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## OVERCOMING FINANCIAL CHALLENGES THROUGH INVESTMENT

In conversation with



**Balwant Jain**  
Investment & Tax Expert



**Parvatha Vardhini C**  
Head - Research Bureau,  
The Hindu BusinessLine

Presentation by



**Balaji Domerapati**  
Regional Head - Kerala,  
ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund

**Webinar ID: 819 7347 7717**

**Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> November 2020 @ 5 pm**

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Arnab Goswami in judicial custody, moves HC against arrest

Page 9



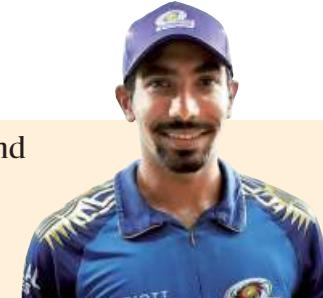
UGC issues guidelines for reopening of colleges, universities

Page 10



All insults not offence under SC/ST Act, says Supreme Court

Page 10



Brilliant Bumrah and batsmen power MI into the final

Page 13

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## NEARBY



Delhi govt. puts complete ban on firecrackers

New Delhi

The Delhi government on Thursday put a complete ban on sale, purchase and use of all firecrackers in the city between November 7 and 30. Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal also appealed to the residents to celebrate Deepavali by performing Lakshmi Puja at their homes instead of bursting crackers.

CITY ▶ PAGE 2

## HC extends interim bail to over 3K undertrials

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Thursday extended the interim bail granted to 3,337 undertrial prisoners by another 30 days in order to de-congest jails here in view of the ongoing pandemic. The 3,337 prisoners were released under different criteria laid down by a high-powered committee constituted on the direction of the Supreme Court.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3



# Biden edges closer to victory as Trump mounts legal challenges

President's supporters take to protests in Arizona; focus narrows to four States

SRI RAM LAKSHMAN  
WASHINGTON

America woke up on Thursday to another day of uncertainty around the winner of the presidential election, even as Joe Biden appeared to be on the verge of reaching the 270 of 538 Electoral College votes needed to win the White House, after he won Michigan and Wisconsin. President Donald Trump's campaign mounted legal challenges in several States. Mr. Trump's supporters, some armed, protested in Arizona and hundreds of anti-Trump protesters in Minneapolis blocked a highway.

The nation's focus had narrowed to four States by Thursday — Georgia, Pennsylvania, Arizona and Nevada. Results were also not in for North Carolina and Alaska. Mr. Biden's lead shrunk in Arizona by Thursday while Mr. Trump's leads in Georgia and Pennsylvania went down.

When reports last came in, Mr. Biden led Nevada by over 7,600 votes (six electoral seats) and Arizona by just over 68,000 votes (11). Mr. Trump led Georgia by over 18,500 votes (16), North Carolina by around 76,700 votes (15) and Pennsylvania

by about 1,35,700 votes.

An increasingly frustrated President with limited paths to victory took to Twitter to air his grievances. "STOP THE COUNT!" he tweeted as Mr. Biden appeared to be inching towards 270.

"Here, the people rule. Power can't be taken or asserted. It flows from the people," Mr. Biden said in an ad-

dress on Wednesday afternoon in Delaware. He said while he was not yet declaring victory, he believed he would win when the votes were in. "And now after a long night of counting, it's clear that we're winning enough States to reach 270 electoral votes needed to win the Presidency," he said.

Nevada and Georgia were

expected to wrap up counting on Thursday. Pennsylvania has been given time until the end of Friday to finish the count. Democrats continued to be optimistic about Pennsylvania as mailed-in ballots tend to be used more by Democrats than Republicans.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 11  
MORE REPORTS ▶ PAGE 11

REUTERS

AP

ASSOCIATED PRESS

</div





P N I e-T NO: 8 / EE-BSDL / PWD / 2020-21, Dated, 03/11/2020

The Executive Engineer, Bishalgarh Division, PWD(R&B), Sepahijala, Tripura invites e-tender for "Strengthening and widening road form Bye Pass (near Railway Station over Bridge) to 400 kv Sub-Station Suryanagar via Kathalali G.P. Madhabpur at Dukhi Industrial Block to Ranir Khamar (L=5.00km) ISH:GSB, metalizing and carpeting etc"(5th Call). Estimated cost: Rs. 3,75,03,406/- Earnest Money: Rs. 3,75,03,406/- Time of Completion: 15 months. Last date of bid submission: 03/12/2020 upto 15.00 Hrs. Pre-Bid Conference: Date, 25/11/2019, Time: 12.00 A.M. For more details kindly visit: <https://tripuratenders.gov.in>

(Er.S.Sarkar)  
Executive Engineer,  
Bishalgarh Division, PWD(R&B)  
Sepahijala, Tripura.

ICA-C/2011/20

**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male, Age: 45-50 years, Complexion: Wheatish, Height: 5'6", was wearing Black & White colour Checkdar Shirt and Khaki colour Half Pant, was found dead between KM Pole No. 19/20-18, Down Line Railway Track, near Mundka Railway Station at 02:00 PM. In this regard a DD No. 11A, dated 01.11.2020, has been lodged at P.S. Sarai Rohilla Railway Station, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

**SHO**  
**P.S. Sarai Rohilla Railway Station, Delhi**  
DP/06/Rly/2020 Ph.: 011-28711697. 8750871308

**THE HINDU**

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**NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY**

Open Tender Notice No.: NER-BSB05Nt-OT-16-2020

"Open Tenders" through Online (E-Tendering) are invited by Divisional Railway Manager (Signal & Telecomm)/Varanasi/N.E. Railway for and behalf of the President of India for the following works:-  
**Tender Notice No. and Description of Work: NER-BSB05Nt-OT-16-2020, Name of work:** Signalling work in connection with provision of ROB at LC no. 51A at Km 1/8-9 between CPR-GTST & LC no. 51A at Km 1/8-9 between CPR-TKV section of BSB division. **Details: Approx. Value: ₹ 40,51,566.62, Earnest Money: ₹ 8,100/-, Cost of Tender Form: ₹ 0.00/-, Completion period: 06 Months, Tender Closing Date & Time: 26.11.2020 up to 15.00 Hrs. Note:-1. Tender Online will be submitted upto 15.00 Hrs. on date 26.11.2020. 2. For full details and submission of bid kindly visit the Official website of Indian railways i.e. [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in).**

**Divi. Ry. Manager (S&T) CPRO/Signal-32 Varanasi**  
About any passenger amenity complain SMS on Mobile No. 09794845955  
"DO NOT TRAVEL WITH INFLAMMABLE ARTICLE IN TRAIN"

**NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY**

E-TENDER NOTICE

By CME/Repair for Chief Workshop Manager, N.E. Railway, Mechanical Workshop, Gorakhpur for and on behalf of President of India invites single tender through online (E-Tendering) for the following work:-  
**E-Tender Notice No. & Name of the work: IREPS Tender No. 01-MWS-GKP-2020-21:-Refurbishment of Timken Make CTRB Bearing of LHB type Coaches for 01 Year on Single Tender through OEM. Estimated Cost: ₹ 2,25,55,806.02, Earnest Money: ₹ 2,62,800/- Cost of the Tender forms: ₹ 0.00/- Period of Contract: 12 Months. Last date of tender submission: Upto 11.00 hrs., Date 03.12.2020 • The details of above tender are also available on Indian Railway website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)**

**Chief Workshop Manager CPRO/Mech-71 Gorakhpur**  
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Notice is given on behalf of Mr. Suresh Singh, Sohna Wali Jatra, Mohan Singh, Sohna, Katika Gehat D/o Shyam Prakash Choudhary that the property as more particularly described in the schedule hereunder and Land bearing address "Sohna Boys Hostel Majua Bidhol, Tehsil Vikes Nagar, Prangana Pachwadon, District Dehradun" which is in possession of my above mentioned client(s) and who are the True Legal Owners of the said property. Therefore any persons having any claim in respect of the above mentioned property or claiming by way of sale, exchange, mortgage, charge, gift, maintenance, inheritance, possession, lease, tenancy, sub tenancy, tenancy of title or beneficial interest or beneficial interest under any trust right of prescription or pre-emption under any agreement or any other disposition or under any decree, order or award otherwise claiming however, are hereby requested to make the same known to me together with supporting documents to be prepared and submitted to me at their residential address D-120, 2nd floor, Anand Vihar, Dehradun-211024 or Contact At: Mobile No-9850932658 within a period of 14 days (both days inclusive) of the publication hereof failing which the claim of such person(s) will deemed to have been waived and/or abandoned.

SCHEDULE

All that piece or parcels of land containing by the actual丈量 485 square meters or thereabouts registered in the books of Land Revenue Records of the Uttrakhand Government which is as follows: Bhoomikha S.no. 00126, 153 Ka. Rakha 0.0988 Hectare and 500 square meters Bhoomi Khata S.no. 00126, khara no. 153 Ka. Rakha 0.0421 Hectare, Bhoomi Khata S.no. 00175, khara no. 153 Ka. Rakha 0.0079 Hectare, Total 0.500 Hectare Majua Bidhol, Tehsil Vikes Nagar, Prangana Pachwadon, district Dehradun Uttrakhand comprising of at least 152 rooms together with building thereon assessed by the Municipal Corporation and bounded with structures and standing thereon.

GAURAV KUMAR (ADVOCATE)

ENROLLMENT NO. - D-7800/2019

At: - A-168, GROUND FLOOR, JHLML COLONY,

DELHI 110098

Dated: 4th November 2020

Place: New Delhi

**PUBLIC NOTICE****PUBLIC NOTICE**

Lost part of property chain (SALE DEED) property

bearing BK-12, Shalimar Bagh, Shop No. 1,2,3,5,6

along with Toilet Ground

Floor, Registration No. 6576,

Vol. 359, Book No.1, Page

No. 61 to 70 dated 15.2.2006

which was made by SNEH

LATA W/o Shri Jai Bhagwan

Garg in Favour of Sun World

Pvt. Ltd. through its Director

Sh. Prem Kumar Goel S/o

Shri Belu Ram R/o BJ-78,

Shalimar Bagh, Delhi-110008

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**WEATHER WATCH**

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



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

**Forecast for Friday:** Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	... -	30.8	22.0	Kozhikode	... -	33.5	26.6
Ahmedabad	-	34.4	16.7	Kurnool	... -	34.1	21.0
Aizawl	-	25.9	16.9	Lucknow	... -	28.0	13.2
Allahabad	-	32.5	13.8	Madurai	15.6	32.6	22.1
Bengaluru	-	30.4	21.0	Mangaluru	... -	32.1	23.8
Bhopal	-	31.1	13.2	Mumbai	... -	34.8	22.2
Bhubaneswar	-	31.9	19.9	Mysuru	... -	31.7	22.0
Chandigarh	-	30.8	12.4	New Delhi	... -	30.7	11.2
Chennai	-	33.2	25.1	Patna	... -	31.6	14.0
Coimbatore	2.3	31.4	22.0	Poil Blair	13.2	31.6	24.2
Dehradun	-	29.0	12.0	Puducherry	2.4	32.4	24.6
Gangtok	-	18.7	11.1	Pune	... -	31.4	15.1
Goa	-	34.5	22.2	Raipur	... -	33.8	17.5
Guwahati	-	30.8	18.1	Ranchi	... -	30.8	13.5
Hubballi	-	29.0	19.0	Shillong	... -	23.5	12.9
Hyderabad	-	32.2	15.3	Shimla	... -	22.5	11.8
Imphal	-	28.3	15.0	Srinagar	... -	20.6	2.1
Jaipur	-	32.0	14.5	Thiruvananthapuram	2.7	32.4	25.6
Kochi	2.4	31.4	25.0	Tiruchi	... -	33.1	25.4
Kohima	-	23.4	16.8	Vijayawada	26.4	32.7	25.0
Kolkata	-	32.4	20.0	Visakhapatnam	1.1	32.6	26.4

(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	-	-	33	... -	... -	...
Bengaluru	10	38	39	76	90	...
Chennai	31	13	51	63	... -	...
Delhi	18	178	152	447	426	...
Hyderabad	47	90	21	212	... -	...
Kolkata	28	26	15	293	185	...
Lucknow	11	104	34	418	405	...
Mumbai	13	102	35	169	187	...
Pune	17	23	56	62	46	...
Visakhapatnam	15	35	35	159	123	...

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

## Congress kicks off tractor protest against farm Bills

Will not rest until these unjust laws are repealed, says Thorat



**Anti-government wave:** The agitation in progress in Kolhapur on Thursday. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

### SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE PUNE

Intensifying its agitation against the Centre's contentious agrarian reform legislation, the Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) on Thursday launched a massive tractor agitation across the State.

Big rallies were organised in Kolhapur in western Maharashtra, which saw the participation of MPCC chief Balasaheb Thorat, the Congress in-charge for Maharashtra, H.K. Patil, and District Guardian Minister Satej Patil, and in Amravati district in which State minister Yashomati Thakur took part.

"The Congress will not rest until it repeals these unjust laws that are ruining the lives of farmers. This wave of agitation will finish off the Modi-led Central government," Mr. Thorat said.

Former Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan said that

About 86% farmers in the State are extremely small land holders. They cannot fight big industrialists. These Bills advocating contract farming are anti-farmer in spirit

PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN  
Former Chief Minister

the Centre had just steamrolled the Bills instead of announcing a minimum support price for farmers in a legitimate manner.

"About 86% farmers in the State are extremely small land holders. They cannot fight big industrialists. These Bills advocating contract farming are anti-farmer in spirit. Hence, we are opposing them," Mr. Chavan said.

Remarkable on the hasty manner in which the Bills

were passed, Mr. Thorat highlighted how Opposition MPs were suspended from the Rajya Sabha.

"These laws have been made for the benefit of a handful of traders, stockists, profiteers and capitalists. Thus armed, traders will stockpile farmers' goods cheaply and sell them at high prices. The law does not provide for a base price," he said.

A campaign to gather two crore signatures to oppose the Bills was under way in which 50 lakh farmers from Maharashtra alone had given their signatures, Mr. Thorat said.

He further said that the tripartite Mahal Vikas Aghadi government had come into being with a view to keeping bigoted forces (read the Bharatiya Janata Party) at bay. Another big tractor rally will be held in Sangli district on Friday.

A Division Bench of Justice

## + Woman suffers critical eye injuries while warding off alleged molester

Incident occurred in Njavare village; search for attacker on

### SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE PUNE

A woman sustained critical injuries to both her eyes while trying to resist an alleged molestation attempt in a village in Pune's Shirur tehsil.

According to the Pune Rural police, the incident occurred on Tuesday night after the woman, who works as a labourer, had stepped out to answer nature's call.

She was allegedly assaulted while resisting her attacker and had lost the use of

one of her eyes while the other was severely damaged, officials said.

The Shirur police have registered an FIR against an unknown person and the search for the attacker is on.

The woman, a resident of Njavare village, was attacked by an unidentified person on Tuesday night when she stepped out of her house. She was critically injured and was admitted to Sarssoo General Hospital. We are probing the case and will soon nab the accused,"

Former Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan said that

## M.P. BJP serves notice on three party leaders

### 'Anti-party activities during bypolls'

#### SIDDHARTH YADAV BHOPAL

The Madhya Pradesh BJP has served notice on three leaders for "anti-party activities" during the by-election, indicating resentment among experienced party workers on the seats where supporters of Rajya Sabha member Jyotiraditya Scindia were fielded.

The notice was served on Wednesday on former Minister Gaurishankar Shevai, his son Mudit and former MLA Gajraj Singh Sikarwar. It sought a clarification from them before State BJP president V.D. Sharma within seven days or face disciplinary action.

"You have continuously undertaken anti-party activities against the official candidate," the notice said. "Complaints of this action have reached the State leadership, owing to which the party's image has been tarnished. This action of yours comes under grave indiscretion."

"You have continuously undertaken anti-party activities against the official candidate," the notice said. "Complaints of this action have reached the State leadership, owing to which the party's image has been tarnished. This action of yours comes under grave indiscretion."

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## Arresting Arnab

Police should have avoided an arrest that could be seen as politically motivated

The arrest of Arnab Goswami, editor-in-chief of Republic Media Network, is, without doubt, a high-handed action that may contain an element of vendetta. There was really no reason to arrest Mr. Goswami, or any other citizen for that matter, in a case that has been reopened after being formally closed by a competent court in 2019. It might be true that the police then may have, under political influence, unlawfully closed a complaint that Mr. Goswami and two others had abetted the suicide of Anvay Naik, an interior designer in May 2018, and that there may be sufficient cause for it to be investigated afresh. Given the presence of an incriminating suicide note, there may be some substance in the allegation. However, there is no reason to arrest anyone, unless they are likely to evade trial, threaten witnesses or destroy evidence. It would have been more appropriate if the police had investigated the matter thoroughly and filed a charge sheet in a court of law if there was sufficient evidence to believe that the conduct of the accused had driven the victim to suicide. The transactions and agreements involved and the testimony of the family may have been enough to seek a conviction under Section 306 of the IPC, which essentially requires sound evidence of acts that directly or indirectly incited victims to take their own lives.

Claims by almost all Union Ministers that Mr. Goswami's arrest bespeaks an attempt to throttle the media, however, have no substance, as it is obviously a case unrelated to his work as a television anchor. At the same time, the manner in which a matter can be reopened and the accused arrested might have a chilling effect on other journalists with better credentials than Mr. Goswami. There is no love lost between him and the police in Maharashtra, possibly due to the impression that he himself has given about where his loyalties lie. It is conceivable that his arrest may be an unsavoury extension of the continuing acrimony between the Shiv Sena and the BJP. He already has pending FIRs against him for allegedly making inflammatory remarks on air. He is an outspoken critic of the Maharashtra government. Besides running down the police in connection with the Sushant Singh Rajput death probe, he has been taunting the Mumbai Police Commissioner ever since his channels came under investigation for allegedly fixing TRPs. In this backdrop, the onus was on the State and the police to avoid the impression of resorting to vendetta. Mr. Goswami, as part of his nightly fulminations against assorted enemies of the state, is known to demand the arrest of anyone he denounces – including many who may be innocent – and has been accused of hate-mongering in the name of journalism. However, he should not be held to his own low standards. If pre-trial arrests are not necessary, they should be avoided, especially if they could be seen as politically motivated.

## Vienna's woes

While stopping terror, authorities should build on values of pluralism and secularism

The attack in Vienna that killed four people on Monday night underscores the transnational threat European countries face from Islamist terrorists. The assault follows the beheading of a schoolteacher in a Paris suburb and a knife attack in Nice that took three lives. In Vienna, the suspected gunman, Kujtim Fejzulai, 20, a dual citizen of Austria and North Macedonia and of Albanian origin, opened fire near a synagogue before being shot dead by the police. He had a previous terrorism conviction. In April last year, he was sentenced to 22 months after he tried to travel to Syria to join the Islamic State. He was released in December because of his age. The immediate question the Austrian authorities face would be about the failure in preventing the attack. How did a terrorism convict slip off the security radar and launch an attack in the capital city at a time when Europe was on high alert following the terror assaults in France? Austria will also have to plug the security loopholes as several countries in the continent, including France and the U.K., have raised the threat levels. The larger challenge is how to address the issue of radicalisation among youth and counter attempts to disrupt the social cohesion of the continent.

Austria's conservative Chancellor Sebastian Kurz, known for his fiery anti-immigrant politics, sent the right message when he called for unity in the fight against terrorism. He said the fight is not between Christians and Muslims or Austrians and immigrants, but between "civilisation and barbarity". Mr. Kurz, who had teamed up with the Islamophobic far-right Freedom Party in 2017 to form the government for the first time, is now in power with the Green Party and has more political leeway to build a stronger national response to terrorism. Jihadists use violence on the public in the name of Islam, the rising Islamophobic, nationalist parties in Europe seize on such incidents to bolster their fortunes. France's Marine Le Pen, with an eye on the 2022 presidential election, has called for a ban on immigrants from some Muslim countries and declared "a war" to "evict Islamism by force from our country". In Austria, the Freedom Party would take cues from her National Rally party. This is a two-front attack on the democratic and secular values Europe stands for – and that is what the terrorists want. Leaders of France, Austria and other terror-hit countries should not allow the jihadists to have their way. They should clamp down on terror networks, isolate and punish the jihadists, counter the ideology of political Islamists and build on the values of pluralism, secularism, democracy and equality, and step up deradicalisation efforts with help from communities. This is a fight they cannot afford to lose.

# Political takeaways from the Bihar campaign

The strategy of Tejashwi Yadav shows this election is more about the evolution of the social justice plank than its burial



SEEMA CHISHTI

Bihar's Champaran farmlands served as the brewing fields for Gandhi's ruminations and eventual journey to a Mahatma more than a century ago. Later, the State was quick to catch the sparks of Gujarat's student revolt and lend the anti-Emergency movement the fury that was to become a prairie fire which consumed the invincible Indira Gandhi. Bihar is renowned for its intangible political energy, equations and trends that have gone on to shape India's political firmament.

### Throwbacks to the past

The final election results notwithstanding, not that the voters' mandate is sacrosanct – consider Goa, Manipur, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh – the election campaign has provided important political takeaways. Like all elections in the last six years, including the municipal polls in the capital in 2017, Narendra Modi has campaigned with admirable energy and dedication in Bihar. The Prime Minister's campaigning is an opportunity to peep into his vision and priorities for the people of the State and the country.

A quick glance at his speeches shows that Mr. Modi's refrain is Ayodhya's Ram temple and Article 370 in Kashmir (Darbhanga on October 28 and Champaran on November 1), "Jungle Raj" spoken of often, a reference to the "double Yuvrajs" ostensibly of Tejashwi Yadav and Rahul Gandhi (Chhapra on November 1) struggling to "keep the simhasan/throne", "BI-

MARU" Bihar, referring to an outdated acronym for Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh no longer used even in seminars. Almost all of the Prime Minister's repeated references are jaded throwbacks to the past: Ayodhya's Babri Masjid was brought down in 1992, 'jungle raj', referring to pejoratives for Lalu Yadav and Rabri Devi's time as Chief Minister is 15 years ago and the last time that either Tejashwi Yadav or Rahul Gandhi's fathers held public office was several years ago – there is certainly no 'simhasan' for them to defend. It is a negative agenda of a campaign anchored selectively in the past.

### No vision, invoking fear

Nitish Kumar has been in power in the State for the past 15 years, mostly with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and there is little in the achievement columns of his report card for Mr. Modi to seek votes on. Soliciting support for another five years of a jaded government is tough, and thus the argument seems to be that "we are bad but they are worse" – not the most inspiring political pitch. More surprising is the lack of vision for either Bihar or India from the Prime Minister. The selective recall of the 1990s is odd when at 57.2%, Bihar has the highest proportion of those below 25 years of age in the country (<https://bit.ly/3eFNtF>). This is like the captain's proverbial yearning for the safety of the shore when the boat is in choppy waters mid-ocean, when, instead, it needs a vision to navigate ahead.

The exponential rise of the BJP, now dominating the political scene with more than half of India's States under its rule and having 302 Lok Sabha seats (as on October 1, 2020; <https://bit.ly/32d2rpK>), began by leveraging the upheaval of the



1990s as the polity was challenged by newly opened fissures of caste, religion and economic disparity. Social and cultural issues are an integral part of Indian electoral politics, but to invoke the divisive issues of the past at this time points to a poverty of vision for the future, of the missing destination the ship of governance is aiming for when at sea. Instead of taking matters to a higher level of 'aspiration', the country's top leadership has chosen to invoke not hope but fear.

### A lost opportunity and why

When India has gone from one of the fastest growing three economies in the world to among the slowest, with an unprecedented decline of 23.9% in the first quarter of 2020, the country would have benefited from learning of the Prime Minister's plan to get the economy back in shape. The novel coronavirus pandemic also offered an opportunity to speak of public health as a sharp arrow in its quiver, and take his party's campaign to another high level. Quite the contrary happened when a free vaccine was offered as an election sop, hitting another new low for the BJP in 2020. Public health, at a time of a rapidly growing infectious disease, has always been handled centrally and has been universal and free. The smallpox vaccine, BCG or even the tubercu-

losis programme has been centrally driven and unconnected with electoral cycles.

The appeal that proved invincible and lent a deadly blow to the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance in 2014 was a dream that Mr. Modi associated himself with. The 'Gujarat model', notwithstanding its merits, was about hope, about *vikas*, development (if not progress), and overall about improving lives of Indians, a formula that proved unbeatable. The promise, plastered on all available billboards was about 'two crore jobs' every year, ₹15 lakh in every bank account and the burning of an entrepreneurial spirit that would bring welfare and prosperity. Mr. Modi would make India great again and improve the conditions of its millions, who came out and voted for that dream. This appeal was developed on the campaign that Mr. Modi had carefully crafted around 'Vibrant Gujarat,' which had shut down his critics. It was Mr. Modi as the doer and the *Vikas Purush* that won accolades and eventually the seat of power in Delhi. The core Hindutva spirit that he stood for was just the backstory: Mr. Modi in 2014 worked, as he offered himself and much more.

### The youth connect

Turning the tables on this, Tejashwi Yadav's campaign in Bihar is frustrating the ruling party as it is using that very powerful appeal against a 15-year-old regime by citing the absence of bread and butter issues and taking the campaign out to the State's youth. His primary emphasis during the election campaign has been on the high rate of unemployment, forming the backbone of his promise of providing 10 lakh new government jobs to the youth of Bihar. The BJP has been forced to play catch-up. After the results come in, there

will be much to theorise on how caste politics has changed in north India. Enough has already been said about how this is the last of the Mandal elections (with Nitish Kumar on the backfoot, Lalu Prasad not campaigning and Ram Vilas Paswan no more); but on closer scrutiny, this is more about evolution of the social justice plank than its burial.

Tejashwi Yadav in 2020 is doing a Narendra Modi in 2014, by not making it overtly about social justice alone. The Mandal campaign of the 1990s in north India was particularly anxious to underscore that it was not economics but social oppression that rankled and needed urgent redress. By threading economic upliftment seamlessly into the idea of social justice, Tejashwi Yadav has confounded his opponents. He need not even loudly talk about backward caste or utter the phrase social justice, any more than Mr. Modi had to proclaim that he is a proud bearer of Hindutva.

In 2015 when Nitish Kumar and Lalu Prasad struck an alliance, they stumped the BJP by turning it into a 'forward versus backward' election. That was a case of political innovation in the face of the BJP juggernaut, at a time when the electoral machine of the BJP, with its freshness, was at its peak. But this time, what has annoyed Nitish Kumar and visibly frustrated the BJP is Tejashwi Yadav coming up from behind and smoothly introducing Social Justice 2.0 into the campaign in his own unique manner. The results of the elections will be known soon but if there is already a winner for political re-imagination, it is Tejashwi Yadav against a weary Nitish Kumar and a rear-view mirror-gazing Narendra Modi.

Seema Chishti is a journalist based in New Delhi

## The forgotten fact of China-Occupied Kashmir

The anniversary of the Instrument of Accession last month is a reminder of China's illegal territorial occupation



SUJAN R. CHINOY

Following the abrogation of Article 370 and reorganisation of the Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), a China-Pakistan tandem has emerged to internationalise the issue, including in the UN Security Council. Pakistan has feigned solidarity with the people of Kashmir and continues to train and fund separatists and terrorists. The Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the global watchdog that monitors terrorist financing, has retained Pakistan on its 'Grey List' for a good reason. China's support for Pakistan is motivated by a desire to perpetuate its own territorial grab in the trans-Karakoram Shaksgam Tract of Kashmir.

**Legitimately India's**  
China treats the J&K issue as a "bilateral dispute left over from history" to be resolved between India and Pakistan. It has turned a blind eye to the constitutional shenanigans by which Pakistan's so-called federal Ministry of Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan has acquired complete sway over Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK). It ignores Pakistan's agenda of integrating Gilgit-Baltistan as its fifth province. Yet, China has the temerity to question the establishment of the Union Territory of Ladakh and to term it a 'unilateral' attempt to

change "the status quo in the Kashmir region". China has no *locus standi* to comment on India's internal affairs since the erstwhile princely State of J&K acceded to India through the Instrument of Accession on October 26, 1947.

The Shaksgam valley in the trans-Karakoram tract, part of PoK, was handed over on a platter by a supine Pakistan to China through an illegal border agreement on March 2, 1963. However, the continuing Chinese occupation of Kashmir's territory does not find adequate mention in the contemporary discourse surrounding this issue.

China occupies 5,180 square kilometres in the Shaksgam Valley in addition to approximately 38,000 square kilometres in Aksai Chin. China and Pakistan have colluded to obfuscate these facts, even as they brazenly promote the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) which runs through parts of Indian territory under their respective occupation.

**History, underhand methods**  
Historically, China played an insidious role in changing the frontiers of Jammu and Kashmir through fictitious claims and unscrupulous alliances with local chieftains. China exploited the 'Great Game' between British India and Russia in the late 19th century. It pitched territorial claims far beyond the traditional frontiers of Xinjiang. It gradually crept into areas in the Taghdumbash Pamirs and the Karakoram, well south of its frontier along the Kun Lun mountains.

While the British and the Rus-



sians were busy creating buffer zones along the frontiers of Xinjiang and Tibet, China was systematically stepping into the void. By the 1890s, China had started asserting its presence in the valleys between the Kun Lun and the main Karakoram range. The British eroded the traditional frontiers of the Maharaja of Kashmir and also those of his vassal, the Mir of Hunza. After the Mir's defeat in 1869 at the hands of the joint forces of the Maharaja and the British, the Chinese tried to co-opt him in their scheme while giving him refuge.

Till then, the Mir's authority, ranging in the Taghdumbash Pamirs till Dafdar and eastward in Raskam, had never been contested by the Chinese. The Chinese had started the practice of exchanging annual presents with the Mir of Hunza in recognition of his authority over the unruly nomadic tribes that inhabited these valleys. The tradition of exchanging gifts with the Mir of Hunza was exploited to stake a retrospective claim to Hunza as a tributary of the Qing empire since 1762 AD. This chicanery is contradicted by China's own historical accounts and maps of

they rustled some livestock from the area, prompting an angry response from Pakistan that it was determined to defend its frontiers.

By 1891, the Chinese had quietly moved south of the Kun Lun range to consolidate their presence at Shahidullah, which earlier marked the furthest outpost of the princely state of J&K. They then moved further south to Sugat, and thereafter, showed up at the Karakoram pass. In 1936, the Mir of Hunza was asked by the British to abandon his rights in the Taghdumbash Pamirs as well as in the Raskam valley, but the Shaksgam valley to the south-west of Raskam and the Aghil range remained with the Mir of Hunza. This remained the traditional frontier of British India until independence, inherited by India following J&K's accession in 1947.

### The Pakistan connection

It is this border that was blatantly compromised by Pakistan in its so-called agreement with China on March 2, 1963. By giving in to China's expansionist designs and spurious claims to a boundary along the Karakoram range, Pakistan not only compromised India's traditional frontier along the Kun Lun range to the north-west of the Karakoram Pass, but also enabled China to extrapolate a claim line eastwards along the Karakoram range in Ladakh. This collusion allowed China to claim the whole of Aksai Chin in which it had no historical presence. After the Partition of the Indian subcontinent, from 1953, Chinese troops actively started transgressing the frontier in eastern Hunza. In October 1959,

they rustled some livestock from the area, prompting an angry response from Pakistan that it was determined to defend its frontiers. However, President Ayub Khan, spotting an opportunity in the rapidly deteriorating India-China ties in the late 1950s, decided, instead, to pander to the Chinese. Pakistan deliberately chose to downgrade the historical claims of the Mir of Hunza and eventually signed away the Shaksgam valley to China in 1963.

### As party to the dispute

The provisional nature of the territorial settlement between China and Pakistan is evident in Article 6 of the 1963 agreement, which clearly states that "the two Parties have agreed that after the settlement of the Kashmir dispute between Pakistan and India, the sovereign authority concerned will reopen negotiations with the Government of the People's Republic of China, on the boundary as described in Article Two of the present Agreement, so as to sign a formal Boundary Treaty to replace the present agreement". In effect, this agreement has established China as a party to the dispute. It has a vested interest in legitimising its illegitimate gains in the trans-Karakoram tract.

The anniversary of the Instrument of Accession, on October 26, is a reminder of China's illegal territorial occupation.

Sujan R. Chinoy, a former Ambassador and China expert, is currently the Director General of the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi. The views expressed are personal

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

**U.S. election**  
Even a political novice will not declare himself the winner before the final results are announced officially. However, one must accept that Donald Trump has performed exceedingly well, casting aside all prepol predictions. The real villain of the piece which is responsible for the present chaotic situation in the United States presidential election is the electoral system. Even a doctorate in political science would find it hard to understand the complicated electoral system – right from the primary elections to the rules of the Electoral

College. The absence of a centralised election commission is contributing to the inordinate delay in announcing results. Each of the States and even counties have their own set of rules. Here in India we can pat ourselves for the way our electoral system runs like a well-oiled engine. The machinery ticks smoothly in spite of aberrations here and there. The U.S. can look at how our system works so well. India does need to thank its Constitution-makers who have given us a neat and cumbersome-free electoral system.

V.N. GOPAL,  
Chennai

Contrary to expectations and projections of there being a wave, Donald Trump has given a very tough fight. It is quite surprising that he has done well to make the race to the White House so close. It appears that right-wing nationalism sweeping the world is still going strong. While the chances of a Democratic win appear to be a bit brighter, the world awaits the final outcome of the U.S. elections with bated breath, because the course of quite a few important international affairs such as climate change mitigation and the survival of multilateralism will depend on who moves into or stays

on in the White House.  
KOSARAJU CHANDRAMOULI,  
Hyderabad

■ The way the 2020 U.S. elections have turned out so far has only exposed the chinks in the process. It may not be an exaggeration to say that the theatre of the absurd can be used to describe the situation. Even the Bihar election has gone well so far. One hopes that there are no untoward and ugly incidents in some of the American States in the name of this elections.

DEVADAS V.,  
Kannur, Kerala

■ It appears as if the U.S. President is not going leave

the White House in dignity in case he is declared to have lost. Some of his demands and threats are very unbecoming of his stature and quite unheard of in the history of American elections. If Joe Biden is destined to win, it is unstoppable, and if it happens, there will not be a smooth transition of power. In all likelihood, Mr. Trump's exit also will not be ceremonious.

N. VISVESWARAN,  
Chennai

■ Contrary to what the media is reporting, the U.S. election is not over yet. Joe Biden has won the electoral college, but the outcome is still uncertain. The counting of votes in several swing states is still ongoing. It is too early to call Biden the winner. The media is trying to create a narrative that Biden has won, but the reality is different. The election is not over yet.

N. VISVESWARAN,  
Chennai

■ It appears as if the U.S. President is not going leave

the White House in dignity in case he is declared to have lost. Some of his demands and threats are very unbecoming of his stature and quite unheard of in the history of American elections. If Joe Biden is destined to win, it is unstoppable

# Do recent indicators hint at a real economic revival?

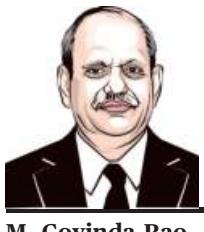
PARLEY

The government must come up with an effective fiscal package to help stressed sectors

*After India's economy collapsed in the first quarter of 2020-21 following the nationwide lockdown imposed to curb the COVID-19 pandemic, some economic indicators from September and October, from power consumption to GST collections, suggest that things are improving. But is this a sustainable recovery under way, or just an expression of pent-up demand combined with India's festive-season spending? In a conversation moderated by **Vikas Dhoot**, Naushad Forbes and M. Govinda Rao throw light on the subject. Edited excerpts:*



**Naushad Forbes**  
is former president of the Confederation of Indian Industry and co-chairman of Forbes Marshall



**M. Govinda Rao**  
has been a member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister and the Fourteenth Finance Commission



Scan the QR code to listen to the full interview online

## The crucial expertise of CAPFs

The multifarious experience of security forces has helped greatly in combating COVID-19

M.P. NATHANAL

When disaster strikes our country in any manner, be it natural or man-made, the government summons the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) to carry out the task of overcoming the disaster, by not only carrying out rescue and relief operations, but also mitigating the pains and problems arising out of the disaster. Even before the country got to know about the oncoming hydra of COVID-19, the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) had already set up its 600-bed quarantine centre in Chawla on the outskirts of New Delhi.

Out of the 324 Indian passengers in the first batch that arrived in New Delhi from China's Wuhan on February 1, 2020, 103 were quarantined at the ITBP Centre, while the rest were confined to an Army facility in Manesar.

That the confidence reposed in the ITBP was not misplaced is evident from the fact that the Director-General of ITBP was given just two days to establish the 600-bed quarantine, and it was ready within the given time. The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare had roped in specialists from the Safdarjung Hospital to coordinate with ITBP officials.

Doctors and paramedical personnel of other CAPFs were also roped in.

Another 10,000-bed quarantine centre was established in Chhatarpur in New Delhi by the ITBP, where over 10,000 patients have been treated till now, according to ITBP spokesperson Vivek Pandey. This is the largest quarantine centre in the world, he added.

### Relief measures

The expertise acquired by ITBP personnel and the Standard Operating Procedure prepared by the ITBP came handy for the States and other police forces in establishing their own quarantine centres and COVID-19 hospitals. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) had directed the CAPFs to establish 5,400-bedded quarantine centres with 75 isolation wards, spread over 37 centres across the country. CAPFs comprise the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Border Security Force, Central Indus-

like travel and tourism, which are still struggling, with capacity utilisation numbers between 10% and 30%. They are a very long way from recovery. Construction and real estate are also struggling, as is retail. In the last month, because of the run-up to Diwali in the festive season, retail has seen some improvement, but that is concentrated in high-street stores, not shopping malls, as people are still afraid to go to shopping malls and wander around.

So, we are still seeing these three very employment-intensive sectors – travel and tourism, construction and real estate, and retail – really struggling, probably at levels under half of last year on an average. There is this very differential performance between sectors...

**Naushad Forbes:** Well, obviously, things have improved greatly. Our lockdowns were amongst the most stringent in the world, as we not only stopped most movement of people, but also of all logistics. I think we were probably unique in the world in stopping logistics as well as the movement of goods. And then, we also stopped most manufacturing, with the exception of essential supplies. Both those things were relatively unique, and it actually led to huge disruption in April. Companies across sectors saw a virtual stoppage in activity that continued into May.

Towards the end of May, things started opening up. But because of the way in which we had done the lockdowns... it took a while to get things back to a relative degree of smoothness. It was only in the middle and end of June that companies really started getting back to some degree of normalcy. And that is the reason for the first quarter numbers of -24% in the GDP. Since then, things have been recovering.

If you look at where we are now, a very different picture emerges, depending on which sector you talk of – pharmaceuticals and chemicals, food and beverages, tractors, two-wheelers, consumer durables are all reporting good performance, with many firms reporting growth on last year's average numbers. At the other end of the scale, you have sectors

The lockdown is not completely

trial Security Force, Sashastra Seema Bal, Assam Rifles and the ITBP. A sum of ₹10 crore was sanctioned for the CRPF by the MHA to carry out relief work for those displaced in the aftermath of the lockdown.

Though the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has been actively involved in combating the spread of COVID-19, its services have not been adequately mentioned in the media. Mandated to carry out rescue and relief operations in disaster-affected areas, the NDRF has been rendering yeoman's service not only in carrying out rescue and relief operations, but also in training the State Disaster Response Forces personnel in all States. Immigration officials entrusted with conducting COVID-19 tests of the passengers arriving in New Delhi were trained by the NDRF.

Along with its parent body, the National Disaster Management Authority, of which the Prime Minister is the Chairman, the NDRF has trained over 30,000 personnel in disaster management across the country.

### Far-off corners

With 12 battalions of the NDRF – each comprising 1,149 personnel – spread across the country, its experts have the core competency to tackle biological disasters like COVID-19. There is, however, a need to augment the strength of trained personnel. Since NDRF personnel are wholly drawn from the CAPFs, there is a good reserve of trained personnel who go back to their parent force after their stint with this specialised force is over. Such personnel can be deployed at quarantines centres after short-term courses. A proposal mooted by NITI Aayog last year, to conduct a bridge course for dentists to render them eligible for the MBBS degree, could be revived, and such doctors could be on stand-by to help in such emergency crises.

It is these CAPF personnel who give a semblance of existence of government administration even in the remotest corners of the country. Their versatile experience can be utilised to the nation's advantage.

M.P. Nathanael retired as Inspector-General of Police, CRPF



**C** The Centre must clear its own pending bills that Union Minister Nitin Gadkari mentioned are as much as ₹5 lakh crore. That is the biggest stimulus they can give.

M. GOVINDA RAO

gone as you have the entire hospitality industry out; travel and tourism is not taking place and labourers are not available for construction. In this situation, it was hoped that the government would come up with a good fiscal package. But that did not happen. The *Atma Nirbhar* package only provided liquidity to the economy. So, investment continues to be slow, which has long-term implications, and we do have a problem of fiscal space. The entire additional spending, so far, was just about 1.5% of the GDP, and the second stimulus package basically provided white-collar workers, who were already spending, more benefits linked to their Leave Travel Concession. The total impact of this is not going to be large, even on commodities with more than 12% GST [Goods and Services Tax] rate.

Now, the GST numbers are showing a rise, not because of the economic revival, or the festive demand, or anything of the sort. My own hunch is that they were able to get some technology platform in place, and e-invoicing has begun for companies with over ₹500-crore revenue. They are talking about expanding this to firms above ₹100 crore by January 1. So, tax compliance might improve, but it may be too early to say that these increased GST collections because of compliance will continue. And you cannot call it festival demand, because most of October was considered auspicious. Diwali is coming, and festival demand will come now in November.

Most of the construction material – whether it is cement or steel or paint – are all subject to 28% GST, but they are not sin goods. This is the time for the government to come up and really reduce those rates to help the economy, which is picking up after the lockdown. Simi-

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## FROM PAGE ONE

## All sectors looking up, says Prime Minister

Addressing a virtual global investor round table attended by 20 large global investment funds managing over \$6 trillion, the PM said India's "brave fight during the pandemic reflected its sense of responsibility, spirit of compassion, national unity and the spark of innovation".

"India has shown remarkable resilience in this pandemic, be it fighting the virus or ensuring economic stability. This resilience is driven by the strength of our systems, support of our people and stability of our policies," Mr. Modi said, explaining that social distancing and wearing of masks practised by the people helped India put up a strong fight against the COVID-19 virus.

"We are building a new India which is free of old practices... India's quest to become 'Atma Nirbhar' is not just a vision, but a well-planned economic strategy," the PM said, listing out recent administrative re-

forms as well as legislative changes in areas such as agriculture, labour, education, manufacturing and the "rationalisation of the public sector".

The stability of India's policies has made it a preferred investment destination, the PM said, citing the 13% rise in FDI (foreign direct investment) inflows in the first five months of this year.

"I am happy that the global investor community has been showing confidence in our future... Your active participation in this round table increases the confidence even more," he told top officials of these global institutional investors, which included sovereign wealth funds as well as pension funds.

"India's growth has the potential to catalyse global economic resurgence. Any achievements by India will have a multiplier effect on the world's development and welfare," Mr. Modi concluded.

## SC dismisses Franco's plea again

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has dismissed a plea to review its earlier order refusing to discharge former Jalandhar bishop Franco Mulakkal accused of raping a subordinate nun.

"We have perused the review petition and the connected papers. We do not find any error in the order impugned, much less an apparent error on the face of the record, so as to call for its review. The review petition is, accordingly, dismissed," a three-judge Bench led by Chief Justice of India Sharad A. Bobde recorded in a short order on November 3.

The same Bench, also comprising Justices A.S. Bopanna and V. Ramasubramanian, had dismissed Mr. Mulakkal's original plea seeking discharge from the criminal case on August 5.

In August, Chief Justice Bobde had reacted to the insistent submissions made by senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi on behalf of the bishop by asking whether the latter was trying to exercise his spiritual power over the court.

"There is no case of discharge in your favour. We are dismissing your case," Chief Justice Bobde had told Mr. Rohatgi then.



**In the net:** M. Sivasankar being taken to a court in Kochi on Thursday. • PTI

## Sivasankar leaked govt. info to Swapna: ED

They are about LIFE Mission, K-Fon

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOCHE

M. Sivasankar, former Principal Secretary to the Kerala Chief Minister, shared confidential government information pertaining to the LIFE Mission and K-Fon projects with Swapna Suresh, second accused in the diplomatic baggage gold smuggling case, for being passed on to Unitac Builders and Developers, according to the Enforcement Directorate (ED).

Unitac had allegedly paid huge amounts as commission to some of the accused in the diplomatic baggage gold smuggling case.

The ED made these revelations in an affidavit filed before the special court try-

ing the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) cases here on Thursday.

According to the agency, the sharing of information was revealed when WhatsApp chats between Mr. Sivasankar and Swapna were extracted from their cell phones. The ED had searched the office and residence of the chairman and managing director of Pennar Industries Ltd., Hyderabad, on November 4 and recovered incriminating materials, which needed to be verified with the accused, it submitted.

The judge extended the custody of Mr. Sivasankar till November 11 and directed the agency to produce him before the court by 11 a.m. on the day.



## SC seeks TDP response on A.P.'s plea

Jagan govt. appealed against HC stay on probe into 'corruption' by TDP regime

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday sought a response from TDP leader Varla Ramaiah and another on an appeal filed by the Jaganmohan Reddy government against the Andhra Pradesh High Court decision to stay efforts to inquire into complaints about "large-scale improprieties and acts of corruption" allegedly committed by the previous regime.

A three-judge Bench led by Justice Ashok Bhushan, however, orally remarked that State did indeed have the power to appoint commissions, take appropriate actions and sue.

The court issued notice to the respondents, including

Mr. Ramaiah, whose writ petitions in the High Court led to the stay on September 16.

The Supreme Court said it would consider, after four weeks, both the appeal filed by the government and the State's plea for interim relief to lift the High Court stay order.

## Cabinet sub-committee

On June 26 last year, the government issued a notification constituting a Cabinet Sub-Committee to review major policies, projects, programmes, institutions established and the key administrative actions taken by the TDP government following the bifurcation of the State of Andhra Pradesh.

The first report of the

committee on December 27, 2019 pointed out "several procedural, legal and financial irregularities and fraudulent transactions concerned with various projects, including in the Capital Development Authority region".

On February 21, 2020, the government issued another notification setting up a special investigation team (SIT) to "inquire, register, investigate and conclude the investigation" into the findings of the report.

Both the notifications were stayed by the High Court indefinitely in September last.

"The entire process was extremely fair. The State was proceeding in a very, very

cautious manner. The committee report suggested major manipulations. The SIT was constituted to look into financial irregularities... It was impossible for the High Court to interfere at a investigation stage... How could it interfere on the petitions of busybodies?" senior advocate Dushyant Dave, appearing for the government, submitted.

Countering the High Court's apprehensions of bias against it, the government said the State had *suo motu* sought a CBI investigation. Mr. Dave, along with senior advocate Shekhar Naiphade, said a premature stay order from the High Court would only demoralise the investigation.

## IN BRIEF



**Maoist death: Chennithala demands judicial probe**

KALPETTA Congress leader Ramesh Chennithala has demanded a judicial inquiry into the encounter killing of a Maoist on the Banasura mountains under the South Wayanad forest division. According to him, as past experience had shown that magisterial inquiries into killings had come to nought, a judicial probe was needed.

## A.P. Cabinet approves new sand policy

VIJAYAWADA The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet has approved the new sand policy, under which auctions will be limited to the sand reaches. The government plans to accord first priority to central public

undertakings. In case, if they don't come forward, tenders will be invited from private entities. The Cabinet meeting was chaired by Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy.

## A.P. moves to help students cope with stress

VIJAYAWADA In a bid to help students deal with COVID-19-induced stress, the Department of Higher Education has asked all government universities in Andhra Pradesh to establish counselling cells on their campuses. Qualified psychology professors will be engaged to help the students regain confidence.

## Kerala HC issues notice to State, Centre on quota

KOCHI A Division Bench of the Kerala High Court on Thursday issued notice to the Central and State governments on a public interest petition challenging the reservation earmarked for economically weaker sections in the general category. The petition, filed by Nujaim P.K. of Kozhikode, also challenged the Constitutional amendments for reservation of 10% of the seats in educational institutions and posts in government services.

## Laxity can raise positivity again: Kerala CM

Caution comes as rate of positive tests reduces; Karnataka, A.P. report flat rates

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala reported 6,820 new COVID-19 cases on Thursday, testing 61,388 samples. The test positivity rate dipped to 11.1%.

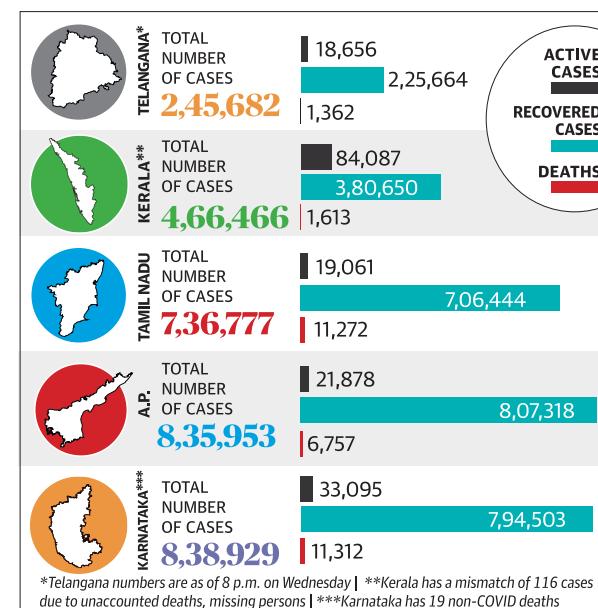
Chief Minister, Pinarayi Vijayan told the media that the active pool in the State had been going down and that compared to the previous week, there was a 10% reduction in growth rate.

## COVID-19

He cautioned that this did not indicate that COVID-19 was on its way out and that it might hit another peak without a vigil.

The Health department added 26 more deaths to the list of fatalities. These occurred between October 23 and November 3. Thiruvananthapuram accounted for nine, Malappuram five, Alappuzha three, Kollam, Thirur and Kannur two each and Wayanad, Palakkad and Ernakulam one death each.

Telangana recorded 1,539 cases on Wednesday, testing



44,327 people. Five more COVID-19 patients died. The 1,539 cases included 285 from Greater Hyderabad, 123 from Rangareddy, 102 from Medchal Malkajgiri, 86 from Karimnagar, 82 from Bhadrakothi Kothagudem, and 69 from Nalgonda. One case was recorded in Narayanpet, and four in Kumaram Bheem Asifabad district. Andhra Pradesh added

positivity rate for the day was 2.71%, Case Fatality Rate (CFR) touched 0.98%.

Bengaluru Urban reported 1,627 cases and nine of 31 deaths.

Active cases in Bengaluru reduced to 16,716. As many as 1,16,337 tests were conducted in 24 hours including 89,902 RT-PCR tests. With this, the total number of tests rose to 84,04,516.

On a day when Tamil Nadu reported 2,348 new cases of COVID-19, the State completed the testing of over one crore persons by RT-PCR tests on Thursday.

Till date, a total of 1,00,52,393 persons were tested in the State.

The number of samples tested in the last 24 hours stood at 80,192.

Health Minister C. Vijaya-baskar tweeted that the State had made a policy that focused only on RT-PCR tests, the gold standard test for COVID-19.

Godavari districts reported over 400 new cases each while three districts reported less than 100 cases.

Karnataka on Thursday reported 3,156 new cases and 31 new deaths. While the

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

## I-T searches on Believers Church office

STAFF REPORTER  
PATHANAMTHITTA

The Income Tax Department on Thursday searched offices connected to the Thiruvalla-based Believers Eastern Church, led by Metropolitan Athanasius Yohan 1 (K.P. Yohannan).

The operation began in the morning and continued till late in the evening. Simultaneous raids were carried out at the offices and residences of several persons associated with the Church, inside and outside Kerala. Among the sites raided were the church headquarters at Thiruvalla, a medical college hospital run by the Church, and the residence of the metropolitan.

The officials seized unaccounted money worth ₹57 lakh from the boot of a car parked on the premises of the Church headquarters. The officers attributed the raids to some specific inputs on tax evasion and unauthorised foreign transactions.

A day-long grilling of the former Minister, his brother Vijay Kulkarni and others, preceded the arrest. The CBI produced Mr. Vinay Kulkarni before the second additional district court and sought his custody for three days. However, judge Panchakshari H. remanded him in judicial custody for a day. Mr. Kulkarni was subsequently taken to Hindalgai Jail in Belagavi.

The arrest evoked strong reactions from the Congress leaders, including KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar.

Hundreds of Congress supporters and followers of Mr. Kulkarni staged a protest outside the police station where he and the others were grilled for hours. They accused Union Minister Prakash Joshi and Industries Minister Jagdish Shettar of "political conspiracy". Mr. Kulkarni, speaking before

the arrest, also termed the turn of events "politically motivated".

Earlier in the day, CBI sleuths visited the residence of the former Minister at Shavigiri in Dharwad and asked him to appear before them for questioning at suburban police station. Another team of officials picked up Mr. Kulkarni from his Hubballi residence. Shirish Patil, a builder who is said to be a close

aid of Mr. Kulkarni, and Nataraj, who took care of the dairy farm of the Minister, were also brought in for questioning.

After close to three hours of grilling, both of them were let off; but the sleuths continued questioning the Kulkarni brothers.

Subsequently Chandu Indi, a close relative of Mr. Kulkarni, also appeared before the sleuths.

## Letter on loudspeakers in mosques creates a stir

Office of the DG&IGP in Bengaluru calls for 'suitable action'

STAFF REPORTER  
BENGALURU

A letter from the office of the Director-General and Inspector-General of Police (DG&IGP) calling for "suitable action" on a petition that seeks removal of loudspeakers from mosques in Karnataka created a stir in the community, especially as it comes in the wake of rhetoric on a law against "love jihad".

Advocate Harsha Muthalik petitioned the DG&IGP on September 30 seeking the removal of loudspeakers from mosques citing disturbance to residents as well judgments in multiple cases in High Courts across the country.

The office of the DG&IGP forwarded the petition with a cover letter for "suitable action" to all district police units in Karnataka on November 2.

However, when contacted, DG&IGP Praveen Sood sought to downplay the is-

sue. "My office has forwarded the petition for suitable action to all concerned authorities like any other petition. It is not a circular and I have not signed the letter as well," he told *The Hindu*.

Members of the minority community fear the letter will be used by right wing organisations to build pressure on the local police to ban the use of loudspeakers in the mosques.

Moulana Maqsood Imran

Rashadi, a prominent member of the Karnataka Moon Committee, said the noise levels could be regulated in coordination with residents of the area, the police, and the mosque committee. "We neither want to trouble anyone nor violate any rules," he said. However, Tanveer Ahmed, a prominent member of the community in the city, said rules should be applied uniformly to all communities.

M. ND-NDE

CM YK

## Central, State agencies face off at Bineesh's house

Child rights panel issues legal notice to ED inspectors

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Central and State agencies appeared to come head-to-head during the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) protracted inspection of the house of Bineesh Kodiyeri, son of CPI(M) Kerala State secretary Kodiyeri Balakrishnan, here on Thursday.

The Kerala State Commission for Protection of Child Rights served a legal notice on ED inspectors for "imprilling the welfare" of Bineesh's two-year-old daughter. The State police moved against them on the charge of illegally detaining Bineesh's wife, Renita, and his mother-in-law in the house for over 26 hours without any link to the outside world.

"I am happy that the global investor community has been showing confidence in our future... Your active participation in this round table increases the confidence even more," he told top officials of these global institutional investors, which included sovereign wealth funds as well as pension funds.



**High drama:** Bineesh Kodiyeri's mother-in-law, his daughter on her shoulder, interacting with the media. • S. MAH

# Bihar's pandemic polls winding to a close

1,204 candidates are in the fray in the 78 seats in final phase

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

PATNA

With the campaigning concluding on Thursday for the last and final phase of polling for the Assembly election, Bihar is on course to complete the first election in India during a pandemic.

A total of 1,204 candidates, with 110 women nominees, are in the fray in the 78 seats. For the Janata Dal (U)-led National Democratic Alliance and the RJD-led grand alliance, stakes are high in constituencies of the Seemanchal, Kosi and Mithila regions where Muslim, Yadav and Extremely Backward Class votes hold the key.

In 2015, the grand alliance won 54 – Janata Dal (U) 24, Rashtriya Janata Dal 20 and the Congress 10 – of those seats. The JD(U) parted ways with the RJD in 2017 to join hands with the BJP and form a government. The BJP won 19 seats, while five seats went to regional parties.

Twelve Ministers – eight from the JD(U) and four from the BJP – are contesting in this phase. The Opposition too has prominent candidates such as Abdul Bari Siddiqui (Kewati), Ramai Ram (Bochaha), CPI State secretary Ram Naresh Pandey (Harlakhia), Lovely Anand (Saharsa) and Shiv Chandra



Last leg: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar at a campaign rally in Katihar on Thursday. ■ PTI

## PM says Nitish govt. is key to development

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

In an open letter posted on his Twitter account, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday told the people of Bihar that he needed the Nitish Kumar government to ensure uninterrupted development.

Ram (Patepur). Assembly Speaker Vijay Kumar Chaudhury is contesting from the Sarairajan constituency on the JD(U) ticket against RJD candidate Arvind Kumar Sahni.

During the campaign, RJD

leader Tejashwi Yadav repeated his promise of 10 lakh government jobs to youth, and Mr. Kumar stressed development. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said those who went against the security and sovereignty of the country would be thrown out of India.

The Muslim-dominated Seemanchal region comprises Kishanganj, Purnia, Araria and Katihar districts, while the Kosi area of Saharsa and Madhepura has dominant Yadav and Rajput voters. The Mithila region of Darbhanga and Madhubani has more Brahmin and Muslim voters.

The BJP has been doing well in bordering areas of northeast Bihar on the division of Muslim votes and consolidation of Hindu votes.

## INTERVIEW | RANDEEP SURJEWALA

# 'Congress will win 45-50 seats'

The party general secretary says the organisation has resurrected in State

**AMARNATH TEWARY**

*Congress general secretary Randeep Surjewala, who was recently named chairman of the party's election management and coordination committee for the Bihar Assembly poll, has been making concerted efforts for the party to win about 50 of the 70 seats allotted to it under the 'Mahagathbandhan' coalition. Excerpts from an interview:*

The common perception in the State and across is that the Congress has given more seats than its capacity to contest and field candidates.

It's hogwash. If the Congress party in Bihar does not have the capacity to contest 70 seats, then why did the RJD concede to that number? Why were thousands of applications from prospective candidates received at the party's State headquarters Sadaqat Ashram? And why was there a swarm of people up to 2 km outside the gate of the headquarters?

There was talk of intense rivalry and lobbying among State party leaders to ensure party tickets for their kith and kin.

Absolutely not. There are no such things and every State party leader is working

hard for UPA candidates to win the poll.

**How many seats do you expect the Congress to win, of the 70 it is contesting under the RJD-led grand alliance in Bihar?**

I'm confident that the Congress party will win 45-50 seats or more.

**Can you name the seats where Congress candidates will win the poll for sure?**

It will be quite unfair for me to name the seats where we're going to win or lose. For the party, every seat and every candidate is important.

**There has been talk in the State's political circles that the Congress was also in touch with the JD(U), in case the RJD did not offer 70 seats to contest.**

Absolute rubbish. This is classic BJP propaganda spread by a selective captive media of tired and retired NDA governments in the State and Centre. There was no need to be in touch with the Nitish Kumar government, which has been unethical and lost the respect of the people.

But the Congress, for the last several years, has politically



**C** Bihar is the youngest State of the country and needs a young leader like Tejashwi Yadav

been dormant in the State and not successful in coming to power on its own.

Yes. For success, we did not understand the division of castes and divisive politics. The central philosophy of the Congress party has been progress and development.

Besides, jobs, MSP (minimum support price) for farmers, industry too have been essential components for the party. The party has resurrected now in Bihar.

Earlier, you said that if the UPA government is formed in Bihar, it will scrap the new farm laws.

Yes, if we form the government under the leadership of Tejashwi Yadav, we'll pass a Bill in the first State Assembly session to scrap the anti-farmer laws

What do you have to say on CM Nitish Kumar and Deputy CM Sushil Kumar Modi?

The tired and retired leadership of Nitish Kumar and Sushil Kumar Modi has to be relegated as a sad chapter in Bihar.

But PM Modi has been slamming Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and Tejashwi Yadav in his public meetings in Bihar as "double yuvraj (double crown prince).

First, Prime Minister Modi should answer three questions to the people of Bihar:

1) Five years ago, he had questioned Nitish Kumar's DNA...[about] betrayal in his [Nitish Kumar's] blood and now he is campaigning for him to make him CM for the fourth consecutive time? 2)

In the 2015 Assembly poll campaign, PM Modi had said there were 33 scams in Nitish government and why has he joined hands with him again? and 3) Why has PM Modi forgotten the ₹1.25 lakh crore package to Bihar?

Do you think RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav will be the Chief Minister in the UPA government in Bihar?

Why not? Tejashwi Yadav is a young boy, completely in tune with the philosophy of the Congress. Bihar is the youngest State of the country and needs a young leader like Tejashwi Yadav.

Nitish was the weakest CM, says Chirag

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
PATNA

Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) chief Chirag Paswan lashed out at Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Thursday saying that the JD(U) chief would "stand with folded hands and head bowed before Tejashwi Yadav after November 10 when the poll results will be out".

The LJP chief also said that he was not in the race for the Chief Minister's post in the State but asserted that Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-LJP government would be formed in the State after November 10.

"The same Prime Minister, whom you [Nitish Kumar] were, earlier, never tired of arguing with or criticising but are happy to share stage with him today and bow before him, as he asks votes for you? This shows your greed for power and for the Chief Minister's post...after November 10, when the Assembly results will be out, you will be bowing before Tejashwi Yadav or, if need be, will go to Ranchi to seek blessings of RJD chief Lalu Prasad," Mr. Chirag Paswan told a news agency on Thursday.

He said Mr. Kumar had been the "weakest Chief Minister" who could not bring any development to Bihar but "would make excuses saying the Centre will do it".

# Battleground Seemanchal can turn a swing region

For the Opposition alliance, the region, different in demographics and development, is crucial for winning Bihar

SOBHANA K. NAIR  
PURNA/KISHANGANJ

For the Opposition alliance, particularly the Congress, in Bihar, Seemanchal is a critical ground that they need to hold on to in order to have a real shot at winning the Assembly election.

Comprising Purnia, Katihar, Kishanganj and Araria districts, the region has 24 Assembly seats. The Congress holds eight now, the RJD three and the CPI(ML) one, totalling 12. The BJP and the JD(U) hold six each.

In 2015, the JD(U), the RJD and the Congress fought together, while the BJP fought with the Lok Janshakti Party

and others.

In many ways, Seemanchal is different from the rest of Bihar. The most obvious one is the demographic make-up. This area has a 47% Muslim population as against Bihar's state-wide average of 17%. It is among the most backward regions, often ignored by the political class of Patna. Purnea University, the only university here, came into existence just two years ago in 2018. The average literacy rate of the four districts is 54% against Bihar's average of 64%. The average per capita income is ₹10,000 as against ₹14,574 for the State.

Most of the year, floods submerge the area. This year, for example, paddy crops just a few weeks from harvest were destroyed in



For sustenance: Children wading through a flooded field to collect fish in Korha, Bihar. ■ SOBHANA K. NAIR

floods; in many cases, it was the third crop of the year to be destroyed. The main roads vanish every few kilometres and interior roads in

villages are merely dirt paths. Scenes of children wading into flooded fields to catch fish with bare hands to supplement their families' income is common.

The final tally for the Congress will depend on its performance here. Out of the 27 seats that the party won in 2015, a much-celebrated performance for the Congress, eight were from this region. This time, it is contesting 11 seats. In seven of those seats, it faces Asaduddin Owaisi's All India Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen. What makes the contest tough is the anti-incumbency faced by the Congress MLAs who have been

around for long.

The party betrayed its nervousness at a rally in Kishanganj on Tuesday attended by former Congress President Rahul Gandhi. The Congress candidate – Abdus Jaleel Mastan – used inappropriate language against Mr. Owaisi. He threatened to break Mr. Owaisi's backbone and send him to Hyderabad. The BJP has often managed to sneak through whenever there has been a division of the Muslim vote. In the 2010 Assembly election, BJP candidate Santosh Kumar Kushwaha managed to win by nearly 10,000 votes from Baisi, a Muslim majority constituency.

Mr. Shah started his visit to Bankura by garlanding a statue of Birsa Munda. He said the benefits of Central schemes were not reaching the people, including Adivasis. He sought the support of the people to "uproot the Mamata Banerjee government" and promised "Sonar Bangla" (golden Bengal) if voted to power.

# Countdown on for Mamata govt.: Shah

'BJP workers being oppressed in State'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOLKATA

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday alleged that the Mamata Banerjee government in West Bengal had started an unprecedented oppression on BJP workers.

Mr. Shah, who is on a two-day visit to the State, said that the death knell of the Trinamool Congress government had been sounded.

"With the kind of the cycle of oppression that has been unleashed particularly on the BJP workers by the Mamata Banerjee government, I can say with certainty that the death knell for it has been sounded. In the time to come, the BJP will form the government here with a two-thirds majority," he said in Bankura.

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## Court rejects request for Arnab's police custody

Republic TV chief is in judicial custody

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

The Magistrate Court in Alibag, Maharashtra, recorded reasons for rejecting the request for police custody for Republic TV chief Arnab Goswami on Wednesday. The court remanded him in judicial custody for 14 days.

Mr. Goswami was arrested on November 4 from his residence in Mumbai for allegedly abetting the suicide of interior designer Anvay Naik and his mother Kumbud Naik, directors of Concorde Designs Private Limited, for not paying ₹83 lakhs towards the Bombay Dyeing Studio Project.

In court, the prosecution argued that Mr. Goswami tried to evade arrest and had not been co-operating. The prosecutor said custody was required for questioning on some documents seized from him.

Senior advocate Aabad Ponda, representing Mr. Goswami, appeared through videoconferencing and told the Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) that no summons or notice was issued and after a summary report was submitted, arresting his client was illegal as Mr. Goswami was willing to pay the money.

### 5-hour hearing

After hearing the arguments for over five hours, CJM Sunaina Pingale said the victim's death was not clearly connected with the accused. No court order was issued for such an investigation. The prosecution had not shown or informed the defect in the earlier investigation, hence police

## Plea before Bombay HC challenges arrest

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI

Republic TV chief Arnab Goswami withdrew his bail plea before an Alibag court on Thursday, moved the Bombay High Court challenging his arrest by the Mumbai police, and sought the quashing of the FIR against him in the 2018 abetment of suicide case.

A Division Bench of Justices S.S. Shinde and M.S. Karnik heard the petition. Senior advocate Aabad Ponda, representing Mr. Goswami, argued that the police have ignored the closure report, and without any judicial interference re-opened the case on its own.

After senior advocate Harish Salve agreed to amend his petition to implead the complainant in the case, the Bench directed the same to be done and adjourned the matter to be heard on November 6.

custody could not be granted, said the court. The order said, "The investigating officer on October 15, 2020 only submitted a report to the magistrate informing that certain fresh material has come to the fore in the case. There is no record to show that the magistrate permitted reopening of the case."

## Project Management Unit

### Uttarakhand Public Financial Management Strengthening Project

4<sup>th</sup> Floor, DPM Tower, AjabpurKhurd, KargiChowk, Dehradun, Uttarakhand, India.

Mobile: +91-9358119541, E-mail: ukpfpmsw@gmail.com

### REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

(Consulting Services-Firm Selection and Open Competitive selection of Individual consultant)

The Government of Uttarakhand is being financed from the World Bank toward the cost of Public Financial Management Strengthening Project in Uttarakhand and intends to apply part of the proceeds for following consultancy service:-

S. N	Consultancy Services	Term of Reference (TOR) for these assignments are on following Website	Last date of Submission
1	Consultancy Services for Hiring of IT Consultants for Customization, Development, Deployment, Integration and Maintenance of Municipal Software's for Urban Local Bodies (ULB) in Uttarakhand	https://www.uttarakhandaudit.uk.gov.in and https://udd.uk.gov.in	25th November 2020 by 17:00 Hrs IST
2	Consultancy Services for setting up EAP Cell at Planning Department, Government of Uttarakhand	https://www.uttarakhandaudit.uk.gov.in and https://cppgg.uk.gov.in	1st December 2020 by 17:00 Hrs IST

The Project Director, UKPFMS, Government of Uttarakhand now invites eligible consulting firms (Consultant) and Open Competitive selection of Individual consultant to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultants should provide information demonstrating that the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform these services. As per Serial No. 1, consultancy firm will be selected in

**SC order on NPAs causing problems: RBI**

**LEGAL CORRESPONDENT**

NEW DELHI

The Reserve Bank of India told the Supreme Court on Thursday that it is facing "great difficulties" with the court's interim order against declaring as non-performing assets (NPAs) accounts found perfectly good till August 31, 2020.

On September 3, the top court, as an interim measure considering the hardships of the pandemic and moratorium, directed that "accounts which were not declared NPA till August 31, 2020, shall not be declared NPA till further orders."

Appearing before a Bench led by Justice Ashok Bhushan, RBI counsel V. Giri urged the court to hear the RBI on the next date.

The court listed the case for November 18.

During the hearing, the main petitioner, who represents individual borrowers in the top court, expressed satisfaction with the government scheme to pay back the difference in the compound interest and simple interest charged during moratorium.

## Active cases stay below 6 lakh

Maharashtra, Kerala, Delhi and West Bengal account for half of these cases

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

India's active COVID-19 case load has been fewer than six lakh for seven consecutive days and stands at 5,27,962, the Health Ministry said on Thursday.

It said the active cases were now only 6.31% of the total positive cases. Following the national trend, 27 States and Union Territories have fewer than 20,000 active cases.

Ten States and Union Territories account for 78% of the total active cases in the country. Maharashtra, Kerala, Delhi and West Bengal together account for more than 51% of the active cases.

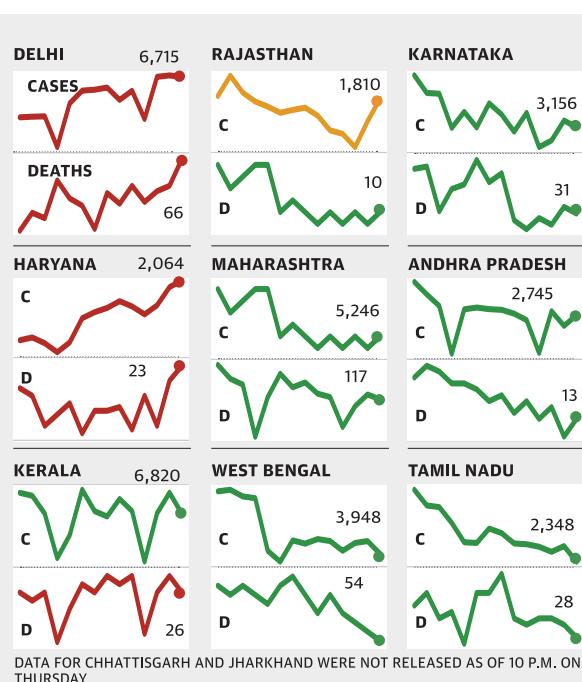
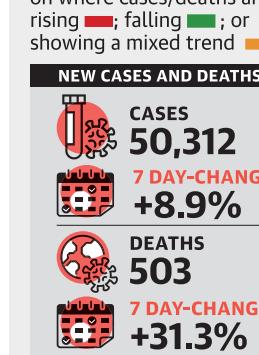
**5,331 discharged**

The Ministry said that the total recovered cases stand at 77,11,809. As many as 55,331 patients have recovered and been discharged in the last 24 hours, whereas the new confirmed cases stand at 50,210, said the Ministry data.

"About 82% of the new recovered cases are observed to be concentrated in 10 States and Union Territories. Maharashtra, Kerala and

**Viral tracker**

With 50,312 COVID-19 cases recorded on Thursday, India's tally stood at 84,07,193. As many as 503 new deaths were registered, taking the toll to 1,24,866. The graphs depict new cases and deaths in the last 14 days in select States. The States are classified based on where cases/deaths are rising — red; falling — green; or showing a mixed trend — orange.



Karnataka have contributed the maximum to the single day recoveries, with more than 8,000 recoveries. They together account for more than 45% of the new recovered cases," said the Ministry.

Among the new confirmed cases recorded in the

last 24 hours, 79% are found concentrated in 10 States and Union Territories.

**8,000 cases in Kerala**

Kerala continues to report a very high number of new cases with more than 8,000 cases followed by Delhi with more than 6,000 cases.

"About 704 fatalities have been reported in the past 24 hours. Of these, 10 States/Union Territories account for nearly 80% of the new deaths. More than 42% of new fatalities reported are from Maharashtra alone [300 deaths]," said the Ministry.

## New dos and don'ts for foreign arrivals

States free to impose more restrictions

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

NEW DELHI

The Union Health Ministry on Thursday issued guidelines for international arrivals, in supersession of the ones issued on August 2.

It said that all travellers should submit a self-declaration form on portal www.newdelhiinternationalairports.in at least 72 hours before the scheduled travel or physically after arrival at the respective health counters.

It allowed the States to have any additional restrictions imposed with regard to quarantine and isolation.

"They should also give an undertaking on the portal or otherwise to Ministry of Civil Aviation through concerned airlines before they are allowed to undertake the journey that they would abide by the decision of the appropriate government authority to undergo facility / home quarantine/ self-monitoring of their health for 14 days, or as warrant-

ed," said the Ministry. Only for compelling reasons/ cases of human distress such as pregnancy, death in family, serious illness and parent(s) with children of the age of 10 or below, home quarantine may be permitted for 14 days.

**Quarantine norms**  
Travellers may also seek exemption from institutional quarantine by submitting a negative RT-PCR test report.

"This test should have been conducted within 72 hrs prior to undertaking the journey," the Ministry said.

International passengers arriving without an RT-PCR negative certificate and wishing to seek exemption from institutional quarantine may avail the testing facility available at the airports (where such provisions exist). International passengers arriving through seaports/land ports should also undergo the same protocol.

## Book Farooq, Mehbooba for sedition'

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

Over 250 retired officers of the defence forces, IAS, IPS, IFS and the judiciary issued a statement on Thursday calling for the detention and prosecution of former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Ministers Mehbooba Mufti and Farooq Abdullah for sedition for their recent remarks.

Calling themselves a non-partisan group of concerned citizens, they said the former CMs' comments promoted separatism.

Referring to Ms. Mufti's statement that she would not hoist the tricolour till the flag of J&K was allowed to be hoisted, the group said she had insulted the flag and was liable for prosecution under the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971. "The head of the Gupkar Gang, Mr. Abdullah, said Article 370 will be restored with the help of China." Both are liable to be prosecuted under Section 124 A of the IPC for sedition, it said.

## 'Producing suspects before media violates their rights'

It encourages media trials: High Court

**STAFF REPORTER**

Bhopal

The Gwalior Bench of the Madhya Pradesh High Court has observed that producing suspects before the media violated their fundamental rights under Article 21 of the Constitution and encouraged media trials.

While hearing a petition on Monday, Justice G.S. Ahluwalia noted, "By producing the victims and suspects before the media, the police not only violates the fundamental rights of the suspect as enshrined under Article 21 of the Constitution of India but also encourages media trials."

Further, the court observed that although the general public was entitled to know about the progress of an investigation, producing suspects or victims before the media had no foundation under any statutory provision law.

Privacy of a citizen was an integral part of Article 21 and couldn't be infringed unless a reasonable restriction was

imposed under law. "Even if a person is a hardcore criminal, but still his details/history sheet/surveillance has to be kept discreet and there is no question of posting the photographs of history sheeters even at police stations," the Justice observed.

**Rationale not justified'**

The court was examining whether the State government through an executive order could violate the privacy of an accused by publishing his face in the media or by parading them. The court said the counsel for the State could not justify the rationale behind the liberty of producing the accused or victim before the media.

In addition, the court noted the police, instead of "tapping its own back" by disclosing the identity of the suspected persons in print, social or digital media, must concentrate on ensuring the timely appearance of the police witnesses before the trial court, so that the guilt of a person could be established.

## Two civilians injured in encounter

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

SRINAGAR

Two civilians were injured in an ongoing encounter between hiding militants and security forces in south Kashmir's Pulwama.

"A joint operation of the Army and the police was launched in Meej area on Thursday afternoon. A fire-fight is on," an Army spokesman said. Two civilians were injured. Two to three militants are believed to be hiding in the area.

In Tral, unknown gunmen shot dead a shopkeeper Muhammad Ayoub Ahangar.

## Kishtwari dies in Srinagar jail

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

SRINAGAR

Infamous counter-insurgent Ghulam Muhammad Lone alias Papa Kishtwari died of heart attack inside a Srinagar jail on Thursday.

Kishtwari, who worked with the security forces as a counter-insurgent in the 1990s, is accused of killing dozens of militants and civilians.

He was arrested in 2015 on the directions of a court for the killing of a businessman, Ali Mohammad Mir.

## All insults not offence under SC/ST Act

Caste angle crucial, says top court



The court was hearing an appeal against a man booked for allegedly abusing a Dalit woman.

acts of the upper caste against the vulnerable section of society for the reason that they belong to a particular community," the judgment noted.

The court was hearing an appeal filed by a man, Hitesh Verma, booked under the Act for allegedly abusing a Dalit woman in her house.

The court found that allegations against Mr. Verma do not fulfil the basic ingredient under the Act that such humiliation should have happened in public view. Since the incident occurred within four walls in the absence of members of the public, allegations against Mr. Verma under the Act do not stand. He can be tried under ordinary criminal law.

**For vulnerable sections**  
The court said the object of the Act is to punish violators who inflict indignities, humiliations and harassment. "It is intended to punish the

## Peace comes with ability to deter war, says Rajnath

'Capabilities being developed with stress on indigenisation'

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

NEW DELHI

India is a peace-loving country but determined to protect its sovereignty and territorial integrity in the face of "unilateralism and aggression", no matter what the sacrifice is, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Thursday.

His comments come against the backdrop of the continuing stand-off with China in eastern Ladakh.

**More partnerships**

Speaking at a webinar on the diamond jubilee celebration of the National Defence College (NDC), he said India had fostered close relationships and partnerships with like-minded countries to further the common interests of countries in the region and beyond like Australia, Japan and the U.S.

"Recently, India has been facing other challenges on its borders. India is a peace-loving country. We believe that differences should not become disputes. We attach importance to the peaceful resolution of differences through dialogue."

RAJNATH SINGH  
Defence Minister

Recently, India has been facing other challenges on its borders.

India is a peace-loving country. We

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resolution of differences

through dialogue

RAJNATH SINGH

Defence Minister

sion, no matter what the sacrifice," he stated.

Peace could only be en-

sured through "the ability to

deter war", Mr. Singh said.

There had been an attempt

to build this deterrence

through a judicious combi-

nation of capability devel-

opment and an emphasis on

long-term policy of

indigenisation.

**Ties with U.S., Russia**

"Our strategic partnership with the U.S. is stronger than ever before," he emphasised. He said India also had strong, traditional and deep-rooted relations with Russia and the two countries had "weathered many a challenge in the past". "India has also forged a very special partnership with reliable friends like France and Israel," he noted.

India and Australia shared

"common concerns" and

"shared values", Mr. Singh pointed out. The India-Australia virtual summit in June 2020 gave a fillip to the already strong comprehensive strategic partnership.

## UGC issues guidelines for reopening of colleges

Only 50% of students will be allowed on campus at a time



**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

NEW DELHI

Reopening of colleges and universities should start with libraries and laboratories, research scholars, science and technology postgraduates, and final year students, according to the University Grants Commission guidelines issued on Thursday. For all other students, online and distance learning would continue to be the preferred method.

More than seven months after educational institutions across the country were closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some students are now set to return to campuses in a cautious and gradual manner.

Only institutions outside the containment zones could be reopened, and students and staff living in these zones would not be allowed to attend physical classes, the guidelines said.

The Union Home Ministry had given the States permission to reopen schools and colleges from October 15, de-

pending on the local situation. Several States have announced plans to reopen high schools and colleges and universities this month. For the Centrally funded institutions, it was up to the head of each institution to take a decision on reopening if they were satisfied with the feasibility of physical classes. All other institutions, whether private or State-funded, must depend on the decision of the respective State governments, the guidelines said.

Administrative offices, research laboratories and libraries would be the first to

reopen, followed by students of all research programmes and postgraduate students in science and technology programmes. Final year undergraduates may also be allowed to join for academic and placement purposes. Other students have been encouraged to continue online learning but may visit in small groups for consultation with faculty, after seeking prior appointments to avoid crowding.

**Hostel stay**

Only 50% of the student strength would be allowed on a campus at a time. All personnel on campuses should wear masks and follow hand-sanitising practices. The installation of Aarogya Setu app was being recommended wherever possible. Although the guidelines discourage hostel reopening, they would be permitted so long as there is no sharing of rooms and 1

SUNALINI MATHEW

Minaxi Ravishankar Pandya, 63, and Ramesh Chandul Shah, 61, are celebrating three months of being married. "Maine usko guru maan liya hai, to achha chalta hai" (I have accepted her as my guru, so it's good going), jokes Shah. The couple now lives with his son and daughter-in-law in Vadodara. "We are really enjoying this: we sit together, go out together, sing together. She has a wonderful nature, and she's a great cook," he says.

Turning to a pro

Having lost his wife three years ago, the loneliness had begun to get to Shah. For Pandya, a retired school teacher who does not have children and whose husband died five years ago, it was companionship she missed. "I wanted someone who was retired with a pension," she says.

Both had registered with the Anubandh Foundation in Ahmedabad that "helps senior citizens for remarriage/live-in relationship across the world," as founder Natubhai Patel's calling card proclaims. The most common way of dissemination of information on prospective brides and grooms, says Patel, is through WhatsApp, but as Shah says, "At this age, you don't look at a photo and decide to get married." Instead, the couple spent four months on phone conversations for about five hours daily.

Patel, whose agency has existed for 19 years now, says he has helped 163 people find partners, with *sammelans* (gatherings) in every State of the country, with the most number in Gujarat. "There has been a huge change over the past five years," he says. "Earlier, the children were not always happy about their parents' decision to get married, but now children approach us. Girls are always more supportive and proactive than boys."

Most remarriages that take place through his not-for-profit are in the 55 to 65 age group, but what has changed is that where earlier he would have about 100 to 200 registrations per month, there are now 300 to 400. During the lockdown, the 71-year-old saw five weddings.

Going online

New York-based previously single mom Dr



In offices, on apps, through marriage bureaus, and sometimes through common friends

# Where are second marriages made?



**Second chances**  
(Clockwise from left)  
The Viiveck Verma family; Kathakoli Dasgupta and Dave Hogg who met through a running group; Nelson Carvalho and Aparna Mathur

■ GETTYIMAGES/ISTOCK, SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



PREFERENCES AND BIASES

A second marriage does not mean that people give up on fundamental beliefs, with inherent biases creeping in. If you look at newspaper advertisements for second marriages, a "H'some Punjabi Khatri Boy 36/6'2" who is a Canadian citizen wants a "Qlfed/Unmarried" woman; a "Well settled smart Brahmin boy, MBA" looks for a "b'ful homely educated issueless" woman; while a "38yrs MBA humble fair slim Dvcd l'less Brahmin wrkg girl" is looking for an "adaptive wrkg TT Veg Groom; and a "Mahani BE MS UK / online tutorials at Coimbatore 6L pa" is looking for a "Chettiar broadminded groom".

Several will mention their own caste and physical attributes, while also saying "caste no bar". Ads under the "Cosmopolitan", "Second Marriage", or "Divorcee" section in newspapers use the same language as those for first marriages with a few 'demands' missing.

However, data from Shaadi.com suggests that close to 60% of the members looking to get married again are open to marrying people from outside their community, though it's pertinent to note that over 50% of its members come from India's 10 largest cities.

Rupam Kaur of Netflix series *Indian Matchmaking* fame, found her husband on Bumble (having switched on the religion filter) and married in September. Many like her, look online for love, hoping for a wide network. "I had a good experience with an online platform as I trusted my own judgement and assessment over that of a third party (aka an elder or other common third party)," she says.

There are a few websites and apps specific to second marriages, like Divorcee Matrimony, secondshaadi.com,

and thesecondmarriage.com. Many that cater to marriage at any age and stage in life have sections for those who are looking for 'rematches'.

Shaadi.com, for instance, has 20% of its users looking at remarriage, with a male-female split (70:30) that is similar to those who have never been married before, says Adhish Zaveri, director, Marketing.

Aisle is a hybrid that positions itself as "a high-intent dating app," according to Bengaluru-based founder-CEO Able Joseph.

It has 6.24% non-single users, with Ahmedabad seeing the highest numbers, followed by Mumbai, Gurugram, and Bengaluru.

Some, like Divorcee Matrimony take a page out of the dating

app book. It has a swipe right/left functionality and a facility to detect possible spouses in the vicinity. However, in true 'matrimonial marketplace' style you can actually make micro-choices, like choosing amongst 39 categories of just Christians. For added trust, the app has badges, where you can upload an education certificate, salary slip, even driving license and passport.

Despite the fact that trust is seen as a problem with the online mechanism, Arti Baruah\*, 54, says there is no other way, because family is rarely interested in helping someone who has been married before, especially if the person is over 35 and has children.

Baruah has been on Aisle, but now steers clear because she got

a lot of messages for ONS (app-speak for one-night stands). She admits it could be because she is separated and had put that out on the app, which could be construed as nebulous by some.

Matches offline

Several people who have not proactively looked for spouses met them through the course of daily life. Kathakoli Dasgupta met her husband through a running group, while Mishti Aggarwal\* met hers through work.

While Dasgupta was previously married and her husband was not, Aggarwal and her husband were, with two children each.

The change the latter has seen is in the approach to divorce itself: where 10 years ago it was rare for people to mention it, to-

day, there is less stigma attached to it. Correspondingly attitudes to remarriage too have changed, at least in the cities.

Aparna Mathur, 48, feels people need to understand themselves better, and the deeper reasons they have for a commitment. She met her husband Nelson Carvalho, 51, three years ago on a work trip to Bengaluru, when a friend introduced them. They got married this February. Both have been married before. One aspect that brings them together is work: they are leadership coaches who are planning a series of courses for people looking at marriage itself, second marriages being one.

In 2016, Hyderabad-based Ekta Viiveck Verma started a by-invite group on Facebook called Invisible Scars, open to all genders, where people who have been in abusive marriages can support each other. She and her husband of nine years, Viiveck Verma, met on Shaadi.com. Both had been married before; she, divorced; he had lost his wife to cancer, and had two adopted daughters. "The first time around, you're not very sure what you're getting into. The second time around, you can draw up a list of negotiables and non-negotiables," she says, adding that of late, people on the group have started showing an interest in looking at the possibility of being with each other.

In the end, as Baruah says, "What I found on apps like Aisle was that there are many people in the same boat as I am: lonely and worthy of long-term commitment."

\*Name changed to protect identity

## The housewife who taught India how to make pasta

Ahead of Tarla Dalal's death anniversary on November 6, her son Sanjay remembers her rich legacy

NEERAJA MURTHY

Food was an intricate part of Sanjay Dalal's life. Son of India's first celebrity chef, cookbook author and television host Tarla Dalal, he holds memories of his mother close to his heart.

"She introduced Mexican, Chinese and Italian food to Indians and transformed non-vegetarian recipes to vegetarian ones; she Indianised exotic dishes, simplified cooking and could rustle up a dish in a jiffy," he says. Ahead of her seventh death anniversary on November 6, the son says 'humility' was his mother's best quality.

A year after completing an MBA from the US in 1987, Sanjay joined his mother and worked with her till she passed away in 2013. Now he is at the helm of managing the website tarladalal.com, the publication of cookery books, culinary classes and social media accounts.

Tarla, the teacher

Sanjay was inspired by his mother who started her career from scratch. Long before Sanjay joined in, Tarla was a reputa-



**Lasting memories** Tarla Dalal was among the first to Indianise exotic dishes ■ THE HINDU ARCHIVES, SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



ed culinary teacher. She transitioned from a 'housewife who learnt how to cook' to a passionate, cheerful teacher. What began as a small class with five students in the 1980s in Bombay, burgeoned into a buzzing centre with classes being held for eight months in a year. Tarla Dalal set up a team of

chefs, nutritionists and a video editor while curating cookery books. Under her supervision, the team standardised recipes. She wrote 170 books covering a range of subjects such as calcium-rich recipes, breakfast ideas, cooking with one teaspoon of oil, cooking with children, desi food and recipes for people with diabetes.

Sanjay hopes to carry forward her legacy. Virtual classes (four to six in a week) have been held during the lockdown with 10 to 30 participants signing up. He signs off with a tribute to his mother. "We always do something to mark her birth and death anniversaries. It's about remembering her contribution and her remarkable life."

'LOVABLE GRANDMA'

Teenager Anya Dalal revealed in a recent 'Thank You post on reaching 500 followers' on Tarla Dalal's Instagram page that she manages the account, which now has 16K followers. Currently studying Commerce, Anya says, "I love social media and since I spend so much time on it, my dad [Sanjay] asked if I wanted to pitch in." Anya also did an online social media marketing course from Northwestern University on Coursera.

Anya and her sister Aria try healthy recipes (with support from the website team) and post them. Iced coffee without sugar was the sisters' first recipe. She enjoys social media interactions but has to face people who take offence when they post recipes that include eggs. "Since my grandmother never used eggs, there is a negative feedback," she adds.

Remembering the night before Tarla Dalal passed away, Anya says, "We had dinner and she was cracking jokes, making us laugh. We loved to sit on the swing in her room and watch TV."

She was 10 when her grandmother passed away, and is only understanding her legacy now. She recalls going to the Kala Ghoda fair in Mumbai with her grandmother and being surprised at the attention. "I was confused about why people wanted to click pictures with my grandma. Now I understand."



Earthsync and KM's annual album featuring new indie musicians is out, heavy with Chennai talent

**From stage to stream** (Left) Vajahath Ali and Ghesha of Joint By The Sea ; (below) Tabitha Kagoo and Sanjai Shine of Tabby and Sanjai ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A SONG OF ONE'S OWN

MEGHNA MAJUMDAR

Nine songs, some reminiscent of lazy beachsides, others heady with simultaneous layers of percussion, string and voices reaching up to the heavens. The *Indie100 2019* album has been almost a year in the making.

In November last year teams from Chennai-based KM Music Conservatory, Earthsync and Queensland University of Technology, Australia sat together to help a few chosen, up-and-coming indie musicians put together their first recorded tracks in Chennai: the wait has been worth it. Not only for the nine musical acts in question, but also for anyone who cares to give it a listen.

From the dreamy 'Lucid Dream' by Joint By The Sea to the electric 'Lost Vegas' by The SyZy-Gy and the spiritual-psychadelic dreamscape that is 'The Rage of Reetigowla' by The Cosmic Convergence, each track in this album holds its own.

Not surprising, since all the artistes have been wowing the city's indie circuit for a couple of years now. For this album in particular, they had the advantage of professional guidance, an as-



Even then, each recording session lasted four hours, and some even spilled over. "I recorded by vocals later after the session and sent them to Deepak sir, so he could work on them," says Bimal.

The songs in the album might be slightly different from what these band's fans are used to hearing online. For instance, Vajahath Ali of Joint By The Sea says, "We had brought along a drum set for the recording, but our producer – after hearing the track – felt it would sound better just as it is, without the drums."

Bimal, too, notices a much greater emphasis on the lyrics of 'Clarity' than he had put while performing it live.

Besides this, there were a range of workshops – "from understanding copyright laws to recording deals, they covered it all," says Vajahath.

And what about the rights to these particular songs? The smile in Bimal's voice is almost palpable as he says, "They released the album on Friday, but had sent us the masters ahead, on Monday. So we know they're ours."

*Indie100 India 2019* can be streamed on Spotify, Soundcloud and other platforms.

M ND-DE



## The hills are calling

After a quiet 2020, bike, run and raft as Chennai's Wild Warriors Venture launches its first race of the year in Rishikesh

SWETA AKUNDI

Up by the Himalayas, in the town of Devprayag, rivers Alaknanda, Saraswati and Bhagirathi mix their own shades of blue to become the Ganges. It is here on a cool December morning, that participants of The Wild Warrior Himalayan Adventure Challenge 2020 will start cycling. It has been a quiet year for Wild Warrior Ventures, Chennai's first outdoor adventure and obstacle course racing outfit. Yet co-founders Somdev Devvarman, Vikram Menon, and Varun Gunaseelan are determined not to let 2020 pass them by without one major race.

For the first time, they will be collaborating with Aquaterra Adventures from Rishikesh, an old face among outdoor adventure companies for their Himalayan adventure challenge from December 11 to 13. The race, comprising mountain biking, hiking or trail running, and river rafting, will be spread across 65 kilo-



**Back in action** Devprayag, venue of the race (top); Wild Warrior co-founders Vikram Menon, Varun Gunaseelan and Somdev Devvarman with actor Regina Cassandra

\* SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

metres on land and water. "We started with the Himalayan race for two reasons: one because Uttarakhand Government has opened up for tourism, and secondly, being in the outdoors, social distancing becomes easy," says Varun. This is Wild Warriors' second Himalayan event after one in Nepal in 2018.

The 65-kilometre race can be gruelling and is aimed at the experienced, though there are intermediary 30-kilometre and 10-kilometre versions for beginners. Participants will have to come in groups of four. "We will start from Devprayag and ride down with the river partially on road and partially on dirt trail. This will be followed by hiking and then a lunch break. After that, we will regroup with our team and raft," he says.

Registrations open for the first 200 sign-ups, until December 8, visit [wildwarrior-race.com](http://wildwarrior-race.com) or call 9840581191

Rafting is the only sport which will have to be done

with the group; the others are solo sports. To further maintain social distancing, the race will be staggered, with participants sent in batches of four per minute. Though it is a one-day race on December 12, the participants will be hosted the day before and after, at the Atali Ganga resort in Rishikesh.

With pandemic fatigue creeping in, many may not have the same energy levels. To get back on – the literal – track, Varun recommends strength training for the upper and lower body. There will also be a short orientation programme on December 11, for rafting. "At the race, rafting will take just an hour as it is downstream, and cycling two more hours. It's the running that will take four hours," he explains.

Registrations open for the first 200 sign-ups, until December 8, visit [wildwarrior-race.com](http://wildwarrior-race.com) or call 9840581191

I've been using hypnotic suggestion on my master while he's sleeping, so that he gives me things I want.

How's it working?

Great, I may even be going a little too far.

WUP WUP WUP WU

You got him to helicopter in just for you?

And also give me a helicopter.

AND ALSO GIVE ME A HELICOPTER.

WUP WUP WUP WU

YOU GOT HIM TO HELICOPTER IN JUST FOR YOU?

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# Trump backers stage protests in key States

They converge on counting centres in Detroit, Phoenix; anti-Trump rallies held in Portland, elsewhere

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
WASHINGTON

Dozens of angry supporters of President Donald Trump converged on vote-counting centres in Detroit and Phoenix as the returns went against him on Wednesday in the two key States, while thousands of anti-Trump protesters demanding a complete tally of the ballots in the still undecided election took to the streets in cities across the U.S.

"Stop the count!" the Trump supporters chanted in Detroit. "Stop the steal!" they said in Phoenix.

## Republicans file suits

The protests came as the President insisted without evidence that there were major problems with the voting and the ballot counting, especially with mail-in votes, and as Republicans filed suit in various States over the election.

Phoenix protesters filled much of the parking lot at the Maricopa County election centre, and members of the crowd chanted, "Fox News sucks!" in anger over the network declaring Joe Bi-



**Face-off:** President Donald Trump's supporters rallying outside the Maricopa County Recorder's Office in Phoenix on Wednesday, as two counter-protesters stand in the rear. ■AP

den the winner in Arizona.

Representative Paul Gosar, an Arizona Republican and Trump supporter, joined the crowd, declaring: "We're not going to let this election be stolen. Period."

Sheriff's deputies blocked the entrance to the building. And the vote-counting went on into the night, Maricopa County Elections Department spokeswoman Megan

Gilbertson said.

Two top county officials – one a Democrat, the other a Republican – issued a statement expressing concern about how misinformation had spread about the integrity of the election process.

"Everyone should want all the votes to be counted, whether they were mailed or cast in person," said the statement signed by Clint Hickman, the GOP chair of the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors, and Democratic Supervisor Steve Gallardo. "An accurate vote takes time... This is evidence of democracy, not fraud."

Meanwhile, from New York City to Seattle, thousands of demonstrators marched through downtown and along a street across the river from Trump Tower.

Protests – sometimes about the election, sometimes about racial inequality – took place in at least a half-dozen cities, including Los Angeles, Houston, Pittsburgh, Minneapolis and San Diego.

The confrontation in Detroit started shortly before the declaration that Mr. Biden had won Michigan.

In Portland, Oregon,

general elections were competitive and well managed despite legal uncertainties and logistical challenges.

The report said uncertainty caused by late legal challenges and evidence-deficient claim about election fraud created confusion and concern among election officials and voters.

"Counting and tabulation are ongoing and should continue in accordance with the law and OSCE commitments. Baseless allegations of systematic deficiencies,

notably by the incumbent president, including on election night, harm public trust in democratic institutions, the report said.

Despite numerous public statements by the incumbent President over the integrity of postal voting, the number and scale of alleged and reported cases of fraud associated with absentee ballots remained negligible, it said.

President Trump on Wednesday claimed "fraud" in the counting of votes.

## Shortcomings in U.S. election system: Russia

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
MOSCOW

Russia's Foreign Ministry on Thursday said outdated legislation and a lack of regulation had revealed flaws in the U.S. electoral system, as votes were being tallied to decide the next American president.

The knife-edge presidential race was tilted toward Democrat Joe Biden early Thursday, but President Donald Trump claimed he was

which has been a scene of regular protests for months, Governor Kate Brown called out the National Guard as demonstrators engaged in what authorities said was widespread violence downtown.



In New York, hundreds of people paraded past board-up luxury stores on Manhattan's Fifth Avenue, and in Chicago, demonstrators marched through downtown and along a street across the river from Trump Tower.

Protests – sometimes about the election, sometimes about racial inequality – took place in at least a half-dozen cities, including Los Angeles, Houston, Pittsburgh, Minneapolis and San Diego.

The confrontation in Detroit started shortly before the declaration that Mr. Biden had won Michigan.

In Portland, Oregon,

being cheated and went to court to contest vote counting.

Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said that both candidates had an equal chance of winning and pointed out "obvious shortcomings in the electoral system." "This is partly due to the archaic nature of the relevant legislation and a lack of regulation in a number of fundamental points," she said.

# With another Florida loss, Democrats look for answers

They see Latino disconnect with Biden as an explanation

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
TALLAHASSEE

Perhaps only in Florida is a loss by fewer than 4 percentage points considered a pulmonary drubbing.

In a State famous for razor-thin margins, the size of former Vice-President Joe Biden's loss to President Donald Trump was humiliating for Democrats and sent many searching for answers to how they failed to close the deal with voters – again.

Democrats zeroed in on two clear explanations – Mr. Biden didn't connect with the State's Latino voters, performing particularly poorly with Cuban voters in

South Florida. They also second-guessed the party's decision to freeze in-person organising during the worst of the pandemic, a decision that set them back in reaching voters.

"Clearly, Mr. Biden was not able to capture the imagination of the Florida electorate and create the type of enthusiasm to go out and vote like Mr. Trump did with his base of supporters in the state," said Fernand Amandi, a Miami-based Democratic pollster. "It's an unacceptable record of futility. What makes it so vexing is that the problems that need to be fixed are so apparent. But

they just don't get fixed."

Mr. Trump and Republicans called Mr. Biden "socialist" for months. The attacks carried added power with Cuban and Venezuelan Americans, who associate the labels with authoritarian and corrupt Latin American leaders.

AP VoteCast, a survey of the Florida electorate, found Mr. Trump won 58% of Cuban American voters Statewide, while voters with South American heritage split evenly between Mr. Biden and Mr. Trump. They survey said Puerto Rican voters backed Mr. Biden by about 2 to 1.

## FROM PAGE ONE

# Biden edges closer to victory as Trump mounts legal challenges

When reports last came in, some 7 lakh ballots were yet to be counted.

In Philadelphia county alone – which is a Democrat stronghold – some 1,20,000 votes were yet to be counted. Democrats were banking on counties in the southeastern parts of the State as well as Allegheny County in the west (where Pittsburgh is) to boost their numbers.

The Trump campaign was hoping that the mailed-in ballots from Trump-dominated counties would help the President maintain his lead. Several news agencies, including the Associated Press, projected that Mr. Biden would win Arizona, a significant flip, that would take the former Vice-President's tally from 254 to 263 seats.



Joe Biden

The State, home to the late John McCain, a high-profile Republican, has been a traditional Republican stronghold. It last voted for a Democratic presidential candidate in 1996 (Bill Clinton). Arizona has witnessed a shift in recent years, electing its first Democratic Senator in decades, Krysten Sinema, in 2018. This year's

Democratic Senate candidate, astronaut Mark Kelly, defeated incumbent Martha McSally to claim the U.S. Senate seat left vacant by McCain's death in 2018.

Several media outlets and poll trackers kept Arizona's result open on Thursday.

The Trump campaign went to court in Pennsylvania, Georgia and Michigan to stop counting or to seek greater access for Republicans to ballot processing centres. In Pennsylvania, it is seeking a U.S. Supreme Court intervention in a case where the State's highest court had granted permission for counting to go on until the end of Friday. The campaign also said it planned to ask for a recount in Wisconsin, which Mr. Biden has won.

## Ethiopia MPs back Tigray emergency

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
ADDIS ABABA

Ethiopian lawmakers on Thursday endorsed a six-month state of emergency in the northern region of Tigray, a day after Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed ordered military operations there in an escalation of a long-running feud.

The move is part of an attempt by Mr. Abiy, winner of last year's Nobel Peace Prize, to assert federal control over a region whose ruling party has openly defied him for months and brands him as illegitimate. The lower house of Parliament "unanimously approved" the state of emergency in a session Thursday morning.

According to the Constitution, the government has "all necessary power to protect the country's sovereignty" under a state of emergency.

## Amid curfew, Sri Lanka reports five COVID-19 deaths

It is the highest number reported on a single day so far

MEERA SRINIVASAN  
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka on Thursday reported five COVID-19 deaths – the highest number reported on a single day so far – a month after a new wave broke out at a garment factory near Colombo.



Security personnel manning a checkpoint in Colombo on Thursday. ■AFP

The new wave, spreading rapidly since early October, prompted the government to declare a 10-day curfew in the Western Province, where capital Colombo is located, and the highest concentration of cases have been found. Since last weekend, Colombo and neighbouring districts are under complete lockdown, while authorities have restricted inter-district travel.

Further, a total of 84,000 persons across the island, who were found to have come in contact with CO-

VID-19 patients, have been directed to remain in self-quarantine, a statement from the President's office said. With a sharp rise in cases over the past few weeks, a total of 12,400 positive patients, 6,623 recoveries and 29 deaths have been reported as of Thursday.

Government authorities

have indicated that the lockdown may not continue, amid President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's instructions to keep the economy running, especially in the interest of daily-waged workers, while strict safety measures are implemented.

## Second wave

Sri Lanka's second wave, now attributed to two live clusters, came months after health authorities effectively contained the spread of the virus, receiving praise including from the World Health Organization. Meanwhile, thousands of Sri Lankan workers remain stranded abroad, mostly in West Asian nations where they are employed, as the government as suspended repatriation flights after the recent outbreak.

their majority to resist Mr. Biden at every turn, forcing them to choose between conciliation or crossing his political base.

## Party leader

Until a new generation of Republicans steps forward, Mr. Trump could position himself as the de facto leader of the party, wielding an extraordinary database of information about his supporters that future candidates would love to rent or otherwise access.

Allies imagined other Republicans making a pilgrimage to his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida, seeking his blessing.

"It isn't like his Twitter account or his ability to control a news cycle will stop," said Brad Parscale, the President's first campaign manager in this election cycle. "President Trump also has the largest amount of data ever

## IN BRIEF



Kosovo President resigns to face war crimes court

Pristina  
Kosovo's President Hashim Thaci, a guerrilla leader during Kosovo's war for independence from Serbia in the 1990s, resigned on Thursday and will face charges for war crimes at a special court in The Hague. AP

## Pakistan guard kills bank manager over blasphemy

Lahore  
A manager of the National Bank of Pakistan was killed by the bank's security guard over an allegation of blasphemy in the country's Punjab province. The deceased's family alleged that the guard had committed murder due to a personal grudge, and used 'blasphemy' as a cover. PTI

# Win or lose, Trump will remain a powerful and disruptive force

He enjoyed strong support within his party, winning 93% of GOP voters

PETER BAKER  
MAGGIE HABERMAN  
WASHINGTON

If President Donald Trump loses his bid for re-election, it would be the first defeat of an incumbent President in 28 years. But one thing seemed certain: Win or lose, he will not go quietly away.

Trailing former Vice President Joe Biden, Mr. Trump spent Wednesday trying to discredit the election based on invented fraud claims, hoping either to hang onto power or explain away a loss. He could find a narrow path to re-election among States still counting, but he has made clear that he would not shrink from the scene should he lose.

At the very least, he has 76 days left in office to use his

power as he sees fit and to seek revenge on some of his perceived adversaries. Angry at a defeat, he may fire or sideline a variety of senior officials who failed to carry out his wishes as he saw it, including Christopher Wray, the FBI director, and Dr. Anthony Fauci, the government's top infectious disease specialist in the middle of a pandemic.

**More resilient**  
And if he is forced to vacate the White House on January 20, Mr. Trump is likely to prove more resilient than expected and almost surely will remain a powerful and disruptive force in American life. He received at least 68 million votes, or 5 million more votes than he did in



**Here to stay:** President Donald Trump during an election night event at the White House on Wednesday. ■NYT

## NEWS ANALYSIS

2016 and commanded about 48% of the popular vote, meaning he retained the support of nearly half of the public despite four years of scandal, setbacks, impeachment and the brutal coronavirus outbreak that has killed more than 2,33,000 Americans. That gives him a power base to play a role that other

again in 2024, although he would be 78 by then. Even if his own days as a candidate are over, his 88-million-strong Twitter following gives him a bullhorn to be an influential voice on the right, potentially making him a kingmaker among rising Republicans.

"If anything is clear from the election results, it is that the President has a huge following, and he doesn't intend to exit the stage any time soon," said former Sen. Jeff Flake of Arizona, one of the few Republican officeholders to break with Trump over the past four years.

That following may yet enable Mr. Trump to eke out a second term and four years to try to rebuild the economy and reshape the Republican Party in his image. But even from out of office, he could try to pressure Republican Senators who preserved

collected by a politician. This will impact races and policies for years to come."

Exit polls showed that regardless of prominent Republican defectors like Sen. Mitt Romney of Utah and the Never Trumpers of the Lincoln Project, Mr. Trump enjoyed strong support within his own party, winning 93% of Republican voters. He also did somewhat better with Black voters (12%) and Hispanic voters (32%) than he did four years ago despite his often racist rhetoric. And after his high-energy blitz across battleground States, late-deciding voters broke his way.

Despite the coronavirus pandemic and the related economic toll, 41% of voters said they were doing better than when he took office, compared with only 20% who described themselves as worse off. NY TIMES

## MARKET WATCH

	05-11-2020	% CHANGE
Sensex	41,340	1.78
US Dollar	74.36	0.54
Gold	50,980	0.47
Brent oil	41.17	2.77

## NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	368.65	7.55
Asian Paints	2238.30	68.85
Axis Bank	539.30	14.15
Bajaj Auto	2949.30	23.20
Bajaj Finserv	6055.15	243.30
Bajaj Finance	3736.90	175.45
Bharti Airtel	457.30	4.25
BPCL	366.30	17.45
Britannia Ind	3499.25	28.55
Cipla	793.50	12.35
Coal India	119.85	5.05
Divis Lab	3209.00	12.80
Dr Reddys Lab	4958.50	22.90
Eicher Motors	2119.80	22.40
GAIL (India)	87.45	4.10
Grasim Ind	804.40	21.30
HCL Tech.	842.90	27.75
HDFC	2100.70	12.50
HDFC Bank	1269.20	11.80
HDFC Life	592.05	-2.20
Hero MotoCorp	2944.35	-23.65
Hindalco	187.35	10.85
Hind Unilever	2102.35	42.30
ICICI Bank	438.50	1.45
IndusInd Bank	714.40	36.35
Infosys	1104.00	10.05
Indian Oil Corp	79.80	1.85
ITC	174.75	4.95
JSW Steel	327.70	9.85
Kotak Bank	1675.45	44.75
L&T	958.10	18.25
M&M	602.10	5.30
Maruti Suzuki	7092.80	138.75
Nestle India Ltd.	17221.30	224.20
NTPC	86.80	1.70
ONGC	67.60	1.15
PowerGrid Corp	179.05	1.95
Reliance Ind	1955.00	41.80
SBF Life	805.00	14.00
State Bank	218.65	11.65
Shree Cement	22239.40	329.05
Sun Pharma	512.50	7.85
Tata Motors	137.65	1.75
Tata Steel	425.50	21.60
TCS	2685.70	32.55
Tech Mahindra	840.70	13.85
Titan	1242.10	26.45
UltraTech Cement	4617.90	86.30
UPL	418.40	17.05
Wipro	345.40	2.45

## EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar.....	74.19.....	74.51
Euro.....	87.31.....	87.69
British Pound.....	96.61.....	97.03
Japanese Yen (100).....	71.12.....	71.47
Chinese Yuan.....	11.19.....	11.24
Swiss Franc.....	81.52.....	81.91
Singapore Dollar.....	54.74.....	54.99
Canadian Dollar.....	56.46.....	56.72
Malaysian Ringgit.....	17.87.....	17.97
Australian Dollar.....	53.40.....	53.64

Source: Indian Bank

## IN BRIEF



**Lupin faces information security incident**  
NEW DELHI  
Pharma major Lupin said it had experienced an information security incident that had affected select internal IT systems but had not impacted the company's operations. "We have recently experienced an information security incident that has affected select internal IT systems. This has not impacted our core systems and operations," Lupin said in a filing. PTI

**NPCI allows WhatsApp to offer payment service**  
MUMBAI  
The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) on Thursday allowed Facebook-owned messaging platform WhatsApp to start its payments service in the country in a 'graded' manner. The announcement by NPCI came minutes after it limited a single, third-party like WhatsApp, or its rivals such as Google Pay or PhonePe, to handle only 30% of overall UPI transactions. PTI

**Open offers decline 42% in April-September**  
NEW DELHI  
Listed companies made open offers worth close to ₹8,500 crore to public shareholders in the first six months of the current fiscal, a decline of 42% from the year-earlier period. According to SEBI's monthly report, 24 open offers for shares worth ₹8,492 crore were made up to September this fiscal. In comparison, 36 offers, for ₹14,590 crore, were made a year earlier. PTI

**Luxury homes worth ₹500 cr. sold in Mumbai**  
MUMBAI  
Despite the health crisis and economic uncertainty, localities in South-Central Mumbai viz. Worli, Prabhadevi, Mahalaxmi, Tardeo and Lower Parel witnessed luxury home sales worth ₹500 crore in October. This compares with sales worth ₹150 crore in the same period last year, representing an increase of up to 230%, as per Anarock Property Consultants' data.

**Demand for contractual, gig staff jumps 30%: Quess**  
Further boost as jobs get 'variabilised'

## Sensex

## erases 2020 losses with 724-point leap

SBI leads broad-based gains, rupee strengthens 40 paise against the dollar as global markets rally amid U.S. poll gridlock

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MUMBAI

Equity benchmarks galloped to near nine month-highs on Thursday following across-the-board buying as global markets ratcheted higher despite uncertainty surrounding the U.S. Presidential election results.

Rallying for the fourth straight session, the S&P BSE Sensex surged 724.02 points, or 1.78%, to close at 41,340.6.

The benchmark, which closed above the 41,000-level for the first time since mid-February, also wiped off all losses for the 2020 calendar year. It had closed at 41,306.02 on January 1.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty zoomed 211.80 points, or 1.78%, to finish at 12,120.30.

All Sensex components closed in the green, led by banking, finance, energy, IT and metal counters.

SBI was the top gainer, soaring 5.63%, following robust second-quarter results.

Tata Steel, IndusInd Bank,

Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Finserv,

HCL Tech, Asian Paints and

Titan were the other prominent winners, spurring up to 5.34%.

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Meanwhile, the Trump campaign has moved court over the ballot counting pro-

## GLOBAL STOCKS RISE

CHINA

MUMBAI

INDIA

U.S.

EUROPE

ASIA

AUSTRALIA

JAPAN

KOREA

SOUTH KOREA

THAILAND

PHILIPPINES

INDONESIA

SINGAPORE

MALAYSIA

TAIWAN

CHILE

PERU

BRAZIL

ARGENTINA

NETHERLANDS

NETHERLANDS&lt;/

# Ruthless MI batters DC into submission, takes quick route to final

De Kock, Suryakumar, Ishan and Hardik power side to 200 before Boult and Bumrah settle the contest; Shreyas' men will need to regroup quickly before Qualifier 2

## IPL 2020

### SPORTS BUREAU

A terrific end-overs heist from Ishan Kishan (55 n.o., 30b, 4x4, 3x6) and Hardik Pandya (37 n.o., 14b, 5x6), followed by a Trent Boult-Jasprit Bumrah bowling masterclass, put Mumbai Indians in the IPL final with a resounding 57-run win over Delhi Capitals at the Dubai International Stadium.

It didn't matter on Thursday that two of MI's best batsmen, Rohit Sharma and Kieron Pollard, were out for ducks. Quinton de Kock's racy 25-ball 40 (5x4, 1x6) and Suryakumar Yadav's 38-ball 51 (6x4, 2x6) established the tone before Ishan and Hardik combined for a 60-run partnership off just 23 balls to set DC a challenging 201-run target.

### Triple strike

Boult and Bumrah then left DC reeling at 0 for 3 after just 1.2 overs. Prithvi Shaw was caught behind and Ajinkya Rahane out leg-before to Boult (21-9-2) before Bumrah bowled Shikhar Dhawan with an inch-perfect yorker. When Bumrah had Shreyas Iyer caught at cover with the score at 20, the contest was all but over.

Marcus Stoinis resisted



**Smash hit:** After Hardik Pandya and Ishan Kishan had fended off the Delhi Capitals attack, Jasprit Bumrah delivered the knock-out punch. ■ BCCI/IPL

with a half-century (65, 46b, 6x4, 3x6), but a double-wicket maiden from Bumrah (4-1-14-4) in the 16th over ensured the Australian's knock was merely academic. DC has one more opportunity to make the final, but it will need to summon all its pow-

ers of recovery following a loss of this magnitude.

After DC chose to bowl, de Kock provided MI with a blistering start, creaming three boundaries in the first over from Daniel Sams.

R. Ashwin struck off his third ball, trapping Rohit leg-

before, but de Kock chugged along merrily, driving the offie through cover, pulling Kagiso Rabada behind square and then hoisting Axar Patel over long-on.

Suryakumar hit Ashwin for a straight six and a punched four to round out

the PowerPlay at 63 for one, but the latter broke through again, forcing de Kock to miscue a loft to long-off in the eighth over.

Suryakumar brought up his fourth half-century with a superb cross-batted whip off Anrich Nortje, but the South

African soon had him caught at fine-leg off a bouncer. When Pollard fell to a carnal ball from Ashwin, MI had slumped from 78 for one to 101 for four.

But 32 runs across the 15th and 16th overs brought MI back to life, with Ishan racing

## SCOREBOARD

### MUMBAI INDIANS

Quinton de Kock c Dhawan b Ashwin 40 (25b, 5x4, 1x6), Rohit Sharma lbw b Ashwin 0 (lb), Suryakumar Yadav c Sams b Nortje 51 (38b, 6x4, 2x6), Ishan Kishan (not out) 55 (30b, 4x4, 3x6), Kieron Pollard c Rabada b Ashwin 0 (2b), Krunal Pandya c Sams b Stoinis 13 (10b, 1x6), Hardik Pandya (not out) 37 (14b, 5x6); Extras (b-1, lb-2, w-1); 4; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 200.

### FALL OF WICKETS

1-0 (Shaw, 0.2), 2-0 (Rahane, 0.5), 3-0 (Dhawan, 1.2), 4-20 (Shreyas, 3.5), 5-41 (Patel, 7.5), 6-112 (Stoinis, 15.1), 7-112 (Sams, 15.3), 8-141 (Axar, 19.5).

### MUMBAI INDIANS BOWLING

Boult 2-1-9-2, Bumrah 4-1-14-4, Krunal 4-0-22-1, Coulter-Nile 4-0-27-0, Pollard 4-0-36-1, Rahul Chahar 2-0-35-0.

### Toss: DC; MoM: Bumrah.

*Mumbai Indians won by 57 runs to enter the final to be played on November 10.*

### Innings scan

MI	DC
37	Dots
15	Fours
12	Sixes
63/1	PP
10.00	RR

long-on and deep mid-wicket before sending Nortje soaring over long-on and long-off. Ishan's acrobatic maximum over deep extra-cover brought up his fourth fifty and MI's 200. Boult and Bumrah delivered the knock-out punch not long after.

to 33 off 21, from 11 off 14 at one stage. The humongous six off Rabada over deep square-leg was his stand-out shot.

Stoinis conceded just five runs in the 17th over and removed Krunal Pandya. But Hardik smoked Rabada over

## SRH enters the Eliminator on the crest of a wave, RCB looks to turn the tide

Warner's men on three-match streak; Kohli's side needs game-changers to step up

### SPORTS BUREAU

After being down and nearly out, with just four wins in 11 matches, Sunrisers Hyderabad has scripted an impressive turnaround to reach the playoffs and will start as the favourite against Royal Challengers Bangalore at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi on Friday.

The 2016 IPL champion had to win its final three games, which it did comprehensively to pip RCB and finish third, thanks to a better net run rate.

SRH struggled in the first half of the tournament to find the right combination. Since then, a few changes to the line-up have helped with the revival.

Jason Holder, who joined the squad after the injury to Mitchell Marsh, has been a revelation with the ball, picking up ten wickets in five matches. Along with T. Natarajan, he has been effective in the death overs. He also played a cameo with the bat against RCB when the team was in trouble.

**Ploy works**  
Another change that has worked for SRH is the intro-

### A shootout

How SRH and RCB have done in perform-or-perish contests

#### SUNRISERS HYDERABAD

##### 2013

**Eliminator:** SRH lost to RR by four wickets

##### 2016

**Eliminator:** SRH bt KKR by 22 runs

##### Qualifier 2:

SRH bt Gujarat Lions by four wickets

##### Final:

SRH bt RCB by eight runs

##### 2017

**Eliminator:** SRH lost to KKR by seven wickets (DLS Method)

##### 2019

**Eliminator:** SRH lost to DC by two wickets

#### ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE

##### 2015

**Eliminator:** RCB bt RR by 71 runs

##### Qualifier 2:

RCB lost to CSK by three wickets

#### ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE

##### 2015

**Eliminator:** RCB bt RR by 71 runs

##### Qualifier 2:

RCB lost to CSK by three wickets

duction of Wriddhiman Saha at the top of the order. The Indian wicketkeeper, who replaced Jonny Bairstow to accommodate Kane Williamson and balance the side, has slammed 184 runs (87, 39 and 58 n.o.) in the last three games, opening with David Warner.

### TODAY'S MATCH



In contrast, RCB comes into the contest on the back of four defeats, losing its early momentum.

The team's batting unit has struggled in the last four matches. Skipper Virat Kohli himself hasn't scored as many runs as he is accustomed to, with just three half-centuries so far, and is due for a big knock.

**Fitness concern**  
Another area of concern is the fitness of Chris Morris, who had to leave the field with a hamstring niggle after bowling just two overs in the last league game against Delhi Capitals.

RCB has reached the playoffs for the first time since 2016, when it finished runner-up to SRH. But it will need to find the form it showed in the first half of the tournament to extend its stay in the business end.

### T20 CHALLENGE

### SPORTS BUREAU

It didn't take Velocity long to come crashing down to earth after Wednesday's high. Not even a day in fact, as Mithali Raj's women were bundled out for 47 on their way to a nine-wicket defeat at the hands of Trailblazers at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium on Thursday.

After their thrilling five-wicket win over defending champion Supernovas, another victory would have taken them to the final of the Women's T20 Challenge. But now they have to await the result of Saturday's game between Trailblazers and Supernovas to know their fate.

It was a horror show by the Velocity batters. They gave away their wickets too easily, though Supernovas bowled superbly, especially Sophie Ecclestone.

The left-arm spinner from England took four for nine from 3.1 overs, showing why she is the ICC's No. 1 bowler in women's T20. She bowled an excellent length and varied her pace cleverly. There were two wickets each for seasoned seamer Jhulan Goswami and left-arm spinner Rajeshwari Gayakwad.

It was Jhulan who started it all, cleaning up Shafali Verma. The teenager was undone by her attempt to tap

an in-coming ball through the third-man area. Shafali had put on 17 for the first wicket with Danielle Wyatt.

That would remain the highest partnership of the innings, as Ecclestone got into the act.

She trapped Mithali leg-before and castled Veda Krishnamurthy off successive balls. In her next over, she bowled Sushma Verma at the hands of Trailblazers at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium on Thursday.

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Though Supernovas lost the wicket of captain Smriti Mandhana early, her opening partner Deandra Dottin (29 not out, 28b, 3x4) took the team home with 12.1 overs to spare.

The finishing touch was provided by Richa Ghosh, who slog-swept Ekta Bisht for a six.

### SCOREBOARD

#### VELOCITY

Shafali Verma b Jhulan 13 (9b, 1x4, 1x6), Danielle Wyatt c Smriti b Jhulan 3 (11b), Mithali Raj lbw b Ecclestone 1 (5b), Veda Krishnamurthy b Ecclestone 0 (1b), Sushma Verma b Ecclestone 1 (8b), Sune Luus c & b Rajeshwari 4 (10b), Shikha Pandey run out 10 (17b, 4x4), Sushree Dibyadarshini lbw b Rajeshwari 0 (1b), Leigh Kasperek (not out) 11 (20b, 1x4), Ekta Bisht c & b Deepti 0 (6b), Jhulan Alami lbw b Ecclestone 1 (5b); Extras (w-1,



**Pink panther:** Ecclestone was on the prowl for Trailblazers.

#### FALL OF WICKETS

1-17 (Shafali, 2.2 overs), 2-19 (Mithali, 3.2), 3-19 (Veda, 3.3), 4-19 (Wyatt, 4.3), 5-21 (Sushma, 5.3), 6-27 (Luus, 8.1), 7-27 (Dibyadarshini, 8.2), 8-41 (Shikha, 11.5), 9-45 (Ekta, 13.3).

#### TRAILBLAZERS BOWLING

Jhulan 3-0-13-2, Ecclestone 3.1-1-9-4, Rajeshwari 3-1-13-2, Deepti 4-1-8-1, Salma 2-0-4-0.

#### TRAILBLAZERS

Deandra Dottin (not out) 29 (28b, 3x4), Smriti Mandhana c

Jahanara b Kasperek 6 (9b), Richa Ghosh (not out) 13 (10b, 1x4, 1x6); Extras (w-1); 1; Total (for one wkt. in 7.5 overs): 49.

#### FALL OF WICKET

1-12 (Smriti, 3.5).

#### VELOCITY BOWLING

Shikha 3-0-16-0, Kasperek 2-0-5-1, Ekta 1.5-0-19-0, Dibyadarshini 1-0-9-0.

#### Toss:

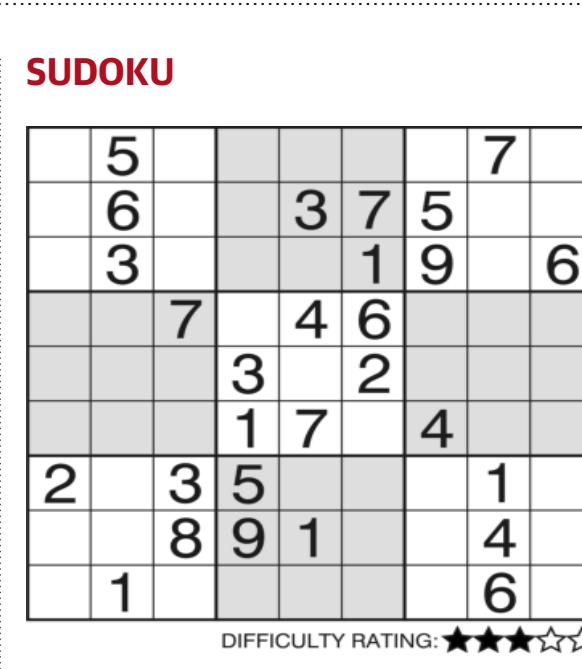
Velocity.

#### Player-of-the-match:

Ecclestone.

Trailblazers won by nine wickets with 12.1 overs to spare.

### SUDOKU



**Solution to puzzle 13**



**Killer blow:** A counter-attack leaves Manchester United's defence flat-footed as Basaksehir's Edin Visca scores past Dean Henderson. ■ AP

## United and PSG slump to defeats

Barcelona overcomes depleted Dynamo Kiev; Morata on the double for Juventus

### CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
PARIS

Lionel Messi scored as Barcelona overcame a depleted Dynamo Kiev 2-1 in the Champions League on Wednesday, while Juventus eased Ferencvaros aside and Manchester United slumped to an unexpected defeat in Turkey.

Nine-man Paris Saint-Germain lost to RB Leipzig in a repeat of last season's semi-final and Chelsea proved too strong for Rennes, while Timo Werner twice converting from the penalty spot.

Making his 150th appearance in European competition, Messi dispatched an early penalty at Camp Nou after he was fouled in the area and Gerard Pique headed in Ansu Fati's cross on the hour.

Cristiano Ronaldo made his first start for the Italian champions since September

after testing positive for Covid-19 in a 4-1 win at Hungarian side Ferencvaros.

However, the Portuguese star was outshone in Budapest by Alvaro Morata, whose two goals put Andrea Pirlo's team in control.

United produced a shambling first-half defensive display as Ole Gunnar Solsjaer's side lost 2-1 against Istanbul Basaksehir.

Dembala Ba collected the ball just inside his own half and raced through to beat goalkeeper Dean Henderson on 13 minutes, with Edin Visca smashing in a second after Juan Mata was stripped of possession.

Anthony Martial's header cut the deficit before half-time but United saw its momentum in Group H halted after wins over PSG and RB Leipzig last month.

Emil Forsberg's penalty earned Leipzig a 2-1 victory as it came from behind to beat a weakened Paris Saint-Germain, dealing a major

blow to the Champions League aspirations of last season's runners-up.

Angel di Maria had given

Argentines a lead in Germany but he then crucially missed a penalty for the French champion, which was missing both Neymar and Kylian Mbappe due to injury and ended the contest with nine men.

**The results: Group E:** Chelsea 3 (Werner 10-pen, 41-pen, Abraham 50) bt Rennes 0; Sevilla 3 (Rakitic 42, En-Nesry 69, 72) bt Krasnodar 2 (Suleymanov 17, Berg 21-pen).

**Group F:** Club Brugge 0 lost to Borussia Dortmund 3 (T. Hazard 14, Haaland 18, 32); Zenit St. Petersburg 1 (Erokhin 32) drew with Lazio 1 (Caicedo 82).

**Group G:** Barcelona 2 (Messi 5-pen, Pique 65) bt Dynamo Kiev 1 (Tsymbalov 75); Ferencvaros 1 (Boli 90) lost to Juventus 4 (Morata 7, 60, Dybala 73, Dvali 81-og).

**Group H:** RB Leipzig 2 (Nkunku 42, Forsberg 57-pen) bt PSG 1 (Di Maria 6); Istanbul Basaksehir 2 (Ba 13, Visca 40) bt Manchester United 1 (Martial 43).

## Chhetri welcomes ATK MB and SC East Bengal to the ISL fold

Bengaluru FC star admits it will be tough to adjust to the new normal

ASHWIN ACHAL  
BENGALURU

Bengaluru FC (BFC) star Sunil Chhetri welcomed SC East Bengal and Mohun Bagan (rechristened as ATK Mohun Bagan) to the Indian Super League (ISL), hailing the clubs for their monumental stature.

Having played for both Kolkata giants earlier in his career, Chhetri is well aware of the passionate fan following they bring to the table.

### Huge thing

"Mohun Bagan and East Bengal coming in is a huge thing. I have been in Indian football for 19 years. Both clubs are monumental in stature, and synonymous with Indian

football. For them to play alongside the top Indian players in the ISL is huge."

"It is a shame that their fans will not be there in the stadium, but I am sure that they will make themselves heard on other platforms."

"The tournament will be very competitive with their entry," Chhetri said, in a media interaction on Thursday.

This season of the ISL, which commences on November 20, will be held in three venues at Goa, robbing BFC of the chance to play in front of their adoring home fans.

Chhetri admitted that it will be tough to adjust to the new normal, but added that this was just a small price to

pay to get back on the football field.

"Yes, there are many challenges this season. We will not be able to play at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru. Our fans, who also travel to watch away matches, will not be there this season. Not having our fans is a big miss. We also have to stay for five months in the bubble, which is not going to be easy."

"There were murmurs in our dressing room about the strict bubble, but I told them that it is a very small price to pay to be able to play a big tournament."

"Not many people in the world enjoy the benefits that we do. In a country where

people are fighting for fundamental things, we are being allowed to play a football tournament and do what we enjoy," the 36-year-old said.

### Injury management

Chhetri stated that given the long lay-off that players have faced, injury management is crucial.

"In just 16 days, we will play our first ISL game. But we're yet to train properly with the full team."

"The only thing I'm sceptical about is players getting injured when we start training with the full team. The chances of getting injuries are really high. We must avoid injuries in order to do well," Chhetri said.



Sunil Chhetri. ■ FILE PHOTO

### IN BRIEF

Otamendi nets eight in Sahara Warriors' big win

**NEW DELHI**  
Daniel Otamendi scored eight goals in guiding Sahara Warriors to a 15-8 victory over Sona Polo in a league match of the National polo championship.

**The results:** Sahara Warriors 15 (Daniel Otamendi 8, Padmanab Singh 3, Vishal Chauhan 2, Kuldeep Singh Rathore 2) bt Sona Polo 7 (Jack Richardson 4, Siddhant Sharma, Angad Kalan, Dhananjay Singh).

**Archery selection trials from Nov. 24**

**KOLKATA**  
Selection trials will be conducted at the JRD Tata Sports Complex, Jamshedpur, from November 24 to 26 to pick four men and four women recurve archers for the National camp. The AAI has released a list of 40 men and 18 women who are eligible to take part in the trials to be conducted by SAI. The Core Group of eight men and eight women archers would be exempted. Entries need to reach AAI by November 15 at archeryassociationindia@gmail.com

## Nadal chalks up 1,000th match win

Only the fourth after Connors, Federer, Lendl to cross the mark

### PARIS MASTERS

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
PARIS

Rohan Bopanna and Oliver Marach pipped Fabrice Martin and Jean-Julien Rojer 3-6, 6-4, [10-8] to reach the quarterfinals of the Paris Masters on Wednesday.

In the ITF men's event in Egypt, Arjun Kadhe made the doubles semifinals with Vladyislav Manakov.

**Other results:** \$100,000 ITF women, Charleston: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Ingrid Neel & Caitlin Whorisoff (USA) bt Maria Camila Osorio Serrano (Col) & Ankita Raina 6-7(0), 6-2, [10-5].

\$15,000 ITF, Sharm El Sheikh: Men: Pre-quarterfinals: Oleksii Krutyykh (Ukr) bt Sidharth Rawat 6-1, 6-3.

Women: Doubles (quarterfinals): Ksenia Laskutova & Daria Mishina (Rus) bt Michaela Bayerlova (Cze) & Sathwika Sami 7-5, 6-1.

\$15,000 ITF men, Quinta Do Lago, Portugal (first round): Joao Monteiro (Por) bt Terence Das 6-1, 6-1. Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Nicolas Barrientos (Col) & Tsung-Hua Yang (Tpe) bt Daniel Ivanov (Por) & Terence Das 6-4, 6-1.

"I know it is a very special number, one thousand," Na-

### The 1000 club

- Jimmy Connors – 1,274
- Roger Federer – 1,242
- Ivan Lendl – 1,068
- Rafael Nadal – 1,000

dal said. "Even if it's not the same to celebrate something like this without a crowd."

Instead, he reached his milestone amid a cathedral-like silence on Wednesday in a 20,000-seater stadium left completely empty because of the coronavirus pandemic.

There was only a fist-bump from Feliciano Lopez, after Nadal beat him 4-6, 7-6(5), 6-4 in a subdued atmosphere more worthy of a library study area than a sports arena.

The 34-year-old Nadal joins towering company in Jimmy Connors (1,274), Roger Federer (1,242) and Ivan Lendl (1,068) as the only men's 1,000-club members since the Open era began in 1968.

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dal said. "Even if it's not the same to celebrate something like this without a crowd."

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