



Kerala should enhance vigil, says State Health Minister K.K. Shylaja

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Gujjars sign quota pact with Rajasthan govt. after six-hour talks

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Sputnik V vaccine is 92% 'effective' against coronavirus: Russia

Page 10



Joe Biden holds talks with leaders of four European countries

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## NEARBY

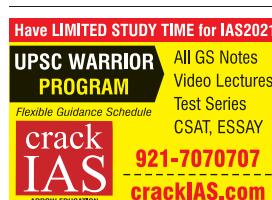


### Delhiites get respite from 'severe' pollution

NEW DELHI

The air quality of Delhi and Noida improved to 'very poor' on Wednesday after remaining in the 'severe' category for six consecutive days, while Gurugram's air quality entered the 'poor' category, according to CPCB data.

CITY ▶ PAGE 2



## People trust NDA's policies: PM

Alliance will fulfil promise of Bihar mandate under Nitish's leadership, says Modi

NISTULA HEBBAR  
AMARNATH TEWARI  
NEW DELHI/PATNA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said the Bihar poll verdict and that of bypolls in various States had demonstrated that the National Democratic Alliance's (NDA) policies had the trust of the people and were an endorsement of the way the COVID-19 pandemic had been combated.

Speaking at a thanksgiving function organised at the BJP's national headquarters to mark the electoral successes, Mr. Modi stated that an NDA government under the leadership of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar would fulfil the promise of develop-



Celebration time: BJP supporters celebrating the Bihar victory at the party headquarters in New Delhi on Wednesday. ■ ANI

ment that was inherent in the Bihar mandate.

"The people of Bihar are both aware and discerning, and under the leadership of Nitish Kumar, the NDA will fulfil the promise of this

mandate," he said at a function where BJP president J. P. Nadda, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah and Roads, and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari were present.

Coinciding with the timing of Mr. Modi's speech was the first tweet that Mr. Kumar made on the Bihar verdict. "People are the real masters who gave a majority to the NDA... I pay my respects to them... I thank Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his continued support," he tweeted.

It was the first acknowledgement of the result by Mr. Kumar, who did not stir out of his official bungalow at 1 Anne Marg in Patna, triggering speculation that he could take some surprising steps following his party being reduced to a junior partner in the NDA.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

## SC grants interim bail to Arnab

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL  
NEW DELHI

The SC on Wednesday ordered the Maharashtra government to release Republic TV Editor-in-Chief Arnab Goswami and two others on interim bail in an abetment to suicide case, saying personal liberty is increasingly becoming a casualty in the country.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

## Ladakh standoff: India, China finalising disengagement plan

Proposal will be taken up at the next round of discussions'

DINAKAR PERI  
NEW DELHI

India and China are working out modalities to finalise a plan for phased disengagement and de-escalation along the Line of Actual Control in eastern Ladakh, beginning with the North Bank of Pangong Tso, according to multiple sources.

The proposal from the Chinese side put forward at the eighth round of Corps Commander talks soon. Once agreed upon, it will be done in multiple phases, with on-ground verification after each step," one official source said.

"This is still a proposal under discussion and will be ta-

ken up at the next round of Corps Commander talks soon. Once agreed upon, it will be done in multiple phases, with on-ground verification after each step," one official source said.

There is no change in the ground situation as of now.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

## Daily COVID-19 cases cross 8K in Capital

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Capital on Wednesday witnessed the biggest single-day spike in the number of new infections with 8,593 fresh COVID-19 cases being reported in the past 24 hours, according to a health bulletin released by the Delhi government.

As many as 85 deaths were reported in a single day, pushing the toll to

7,228. Tuesday had also witnessed a record number of new COVID-19 cases. Of the total 4,59,753 cases, 4,10,118 people have recovered and there are now 42,629 active cases.

"Three times more tests are being done now. It is clear this is the third wave," Health Minister Satyendar Jain told reporters.

DETAILS ON ▶ PAGE 3

## Farmers firm on Delhi march against Centre's farm laws

Police deny permission for Jantar Mantar rally citing COVID-19 norms

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ  
NEW DELHI

Farmers' groups insist they will come to the Capital for protest on November 26 and 27, despite the Delhi police denying permission for a rally at the Jantar Mantar protest site, citing COVID-19 and other restrictions.

Punjab farmer leaders also say they have not yet decided on how to respond to the Centre's call for talks on Friday to resolve the situation arising from the stoppage of goods trains to the State, with no consensus

among different groups about how to engage with the government.

The Railways had suspended freight trains to Punjab after farmers blocked rail tracks in protest against the three new farm reform laws.

The All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee (AIKSCC), a platform including more than 300 farmer groups, had given the call for a *Dilli Chalo* protest on November 26 and 27, demanding the repeal of the three controversial laws as well as the Electricity Bill

2020. Applications had been made for permission to hold a rally at Jantar Mantar, near Parliament Street, as well as to accommodate farmers at the Ramlila Maidan. In a letter dated November 4, which was received on Tuesday night, the Deputy Commissioner of Police for New Delhi district rejected the application for a Jantar Mantar rally, citing the Delhi Disaster Management Authority's COVID-19 guidelines against large gatherings, as well as the imposition of Section 144 and other standing orders.

"COVID-19 should not be

used as an excuse to deny farmers the right to protest," said Satyawan, a Haryana-based farmer leader from the All India Kisan Khet Mazdoor Sangathan. "Just now in Bihar, all parties were willing to hold huge rallies without worrying about COVID. When it comes to farmers alone, COVID becomes an issue," he added.

Leaders have assured that safety guidelines would be followed.

A review request is being filed with the police.

The Centre has called for talks with the Punjab government and 32 farmers groups on Thursday to resolve the situation.

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**CM YK**

## Haryana CM unveils 'Project Air Care' for Gurugram

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GURUGRAM

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal on Wednesday unveiled 'Project Air Care', under which 65 Wind Augmentation Purifying Units will be installed across Gurugram through public-private partnership.

"The rising levels of air pollution in Haryana, especially Gurugram, is a case of serious concern. As we move towards the festive season, we would like to bring some relief to citizens with the installation of multiple air purifiers at strategic junctions," said Mr. Lal.

He also inaugurated a project for the beautification of the Gateway of Gurugram on the Mehrauli-Gurugram Road.

In a bid to put the Millennium City on the world map, Gurugram will be developed as the "smartest city" in the country and for this a new municipal corporation in Mesaras has been proposed, said the Chief Minister.

## Do not encourage use of firecrackers, Rai tells BJP

'Gaadi Off' drive extended till Nov. 30

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

### 'Govt. should compensate cracker traders hit by ban'

NEW DELHI

Senior BJP leader Vijay Goel on Wednesday submitted a memorandum to the National Green Tribunal urging it to direct the Delhi government to compensate traders hit by the decision banning firecrackers in the city. "The Delhi government issued licences and its Environment Minister said green crackers would be allowed, but then all crackers were banned" Mr. Goel said.

Around 2,500 marshals will be deputed at 100 junctions across the Capital.

"The Delhi government has sprayed bio-decomposer solution developed by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa, on 2,000 acres of land across Delhi. This solution has converted stubble into manure to prevent burning of stubble," Mr. Rai said, adding that a 15-member panel will prepare a report on the impact of bio-decomposer and it will be submitted to the Chief Minister on Thursday.

The CPCB also said that

He also urged the BJP to not encourage people to burst firecrackers.

### 'Mute spectator'

"Firecrackers have been banned but BJP leaders do not seem to support this decision. Statements by BJP leaders are encouraging youngsters to burst firecrackers. The Centre has been a mute spectator for the past two months and has not taken any action [to curb air pollution]. I want to appeal to the BJP with folded hands to not encourage youngsters of Delhi to burst crackers," Mr. Rai said during a press conference.

The campaign was to continue till November 15 but has now been extended. It will be called 'Phase 2' of the campaign, he said.

### MISSING



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सेहूआ, कट्ट—5 फूट  
नियासी नाम सालू, तहसील बादल, जिला रेवाड़ी फोन ९० ९५८६७४५९८  
धारा वाल FIR No. 370 ।

यदि वच्चे के बारे में किसी को कुछ भी पता चले तो कमारा नो. ६, रेड कास नवरा,  
नजदीकी अव्वेदक चौक, जिला बादल संस्थान इडूई, रेवाड़ी कार्यालय नो ०१२४-२२१८५२ व  
जिला बादल संस्थान अधिकारी नियासी दीपिका यादव के फोन नं ९९९२०८०५१२ पर सूचित करें।

जिला बादल संस्थान अधिकारी,  
जिला बादल संस्थान इडूई,  
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Prdh 83751

## Businessman arrested for forging ASI letter

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A 49-year-old businessman was arrested for allegedly forging a letter bearing the name of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to sell his property located in Panchsheel Park, the police said on Wednesday.

The accused, Varun Krishan Vij, is a resident of Panchsheel Park. In 2012-13, he had started his consultancy firm. However, since the last seven-eight years, his business was not doing well and he wanted to sell his property in Panchsheel Park. He forged a No Objection Certificate issued by the ASI to sell the property, located 40.5 metres from a protected monument.

Joint Commissioner of Police (EOW) O.P. Mishra said a case was lodged against Mr. Vij on the complaint of Ajay Chaudhary, wherein he alleged that in 2011, he wanted to purchase a property in Panchsheel Park, during which the ac-

cused approached him.

After negotiations, Mr. Chaudhary noted that the property is in the vicinity of a protected monument.

"The accused produced a copy of letter dated February 2, 2012, issued by the ASI, confirming that the property is situated at a distance of 200.5 metres from the protected monument and said that the competent authority had directed him to submit an application for construction," he said.

Mr. Chaudhary entered into an agreement to buy his property for ₹21.21 crore. In pursuance of this agreement, he paid a sum of ₹7.21 crore from his personal account and ₹1.10 crore from his company's account. However, after receiving the payment, the accused did not transfer the property.

As per the agreement, the sale deed was to be executed by April 2013, but the accused on one pretext or the other, did not execute the sale deed, he said.

## Over 2,000 residents of unauthorised colonies granted ownership rights: DDA

Training and awareness events being held for councillors

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) on Wednesday said that ownership rights have so far been given to as many as 2,193 residents of unauthorised colonies.

The online scheme, launched in last October to grant ownership rights to residents of 1,731 unauthorised colonies in Delhi, has seen nearly 3.51 lakh registrations and over 42,000 applications under it.

is expected on Friday towards the higher end of 'very poor' category. This is mainly due to expected calm winds and shift towards north-westerly direction,"

said government-run monitoring agency System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR) in a statement. The PM2.5 level in Delhi

was 170.5 micrograms per cubic metre ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) at 7 p.m. on Wednesday – about three times the safe limit of 60  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ , as per Indian standards.

The 24-hour average AQI of Delhi was 344 on Wednesday, the values for Gurugram and Noida were 288 and 309, respectively.

The stubble burning fire count in Haryana, Punjab, and neighbouring border regions of Delhi reduced slightly to reach 4,528 on Tuesday.

The contribution of stubble burning in neighbouring States to PM2.5, a chief pollutant, in Delhi reduced to around 3% on Wednesday, as per SAFAR.

From today, get waiting times at metro stations online

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) on Wednesday said it will share online the real-time average waiting times at busy stations during peak hours from Thursday onwards.

The facility will be available for Chandni Chowk, Chawri Bazar, Patel Chowk, Rajiv Chowk, Central Secretariat, Huda City Centre, Lal Quila, Barakhamba Road, JLN Stadium and Saket metro stations among others. Updates will be posted on the official social media handles of the DMRC during peak hours (8.30 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. and 5.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.), said officials.

### Over 20 minutes

"The operations employees at these stations will monitor the crowd during peak hours and assess waiting time. This will be conveyed to commuters if it goes beyond 20 minutes through official social media pages of the DMRC. In case of any fluctuation in traffic or crowd, the waiting time will be modified accordingly," DMRC spokesperson Anuj Dayal said.

Currently, commuters can enter metro stations if they strictly adhere to prescribed norms. The number of passengers on trains are also restricted to maintain social distancing.

"The selection of these stations for providing updates has been done on the basis of traffic observed during peak hours. This is being started on an experimental basis and will be considered for implementation on more stations if required, on the basis of the feedback received from commuters," Mr. Dayal added.



Delhi's air quality entered 'very poor' category on Wednesday after six days of 'severe' pollution. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

tion slips," said a DDA official.

To increase awareness and facilitate the application process, 1,375 Common Service Centres and 28 help desks have been made operational by the urban body.

"Training and awareness programmes were conducted for councillors of the North Delhi Municipal Corporation on Monday. Similar workshops are scheduled for the South and East civic bodies," the official said.

## Man surrenders to police after killing sister-in-law

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

ice said that one Rohit came to the DCP office around 3.30 p.m. on Tuesday and said that he had killed his sister-in-law.

"The SHO and other officials of Karawal Nagar police station went to the accused's house and found the body,"

DCP (North-East) Ved Pra-

kash Surya said.

Mr. Rohit said that he and the woman, who was his brother's wife, used to fight frequently. His elder brother had died by suicide three years ago and the woman used to live with the accused.

The woman had asked Mr. Rohit not to live with his

mother and they used to fight over this issue often, a senior police officer said. On Tuesday, an argument had ensued between them.

Around 2.30 p.m., Mr. Rohit strangled her, they said.

A case was filed and Mr. Rohit was arrested, the police said.

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Identification No.06 Dt. 04.11.2020

1. Name & Nos of work : 07 Nos of Rural piped water supply Scheme

2. Estimated cost : Rs.101.70 lakhs to 202.34 lakhs

3. Class of Contractor : B & A

4. Cost of Tender Paper : As Per DTCA

5. Period of Completion : 10 Months to 11 Months

6. Mode of submission : Tenders should be submitted only online in www.tenderorissa.gov.in

7. Period of Availability of tenders online : 10.00 hours of date 16.11.2020 to 17.00 hours of date 25.11.2020

8. Last date & time of Seeking clarification : Date 23.11.2020 up to 5.00 P.M.

9. Last date & time of bidding Online : Date 25.11.2020 up to 5.00 P.M.

10. Date & time of opening of tender bid : Date 26.11.2020 at 11.00 A.M.

11. Name and address of the Officer inviting Tender : Executive Engineer RWS&S Division, Bhadrak

12. Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal www.tenderorissa.gov.in

Timings  
DELHI

THURSDAY, NOV. 12
RISE 06:42 SET 17:30
RISE 03:09 SET 15:42
FRIDAY, NOV. 13
RISE 06:42 SET 17:29
RISE 04:16 SET 16:19
SATURDAY, NOV. 14
RISE 06:43 SET 17:29
RISE 05:24 SET 17:00

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	30	11
Safdarjang	30	11
Palam	28	14

**Delhi Palam Today**  
**30°C** Cool morning with mist/smoke haze, marginal improvement in pollution level towards day.

**Delhi Palam Tomorrow**  
**30°C** Cool morning with light winds and hazziness. NO large change in pollution.

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**IN BRIEF**

**'Chandni Chowk project to be ready by Dec. 31'**

NEW DELHI  
The AAP government on Wednesday told the Delhi High Court that the project of pedestrianisation of Chandni Chowk here would be completed and be ready for inauguration by December 31. In view of the submissions by the government, a Bench of Justices Hima Kohli and Subramonium Prasad asked all the local bodies who are part of the project to file their respective status reports indicating the work pending at each of their ends. PTI

## Kejriwal reviews water augmentation plan

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday chaired a review meeting on the government's 24x7 water supply and water augmentation action plan.

The Delhi Jal Board (DJB) apprised Mr. Kejriwal of various ongoing and future projects to provide a 24x7 water supply to the people of Delhi. The DJB also gave a presentation on the laying of sewer lines and rain harvesting across Delhi. Mr. Kejriwal said that he will review the monthly progress of

# Daily COVID-19 cases cross 8K for first time

We have tripled testing in the Capital, says Health Minister

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI

The Capital on Wednesday witnessed the biggest single-day spike in the number of new infections with 8,593 fresh COVID-19 cases being reported in the past 24 hours, according to a health bulletin released by the Delhi government.

As many as 85 deaths were reported in a single day, taking the death toll to 7,228. Tuesday had also witnessed a record number of new COVID-19 cases.

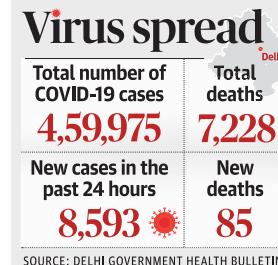
Of the total 4,59,975 cases, 4,10,118 people have recovered and there are now 42,629 active cases.

"Three times more tests are being done now as compared to the last peak. It is clear this is the third wave," Health Minister Satyendar Jain told reporters.

"On September 10, we had issued an order to reserve 80% ICU beds in 33



A health worker takes a sample for rapid antigen testing in Delhi on Wednesday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA



private hospitals for COVID-19, but the Delhi High Court stayed that.

On Thursday, the High

Court will hear the case and we hope to get relief, he said when asked about shortage of beds for treatment.

Of the total 16,511 beds available for COVID-19 treatment in the city, 51.4% were occupied, as per government data. Also, 86.3% of the ICU beds with ventilators are occupied and 83.6% of the ICU beds without ventilators are full.

The positivity rate was 13.4% and the overall positivity rate till now is 8.74%.

It has failed to handle the virus pandemic and pollution'

turned that reputation in less than seven years.

Delhi Congress chief Ch. Anil Kumar alleged that according to reports Delhi has become among the most polluted city not only in the country, but also in the world and Delhites had the misfortune of being governed by people who have no idea about good and effective governance.

The Kejriwal government has been taking only ad hoc measures, instead of

creating the necessary infrastructure at the ground level, in tackling air pollution, COVID-19 pandemic and water quality management," Mr. Kumar said. He added that government has remained in the limelight only through spreading lies and falsehood instead of finding solutions to the problems.

It also brought up the issue of the ban on Chhath Puja calling it a gross injustice by the Delhi government to the people of Poovanchal.

BJP lied about funds crunch in civic bodies to defame CM'

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party on Wednesday alleged that the BJP had lied to the people of Delhi about the fund crunch in civic bodies to defame Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and that they should apologise to the residents.

"For the past several months, the BJP-ruled municipal corporation was claiming that they do not have money to pay salaries and was blaming the AAP government, but yesterday, they have promised to release all the pending salaries. This shows that the BJP was lying," AAP leader Durgesh Pathak said.

**Released salaries**

He said that a few weeks ago, the doctors of the BJP-ruled North Delhi Municipal Corporation were protesting against non-payment of salaries and the it had continuously "defamed" the AAP government by saying that they do not have any money to pay the salaries. But eventually, they released the salary of the doctors from their own fund and the protest was withdrawn, the AAP leader said.

"From November 9, all the employees of the three civic bodies were on protest against the non-payment of salary. Eventually, the municipal corporations requested all the employees to withdraw the strike and released their salaries," Mr. Pathak said.

"Does the BJP do all these dramas just to defame to the AAP government," he asked.

## No Chhath Puja at public places this year: DDMA

Residents told to celebrate at home

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

NEW DELHI

Chhath Puja will not be allowed at public places in the Capital this year due to the recent spate in COVID-19 cases, the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) has decided.

In an order issued by Chief Secretary Vijay Dev in his capacity as chairperson of the State Executive Committee of the DDMA, the authority advised residents to observe the festival at home.

**Spate in virus cases**

"...the situation of COVID-19 in Delhi had been reviewed and it had been observed that there has been a persistent rise in COVID-19 cases in NCT of Delhi in the recent period," the order stated.

"Considering this, it has been decided that Chhath

Puja celebrations may not be allowed in public places and people may be advised to celebrate the festival at their home only," the order stated.

There are over 4,51,382 total virus cases in the Capital. With daily cases this week having maintained an average of around 7,000, even as the number of deaths continue to steadily rise above the 7,000 mark, the order directed local authorities to ensure that Chhath Puja was not observed at public places, including ghats or river banks, temples and public grounds.

It also directed them to convene meetings with religious and community leaders to encourage pilgrims and residents at large to observe the festivities associated with the puja at home.

U.P. districts now under FRRO ambit

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has redefined the jurisdiction of some of the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) for services related to Overseas Citizens of India (OCI).

The MHA said in a statement that Gautam Buddha Nagar (Noida), Greater Noida and Ghaziabad districts in Uttar Pradesh, have been brought under the jurisdiction of FRRO, Delhi, for matters relating to receiving and processing of applications for various services in respect of OCI cardholders.

"These measures are expected to greatly facilitate foreign nationals residing in the National Capital Region (NCR) for availing visa and OCI-related services," MHA said. Till now, they had to go to Lucknow for the same.

## PUBLIC NOTICE ISSUED IN THE INTEREST OF STUDENTS AND PARENTS.

It is well settled law that to impart education in all courses is a fundamental right guaranteed under Articles 14 and 19(1)(g) of the Constitution of India and it is equally a fundamental right of the students to receive education in any course and from any university of their choice under Articles 14, 19 and 21 of the Constitution of India and such fundamental right can be exercised throughout the country without there being any fetter. A statutory university is established and recognised under Entry 32 of List II and Entry 25 of List III, Schedule 7 to the Constitution, as such, it is a constitutional body like the Election Commission, Apex Court, High Courts etc. and similarly, autonomy of university is protected under Entry 44 of List I, Schedule 7 to the Constitution of India which follows various other judgments of Supreme Court including constitutional and full bench judgments. The entire gamut of university education is a Central subject for which the Centre has enacted the UGC Act, 1956 under Entry 66 List I, Schedule 7 to the Constitution and the Apex Court, in a catena of judgments, has constantly held that any such provision, in any Central or State Act which requires the university to take recognition or permission from any council or Central Government or State Government for imparting education or awarding degrees/ diplomas in any course of education, it is set down law that since university awards degrees/ diplomas to its pass out students by authority of law, the same are sui generis valid for all intents and purposes including registration with various councils and for government jobs. It is very unfortunate that misinformation is being spread because of vested interests that a statutory university requires Central Government/ State Government/ UGC/ council's permission to impart education in some courses. The recently enacted medical education statutes such NMC Act, 2019, ISMA, 2020 and NCHA, 2020 also do not require a statutory university to take any recognition or permission from any council or authority including Central Government or State Government or NMC rather expressly provide that qualifications granted by any university in India shall be recognised qualification. A statutory university does not require NEET for admission in undergraduate and postgraduate courses under Section 14 of the NMC Act, 2019. It is still more unfortunate that State Government and its officials and various councils established by the Centre and the State are spreading misinformation that without their recognition or permission, a statutory university cannot impart education in courses covered under their respective Acts whereas there is no such provision in the Act of any council which requires a university to obtain recognition or permission for imparting education in any course. For more information and copies of supporting judgments and legal opinions, please see the university website or contact the law department of SU.

Singhania University Legal Department  
legal@singhaniauniversity.ac.in

## HC seeks govt. response on bail plea of journalist

**STAFF REPORTER**

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday asked the government to respond to a bail application by freelance journalist Rajeev Sharma, arrested in an espionage case under the Official Secrets Act for allegedly leaking sensitive information to the Chinese intelligence.

Justice Anu Malhotra asked Delhi Police to file a status report before the next date of hearing on December 2. Mr. Sharma, 61, moved the High Court after his plea for bail was dismissed by a ma-

gistral court on September 28 and by a Sessions court on October 19. The Sessions court had rejected his plea noting that sufficiently grave and incriminating material was available on record against him.

The police had said they had received inputs that Mr. Sharma was having links with foreign intelligence officer and had been receiving money through illegal means and Western Union Money transfer following which a case was registered on September 13 and he was arrested.



## SINGHANIA UNIVERSITY

Recognized under Section 2(f) of the UGC Act, 1956 and under Section 2(x) of the NMC Act, 2019

PACHERI BARI, JHUNJHUNWALA (INDIA). Website: www.singhaniauniversity.ac.in

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MEDICAL QUALIFICATIONS RECOGNIZED UNDER SECTION 35(1) OF NATIONAL MEDICAL COMMISSION (NMC) ACT 2019

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE	DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN SYSTEM OF MEDICINE	DEPARTMENT OF ALLIED AND HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS
MBBS, BDS, MDS, MD (All Specialization), MS (All Specialization) & other Courses	BAMS, BUMS, BNYS, MD (All Specialization of Indian System of Medicine) & other Courses	DMLT, BMLT, DRIT, BRIT, DPT, BPT, MPT, Sonography, Dialysis Technician, X-Ray Technician & other Courses
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTHCARE EDUCATION	DEPARTMENT OF INTEGRATED SYSTEM OF MEDICINE	DEPARTMENT OF HOMEOPATHY
D.PHARMA, B.PHARMA, M.PHARMA, ANM, B.Sc/M.Sc (Nursing), Diploma/PG Dip. in Health Education, Diploma/PG Dip. in Child Health, Diploma/PG Dip. in Forensic Science & other Courses	DISM (Diploma in Integrated System of Medicine), BISM (Bachelor in Integrated System of Medicine), PGDISM (Post Graduate Diploma in Integrated System of Medicine) & other Courses	BHMS (Bachelor of Homeopathic Medicine and Surgery) & other Courses
DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH IN INTEGRATED SYSTEM OF MEDICINE (DRISM)		

Applications are invited from medical professionals / academicians for Chairperson (DRISM) & research scholars for research in integrated system of medicine with scholarship.  
Mail at info@singhaniauniversity.ac.in

ALL UNDERGRADUATE, POST GRADUATE AND RESEARCH COURSES AVAILABLE. FOR MORE DETAILS VISIT UNIVERSITY WEBSITE

LEGAL OPINION - (IN PUBLIC INTEREST)

As per legal advise, Singhania University being a distinct, constitutionally recognized, statutory, autonomous, self-regulating, apex body for all education and being a class by itself enjoys autonomy in its functioning, there being no requirement to take any approval/recognition from any authority including Government & various councils. The same has also been recognized by National Medical Commission Act 2019, National Commission for Homeopathy Act 2020, National Commission for Indian System of Healthcare Professionals Bill 2020 and there is no provision in any other Central/State Act requiring the universities to take any approval/recognition from any authority including Government & various councils.

"University" is recognized u/s 2(x) of the NMC Act 2019 and the degree/diploma that is awarded by university are recognized u/s 35(1) of the NMC Act 2019. Section 49 of NMC Act provides that any student who was studying for any degree/diploma/certificate before the commencement of NMC Act shall continue and shall be deemed to have completed the course under NMC Act. As such, it is very much clear that university does not require any permission from NMC/Central Govt./State Govt.

Singhania University in exercise of its fundamental rights and other legal rights under various relevant & applicable laws, takes admission, imparts education, conducts research, awards degree/diploma/certificate in all courses by the authority of law therefore, the same are sui generis and recognized all intents and purposes including Government jobs and registration with councils.

National Education Policy 2020 recognizes the importance of healthcare education to be integrated. Hon'ble Supreme Court in SLP (C) No 2



**WEATHER WATCH**

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



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

**Forecast for Thursday:** Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Rayalaseema, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	...32.5...	19.4	...	Kozhikode	1.6...	23.0	...
Ahmedabad	...32.1...	16.3	...	Kurnool	...32.5...	18.6	...
Aizawl	...25.5...	16.1	...	Lucknow	...30.3...	15.0	...
Allahabad	...31.3...	14.4	...	Madurai	...31.4...	20.7	...
Bengaluru	...28.4...	16.5	...	Mangaluru	...35.9...	19.6	...
Bhopal	...27.8...	12.0	...	Mumbai	...33.5...	19.4	...
Bhubaneswar	...31.8...	22.0	...	Mysuru	...28.9...	15.8	...
Chandigarh	...29.3...	13.8	...	New Delhi	...29.9...	11.4	...
Chennai	...29.6...	24.0	...	Patna	...31.2...	17.2	...
Coimbatore	...32.0...	18.8	...	Pond Blair	...30.4...	26.5	...
Dehradun	...28.2...	11.7	...	Puducherry	...29.0...	22.0	...
Gangtok	...20.2...	11.7	...	Pune	...29.6...	10.6	...
Goa	...33.3...	19.3	...	Raipur	...31.3...	18.4	...
Guwahati	...31.5...	17.0	...	Ranchi	...28.8...	15.4	...
Hubballi	...28.0...	16.0	...	Shillong	...21.6...	11.9	...
Hyderabad	...30.7...	12.4	...	Shimla	...21.1...	11.5	...
Imphal	...28.4...	11.3	...	Srinagar	...15.2...	0.8	...
Jaipur	...26.7...	16.2	...	Thiruvananthapuram	...32.1...	24.4	...
Kochi	...31.8...	25.0	...	Tiruchi	...32.7...	22.0	...
Kohima	...24.8...	10.2	...	Vijayawada	...31.2...	20.5	...
Kolkata	...33.5...	22.8	...	Visakhapatnam	...1.4...	26.2...	23.8

(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	120	51	.205	...
Bengaluru	...8	.34	.47	.102	.101
Chennai	43	.15	.32	.170	...
Delhi	22	.95	.79	.418	.402
Hyderabad	...5	.102	.10	.142	...
Kolkata	15	.17	.9	.118	.108
Lucknow	14	.99	.51	.371	.340
Mumbai	...6	.17	.8	.282	.153
Pune	22	.30	.54	.77	.60
Visakhapatnam	...23	.40	.29	.38	...

**Yesterday**

In observation made at 4.00 p.m. Bahadurgarh, Haryana records an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 417 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 14

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

## Arjun Rampal's girlfriend appears before NCB

As part of probe into alleged drug use in Bollywood, agency searches actor's house

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
MUMBAI

Actor Arjun Rampal's girlfriend Gabriella Demetriades appeared before the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Wednesday as part of its probe into the alleged drug use in Bollywood, an official said.

Ms. Demetriades reached the NCB's zonal office at Ballard Estate in south Mumbai in her car just before 12 p.m. A large number of media persons gathered outside the office. On Monday, the NCB had carried out a search at Mr. Rampal's residence and questioned the actor's driver.

Last month, Ms. Ms. Demetriades' brother Agisila Demetriades was arrested by the NCB from a resort in Lonavala in a drugs case, the official had said. It was al-

so questioned by the NCB on Thursday.

### Producer's wife held

The search at the residence of the model-turned-actor came a day after the NCB arrested Bollywood producer Firoz Nadiadwala's wife Shabana Saeed after ganja was allegedly found at their residence in Juhu.

The NCB had seized electronic gadgets like laptops, mobile phones, and tablets during the search at Mr. Rampal's residence and

questioned the actor's driver.

Ms. Demetriades was arrested by the NCB from a resort in Lonavala in a drugs case, the official had said. It was al-



Bollywood actor Arjun Rampal's girlfriend Gabriella Demetriades arrives at the NCB office in Mumbai on Wednesday. ■ VIVEK BENDRE

that of executive producer Kshitij Prasad in another drugs case in which four gram of cocaine was recovered from a Nigerian national Uka Emeka in Andheri last month. The NCB had launched a probe into the alleged drug use in Bollywood after the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput in June on the basis of WhatsApp chats involving drugs.

The Central agency had earlier arrested Rajput's girlfriend, actress Rhea Chakraborty, her brother Showik, some employees of the late filmstar, and a few others under various sections of the NDPS Act.

Ms. Chakraborty and some other accused are currently out on bail.

## Bihar polls: people don't care for Cong. leadership any more, says Ambedkar

**SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE**

PUNE

[TMC] to head an opposition coalition against Narendra Modi and the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP], he said.

Claiming that there was widespread public anger against the Modi government at the Centre, the VBA leader said that the Hindutva issue cut no ice with voters today.

"Ultimately, the BJP has failed to achieve a decisive victory in Bihar and voters have rejected its divisive politics. With West Bengal going to polls next year, there is a need for a strong coalition of opposition parties to stop the BJP," Mr. Ambedkar said.

Mr. Ambedkar censured the Congress, particularly for the latter branding his own VBA, which contested the polls, as a 'vote-breaker'.

Under Section 353, he

## Arnab moves court for anticipatory bail

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

MUMBAI

Republic TV editor-in-chief Arnab Goswami has filed for anticipatory bail before the City Civil and Sessions Court in a case charging him with deterring the police from discharging their duty when they came to arrest him on November 4.

The FIR was filed at the NM Joshi police station under Sections 353 (assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty), 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke), 506 (punishment for criminal intimidation), and 34 (acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) of the Indian Penal Code and Section 3 (mischief causing damage to public property) of the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act.

Under Section 353, he can be punished with imprisonment that may extend to two years, or with a fine, or both. Mr. Goswami was granted interim bail by the Supreme Court on Wednesday in the 2018 case of abetting the suicide of interior designer Anvay Naik.

A suicide note believed to have been written by Naik mentioned that Mr. Goswami did not pay him ₹83 lakh for the "Bombay Dyeing" studio project."



Arnab Goswami after being released from Taloja Central Jail on interim bail in the 2018 abetment to suicide case, on Wednesday. ■ PTI

can be punished with imprisonment that may extend to two years, or with a fine, or both. Mr. Goswami was granted interim bail by the Supreme Court on Wednesday in the 2018 case of abetting the suicide of interior designer Anvay Naik.

A suicide note believed to have been written by Naik mentioned that Mr. Goswami did not pay him ₹83 lakh for the "Bombay Dyeing" studio project."

## HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT 'NOTICE INVITING TENDERS'

Sealed item rate tenders on form 6&8 are hereby invited by the Executive Engineer, Palampur Division HP.PWD., Palampur on behalf of the Governor of H.P for the following work from the approved and eligible contractors enlisted in HP.PWD, (B&R) whose registration stood renewed as per revised rules and also registered under the H.P General Sales Tax Act 1968 so as to reach in his office on or before 3.12.2020 up to 11.00 AM, and the same shall be opened on the same day at 11.30 A.M. in the presence of intending contractors or their authorized representatives. The tender documents can be had from his office against cash payment (Non-refundable) on 2.12.2020 up to 4.00 P.M and the application for issue of tender form shall be received on 1.12.2020 up to 12.00 noon. The earnest money in the shape of FDR/saving account of the Post office/Bank in H.P duly pledged in favour of the XEN must accompany with each tender. Conditional/ incomplete tenders & tender without earnest money will be summarily rejected. The XEN reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders or drop the proposal of tenders without assigning any reasons.

S. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs.)	Time Limit	Cost of form
1.	Imp. of black spot on Palampur Gallu Langha via Chandpur road (SW- C/O R/wall at RD 0/0 to 0/570 / 0/595 to 0/600 and parapets	1,31,954/-	2650/-	Three Months	Rs. 350/-
2.	R/D of Parour Laha Chachain road (SW- C/O R/wall at RD 2/885 to 2/905 and edge wall at RD 3/120 to 3/140 near Karam Chand House)	1,67,648/-	3300/-	Three Months	Rs. 350/-
3.	C/O road to Cow Sanctuary at village Kudan in Km. 0/00 to 0/500 (SW- P/G, GSB, P/L wearing G-II)	3,28,797/-	6580/-	Three Months	Rs. 350/-
4.	C/O Gopalpur to Gopalpur via Gujrehra 0/00 to 2/300 (SW- Imp. of road in between RD 1/00 to 1/260)	1,54,487/-	3100/-	Three Months	Rs. 350/-
5.	C/O road to cow sanctuary at Village Kudan 0/0 to 0/50 (SW- P/L wearing G-II & bitumen concrete	4,98,352/-	10000/-	Three Months	Rs. 350/-
6.	Fixing of steel crash barriers Bram Theru to Garh Mata road 0/0 to 7/0 (SW- Providing & fixing crash barriers 0/4 to 4/10)	3,44,905	7000/-	Three Months	Rs. 350/-
7.	C/O link road Thala Malanta 0/0 to 2/500 (SW- P/L interlocking tiles at various Rds.)	4,69,387/-	9400/-	Three Months	Rs. 350/-
8.	Restoration of road damages to link road Sukeri 0/0 to 1/0 (SW- P/L tack coat, premix and seal coat)	4,98,685	10000/-	Three Months	Rs. 350/-
9.	C/O link road to Jughar to Kharti (SW- Earth work in cutting 0/100 to 0/300)	4,98,705/-	10000/-	Three Months	Rs. 350/-
10.	Repair & maintenance of pooled accommodation at Palampur ( SW- P/L Aluminium fitting, Wood work and flooring etc. of SDO ( C ) residence)	2,11,083/-	4300/-	Three Months	Rs. 350/-
11.	C/O Mini Sectt. /Combind office building at Palampur (SW- C/O Lift porton etc.)	1,74,031/-	3500/-	Three Months	Rs. 350/-
12.	Up-gradation of Ragh Ramkot Jyun Sukeri Bundla road 14/0 to 34/0 (Nabard) (SW- Extension and paving of berams 28/095 to 28/595	4,69,466/-	940		



## Weak at the top

Nitish Kumar returns as Bihar CM much weakened, and at the mercy of a stronger BJP

The NDA has won a slender victory in Bihar, with the BJP displacing the JD(U) as the bigger party within it. The HAM(S) and VIP, with four seats each, are both critical for the alliance to sustain its margin of three seats in the 243-strong Assembly. Nitish Kumar is set for a fourth straight term as Chief Minister, this time at the mercy of the BJP. His initial success in Bihar politics came from his ability to aggregate disparate communities on a promise of enhanced social justice and good governance. Diminished as he is, the fact that he survived is no mean feat, considering the popular anger against him that was unmistakable throughout the campaign. He faced the electorate with a battered image, and a partner that made its own plan and a partner's partner who queered the pitch for him. In the end, the victory of the NDA is considerably an outcome of the popularity of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the State and the BJP's election engineering. This victory flips the equation between Mr. Modi and Mr. Kumar. This brings a new dynamic to the alliance, and consequently governance in Bihar. As the BJP waits for the opportune time to occupy the top post, it will want to keep Mr. Kumar on a tight leash. Therein lies the paradox of this victory for Mr. Kumar. He was a trailblazer in Bihar 20 years ago when he dictated terms to the BJP, but has now been reduced to the status of a subordinate ally. He may not easily reconcile to the new situation and is likely to formulate a strategy to deal with the BJP.

Devoid of a strong governance agenda, the BJP campaign boasted about depriving Kashmir of its special status and the ongoing construction of the Ram temple in Ayodhya. The BJP's surge in Bihar is clearly indicative of the continuing resonance of its Hindutva agenda. It is also a demonstration of its election management, as it came on top even as one of its allies at the Centre, the LJP, successfully undermined another, the JD(U). As the BJP pursues its next plan to capture power in Bihar, the State will witness new social realignments. The Grand Alliance of the RJD, Congress and the Left parties put up a spirited fight but they could not match the BJP in terms of resources and popularity. The consolation for the RJD is that it is the single largest party even in defeat and its leader Tejashwi Yadav who began as an unsure leader emerged as an authoritative one by the end of this election. But that is no guarantee of a path to power in Bihar. Mr. Yadav's popularity still does not appear wide spectrum. The outcome will also force a renegotiation of the terms of engagement among anti-BJP parties and the role of the Congress. Also noteworthy is the performance of CPI-ML-L and other Left parties that boosted the alliance and the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen that spoiled its plans. That Prime Minister Modi can still win State elections is an indication that in terms of ideology, organisation and leadership, a viable alternative to the BJP is still some distance away.

## Back to the House

Voters in Madhya Pradesh Assembly have given a fresh mandate to Scindia loyalists

By-elections do not necessarily generate the same buzz as Assembly elections in India. After all, they are typically held to replace incumbents who might have moved on to other public roles or are deceased or incapacitated, preventing them from representing their constituencies. This lack of enthusiasm has generally rendered bypolls as contests where the ruling party in a State is hugely favoured. There is little desire by voters to upset the apple cart. More so in States where the politics of patronage influences voter decisions, voting the representative of the party in power can be understood as a rational choice. It is therefore not surprising that the BJP and other ruling parties have won a large majority of the Assembly bypolls – their results were announced on Tuesday. Yet, the story in Madhya Pradesh had an additional wrinkle. The 28 seats were keenly contested because these had elected Congress MLAs in 2018 and the vacancies arose on their defection to the BJP in an event orchestrated by senior leader Jyotiraditya Scindia. The defections had shifted the government to the BJP within months of the Assembly elections. The BJP's wins, in 19 seats, were made possible by Mr. Scindia's clout in the Gwalior-Chambal belt besides the BJP's added strength. The Congress can take some solace in the fact it could wrest back nine seats lost to defection. But with these wins, the BJP has won an absolute majority and secured its government.

A deflection of a significant number of MLAs elected on one ticket and then overturning governments is bad advertisement for governance in India. These events were once common in smaller State Assemblies but have occurred in two large States, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh, recently. Here, the defectors have returned to the Assembly via the bypolls, a fact that could raise the question whether voters are concerned about defections as a moral issue. One charitable reason for this preference could be that voters might not want yet another churning and instability, in turn helping defectors retain their seats. The other reason could be that legislators in States such as M.P. and Karnataka have been chosen to represent parties less due to ideological or principled positions and more for abilities to run electoral campaigns and make use of social equations in their respective seats. So, it could be understood that voters have found little differentiation in representation from ruling and Opposition parties even in the aftermath of defections. As required by the anti-defection law, the defectors returned to voters for a fresh mandate, and many obtained it too. Clearly, defections cannot just be done away with through legislative action unless they are seen as immoral by voters as well.

# Trumpism still remains unvanquished

The U.S. President-elect has vowed to rebuild the middle class, but will have a hard time finding the middle ground



SUKUMAR MURALIDHARAN

In his first speech after winning the election as the 46th President of the United States, Joseph R. Biden promised to rebuild the middle class as the "backbone of the nation". A "middle class" presupposes a political centre, a vantage point from which policies could be determined to secure the greatest good to the greatest number. That centre could be difficult to find after a bitter election campaign and a contest much closer than predicted.

Mr. Biden brings rectitude to the White House after four years of rampant ugliness and untruth. Restoring a semblance of equity will be harder, when the system has drifted far from that ideal and the drivers of inequality are deeply rooted. President Donald Trump's singular achievement, touted till the bitter end, was the "greatest economy in history", a bit of hyperbole resting on the thin foundation of the stock market. Other boasts, such as a massive stimulus to U.S. manufacturing output, refuse to die though long since proven hollow.

**Effects of tax code changes**  
By 2019, the U.S. economy was coming off the sugar boost from Mr. Trump's signature policy initiative, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, passed a few days before Christmas on a strictly partisan vote. This most far-reaching change to the tax code raised exemption limits on estate duty and reserved many other favours for

high-income individuals and corporations. The few concessions to the middle class and low-income earners, were largely neutralised by lower allowances and deductions.

The tax cuts sparked a flurry of share buybacks by corporate beneficiaries, sending prices soaring. In August 2018, Apple Corporation hit a market valuation of \$1 trillion, followed in quick order by others from the fabled quartet of new age scrips: Amazon, Microsoft, and Google. As the animal spirits remained unabated, Apple's market valuation doubled in just two years, hitting a stratospheric \$2 trillion amidst the pandemic gloom.

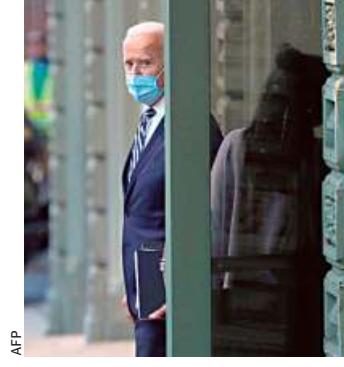
By all conventional metrics, these valuations defy logic. Today's ratio of share prices to earnings stands near the levels touched between 2007 and 2008, just ahead of the abrupt collapse heralded by the global meltdown.

**A redistribution and politics**  
This perverse economic redistribution through assets price inflation, contrary to traditional Keynesian processes of progressive taxation, has been underway for four decades. The 1980s began under the shadow of the "Volcker shock", an overnight increase in interest rates that pushed the U.S. into recession, playing no small part in propelling Ronald Reagan to a decisive win in the presidential election. The interest rate shock also had the effect of transforming incentives: investment now flowed increasingly into financial assets, while much fixed capital was taken out of commission as the U.S. lost global manufacturing competitiveness.

High interest rates attracted large inflows of foreign capital, sustaining and causing the enormous U.S. external deficit in a process of cumulative causation quite unlike anything foreseen by "equilibrium theory". Events on the stock markets also foreshadowed much that was to come, with the excesses of "junk bonds" causing a buoyancy in excess of anything warranted by the real economy. As the markets began a shake-out, the U.S. slipped into recession in the early 1990s, heralding the ouster of Reagan's successor, George H.W. Bush, after just one term.

Bill Clinton sought a conventional remedy with a tax hike, but showed his fealty to the new ethos with a thorough deregulation of financial services. With the Internet then sparking innovation and perhaps a greater frenzy of speculation, the markets went into a giddy spiral. And even as the government managed to curtail borrowing, households and the corporate sector eagerly began picking up record bonuses paid out to the bankers who brought on the crisis. Mr. Obama issued a moral reprimand but admitted helplessness. He did return to a marginally more equitable taxation regime, but his legacy finally was a more rapid growth of inequality, measured by the Gini coefficient, than during prior Republican tenures in the White House.

Research over the last two decades of soaring asset values has focused on how these influence consumer spending. In 2002, a member of the U.S. Federal Reserve Board, spoke of the "wealth effect" as a significant economic force in the U.S. and the United Kingdom. A 2012 study based on 37 years of data by future Nobel laureate Robert J. Shiller and associates, found consumption expenditure linked with both increases



AP/

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That bubble burst in 2008 and in elections held within two months of the catastrophe, the U.S. elected for the first time, a person of African origin as President. Barack Obama brought conventional Keynesian remedies back, but the massive rescue package he shepherded through Congress, was soon transmuted into record bonuses paid out to the bankers who brought on the crisis. Mr. Obama issued a moral reprimand but admitted helplessness. He did return to a marginally more equitable taxation regime, but his legacy finally was a more rapid growth of inequality, measured by the Gini coefficient, than during prior Republican tenures in the White House.

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luxury to be shared with his constituency of "haves and have-nots". It mattered little that Mr. Bush was then taking the U.S. into a war of indefinite duration and global expense.

### One bubble to another

The "dot com boom" turned bust just as the Bush tax cuts showed up as record new deficits. A new bubble had to be conjured up to sustain the mirage of economic buoyancy, and it was by pumping up prices of existing real estate stock and selling dreams of home ownership to millions whose earnings had languished for years.

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and decreases in housing equity. But there was little correlation detected between stock market wealth and consumption, which seemed counter-intuitive, since shares are a more liquid form of wealth than home ownership.

Household wealth as a multiple of income fell dramatically in 2008, when the financial meltdown hit. It then fluctuated at the lower level, before beginning a sustained rise from the first quarter of 2013. Through all four quarters of 2019, it was well above pre-meltdown peaks of 2008.

### Trump and troubles

Both inequality and household debt have continued growing under Mr. Trump. Even before the novel coronavirus pandemic, credit card and automobile loan delinquencies were showing a troubling upward trend. Increasing asset prices in the context are a source of solace for households struggling to get by. Middle class anxiety could be measured in direct proportion to the size of the gap between household assets and liabilities. And when none of the political choices on offer has credible proposals that assuage these anxieties, they tend to be transformed into cultural and identity wars.

Mr. Trump was a candidate who disregarded conventional niceties to crudely articulate the status anxieties that many among the white middle class feel. He may have lost, but the 71 million votes he garnered – the most for any candidate, winning or losing, other than the person he actually lost to – shows that Trumpism still remains unvanquished.

Sukumar Muralidharan teaches at the school of journalism, O.P.Jindal Global University, Sonipat

## Myths and the reality of election forecasts

It is difficult to comment on the predictions of most Indian pollsters as they do not publish their methodology



ATANU BISWAS

Richard Charnin's 2010 book, *Proving Election Fraud: Phantom Voters, Uncounted Votes, and the National Exit Poll*, investigated possible irregularities in Democrat John Kerry's defeat in the 2004 United States presidential election. While political pundits struggled to explain the election outcome and claimed the polls "behaved badly", Mr. Charnin considered the possible phantom voters and uncounted votes in the election procedure. However, the final national exit poll was the real "Smoking Gun". The difference between the vote shares of John Kerry and George W. Bush was 6.5% more than the actual.

**Global examples**  
Interestingly though, such was the credibility of exit polls even one and a half decades ago. Take the example of the Venezuelan recall referendum of 2004 to determine whether Hugo Chávez, then President, should be recalled from office. A huge discrepancy with the exit poll created a massive uproar worldwide.

The "Orange Revolution" in Ukraine during late November 2004 to January 2005 was also in the immediate aftermath of the presidential election. The allegations of

electoral fraud were strengthened by several exit polls exhibiting a substantial lead for Viktor Yushchenko. Similarly, widespread protests over the disputed parliamentary elections of 2003 triggered the "Rose Revolution" in Georgia, and culminated in the ousting of President Eduard Shevardnadze.

One wonders if polls predictions are still so trustworthy. Certainly not. In 2020, U.S. (President-elect) Joe Biden won the election, and not many people are looking back to the predicted margin in nation-wide popular vote share which was huge (mostly within 8-12%), but never materialised. Also the credibility of pollsters must have been undermined quite a bit in between. People possibly learned to listen to them, but not to keep much faith in their predictions.

In reality, the difference in popular vote shares in this U.S. election is just about 3%. And, in most of the States, the difference between the predicted percentage of votes for Mr. Biden and U.S. President Donald Trump compared to Mr. Biden's final lead is more than 3%. Should not this be regarded as a huge failure to gauge the pulse of the electorate?

**The Bihar mandate**  
What about Bihar? Pollsters performed miserably in Bihar in 2015 in one of their worst performances in Indian elections. Although the opinion polls mostly predicted a victory by the National Democratic Alliance this time, very few of



them could guess the quantum. The exit polls, on the other hand, mostly predicted a Rashtriya Janata Dal+ victory. A funny thing is that the minimum and maximum predictions for the RJD+ were 76 seats (a range of 71-81) and 180 seats (a range of 169-191), out of 243 seats. One wonders whether the RJD+ securing anything less than 71 or more than 191 was at all practicable. Thus, there will be some pollster or other to claim a perfect or near-perfect prediction.

**Surveys and lessons learnt**  
Yes, poll predictions have failed miserably on many historical occasions including some which were in the developing process. For example, before the 1936 U.S. presidential elections, a reputed magazine, the *Literary Digest*, conducted an opinion poll survey with a massive 24 lakh samples, and predicted 57% vote share for Republican Alfred Landon, and 43% for President Franklin Roosevelt. In reality, Roosevelt got 62% votes against 38% favouring Landon.

This episode was a lesson about the importance of 'selection bias', as the individuals under study

were affluent people having a telephone, club memberships and magazine subscription in that era; Roosevelt had less support among such people. Also, people understood the importance of 'non-response bias' as only 24% of the people who were approached actually responded to the survey.

Similarly, the severe failure of Gallup's poll prediction of the 1948 U.S. election taught pollsters about the importance of 'random sampling'. In 2016, Mr. Trump supporters were under-counted. Later, there was an attempt to label that "shy Trump factor" or "hidden Trump vote", similar to the "shy Tory factor" in the United Kingdom – a term which became popular after John Major's victory in the 1990s.

Certainly, the winner of opinion/exit polls is not necessarily the winner in the election. Hillary Clinton, Ed Miliband or Atal Bihari Vajpayee could vouch for that. Most of the opinion polls of the 2009 and 2014 Lok Sabha elections either failed to project the winner or to foresee the margin of victory. A small State like Delhi has caused misery for pollsters, be it in 2015 or 2020. In the U.K., for example, no major survey could predict the victory of Conservatives in 2015. And the history of the Brexit referendum is a part of folklore, for sure.

Over decades, pollsters around the world have transformed poll prediction into a funny game. When Warren J. Mitofsky conducted an exit poll in a local election in Kentucky in 1967 for CBS News

and also conducted the first national exit poll in 1972, he never envisioned such a future within half-a-century, for sure.

### Posing the questions

Do present-day pollsters, in general, properly follow the underlying statistical principles in designing, sampling, and analysing their data? Do they go to remote corners of the country and cover sensitive booths for their surveys? Do they maintain the requirements for standard '3 percentage points margin of error'? Are their samples random? Do the samples represent the population by approximately maintaining the proportions across gender, age, income, religion, caste, and other important factors? How do they handle possible non-response? Sample size, sampling frame, method of sampling and estimation, and of course summary statistics across different margins of variability are not provided by most of the pollsters. Thus, it is almost impossible to comment on the quality of their predictions, from a statistical point of view.

The *Literary Digest* never attempted to predict the outcome of the U.S. elections after its 1936 debacle. That was never its main task. However, unless strong regulations enforce today's pollsters to publish their methodology and summary statistics across different variables, poll predictions may not regain the trust of the people.

Atanu Biswas is Professor of Statistics at the Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata

## 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.

**Election results**  
Thanks to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's charisma and popularity almost pan-India, Bihar has propelled the National Democratic Alliance to power again (Page 1 reports, November 11). In by-elections in other States, his reach continues unchallenged, and surprisingly even in a State such as Telangana. A big takeaway from all these results reveals that Mr. Modi's national popularity is intact notwithstanding the relentless efforts made by the Opposition parties to criticise demonetisation, GST implementation, the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, the farm Bills, the state of the economy and employment, and even the issues of migrant workers.

What India lacks is a vibrant and constructive Opposition. S. SESHADRI, Chennai

If statistics is any indication, among all the major players in Bihar election, the main gainer by far has been the BJP. The worst performer has been the Congress, and as has been the case, it has failed to gain the voter's confidence. With his firebrand image, Tejashwi Yadav created the perception of his eventually succeeding in establishing a government with a comfortable majority. Sadly, he could not rise to expectations despite the support he seemed to draw in campaign rallies. However, the manner in which he single-handedly

managed his party's performance in this election is indeed amazing. He cannot be ignored and will be a factor to reckon with in future political dispensations in Bihar. ARVIND TAPKIRE, Mumbai

The wan appeal of Nitish Kumar in Bihar highlights voter disappointment for a variety of reasons. What is noteworthy is the breathtaking challenge mounted by the Tejashwi Yadav-led Mahagathbandhan, and whose party, the RJD, was subject to attacks by the BJP. That the just turned 31-year-old politician demonstrated undying positive energy in gruelling campaigning, all the while maintaining a high

# Republic and its discontents

Vigilante justice in retaliation to Arnab Goswami's vigilante journalism cannot be condoned



G.R. GOPINATH

First, it must be said loud and clear, so the 'nation may know', that even though Arnab Goswami, editor-in-chief of Republic Media Network, may have been disrespectful, rude, obnoxious and mean on his channel to people who may well be innocent, even though he may be a kind of lynch in the media in cahoots with his camera storm troopers with utter disregard for the privacy and dignity of the people whom he tramples on with sadistic pleasure, police vigilante justice in retaliation to his vigilante journalism cannot be condoned.

Let me qualify this statement. We cannot pre-judge the arrest of Mr. Goswami by the Maharashtra Police. The police may have a legitimate case. The wife and daughter of the contractor, who left an incriminating suicide note accusing Mr. Goswami, among others, for not honouring payment for his contract work, may feel that his arrest was justified. I am merely stating an inviolable principle: media excess cannot be met with police excess. A murder, even a heinous one, cannot be avenged by a state-sponsored killing. A media house, howsoever irresponsible and provocative, headed by anchors who seem to be on steroids, even when it goes rogue, has to be reined in by adhering to the rule of law. A republic will not hold when those who are supposed to uphold the law themselves opt for retributive justice against private entities, even if such entities, like 'Republic TV', run amok.

## The irony

There are many who may adore the 'Republic TV' anchor who panders to an audience with a narrow, bigoted and jingoistic outlook on men and matters. There are others who subscribe to a broader, pluralistic and an inclusive idea of a genial, assimilating India – an India which is amorphous, indeterminate, yet has a unique civilisational identity; that is diverse, yet unifying. The so-called liberals, in the widest sense of the word, may



Republic TV editor-in-chief Arnab Goswami sits inside a police vehicle after being produced in court following his arrest in an abetment to suicide case, in Mumbai on November 4. • AP

abhor him for his polarising style. He was arrested in a cruel twist of irony by a ruling party which has a history of muscular and fiery politics, which espoused religious identity politics, which was seen to be intolerant of other faiths and cultures and wary of outsiders, which discriminated against those who did not belong, and which never shied away from using strong-arm tactics to browbeat opponents. This is the very brand of politics that 'Republic TV' practises: combining hysteria with histrionics while spewing venom and vitriol and dividing the republic.

The channel, until Wednesday, was crying itself hoarse that its anchor's arrest was a threat to free speech and strikes at the very foundations of democracy by muzzling the freedom of the press. This is also ironic considering that the channel is notorious for shouting down those who hold an opinion at variance to the anchor. The channel that never raised its voice in defence of many of their journalist colleagues when they were arrested, assaulted, some jailed on improbable charges of sedition, and a few even killed began taking refuge in amnesia. It showed no remorse and is even now crying foul and accusing the Shiv Sena, the ruling party in Maharashtra, of terrorising the press and arresting a 'nation-

## Many like Arnab

Mr. Goswami chooses carefully the 'enemies of the nation', both imagined and real, and then pursues them with single-minded obsession like a vulture. He goes after them relentlessly. He sees himself as the self-appointed custodian of nationalist interest, the pompous and sanctimonious crusader who has arrogated to himself the role of investigator, judge

and executioner, sanctioning himself the right to heap abuses. If these were actions of an unhinged media house rousing emotions, purveying gossip, witch-hunting Bollywood stars, and business tycoons caught in the crosshairs of the banks for defaulting loans, or singling out Opposition leaders caught in scandals, then one can ignore 'Republic TV'. But there are scores of other channels who are trying to outdo 'Republic TV' in stirring the communal pot, taking blatantly partisan stands by shutting one eye and brazenly taking political sides. There are also a few channels perceived to be favouring the Opposition parties and leftist intellectuals and are seen to be 'anti-government'. When parties on either side of the political and social divide split and range themselves behind various TV channels and align with one media house instead of the other, there is danger to the stability of the republic.

The freedom of the press is sacred. The media's conduct and functioning in a free, fair and fearless manner underpins a vibrant democracy. Media houses cannot be loyal to the ruling party or to the party in the Opposition or to one community or ideology while wilfully ignoring facts. Their fidelity has to be to an overarching fealty to truth and to the larger common weal.

Mr. Goswami of 'Republic TV' can go on a witch-hunt and sow discord. He may ill-treat his guests on his show and behave ignominiously. But the institutions of the republic cannot emulate him. Mr. Goswami was granted bail by the Supreme Court on Wednesday. Bail should have been granted by a lower court. He must be given a fair trial and treated with dignity as anyone who is an accused must be treated. Such a gesture may have a salutary effect on not only Mr. Goswami, but on other sections of the media. It is hoped that this will turn many into decent, humane anchors who treat others with respect; anchors who moderate impartially and, in the future, give voice to fellow journalists who are languishing in jail or are under prosecution in many States. Such a 'Republic' will be an asset and a strong fourth pillar of democracy.

Captain G.R. Gopinath is a writer and founder of Air Deccan

# A time for cautious optimism

While Pfizer's interim analysis of the Phase-3 trial of the vaccine is encouraging, there are some unknowns

R. PRASAD

The first interim analysis of the Phase-3 trial of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine (BNT162b2) calls for cautious optimism. The results of the Phase-1 trial, announced in August, showed that the vaccine induced neutralising antibodies and specific T cell (major components of the adaptive immune system) responses in younger and older adults. Neutralising antibodies in younger adults (18-55 years) were 3.8 times more than those in convalescent plasma and 1.6 times more in older adults (65-85 years) in the Phase-1 trial. Neutralising antibodies and T cell responses were also seen in pre-clinical trials on rhesus macaques.

## Safe, so far

Though the first interim results of the Phase-3 trial do not provide details, it is likely that neutralising antibodies and T cell responses would have played a vital role in preventing disease in many vaccinated participants – the vaccine showed more than 90% effectiveness in preventing disease. So far, the vaccine appears to be safe as no serious adverse events were reported in the over 43,000 Phase-3 trial participants.

Ninety-four confirmed cases of COVID-19 in trial participants were evaluated in the analysis, but the break-up of how many were among the vaccinated group has not been spelt out. The over 90% effectiveness reported is basically against symptomatic infection. But the nature of infection – mild, moderate or severe – that the vaccine can protect against is not clear.

The efficacy, which was evaluated seven days after the second dose, indicates that protection is achieved 28 days after administration of the first dose, which is again encouraging; the second dose was given 21 days after the first. The endpoint to evaluate vaccine efficacy is when 164 trial participants get infected, irrespective of whether they received the vaccine or a placebo. The company expects that endpoint to be reached by the end of this month. By then, trial participants would have been followed-up for an average of two months – a Food and Drug Administration (FDA) safety requirement for COVID-19 vaccine approval.

While over 90% vaccine effectiveness is much more than what scientists had expected, the effectiveness might change as more cases get reported. In all likelihood, it might drop marginally, but not below the FDA cut off of at least 50% vaccine effectiveness to prevent disease or decrease disease severity. The vaccine will be seen as being truly effective if it has the potential to prevent severe disease and thereby prevent deaths.

The over 90% vaccine effectiveness is based on symptomatic infection. Since not all trial participants have been tested for the virus, it is unclear if the vaccinated participants have been asymptotically infected. While the inability of the vaccine to prevent asymptomatic infection might not matter for protecting individuals against severe disease outcomes, it might matter in its ability to cut down on transmission.

## The duration of protection

The interim results do not reveal how effective the vaccine is in older adults, who are more likely to progress to severe disease and even die. Also, how long the protection lasts after vaccination is not known. It is therefore essential that the trial continues for several more months even when the vaccine is given emergency use authorisation by the FDA. Meanwhile, one way of knowing the duration of protection is by analysing the immune responses of individuals who participated in the Phase-1 trial, which took place a few months ago.

Pfizer is not the only company to use the mRNA platform for COVID-19 vaccine. The COVID-19 vaccine candidate of Moderna and NIAID, which is an advanced Phase-3 trial, too uses the same mRNA platform; Novavax, Sanofi and GlaxoSmithKline are other vaccine candidates using the same mRNA platform. It is likely that these vaccines too may show similar outcomes. The encouraging results of Pfizer's vaccine is good news for vaccines that use other platforms, as well. The Oxford University vaccine being tested by AstraZeneca and other vaccines too produced immune responses similar to Pfizer's in early stage trials and may show encouraging results in Phase-3 trials.

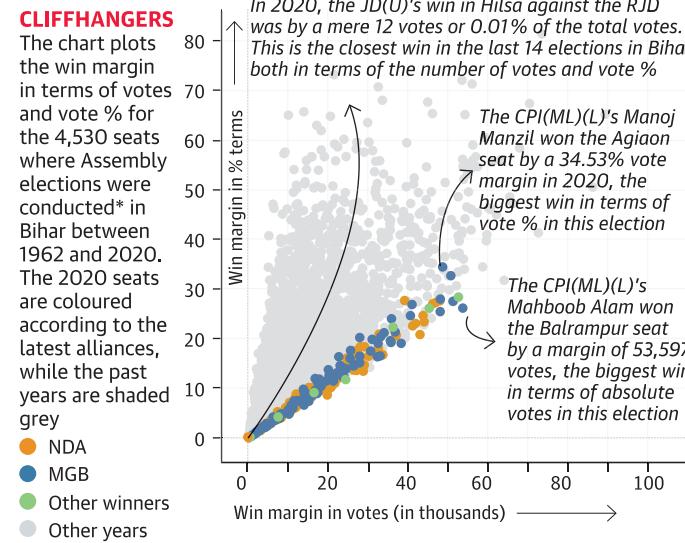
prasad.ravindranath@thehindu.co.in

## DATA POINT

### Close calls in Bihar polls

The 2020 Bihar Assembly election was the closest contest in the State's history in many ways. In this election, in 20% of the seats, the margin of victory was less than 2.5% of the votes polled, the highest share of such seats in the last 14 elections. However, such wafer-thin margins may not have influenced the final tally much in the 2020 polls, as both the alliances won tightly contested seats in nearly equal numbers. The BJP and JD(U) won 21 seats with a less than 2.5% vote margin, while the RJD and Congress won in 22 such seats.

By Naresh Singaravelu, Sumant Sen and Vignesh Radhakrishnan



**MARGIN CALL** | The table shows the number of seats won by parties across various margin ranges. Margin is presented as a % of total votes. The number of seats where parties secured the second position, across margin ranges, is also noted. In 2020, the victory margin was <1% in 17 seats, and in 26 constituencies, the win margin was between 1% and 2.5%.

\*bypolls ignored | Source: ECI; Lok Dhaba, Trivedi Center for Political Data

Margin %	Seats	Seats where party won				Seats where party was runner-up			
		BJP	JD(U)	RJD	INC	BJP	JD(U)	RJD	INC
<1%	17	3	7	5	2	6	1	7	2
1%-2.5%	26	5	6	9	6	4	10	8	4
2.5%-5%	26	8	4	12	2	3	9	10	4
5%-10%	55	23	12	18	2	9	11	22	12
>10%	87	35	14	31	7	9	29	20	22

# A churning in Bihar politics

With the JD(U)'s diminished presence, politics in the State is going to evolve mostly around the BJP, the RJD and the Left



BADRI NARAYAN

bowl alliance of castes compared to what the Mahagathbandhan was able to do. The youth, many of whom were moved by the promise of jobs, also seemed fragmented in their vote along caste lines at the time of voting; this benefited the NDA. It is true that issues like mismanagement of the pandemic and of the migrants cost Mr. Kumar votes and seats, but it looks like these feelings could not transform into votes for the Opposition as required and ultimately failed to produce a wave of change.

Though Mr. Kumar lost some influence among women voters, and despite poor implementation of some Central government schemes such as Ujjwala Yojana, the NDA still managed to get a substantial percentage of women's votes. More women than men voted in this election, which saved the NDA.

The third factor is that the Congress failed to make an impact on forward caste voters. The Muslim votes also got divided to a certain extent, especially in Seemandh, and moved towards the Asaduddin Owaisi-led All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen. That is why the Congress won merely 19 seats.

## Major implications

This election has many implications for the future of politics in Bihar. One, the BJP has become more significant in the State. Mr. Kumar's party has already diminished in stature and may become less significant. He also has less influence now in the coalition.

Two, the future of Bihar politics is going to revolve between two poles: the BJP and the RJD. Three, despite his defeat, Mr. Yadav has proved that he has emerged as a future alternative in the State.

Four, there has been a revival of Left politics and this could be significant. The Left parties got 18 seats, just one less than the Congress. The Left parties have their clusters of influence in a few parts in Bihar. They have also developed their base among sections of the poor, the marginalised and Dalit communities. The absence of towering Dalit leaders like Jagjivan Ram and Ram Vilas Paswan has left these parties with more space and opportunities to mobilise Dalits in their favour. This election result has also given us a clear indication that the parties which have committed cadres, either ideological cadres or caste-based ones, do well and may thrive in the future.

The politics of Bihar is going to evolve around the BJP, the RJD and the Left parties. The results provide a hint that democratic politics may become more challenging and competitive in the coming days.

Badri Narayan is Director of the G.B. Pant Social Science Institute, Allahabad

## The Hindu

### FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 12, 1970

Defences against unemployment (From an Editorial)

There has been considerable anxious discussion of the problem of unemployment in the country. It is not as if the malaise has reached uncontrollable dimensions. But it is not wise to let it deteriorate by not taking timely and effective steps to solve the problem. Mr. G. D. Somani pointed out the other day in an address at the Bombay Productivity Council that there was a time when it was felt that the food problem was insoluble, but with the advent of the new farm strategy of improved cultivation practices, a potential was being activated which would make the country self-sufficient in food with a margin for exports. Likewise, given the right approach, it should be possible to provide job as well as training facilities in the measure necessary. It is important to assess both the aggregate volume of unemployment, current and prospective, and its scatter among the different categories – age groups, skilled and unskilled categories. The besetting headache here is that the backlog of unemployment has been mounting from Plan to Plan despite the efforts to contain it.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO NOV. 12, 1920

Preparing for world peace (From an editorial)

After winning the war that was fought to end all war the triumphant politicians of the West have spent about two years of their vaunted reconstruction in furiously preparing for the promised peace. But, as is obvious from the prevailing conditions at the present day, the expected era seems to recede as remote as ever from the reach of struggling humanity. The wounds of war have gone deep into the heart of the world and threaten to defy all practised forms of political surgery. The nerve centres of the old-world equilibrium have been shaken to their very root and human sentiments have reached a high pitch of sensitiveness dangerous alike to all aggressive ambitions of militarist domination or peaceful penetration. The sudden emancipation of minor nationalities in Europe, the irresistible awakening of dormant nationalism in Asia and the intensive manifestation of colour prejudice, combined with the universal unrest of labour engaged in its struggle either for existence or domination have helped to create a situation which is as complex in its nature as it is difficult to handle.

## FROM PAGE ONE

## People trust NDA's policies, says PM

Janata Dal-United sources, however, told *The Hindu* that Mr. Kumar would be taking oath again as Chief Minister and that government formation exercises would reach fruition after Deepavali (November 14).

Mr. Modi spoke at length at his party headquarters on the implications of Tuesday's verdict, in Bihar and in other States such as Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Manipur, Telangana and Gujarat. "Our victories have come from all four corners of the country, which shows that ours is the only national party that enjoys the trust of the people and the intentions of our governance model," he said.

## I&amp;B Ministry to govern OTT platforms

Other prohibited content includes any content that "maliciously" intends to outrage religious sentiments; content that "deliberately and maliciously" promotes or encourages terrorism; and lastly, any content that has been banned for exhibition or distribution by law or by a court.

The government had refused to support this code. At present, the Press Council of India looks after print media; the News Broadcasters Association (NBA) takes care of the TV news channels; the Advertising Standards Council of India is for advertising; while the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) monitors films.

Mr. Javadekar did not speak on the issue or explain the implications of such an order. The Ministry has also remained tight-lipped on exactly what is in store for dig-

Mr. Modi added, "Attached to the party is our governance model. We repeatedly saw this in the way the corona pandemic was handled and combated. There is not a single corner of the world that has been unaffected by the pandemic, but the kind of fight that India put up has not been seen anywhere else. Every life that has been saved from corona is a success story of our fight against the disease," he said.

He lauded the doughty spirit of Indians through the pandemic at having carried on with vital reforms and every day work when the world "was at a standstill" due to the pandemic.

## Sivasankar, his team in CMO knew of gold smuggling: ED

Swapna Suresh had revealed this during interrogation, agency tells court

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
KOCHE

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has said that Swapna Suresh, the second accused in the diplomatic channel gold smuggling case, had stated that M. Sivasankar, former Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, and his team in the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) were fully aware of the smuggling of gold and other electronic items through the diplomatic channel.

The agency made the submission before the special court for cases under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act on Wednesday while seeking the custody of Mr. Sivasankar for one more day.

According to the statements of Swapna, the nearly ₹1 crore that was seized from her bank locker was meant for Mr. Sivasankar. He was



**More trouble:** A file photo of ED officials taking away M. Sivasankar after presenting him in a court in Kochi. ■ H. VIBHU

aware of the kickbacks given by Unitac Builders to Swapna and others, including Mohamed Ali Shoukri Khalid, chief financial officer of the UAE consulate, for facilitating the award of contract from the Red Crescent for the LIFE Mission project at Wadakkancherry.

The agency submitted that Mr. Sivasankar had

shared crucial information with Swapna on the KFON and LIFE Mission projects and that he might have received kickbacks from certain private parties associated with the projects. Mr. Sivasankar had mentioned these aspects to Swapna in WhatsApp calls made to her, the agency submitted.

Swapna also gave a state-

ment that Mr. Sivasankar was in touch with Santhosh Eappan of Unitac Builders and wanted him to be part of some contracts under the KFON and LIFE Mission projects. She also disclosed to the agency the names of some persons who were very close to Mr. Sivasankar.

T.A. Unnikrishnan, special prosecutor for the ED, sought Mr. Sivasankar's custody till Thursday for confronting him with the statements of Swapna. B. Raman Pillai and S. Rajeev, counsel for Mr. Sivasankar, opposed the demand and stated that the ED was playing delaying tactics to ensure that other investigation agencies seek his custody.

Kauser Edappagath, special judge, allowing the extension of remand, directed the agency to produce him before the court on Thursday. His bail application will also be heard that day.

## 'MLA is mastermind of investment fraud'

He lured many using his clout: govt.

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
KOCHE

The State government informed the Kerala High Court on Wednesday that Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) leader and Manjeswaram MLA M.C. Kamaruddin was the mastermind behind the Fashion Gold Jewellery investment fraud.

The government submitted that he had lured many persons into investing in the company using his political clout and goodwill.

The government pleader made these submissions when a petition filed by the MLA seeking quashing of the First Information Report (FIR) against him came up for hearing before Justice V.G. Arun.

The government told the court that offences under the Kerala Protection of Interests of Depositors in Financial Establishments Act and Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Act had al-



M.C. Kamaruddin

so been included in the FIR.

The court reserved its order in the case.

Meanwhile, the Hosdurg first class magistrate court hearing the MLA's bail plea refused to release him into police custody and denied permission for his arrest in some cases.

Though the probe team wanted to arrest him in 30 cases, permission was granted only in 11 cases. It posted the case for Thursday.

(With inputs from Kannur bureau)

## IN BRIEF



Bineesh remanded in judicial custody

BENGALURU

The special court on Wednesday rejected the bail application of Bineesh Kodiyeri and remanded him in judicial custody till November 25. The son of Kerala CPI (M) State secretary Kodiyeri Balakrishnan has been in the Enforcement Directorate custody since his arrest last month for his alleged links to an accused in a narcotics case and for funding illegal activities.

**Rider on 'move' to induct three MLCS as Ministers**

BENGALURU

The Karnataka High Court on Wednesday put a rider on the 'move' of the State government to induct three MLCS – Shankar, A.H.

Vishwanath, and N. Nagaraju (MTB) – into the Council of Ministers by stating that all steps taken on issues raised in the PIL petitions, challenging legality of their election/nomination to the State Legislative Council, would be subject to orders to be passed by the court.

## Lakshmi Haram procession in Tirumala

TIRUMALA

The golden Lakshmi Kasula Haram will be taken out in a procession between 8 a.m. and 9 a.m. at Tirumala on November 15. The Lakshmi Kasula Haram, whose history is rooted deep in the temple legends, is adorned to the presiding deity Lord Venkateswara at the hill temple.

## NIA arrests man wanted in LeT recruitment case

He helped radicalise youth for terror group, say officials

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
BENGALURU

The National Investigation Agency has arrested a 28-year-old daily wage worker, who is allegedly a member of various social media groups run by handlers of the terror group Lashkar-e-Taiba to recruit people for their



tara Kannada on Tuesday. He is wanted in the West Bengal LeT recruitment case, said the NIA on Wednesday.

According to the agency, he helped radicalise and recruit youth into the terror outfit.

Earlier this year, the NIA had registered a case in Baduria, West Bengal, pertaining to Pakistani-based LeT handlers using social media platforms to radicalise and recruit vulnerable youth into sleeper

cells, to propagate their ideology and for abetting and advocating unlawful activities, a senior officer said.

Sayyad lived with his brother, who runs a grocery shop. The NIA, which had made a few arrests in the case and filed a preliminary chargesheet in Kolkata, had been keeping tabs on him.

He will be produced before a court. His transit remand is being taken to produce him before NIA court in Kolkata for further investigation.

## MHA redefines jurisdiction of 3 FRRO offices in Kerala

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has redefined the jurisdiction of some of the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) for services related to Overseas Citizens of India (OCI).

The Ministry said the jurisdiction of three FRRO offices in Kerala have been "clearly defined" now in respect of processing applications of OCI card holders.

It said that the move will facilitate the grant of OCI services to foreigners residing in the State of Kerala and Wayanad districts will be under the jurisdiction of FRRO Kochi. The districts of Kollam, Pathanamthitta and Thiruvananthapuram will be under the jurisdiction of FRRO, Thiruvananthapuram," the MHA said in a statement.

The districts of Alappuzha, Ernakulam, Idukki, Kottayam, Palakkad and Thrissur, and the Union Territory of Lakshadweep, will be under the jurisdiction of FRRO Kochi. The districts of Kollam, Pathanamthitta and Thiruvananthapuram will be under the jurisdiction of FRRO, Thiruvananthapuram," the MHA said in a statement.

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# NDA wins, RJD is largest party

The next Bihar Assembly has to be constituted by November 29

AMARNATH TEWARY

PATNA

In a close contest that went down to the wire, the National Democratic Alliance attained a simple majority in the Bihar Assembly election by winning 125 seats, while the Grand Alliance got 110 seats. Right seats went to others in the 243-member Assembly. The new Assembly has to be constituted by November 29.

Under the NDA coalition, the BJP secured the highest number of 74 seats, while the JD(U) was restricted to 43. The other two allies – the Hindustani Awami Morcha (Secular) and the Vikash Insaan Party – won four seats each.

HAM(S) chief and former Chief Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi won the Imamganj seat in Gaya district. VIP president Mukesh Sahni lost in the Simri-Bakhtiyarpur seat in Saharsa district.

Among the Grand Alliance partners, the RJD got 75 seats, five fewer than its 2015 Assembly election tally, while the Congress won a mere 19 of the 70 seats it contested. But the three Left

**Final tally** | With victories in 125 seats, the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has bagged a majority in the Bihar Assembly election by a slim margin



Much fanfare: The festive spirit set in early for BJP workers after the NDA's victory in Bihar. ■ PTI

Party/ Coalition	Seats won	Overall vote %
BJP	74	19.46
JD(U)	43	15.39
<b>NDA</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>37.26</b>
RJD	75	23.11
INC	19	9.48
Left	16	4.63
<b>MGB</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>37.23</b>
Others	8	-

parties – the CPI (Marxist-Leninist), the CPI and the CPI(M) – won 16 of the 29 seats they contested. The RJD emerged as the single largest party in the election.

The All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) made its mark significantly in the Muslim-dominated Seemanchal (border) areas by winning five of the 24 seats it contested. It cut into the vote share of the RJD-led alliance among the minority voters.

The Lok Janshakti Party could win just one seat – Matihani in Begusarai district –

but marred the prospects of nearly 20 JD(U) candidates.

“A Bahujan Samaj Party candidate and an Independent won from the Chainpur and the Chakai constituencies, respectively.

#### Complaint to EC

The grand alliance, whose poll prospects appeared bright in the exit poll predictions, lodged a complaint with the Election Commission, alleging that “on the direction of the Chief Minister’s office, local officials did not issue the winning certificate to our candidates who

had won the poll by thin margins”. Several candidates won and lost the polls by a margin of fewer than 200 votes: RJD candidate Shakti Singh Yadav lost in Hilsa in Nalanda district against JD(U) candidate Krishnamurari Sharani, alias Prem Mukhia, by a mere 12 votes. In Bhore (Gopalganj) and Ramgarh (Bhagalpur) seats too, the winning margins were nearly 200 votes.

“Whatever was the result of the poll, it underlined three important things: that there was an anti-Nitish feeling in the State, RJD leader and Lalu Prasad’s political heir Tejaswi Yadav established himself as a leader, coming out of his father’s towering shadow and the Left parties saw their electoral revival after a long time,” political analyst and former professor of Patna University Nawal Kishore Choudhury said.

“Two months ago, the scenario was one-sided in favour of the NDA but when the campaign kickstarted, Tejaswi Yadav turned the battle into a close fight,” he added.

## Left alleges irregularities in counting

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

In a joint statement a day after the Bihar Assembly election results, the Left parties have said that they will go to the Election Commission to complain about “irregularities during the last stages of counting”.

“The Left parties are of the opinion that there were certain clear irregularities during the last stages of the counting that need to be seriously addressed by the Election Commission.

Along with other partners of the *mahagathbandhan*, the Left parties will take up these matters with the Election Commission of India,” the statement said.

The statement signed by CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury, CPI general secretary D. Raja and CPI(ML) general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya said that the difference in the vote share of both the alliances was “very very small”. “The BJP-led alliance lost 12% from the votes it polled in the 2019 Lok Sabha election,” the statement added.

Mr. Paswan, 37, said he had “nothing personal” against Chief Minister Nitish Kumar but “yes, there have

## Our focus was on making BJP stronger, says Chirag

We are happy with the impact our party made: LJP chief

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
PATNA

Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) chief Chirag Paswan on Wednesday said the party was happy with the impact it had made in the election. He said the LJP would not “support” a government headed by Nitish Kumar.

The LJP won just one seat, Matihani in Begusarai district, by a thin margin of 333 votes, but its candidates affected the prospects of the Janata Dal(U) in nearly 20 seats.

“We wanted the BJP to emerge stronger from the election, and we are happy with the impact our party made in the poll... but, yes like other parties, we too wanted to win as many seats as we could, but our prime focus was on making the BJP emerge stronger,” Mr. Paswan told reporters in Patna, adding that the LJP’s vote share had seen an increase.

Mr. Paswan, 37, said he had “nothing personal” against Chief Minister Nitish Kumar but “yes, there have



Chirag Paswan

been ideological differences between us”.

“Nitish Kumar as Chief Minister is not good for the State and there is no question of supporting a government headed by him,” the LJP leader said.

“Of course, the NDA comprising the BJP, the JD(U) and two smaller parties have the numbers and does not need our support to form the government.”

While campaigning, Mr. Paswan had repeatedly said, “After poll, there will be BJP and LJP government” and “Nitish Kumar will not be the Chief Minister again”.

The LJP leader, who had raised a banner of revolt against Mr. Kumar, also said the “NDA won the poll in Bihar because of PM Narendra Modi”.

If anybody deserves to be congratulated on the NDA’s victory in Bihar, it is Prime Minister Narendra Modi. People have reposed their trust in his leadership and his vision for ‘*Atmanirbhar*’ [self-reliant] Bihar...we always wanted to see a government headed by the BJP and supported by the LJP. But we respect the mandate given by the people.”

He also ruled out any possibility of joining hands with the Opposition *mahagathbandhan* comprising the RJD, the Congress and three Left parties.

Senior State BJP leader and Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi on Wednesday blamed the LJP for reducing the majority of the NDA.

“The LJP had spoiled our winning prospects in over 25 seats,” he said.

#### INTERVIEW | ASADUDDIN OWAISI

## Cong., RJD are too afraid

They did not speak about CAA and NRC, says AIMIM chief

SOBHANA K. NAIR



This talk accusing us of being a B-team of the BJP is bizarre

men approached me. They said, ‘You don’t worry, they [Congress-RJD] are speaking a lot of nonsense about you and we will give them an apt response on November 7.’

Do you regret contesting this election in an alliance, fielding candidates in just 21 seats, considering that among your allies only BSP won a seat. Do you feel you would have won far more seats had you gone solo?

No. I am really thankful to Devendra Yadav of the Samajwadi Janata Dal, Upendra Kushwaha of the Rashtriya Lok Samata Party. And I credit them for the victory of our party.

So you are saying that the Congress and the RJD were too afraid to speak out and that left a vacuum which you came to occupy in the region?

We have been working consistently for the last five years. People have seen this. When floods happened, we conducted medical camps and distributed relief. When migrant workers returned, they were forcibly put in quarantine centres and we came to help them. And over and above what we did inside and outside Parliament also played a role. And third, this talk by the RJD and the Congress accusing us of being a B-team of the BJP is bizarre. And fourth, women voters played a huge role in the AIMIM victory.

In all my political rallies, there were a huge number of women, something I have never seen in my political life. In Kochadhaman, in my last meeting of the campaign, I was far too tired and when I was leaving, few wo-

men approached me. They said, ‘You don’t worry, they [Congress-RJD] are speaking a lot of nonsense about you and we will give them an apt response on November 7.’

What do you attribute as factors that aided your victory in Bihar?

The leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the confidence expressed by the people of Bihar in his ability to deliver Aatmanirbhar Bharat was a major factor. BJP president J.P. Naddaji’s leadership in getting all party workers to go among

#### INTERVIEW | BHUPENDER YADAV

## No second thoughts on Nitish as CM

Party stands by what it has said during campaign, says BJP general secretary in charge of Bihar

NISTULA HEBBAR

**Bhupender Yadav**, *BJP general secretary in charge of Bihar, discusses the party-led alliance’s recent victory in the State. Excerpts:*

Do you regret contesting this election in an alliance, fielding candidates in just 21 seats, considering that among your allies only BSP won a seat. Do you feel you would have won far more seats had you gone solo?

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We have been working consistently for the last five years. People have seen this. When floods happened, we conducted medical camps and distributed relief. When migrant workers returned, they were forcibly put in quarantine centres and we came to help them. And over and above what we did inside and outside Parliament also played a role. And third, this talk by the RJD and the Congress accusing us of being a B-team of the BJP is bizarre. And fourth, women voters played a huge role in the AIMIM victory.

Will we see the AIMIM contesting West Bengal elections in 2021?

I will be speaking to my Bengal party unit. We will be having a thorough discussion with them. If they are confident enough that we should contest, then we will take a decision on it. Of course, there has been a lot of interest in us, especially in the border area of West Bengal like Uttar Dinajpur and Islampur that are in Kishanganj’s neighbourhood.

the people and helping them out in a tough situation like the COVID-19 pandemic kept the people’s support with us. The performance of all our allies also contributed to the victory.

There is a feeling in the JD(U) that they were hard done by because of Chirag Paswan’s party cutting into their votes. The BJP, it was felt, did not exert itself to rein in Mr. Paswan.

It is true that the Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) may have affected the JD(U) tally, but the BJP has been very firm throughout the election, via



statements by our senior-most leadership, that we disapprove of this move by the LJP. Home Minister Amit Shahji also stated the same in very plain words. We clarified throughout the polls that the NDA was fighting as one.

The Opposition *mahagathbandhan* has accused district officials of aiding in counting fraud in as many as two dozen seats. Your response?

No, there are no second thoughts. It was said during the campaign that Nitish Kumar would be the Chief Minister if the NDA wins, and that remains the case.

Are there any second thoughts on Nitish Kumar continuing as Chief Minister of Bihar since the NDA has far outstripped the JD(U) in the tally?

No, there are no second thoughts. It was said during the campaign that Nitish Kumar would be the Chief Minister if the NDA wins, and that remains the case.

Are there any second thoughts on Nitish Kumar continuing as Chief Minister of Bihar since the NDA has far outstripped the JD(U) in the tally?

A large swathe of voters – women and ordinary people – supported the NDA, and that should be respected.

How do you see the future of Chirag Paswan within the NDA, going forward?

I am not the one to be asked this question.

I am not an astrologer to see his future but I do know that he has finished his own future.

#### ICAR-NATIONAL ACADEMY OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH MANAGEMENT TECHNOLOGY BUSINESS INCUBATOR (a-IDEA) RAJENDERANAGAR, HYDERABAD 500 030

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4. No TA/DA will be given for attending the Interview.

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## Trace missing J&K soldier, says family

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
SRINAGAR

The family members of a soldier, who was allegedly abducted by militants in south Kashmir's Shopian three months ago, on Wednesday held a protest in Srinagar and asked the authorities to trace him.

"We approached officials at all levels but nobody helped us. If he is alive, then the authorities should help us in locating him. If he has been killed, they should help us in retrieving the body," soldier Shakir Manzoor's father Manzoor Ahmad said.

Rifleman Manzoor, 24, a resident of Shopian's Reshipora village was allegedly abducted on August 2 when he was on the way to celebrate Id at home.

According to the family, his torn clothes with blood-stains were spotted in an orchard near his home. Later, a person on social media claimed that the soldier had been killed.

## 3 pregnant women die in Arunachal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GUWAHATI

Lack of access to health-care has reportedly claimed the lives of at least three pregnant women in a remote village of Arunachal Pradesh.

According to the residents of Kamhua Noknu village in Khakam block under Pongchau circle of Longding district, Nonsai Pansa died on November 5 on way to a hospital at district headquarters Longding about 30 km away.

Two others, Polai Wangsa and Phechang Pansa, died earlier while in labour pain because the absence of road prevented health-care workers from arriving in time. Radhilu Chai Techi, the chairperson of Arunachal Pradesh State Commission for Women, did not respond to calls or messages.

## Sputnik V vaccine 92% effective: Russia

No adverse events reported in Phase 3 trials that involved 36,000 volunteers, says its Health Ministry

JACOB KOSHY  
NEW DELHI

Russia's Sputnik V vaccine has proven to be "92% efficacious" among a group of volunteers who are part of Phase 3 trials to test the vaccine, the Russian Health Ministry said in a statement on Wednesday.

The results were based on an analysis of 20 participants in the trial who were confirmed COVID-19 positive. The trials consist of 20,000 people who got one dose of the vaccine, and 16,000 who got two, 14 days apart. The efficacy percentage means that when cases were split among the placebo group and vaccinated group, 92% of those who were vaccinated were safe.

This is close to the efficacy percentage claimed by Pfizer on Monday that said its RNA vaccine was 90% efficacious, though that relied on a larger COVID-19-positive volunteer set of 94.

The Russian trials are ongoing in multiple countries,



**Shot of hope:** Gamaleya Center director Alexander Gintsburg holding the Sputnik-V vaccine. ■REUTERS

and a Phase 2/3 trial that tests for a immune reaction in a limited number of people is going on in India too. Hyderabad-based Dr. Reddy's Laboratories is a partner of the Russian organisation, Gamaleya Research Foundation, that has developed Sputnik V.

### Production up

"The publication of the interim results of the post-regis-

tration clinical trials that convincingly demonstrate Sputnik V vaccine's efficacy gives way to mass vaccination in Russia against COVID-19 in the coming weeks. Thanks to the production scale-up at new manufacturing sites, Sputnik V vaccine will soon be available for a wider population. This will break the current trend and lead to an eventual decrease in COVID-19 infection rates,

As of Wednesday, there were no "unexpected adverse events" among those in the trial.

### Not evaluated

As with Pfizer's, the preliminary report of Sputnik V's efficacy is yet to be published in a peer-reviewed medical journal. The latter has also not yet been evaluated by an independent board of medical experts, the Russian Health Ministry statement indicated.

Because Sputnik V has emergency authorisation from medical authorities in Russia, it had also been administered to a section of the population such as doctors and medical workers. "Apart from the trial participants, the effects of vaccination were also observed in 10,000 volunteers representing medics and other high-risk groups under the civil use of the vaccine out of clinical trials also confirmed the vaccine's efficacy rate of over 90 percent," it added.

As of Wednesday, there were no "unexpected adverse events" among those in the trial.

K. Vijay Raghavan, India's Principal Scientific Adviser, in a blog commented on the Pfizer-BioNTech RNA vaccine. "...results from Pfizer+BioNTech opens the closed door to vaccine availability a little. One can legitimately expect more good news from more vaccines and expect that the door will open even more." Even after these and other licences were available, only limited doses would be available in the early days and would be administered according to "priorities already set".

However, the data so far available for the Pfizer vaccine did not indicate if it was effective at preventing disease transmission or was only good enough to protect from severe disease. There was also no evidence disclosed on whether it protected older (and more vulnerable) people, he added.

## ₹1.46 lakh crore outlay over 5 years

₹57,000 crore for automobile sector



**Global value:** The Centre says the PLI scheme is a clear signal that India is not turning protectionist. ■REUTERS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The 10 sectors under the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme announced by the Centre on Wednesday, have been identified on the basis of their potential to create jobs and make India self-reliant, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said.

"We have decided to introduce one more PLI like the one that was earlier announced and had got a good response [from investors and producers]. The selection of sectors has been based on job creation, [linkages with] the global value chain, the sunrise sectors and the larger principle of self-reliant India," Ms. Sitharaman said, stressing that the Cabinet's decision should be viewed as a clear signal that India is not turning protectionist.

Products brought under the PLI scheme now include complex generics, anti-cancer and diabetic drugs, in-vitro diagnostic devices and special empty capsules.

"This should answer the question 'Does Atma Nirbharta mean inward looking?' Not at all. We are once again proving it, even in PLI, we want to build on our strengths and link with the global value chain," Ms. Sitharaman said.

The court said the pandemic had put life in peril, especially for those with co-morbidities. It said the HC order was based on its knowledge of the ground situation there. The court was hearing an appeal filed by one Gautam Roy and the Burrabazaar Fireworks Dealers Association.

automobiles and auto components production.

### Committee in charge

The Finance Minister said individual Ministries in charge of these sectors were ready to immediately implement the scheme. Applications to avail the benefits will be vetted by an Empowered Finance Committee, following which they will be taken up to the Cabinet for final approval. A window has also been kept open for new sectors to be included in the PLI scheme after acquiring a fresh approval from the Cabinet. "The scheme will make Indian manufacturers globally competitive, attract investment in the areas of core competency and cutting-edge technology; ensure efficiencies; create economies of scale; enhance exports and make India an integral part of the global supply chain," the statement said.

The Automotive Components Manufacturers Association of India expressed hope that the high outlay for the sector under the PLI will encourage industry to become a net exporter. "We eagerly await the detailed contours of the scheme," said the association's president Deepak Jain.

Industry chambers welcomed the move and called for similar ideas to help more sectors. "The sectors covered under the PLI scheme are strategic, technology intensive and also important from the perspective of employment generation," said Sangita Reddy, FICCI president.

## SC refuses plea against fireworks ban

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday declined to entertain a plea against a Calcutta High Court ban on the sale and use of firecrackers during Kali puja,

"How was it that the secretary to Meghalaya's Mining and Geology Department filed an additional affidavit in the court on April 10, 2019 claiming there was 32.57 lakh metric tonnes of coal yet to be transported?" the NGO said. It added that challans were issued illegally and the government used the COVID-19 lockdowns and partial lockdowns to facilitate illegal transportation of coal.

The Chief Minister, however, admitted that the government has been facing the challenges of illegal coal mining and transportation.

"We have filed almost 2,000 cases in the past five years," he said, adding that the government has taken steps such as issuing high-security challans with special ink and hologram, forming a task force and joint patrolling of police and mining officials at different locations in the State.

The court said the pan-

demic had put life in peril, especially for those with co-morbidities. It said the HC order was based on its knowledge of the ground situation there. The court was hearing an appeal filed by one Gautam Roy and the Burrabazaar Fireworks Dealers Association.

While the Minister and other Cabinet Ministers pegged the estimated cost of the PLI scheme at ₹2 lakh crore, an official statement from the Cabinet put the figure at ₹1,45,980 crore, with the largest chunk of over ₹57,000 crore allocated for

the PLI scheme.

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While the Minister and other Cabinet Ministers pegged the estimated cost of the PLI scheme at ₹2

# Not a flash in the pan

The lockdown saw many home cooks launch businesses from their kitchen. Now, these entrepreneurs are scrambling to secure licenses to keep their ventures afloat

SARASWATHY NAGARAJAN

Tara Rhine's culinary skills powered her two-month-old, food-based home business. From her home kitchen in Shenoy Nagar, Chennai, Tara serves a variety of Continental and Southeast Asian dishes such as chicken pot roast, chilli pork, vegetable au gratin, Vietnamese noodle soup and more.

It was all smooth going, until Chitra Chen, administrator of HomeFood Network, a community of 25 home cooks that she belongs to, informed the group that all of them would have to apply for a registration/license from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) to keep their businesses ticking.

"She gave us the information needed to apply for the registration. I went to the Corporation office on November 3 to apply for the permits. One of the officers came home the same day to check the premises. They had no complaints about it and now I am waiting for the papers to come through," says Tara.

## Home enterprise

With the closure of restaurants and absence of domestic help, talented, enterprising home cooks across the country stepped in to fill the vacuum. Some did it as a hobby, some to earn extra cash. A few like Tara, had lost their jobs and turned entrepreneurs on the basis of their expertise in the kitchen. All over India, they flourished, serving signature dishes to appreciative customers.

However, many did not know that entrepreneurs in the food-based business must get a registration number or license (depending on their annual turnover) to serve and sell food. This law has been in force since August 5, 2011. Fortunately for them, on account of the inconvenience caused by the lockdown, FSSAI relaxed the rules on March 31 this year, to allow food business operators (FBO) to operate temporarily without the FSSAI registration.

Vikas Talwar, Deputy Director (Regulatory Compliance), explains: "As per

direction under Section 16 (5) of the FSSAI, food business operators were allowed to operate temporarily on the basis of application for license/registration during the period of the lockdown. This was part of the measures to ensure that the food chain was not interrupted."

Once the country entered the exit lockdown stages, it became compulsory for home cooks to ensure that they had the required permits. "Once you start selling food, it is no longer a hobby. It af-

fects people's lives and health," says Sarthak Gupta, founder of The Soul Spoon, a start-up that provides home bakers with a web-based interface in Delhi and the NCR area, so they can supply fresh desserts at customers' doorsteps. The Soul Spoon, which was begun in July, takes care of the logistics, accounts and registrations. "Home-based food sellers require the FSSAI permits and Goods and Services Tax registration," adds Sarthak.

Overnight, a number of consultants have sprung up to help home cooks, for a fee. Delhi-based Saundarya Srinivasan, and her mother, Lakshmi Srinivasan, who have been selling *idli-sambhar, paniyaram* and meals on weekends for nearly a month, sought a consultant to help with the paper work.

Anita Dighe-Nair, who specialises in authentic Maharashtra food in Thiruvananthapuram, on the other hand, applied for a registration online herself. She says, "I paid the fee of ₹208 for a two-

year valid registration number and, within days, got my registration number," she says. The online advertisement for her Deepavali box shows off the FSSAI registration number.

Nevertheless, the going has not been smooth for many of the home cooks. "The necessity of FSSAI permits sent many of us into a tizzy," says Saundarya.

## A race for permits

In Thiruvananthapuram alone, 2,300 applications were filed to get the necessary permits to run the food units, many of which had sprung up during the lockdown.

Even as Soundarya points out that she is still waiting for her registration number, official sources assert that there is no need for any kind of panic: the deadline to secure the mandatory permissions from the FSSAI is December 31, 2020.

They add that the since the

portal of the FSSAI was being updated, applicants may have experienced difficulties. "All that has been sorted out. All registrations or licenses are to be obtained online only," says Vikas, explaining that these registrations and licenses are issued by the district office of the Food Safety Department.

Anita points out that since she cooks for her family in the same kitchen and has a toddler at home, she ensures that her house and kitchen are always spick and span.

Meanwhile Tara has more concerns. "But I can't help wondering about hawkers who come on bikes and sell cooked food. How is the Corporation going to ensure that the food is hygienically prepared and served? It does not make sense to insist on home cooks alone applying for registration and license."

Soundarya adds, "It has been a

difficult period. A number of people, for instance those in many apartments and societies, are relying on the food business to pay their rent and put food on the table. While it is true that clean and hygienic premises are a must for home cooks, I feel the authorities must empathise with their plight and educate them before going ahead with any kind of fines."

Despite the flurry of concern, what is important now is understanding the rules.

"Home cooks only need a registration number if their turnover is likely to be below ₹12 lakh. Licenses are for those who do business above that amount. So, if they applied for the required registration/license, no one is going to disturb them till December 31," says Vikas, adding, "They can carry on their business without any apprehension."

With inputs from Nahla Nair



**Food after your heart**  
(Clockwise from left) Tara Rhine; anarase; spicy peri peri smoked flavour grilled chicken; and Anita Dighe-Nair  
■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



## Another place to race

Former F1 driver Karun Chandhok talks about designing the upcoming Nanoli racetrack on the Mumbai-Pune Expressway

PRAVEEN SUDEVAN

Even during a raging pandemic, former Formula One (F1) racer Karun Chandhok travels frequently. His television commentary work for F1 requires him to do so. Week after week, the Chennai-based sportsperson moves from one bio-bubble to the other. "I am somewhat of an expert in COVID-19 tests by now," he jokes about undergoing 29 tests.

Apart from talking motorsport on television and writing about it, Karun is also involved in designing new racetracks and modifying old ones. Last year, he helped Driven International, a UK-based motorsport venue architect company, to design the Nanoli Speedway track in Pune. He also helped the firm in modifying the design of Coimbatore's Kari Motor Speedway, which is being upgraded.

The 2.92-kilometre Nanoli track, he says, will be India's fourth major racing venue after Madras Motor Race Track in Chennai, Kari Motor Speedway, Coimbatore and the Buddh International Circuit, Noida. The location, Karun says, is ideal for racing enthusiasts, supercar owners and automobile companies from both cities.

"There are a lot of supercar owners and racers in Mumbai, who don't have the space to drive. It is difficult and sometimes dangerous to drive those cars within the city. To drive fast, they have to take it to the racing



**Man with a plan** Karun Chandhok; (inset) map of the race track ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

tracks in Chennai or the tracks in the North. But once the Nanoli track launches, it will just be a 90-minute drive for them," he explains.

"Also, one more track is good for Indian racing," adds Karun, "It helps develop a racing culture in a region. For instance, Narain [Karthikeyan] and I got into racing because our fathers used to race. So, a track can create a racing hub. But we also need more go-karting tracks in the country."

The Nanoli track design, approved by the International Automobile Federation (FIA) and Federation of Motor Sports Clubs of India (FMSCI), features two long straights and 12 turns. It can host races up to Formula 3 level. "We visited the site last year and came up with a few design options. I ran these options on my simulator last year and came up with the final design," says Karun.

The track will also feature a pit building, paddock, garage, museum and other amenities like a golf course, tennis court, and an equestrian course among others. "It was supposed to be ready this year. COVID delayed the work. So, hopefully, it should be ready next year," says Karun.



## Laddu logistics

"Gifting is a major part of Deepavali. This year, we were not sure if people were in the mood to celebrate. But it has turned out to be a better season than anticipated," says Meera Maran of Terra Earth Store, in Chennai.

Orders have been steady; the only thing that has changed is mode of delivery. "This year, individuals gave us bulk orders with addresses of friends and families asking us to deliver the boxes on their behalf," says Meera, adding: "Corporates are trying to connect with their staff who are now working from home. We delivered 8,000 corporate gift boxes across the country for a company."

Terra has three types of thematic gift boxes: the Earth collection (predominantly *ragi*, red rice, palm jaggery and filter coffee), Go Green (sweets/savouries made of spinach, wheatgrass, green beans, chilies and *karpooravalli*) and Sunshine collection where turmeric, *besan* and carrot dominate.

"This year we have launched a laddu assortment box that has been well-received," says Meera. Popular options include wheatgrass *kudhirai laddu*, *thinai* fig and honey *laddu*, *sathumaavu-flaxseed laddu*, and turmeric cardamom *laddu*. A box of 20 is priced at ₹800.

To order, call 99406 38931; delivery countrywide



## Hot jangri with filter coffee

"For the first time, we got bulk orders from Kenya this year. We shipped traditional sweets and savouries to Indians living there," says Nalina Kannan, proprietor, Thaligai Restaurant, Mylapore, Chennai.

She says they also packed a large number of *thala Deepavali seer bakshanas* [sweets for couples celebrating their first Deepavali after their wedding] this week. Many of these were shipped across the country and overseas. "Couples celebrating their first Deepavali are unable to travel to their parents' homes due to the pandemic. Which is why the parents are

sending them sweets," she says.

The restaurant is trying to engage more senior cooks as wedding caterers do not have big events booked this season. There is one more perk this year: a hot jangri counter. "Jambu Nathan from Kanchipuram, has joined our team. He is a jangri, coffee and *paal payasam* master," says Nalina. The live counter will be open from 3pm to 5pm till November 14.

Well-known for their *nokkal* and *manoharam*, Thaligai has now added dry fruit *halwa* to its Deepavali sweets menu.

To order, call 9962599151; delivery countrywide

## When laddu met jangri

The pandemic has clearly not affected the Deepavali spirit, as families order their annual treats, and line up for hot filter coffee

CHITRADEEPA ANANTHARAM

## Millets and more

At Mannvasanai organic store in Kodambakkam, Chennai, sweets and savouries made of heritage rice and millets steal the show. "Even though we have been supplying Deepavali snacks for the past 10 years, it is only this year that corporates have ordered from us. We assume that this trend is due to an increased awareness on eating healthy," says E Meenaka, the proprietor. The *thinai boondhi laddu* and *thinai adhirasam* are a hit. "We have introduced *kat-tuyanam aval navadhanam* mixture this year. Popular snacks on our list are *kichili sambal milagu murukku*, *mappilai sambar laddu* and *kambu ribbon pakoda*," she adds.

To order, call 98841 66772; delivery countrywide



## Sweets on wheels

Staff at Subham Ganesan Marriage Catering Services, Mandaveli, Chennai, are working round the clock packing Deepavali *bakshanas* for door delivery. "Orders started coming in much ahead of the festival. In fact, we have been receiving more orders this time than last year," says Subham Ganesan, adding that customers are picking up their orders via delivery apps or having them couriered even if they have to shell out more, just for the pleasure of a sweet.

"We have neither scaled down the quantity nor reduced the number of varieties we usually offer," he adds. As always, this year too, their popular items such as special mixture, ribbon *pakoda*, Horlicks *Mysorepa* and *jangri* are fast disappearing from their shelves.

To order, call 96000 61064; delivery countrywide



# Rolling THE DICE

Anurag Basu explains the challenges of writing his recent film, *Ludo* and why he likes his actors to come unprepared to the set

PRAVEEN SUDEVAN

Anurag Basu's *Ludo*, currently streaming on Netflix, is a genre-blending multi-starrer that discusses life and death, right and wrong. What was his inspiration to write such a seemingly ambitious film after his previous one, *Jagga Jasoos*, a musical adventure, failed at the box-office?

"I had two ideas: to make a fun film or to make one with four-five genres," Basu explains. "I started writing the second. Initially, for two or three days, I couldn't think of anything. I wondered if I could pull it off. But it just happened."

It just happened, he says, as if the script wrote itself. But such answers are characteristic of Basu. For, he comes across as a filmmaker who goes more by instinct than intellect. Ranbir Kapoor, the lead actor in Basu's previous two films, had said in an interview that he would cancel a 40-day shoot on the third day. Abhishek Bachchan, who plays one of the lead characters in *Ludo*, says he never discloses the entire script to his actors. "Working with *dada* [Basu] is a bit like opening presents. As an actor, you're kind of looking forward to going on set the next day to discover what you're going to do and how you're going to do it."

All this makes his process interesting. The filmmaker discusses that and more about *Ludo* in this interview. Excerpts:

**Actors of your films have said that you don't disclose the entire movie to them and that you don't have a script. You are a spontaneous filmmaker...**

• Their performances are good in my

films. And, this is because of my process. Giving them less information helps the film. The actors give their 100% and the performance is organic. And, I do have a script. It's not possible to make a film without one. But I decide on how much I want to share, when to share and with which actors. I think my biggest problem is I don't commit to the scenes until the last minute. I thrive on some magic happening on set. You suddenly see a table or a window and your scene changes. And, I can't find this inspiration, sitting at home in front of my laptop.

**Ludo is probably your biggest film in terms of the cast. Was this also the most difficult to write and direct?**

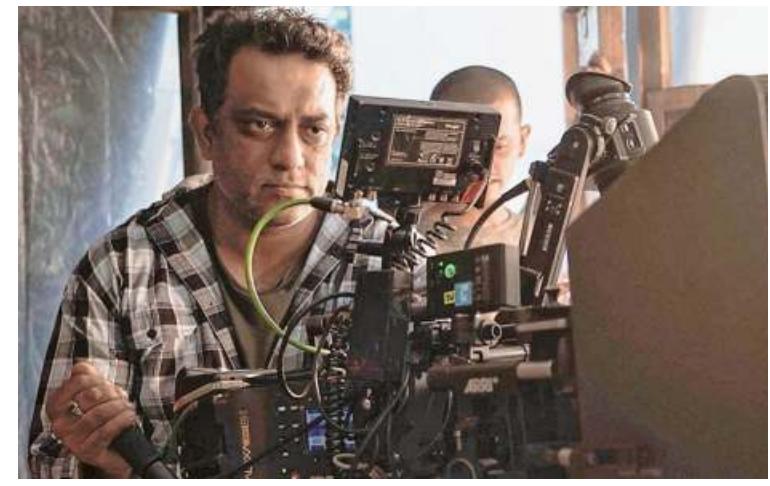
• Writing, yes. But not to direct – that was a cakewalk. Even *Life In A Metro* had many characters. But that was easier because the genre was the same and the character arcs were similar. In *Ludo*, every character is different. And, when you watch the



Game on Fatima Sana Shaikh and Rajkummar Rao in *Ludo*; (below) Anurag Basu • NETFLIX AND SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

film, it should be wholesome – with a beginning, middle and end. It shouldn't be like you are watching four-five different films within the movie. So, I felt like a music conductor conducting separate pieces and putting it together. There was a risk of this becoming noise and not a melody.

**Was the film intended as an OTT**



**release? What's your take on OTT platforms?**

• *Ludo* was supposed to be released in theatres. But it kept getting delayed. Then, we gave in. But it was a blessing in disguise because it will reach larger audiences now. And, OTT platforms are improving the taste of the Indian audience. More people are becoming cinema-literate. And, because of that, Indian cinema will change. But theatres won't go away because cinema is meant for community viewing.

**Ludo, due to its multiple storylines and overarching philosophy, reminded one of Thiagarajan Kumararaja's Super Deluxe. Did you watch the film?**

• No. *Super Deluxe* came out when I was shooting *Ludo*. I heard about it and asked my ADs to go and watch the film and see if anything was similar and we needed to change it. But thankfully we didn't have to. It's amusing that a film similar to *Ludo* released when I was making it. But it's good that these kind of films are getting made and are being accepted.

spinach and microgreens. Beej Paatra is the commercial wing of the NGO that seeks to empower the women and help them earn a living through sustainable methods, she adds. Beej Parva conceptualises products and methods to have eco-friendly ways to celebrate festivals instead of exploiting Nature or people and reduce consumerism. This year, prior to the festival season, the artisans in the collective trained the women to make these seed crackers and sweets.

The women were given the raw materials and asked to make the products in their homes. Paper for the products came from waste collected at paper mills and printing presses. About 50 families are involved in this project. "Before we began training them, we bought the firecrackers and sweets from the market to study them and get the designing and packaging right and make ours resemble the real thing. Then, we organised a small workshop to teach the women to manufacture the seed firecrackers and seed sweets," explains Swetha.

"It is to bring home the message of pollution-free celebrations, organic farming and exploitation-free food."

## A cracker of an idea

Gramart Project from Madhya Pradesh offers sparklers and *barfi* lookalikes embedded with seeds, and the promise of flowers, vegetables and fruits



**Protect and conserve** Seeds innovatively designed to resemble firecrackers and sweets promote a pollution free Deepavali

• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

den shower, brightening surroundings with golden-yellow flowers of *Cassia fistula*, which blooms in summer. The popular garlands of red la-

dis are embedded with seven kinds of seeds including red amaranthus, fenugreek, mustard and



It is to bring home the message of pollution-free celebrations, organic farming and exploitation-free food."



### Light boxes

Insha-e-Noor in Delhi has Diwali lights in *sangjihi* (intricate paper cutting) and crochet, inspired by the geometries found in Mughal monuments that dot the Nizamuddin area. There are also hampers, boxes, coasters, dream-catchers and more. A women's enterprise, Insha-e-Noor, meaning creation of light, began as a self-help group and now operates under the Aga Khan Trust for Culture's Nizamuddin Basti Urban Renewal Initiative. All the proceeds from the sale of products go to the artisans, with some funds used for production expenses. They also customise products.

₹50 upward, at the Facebook page, @insha.e.noor on Instagram, or at 9205308098

### Hand to heart

Sasha Association for Craft Producers in Kolkata hopes that corporate clients look at gifting handmade products this year, considering the pandemic has deprived craftspeople of their regular livelihood. The not-for-profit craft development and marketing organisation works with marginalised artisans and women producers. They have a range of hampers online along with notebooks that work well for office gifts.



₹599 upward for the hampers; sashafairtrade.shop

## Thoughtful gifting

For a Diwali that goes beyond clothes, dry fruit, and crockery



### Planters bunch

Ferns and petals offers plants and planters especially for the indoors, considering both pollution and the pandemic are keeping people con-

fined to spaces within the home. Their betel leaf vine for instance, grows in the shade, and is a good substitute for money plant. Another heart leaf plant is the oxycardium that likes filtered

light. It has been listed by NASA as one of the plants that removes certain indoor air pollutants.

₹1,199 and ₹949; fnp.com



**Present for the future** A decorative handmade gift wrap by Wrapistry (left); Oh Scrap! Madras' ecofriendly packaging

• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

## Judge a GIFT by its cover



This Deepavali, put a little thought in not just the gift but also what you pack it in. Say hello to zero waste gift wraps

PRIYADARSHINI PAITANDY

There is something immensely heartbreaking about ripping apart a gorgeous gift wrapper. It's worse when it ends up in the waste bin. With Deepavali around the corner, here is how you can make sure that your wrap is appreciated and cherished for as long as the gift. Say hello to zero waste gift wraps.

### Fab wrap

Furoshiki, the age-old Japanese technique of wrapping presents in reusable cloth, is steadily gaining steam world over. The hashtag '#furoshiki' has more than 81,000 posts on Instagram with old experts and new enthusiasts of this practical yet beautiful practice sharing their techniques.

"A lot of my Japanese clients gave me gifts packed in Furoshiki wraps and I was fascinated by them," says Chennai-based Neesha Amrish, designer and founder of label Aeshaane. A crusader of all things organic, she had been experimenting with this technique over the last two years and finally launched a line of Furoshiki-inspired gift wraps in March this year. "In Japan, this has been used as a way to bundle clothes at public baths, and now with a contemporary spin it's used to wrap wine bottles, candles, books and boxes," she says.

Furoshiki wraps are made of fabric. Neesha makes them both in cotton (₹1,200 - ₹1,500) and silk (₹3,000-₹4,000), with Nature-inspired and geometric prints. Since there are numerous ways to pack them, these wraps are accompanied by a step-by-step illustration and sizing guide. After its primary role is fulfilled, it can transition into a host of things – from scarf to hair band and accessory for bags. "I make them in three sizes – 40 by 40 centimetre, 60 by 60 cm and 90 by 90 cm. I sell them in sets of two and clients can choose the sizes they want," says Neesha.

### Thought that counts

Furoshiki is also a hit with Priyanjoli Basu and Dominique Lopez who launched Oh Scrap! Madras last year. Propelled by queries on reusable alternatives to plastic

While there is an emphasis on handmade and self-made things created out of sustainable materials, there are also those who feel ecofriendly doesn't necessarily translate to fun.

"On the contrary, eco friendly wraps are anything but boring," states Amruta Walvekar, founder of Pune-based Wrapistry (a gift wrapping and stationery company), is currently working on an order of gift sets that includes handmade papers and cards, a paint brush and paint that goes with a personalised message to encourage people to take up a hobby during this pandemic.

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"I make them in three sizes – 40 by 40 centimetre, 60 by 60 cm and 90 by 90 cm. I sell them in sets of two and clients can choose the sizes they want," says Neesha.

"You could use kitchen rolls to make flowers. In the past, I have used newspaper, brown paper, recycled paper/thread/burlap string, left over tape ring and leaves to make gift wraps," she says, adding, "And it can be just any leaf." Going by her works, there is so much one can do with fresh foliage, basic paper and a little creativity.

### THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13386

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8		9				
10				11		
13		14			12	
16		17				18
20		19			21	
22						

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To play The Guardian Quick Crossword, The Hindu Cryptic crossword, Sudoku & other puzzles online, scan the QR code.

5 (Of film) bleak and cynical (4)

6 Make appeals that will never be met (4,2,3,4)

7 Level or rank in a group (7)

12 Crush (8)

13 In a way not yet specified (7)

15 Back end of a gun barrel (6)

18 Fungus able to convert sugar into alcohol (5)

19 Box without punching hard (4)

Solution will appear on November 14, 2020

Solution No. 13385

### Across

- 1 Not in! (13)
- 8 Misery (3)
- 9 Father figure (9)
- 10 Amazingly impressive (8)
- 11 Partition (4)
- 13 Weight on a fishing line (6)
- 14 Electric switch operated by pressing (6)
- 16 Moon around (4)
- 20 False addition to existing growth on the head (9)
- 21 Eggs (3)
- 22 Crunchy Chinese vegetable (5,8)
- 23 Countess (7)
- 24 Crush (8)
- 25 In a way not yet specified (7)
- 26 Back end of a gun barrel (6)
- 27 Fungus able to convert sugar into alcohol (5)
- 28 Box without punching hard (4)
- 29 Forecast (8)

C A U S E C E L E B R E

C S U A U R X

O P T I C P O M P E I I

N O K T I V T

T H U G C O U N T E S S

R N S R A T

O L D B O Y D R O V E R

L C L Y A A

F E S T I V A L O M I T

R I A P S O E

E N R O B E D P R O N G

A E L O U S Y

K I N D E R G A R T E N

CMYK

AND-NDE

# America is going to be back, says Biden

President-elect discusses host of issues — from COVID-19 to climate change — with European leaders

SIRIRAM LAKSHMAN  
WASHINGTON

President-elect of the U.S. Joe Biden spoke to heads of government and state of four European countries on Tuesday, as per a press release from his transition team. Congratulatory calls are customary after an election victory but they are especially significant this year as Mr. Biden has said he will renew transatlantic relationships, which have frayed under President Donald Trump.

"When I'm speaking to foreign leaders, I'm telling them: America is going to be back. We're going to be back in the game," Mr. Biden tweeted on Tuesday. Mr. Biden, however, will be facing a world much changed since his time as Vice-President (2008-16) in the Obama administration. Mr. Trump has run an 'America First' administration that has pulled back from the central role the U.S. used to play on the world stage and in multilateral forums.

On a call with French President Emmanuel Macron, Mr.



**Taking charge:** U.S. President-elect Joe Biden speaking at The Queen in Wilmington, Delaware. ■ AFP

Mr. Biden discussed "his interest in reinvigorating bilateral and trans-Atlantic ties, including through NATO and the EU". Also discussed were COVID-19 and a sustainable economic recovery, Iran's nuclear programme, climate change and human rights. Mr. Biden had said earlier that as President, he would offer Iran "a credible path back to diplomacy" — potentially helping to re-instate the Joint Comprehensive Plan of

Action (which collapsed after the U.S. withdrew from it). He has also said he will rejoin the Paris Accord. He also discussed the conflicts in Ukraine and Syria with Mr. Macron, as per the press release.

Mr. Biden also spoke with German Chancellor Angela Merkel and "praised her leadership". Topics Mr. Biden and Ms. Merkel discussed included COVID-19, climate crisis and sustainable global

economic recovery. Mr. Biden "also welcomed the opportunity to cooperate on a shared agenda with the EU".

Mr. Trump's relationship with Ms. Merkel was tense — the two were at loggerheads over tariffs, NATO and their different approaches to immigration.

#### Good Friday Agreement

Mr. Biden also spoke with Irish Taoiseach Micheál Martin and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, with whom Mr. Trump has a warm relationship. Mr. Biden reaffirmed his commitment to the Good Friday Agreement (the Northern Ireland peace agreement) with both leaders.

This had been a point of discussion when British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab visited the U.S. in September.

"We can't allow the Good Friday Agreement that brought peace to Northern Ireland to become a casualty of Brexit," Mr. Biden said at the time. "Any trade deal between the U.S. and the

U.K. must be contingent upon respect for the Agreement and preventing the return of a hard border. Period."

"The President-elect [Biden] noted [on his call with Mr. Johnson] that he especially looks forward to working closely together on global challenges as the United Kingdom prepares to host the 2021 G-7 and the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26)," the press release said. Mr. Johnson also announced the congratulatory phone call on Twitter, saying the two had discussed "shared priorities".

Several world leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, have congratulated Mr. Biden for his electoral victory since Saturday. Mr. Trump has made unsubstantiated claims of large-scale electoral fraud and has not conceded the election. The *New York Times* reported that some American Embassy officials have been told not to help with calls between foreign leaders and Mr. Biden.

# Sri Lanka yet to take a final call on container terminal

Colombo might concede to pressure from India, say unions

MEERA SRINIVASAN  
COLOMBO

Although the Sri Lankan government is yet to declare its final position on developing the strategic East Container Terminal (ECT) at the Colombo Port jointly with India and Japan — agreed in May 2019 by the previous government — port worker unions, which are resisting the project, think Sri Lanka might "concede".

"Colombo seems to be under great pressure from New Delhi to go ahead with this project. We think our government will concede," Palitha Athukorala, president of the National Union of Seafarers Sri Lanka, told *The Hindu*.

In May 2019, Sri Lanka's Sirisena-Wickremesinghe administration signed a memorandum of cooperation (MoC) with India and Japan to jointly upgrade the terminal with the aim of enhancing Sri Lanka's status as a maritime hub. As per the MoC, the Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA) was to retain 100% ownership, while a jointly-owned Terminal Operations Company — 51% stake with Sri Lanka and 49% with India and Japan — would run the terminal. Despite the tripartite understanding, the former government was unable to take the deal forward.

After President Gotabaya Rajapaksa assumed office in November 2019, the resistance to the project grew louder, including from some Opposition parties and port workers opposed to foreign involvement in "national assets".

In July this year, *The Hindu*



A view of the East Container Terminal at the Colombo Port. ■ MEERA SRINIVASAN

The SLPA recently sought government approval to operationalise the ECT — only 40% is complete — to handle the traffic, especially with staffing difficulties due to the pandemic.

"We decided to use cranes meant for another terminal at the ECT to deal with the congestion," Mr. Athukorala said.

Sri Lanka has repeatedly acknowledged the growing shipping traffic in the region and the need to expand operations at the Colombo Port with improved facilities. More than 70% of the transhipment business at the port is said to come from India.

India's interest in the project has well-known commercial and strategic motives. The ECT adjoins the Colombo International Container Terminal (CICT), the SLPA's joint venture with China Merchants Port Holdings Company that holds an 85% stake. A deep-water container terminal, the CICT is the busiest at the Colombo Port. The ECT is also located near the China-backed \$1.4 billion Port City coming up on reclaimed land at Colombo's sea front.

New Delhi has more reasons to pin its hope on the ECT, especially after the Rajapaksa administration ruled out any Indian involvement in developing the Mattala airport, located near the Chinese-built Hambantota Port — leased to China for 99 years — in the island's Southern Province.

Japan, one of Sri Lanka's biggest donors over the years, is also keen to help develop the ECT.

# Bahrain PM, world's longest-serving, dies at 84



Prince Khalifa bin Salman al-Khalifa

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
MANAMA

Bahrain's Prince Khalifa bin Salman al-Khalifa, the world's longest-serving Prime Minister who had held the post since Independence in 1971, died on Wednesday at the age of 84, the state media announced.

Prince Khalifa was a controversial figure during his five decades in office — and deeply unpopular with the Sunni-ruled kingdom's Shia population.

When Shia-led protesters occupied Manama's Pearl Square for a month in 2011, before being driven out by Saudi-backed security forces, their main demand was for the prince to step down.

**Quashing opposition**  
He played a key role in Bahrain's political and economic affairs, including setting the stage for a referendum that put paid to the Shah of Iran's claims to the tiny Gulf archipelago.

But the Prime Minister, who was accused by dissenters of opposing reforms and cracking down on activists, adopted a lower profile in recent years as his age advanced and as Crown Prince Salman played a more prominent role.

Prince Khalifa died at the Mayo Clinic Hospital in the United States, the official Bahrain News Agency said.

The burial will take place after his remains have been transported home, and in

line with coronavirus restrictions only a limited number of relatives will attend.

The country will hold a week of official mourning, during which flags will be flown at half-mast. Government Ministries and departments will be closed for three days. Gulf leaders paid tribute, hailing the veteran leader's long career "that has shaped Bahrain's recent history", according to Dubai ruler Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum.

In July this year, *The Hindu*

# Myanmar Opposition rejects 'unfair' election

Military-aligned party seeks fresh vote

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
YANGON

Myanmar's military-aligned Opposition party on Wednesday rejected the results of this week's election as "unfair" and called for a fresh vote — a demand immediately rebuffed by the election authorities.

Official results are still trickling in, but Aung San Suu Kyi's ruling party has already declared a landslide victory.

fair," spokesperson Win Win Aung said, alleging that many ineligible people had cast ballots. "We call on the election commission to hold a new, disciplined election in cooperation with the military as soon as possible."

**We had no bias'**  
At a press conference held in the capital, Naypyidaw, the Union Election Commission (UEC) said the election was transparent.

"We had no bias ... it was conducted fairly, within the law," UEC spokesman Myint Naing said.

# U.K. launches Bill to deter 'malicious' takeovers

Concern over Chinese investments

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
LONDON

Britain on Wednesday unveiled plans for new powers to prevent foreign companies snapping up strategic assets in "malicious" takeovers that are deemed to threaten national security.

The U.K. government said that its new National Security and Investment Bill will "protect" the U.K. from malicious investment" and strengthen its ability to investigate and intervene in mergers, acquisitions and other types of deals.

The new powers come as increasing Chinese investment has sparked calls from lawmakers for Prime Minister Boris Johnson to take a stronger stance on Beijing.

The draft Bill is aimed at updating a 20-year-old law that is no longer sufficient to tackle modern threats, according to a statement from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

The Bill, which will be introduced before Parliament on Wednesday, will compel companies to inform the government of merger and acquisition activity in sensitive sectors such as defence, energy and transport.

**No back door entry'**  
"The U.K. remains one of the most attractive investment destinations in the world and we want to keep it that way," Business Secretary Alok Sharma said in a statement. "But hostile actors should be in no doubt — there is no back door into the UK."

"This Bill will mean that we can continue to welcome job-creating investment to our shores, while shutting out those who could threaten the safety of the British people."

The Bill — which names 17 strategic areas, including artificial intelligence, nuclear power, robotics and the space industry — mirrors similar measures in Australia, Italy, France and the U.S.

Sealed Tenders are invited for the Two Bid System (Part I - TECHNOCOMMERCIAL BID & Part II PRICE BID) at C-MET, Hyderabad for the supply, installation & commissioning of the following items/equipment:

**Name of the Item:** Planetary Ball Mill with Zirconia Bowls & Balls  
**Tender No.:** C-MET/HD/SP-41/PBM/33/2020-21  
**Last Date for Receipt of Tenders :** 03.12.2020 up to 17:00 Hrs IST  
For Details and Tender Document, please visit our website <http://www.cmet.gov.in> & also CPPP portal.  
**Sd/- DIRECTOR**

## KOLKATA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

**CORRIGENDUM-12**

**Tender Ref. No. : IN-NMCG-KMC/DG(S&D)/South/19-20/TNP/R-1 dt. 26.12.19** was published in this Newspaper (Key No. 830/19-20) on 26.12.19.

The tender inviting authority is hereby extending important dates of e-tender submission through online as follows :

Document Download/Sale End date : 18.11.2020 upto 1.00 p.m. Bid Submission End date : 18.11.2020 upto 1.00 p.m. Bid Opening date (Technical Bid) : 18.11.2020 upto 2.00 p.m.

402/2021

## BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Executive Engineer, Road Infrastructure-Traffic Engineering Cell, N.R.Square, Bengaluru - 560 002.

**No: EE/RI-TEC/TEND/09/2020-21 Dated: 11.11.2020**

## INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (IFT)

(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Traffic Engineering Cell-Road Infrastructure, BBMP, Bengaluru on behalf of the Commissioner, invites competitive Bids from Reputed Firm/Agencies for Providing Pre Cast High Raised Medians in Arterial and Sub Arterial Roads as Per the Direction of Traffic Police in BBMP Limits.

Sl. No.	Name of the Works	Approx. Amount Put to Tender (₹ Lakhs)	EMD (in ₹)
1.	Providing Pre Cast High Raised Medians in Arterial and Sub Arterial Roads as Per the Direction of Traffic Police in Dasarahalli, Yelahanka, East and Mahadevapura of BBMP Limits.	150.00	2,25,000
2.	Providing Pre Cast High Raised Medians in Arterial and Sub Arterial Roads as Per the Direction of Traffic Police in West, South, Bommanahalli and R.R. Nagar of BBMP Limits.	150.00	2,25,000
3.	Remedial Works to Removal of Balance Black Spots as per the Road Safety Audit in BBMP Limits including providing Street Lights for illumination.	200.00	3,00,000
4.	Improvements and Beautification of Various Junction in Bengaluru City as Per the Requirement of Bengaluru Traffic Police.	200.00	3,00,000
5.	Annual Maintenance Work of Bicycle Lane from Silk Board to K.R. Puram.	75.00	1,50,000

**Calendar of Events:** (1) Availability of Tender Documents in e-procurement portal from 13.11.2020 onwards. (2) Last Date for Submission of Pre-Bid Queries is 18.11.2020 upto 1:30 pm. (3) Pre-Bid Meeting on 18.11.2020 at 3:30 pm. (4) Last Date for Submission of Tenders is 26.11.2020 upto 4:00 pm. (5) Opening of Technical bid is on 27.11.2020 at 4:30 pm. (6) Opening of Financial Bid Will be intimated to the Tenderers. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours on working days or from website: <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>

**Sd/- Executive Engineer (RI-TEC)**

**COVID-19. DO NOT PANIC, BE AWARE**

**Wear Mask**

**Follow Physical Distancing**

**Maintain Hand Hygiene**

## MADHYA PRADESH POWER GENERATING CO. LIMITED

**NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (E-TENDERING PROCESS)**

Sl. No.	Tender Inviting Authority	Specification No.	Total
1	SE/Elec Systems NCTPS	(73 Due Date Extension)	1

For details of works/Procurement/Due date of submission/opening, viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit websites: [www.tangedco.gov.in](http://www.tangedco.gov.in), <https://tenders.gov.in/nicen/api>, [www.tenders.tn.gov.in](http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in), <https://Intenders.gov.in/nicen/api>

DIPR/4228/Tender/2020

## MADHYA PRADESH POWER GENERATING CO. LIMITED

**(CIN No. J40109MP2001SGC04882)**

Office of the Chief Engineer (R&M), Shed No. 10, Rampr

Jabalpur (M.P.) INDIA Email: cprn@rediffmail.com; Ph: +91 761 293844

## MARKET WATCH

	11-11-2020	% CHANGE
Sensex	43593	0.73
US Dollar	74.36	-0.24
Gold	50114	-0.44
Brent oil	44.53	3.31

## NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	371.60	4.85
Asian Paints	2181.70	-18.05
Axis Bank	608.65	25.05
Bajaj Auto	3023.10	25.60
Bajaj Finserv	6944.80	257.15
Bajaj Finance	4269.80	60.25
Bharti Airtel	478.60	12.20
BPCL	394.00	11.20
Britannia Ind	3492.75	-15.60
Cipla	742.35	25.05
Coal India	125.85	1.05
Divis Lab	3353.15	89.75
Dr Reddys Lab	4882.15	184.15
Eicher Motors	2326.70	91.85
GAIL (India)	92.95	2.75
Grasim Ind	803.10	13.60
HCL Tech.	826.05	16.35
HDFC	2324.30	52.20
HDFC Bank	1389.95	-3.70
HDFC Life	623.45	13.80
Hero MotoCorp	3060.15	108.90
Hindalco	204.05	11.70
Hind Unilever	2131.15	-5.45
ICICI Bank	486.55	2.70
IndusInd Bank	787.95	-47.25
Infosys	1122.50	31.45
Indian Oil Corp	85.00	0.75
ITC	185.30	6.95
JSW Steel	342.75	7.95
Kotak Bank	1807.85	54.90
L&T	1059.45	25.75
M&M	633.20	13.25
Maruti Suzuki	6857.35	63.90
Nestle India Ltd.	16697.60	92.85
NTPC	92.90	1.40
ONGC	72.35	1.60
PowerGrid Corp	189.65	3.75
Reliance Ind	1997.20	-87.35
SBI Life	839.55	10.15
State Bank	234.20	2.50
Shree Cement	22867.55	104.75
Sun Pharma	506.05	15.15
Tata Motors	150.95	4.95
Tata Steel	473.95	32.05
TCS	2687.80	38.20
Tech Mahindra	837.50	16.20
Titan	1274.70	-30.70
UltraTech Cement	4823.80	104.25
UPL	435.70	2.90
Wipro	346.75	4.45

## EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	74.18	74.50
Euro	87.48	87.86
British Pound	98.33	98.75
Japanese Yen (100)	70.38	70.68
Chinese Yuan	11.21	11.26
Swiss Franc	80.89	81.25
Singapore Dollar	55.00	55.25
Canadian Dollar	56.91	57.16
Malaysian Ringgit	17.94	18.04
Australian Dollar	54.13	54.37

Source: Indian Bank

## IN BRIEF



L&amp;T emerges lowest bidder for bridge project

MUMBAI Larsen & Toubro Ltd. has emerged as the lowest bidder at ₹3,166 crore to construct a 20-km, four-lane bridge across the river Brahmaputra, the longest road bridge to be built over a river, sources said. The bridge will be built between Dhubri and Phulbari on NH 127B for the National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. To connect Assam and Meghalaya, the project is being financed by JICA.

## OVL buys FAR Ltd. stake in Senegal for \$45 mn

NEW DELHI ONGC Videsh Ltd. on Wednesday announced the acquisition of Australian firm FAR Ltd.'s stake in the \$4.2-billion Sangomar oil project off Senegal's shore for \$45 million. This is the first acquisition by OVL, the overseas investment arm of ONGC, in two-and-a-half-years. Sangomar is a JV with Australia's Woodside Petroleum and Senegal's national oil firm Petrosen. PTI

## Vellayan Subbiah named chairman of Chola

CHENNAI Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Co. Ltd. (Chola), a Murugappa group firm, has named Vellayan Subbiah as chairman in place of M.M. Murugappan, who stepped down on Wednesday upon reaching retirement age. On November 11, the board appointed Vellayan Subbiah as an additional director of the company. Mr. Subbiah was the managing director of the company from August 19, 2010 to August 18, 2017.

## Syrma Tech, SGS Tekniks enter merger pact

CHENNAI Syrma Technology Pvt. Ltd., a city-based electronic products firm, has entered into a definitive merger agreement with SGS Tekniks, which offers electronic manufacturing services for global and domestic OEMs. The cash-cum-stock merger will see the creation of Syrma SGS Technologies Pvt. Ltd. with a combined turnover of more than ₹1,200 crore. The deal also saw private equity funding by GEF.

# 'GDP shrank 8.6% in Q2 pushing economy into a recession'

Oct. data brightens outlook, formidable risks ahead, RBI says in monthly bulletin

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

India's economy rebounded sharply in the wake of the reopening from lockdowns, slowing the pace of its contraction to 8.6% in the second quarter, a 'nowcast' in the RBI's monthly bulletin showed on Wednesday.

Still, the estimate implies that India is likely to have entered a technical recession in the first half of 2020-21 for the first time in its history with two successive quarters of GDP contraction, wrote an RBI official who authored an article in the bulletin.

An Economic Activity Index, which tracks real-time data from 27 monthly indicators, showed the economy



The economy rebounded sharply, with industry normalising faster than contact-intensive service sectors. ■ K.V. SRINIVASAN

had rebounded sharply from May/June, with industry normalising faster than contact-intensive service sectors, pointing to a short-lived contraction.

The index nowcasts GDP growth at (-) 8.6% in Q2, im-

plying that India is likely to have entered a technical recession in the first half," Panjay Kumar of the RBI's Monetary Policy Department wrote in the article titled 'An Economic Activity Index for India'.

## ICICI Bank sees surge in home loan demand

Loans in ₹30-₹35 lakh range popular

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

ICICI Bank said it had seen a 'record' surge in its home loan portfolio in September and October with people rushing to buy homes at lower prices and at low interest rates. It added that it had seen more demand coming from places other than the top eight cities.

Loans in the range of ₹30-₹35 lakh were in demand with the salaried class, given that stable income had been taking the plunge.

In a statement on Wednesday, the bank also said it had crossed the milestone of ₹2 lakh crore in its mort-

gage loan portfolio, making it the first private sector bank in the country to do so. The first milestone of ₹1 lakh crore was achieved in 2016. Anup Bagchi, executive director, ICICI Bank, said, "The next milestone of ₹3 trillion will be achieved in less than 4 years."

He added that the bank had expanded its footprint and was now "present in 1,100 locations, including tier 2, 3 and 4 cities [and] fast-growing outskirts of metros. We have scaled up our credit processing centres from around 170 to over 200 in the past two years in these new markets."

## Apollo Hospitals to raise ₹1,500 cr.

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

Apollo Hospitals Enterprise Ltd. (AHEL) is planning to raise up to ₹1,500 crore for acquisitions, inorganic growth and to reduce debt. The company plans to raise the funds either by way of preferential issue of securities, QIP, or any other equivalent capital-raising method.

In a regulatory filing, AHEL said the funds would be used for acquiring the balance 50% stake in Apollo Glenaeles Hospital Ltd. (AGHL), Kolkata, for ₹410 crore, for inorganic growth, reduction of debt, technology upgradation and digital initiatives, and other general corporate purposes.

Currently, 50% equity stake is held by Glenaeles Development PTE Ltd, Singapore. Consequent to this development, AGHL will become a wholly owned subsidiary of AHEL.

As part of the 'safer cars for India' campaign, Global NCAP tested the entry-level version of all three cars. All three cars got two-star rating for child occupant protection.

"The Maruti Suzuki S-

## Maruti S-Presso scores zero in NCAP's crash test

Vehicle offers only driver side airbag'

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Maruti Suzuki S-Presso received zero stars, while Hyundai Grand i10 Nios achieved just two stars for adult occupant protection in the latest round of crash tests conducted by the Global New Car Assessment Programme (Global NCAP). Kia Seltos, which was also tested, got a three-star rating.

As part of the 'safer cars for India' campaign, Global NCAP said it currently tests only frontal crash protection for occupants and not side impact and pedestrian protection.

"It is very disappointing that Maruti Suzuki, the manufacturer with the largest share of the Indian market, offers such low safety performance for Indian consumers," Alejandro Furas, Secretary General of Global NCAP said.

while the other models offered both driver and passenger airbags as standard.

Global NCAP said it currently tests only frontal crash protection for occupants and not side impact and pedestrian protection.

"The Maruti Suzuki S-

Presso has achieved a disappointing zero star rating in Global NCAP's new round of #SaferCarsForIndia crash tests," the U.K.-based charity said. It added that the S-Presso was only fitted with a driver airbag as standard,



60% of employees see permanent rise in online meetings'



YUTHIKA BHARGAVA  
NEW DELHI

With the pandemic acting as a digital tipping point, virtual office experiences including being able to touch things at the office while sitting at home, could be reality by 2030, a report by Erics-

son reveals online survey of 7,842 white collar workers in countries including Australia, China, India, Japan, Russia, UAE, the U.K. and the U.S., shows that half of the respondents wanted a digital workstation allowing full-sense presence at work from anywhere.

The report noted that office work would not go back to the way it was before the pandemic and that employees would spend more time working digitally, with six in 10 respondents anticipating a permanent increase in online meetings including with customers, suppliers.

"India is in a very good position to take the lead in such technologies due to the high interest levels compared to most other countries," said Michael Björn, head of Research Agenda at Ericsson Consumer and IndustryLab, and author of 'The Dematerialized Office'.

New technologies "When you introduce new technologies in companies, the perspective of the em-

ployee is going to be very important," he said, adding that there was a big opportunity for companies in India to be at the forefront of such types of technologies, including AR/VR, going forward.

The report, which compiles the findings of a July

online survey of 7,842 white collar workers in countries including Australia, China, India, Japan, Russia, UAE, the U.K. and the U.S., shows that half of the respondents wanted a digital workstation allowing full-sense presence at work from anywhere.

"While the sales cycle is taking a bit longer, the home loan enquiries in October have reached the same level as last year," he added.

## Indices scale fresh peaks on foreign inflows

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MUMBAI

The BSE Sensex defied gravity for the eighth straight session to close at another record high on Wednesday as positive global cues and robust foreign fund inflows fuelled risk-on sentiment.

The Centre approving a ₹2 lakh crore production-linked incentive package for various sectors also buoyed investors, traders said. The 30-share index settled 316.02 points, or 0.73%, higher at 43,593.67.

Observing that "the unrelenting pressure of inflation" was the foremost risk, the RBI warned that a hit to external demand from the second wave and financially stressed households and companies could also undermine the recovery," it added.

Observing that "the unrelenting pressure of inflation" was the foremost risk, the RBI warned that a hit to external demand from the second wave and financially stressed households and companies could also undermine the recovery," it added.

Tata Steel was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, surging 7.39%.

## Social infra PPPs eligible for viability gap funding

₹2,100 crore allocated in scheme rejig

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

# Built to operate at peak efficiency, MI has cracked the T20 code

The side has all bases covered — fearless top-order batsmen, destructive finishers, lethal quick bowlers, crafty spinners and a tactically astute captain

ASHWIN ACHAL

With a dominant IPL title run, Mumbai Indians laid the blueprint for Twenty20 success. Save for a couple of role players, the team was packed with pure match-winners. Every department – batting, bowling, fielding and backroom tactics – oozed quality, making it tough to spot and exploit even a single weakness.

The top-order – consisting of Quinton de Kock (503 runs), Ishan Kishan (516 runs) and Suryakumar Yadav (480 runs) – bagged five man-of-the-match awards among them.

Skipper Rohit Sharma came to the party when it mattered with a crucial 51-ball 68 in the final against Delhi Capitals.

The finishers – Kieron Pollard and Hardik Pandya – smashed their way to tournament strike-rates of 191.42 and 178.98 respectively. Their destructive force was best demonstrated in an unbroken 23-ball, 67-run stand which simply flattened Kings XI Punjab.

**Deadly with the new ball**  
With devastating new-ball spells, Trent Boult and Jasprit Bumrah regularly put the contest to bed inside the PowerPlay.

Bumrah and Boult ended the campaign as the second- and third-highest wicket-takers of the tournament respectively, behind DC's Kagiso Rabada. Boult finished with three man-of-the-match trophies – the most for a bowler in the competition.

To complete the already impressive package, Rohit proved to be a shrewd leader, and the coaching staff – led by head coach Mahela Jayawardene – ensured that the team entered the field armed with the right tactics.



## Highlight reel

A look at some significant numbers from IPL 2020



**BATTING**  
**Most runs:** K.L. Rahul (670, 14 innings), KXIP  
**Highest:** Rahul 132\* (KXIP vs. RCB, Dubai)

**HIGHEST TOTAL:**  
DC 228/4 vs.  
KKR, Sharjah  
**RESULT:**  
DC won by 18 runs



**Best average:**  
Ishan Kishan (57.33 - 516 runs, 4 n.o., 13 innings), MI  
**Best strike rate:**  
Kieron Pollard (191.42 - 268 runs, 140 balls, 12 innings), MI  
**Most 100s:** Shikhar Dhawan (2), DC  
**Most sixes:**  
Ishan (30)  
**Longest six:**  
Nicholas Pooran (106m), KXIP

Note: Batting: Best average (min. 10 inn); Best strike rate (min. 100 balls)

**LOWEST TOTAL:**  
KKR 84/8 vs. RCB, Abu Dhabi  
**RESULT:** RCB won by eight wickets

**BOWLING**  
**Most wickets:** Kagiso Rabada (30, 17 innings), DC  
**Best bowling:** Varun Chakaravarthy 5/20 (KKR vs. DC, Abu Dhabi)

**Best average:** Jasprit Bumrah (14.96 - 27 wickets, 404 runs conceded, 15 innings), MI  
**Best strike rate:** Rabada (13.13 - 30 wickets, 65.4 overs)  
**Best economy rate:** Rashid Khan (5.37 - 64 overs, 344 runs conceded, 16 innings), SRH  
**Most four-fours:** Bumrah (2), Rabada (2)  
**Fastest ball:** Anrich Nortje (156.22 kmph), DC

Note: Bowling: Best average, Best strike rate, Best economy rate (min. 200 balls)

**FIELDING**  
**Most catches (fielder):**  
Faf du Plessis (CSK) 12 and David Warner (SRH) 12

**Most dismissals (wicketkeeper):**  
Quinton de Kock (22 - Ct 18, St 4), MI

## SPECIAL EDITION

There were many firsts in the 13th instalment of the tournament



**TEWATIA**  
In the hottest pursuit in history, Rahul Tewatia held RR chase down KXIP's 223 at Sharjah, eclipsing

the team's own record of overhauling a 215-run target against Deccan Chargers at Hyderabad in 2008

▪ Three of those tied matches were in Dubai, making it the highest at a venue

▪ For the first time, all teams won at least six matches in the league stage. The final playoff spot was sealed only in the last match (SRH beat MI)

▪ Successive centuries were scored by Shikhar Dhawan (DC vs CSK, KXIP), a record

**Mohd. Siraj** had the distinction of becoming the first bowler to deliver two maiden overs (RCB vs KKR)

▪ Four matches ended in a tie, the most in an edition. One of the contests - KXIP vs MI - even went to a second Super Over after the first too was

COMPILED BY R. NARAYANAN AND G. PRASAD

Mayank Agarwal, after an exceptional innings, could not finish the job, resulting in a Super Over loss.

Against KKR, Glenn Maxwell's last-ball hit landed just inches inside the fence. A six would have resulted in a Super Over and, perhaps, a victory and a playoff spot.

For RCB, it was an all too

familiar script of underachievement. A great start to the campaign raised hopes of a maiden IPL title win, but a four-match losing streak to end the league stage, followed by a defeat to SRH in the Eliminator came as a rude reality check.

RCB captain Virat Kohli's repeated failures, compared



IN 2020	Balls delivered	Dot balls	Dot ball %	Economy rate
Jofra Archer (RR)	334	175	52.40	6.55
Jasprit Bumrah (MI)	360	175	48.61	6.73
Rashid Khan (SRH)	384	168	43.75	5.37
Anrich Nortje (DC)	366	160	43.72	8.39
Trent Boult (MI)	344	157	45.64	7.97

OVERALL	Balls delivered	Dot balls	Dot ball %	Economy rate
Harbhajan Singh (MI/CSK)	3,374	1,249	37.02	7.05
R. Ashwin (CSK/RPS/KXIP/DC)	3,230	1,170	36.22	6.87
Bhuvneshwar Kumar (Pune Warriors/SRH)	2,697	1,164	43.16	7.23
Lasith Malinga (MI)	2,827	1,155	40.86	7.14
Piyush Chawla (KXIP/KKR/CSK)	3,250	1,146	35.26	7.87

to Rohit's record-breaking five titles, have led to suggestions that the latter is better suited to lead the Indian limited-overs teams.

Perhaps the biggest takeaway from the tournament was that all players, support staff and officials returned to their homes safe and healthy. The organisers deserve high

praise for successfully pulling off a mighty effort in these testing times.

■ **Rohit's five IPL titles as captain** has led to suggestions that he should replace Kohli as India's skipper in the game's shorter formats

## + Rohit not on Team India flight to Sydney

MI skipper expected to travel to NCA

AMOL KARHADKAR

MUMBAI

Less than 24 hours after the IPL final, the Indian team, sans key batsman Rohit Sharma, boarded a flight to Sydney from Dubai for the tour of Australia, scheduled to begin with the first ODI on November 27.

Except for those who featured in Tuesday's final, the other members of India's 31-strong playing crew, including three back-up bowlers selected for the tour, had been moved into a separate bubble in Dubai along with the coaching and support staff.

While key personnel from Delhi Capitals joined the group on Wednesday, Rohit was set to return to

Mumbai. The MI captain – originally left out of all three India squads after injuring his hamstring in the IPL, before being picked only for the Tests – is expected to travel to the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru next week, to be assessed by the BCCI medical team.

If Rohit and Ishant Sharma, who returned to the NCA midway through the IPL, are certified fit, they will join the squad ahead of the Test series. India is scheduled to play three ODIs, three T20Is and four Tests in Australia. It will be India's first assignment since the home ODI series against South Africa in March, which was abandoned due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

## Champion Tiger Woods prepped for a sixth Green Jacket

Phil Mickelson aims to become oldest Major winner; chance for Rory McIlroy to complete Grand Slam

### THE MASTERS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

AUGUSTA

Tiger Woods, still feeling the thrill of last year's Masters victory to complete an epic comeback, says he can contend again this week thanks to his knowledge of Augusta National.

Former World No.1 Woods, a 15-time Major champion who turns 45 next month, seeks a sixth Green Jacket to match the all-time record of Jack Nicklaus and a record 83rd US PGA victory to break the mark he shares with Sam Snead.

"Do I expect to contend? Yes I do," Woods said. "It can be done. Having an understanding where to miss it and how to hit the shots around here, it helps."

"It gets a little more difficult as I've gotten older and I don't quite hit it as far. You see past champions... able to contend so late in their careers and hopefully I'll be able to be one of those guys."

**Great feeling**  
Woods' vivid memories of Augusta include his victory last year, feeling the electric atmosphere of the crowd and hugging his children the way he embraced his dad after his first win in 1997.

"The same embrace, 22 years apart, pretty good boos-kends," Woods said on Tuesday. "I still get chills just thinking about that."

Woods has been able to keep his jacket away from Augusta longer than usual because COVID-19 postponed the Masters from

April to November that also means no spectators attending.

Phil Mickelson, who has five Major titles, takes inspiration from Woods as the 50-year-old left-hander tries to become the oldest Major champion.

"It was one of the greatest feats in the history of sports," Mickelson said. "I thought it was an incredible comeback knowing many of the challenges he has gone through."

"I was really happy for him and also I think it provides a little bit of inspiration for a lot of us."

Four-time Major winner Rory McIlroy plans to get out of his own way and use hard-earned grit to capture the long-sought Masters title that would complete a career Grand Slam.



### The Augusta file

1 First time since inception in 1934, the Masters is being held in November

3 Players who have won back-to-back Masters: Jack Nicklaus (1965, 66), Nick Faldo (1989, 90) and Tiger Woods (2001, 2002)

3 The event was not held three times (1943, 1944 and 1945) because of World War II

6 Nicklaus has triumphed the most number of times (1963, 65, 66, 72, 75, 86). He is also the oldest winner (46y)

12 Widest margin of victory by strokes (Woods in 1997)

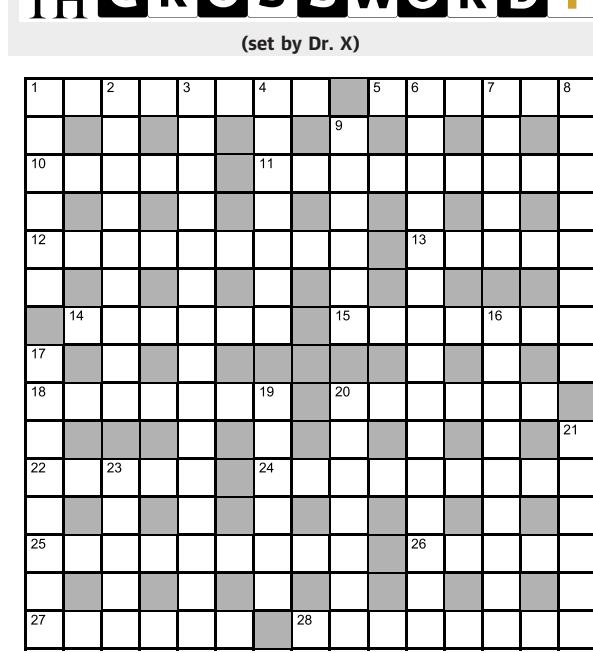
19 Number of attempts before tasting first Masters success (Sergio Garcia in 2017)

96 Field at the 2020 event, including six amateurs

7475 Course length in yards

### CROSSWORD

(set by Dr. X)



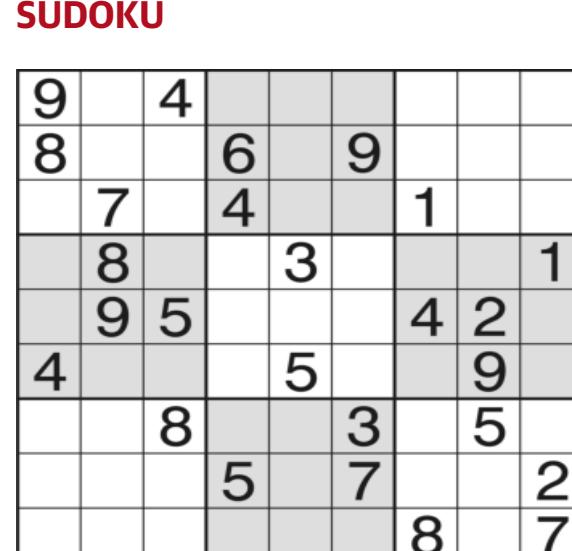
Free your mind from lockdown. Solve puzzles on our interactive site: <https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn>



- 15 Accumulate runs quickly to secure victory on time (7)  
18 Spirit shown by woman in trouble (7)  
20 Summon a coalition to control European country (6)  
21 I want flexible brace (5)  
24 Headless drunk scratching bottom in open (9)  
25 Doctor's glorious, operating on ureters essentiallyd (9)  
26 Engineers checking old-fashioned circuit (5)  
27 Charge a Republican involved in dispute (6)  
28 About the French kiss – it's sloppy (8)
- DOWN
- 1 Comedian entertaining family is stimulating (6)  
2 Calling Veronica to slyly abandon Reggie at entrance (9)  
3 What Test opening batsmen aim to do to overshadow? (4,3,5,3)  
4 Crazier nationalist starting to instigate in state (7)  
6 Fellow gets snappy about including extremely detailed exact reference (7,3,5)  
7 Side dish at fair, served without topping of fruits (5)  
8 Blow up in meeting over revolting remark (8)  
9 Section of the lung's damaged – avoid snuff essentially (6)  
16 Guard keeps goon mostly in cage (9)  
17 Old boy on cocaine in swank bar (8)  
19 Sensational to mention about eating beef in retrospect (6)  
20 Civilian army bombed central barricade in revolutionary mission (7)  
21 Drug addicts consuming heroin are escorts (6)  
23 Love affair in morning time when husband's away (5)

- ACROSS
- 1 Winning side takes time off (8)  
5 Son, worried and frightened (6)  
10 Attack with knights, pinning rook back (5)  
11 Religious person about to criticise analysis (9)  
12 Narrow escape with new system preventing shock (4,5)  
13 Groom in stress after removing top (5)  
14 Learn about tackling essentially complicated type of equation (6)

### SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

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## Haryane Ka Badhiya Haal Chokha Bitya Pehla Saal

Sh. Manohar Lal, Chief Minister, Haryana

### Transparency with Good Governance

#### 'Lal Dora Mukt Yojana' started

which is now adopted as 'Swamitva Yojana' by the country  
to give rural people property ownership rights

This scheme ensures rights for sale, purchase and to avail loan on their land

Mera Parivar-Meri Pehchan  
[www.meraparivar.haryana.gov.in](http://www.meraparivar.haryana.gov.in)  
portal started to provide benefits  
of all Government schemes  
from the ease of home



Wi-Fi hotspots installed for  
providing Internet services  
in 4496 gram panchayats

Record of 60.14 Lakh Families  
is available on the portal



542 services and schemes of  
39 departments are available  
online through 15,311 Atal Seva  
Kendras and 117 Antyodaya Kendras

Parivar Pehchan Patra  
prepared for more than  
15 Lakh Families



More than 7 lakh  
complaints resolved  
through CM Window

To bring transparency Body Cameras  
will be provided to the vehicle  
inspectors for checking and passing  
the commercial vehicles



Gram Darshan Portal  
Platform to deal with Issues  
Data of 6,197 Gram Panchayats & Entire  
information of Development Projects available

Portable Dharmkantas to  
be installed on the roads to  
prevent overloading of  
commercial vehicles



In order to bring work transparency  
'e-office' started in 4 corporations and  
70 departments and soon to be implemented  
in all other departments as well

Let's adopt the strict measures  
To prevent the spread of Coronavirus



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