why now," the article said.

The article, posted on Dr. Rajan's LinkedIn profile on Monday, noted that the IWG has suggested significant amendments to the Banking Regulation Act of 1949, aimed at increasing the RBI's powers, before allowing corporate houses into banking.

"Yet if sound regulation and supervision were only a matter of legislation, India would not have an NPA problem. It is hard not to see these proposed amendments as a subtle way for the IWG to undercut a recommendation it may have had little power over."

"In sum, many of the technical rationalisations proposed by the IWG are worth

**SC extends Perarivalan's parole by one week**

He said the power of State or Central governments to remit sentences under Section 432 CrPC and the clemency power of the President or the Governor could not be equated with each other. Section 432 was a "creature of the Code [CrPC]." Articles 72 (power of President to grant pardon) or 161, on the other hand, was a "high prerogative vested by the Constitution in the highest functionaries of the Union and the States."

The constitutional power of pardon of the President or Governor was "untouchable

**Bhutan border village on disputed land**

According to China's maps, the village is within China's territory, but China's border extends further south beyond where India and Bhutan say the border runs. The area is east of the India-Bhutan-China trijunction on the Doklam plateau, which was the site of a 72-day stand-off in 2017 triggered by China's road-building. India moved in to stop the road, which was built a few hundred metres east of India's border, saying China had entered Bhutanese territory and was unilaterally

Zahid Maleque, Health Minister of Bangladesh, which is buying in 30 million doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine made in India, called the findings "really good news".

The World Health Organization's chief scientist Soumya Swaminathan called the results "encouraging".

The AstraZeneca vaccine uses a modified version of a chimpanzee cold virus to deliver instructions to cells to fight the target virus, a different approach from Pfizer and Moderna, which rely on new technology known as messenger RNA (mRNA).

by Mr. Vijayan repeatedly.

Instead, the ordinance stopped short of limiting the law to social media and left the amendment open to broad and subjective interpretation by the police.

At a stroke, the amendment brought the conventional media and also the whole gamut of social media posts and online commentary under its ambit.

It also conceivably granted the police untrammeled authority to examine published and broadcast content and register cases on their own and even in the absence of a specific complaint, the opposition said.

"Have we learnt something that allows us to override all the prior cautions on allowing industrial houses into banking? We would argue no. Indeed, to the contrary, it is even more important today to stick to the tried and tested limits on corporate involvement in banking," the article said.

Further, Dr. Rajan and Dr. Acharya said that as in many parts of the world, banks in India are rarely allowed to fail – the recent rescue of Yes Bank and of Lakshmi Vilas Bank are examples. For this reason, depositors in scheduled banks know their money is safe, which then makes it easy for banks to access a large volume of depositor funds.

**Sivasankar to be formally arrested today**

**Yechury lauds Kerala's decision on amendment**

Move shows the responsiveness of Left government, says CPI(M) leader

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

Which other government is similarly responsive? The fact that this law has been put on hold shows that there is a very vibrant democratic process within our party and we are responsive to people's opinion

SITARAM YECHURY, CPI (M) general secretary



years or a fine of up to ₹10,000 or both for those who produce, publish or disseminate content through any means of communication with an intention to intimidate, insult or defame any person through social media.

**CM's statement**

Mr. Vijayan, in a statement, said responses from several corners and apprehensions aired by those who supported the LDF and stood for defending democracy had led to this rethink.

Mr. Yechury said, "Which

other government is similarly responsive? The fact that this law has been put on hold shows that there is a very vibrant democratic process within our party and we are responsive to people's opinion."

He pointed to the Madhya Pradesh, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh governments which, he said, despite public outcry, were bringing in laws against inter-faith marriage in the name of 'love jihad'.

"Look at the Madhya Pradesh government; it wants to ban *Suitable Boy*. Despite outcry and national protest,

they come up with laws against inter-faith marriage and so on," he stated.

The central leadership of the CPI(M) had to step in to reverse Kerala amendments.

**Widespread criticism**

"This is an issue on which there has been widespread criticism and we think very genuine criticism has come. We are a party that takes into account all this and we have our own recall," Mr. Yechury observed.

The amendments have been recalled in line with the party's consistent position.

As a Rajya Sabha member, Mr. Yechury said, he had moved a resolution against Section 66 A of the Information and Technology Act, which had similar provisions.

"This is a consistent position of the party and in line with it, the Chief Minister announced that it will not be implemented," he added.

**'Kerala ordinance was not cleared by MHA'**

It is beyond Centre's purview: official

**VIJAYA SINGH**

NEW DELHI

The Kerala ordinance empowering the police to prosecute persons who disseminate information that the law enforcement deemed defamatory was not sent to the Centre for examination, a senior Home Ministry official said on Monday.

The ordinance was brought under the Kerala Police Act, 2011, which is out of the purview of the Ministry of Home Affairs' domain, explained the official.

Several States have their own Police Act, which is governed on the basis of the Police Act of 1861.

The Police Act broadly lays down the contours for administrative functioning of the Police Department and also specifies certain rules to be followed by the public. Other than this there are criminal laws, such as the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), and any amendment to them passed by the State Assembly needs the President's nod after consultation with the MHA.

The MHA examines the Bills passed by State Assemblies that are repugnant with Central laws before they get the President's assent to become a law.

**IMA scam: CBI searches Baig's residence, seizes documents**

Officials claim evidence of monetary transactions found

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
BENGALURU



A team of Central Bureau of Investigation officials on Monday raided the residence of former MLA R. Roshan Baig near Coles Park in Pukkeshinagar and seized documents related to his properties and business ventures. This comes a day after Mr. Baig was arrested by the CBI for his alleged involvement in the ₹4,000 crore I-Monetary Advisory (IMA) investment scam.

The raid began around 7 a.m. and search operations went on for eight hours. "Property documents and business ventures of Mr.

Baig's son R. Ruman Baig have also been seized. The police questioned his family

members and recovered their mobile phones for analysis," said a senior official.

The prime accused in the case, Mohammed Mansoor Khan, managing director and chief executive officer of the IMA Group of companies, has alleged that he had given Mr. Baig ₹400 crore to promote his venture and en-

courage people to invest in IMA using his political clout and media business. "Mr. Baig was one of IMA's more prominent proponents and he did this for monetary gain," the official added.

CBI officials claimed to have found evidence of monetary transactions between Mr. Baig and Mr. Khan made through shell companies. "We are also questioning Mr. Baig to ascertain who tipped Mr. Khan when the Karnataka Special Investigation Team started the probe," said a source.

A special court on Monday extended the CBI custody of Mr. Khan till November 27. The CBI had taken custody of Mr. Khan on Friday for four days but sought extension to continue investigation.

**CBI-3, Ernakulam, on Monday**

Joseph Manalavan, the lawyer assisting the public prosecutor, handed over a statement to special judge Honey M. Varghese stating that Mr. Sureshan has put in his papers.

"Mr. Sureshan has placed the resignation before the authority concerned and requested them to relieve him from the duties as the special public prosecutor," read the one-line statement.

The special judge directed the investigation officer in the case to make necessary arrangements for resuming the proceedings soon.

When contacted, Mr. Sureshan said he would respond later.

The case has been posted

for November 26, considering the directives of the Supreme Court to complete the trial on or before February 4, 2021, sources indicated. On November 26, the investigation officer will have to submit a report to the court about the alternative arrangements made for resuming the trial.

**Eighth accused**  
"If the State government accepts the resignation of the prosecutor and appoints a new one in his place, the new prosecutor will continue the proceedings from where his predecessor has ended."

Actor Dileep has been arraigned as the 8th accused in the case in which the actor was abducted and raped in a moving car.

**IN BRIEF**

**KCR showers sops to woo Hyderabad voters**

HYDERABAD  
Telangana Chief Minister and TRS president K.

Chandrasekhar Rao has showered sops on people living in the capital and other sections, both in the city and elsewhere in the State, seeking support for the party in the GHMC elections.

**Schools, PU colleges will not reopen in Karnataka**

BENGALURU  
The Karnataka government has decided that schools and pre-university (PU) colleges, which were shut in March owing to COVID-19, will not reopen in December. The decision was taken on Monday at a high-level meeting, chaired by Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa.

**Theatres in Telangana to reopen with 50% seating**

TIRUPATI  
After a gap of eight months, movie halls in Telangana – which were closed on March 22 – are set to reopen as the State government on Monday issued orders in this regard to immediate effect. According to the G.O., the cinemas and multiplexes are permitted to operate with 50% seating capacity, pti

**A.P. reports low positivity of 1.12%**

Dip in testing again reduces incidence in Kerala; 24 more die in Karnataka

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Once again, with testing dipping to 35,659 samples, COVID-19 cases in Kerala dropped to 3,757 on Monday. However, the test positivity rate remained at 10.54%, similar to last week.

The Health Department added 22 more deaths to the official list of COVID-19 fatalities on Monday.

Four deaths each were reported from Ernakulam and Thrissur, three from Kottayam, two each from Kozhikode and Thiruvananthapuram, while one death each

**COVID-19**

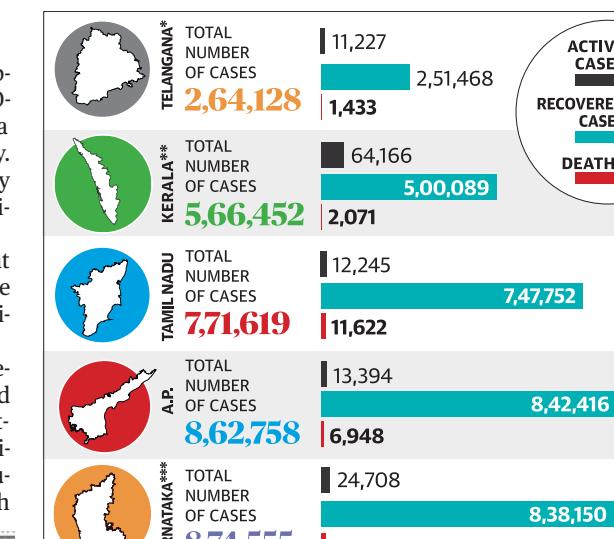
was reported from Kollam, Alappuzha, Palakkad, Malappuram, Wayanad, Kannur and Kasaragod.

Across the State, 862 persons were critically ill and being treated in ICUs

Telangana recorded 602 cases on Sunday, from 24,139 samples.

Three more COVID-19 patients died. The 602 new cases included 129 from Greater Hyderabad, 62 from Ranga Reddy, 60 from Medchal Malkajgiri, 51 from Karimnagar.

The lowest of one case each was recorded in Narayanpet, Nirmal and Kumaram



Bheem Asifabad district, and two each in Yadadri Bhongir and Jangaon.

positivity rate stood at 8.93%.

Andhra Pradesh reported 545 new infections and 10 deaths on Monday. The tally increased to 8,62,758 and the toll rose to 6,948.

The single-day infection tally was the lowest in over five months and the single-day positivity rate at 1.12% was the lowest in over 5.5 months. But at 47,130, the number of samples tested in a day was lower than in the past several days.

Karnataka on Monday reported 1,509 new cases, taking the total number of cases to 8,74,555. With 24 deaths, the toll rose to 11,678.

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

**'Abhayam' app for women passengers in A.P.**

**STAFF REPORTER**

VIJAYAWADA

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Monday launched "Abhayam" mobile phone application which helps women and children travelling in taxis and autorickshaws to raise an alarm in case of any emergency.

To start with, 1,000 autorickshaws equipped with Internet of Things (IoT)-enabled GPS devices would be rolled out in Visakhapatnam city.

About 5,000 vehicles would be brought on to the platform by February 1, 50,000 by July 1 and 1 lakh by November 2021 covering

Vijayawada and Tirupati and other towns later.

Launching the app, Mr. Reddy said the government accorded top priority to the safety of women and children and that Andhra Pradesh was the first State to bring out legislation (Disha Bill) for the security of women.

To be operated by the Transport Department, the Abhayam app would help the women in alerting the police by pressing a panic button in the event of their landing in trouble. Disha app is handled by the police. The policemen would be able to reach out to the women in need in 10 minutes.

## Controversy over Bihar MLA's oath

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
PATNA

A controversy erupted on the first day of the five-day Bihar Assembly session on Monday when All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) legislator and State party president Akhtarul Iman took oath in Urdu and used the word 'Bharat' instead of 'Hindustan'.

Mr. Imam sought permission from Pro-tem Speaker Jitan Ram Manjhi to use 'Bharat'.

Later, speaking to mediapersons, Mr. Imam said, "It was just a suggestion that whenever we read the preamble to the Constitution in whichever language, it mentions the word Bharat. Since we're taking oath in the name of the Constitution, I sought permission from the Chair to use the same word. But, let me be clear here, I have no problem at all with the word Hindustan."

## Govt. to fast-track green nod

MoEF issues fresh guidelines to accelerate environmental appraisal of projects

JACOB KOSHY  
VIKAS DHOOT  
NEW DELHI



**Rapid results:** The recommendations include ensuring that expert panel meetings are held at least once in 15 days.

fresh guidelines to accelerate the appraisal process.

### Avoid delays'

"During the review meetings held for streamlining the Environmental Clearances (EC) process, it has come to notice that the grant of EC is delayed due to various reasons which could be avoided... Member Secretaries of the various sectors may strictly adhere to the following guidelines to avoid unnecessary delay while granting ECs," the letter said.

The recommendations include ensuring that EAC meetings are held at least once in 15 days. All proposals that were placed for approval 10 days before a meeting ought to be considered (It is 15 days now).

"The queries or issues, which the division may have, should be raised during the EAC meeting only. Member Secretary (MS) ought to ensure that the relevant queries of the division are also pointed out at the time of EAC meetings itself so as to

avoid occasion for such queries before and after examination by Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC)," the missive noted.

Environmental law specialist and researcher at the Centre for Policy Research, Kanchi Kohli said it was legally contentious if an office order could curtail the role of the EAC that requires detailed scrutiny of applications seeking environmental clearance.

"What is even more concerning is the Environment Ministry's approach to reading down its own mandate for environment protection. Accelerated approvals definitely don't allow for good environmental decisions and do not necessitate that projects will be up and running to support an already sluggish economy. Our current approval rates are close to 100%, and yet there is an economic slowdown," she told *The Hindu*.

## Senior party leaders should maintain discipline: Cong.

Azad's statement on collapse of structure slammed

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI



Ghulam Nabi Azad

The Congress on Monday said senior leaders, including those who have been "nominated" to the Congress Working Committee, should maintain discipline and avoid discussing the party's internal issues on public platforms.

The party's statement came a day after Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Rajya Sabha, Ghulam Nabi Azad, in an interview, claimed that the Congress party's structure had "collapsed" and needed to be rebuilt by having elected leaders from block to CWC-level.

He also said "five-star culture" had seeped in the party and the leaders had lost ground connect.

"The nominated senior leaders have access to the party leadership. They can just pick up the phone and

members of the CWC, nominated members since many years. They have also been Ministers in governments and got different responsibilities in the party," he said, adding that the Congress had internal mechanisms to discuss all issues, including the recent Bihar poll and by-elections results.

The veteran Congress leader was also targeted by other party leaders, including Haryana MLA Kuldeep Bishnoi, Youth Congress president Srinivas B.V. and party spokesperson Gaurav Vallabh.

In a video message posted on Twitter, Mr. Bishnoi, an MLA from the Adampur constituency and the younger son of former Chief Minister Bhajan Lal, accused Mr. Azad of "hatching a conspiracy with political rivals to break the Congress and betraying the Gandhi family".

## India briefs foreign diplomats on Nagrota terror incident

Shringla informs them about the Pakistan connection

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The suspected terrorists who were killed in an encounter in Nagrota, Jammu and Kashmir, on November 19 belonged to the Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla informed a select group of Heads of Missions on Monday.

The diplomats were informed about the discovery of a cross-border tunnel that was allegedly used by the militants to reach the Indian territory.

"The Heads of Missions were provided with a detailed information docket giving the details of the incident as it transpired as well as a list of items and munition that were recovered from the terrorists clearly indicating their Pakistani origins," said a source familiar with the meeting that was attended by some of the leading foreign diplomats residing in India.

Mr. Shringla said the attackers were clearly planning the biggest terror attack in India since the Pulwama

strike on February 14, 2019. The diplomats were told that the attack appeared to be part of efforts to sabotage the DDC elections in Jammu and Kashmir and was designed to "coincide with the anniversary of 26/11 Mumbai terror strikes".

Mr. Shringla briefed the envoys about the past attacks by the Jaish-e-Mohammad in Jammu and Kashmir, saying that "...in the year 2020 itself we have seen 200 incidents of terrorist violence and neutralisation of 199 terrorists".

## Jaishankar begins trip to Gulf, Seychelles today

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

In a significant outreach to the Gulf states amid the COVID-19 pandemic, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will leave for Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates on Tuesday on a five-day trip during which he will also visit the Seychelles.

Mr. Jaishankar will begin his tour by paying a condolence visit to the Bahrain government for the death of the Prime Minister, Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, who passed away this month. On Wednesday, he will fly to the UAE and meet his counterpart, Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

In both Manama and Abu Dhabi, Mr. Jaishankar is expected to discuss cooperation on post-COVID-19 economic recovery and in particular, the future of more than 3.3 million Indians expatriates there.

His visit to the Seychelles comes weeks after elections in the Indian Ocean Region island, where Opposition leader Wavel Ramkalawan defeated incumbent President Danny Faure. Mr. Ramkalawan, who is of Indian origin, has been opposed to the 2015 India-Seychelles naval agreement to build facilities on Assumption Island, and his election could deal the project a blow.

## Harsh Shringla to visit Nepal

'Courtesy' visit comes after months of tension over maps

SUHASINI HAIDAR  
NEW DELHI



Harsh Shringla

After months of tensions and sharpened rhetoric between India and Nepal over disputed maps, Foreign Secretary Harsh Shringla will pay an official visit to Kathmandu on November 26 and 27.

Sources in the government said this was a "courtesy" visit, the first since Mr. Shringla took over as Foreign Secretary in January, and was not meant to formally discuss the contentious border issue.

The sources said India was responding to a "reach out" by Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli, when he called his Indian counterpart Na-

part and other Nepalese dignitaries to discuss the wide-ranging bilateral cooperation between the two countries," the MEA said in a statement released simultaneously with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) in Kathmandu.

The MoFA said Mr. Shringla would meet his counterpart Bharat Raj Paudyal on Thursday, after which he would call on "high-level dignitaries".

Mr. Shringla might also make a public address and visit an India-Nepal development cooperation project, depending on the arrangements required amid the pandemic.

## Delhi lawyer seeks action against Mehbooba Mufti

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A Delhi-based lawyer on Monday filed a petition before the Delhi High Court seeking directions to register a case against former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti for her "dacoits snatched our flag" remark.

"In this statement, it is quite clear that she is using this derogatory and instigating statement against the duly elected Indian government," the petition filed by advocate Vineet Jindal stated.

"It is an inciting statement which intends to create hatred and unrest among the communities and waging war against the duly elected government of this country as she is an influential and public personality," the plea added.

It stated that on October 23, while addressing her first press conference after being released from a 14-month detention, the Peoples Democratic Party chief made the remark.

"When reporters asked her [Ms. Mufti] about the J&K flag placed on the desk, she called it 'our flag' and said, 'we will take Tricolour in our hand when we get our flag back,' the petition added.

The advocate said the statement made by Ms. Mufti explicitly insulted the Tricolour.

## J&K administration publishes list of Roshni Act beneficiaries

VIIJITA SINGH  
DEVESH K. PANDEY  
NEW DELHI

The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Monday published on its website the list of beneficiaries under the Roshni Act. The beneficiaries include former Ministers, and retired civil servants.

Among those who were allotted land under the now scrapped Act are Haseeb Drabu, former Finance Minister and former PDP leader; K.K Arora, businessman and Congress leader; Nighat Pandit, wife of retired IAS officer Shafi Pandit; Syed Akhoon of the National Conference; M.Y. Khan, former Chairman of J&K Bank; and Sujjad Kichloo, former NC Minister.

In a related development, the

CBI has registered another case in connection with the ₹25,000 crore "Roshni" scam, this time against the then District Collector of Jammu and others for alleged illegal grant of ownership of land parcels.

The case was instituted by the then Vigilance Organisation in 2014. It named Deputy Commissioner Hirdesh Kumar Singh and one Bashir Ahmed as accused, apart from unknown officials of the Revenue Department in Jammu.

The larger allegation pertained to irregularities in the implementation of the Jammu and Kashmir States Land (vesting of ownership to the occupants) Act, also known as Roshni Act, which has now been declared null and void.

**NMDC Limited**  
(A Government of India Enterprise)  
10-311/A, Castle Hills, Masab Tank, Hyderabad-500 028.  
Telephone: 040-22335387/1000, 293537/8 to 293587/21  
Ext: 138/207/49, Fax: 23338731/23338732  
Email: csreddy@nmdc.co.in; bmkumar@nmdc.co.in; psingh@nmdc.co.in  
Tender No.HQMN/1003/19-05X025/346 Dated: 23/1/2020  
**OPEN TENDER NOTICE**

Online Tenders are invited through E-Procurement Mode for the following equipment from reputed manufacturers directly or through their accredited agents in India required for NMDC Ltd, BIOM, Bacheli Complex, Kirandul Complex, Dantewada (Dist of Chhattisgarh) and DIOM, Dominalai Complex, Bellary (Dist of Karnataka State)- India.

Description of Equipment	Qty (No.)	Pre-Bid meeting	Display & Sale of Tender Documents Period	Last date & Time for submission of offer	Tender fee in Rs	Earliest Money Deposit in Rs.
28KL capacity water sprinklers along with Operation and Maintenance Spares for 4 Years/8,000 Hours whichever is earlier as per specifications mentioned in Annexure-III,	04	02-12-2020	DRAFT: 24-12-2020 to 02-12-2020 FINAL: 09-12-2020 to 23-12-2020	23-12-2020	Rs. 5900/-	Rs. 500000/-

Complete Tender document is available in website [www.nmdc.co.in](http://www.nmdc.co.in) under E-Procurement section; [www.msteccommerce.gov.in/eprochome](http://www.msteccommerce.gov.in/eprochome); <http://eprocurement.gov.in>. Any corrigendum to the above tender will be uploaded only on our website [www.nmdc.co.in](http://www.nmdc.co.in) and will not be published. Prospective bidders should visit the above NMDC Limited website from time to time to take note of corrigendum, if any. For further details logon to Tender Section of our website: [www.nmdc.co.in](http://www.nmdc.co.in) Chief General Manager(Materials)

## VIZAYAWADA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (VMC) CORRIGENDUM

Rc.E6-110725/2020 Dt.23-11-2020

The amendment is hereby issued to this office NIT No. CE-10/VMC/AE/2020-21, Dt.12-11-2020 for the work "Construction of new Shopping Complex at Lorry stand in Bhavanipuram" With Reverse tendering Process for BoQ, NIT Document, Self-Declaration form, Tender Schedule and Last date of bid submission.

The Amendments may be seen in the e-Market place @ [www.tender.apeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.tender.apeprocurement.gov.in).

Sd/- XXXXX  
CHIEF ENGINEER

## STEEL AUTHORITY OF INDIA LIMITED Rourkela Steel Plant

Rourkela - 769 011, Odisha, India

Invitation for Expression of Interest (EoI)

Ref No.: SAIL/RSP/MM/EI/2020-21/001

SAIL, one of India's largest steel-making companies and a Maharatna CPSE, invites Expression of Interest for its Rourkela Steel Plant, for exploring the following:-

1. Vendors for refractory, rolls, minor raw materials & critical spares items as alternatives to imports

2. Substitutes and alternatives for various timber products, used in dispatch of finished goods

The detailed terms and conditions, including the scope of work, eligibility criteria, EoI requirement and process of bid submission are available on SAIL Tenders website. For more details, interested bidders may visit [https://sailtenders.co.in](http://sailtenders.co.in).

GM (MM – Purchase), SAIL – RSP

Registered Office: Ispat Bhawan, Lodi Road, New Delhi 110 003

Corporate Identity Number: L27109DL1973G0J006454, Website: [www.sail.co.in](http://www.sail.co.in)

*There's a little bit of SAIL in everybody's life*

## BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Executive Engineer, Chamrajpet Division, BBMP Anganawadi Centre, 2nd Main, T.R. Mill Road, Bengaluru - 18.

No. : BBMP/EE/CMP/TEND/E-Proc/18/2020-21 Date : 21-11-2020

## INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (IFT) (Two Cover System) (Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, (Chamrajpet), BBMP invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organisations for the Construction of works detailed in the table below.

SI. No.	Name of the Work	Approximate Value of Work (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)
1.	Construction of BBMP Building at Sangam Circle, Hosahalli Main Road in J.R.Nagar Ward No. 136.	100.00	1,00,000/-
2.	Construction of Block Work, Plastering, Flooring and Other Interior Works to BBMP Building at Sangam Circle, Hosahalli Main Road in J.R.Nagar Ward No. 136.	100.00	1,00,000/-

(1) The Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-Procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka from 26-11-2020. (2) Pre Bid Meeting Document on 08-12-2020 at 4.15 pm. (3) Tenders must be submitted online through e-Procurement portal On or before 4.00 pm 15-12-2020, and the Opening of tenders will be as per e-Procurement portal guidelines. (4) Opening of Technical Bid Document for Two Cover on 16-12-2020 at 4.15 pm. (5) Opening of Financial Bid Document on 17-12-2020 at 4.15 pm. The Details regarding participation for this tender can be obtained by logging on to : <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>. Sd/- Executive Engineer, Chamrajpet Division.

Have Covid-

## IN BRIEF



## U.P. govt. restricts crowd for social events

The Uttar Pradesh government on Monday reduced the number of people who can attend social gatherings in view of the COVID-19 situation. In the case of indoor events, up to 100 people can attend or 50% of the total capacity of the hall. Gatherings in open spaces or grounds would be allowed only up to 40% of their capacity, an order said.

## Odisha Governor's wife dies of COVID-19

Sushila Devi, wife of Odisha Governor Ganesh Lal, passed away on Monday three weeks after testing positive for COVID-19. She was 74 and is survived by Mr. Lal, seven sons and daughters. Six of her family, including the Governor, tested positive for the pandemic. While all recovered, she was undergoing treatment from November 2. The Odisha Assembly paid tributes to her.

## Bharti Singh, husband get bail in drug case

A magistrate's court granted bail on Monday to comedian Bharti Singh and her screenwriter husband Haarsh Limbachiyा. They were arrested by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Saturday after 86.5 grams of cannabis (ganja) was found in their possession. Advocate Ayaz Khan told the court that the quantity involved was really small and bail could, therefore, be granted.

## Kangana, sister move High Court to quash FIR

MUMBAI Actor Kangana Ranaut and her sister Rangoli Chandel on Monday moved the Bombay High Court to quash an FIR and order by a magistrate court. On October 21, the Mumbai police issued notice to the duo after the Bandra magistrate on October 17 ordered that an FIR be filed against them for "promoting enmity between groups on grounds of religion" through their tweets.

## Amit Shah insulted Birsa Munda, says Mamata

KOLKATA West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday said Union Home Minister Amit Shah had insulted Birsa Munda, a tribal leader who fought the British, by garlanding a wrong statue during a recent visit to the State. "To show our respect, I announced Birsa Munda birth anniversary as State holiday from next year," Ms. Banerjee said at a public meeting at Khatna in Bankura district.

## Trains resume in Punjab after two months

Railways runs two goods trains, one passenger train; one farmers' outfit refuses to lift blockade

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
CHANDIGARH

Nearly two months after the rail blockade by Punjab farmers against the Centre's farm laws, the Railways authorities on Monday operated two goods trains, under its Ferozepur division, and a passenger train.

The trains were run after an inspection of all tracks falling under the division, officials said.

The New Delhi-Uma Janshatabdi Express became the first passenger train to depart for Punjab after nearly two months, they added.

However, a farmer outfit in Amritsar has refused to lift its blockade of passenger trains. Chief Minister Amarinder Singh said this will put people to major inconvenience and may have grave consequences for the State.

The Ferozepur division caters to needs of Punjab, Jam-



Workers cleaning railway tracks in Amritsar on Monday. ■ AFP

mu and Kashmir and a part of Himachal Pradesh. Two goods trains, one empty and other loaded, were run at 2 p.m. on Monday, said Divisional Railway Manager (Ferozepur Division) Rajesh Aggarwal. A freight train carrying gypsum from Jammu via Kathua to Lucknow was operated, said Mr. Aggarwal, adding that an empty freight train was started from Jalandhar for Delhi.

Talking to the media, he said a passenger train to Hazidwar will resume its operations from Amritsar on Tuesday morning. Other trains will also be resumed, he said.

## Passenger train

The New Delhi-Uma Janshatabdi Express left the capital on Monday afternoon with 559 passengers on board, officials said.

Train services were sus-

pended in the State since September 24 when the farmers protesting against the new farm laws converged on railway stations and tracks.

While the Northern Railway has announced the restoration of 25 trains, the North Central Railway has announced the resumption of six trains.

The Railways had earlier said it made plans to restore train services to the region, provided they had security clearance.

"After the halt of the farmer agitation on railway tracks and stations in Punjab from November 23, Indian Railways is going to start rail services through Punjab and (in) Punjab," Railway Minister Piyush Goyal tweeted.

"Passengers, farmers and industries will benefit from the removal of the impasse in train operations for the last several

days."

The Railways has said it

suffered a loss of ₹2,220

crore due to the blockade.

## Farmers protest

The Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Committee has refused to budge from its stand on clearing rail tracks. Capt. Amarinder said by striking the discordant note, the farmers' union is acting against the interests of Punjab and its people. However, 30 other farmers' bodies have already announced to lift the blockade.

"When all other farmers' organisations had decided unanimously to withdraw from the tracks for the next 15 days, this one union's decision is not understandable," said Capt. Amarinder.

He said the committee should not do anything to derail the process of negotiation and discussion.



Narendra Modi inaugurating flats for MPs in Delhi via video link. ■ PTI/TWITTER

and labour sectors besides removal of Article 370 and the citizenship law.

"I am confident the next Lok Sabha (2024-29) will also play a very important role in taking the country ahead in this new decade ... There is so much that we have to achieve," he said.

## 2014-29 period is very important for India: PM

A lot remains to be done, he says

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Asserting that the 2014-29 period between the 16th and 18th Lok Sabha is "very important" for a young democracy like India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said the last six years had been "historic" for the country's development and a lot remains to be done in the remaining period.

He was speaking after inaugurating 76 multi-storey flats in the national capital for MPs. The 16th Lok Sabha (2014-19) had been historic for the country's progress, and the 17th Lok Sabha had already become a part of history due to a number of decisions it had taken, he said, referring to the passage of landmark legislation aimed at reforming farm

## Delhi HC rejects pleas in 2G case

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday rejected pleas challenging the decision-making process behind the Centre's approval to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to appeal against the acquittal of the accused in the 2G case.

Justice Brijesh Sethi, who will demit office on November 30, also released the appeals from his court for it to be listed before another Bench on December 1.

Justice Sethi rejected the pleas made by some of the individuals, who were acquitted in the case, seeking direction to the government to place on record the documents containing the process to be followed before taking a decision to file an appeal.

In October, the High Court commenced day-to-day hearing on the CBI's 'leave to appeal' against the acquittal of all the individuals and firms in the case. Leave to appeal is a formal permission granted by a court to a party to challenge a decision in a higher court.

In December 2017, a Special CBI Court here had acquitted A. Raja, Kanimozhi and others in the CBI and Enforcement Directorate cases relating to the 2G spectrum case noting that the prosecution had "miserably failed" to prove the charges.

## SC takes note of 'grim' health in four States

Reports sought from Delhi, Maharashtra, Gujarat & Assam

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL  
NEW DELHI

The daily hike in COVID-19 cases in Delhi, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Assam looked 'grim' and they should 'take time to introspect' and 'prepare for December', the Supreme Court observed on Monday. "Situation of COVID cases is worsening and likely to do so in December," a Bench led by Justice Ashok Bhushan noted.

"We are of the view that immediate steps are required to be taken by all the States," the court stated. The Bench directed the States to file status reports in two days on their preparedness and steps taken. It listed the case for urgent hearing on November 27.

"Things have worsened in the last two weeks, in November... Our question is what is your present situation? What more steps are you taking?" Justice Bhushan asked.

an addressed Additional Solicitor General Sanjay Jain, for Delhi.

The court hauled up the Gujarat government for unbridled celebrations, weddings and public gatherings despite an exponential rise in cases.

## Gujarat pulled up

"Gujarat is worst after Delhi and Maharashtra. What is your policy? What is happening? Weddings, parties, celebrations by political parties are happening... What is all this," Justice M.R. Shah asked the Gujarat side.

Justice R. Subhash Reddy noted that "there is a huge spike in cases". He observed orally, "This is the time to introspect and prepare for December".

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta expressed his anguish at the situation as a human being. He said it was painful for him to witness the court

passing orders on the handling of the COVID-19 dead. He said his comments were made in the name of humanity.

The hearing is based on the *suo motu* cognisance taken by the court on the treatment meted out to COVID-19 patients and the bodies of those who lost the battle with the virus. The court, in June, referred to several media reports on the lack of infrastructure, patients and their families running from pillar to post to get themselves admitted and, ultimately, videos of COVID-19 dead being thrown into pits.

Mr. Mehta said the Union Home Minister was monitoring the situation. Mr. Jain said there had been an "upsurge" in the request for ICU beds for patients in private hospitals in Delhi. The government had passed notifications to reserve 80% ICU beds for COVID-19 cases in 115 private hospitals in Delhi.

Mr. Mehta said the documents containing the process to be followed before taking a decision to file an appeal.

In October, the High Court commenced day-to-day hearing on the CBI's 'leave to appeal' against the acquittal of all the individuals and firms in the case. Leave to appeal is a formal permission granted by a court to a party to challenge a decision in a higher court.

In December 2017, a Special CBI Court here had acquitted A. Raja, Kanimozhi and others in the CBI and Enforcement Directorate cases relating to the 2G spectrum case noting that the prosecution had "miserably failed" to prove the charges.

## SC verdict today on dismissed BSF jawan's plea

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday will pronounce its verdict on a plea by dismissed BSF jawan Tej Bahadur Yadav, who claims his nomination to contest from Varanasi in the Lok Sabha polls was

rejected to orchestrate a "walkover" for Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

A Bench led by Chief Justice of India Sharad A. Bobde is scheduled to pronounce its decision at noon. The court reserved the petition for judgment on November 18.

Mr. Yadav's lawyer, advocate Pradeep Kumar Yadav, could not produce evidence on record to show he had

asked the Returning Officer for time to produce his dismissal letter – to be appended with his nomination papers – as proof to show he was

not dismissed from service for reasons of corruption or disloyalty.

"We don't want to carry on like this with the matter, the respondent's [Prime Minister] is the only office of its kind in India," Chief Justice Bobde had replied.

## Tarun Gogoi: cometh the hour, cometh the man

Assam's turnaround CM brought it back from the spiral of violence to the path of development

SANDEEP PHUKAN  
NEW DELHI

Assam's turnaround man. That's a description often used to describe Tarun Gogoi's 15-year tenure as the Chief Minister of the State.

His abiding political legacy was not just winning three successive Assembly elections (2001, 2006, 2011) for his party; it was also about bringing the State back from the spiral of violence to the path of development.

"By 2001, indicators of development had fallen to an all-time low and insurgency was at its peak... When the history of Assam is penned, my three terms will show up both positives as well as negatives. There will be bouquets and brickbats, criticism and acclaim. But I will leave history to judge these years. I, as a son of the soil, am only content and gratified that I could take centre stage in the turnaround story," Mr. Gogoi wrote in his memoir, *Turnaround: Leading Assam from the Front*.

Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, in his message, called him "one of his close friends and tallest leaders of Assam".



Golden touch: (clockwise from left) Tarun Gogoi in the Jorhat constituency during the 2016 election; ever the Gandhi loyalist; and grooving to Rabha dance. ■ RITU RAJ KONWAR &amp; PTI

Gogoi's legacy of grooming young leaders displayed his vision as well as strategy. While the young Turks kept his detractors in the party at bay, it also allowed him the space to grow in stature.

Among the young leaders, Himanta Biswa Sarma (now a Minister in the BJP government) was, perhaps, the most prominent. Mr. Sarma stood out for his political acumen and administrative brilliance but was also someone who was instrumental in the BJP's growth in the State that eventually ousted the Congress.

## Political stature

Such was Mr. Gogoi's political stature that, in 2006, when the party high command decided to tie up with Badruddin Ajmal's outfit, he almost single-handedly stalled it. But the changed political reality had "forced" the Congress leader to reach

## President and PM mourn Gogoi

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

President Ram Nath Kovind on Monday condoled the demise of former Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi and said his passing away marked the end of an era. His long tenure in office was a period of epochal change in the State, the President said.

"Extremely sad to know of the demise of Shri Tarun Gogoi, former Chief Minister of Assam. The country has lost a veteran leader with rich political and administrative experience. His long tenure in office was a period of epochal change in Assam," Mr. Kovind tweeted.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi described the Congress veteran as a popular leader.

"Shri Tarun Gogoi Ji was a popular leader and a veteran administrator, who had years of political experience in Assam as well as the Centre. Anguished by his passing away. My thoughts are with his family and supporters in this hour of sadness. Om Shanti," Mr. Modi tweeted.

## Assam ex-CM dies of COVID complications

Cong. veteran led State for 3 terms

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GUWAHATI

Three-time former Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi passed away due to multiple organ failure at the Gauhati Medical College and Hospital (GMCH) in Guwahati on Monday. He was 84.

The Congress veteran was suffering from post-COVID complications. His wife Dolly Gogoi, son and MP Gaurav Gogoi, daughter Chandrima Gogoi, who lives in the U.S., and other relatives were by his side when he breathed his last.

Mr. Gogoi had been in and out of the hospital, often in intensive care, since he tested positive for COVID-19 on August 25.

## Tamed insurgency

In his political career spanning more than 50 years, he represented the Congress as an MP from Assam six times and led the party to a record three straight electoral victories. He was Chief Minister from 2001 to 2016 and is credited with having tamed insurgency that rav-

# An ideal desk pal

REVIEW

The Nest Audio is a welcome and affordable addition to Google's growing smart-home ecosystem

DIVYA KALA BHAVANI

"Okay, Google, please play 'Laid Back Tunes' on Spotify." This command became automatic for me on Monday morning when deadlines inched closer. Yes, it has an air of pomposness but sometimes, having a speaker that just obliged you with not just bevelence to follow through but also great sound profiles made the tension ease up.

This fall, the Google Nest Audio launched in India, making it a fine addition to not just the home, but also the evolving home workspace. My review device, in Chalk White, arrived at some reshuffling of the existing Google Home gadgets around the house. The mesh fabric is quite soft and does not attract a lot of dust but a light brush down would be good upkeep, about once every three or four days. I had read that Google made sure this mesh fabric was made from recycled plastic bottles, a sign that the tech giant takes its sustainability goals seriously.

Let us just say that unlike a rival tech giant, I am pretty pleased Google kept the power cable in the box for this one. Coming with a 30 watt 24 volt external adaptor and a DC power jack, it would have been nice if the Nest Audio came with USB-C type wiring and ports but it seems Google has no intention of changing this any time soon.

The fact that the Nest Audio is screenless with just the three capacitive touch-points adds a subtlety to the gadget; I did not need yet another screen to keep up with. The performance lies in the strength of its sound profile and an up-to-date lightning fast Google Assistant, which is powered by the Quad Core A53 1.8 GHz processor and an advanced Machine Learning engine.

While I am not a huge fan of Alexa devices, Google Home has the potential to make more permanent homes across India because of its supported Android ecosystem.

Adding the Nest Audio to Google Home app (make sure you



## SPECIFICATIONS

**DIMENSIONS & WEIGHT:**  
**HEIGHT:** 6.9" ; **WIDTH:** 4.9" ; **DEPTH:** 3.1" ;  
**POWER CABLE:** 4'11" ;  
**DEVICE WEIGHT:** 2.6 pounds (without external power adapter)

**CONNECTIVITY:**  
802.11b/g/n/ac (2.4 GHz/5 GHz) **WI-FI** ;  
Bluetooth® 5.0 ; Chromecast built-in

**POWER:** 30W, 24V external adapter ; DC power jack

**HARDWARE:** 75 mm woofer and 19 mm tweeter ; 3 far-field microphones ; 2-stage mic mute switch (hardware mute)

**PROCESSORS:** Quad Core A53 1.8 GHz ; High-performance ML hardware engine

**Talk to me** Google Nest Audio can rival most luxury smart-home speakers

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



here, in terms of what the AI responds to and how often. Integrating the device into a Google Home-ready ecosystem is also glitch-free and there are no hassling extra stages such as voice match – unless you want to add more to the existing repertoire.

**Savvy hardware**  
Claiming to be 75% louder with 50% more bass, the Nest Audio sports a 19-millimetre tweeter that promises crisp vocals as well as a high-frequency coverage

The 75-millimetre mid-woofer offers clear bass without the annoying crackle. Given I had placed this device on a glass-topped table, I was pleased to hear no disruptive tremors so there is a nod to high-fidelity audio, no matter how loud the volume gets.

The media EQ makes the most of whatever medium – music, podcasts, audiobooks, movies – you are using the device for at that time, and this switch-over is not jarring thanks to the fast Machine Learning-enabled chipset. The ambient EQ cleverly adapts to background noise so an 'in room live' sound profile is emulated.

Nest Audio is able to pick up commands from even seven feet away, thanks to the three far-field microphones embedded into the device. And with this, there were

thankfully no annoying pick-ups or misinterpretations from the AI itself. And, typical to the Google Home products, you can manually switch off the mics using a toggle switch rather than instigating a command.

Privacy does not just stop at the toggle switch. As Nest Audio is used through the day, the Google Home app collects data, and, as the user, you can view it easily and delete what you wish.

With everyone at home glued to screen for the majority of the day, I did love the intercom and broadcasting capabilities. Yes, they may be perpetuating laziness to the maximum among my household but shouting across the hallways is overrated. There is no additional pairing required here, just a simple command based on where another Google Home device is placed. As usual, one can start Google Duo voice calls on the device as well – just be mindful of the volume here.

Ultimately, the Google Nest Audio is brimming with the latest in smart-home range. It looks chic, it is tough, and occupies minimal space despite its height.

At just ₹6,899, it is a steal given the audio quality can rival most Alexa-powered luxury smart-home speakers. This is a fun first buy for those looking to experiment with a smart-home with a boomier sound experience.

Get ready to prevent a nuclear apocalypse in Call of Duty: Black Ops Cold War, which resembles an 80s spy thriller

JULIAN ALMEIDA

Just like the COVID-19 pandemic, the Cold War years were an uncertain phase in history, with the looming scare of nuclear annihilation. Without the Internet, one did not know what was going on in the world. The Cold War was fought predominantly in the shadows. This is the setting of the new Call of Duty game from developers Treyarch.

You play as a character – codenamed Bell – whom you can customise. You can modify the skin tone, ethnicity and other personality traits. You are recruited by Russell Adler, a mysterious senior CIA operative, who eerily resembles actor Robert Redford. The target is a Soviet agent called Perseus, a mastermind who plans to upset the tenuous balance of the Cold War.

Styled like an '80s political spy thriller, the game jumps across different locations – the dark streets of Europe, neon-clad arcades, jungles of Vietnam and the KGB headquarters. Call of Duty games pull no punches with their narratives. While this one feels like a bunch of separate missions tied together by a narrative, it is still an exciting experience.

There are firefights aplenty in Black Ops Cold War that are reminiscent of Michael Bay's action sequences. But the game also has many Tarantino-esque nail-biting moments. The campaign is largely linear with side missions and collectables. There are points in the game where you are required to choose your words or actions. This, however, is just an illusion, for the story is largely a predestined set of events.

Most of the gameplay is based on stealth, which is understandable as you are a spy. Instead of the usual high-tech gadgets we find in Call of Duty



# Stealth warfare



## CALL OF DUTY: BLACK OPS COLD WAR

**DEVELOPER:** Treyarch

**PUBLISHER:** Treyarch, Raven Software, High Moon Studios, Beenox, Sledgehammer Games

**PRICE:** ₹3,999 on PlayStation 4, Xbox One, PC ; starting at ₹5,000 (US\$69) on PlayStation 5, Xbox Series X



Battle-ready, always Screenshots from Call of Duty: Black Ops Cold War ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



games, we get simpler ones in Black Ops Cold War (I especially liked the mini camera). They accentuate the thrill of the game, when you are picking locks, searching drawers or hiding bodies. The tension of getting caught looms all the time.

The game captures the era so well – the 80s leather clothing, indoor smoking, neon lights, videos on CRT TVs and even minor details like the lines you see on old VHS tapes. The sound design is outstanding. If you own a good sound system or pair of headphones, prepare to blow away.

Call of Duty games are known for their multi-player modes. This one has a cross-platform multi-player mode.

Gamers familiar with the previous titles in the series will be able to jump into the game-play. Also, check out the hallmark Zombie mode, which makes a return.

Cold War is an excellent addition to the Call of Duty franchise. While the story tries to be smart and falls a bit short, the real hero here is the setting – kudos to the studios for nailing the look of the era.

The game is available for current and next gen. But watch out for the new ₹69 price, which is too much if you are buying it only for the single-player mode.

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

## Two real heroes

Making waves as one of the most popular video games of 2020, Spider-Man: Miles Morales includes tributes to two Marvel titans – Chadwick Boseman and Stan Lee – with a particularly heartfelt message for the king of Wakanda.

In the game, players will find all kinds of references to the greater Marvel universe. One tribute, however, is not hidden and will certainly pull at the heartstrings. After beating Spider-Man Miles Morales, a message memorialising Chadwick Boseman, who played the Black Panther in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, plays during the credits. It reads, "In loving memory of a noble king, Chadwick Boseman. His honour, strength, and compassion will reverberate for generations to come. Wakanda forever."

For Stan Lee, creator of the Marvel comic world, a bronze statue of the legendary comic book creator can be found in the game's open-world on the Upper West Side next to Mick's Diner.



## Your room, with a view

Tab With A View, a browser extension developed by Berlin-based travel-lover and technologist Rahul Sharma, lets now-house-bound users take in a different view with each tab being a different place. The extension has been developed with ambient sound to keep the experiences as true-to-life as possible – save for the monitor situation.

Some views included are Kansas City, Cadafaz, Hong Kong, and Kuala Lumpur. One can also submit their own views via an option present in the extension itself, to increase the diversity in the library.

The app also comes with a Virtual Tour or Drone View facilities, similar to Street View on Google Maps, where one can explore a chosen area of a given view, for a more immersive experience.

## Beautiful Spots with a view

Tab With A View, a browser extension developed by Berlin-based travel-lover and technologist Rahul Sharma, lets now-house-bound users take in a different view with each tab being a different place. The extension has been developed with ambient sound to keep the experiences as true-to-life as possible – save for the monitor situation.

Some views included are Kansas City, Cadafaz, Hong Kong, and Kuala Lumpur. One can also submit their own views via an option present in the extension itself, to increase the diversity in the library.

The app also comes with a Virtual Tour or Drone View facilities, similar to Street View on Google Maps, where one can explore a chosen area of a given view, for a more immersive experience.

## Beautiful Spots with a view

Tab With A View, a browser extension developed by Berlin-based travel-lover and technologist Rahul Sharma, lets now-house-bound users take in a different view with each tab being a different place. The extension has been developed with ambient sound to keep the experiences as true-to-life as possible – save for the monitor situation.

Some views included are Kansas City, Cadafaz, Hong Kong, and Kuala Lumpur. One can also submit their own views via an option present in the extension itself, to increase the diversity in the library.

The app also comes with a Virtual Tour or Drone View facilities, similar to Street View on Google Maps, where one can explore a chosen area of a given view, for a more immersive experience.

Some views included are Kansas City, Cadafaz, Hong Kong, and Kuala Lumpur. One can also submit their own views via an option present in the extension itself, to increase the diversity in the library.

The app also comes with a Virtual Tour or Drone View facilities, similar to Street View on Google Maps, where one can explore a chosen area of a given view, for a more immersive experience.

Some views included are Kansas City, Cadafaz, Hong Kong, and Kuala Lumpur. One can also submit their own views via an option present in the extension itself, to increase the diversity in the library.

The app also comes with a Virtual Tour or Drone View facilities, similar to Street View on Google Maps, where one can explore a chosen area of a given view, for a more immersive experience.

Some views included are Kansas City, Cadafaz, Hong Kong, and Kuala Lumpur. One can also submit their own views via an option present in the extension itself, to increase the diversity in the library.

The app also comes with a Virtual Tour or Drone View facilities, similar to Street View on Google Maps, where one can explore a chosen area of a given view, for a more immersive experience.

Some views included are Kansas City, Cadafaz, Hong Kong, and Kuala Lumpur. One can also submit their own views via an option present in the extension itself, to increase the diversity in the library.

The app also comes with a Virtual Tour or Drone View facilities, similar to Street View on Google Maps, where one can explore a chosen area of a given view, for a more immersive experience.

Some views included are Kansas City, Cadafaz, Hong Kong, and Kuala Lumpur. One can also submit their own views via an option present in the extension itself, to increase the diversity in the library.

The app also comes with a Virtual Tour or Drone View facilities, similar to Street View on Google Maps, where one can explore a chosen area of a given view, for a more immersive experience.

Some views included are Kansas City, Cadafaz, Hong Kong, and Kuala Lumpur. One can also submit their own views via an option present in the extension itself, to increase the diversity in the library.

The app also comes with a Virtual Tour or Drone View facilities, similar to Street View on Google Maps, where one can explore a chosen area of a given view, for a more immersive experience.

Some views included are Kansas City, Cadafaz, Hong Kong, and Kuala Lumpur. One can also submit their own views via an option present in the extension itself, to increase the diversity in the library.

The app also comes with a Virtual Tour or Drone View facilities, similar to Street View on Google Maps, where one can explore a chosen area of a given view, for a more immersive experience.

Some views included are Kansas City, Cadafaz, Hong Kong, and Kuala Lumpur. One can also submit their own views via an option present in the extension itself, to increase the diversity in the library.

The app also comes with a Virtual Tour or Drone View facilities, similar to Street View on Google Maps, where one can explore a chosen area of a given view, for a more immersive experience.

Some views included are Kansas City, Cadafaz, Hong Kong, and Kuala Lumpur. One can also submit their own views via an option present in the extension itself, to increase the diversity in the library.

The app also comes with a Virtual Tour or Drone View facilities, similar to Street View on Google Maps, where one can explore a chosen area of a given view, for a more immersive experience.

Some views included are Kansas City, Cadafaz, Hong Kong, and Kuala Lumpur. One can also submit their own views via an option present in the extension itself, to increase the diversity in the library.

The app also comes with a Virtual Tour or Drone View facilities, similar to Street View on Google Maps, where one can explore a chosen area of a given view, for a more immersive experience.

Some views included are Kansas City, Cadafaz, Hong Kong, and Kuala Lumpur. One can also submit their own views via an option present in the extension itself, to increase the diversity in the library.

The app also comes with a Virtual Tour or Drone View facilities, similar to Street View on Google Maps, where one can explore a chosen area of a given view, for a more immersive experience.

Some views included are Kansas City, Cadafaz, Hong Kong, and Kuala Lumpur. One can also submit their own views via an option present in the extension itself, to increase the diversity in the library.

The app also comes with a Virtual Tour or Drone View facilities, similar to Street View on Google Maps, where one can explore a chosen area of a given view, for a more immersive experience.

Some views included are Kansas City, Cadafaz, Hong Kong, and Kuala Lumpur. One can also submit their own views via an option present in the extension itself, to increase the diversity in the library.

The app also comes with a Virtual Tour or Drone View facilities, similar to Street View on Google Maps, where one can explore a chosen area of a given view, for a more immersive experience.

Some views included are Kansas City, Cadafaz, Hong Kong, and Kuala Lumpur. One can also submit their own views via an option present in the extension itself, to increase the diversity in the library.

The app also comes with a Virtual Tour or Drone View facilities, similar to Street View on Google Maps, where one can explore a chosen area of a given view, for a more immersive experience.

Some views included are Kansas City, Cadafaz, Hong Kong, and Kuala Lumpur. One can also submit their own views via an option present in the extension itself, to increase the diversity in the library.

The app also comes with a Virtual Tour or Drone View facilities, similar to Street View on Google Maps, where one can explore a chosen area of a given view, for a more immersive experience.

Some views included are Kansas City, Cadafaz, Hong Kong, and Kuala Lumpur. One can also submit their own views via an option present in the extension itself, to increase the diversity in the library.

The app also comes with a Virtual Tour or Drone View facilities, similar to Street View on Google Maps, where one can explore a chosen area of a given view, for a more immersive experience.

Some views included are Kansas City, Cadafaz, Hong Kong, and Kuala Lumpur. One can also submit their own views via an option present in the extension itself, to increase the diversity in the library.

The app also comes with a Virtual Tour or Drone View facilities, similar to Street View on Google Maps, where one can explore a chosen area of a given view, for a more immersive experience.

Some views included are Kansas City, Cadafaz, Hong Kong, and Kuala Lumpur. One can also submit their own views via an option present in the extension itself, to increase the diversity in the library.

The app also comes with a Virtual Tour



**Eureka moment**  
Forrest Galante with the Fernandina Island tortoise • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

## Lost and found

In Animal Planet's *Extinct or Alive* Season 2, adventurer and wildlife biologist Forrest Galante scours the globe to find animals presumed to be extinct

DEEPA ALEXANDER

Is there a creature 32-year-old American Forrest Galante would like to rediscover? "It would definitely be the thylacine – that is the holy grail – but there is no one animal that is better than the other," says the host of *Extinct or Alive*.

The story is that the last-known thylacine – a carnivorous marsupial commonly known as the Tasmanian tiger and native to Australia – suffered a lonely death when it was inadvertently locked out of its den at the Hobart zoo during a cold night in 1936.

The thylacine is one among many of the species like the woolly rhinos and giant sloths that have been obliterated over thousands of years. And yet, wildlife biologists like Galante have spent a lifetime focussing on animals on the brink of extinction and hoping that those believed to have been lost forever may still be rediscovered.

In the 10 episodes that make Season 2, Galante travels to Madagascar in search of the pygmy hippo, the remote jungles of Colombia for the Rio Apaporis caiman, and

to Vietnam in search of the 'Asian unicorn', among others. "Filming each episode on average takes about a month, including travel and prep. A full season is about a year of work," he says via email, adding, "The challenges are endless – from logistics to equipment – not to mention we are looking for an animal that doesn't exist anymore."

Galante's love for creatures stemmed from his extraordinary childhood in Zimbabwe. Born in California, USA, he was raised on a farm in one of Africa's most prosperous countries where his mother was one of the continent's first female safari guides. It was a child-

hood spent barefoot, catching snakes, living amidst the wonder of the Victoria Falls and the gushing Zambezi river teeming with wildlife. At 14, Galante became the youngest person to lead an international canoe safari down the river. But in a country where whites owned most of the land and blacks still remained largely dispossessed, trouble was just around the bend. In 2001, in a final upheaval, the Galantes like many others, had their farm seized and had to flee Zimbabwe overnight. They returned to live in Santa Barbara on the Californian coast.

In less than a decade, Galante had a degree with specialisations in marine biology and herpetology, and sharpened the skills he had learnt as a child. He spear-fished off the local coast and earned scuba-diving certifications. In 2014, he featured in Discovery's *Naked and Afraid* – where participants are stripped to the bare minimum – and scored one of the highest PSRs (primate survival rating) ever on the show. It helped Galante set off on another journey in *Extinct or Alive* in 2018.

In Season 1, Galante found trail footage of a Zanzibar leopard and, in 2019, followed the journey of naturalist Charles Darwin to the remote, rugged Galapagos Islands to discover a female Fernandina Island tortoise, a species that had not been sighted for over a century.

"Every hour of *Extinct or Alive* is years of research. Once we've done enough research and believe the animal is there, we then go out on the expedition. Sometimes, it requires genetic testing but often a piece of video or photographic evidence is enough as many of them are incredibly unique," says Galante.

Galante travels with a crew that has a core group of six. "They are tough and are literally my best friends," he says.

He hopes his findings will inspire others to look for fauna the world has given up on. It is one of the focus areas of the Santa Barbara Stingrays, a rugby team of whom Galante is head coach.

"Rugby is my other passion," says Galante, "We also do a lot of team activities outside of training such as beach cleanups and trail runs. I think one of the reasons we are successful is because of the team building element I apply to it, which I learned from *Extinct or Alive*."

*Extinct or Alive* Season 2 will air every Tuesday and Wednesday at 10 pm on Animal Planet.



## Unfamiliar turf

Stand-up comic George Vivian Paul changes lanes with the new Vivian's Irrelevant Podcast, featuring an eclectic mix of guests

SHILPA NAIR ANAND

Kochi-based stand-up comic George Vivian Paul needs a live audience for his act because he feeds off their response. So understandably, with the lockdowns, he has not been able to do stand-up. He has instead

turned to a new medium – podcasting. Vivian's Irrelevant Podcast (VIP) speaks to people who have happily followed their heart doing what they love. The eclectic mix of the guests – a busker, potter, calligraphist, cosplayer, and an endurance cyclist among others – is the USP of his



show. The third season will be released shortly.

"Even while I was doing stand-up I felt I could put people

in the audience at ease and make them comfortable enough to talk about uncomfortable stuff. I am able to use that in my pod-

cast; getting people to talk about themselves," he says.

He had started recording before lockdown because of which he had enough content to launch in March. With everybody at home, it also seemed like an appropriate time. For recording the podcast, he collaborates with Social Mob, a platform for independent artists which gives him access to recording infrastructure.

Initially, roping in guests was not easy. "Not many were listening to podcasts at the time, it was new. So I had to convince them by telling them that it would be like a radio interview," he says. Since it is not easy to quantify

'listens', he says the podcast is 'on its path to doing well.'

The engineer-turned-comic founded the Kochin Komedians Collective in 2016, before which he was a stand-up comic in Kolkata. While many comics went online with their acts, he did not. "I am a stand-up comic, I perform in front of an audience. Their response is important to me," he explains.

"Podcasting is in its infancy and it will take time to grow. That's how it was for me with stand-up comedy, it took two-and-a-half years to establish myself – six months in Kochi and a year-and-a-half in Kolkata – so it's okay. The future looks bright

since I have people approaching via friends to be featured," Vivian says. He knows it is too soon to monetise the podcast, but he is optimistic about being able to, in the future.

Vivian's skills as a comic do not come into play when he speaks to his guests.

"There is no place for comedy really, except for the odd joke. But like I said I use my skills to put people at ease and get them to talk." The language of interaction depends on the guest – English or Malayalam.

Each season has 12 episodes and they are available on apps such as Spotify, Apple iTunes and Social Mob.

### POOCH CAFE



### PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



### HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



### PEANUTS



### TIGER



### CALVIN AND HOBBES



# Biden picks Blinken as Secretary of State

He was a former Deputy Secretary of State in the Obama administration; Jake Sullivan to be new NSA

SRI RAM LAKSHMAN

WASHINGTON

Indicative of his intention to reverse America's retrenchment from multilateralism under the Trump administration, President-elect Joe Biden announced the nomination of Deputy Secretary of State and longtime foreign policy adviser Antony Blinken to the position of Secretary of State.

Mr. Blinken has a track record of being an alliance builder and proponent of traditional foreign policy and is seen as someone suited to execute Mr. Biden's packed foreign policy agenda, much of which is geared to reversing the Trump administration's decisions.

Mr. Biden has also appointed former Secretary of State John Kerry as Special Presidential Envoy for Climate. A high profile appointment such as this signals Mr. Biden's prioritisation of climate action – Mr. Kerry will sit on the Biden National Security Council.

Mr. Biden has said that he intends to take American back into the Paris Climate Accord on day one of his administration.

The President-elect has also said he will rejoin the World Health Organisation and the Iran nuclear deal or the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). He will have a short period of time to revive talks with Russia on the New Start Treaty, a nuclear arms control agreement that expires in February.

Mr. Blinken, who started his foreign service career during the Bill Clinton years, had led the staff of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee when Mr. Biden was the chair of the body. He was the National Security Adviser (NSA) for Mr. Biden, when he was Vice President and then



**Key role:** Antony Blinken has a track record of being an alliance builder and proponent of traditional foreign policy. ■ REUTERS

deputy NSA for President Barack Obama.

"Democracy is in retreat around the world, and unfortunately it's also in retreat at home because of the President taking a two-by-four [a piece of wood] to its institutions, its values and its people every day," Mr. Blinken had told the Associated Press in September.

The Biden-Harris transition team also announced the appointment of Alejandro Mayorkas to head the Department of Homeland Security as its secretary, the first Latino to hold the position (Mr. Mayorkas is an immigrant). This is significant given the migration and humanitarian crisis at the U.S.-Mexico border.

Former Deputy Director of the CIA and Deputy National Security Adviser Avril Haines has been nominated to the post of Director of National Intelligence – the first woman in the position.

#### UN Ambassador

The Biden team also announced Jake Sullivan's appointment as NSA and Linda Thomas Greenfield nomination as UN Ambassador.

Mr. Biden's appointments are establishment names – a reversal of President Donald

during the Obama administration. After her departure from the State Department, days after the Trump administration took over, Ms. Greenfield worked with Albright Stonebridge, an advisory firm of former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

Ms. Greenfield, who is African American, also heads a team that will oversee the revival of the State Department, with a focus on diversity, under the Biden administration.

Mr. Biden's transition team is yet to receive formal recognition and funding because Mr. Trump has not conceded the elections.

#### Approach to India

Mr. Blinken has voiced support for Mr. Biden's approach to India, such as in his support for Mr. Biden's vision from the early years of this century, when he had reportedly said that in 2020 he would want to see India and the U.S. as the two closest countries in the world.

"Well, we're not quite there but it's a terrific vision and one that I know he [Mr. Biden] will act to realise as President of the United States," Mr. Blinken said at an Independence Day virtual celebration this year.

In the context of the U.S. and India working together during the Paris Climate negotiations, Mr. Blinken said: "There's probably no common global challenge we can solve without India. We have to be able to do this together."

Mr. Blinken had also criticised Mr. Trump's transactional approach, especially towards trade "rather than partnership on the full scope of our [India and the U.S.] common interests."

At the same event, Mr. Blinken had said there was a common challenge of "in-

creasingly assertive China... including towards India at the Line of Actual Control."

He talked about other forms of Chinese aggression, citing challenges in the economic domain and repression of the Uighur minority. He said Mr. Trump had allowed China to become stronger strategically by "leaving a vacuum in the world for China to fill" and "debasing" America's own democracy.

It is likely that a Biden administration will have on its India agenda talks on the government's legislative changes in Kashmir (dilution of Article 370) as well as its laws related to Indian citizenship.

"...We obviously have challenges now and real concerns, for example, about some of the actions that the government has taken particularly in cracking down on freedom of movement and freedom of speech in Kashmir, some of the laws on citizenship but you're always better engaging with a partner and a vital ally important one like India, when you can speak frankly and directly..." Mr. Blinken had said in July this year during an interview at the Hudson Institute.

#### Fight against terrorism

Mr. Blinken had also said, at the Independence Day event, India's role extended beyond being a key player in upholding a rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific.

"I think that role needs to extend even beyond the region, as vast as it is, to the world at large. In a Biden administration, we would be an advocate for India to play a leading role in international institutions and that includes helping India get a seat on a reformed UN Security Council."

At the same event, Mr. Blinken had said there was a common challenge of "in-

creasingly assertive China... including towards India at the Line of Actual Control."

He talked about other forms of Chinese aggression, citing challenges in the economic domain and repression of the Uighur minority. He said Mr. Trump had allowed China to become stronger strategically by "leaving a vacuum in the world for China to fill" and "debasing" America's own democracy.

It is likely that a Biden administration will have on its India agenda talks on the government's legislative changes in Kashmir (dilution of Article 370) as well as its laws related to Indian citizenship.

"...We obviously have challenges now and real concerns, for example, about some of the actions that the government has taken particularly in cracking down on freedom of movement and freedom of speech in Kashmir, some of the laws on citizenship but you're always better engaging with a partner and a vital ally important one like India, when you can speak frankly and directly..." Mr. Blinken had said in July this year during an interview at the Hudson Institute.

"I think that role needs to extend even beyond the region, as vast as it is, to the world at large. In a Biden administration, we would be an advocate for India to play a leading role in international institutions and that includes helping India get a seat on a reformed UN Security Council."

At the same event, Mr. Blinken had said there was a common challenge of "in-

creasingly assertive China... including towards India at the Line of Actual Control."

He talked about other forms of Chinese aggression, citing challenges in the economic domain and repression of the Uighur minority. He said Mr. Trump had allowed China to become stronger strategically by "leaving a vacuum in the world for China to fill" and "debasing" America's own democracy.

It is likely that a Biden administration will have on its India agenda talks on the government's legislative changes in Kashmir (dilution of Article 370) as well as its laws related to Indian citizenship.

"...We obviously have challenges now and real concerns, for example, about some of the actions that the government has taken particularly in cracking down on freedom of movement and freedom of speech in Kashmir, some of the laws on citizenship but you're always better engaging with a partner and a vital ally important one like India, when you can speak frankly and directly..." Mr. Blinken had said in July this year during an interview at the Hudson Institute.

"I think that role needs to extend even beyond the region, as vast as it is, to the world at large. In a Biden administration, we would be an advocate for India to play a leading role in international institutions and that includes helping India get a seat on a reformed UN Security Council."

At the same event, Mr. Blinken had said there was a common challenge of "in-

creasingly assertive China... including towards India at the Line of Actual Control."

He talked about other forms of Chinese aggression, citing challenges in the economic domain and repression of the Uighur minority. He said Mr. Trump had allowed China to become stronger strategically by "leaving a vacuum in the world for China to fill" and "debasing" America's own democracy.

It is likely that a Biden administration will have on its India agenda talks on the government's legislative changes in Kashmir (dilution of Article 370) as well as its laws related to Indian citizenship.

"...We obviously have challenges now and real concerns, for example, about some of the actions that the government has taken particularly in cracking down on freedom of movement and freedom of speech in Kashmir, some of the laws on citizenship but you're always better engaging with a partner and a vital ally important one like India, when you can speak frankly and directly..." Mr. Blinken had said in July this year during an interview at the Hudson Institute.

"I think that role needs to extend even beyond the region, as vast as it is, to the world at large. In a Biden administration, we would be an advocate for India to play a leading role in international institutions and that includes helping India get a seat on a reformed UN Security Council."

At the same event, Mr. Blinken had said there was a common challenge of "in-

creasingly assertive China... including towards India at the Line of Actual Control."

He talked about other forms of Chinese aggression, citing challenges in the economic domain and repression of the Uighur minority. He said Mr. Trump had allowed China to become stronger strategically by "leaving a vacuum in the world for China to fill" and "debasing" America's own democracy.

It is likely that a Biden administration will have on its India agenda talks on the government's legislative changes in Kashmir (dilution of Article 370) as well as its laws related to Indian citizenship.

"...We obviously have challenges now and real concerns, for example, about some of the actions that the government has taken particularly in cracking down on freedom of movement and freedom of speech in Kashmir, some of the laws on citizenship but you're always better engaging with a partner and a vital ally important one like India, when you can speak frankly and directly..." Mr. Blinken had said in July this year during an interview at the Hudson Institute.

"I think that role needs to extend even beyond the region, as vast as it is, to the world at large. In a Biden administration, we would be an advocate for India to play a leading role in international institutions and that includes helping India get a seat on a reformed UN Security Council."

At the same event, Mr. Blinken had said there was a common challenge of "in-

creasingly assertive China... including towards India at the Line of Actual Control."

He talked about other forms of Chinese aggression, citing challenges in the economic domain and repression of the Uighur minority. He said Mr. Trump had allowed China to become stronger strategically by "leaving a vacuum in the world for China to fill" and "debasing" America's own democracy.

It is likely that a Biden administration will have on its India agenda talks on the government's legislative changes in Kashmir (dilution of Article 370) as well as its laws related to Indian citizenship.

"...We obviously have challenges now and real concerns, for example, about some of the actions that the government has taken particularly in cracking down on freedom of movement and freedom of speech in Kashmir, some of the laws on citizenship but you're always better engaging with a partner and a vital ally important one like India, when you can speak frankly and directly..." Mr. Blinken had said in July this year during an interview at the Hudson Institute.

"I think that role needs to extend even beyond the region, as vast as it is, to the world at large. In a Biden administration, we would be an advocate for India to play a leading role in international institutions and that includes helping India get a seat on a reformed UN Security Council."

At the same event, Mr. Blinken had said there was a common challenge of "in-

creasingly assertive China... including towards India at the Line of Actual Control."

He talked about other forms of Chinese aggression, citing challenges in the economic domain and repression of the Uighur minority. He said Mr. Trump had allowed China to become stronger strategically by "leaving a vacuum in the world for China to fill" and "debasing" America's own democracy.

It is likely that a Biden administration will have on its India agenda talks on the government's legislative changes in Kashmir (dilution of Article 370) as well as its laws related to Indian citizenship.

"...We obviously have challenges now and real concerns, for example, about some of the actions that the government has taken particularly in cracking down on freedom of movement and freedom of speech in Kashmir, some of the laws on citizenship but you're always better engaging with a partner and a vital ally important one like India, when you can speak frankly and directly..." Mr. Blinken had said in July this year during an interview at the Hudson Institute.

"I think that role needs to extend even beyond the region, as vast as it is, to the world at large. In a Biden administration, we would be an advocate for India to play a leading role in international institutions and that includes helping India get a seat on a reformed UN Security Council."

At the same event, Mr. Blinken had said there was a common challenge of "in-

creasingly assertive China... including towards India at the Line of Actual Control."

He talked about other forms of Chinese aggression, citing challenges in the economic domain and repression of the Uighur minority. He said Mr. Trump had allowed China to become stronger strategically by "leaving a vacuum in the world for China to fill" and "debasing" America's own democracy.

It is likely that a Biden administration will have on its India agenda talks on the government's legislative changes in Kashmir (dilution of Article 370) as well as its laws related to Indian citizenship.

"...We obviously have challenges now and real concerns, for example, about some of the actions that the government has taken particularly in cracking down on freedom of movement and freedom of speech in Kashmir, some of the laws on citizenship but you're always better engaging with a partner and a vital ally important one like India, when you can speak frankly and directly..." Mr. Blinken had said in July this year during an interview at the Hudson Institute.

"I think that role needs to extend even beyond the region, as vast as it is, to the world at large. In a Biden administration, we would be an advocate for India to play a leading role in international institutions and that includes helping India get a seat on a reformed UN Security Council."

At the same event, Mr. Blinken had said there was a common challenge of "in-

creasingly assertive China... including towards India at the Line of Actual Control."

He talked about other forms of Chinese aggression, citing challenges in the economic domain and repression of the Uighur minority. He said Mr. Trump had allowed China to become stronger strategically by "leaving a vacuum in the world for China to fill" and "debasing" America's own democracy.

It is likely that a Biden administration will have on its India agenda talks on the government's legislative changes in Kashmir (dilution of Article 370) as well as its laws related to Indian citizenship.

"...We obviously have challenges now and real concerns, for example, about some of the actions that the government has taken particularly in cracking down on freedom of movement and freedom of speech in Kashmir, some of the laws on citizenship but you're always better engaging with a partner and a vital ally important one like India, when you can speak frankly and directly..." Mr. Blinken had said in July this year during an interview at the Hudson Institute.

"I think that role needs to extend even beyond the region, as vast as it is, to the world at large. In a Biden administration, we would be an advocate for India to play a leading role in international institutions and that includes helping India get a seat on a reformed UN Security Council."

At the same event, Mr. Blinken had said there was a common challenge of "in-

creasingly assertive China... including towards India at the Line of Actual Control."

He talked about other forms of Chinese aggression, citing challenges in the economic domain and repression of the Uighur minority. He said Mr. Trump had allowed China to become stronger strategically by "leaving a vacuum in the world for China to fill" and "debasing" America's own democracy.

It is likely that a Biden administration will have on its India agenda talks on the government's legislative changes in Kashmir (dilution of Article 370) as well as its laws related to Indian citizenship.

"...We obviously have challenges now and real concerns, for example, about some of the actions that the government has taken particularly in cracking down on freedom of movement and freedom of speech in Kashmir, some of the laws on citizenship but you're always better engaging with a partner and a vital ally important one like India, when you can speak frankly and directly..." Mr. Blinken had said in July this year during an interview at the Hudson Institute.

"I think that role needs to extend even beyond the region, as vast as it is, to the world at large. In a Biden administration, we would be an advocate for India to play a leading role in international institutions and that includes helping India get a seat on a reformed UN Security Council."

At the same event, Mr. Blinken had said there was a common challenge of "in-

creasingly assertive China... including towards India at the Line of Actual Control."

He talked about other forms of Chinese aggression, citing challenges in the economic domain and repression of the Uighur minority. He said Mr. Trump had allowed China to become stronger strategically by "leaving a vacuum in the world for China to fill" and "debasing" America's own democracy.

It is likely that a Biden administration will have on its India agenda talks on the government's legislative changes in Kashmir (dilution of Article 370) as well as its laws related to Indian citizenship.

"...We obviously have challenges now and real concerns, for example, about some of the actions that the government has taken particularly in cracking down on freedom of movement and freedom of speech in Kashmir, some of the laws on citizenship but you're always better engaging with a partner and a vital ally important one like India, when you can speak frankly and directly..." Mr. Blinken had said in July this year during an interview at the Hudson Institute.

"I think that role needs to extend even beyond the region, as vast as it is, to the world at large. In a Biden administration, we would be an advocate for India to play a leading role in international institutions and that includes helping India get a seat on a reformed UN Security Council."

At the same event, Mr. Blinken had said there was a common challenge of "in-

creasingly assertive China... including towards India at the Line of Actual Control."

He talked about other forms of Chinese aggression, citing challenges in the economic domain and repression of the Uighur minority. He said Mr. Trump had allowed China to become stronger strategically by "leaving a vacuum in the world for China to fill" and "debasing" America's own democracy.

It is likely that a Biden administration will have on its India agenda talks on the government's legislative changes in Kashmir (dilution of Article 370) as well as its laws related to Indian citizenship.

"...We obviously have challenges now and real concerns, for example, about some of the actions that the government has taken particularly in cracking down on freedom of movement and freedom of speech in Kashmir, some of the laws on citizenship but you're always better engaging with a partner and a vital ally important one like India, when you can speak frankly and directly..." Mr. Blinken had said in July this year during an interview at the Hudson Institute.

"I think that role needs to extend even beyond the region, as vast as it is, to the world at large. In a Biden administration, we would be an advocate for India to play a leading role in international institutions and that includes helping India get a seat on a

## MARKET WATCH

	23-11-2020	% CHANGE
Sensex	44,077	0.44
US Dollar	74.11	0.07
Gold	49,767	0.44
Brent oil	45.74	3.48

## NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	375.15	-0.70
Asian Paints	2186.25	19.70
Axius Bank	595.60	-12.25
Bajaj Auto	3077.75	19.20
Bajaj Finserv	8774.35	231.75
Bajaj Finance	4911.45	95.60
Bharti Airtel	477.25	-6.45
BPCL	394.45	11.15
Britannia Ind	3557.40	5.30
Cipla	746.30	6.40
Coal India	122.75	1.30
Divis Lab	3546.30	77.20
Dr Reddys Lab	4828.75	157.80
Eicher Motors	2597.35	6.70
GAIL (India)	100.90	3.45
Grasim Ind	854.60	-1.40
HCL Tech.	839.20	19.95
HDFC	2250.80	-84.00
HDFC Bank	1394.60	-9.05
HDFC Life	661.30	-2.60
Hero MotoCorp	3059.75	61.10
Hindalco	218.05	2.50
Hind Unilever	2129.40	9.15
ICICI Bank	468.25	-11.95
IndusInd Bank	849.75	38.75
Infosys	1139.85	36.50
Indian Oil Corp	86.45	1.60
ITC	190.85	-0.85
JSW Steel	337.75	1.60
Kotak Bank	1987.85	8.45
L&T	1125.85	-6.45
M&M	705.45	-10.15
Maruti Suzuki	6987.75	21.90
Nestle India Ltd.	17786.40	326.00
NTPC	93.65	1.85
ONGC	76.50	4.85
PowerGrid Corp	194.75	2.90
Reliance Ind	1950.70	51.20
SBI Life	831.60	-13.85
State Bank	238.70	-4.05
Shree Cement	24465.30	516.60
Sun Pharma	512.85	9.60
Tata Motors	170.70	1.60
Tata Steel	543.10	10.20
TCS	2724.25	64.00
Tech Mahindra	865.75	28.20
Titan	1347.60	-17.55
UltraTech Cement	4889.50	26.95
UPL	426.45	6.05
Wipro	355.85	9.55

## EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on November 23

## CURRENCY

TT BUY TT SELL

US Dollar.....73.90.....74.22

Euro.....87.92.....88.31

British Pound.....98.74.....99.17

Japanese Yen (100).....71.26.....71.57

Chinese Yuan.....11.25.....11.30

Swiss Franc.....81.31.....81.66

Singapore Dollar.....55.12.....55.37

Canadian Dollar.....56.61.....56.88

Malaysian Ringgit.....18.06.....18.14

Australian Dollar.....54.20.....54.43

Source: Indian Bank

## IN BRIEF



## Study says COVID-19 drug Favipiravir boosts cure

MUMBAI  
A randomised controlled Phase 3 clinical study by Glenmark Pharmaceuticals found oral antiviral medication Favipiravir, which prevents the replication of the virus lifecycle, led to a significant improvement in clinical cure in patients with mild to moderate COVID-19, as per Glenmark. The results were published online in The International Journal of Infectious Diseases (IJID).

## Solar power tariff dips to all-time low of ₹2/unit

NEW DELHI  
Solar power tariff on Monday dropped to an all-time low of ₹2 per unit in an auction conducted by the Solar Energy Corporation of India, according to a source. Under the auction, Saudi Arabian firm Aljada Energy and Water Co. and Sembcorp Energy India arm Green Infra Wind Energy Ltd. emerged as the lowest bidders by quoting a tariff of ₹2 per unit for 200 MW and 400 MW capacities. PTI

## Vivimed gets Uzbek's nod for six products

HYDERABAD  
Drugmaker Vivimed Labs has received approval from Uzbekistan for three ophthalmic products and an equal number of oral liquid suspension products that are made at the company's facilities in Hyderabad. These approvals "mark yet another significant milestone for increasing exports of Vivimed's own brands to multiple countries," CEO Ramesh Krishnamurthy said.

## IT spending in India to grow 6% in '21: Gartner

NEW DELHI  
IT spending in India is projected to rise 6% to \$81.9 billion in 2021 compared with this year on the back of growth across segments such as enterprise software and IT services, research firm Gartner said. IT spending in 2020 is expected to decline 8.4% to \$79.3 billion, from 2019. The enterprise software segment will achieve the highest growth of 13.6%, it added. PTI

## CM YK

## Single window approval for FDI by Mar.

Sovereign funds showing fresh investment interest, we must address irksome compliance issues: FM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

A new, unified single window clearance system for foreign direct investment (FDI) proposals would be in place by March 31, a top government official said on Monday, stressing that this would not only make approvals transparent but expeditious.

“An effective, unified, single window will be made available so that access to regulators, policymakers and facilitators are all available at one point from wherever you are and you will be able to access it digitally,” Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman told multinational companies at a meeting hosted by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

Guruprasad Mohapatra, secretary in the department of promotion of industry and internal trade under the Mi-



The NIIF has been engaging with sovereign funds through the lockdown, says Ms. Sitharaman. ■ PTI

nistry of Commerce and Industry, said that the single window clearance system being developed will be ‘very effective’ and enable the potential investor to interact with all the Ministries whose approvals are required, at the Centre as well as in the

States. “We are expecting to put it in place by March-end. That will help investors a lot in not just getting information about the status of approvals, but in getting faster approvals,” he said. Mr. Mohapatra also said the Centre’s industrial informa-

tion system for potential investors now includes details of land availability in as many as 14 States.

“Reforms to continue”

Ms. Sitharaman said the government had seen fresh interest from large sovereign wealth funds looking to invest in the country and conceded the need to address many compliance issues that worry investors at large.

“The National Infrastructure Investment Fund has been actively engaging with them through the lockdown to see how best we can facilitate them with the benefits of the tax concessions given and the pipeline of infrastructure projects. These funds now want to tie up with many of these projects and I understand the last one month, we have had at least two new sovereign funds coming and asking ‘Can we also benefit from the tax con-

cessions?’,” the Minister said.

“Reforms to continue”

‘Sceptical about allowing corporates to own banks’

RBI will face issues in supervision: S&amp;P



pervising non-financial sector entities, and supervisory resources could be further strained at a time when the health of India’s financial sector was weak, it added.

“Corporate ownership of banks raises the risk of inter-group lending, diversion of funds, and reputational exposure. Also, the risk of contagion from corporate defaults to the financial sector increases significantly,” the ratings agency said.

## Helmet industry not as severely hit as auto sector'

Studds eyeing 10% revenue growth in FY21, says Khurana

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA  
NEW DELHI

The helmet-manufacturing industry in India has been relatively insulated from the impact of COVID-19 even as the pandemic severely impacted the auto sector in the country, said Sidhartha Bhushan Khurana, MD, Studds Accessories.

In an interview, Mr. Khurana said the company anticipated a 10% growth during the current year, surpassing revenue of about ₹450 crore it recorded in 2019-20, ‘which was a clear indication of the growth of the Indian helmet industry and the minimal impact of CO-



VID-19.’ As per a 2018 Frost &amp; Sullivan report, market share of Studds stood at about 27%, Mr. Khurana said, adding this had grown to about 30% now. The company aimed to capture 40% in the next three years.

## Policy boost

“We believe the govern-

ment’s new policy banning non-ISI certified helmets will give organised players a big boost by driving demand. If the enforcement is done well, a huge market will open up for us.”

“The COVID crisis is dif-

ferent from typical emerg-

ing market crises (where the economy is overheat-

ed, imports exceed exports as demand outstrips dom-

estic supply and inflation shoots up),” he said.

“In Q1, we had a \$19.8

billion surplus and even if

we do not see that kind of

performance in subse-

quent quarters, we would

still likely have a current

account surplus,” he said.

## Localised lockdowns to slow recovery: Nomura

‘Business resumption outlook worrying’

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
MUMBAI

India may record a current account surplus in FY21, Chief Economic Adviser Krishnamurthy Subramanian said, terming it a sign of ‘under-heating’ in the economy.

“The COVID crisis is dif-

ferent from typical emerg-

ing market crises (where the

economy is overheated,

imports exceed exports as

demand outstrips dom-

estic supply and inflation

shoots up),” he said.

Nomura, which has built

a business resumption in-

dex to gauge the recovery af-

ter the pandemic, said that

the index moved up by a

notch for the week ended

November 22, but continues

to be below pre-pandemic

levels.

However, it is the local-

ised lockdowns in various

States due to an increase in

COVID-19 infections which

seemed to worry the

analysts.

The lockdowns could

“slow the sequential pace of

recovery in the next 2-3

months, following the sharp

rebound thus far”, the bro-

kerage warned.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD

London-based biopharma platform ZNZ Pharma 2, backed by an impact investment consortium comprising U.K.’s CDC Group and others, has bought 74% stake in Celon Laboratories, a specialty generics firm focussing on critical care and oncology.

The platform plans to invest in Celon’s development of a new oral and injectable products manufacturing facility here. The proposed facility will be for both critical care and oncology products and cater to a wider set of markets. It is expected to receive an investment of ₹200 crore.

## Adani Solar to add 2-GW cell and module capacity at Mundra

Will help achieve cost-effectiveness, price parity with China

LALATENDU MISHRA  
MUMBAI

Adani Solar (Mundra Solar PV Ltd.), the solar PV manufacturing and EPC arm of Adani Group, is evaluating a 2 GW cell and module expansion at its manufacturing facility in Mundra, Gujarat. This is to strengthen its position as India’s largest and most technologically advanced player with a total capacity of 3.5 GW of high efficiency cells and modules, an Adani Group spokesperson said.

The capacity is expected to come on line by 2021. At present, Adani Solar is India’s largest integrated solar cell and

# Santana seals it for Hyderabad

His penalty strike in the 35th minute proves the match-winner against Odisha

**ISL 2020-21**

**SPORTS BUREAU**

Aridane Santana's spot-kick earned Hyderabad FC a 1-0 victory over Odisha FC in its ISL opener at the GMC Stadium in Bambolim on Monday.

#### Clean sheet, finally

Hyderabad, which finished at the bottom last season, played a refreshing brand of football under new coach Manolo Marquez. It kept a clean sheet for the first time in 19 games.

Skipper Santana, playing against his former club, was in the thick of things. The Spaniard came close in the fifth minute but missed an open header. In the 26th minute, he floated another header wide.

The Odisha defence, led by former Newcastle player Steven Taylor, looked clueless for most part and struggled to contain Hyderabad's fluent attacking play.

The turning point came in the 34th minute when Taylor handled Halicharan Narzary's shot in the box and conceded a penalty. Santana, who scored nine goals in the previous season, slotted home with ease to open his



**Spot on!** Santana sends Odisha goalkeeper Arshdeep the wrong way. ■ISL/SPORTZPICS

account this campaign.

Manuel Onwu had a chance to equalise late in the first half but wasted the opportunity with a meek attempt while Odisha custodian Arshdeep Singh made two crucial saves to ensure that his side didn't fall behind further.

#### Bold move

Odisha coach Stuart Baxter made a bold move early in the second half, replacing ace winger Marcelinho with

19-year-old Laishram Premjit Singh. But the substitution failed to create an impact as Odisha continued to struggle for rhythm.

Hyderabad seemed to have put the tie to bed when Joao Victor struck a fine header in the 63rd minute, but it was ruled off-side. Liston Colaco, coming in for Mohamed Yasir, was a revelation as he had the Odisha defence dancing to his tune.

The result: Odisha FC 0 lost to Hyderabad FC 1 (Santana 35-pen). ■  
**TUESDAY'S MATCH**  
Jamshedpur FC VS Chennaiyin FC  
7.30 P.M.  
STAR SPORTS 2 (SD & HD) AND 3

and kept the opposition defenders on their toes.

Adil Khan, named Hyderabad's captain for this season, made a late appearance as his side picked up three points.

**The result:** Odisha FC 0 lost to Hyderabad FC 1 (Santana 35-pen).

"It's amazing," said Medvedev, who earned \$1.56 million as an unbeaten champion.

■ Turin will host the competition from 2021.

Dominic Thiem

4-6, 7-6(2), 6-4 in an absorbing climax to London's last ATP Finals on Sunday.

Thiem was on course to become the first Austrian to win the title but the relentless Medvedev turned the tide to strike a blow for the new generation striving to shake up the tennis hierarchy.

There was no big celebration as he fired an unreturnable first serve on match point to end the two hours and 42 minutes scrap, bringing the curtain down on 12 memorable years at the O2 Arena before Turin takes over as host of the tournament.

■ The 24-year-old becomes the first to beat the top-3 at a single ATP event

After such a hot streak, the Moscovite was due a dip and it arrived in the first set as he threw away a 40-0 lead on serve at 2-2, gifting Thiem a break with a double-fault.

It proved enough for Thiem to pocket the first set and he went for the quick kill in the second as Medvedev's rock-solid serve wavered.

The Russian hung tough, saving break points at 2-2 and 3-3, and began to look menacing as the tie-break arrived.

Thiem led 2-0 but Medvedev reeled off seven points in a row to ensure the final would go the distance.

Medvedev stalked Thiem with his power and accuracy and secured the vital break of serve at 2-2 with a volley winner. He never looked back after that.

**The results (final):** 4-Daniil Medvedev (Rus) bt 3-Dominic Thiem (Aut) 4-6, 7-6(2), 6-4.

**Doubles:** 5-Wesley Koolhof (Ned) & Nikola Mektic (Cro) bt 7-Jurgen Melzer (Aut) & Edouard Roger-Vasselin (Fra) 6-2, 3-6, [10-5].

## Shubman Gill living a childhood dream

Says he grew up watching India-Australia matches on TV

**INDIA IN AUS**

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**

SYDNEY Flamboyant young batsman Shubman Gill is looking forward to the challenge of taking on the Australian bowlers but has not set any personal goals for the upcoming assignments where a good outing could help him cement his place in the Indian team.

Gill, who has so far played two ODIs, is part of the limited-overs as well as the Test squad for the Australia tour

beginning on Friday.

"I am really looking forward to Australia because this is my first trip. As a kid growing up, I always watched the matches between India and Australia. I am really excited," Gill said in a video posted by his IPL franchise Kolkata Knight Riders on Twitter.

#### Fruitful IPL

The 21-year-old batsman accumulated 440 runs in 14 matches in the recently concluded IPL.

"The fact that a lot of my friends are travelling with

the team, so it will be fun and exciting. But, obviously, when the practice session starts then it's a whole different situation. I have not really set any personal goals, but I am really looking forward to the tour," he added.

Gill was named the replacement for an injured Rohit Sharma for the Test series in New Zealand in the beginning of this year.

The Indian and Australian squads, who will play three ODIs, three T20Is and four Tests, are currently quarantining in Sydney, the venue of the first ODI.

■ The team, so it will be fun and exciting. But, obviously, when the practice session starts then it's a whole different situation. I have not really set any personal goals, but I am really looking forward to the tour," he added.

Gill was named the replacement for an injured Rohit Sharma for the Test series in New Zealand in the beginning of this year.

The Indian and Australian squads, who will play three ODIs, three T20Is and four Tests, are currently quarantining in Sydney, the venue of the first ODI.

■ The team, so it will be fun and exciting. But, obviously, when the practice session starts then it's a whole different situation. I have not really set any personal goals, but I am really looking forward to the tour," he added.

Gill was named the replacement for an injured Rohit Sharma for the Test series in New Zealand in the beginning of this year.

The Indian and Australian squads, who will play three ODIs, three T20Is and four Tests, are currently quarantining in Sydney, the venue of the first ODI.

■ The team, so it will be fun and exciting. But, obviously, when the practice session starts then it's a whole different situation. I have not really set any personal goals, but I am really looking forward to the tour," he added.

Gill was named the replacement for an injured Rohit Sharma for the Test series in New Zealand in the beginning of this year.

The Indian and Australian squads, who will play three ODIs, three T20Is and four Tests, are currently quarantining in Sydney, the venue of the first ODI.

■ The team, so it will be fun and exciting. But, obviously, when the practice session starts then it's a whole different situation. I have not really set any personal goals, but I am really looking forward to the tour," he added.

Gill was named the replacement for an injured Rohit Sharma for the Test series in New Zealand in the beginning of this year.

The Indian and Australian squads, who will play three ODIs, three T20Is and four Tests, are currently quarantining in Sydney, the venue of the first ODI.

■ The team, so it will be fun and exciting. But, obviously, when the practice session starts then it's a whole different situation. I have not really set any personal goals, but I am really looking forward to the tour," he added.

Gill was named the replacement for an injured Rohit Sharma for the Test series in New Zealand in the beginning of this year.

The Indian and Australian squads, who will play three ODIs, three T20Is and four Tests, are currently quarantining in Sydney, the venue of the first ODI.

■ The team, so it will be fun and exciting. But, obviously, when the practice session starts then it's a whole different situation. I have not really set any personal goals, but I am really looking forward to the tour," he added.

Gill was named the replacement for an injured Rohit Sharma for the Test series in New Zealand in the beginning of this year.

The Indian and Australian squads, who will play three ODIs, three T20Is and four Tests, are currently quarantining in Sydney, the venue of the first ODI.

■ The team, so it will be fun and exciting. But, obviously, when the practice session starts then it's a whole different situation. I have not really set any personal goals, but I am really looking forward to the tour," he added.

Gill was named the replacement for an injured Rohit Sharma for the Test series in New Zealand in the beginning of this year.

The Indian and Australian squads, who will play three ODIs, three T20Is and four Tests, are currently quarantining in Sydney, the venue of the first ODI.

■ The team, so it will be fun and exciting. But, obviously, when the practice session starts then it's a whole different situation. I have not really set any personal goals, but I am really looking forward to the tour," he added.

Gill was named the replacement for an injured Rohit Sharma for the Test series in New Zealand in the beginning of this year.

The Indian and Australian squads, who will play three ODIs, three T20Is and four Tests, are currently quarantining in Sydney, the venue of the first ODI.

■ The team, so it will be fun and exciting. But, obviously, when the practice session starts then it's a whole different situation. I have not really set any personal goals, but I am really looking forward to the tour," he added.

Gill was named the replacement for an injured Rohit Sharma for the Test series in New Zealand in the beginning of this year.

The Indian and Australian squads, who will play three ODIs, three T20Is and four Tests, are currently quarantining in Sydney, the venue of the first ODI.

■ The team, so it will be fun and exciting. But, obviously, when the practice session starts then it's a whole different situation. I have not really set any personal goals, but I am really looking forward to the tour," he added.

Gill was named the replacement for an injured Rohit Sharma for the Test series in New Zealand in the beginning of this year.

The Indian and Australian squads, who will play three ODIs, three T20Is and four Tests, are currently quarantining in Sydney, the venue of the first ODI.

■ The team, so it will be fun and exciting. But, obviously, when the practice session starts then it's a whole different situation. I have not really set any personal goals, but I am really looking forward to the tour," he added.

Gill was named the replacement for an injured Rohit Sharma for the Test series in New Zealand in the beginning of this year.

The Indian and Australian squads, who will play three ODIs, three T20Is and four Tests, are currently quarantining in Sydney, the venue of the first ODI.

■ The team, so it will be fun and exciting. But, obviously, when the practice session starts then it's a whole different situation. I have not really set any personal goals, but I am really looking forward to the tour," he added.

Gill was named the replacement for an injured Rohit Sharma for the Test series in New Zealand in the beginning of this year.

The Indian and Australian squads, who will play three ODIs, three T20Is and four Tests, are currently quarantining in Sydney, the venue of the first ODI.

■ The team, so it will be fun and exciting. But, obviously, when the practice session starts then it's a whole different situation. I have not really set any personal goals, but I am really looking forward to the tour," he added.

Gill was named the replacement for an injured Rohit Sharma for the Test series in New Zealand in the beginning of this year.

The Indian and Australian squads, who will play three ODIs, three T20Is and four Tests, are currently quarantining in Sydney, the venue of the first ODI.

■ The team, so it will be fun and exciting. But, obviously, when the practice session starts then it's a whole different situation. I have not really set any personal goals, but I am really looking forward to the tour," he added.

Gill was named the replacement for an injured Rohit Sharma for the Test series in New Zealand in the beginning of this year.

The Indian and Australian squads, who will play three ODIs, three T20Is and four Tests, are currently quarantining in Sydney, the venue of the first ODI.

■ The team, so it will be fun and exciting. But, obviously, when the practice session starts then it's a whole different situation. I have not really set any personal goals, but I am really looking forward to the tour," he added.

Gill was named the replacement for an injured Rohit Sharma for the Test series in New Zealand in the beginning of this year.

The Indian and Australian squads, who will play three ODIs, three T20Is and four Tests, are currently quarantining in Sydney, the venue of the first ODI.

■ The team, so it will be fun and exciting. But, obviously, when the practice session starts then it's a whole different situation. I have not really set any personal goals, but I am really looking forward to the tour," he added.

Gill was named the replacement for an injured Rohit Sharma for the Test series in New Zealand in the beginning of this year.

The Indian and Australian squads, who will play three ODIs, three T20Is and four Tests, are currently quarantining in Sydney, the venue of the first ODI.

■ The team, so it will be fun and exciting. But, obviously, when the practice session starts then it's a whole different situation. I have not really set any personal goals, but I am really looking forward to the tour," he added.

Gill was named the replacement for an injured Rohit Sharma for the Test series in New Zealand in the beginning of this year.

The Indian and Australian squads, who will play three ODIs, three T20Is and four Tests, are currently quarantining in Sydney, the venue of the first ODI.

■ The team, so it will be fun and exciting. But, obviously, when the practice session starts then it's a whole different situation. I have not really set any personal goals, but I am really looking forward to the tour," he added.

Gill was named the replacement for an injured Rohit Sharma for the Test series in New Zealand in the beginning of this year.

The Indian and Australian squads, who will play three ODIs, three T20Is and four Tests, are currently quarantining in Sydney, the venue of the first ODI.

■ The team, so it will be fun and exciting. But, obviously, when the practice session starts then it's a whole different situation. I have not really set any personal goals, but I am really looking forward to the tour," he added.

Gill was named the replacement for an injured Rohit Sharma for the Test series in New Zealand in the beginning of this year.

The Indian and Australian squads, who will play three ODIs, three T20Is and four Tests, are currently quarantining in Sydney, the venue of the first ODI.

■ The team, so it will be fun and exciting. But, obviously, when the practice session starts then it's a whole different situation. I have not really set any personal goals, but I am really looking forward to the tour," he added.

Gill was named the replacement for an injured Rohit Sharma for the Test series in New Zealand in the beginning of this year.

The Indian and Australian squads, who will play three ODIs, three T20Is and four Tests, are currently quarantining in Sydney, the venue of the first ODI.

■ The team, so it will be fun and exciting. But, obviously, when the practice session starts then it's a whole different situation. I have not really set any personal goals, but I am really looking forward to the tour," he added.

Gill was named the replacement for an injured Rohit Sharma for the Test series in New Zealand in the beginning of this year.

The Indian and Australian squads, who will play three ODIs, three T20Is and four Tests, are currently quarantining in Sydney, the venue of the first ODI.

■ The team, so it will be fun and exciting. But, obviously, when the practice session starts then it's a whole different situation. I have not really set any personal goals, but I am really looking forward to the tour," he added.

## TV PICKS

**ISL:** Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Star Sports 3, 7.30 p.m.

**UEFA Champions League:** Sony Ten 2 & Sony Six (SD & HD), 11.25 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Wed); Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 1.30 a.m. (Wed).

## IN BRIEF



**Streb triumphs in playoff**  
WASHINGTON  
Robert Streb claimed the US PGA Tour's RSM Classic on the second playoff hole Kevin Kisner on Sunday. Streb and Kisner had finished 72 holes level at 19-under 263, one stroke in front of Cameron Tringale, Austrian Bernd Wiesberger and American Andrew Landry shared fourth on 265. AFP

## Kim takes title

MIAMI  
South Korean Kim Sei-young followed up her first major title at the Women's PGA Championship with her 12th LPGA crown on Sunday, firing an even-par 70 to win the Pelican Women's Championship by three strokes. Kim finished 14-under 266 and three shots ahead of American Ally McDonald. AFP

## Mohamed Salah returns negative test

LIVERPOOL  
Mohamed Salah is set to return to training with Liverpool following a negative test for COVID-19, manager Jürgen Klopp has said. Salah missed Sunday's 3-0 win over Leicester following two positive tests while on duty for Egypt. AP

## BKT Tires to partner four ISL teams this season

HYDERABAD  
Balkrishna Industries Ltd. (BKT Tires) has announced a partnership with four of the 11 teams in the ongoing edition of the ISL. The teams are ATK Mohun Bagan, Hyderabad FC, NorthEast United FC and SC East Bengal.

## Reds join Spurs on top

Set new club record of 64 unbeaten league games at Anfield

## EURO LEAGUES

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE  
LONDON

Liverpool shrugged off an injury crisis to move level on points with Tottenham at the top of the English Premier League with a 3-0 win over Leicester on Sunday.

Jürgen Klopp's men were still imperious in easing past a Leicester side that had started the weekend on top of the table.

The Foxes did not do themselves any favours when Jonny Evans turned James Milner's corner into his own net to reward Liverpool's bright start.

**Jota's record**

Diogo Jota then became the first ever Liverpool player to score in his first four home league games with a downward header from Andy Robertson's cross.

Only a combination of goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel and the woodwork kept Liverpool from a repeat of the 4-0 thrashing it dished out to Leicester when the sides last met in December.

Robert Firmino then rounded off a fine night for



In fine nick: Jota became the first ever Liverpool player to score in his first four home league games. —AFP

the champion with a towering header from another Milner corner six minutes from time.

Liverpool has now set a new club record of 64 unbeaten league games with a downward header from Andy Robertson's cross.

## Brace by Ibrahimovic

In Serie A, Zlatan Ibrahimovic scored twice to bring his tally to 10 league goals this season before limping off with a muscle strain as AC Milan stayed on top with a 3-1 win at 10-man Napoli.

**Important results:** Premier

**League:** Liverpool 3 (Evans 21+, Jota 41, Firmino 86) bt Leicester 0.

**LaLiga:** Granada 1 (Duarte 63) lost to Real Valladolid 3 (Plano 45+2, Marcos Andre 53, Jota 90); Alaves 2 (Ximo Navarro 2, Lucas 16+pen) drew with Valencia 2 (Vallejo 72, Guillamon 77); Granada 1 (Duarte 63) lost to Real Valladolid 3 (Plano 45+2, Marcos Andre 53, Jota 90); Eibar 0 Getafe 0.

**Bundesliga:** Cologne 1 (Skhiri 36) lost to Union Berlin 2 (Awoniyi 27, Kruse 72).

**Serie A:** Udinese 1 (de Paul 34) bt Genoa 0; Napoli 1 (Mertens 63) lost to AC Milan 3 (Ibrahimovic 20, 54, Hauge 90+5);

## VFI told to pay Baseline Ventures ₹4 crore

K. KEERTHIVASAN  
CHENNAI

The Volleyball Federation of India (VFI) has been ordered to pay ₹4 crore as compensation & ₹5 lakh as legal fees to Baseline Ventures (India) Pvt. Ltd. after it was adjudged that the sports body had wrongfully terminated the company's contract for conducting the Pro Volleyball League.

The VFI had hired Baseline Ventures to run the professional league for ten years but ended the association after the inaugural season in 2019.

The 50-page order of sole arbitrator Justice K. Kannan (Retd.), appointed by the Madras High Court, also instructs the VFI to pay Baseline Ventures 12% interest on the compensation awarded, calculated from the date of commencement of arbitral proceedings to the date of payment. This works out to approximately ₹45 lakh in interest payment as of today.

Further, Justice Kannan dismissed the VFI's counter claim of ₹14.93 crores towards Baseline Ventures.

However, the firm will hand over the Intellectual

Property Rights of the Pro Volleyball League to the VFI.

Ramavtar Singh Jakhar, the VFI secretary at the time the case was filed, said he would file an appeal against the order at the Madras High Court "at an opportune time as there are quite a few contradictions in [it]."

Baseline vice-president Joy Bhattacharjya, who helmed the league during its first season, said: "This judgement is a total vindication of the fact that the VFI had absolutely no grounds to terminate the contract after a successful season."

Chennai's Nirmal Umashankar gave it his all but had to settle for second (142) after managing 31 points and a second place finish in the last round.

Coimbatore's Suriya Varathan, who began the fifth and final round with 138 points, had to be satisfied with the third spot, but that was good enough to give him a tally of 161 points and the title.

Chennai's Nirmal Umashankar gave it his all but had to settle for second (142) after managing 31 points and a second place finish in the last round.

Coimbatore's Suriya Varathan, who began the fifth and final round with 138 points, had to be satisfied with the third spot, but that was good enough to give him a tally of 161 points and the title.

Chennai's Nirmal Umashankar gave it his all but had to settle for second (142) after managing 31 points and a second place finish in the last round.

Coimbatore's Suriya Varathan, who began the fifth and final round with 138 points, had to be satisfied with the third spot, but that was good enough to give him a tally of 161 points and the title.

Chennai's Nirmal Umashankar gave it his all but had to settle for second (142) after managing 31 points and a second place finish in the last round.

Coimbatore's Suriya Varathan, who began the fifth and final round with 138 points, had to be satisfied with the third spot, but that was good enough to give him a tally of 161 points and the title.

Chennai's Nirmal Umashankar gave it his all but had to settle for second (142) after managing 31 points and a second place finish in the last round.

Coimbatore's Suriya Varathan, who began the fifth and final round with 138 points, had to be satisfied with the third spot, but that was good enough to give him a tally of 161 points and the title.

Chennai's Nirmal Umashankar gave it his all but had to settle for second (142) after managing 31 points and a second place finish in the last round.

Coimbatore's Suriya Varathan, who began the fifth and final round with 138 points, had to be satisfied with the third spot, but that was good enough to give him a tally of 161 points and the title.

Chennai's Nirmal Umashankar gave it his all but had to settle for second (142) after managing 31 points and a second place finish in the last round.

Coimbatore's Suriya Varathan, who began the fifth and final round with 138 points, had to be satisfied with the third spot, but that was good enough to give him a tally of 161 points and the title.

Chennai's Nirmal Umashankar gave it his all but had to settle for second (142) after managing 31 points and a second place finish in the last round.

Coimbatore's Suriya Varathan, who began the fifth and final round with 138 points, had to be satisfied with the third spot, but that was good enough to give him a tally of 161 points and the title.

Chennai's Nirmal Umashankar gave it his all but had to settle for second (142) after managing 31 points and a second place finish in the last round.

Coimbatore's Suriya Varathan, who began the fifth and final round with 138 points, had to be satisfied with the third spot, but that was good enough to give him a tally of 161 points and the title.

Chennai's Nirmal Umashankar gave it his all but had to settle for second (142) after managing 31 points and a second place finish in the last round.

Coimbatore's Suriya Varathan, who began the fifth and final round with 138 points, had to be satisfied with the third spot, but that was good enough to give him a tally of 161 points and the title.

Chennai's Nirmal Umashankar gave it his all but had to settle for second (142) after managing 31 points and a second place finish in the last round.

Coimbatore's Suriya Varathan, who began the fifth and final round with 138 points, had to be satisfied with the third spot, but that was good enough to give him a tally of 161 points and the title.

Chennai's Nirmal Umashankar gave it his all but had to settle for second (142) after managing 31 points and a second place finish in the last round.

Coimbatore's Suriya Varathan, who began the fifth and final round with 138 points, had to be satisfied with the third spot, but that was good enough to give him a tally of 161 points and the title.

Chennai's Nirmal Umashankar gave it his all but had to settle for second (142) after managing 31 points and a second place finish in the last round.

Coimbatore's Suriya Varathan, who began the fifth and final round with 138 points, had to be satisfied with the third spot, but that was good enough to give him a tally of 161 points and the title.

Chennai's Nirmal Umashankar gave it his all but had to settle for second (142) after managing 31 points and a second place finish in the last round.

Coimbatore's Suriya Varathan, who began the fifth and final round with 138 points, had to be satisfied with the third spot, but that was good enough to give him a tally of 161 points and the title.

Chennai's Nirmal Umashankar gave it his all but had to settle for second (142) after managing 31 points and a second place finish in the last round.

Coimbatore's Suriya Varathan, who began the fifth and final round with 138 points, had to be satisfied with the third spot, but that was good enough to give him a tally of 161 points and the title.

Chennai's Nirmal Umashankar gave it his all but had to settle for second (142) after managing 31 points and a second place finish in the last round.

Coimbatore's Suriya Varathan, who began the fifth and final round with 138 points, had to be satisfied with the third spot, but that was good enough to give him a tally of 161 points and the title.

Chennai's Nirmal Umashankar gave it his all but had to settle for second (142) after managing 31 points and a second place finish in the last round.

Coimbatore's Suriya Varathan, who began the fifth and final round with 138 points, had to be satisfied with the third spot, but that was good enough to give him a tally of 161 points and the title.

Chennai's Nirmal Umashankar gave it his all but had to settle for second (142) after managing 31 points and a second place finish in the last round.

Coimbatore's Suriya Varathan, who began the fifth and final round with 138 points, had to be satisfied with the third spot, but that was good enough to give him a tally of 161 points and the title.

Chennai's Nirmal Umashankar gave it his all but had to settle for second (142) after managing 31 points and a second place finish in the last round.

Coimbatore's Suriya Varathan, who began the fifth and final round with 138 points, had to be satisfied with the third spot, but that was good enough to give him a tally of 161 points and the title.

Chennai's Nirmal Umashankar gave it his all but had to settle for second (142) after managing 31 points and a second place finish in the last round.

Coimbatore's Suriya Varathan, who began the fifth and final round with 138 points, had to be satisfied with the third spot, but that was good enough to give him a tally of 161 points and the title.

Chennai's Nirmal Umashankar gave it his all but had to settle for second (142) after managing 31 points and a second place finish in the last round.

Coimbatore's Suriya Varathan, who began the fifth and final round with 138 points, had to be satisfied with the third spot, but that was good enough to give him a tally of 161 points and the title.

Chennai's Nirmal Umashankar gave it his all but had to settle for second (142) after managing 31 points and a second place finish in the last round.

Coimbatore's Suriya Varathan, who began the fifth and final round with 138 points, had to be satisfied with the third spot, but that was good enough to give him a tally of 161 points and the title.

Chennai's Nirmal Umashankar gave it his all but had to settle for second (142) after managing 31 points and a second place finish in the last round.

Coimbatore's Suriya Varathan, who began the fifth and final round with 138 points, had to be satisfied with the third spot, but that was good enough to give him a tally of 161 points and the title.

Chennai's Nirmal Umashankar gave it his all but had to settle for second (142) after managing 31 points and a second place finish in the last round.

Coimbatore's Suriya Varathan, who began the fifth and final round with 138 points, had to be satisfied with the third spot, but that was good enough to give him a tally of 161 points and the title.

Chennai's Nirmal Umashankar gave it his all but had to settle for second (142) after managing 31 points and a second place finish in the last round.

Coimbatore's Suriya Varathan, who began the fifth and final round with 138 points, had to be satisfied with the third spot, but that was good enough to give him a tally of 161 points and the title.

Chennai's Nirmal Umashankar gave it his all but had to settle for second (142) after managing 31 points and a second place finish in the last round.

Coimbatore's Suriya Varathan, who began the fifth and final round with 138 points, had to be satisfied with the third spot, but that was good enough to give him a tally of 161 points and the title.

Chennai's Nirmal Umashankar gave it his all but had to settle for second (142) after managing 31 points and a second place finish in the last round.

Coimbatore's Suriya Varathan, who began the fifth and final round with 138 points, had to be satisfied with the third spot, but that was good enough to give him a tally of 161 points and the title.

Chennai's Nirmal Umashankar gave it his all but had to settle for second (142) after managing 31 points and a second place finish in the last round.

Coimbatore's Suriya Varathan, who began the fifth and final round with 138 points, had to be satisfied with the third spot, but that was good enough to give him a tally of 161 points and the title.

Chennai's Nirmal Umashankar gave it his all but had to settle for second (142) after managing 31 points and a second place finish in the last round.

Coimbatore's Suriya Varathan, who began the fifth and final round with 138 points, had to be satisfied with the third spot, but that was good enough to give him a tally of 161 points and the title.

Chennai's Nirmal Umashankar gave it his all but had to settle for second (142) after managing 31 points and a second place finish in the last round.

Coimbatore's Suriya Varathan, who began the fifth and final round with 138 points, had to be satisfied with the third spot, but that was good enough to give him a tally of 161 points and the title.