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Sasikala seeks sentence remission and early release from prison  
page 10



BJP's campaign wagon hits the separatist hotbed of Sopore  
page 11



First arrest made in Uttar Pradesh under conversion ordinance  
page 12



Hardik, Jadeja help India avoid a clean sweep in ODI series  
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## NEARBY



SC rejects Vedanta plea to open unit for 30 days

NEW DELHI  
The Supreme Court on Wednesday rejected a proposal made by Vedanta Sterlite to operate its closed copper plant in Thoothukudi for 30 days under the supervision of an expert committee appointed by the court.

TAMIL NADU ▶ PAGE 6

Permission given for holy communion

CHENNAI  
In view of Christmas, the Tamil Nadu government on Wednesday modified the standard operating procedures, currently in place, to permit the conduct of eucharist/holy communion at Christian religious places.

TAMIL NADU ▶ PAGE 2

Over 12,000 persons with disabilities court arrest

CHENNAI  
More than 12,000 members of the Tamil Nadu Association for the Rights of All Types of Differently Abled and Caregivers courted arrest after picketing government offices across the State on Wednesday, highlighting their long-pending demands.

CHENNAI ▶ PAGE 4

State records 1,428 new cases, 11 fatalities

CHENNAI  
Tamil Nadu reported 1,428 new COVID-19 cases on Wednesday, taking the overall infection count to 7,84,747, while 11 more fatalities pushed the toll to 11,733. As many as 1,398 people were discharged from health care facilities after treatment, taking the aggregate to 7,62,015. Active cases in the state stood at 10,999.

TAMIL NADU ▶ PAGE 2

METROPLUS ▶ 4 PAGES

## 'India will not accept less than bottom line in talks with China'

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar says negotiations could take longer

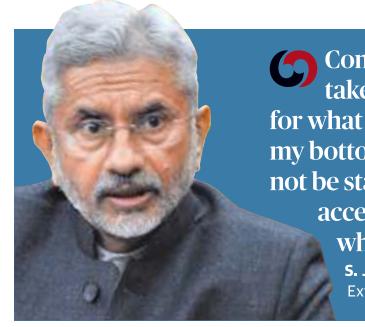
SUHASINI HAIDAR

NEW DELHI

Talks with China on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) could take much longer, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar indicated on Wednesday, drawing a parallel to a similar military stand-off in Arunachal Pradesh's 'Sundorong Chu' in 1986 that took nearly nine years to resolve.

### EXCLUSIVE

Adding that India and China must take a "long view" of the border dispute and not just the "incidents" at the LAC this year, Mr. Jaishankar cautioned Beijing against dealing with India through the prism of a "third party", in a reference to India's close ties with the United States.



Complicated issues will take time and I will go for what is my interest and my bottom line. I mean, I will not be stampeded into accepting something which is less

S. JAISHANKAR

External Affairs Minister

In an exclusive interview to *The Hindu*, Mr. Jaishankar said he could not divulge details of the ongoing negotiations with the Chinese side on resolving the stand-off in Ladakh.

When asked about how long the talks, which have seen eight rounds of military commander-level negotiations, would continue, Mr. Jaishankar said it was necessary to remember the Sum-

dorong Chu crisis of 1986. Several years of talks were fruitless before the two armies, which were eyeball to eyeball in the Tangaw region, disengaged in 1995. In between, the two sides signed the breakthrough 1993 agreement on the Maintenance of Peace and Tranquillity along the Line of Actual Control.

Mr. Jaishankar said for India, the bottom line is that

China has violated past agreements by amassing troops at the border and that if "peace and tranquility" at the border is disturbed the rest of the India-China relationship is affected.

"Complicated issues will take time and I will go for what is my interest and my bottom line. I mean, I will not be stampeded into accepting something which is less," he said, adding that India had undertaken an "enormous military response" in reaction to the Chinese deployment.

He added that reports of Chinese occupation of land in Depsang and north Pan-

gong Tso did not set out "the totality of the ground picture fairly".

INTERVIEW ON ▶ PAGE 12

### On storm's path



Hit by the elements: An anchored fishing boat was washed ashore at Mandapam in Ramanathapuram district on Wednesday as squally winds lashed the region ahead of Cyclone Burevi, which is brewing in the southern Bay of Bengal. ■ L. BALACHANDAR (REPORTS ON PAGE 2)

## Former HC judge Karnan held

He made vulgar remarks against SC judges and their spouses

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI

Former Calcutta High Court judge C.S. Karnan was on Wednesday arrested by the Central Crime Branch (CCB) of the Greater Chennai Police. Sources said he was arrested from his house in Avadi in connection with vulgar remarks he reportedly made against Supreme Court judges and their spouses.

The CCB held an inquiry at the City Police Commissionerate last week.

Following this, the CCB registered cases against him under sections 228 (inten-



tional insult or interruption to public servant sitting in judicial proceeding), 509 (word, gesture or act intended to insult the modesty of a

woman), 294 (b) (sings, recites or utters any obscene song, ballad or words, in or near any public place), 506 (ii) (punishment for criminal intimidation), 67 (A) (punishment for publishing or transmitting of material containing sexually explicit act, etc., in electronic form) and 153 (wanton giving provocation with intent to cause riot) of the IPC.

In October, the Thiruvanmiyur police booked a case against five men, without naming the former judge.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 2

## Boris Johnson invited as chief guest for R-Day

A decision is awaited from London

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

India has invited U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson as chief guest for the Republic Day celebrations in January 2021 and a decision on this is awaited from London, according to diplomatic sources.

The invitation was extended last Friday during the telephone conversation between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Mr. Johnson, a diplomatic source said on Wednesday. However,

there was no confirmation from the British High Commission on this, with officials saying that Mr. Johnson was keen on visiting India as soon as possible.

It has been learnt that before this invitation, discussions were underway for a visit by Mr. Johnson for the Raisina Dialogue. There was no response from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) to questions on the visit.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

## Honey, the sweetener on your plate may be sugar syrup

CSE says only three brands could clear the Nuclear Magnetic Resonance test

JACOB KOSHY

NEW DELHI

Honey marketed by prominent Indian brands failed a key test of purity, the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) has claimed, citing an investigation it conducted.

Current regulations specify around 18 parameters that honey must comply with for producers to label it 'pure honey'. CSE food researchers selected 13 brands of raw and processed honey, including Dabur, Patanjali, Baidyanath and Zandu, and subjected them to tests that are required under national

food regulatory laws to be labelled as honey.

Most brands passed muster but when subjected to one test, called Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR), that can ascertain the composition of a product at the molecular level that was done at a lab in Germany, only three brands (spanning six samples) passed: Saffola, Marbled Sohna and Nature's Nectar (one sample of two). There were often multiple samples tested for each brand.

The NMR test is not required by Indian law for honey that is being marketed locally but is



To sweet: Several samples were tested in Germany to check for purity. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

they can go undetected," he said.

### No adulteration?

Dabur Honey, in a statement, denied that its honey was adulterated with sugar syrup. The company furnished a July 20 report from a German company, Bruker, listed as a manufacturer of NMR imaging product, and performed a test of Dabur's honey composition profile. That report, which *The Hindu* perused, says there was no evidence of sugar syrup. "Dabur is the only company in India to have NMR testing equipment in our own laboratory, and the same is used to regularly test our honey being sold in the Indian market. This is to

ensure that Dabur Honey is 100% pure without any adulteration," the statement noted.

The CSE investigation also said some Indian companies were importing synthetic sugar syrups from China to adulterate honey. Sunita Narain, director general, CSE, said these were capable of passing off as honey, even up to half of which were mixed with sugar, as 'pure honey'. Among the tests employed as per Indian regulations is one to check whether the honey is adulterated with C4 sugar (cane sugar) or C3 sugar (rice sugar). Most samples cleared these tests but failed the Trace Marker for Rice test, to test for rice syrup adulteration.

\*Based on scientific study

\*\*With regular use over 4 weeks as directed, based on scientific study

## Britain approves Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine

Roll-out could begin early next week

REUTERS

LONDON

Britain approved Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine on Wednesday, jumping ahead of the rest of the world in the race to begin the most crucial mass inoculation programme in history with a shot tested in wide-scale clinical trials.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson touted the green light from the U.K.'s medicine authority as global win and a ray of hope amid the pandemic. "Fantastic news," Mr. Johnson told Parliament, though he cautioned that people should not get too carried away.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) granted emergency use approval to the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, which they say is 95% effective in preventing illness, just 23 days since Pfizer published the first data from its final stage clinical trial.

Britain said it would start vaccinating those most at risk of dying early next week after it gets 8,00,000 doses from Pfizer's manufacturing centre in Belgium.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

GLOBAL ALERT ON VACCINE FRAUDS ▶ PAGE 12

## 2021 board exams will be in written mode: CBSE

'Looking into alternatives for practicals'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Board examinations will be conducted in written mode and not in online mode. The exams will be conducted following all COVID-19 protocols."

The statement added that "in case students are not able to do practicals in classes before the exams, alternatives to practical exams will have to be explored".

Schools across the country shut down in March due to the pandemic.

The board exams for 2019-2020 were partially completed when the lockdown happened.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

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M CH-CHE

# Burevi expected to cross coast in the early hours of Friday

IMD has issued orange alert for the south Tamil Nadu and south Kerala coasts

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

Cyclonic storm Burevi is expected to be centred close to Pamban by Thursday noon, and may cross the south Tamil Nadu coast between Thursday night and the early hours of Friday. The system will begin to have an impact on the southern coastal districts from Thursday morning, says the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

On Wednesday, the IMD issued an 'orange' alert for the south Tamil Nadu and south Kerala coasts. The alert indicates that the authorities must be prepared for the approaching system. Its impact may start from Ramanathapuram district and gradually reach Kanyakumari.

The name 'Burevi', given by the Maldives, means black mangroves in the Dhivehi language. The storm is expected to cross Sri Lanka's coast by Wednesday night. It is likely to cross the south Tamil Nadu coast between Pamban and Kanyakumari between Thursday night and the early morning of Friday as a cyclonic storm with a wind speed of 70-80 kmph, gusting to 90 kmph.

**Showers till Saturday**  
The system will continue to maintain intensity as a cy-



Squally winds sweeping across the Pamban seashore on Wednesday. ■ L. BALACHANDAR

clonic storm and weaken as a deep depression around Friday night.

IMD officials said the storm may trigger rainfall till Saturday. Most places in the State would receive rain. The spell may be heavy to very heavy at a few places and extremely heavy (above 24 cm) at one or two places till Friday.

Sivaganga, Tirunelveli, Tenkasi and Kanyakumari districts may get isolated extremely heavy rain on Thursday and Friday. Other districts such as Madurai, Theni, Dindigul and Virudhunagar are likely to get heavy to very heavy rain, up to 24 cm, at one or two places. Many weather stations in

other districts may receive light to moderate rain, they said.

The IMD also warned of squally weather over Thoothukudi, Tirunelveli, Ramanathapuram and Kanyakumari with a wind speed of 70-80 kmph, gusting up to 90 kmph, on December 3 and 4. A storm surge of about 1 metre may inundate low-level areas in the south coastal districts.

Chennai may continue having a pleasant weather with the maximum temperature of 28 degrees Celsius. The city may receive light to moderate rain in some parts till Friday.

Officials noted that the weather system is likely to

reduce the rainfall shortage in the delta and southern districts, including Thanjavur, Ramanathapuram and Kanyakumari. The State's overall average rainfall stands at 30.4 cm, 16% short of its seasonal normal, since October 1.

Meanwhile, the IMD's bulletin indicates a cyclonic circulation over the Malay Peninsula. This may lead to the formation of a low-pressure area over the south Andaman sea around December 4. However, officials said they were monitoring the system, and the direction it would take and the impact it would have on Tamil Nadu would be clear once the system forms.

## MADURAI BUREAU

The southern districts in Tamil Nadu are geared up to face Cyclone Burevi. State Revenue and Disaster Management Minister R.B. Udayakumar said on Wednesday.

The Minister, who was on a tour to inspect the coastal pockets of Ramanathapuram district, was accompanied by Special Monitoring Officer Dharmendra Pratap Yadav, District Collector Dinesh Ponraj Oliver and others. He took stock of the level of preparedness at Pamban, Thangachimadam, Arichalmunai and other areas.

**'Preparing for cyclone'**  
Addressing a press conference, the Minister said as soon as they received the weather forecast from the IMD officials, the State government machinery started meticulously preparing for the cyclone. "We are on high alert. All officials have been entrusted with responsibilities. Persons, especially fishermen in the coastal stretches of the southern districts, have been asked to stay indoors and not venture into sea," Mr. Udayakumar added.

Apart from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), the Coast Guard, INS Parundu and the police, personnel from the Public Works Department (PWD), Revenue, Fire and Rural Development departments were also present at designated locations. Currently, there were 3,500 first responders in Ramanathapuram district and 209 relief centres, including 104 schools, 20 colleges and 50 kalyana mandapams, he said. Mr. Udayakumar said out of the 641 PWD tanks and the 1,122 rural tanks, only 10 had touched the maximum water levels so far.

District administrations in Ramanathapuram, Kanniyakumari, Thoothukudi and Tenkasi have functioning control rooms. Sand bags, electric posts and high-powered saw machines have also been provided to face any eventualities that may arise after the cyclone passes. Control rooms were functioning round the clock and people could reach it at 04567-230060, Mr. Ponraj added.

In Tirunelveli, Monitoring Officer Karunakaran, accompanied by Collector Vishnu, visited irrigation tanks at Nanguneri and V Jayarayanan, both of which get water from the Manimuthar dam. The officials also inspected a multi-purpose community hall at Koottapuli, one of the relief

camps set up by the district administration in the coastal areas.

Meanwhile, NDRF personnel visited Karuppanthurai, Kailasapuram and Vanarpettai as they are situated close to the Tamirabarani watercourse.

... The Centre will provide all possible support to T.N. I pray for the well-being and safety of those living in the areas affected," the Prime Minister tweeted.

Modi speaks to CM, assures all support

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke to Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami on Wednesday, over phone, to discuss the situation emerging due to Cyclone Burevi, and assured the State of all possible support from the Centre.

... The Centre will provide all possible support to T.N. I pray for the well-being and safety of those living in the areas affected," the Prime Minister tweeted.

**₹10 lakh aid for family of cyclone victim**

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI

Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami on Wednesday announced ₹10-lakh financial aid for the family of a man who was killed in an accident in Villupuram district.

Meanwhile, in Theni, Collector M. Pallavi Baldev said 66 relief centres were ready to be occupied for those who may have to move from their dwellings in the event of heavy rain in the district.

In a statement, Mr. Palaniswami said a sum of ₹4 lakh would be granted from the State Disaster Response Fund and another ₹6 lakh from the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund.

# T.N. not experiencing more cyclones now than before

From 1965-2019, number of systems that affected Bay of Bengal region during Oct.-Dec. was 3.6 a year

T. RAMAKRISHNAN  
CHENNAI

With the Tamil Nadu coast bearing the impact of Cyclone Burevi within days of having been battered by Cyclone Nivar, the question that many ask is whether the State has been experiencing more tropical cyclones in recent years than in the past.

A firm 'no' is the response from veteran meteorologists Y.E.A. Raj and S. Balachandran. They say occurrences in a year or two should not be construed as a trend. Instead, the data for at least 10 years should be taken into account.

## Average figure

Pointing out that the State on an average gets one cyclonic system or disturbance annually, Dr. Raj, former Deputy Director-General of Meteorology (DDGM), explains that going by the data for the period from 1965 to 2019, the average number of systems that affected the Bay of Bengal region during October-December was 3.6 a year.

In other words, there

## Storm tracker

A summary of cyclones that have crossed the T.N. coast. Special focus is given to weather systems since the 1960s, when the use of satellites for forecasting began

Detail	Period	Tropical cyclones	Severe tropical cyclones
Cyclones that crossed T.N. coast	1891-2019	56	31
Cyclones that crossed north of 10°N		49	25
Cyclones that crossed south of 10°N		7	6
Cyclones that crossed T.N. coast	1960-2019	25	19
Cyclones that crossed north of 10°N		21	15
Cyclones that crossed south of 10°N		4	4

North of 10°N - Tiruvallur district to Pudukkottai. South of 10°N - south of Pudukkottai.  
Note: The figures of tropical cyclones include those of severe tropical cyclones  
Source: Regional Meteorological Centre, Chennai

were 198 weather systems in total. Apart from Tamil Nadu, the region includes Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and West Bengal, and the neighbouring countries of Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Myanmar.

**Different stages**  
The term, 'cyclonic system or disturbance,' covers different stages – depression, deep depression, cyclonic storm, severe cyclonic

storm, very severe cyclonic storm, extremely severe cyclonic storm and super cyclonic storm, which are all graded on the basis of associated maximum wind speed.

There has not been any perceptible rise in the number of cyclonic systems that crossed the Tamil Nadu coast. This is evident from the fact that 39 systems had hit the State in the 54-year period (1965-

2019), Dr. Raj says, adding that the use of satellites for weather forecasting started in the mid-1960s.

**Factors at play**  
There were years when the Tamil Nadu coast did not see even a single severe cyclonic storm, as had happened during 2001-10. But the State did record heavy rainfall in the period. For example, in 2005, when Tamil Nadu had bountiful

rainfall, it was Andhra Pradesh that bore the brunt of the systems, he says.

Dr. Balachandran, the present DDGM, says the recent data reveal that it is the Arabian Sea region that experiences the increase in the number of systems. This can be attributed to factors such as warming of the sea and reduction in vertical wind shear, which is characterised by changes in the speed or the direction, or in both.

The coastal belt between Tiruvallur and Pudukkottai is hit by more number of cyclones than the region south of Pudukkottai. Among the reasons is Sri Lanka acting as a shield for the southern belt. In this context, the official recalls that Cyclone Ockhi, which devastated Kanyakumari three years ago, was one of the four systems that have crossed the place in the last 100 years.

# A question of susceptibility: why cases did not soar after Deepavali

Experts advance a few theories that may explain the drop

RAMYA KANNAN

CHENNAI

Why did the anticipated rise in COVID-19 cases post the over-crowding witnessed during Deepavali not happen? Epidemiologists and virologists advance a few theories that together may explain the drop in the number since then.

**Second wave possible?**  
Is a second wave a possibility in Tamil Nadu? He says:

The second wave is a reality in Italy, Germany, South Korea, New Zealand, or Kerala, wherever the first wave was successfully flattened, and the infection was not allowed to reach a natural peak. So more people remained susceptible in the community.

In the course of the epidemic, in June, there was a mutation that made the virus more transmissible. The proportion of the susceptible people versus the non-susceptible people was higher in these places because the infection was suppressed in the first wave. The second wave was stronger, therefore, in these places.

"In India, however, we let the virus [have a] free pass

infection to four people, and now, if three of them are not susceptible to the infection, only one out of the four will be infected. It is possible then that the trend would be downwards, slowing down post festival, he adds."

The fall in the number of deaths, also witnessed in Tamil Nadu, seems to be part of a universal phenomenon, Dr. John says. Three scenarios are possible. First, those who are at risk have already died of the infection and the remaining are less prone to the infection, and secondly, doctors have learnt to manage the disease better. "The third possibility is that there is a reduction in viral virulence. This is a theoretical possibility though, and is difficult to study," he says.

Health Minister C. Vijayabaskar says slowly lifting the restrictions during the lockdown and using the tapering-off method have had a positive impact. Health Secretary J. Radhakrishnan says there should be no let-up in vigilance. Following the protocol – masking, physical distance and hand hygiene – should be emphasized.

# Govt. permits conduct of holy communion

SOP modified in view of Christmas

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

In view of Christmas, the State government on Wednesday modified the standard operating procedure (SOP), currently in place, to permit the conduct of eucharist/holy communion at Christian religious places.

"In a modification of the SOP issued for Christian religious places... the government hereby permits eucharist/holy communion, with the condition that eucharist should be offered to devotees only in individual cups," Chief Secretary K. Shanmugam said in a communication to Collectors and Commissioner of the Chennai Corporation.

The government's decision follows a representation from the Archbishop of Madras and Mylapore, seeking permission to give eucharist to participants of holy mass in their churches.



The move follows a plea from the Archbishop of Madras and Mylapore.

Though an SOP was issued for religious places/places of worship on August 31, which said that all religious practices involving physical contact shall be avoided, Mr. Shanmugam said: "Since Christmas is celebrated in the month of December, it is represented to the government that eucharist/holy communion in Coimbatore, followed by 99 in Salem. There were 83 cases in Chengalpattu, 65 in Tiruvallur, 61 in Kan-

cheepuram and 55 in Tiruppur.

The remaining 30 districts reported less than 50 cases each. Of this, Ariyalur, Kanyakumari, Perambalur, Ramathapuram, Sivagangai, Tenkasi, Theni, Tirupathur and Villupuram had new cases in single digits.

One returnee from Singapore and six from Kerala, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Bangladesh, Assam

and Karnataka tested positive for COVID-19 in the State.

Dharmapuri, Namakkal and Tiruppur.

All 11 persons who died were aged over 50 and had co-morbidities. This included a 56-year-old man from Chengalpattu who had systemic hypertension, and died at a private hospital on November 30, due to multiple organ dysfunction syndrome. He was admitted to the hospital on November 5 with complaints of fever for

five days and cough for four days.

A 90-year-old man, who had diabetes, died at the Dharmapuri Medical College Hospital on November 30 due to atypical pneumonia, respiratory failure and diabetes.

As many as 68,854 samples were tested in the last 24 hours, taking the total number of samples tested in the State so far to 1,21,93,913.

# Former HC judge Karnan arrested

They were booked for trespassing into the residence of a retired woman SC judge.

Later, a video of the former judge making vulgar remarks against women judges and wives of Supreme Court judges went viral on social media platforms.

## Guilty of contempt

This is the second time he is being arrested.

A seven-member Bench, led by Chief Justice of India J.S. Khehar, had found him guilty of contempt and awarded a six-month sentence.

He was then on the run, evading arrest. He was finally arrested in Malumai-champatti in Coimbatore by a team of the West Bengal police.

# With 1,428 fresh cases, State's tally touches 7,84,747

Eleven more persons succumb to infection; 30 districts report less than 50 cases each

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu reported 1,428 new COVID-19 cases and 11 deaths on Wednesday, pushing the State's tally to 7,84,747 and toll to 11,733.

Presently, 10,999 persons are under treatment for the infection in the State. Chennai accounts for 3,584 active cases, followed by Coimbatore (1,001), Chengalpattu (564), Salem (511) and Tiruvallur (472).

# '108 ambulance service is not covered under RTI Act'

GVK EMRI is a private entity, says Tamil Nadu Information panel

S. VIJAY KUMAR  
CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu Information Commission has ruled that the GVK Emergency Management and Research Institute (EMRI) that provides '108' ambulance services in the State is a private entity and is not covered under the Right to Information Act, 2005.

Passing orders on two different petitions that sought information on the number of 108 ambulances, their facilities and the manpower



**Spotlight on transparency:** GVK EMRI says on its website that it is the country's largest emergency service provider. • R. RAGU

operated by GVK EMRI, State Information Commissioner S. Selvaraj, who perused documents of both the parties, said he was satisfied that the organisation was a private concern and did not fall under the ambit of a public authority under the RTI Act.

In his petition, S. Anburaj of Uslampatti, Madurai, wrote to GVK EMRI, seeking to know its role and responsibilities in the operation of 108 ambulances, their facilities and the manpower

He wanted to know the quantum of professional tax deducted from the em-

ployees attached to the ser-

vice and where the same was remitted.

Another petitioner P. Bas-

kar of Vilangudi in Madurai

district had sought district-wise details of the ambulances. Among the 16 questions that he raised was a query whether GVK EMRI was a service organisation. Not satisfied with the reply of the Public Information Officer and the First Appellate Authority, the petitioners moved the Commission.

In both the cases, the Public Information Officer who appeared in the online (video) enquiry being held in view of the pandemic stated that GVK EMRI was a private organisation that was offering emergency ambulance services on the basis of a

memorandum of understanding. The petitioners should approach the State Health and Family Welfare Department for details, the PIO said.

Mr. Selvaraj closed both the petitions saying that there was no need for further enquiry after accepting the arguments and documents put forth by the service provider.

GVK EMRI says on its website that it is the largest emergency service provider in the country and a not-for-profit professional organisation operating in a public-private partnership mode.

Clip showing 'adulteration' of milk is fake, says Aavin

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI

Aavin on Wednesday said it will investigate a video doing the rounds that allegedly shows milk sent to its Tiruvannamalai dairy being mixed with sugar and water.

Dismissing as fake the video in which the secretary of a cooperative society and his family are seen mixing something into milk cans,

Aavin officials said there was no trace of adulteration in the milk samples lifted from that society. "We checked records for a

month but there was no discrepancy," they said.

Aavin Managing Director M. Vallalar said the Collector would be apprised of the issue and if need be police help would be sought. "The video is trying to defame Aavin. We will issue notices to the respective media houses," he said.

S.A. Ponnusamy of the Tamil Nadu Milk Retailers and Employees Welfare Association said the Tiruvannamalai dairy was notorious for such malpractice and action must be taken.



Cancer  
Centres

## 37 years ago, when we started Apollo Hospitals, the purpose was to create a healthcare system of global standards. There was a sense of commitment in everything we did.

Way back in 1995, we performed India's first heart transplant and since then, we have treated over 10 million cardiac patients. But alongside, we realised that we needed the same passion for excellence in oncology, to win the war against cancer.

**Whether it's cardiology or oncology, at Apollo, the effort is to be second to none.**

We are changing the way cancer is managed by focusing on early diagnosis and personalised molecular oncology for surgical, medical and high-precision radiation treatment. We are driving smarter, safer and more effective treatments by being at the forefront of technology, expertise and research globally. Outcome measures which are benchmarked with the best centres around the world, empower the teams to achieve the highest standards of success in treatment.

**With the first and only Pencil Beam Proton Therapy Centre in South Asia & The Middle East, and the zealous mission of Pro Health incorporating preventive oncology, Apollo Cancer Centres have all that is needed to strengthen the battle against cancer.**

Across 14 cancer centres and 1000 dedicated beds, over 200 oncologists oversee delivery of high-end Precision Oncology Therapy. It warms my heart that our oncologists deliver world-class cancer care following an organ-based practice under competent Cancer Management Teams. This helps us in delivering exemplary treatment to the patient in an environment which has consistently delivered an international standard of clinical outcomes.

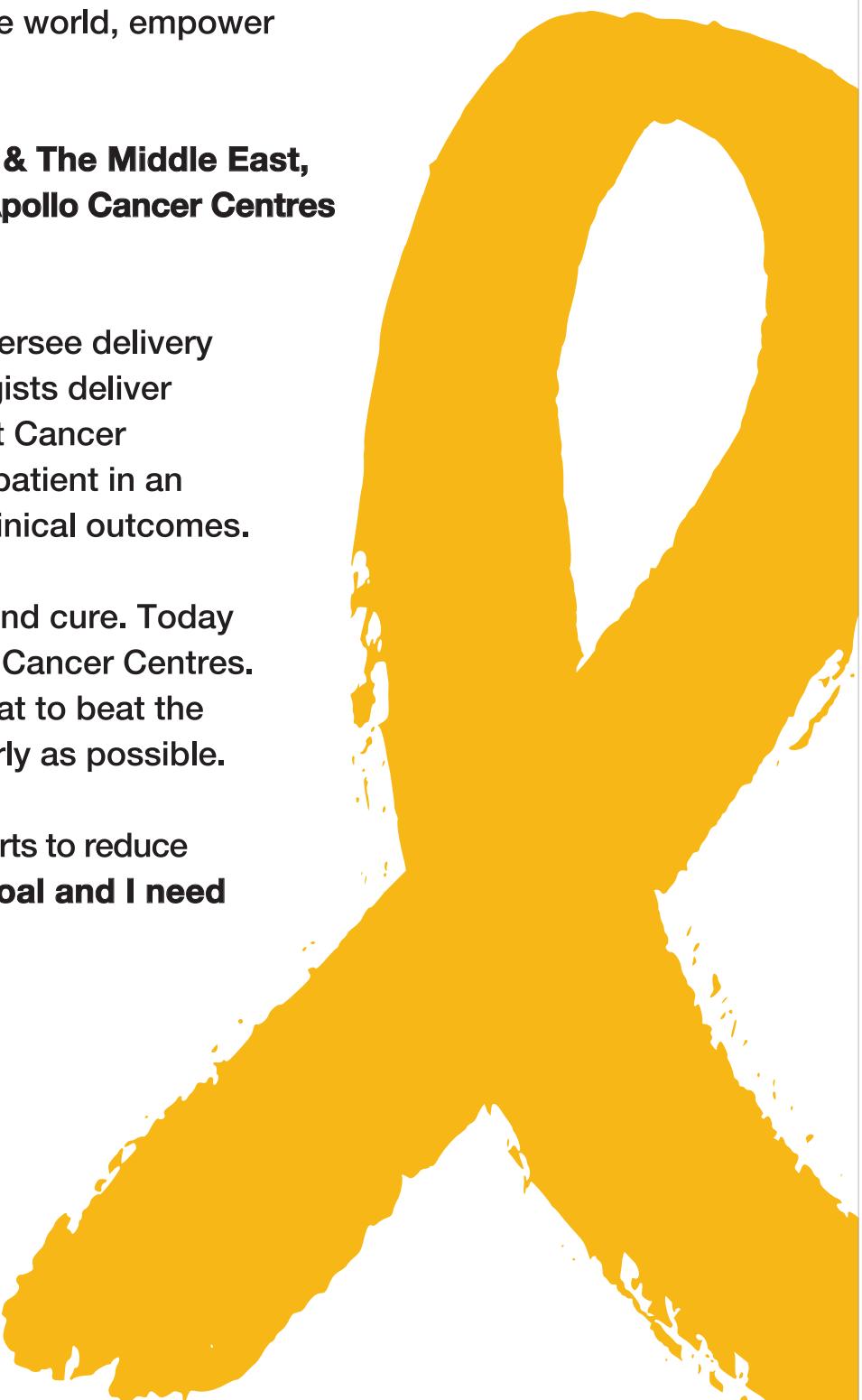
There was a time when people had to go abroad for advanced cancer care and cure. Today people from over 147 countries come to India for cancer treatment at Apollo Cancer Centres. The fact that cases of cancer are rising dramatically, worries me. I believe that to beat the disease, we must do all in our power to prevent it and also diagnose it as early as possible.

Just as India has come together to fight the pandemic, we must step up our efforts to reduce the burden of cancer and make it curable, ideally for every patient. **This is my goal and I need the support of my fellow citizens to build a healthier and happier India!**

**Dr. Prathap C Reddy**  
Chairman  
Apollo Hospitals Group



Scan the QR code  
to watch  
**The Future of Cancer Care**  
by Dr. Prathap C Reddy



**Timings****CHENNAI**

THURSDAY, DEC. 03

RISE 06:17 SET 17:42

RISE 20:14 SET 08:37

FRIDAY, DEC. 04

RISE 06:17 SET 17:42

RISE 21:10 SET 09:30

SATURDAY, DEC. 05

RISE 06:18 SET 17:42

RISE 22:05 SET 10:20

**Chennai Weather**

max min

Thiruvallur 27 22

Chennai Airport 27 23

Chennai City 27 25

**Chennai Airport Today**

30°C Moderate rain and thunderstorms may occur. The morning will be comfortable. A warm and humid day. A cloudy sky.

**Chennai Airport Tomorrow**

29°C A comfortable morning. Moderate rain and thunderstorms would occur. The afternoon would be warm and humid.

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# Over 12,000 persons with disabilities court arrest

They picketed government offices demanding job quota, higher pension

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
CHENNAI

Over 12,000 members of the Tamil Nadu Association for the Rights of all Types of Differently Abled and Caregivers (Taratdac) courted arrest after picketing government offices across the State on Wednesday, highlighting their long-pending demands prior to International Day of Persons with Disabilities, which falls on December 3.

In Chennai, the protests were held at three places – the District Collectorate on Rajajai Salai, Panagal Building and the Egmore Taluk office on Sputark Road.

"Our main demand is to table the White Paper on the implementation of the backlog vacancies in State government departments as per the 2013 Supreme Court judgment. Another demand is to provide 5% jobs in the private sector as mandated

**Fight for rights:** Members of various organisations for the rights of people with disabilities staging a protest in front of the Collectorate in Chennai on Wednesday. ■ B. JOTHIRAMALINGAM

by the Rights of Persons With Disabilities Act or enact a separate Act in the Legislative Assembly," said S. Namburajan, association State

general secretary. Another demand of the association was to increase in the monthly assistance/pension to minimum ₹3,000 and to

₹5,000 for the severely disabled. "In Telangana, they give ₹3,016 a month and Puducherry provides ₹3,500," he said.

## 2 chain snatchers escape from police custody

Police had taken them to a jewellery store

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

CHENNAI

Two of three chain-snatching suspects reportedly escaped from police custody near Perambur on Wednesday while being taken to the jewellery shop where they had sold a chain.

According to police, on Tuesday, Rathinakumar, 60, a resident of B.B. Garden in Perambur, and his wife Subashini, 54, were walking near their house in the morning when three men on a bike snatched Ms. Subashini's chain and sped away. Based on her complaint, the Semibum police registered a case and nabbed three suspects the same

night with the help of CCTV footage. The names of the arrested were given as Ajit Kumar and Rajesh of Vyapardi and Akash of Puliyanthope.

They told the police that they had sold the chain at a jewellery outlet in Puliyanthope, and the three were taken there to recover it.

After they identified the shop, the policemen asked them to get down from the vehicle and started walking towards it.

Suddenly, Ajit and Akash pushed the police and fled the spot. The personnel managed to restrain Rajesh and took him back to the station. The police have launched a search for Ajit and Akash.

## South Korean envoy holds meeting with tour operators

Views sought to revive tourism in South Korea

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

CHENNAI

As part of efforts to bring back tourists to his country, Hong-yup Lee, Deputy Consul General of the Republic of Korea in Chennai, held a meeting with tour operators to understand the travel market.

"The purpose of the meeting is to get opinions from those in the travel industry. We want to get suggestions on what we can do after the COVID-19 situation improves," Mr. Lee said. "Now is the time for both the Consulate as well as the travel agencies to start a joint campaign to explore tourism relations between Korea and south India," he said.

Travel firms requested a waiver of

visa fees and 50% discount in Korean hotels and resorts, among other things. There were also suggestions that the number of days one has to stay under quarantine, on arrival in Korea, be cut down.

Currently, people landing in Korea have to remain under mandatory quarantine for 14 days.

Last year, around 15,000 visas were issued by the Consulate.

Mr. Lee said that Korean families that left India, at the beginning of the pandemic, were now returning. "Over 1,500 people went back to Korea, and now they are all coming back. More than 500 of them have returned to India. For them, India is home," he added.

## Chennai startup makes mask vending machine

Each unit can store about 500 masks

**SANGEETHA KANDAVEL**

CHENNAI

InstaGood Technology Solutions (iGoTS), a startup pre-incubated at the Atal Incubation Centre-Anna University (AIC-AU), has come out a mask vending machine.

Called InstaMask, the first machine, has been installed at the Chennai Mofussil Bus Terminus (CMBT).

"The dispensing system works based on a motor operated rotary dispensing mechanism with flexible rollers, which provides unlimited dispensing capacity with minimal foot space and also ensures touch free delivery," said Krishna Priyadarshini Elanchezian, co-founder of the startup.

"Also, products are stored in the form of cartridge, which requires zero down time for restocking," she said.

Her co-founder Vijayaraghavan Visvamithiran pointed out that this could be made as an IoT-enabled machine with features such as cashless payment and real time remote monitoring to reduce the cost of maintenance and service.

The duo said a pilot study with InstaMask was done at one of the mul-



The mask-vending machine at the Koyambedu bus terminus.

ti-speciality hospitals, post which public feedback was taken. Only after that the product was launched.

Ten more machines are in the pipeline and the priority would be to install them at public places like railway stations, airports, metro rail stations, markets, and religious places.

They said they had capacity to make 50 machines a month. Each machine can store 500 masks. A provisional patent has been filed for the product by the startup.

## Actor robbed of mobile phone at Alwarpet

Cyclists and runners say such incidents are common

**VIVEK NARAYANAN**

CHENNAI

Unknown persons on a bike snatched the mobile phone of Gautham Karthik, son of actor Karthik, while he was cycling on T.T.K. Road on Wednesday morning.

Cyclists in the city complain that they have been facing this problem for many years.

According to police, Gautam Karthik, 31, a resident of Kasturi Rangan Road, was cycling on

T.T.K. Road around 5.10 a.m. on Wednesday. Two men on a bike came from behind, snatched his mobile phone and sped away. He lodged a complaint with the police around 5.30 a.m. A case has been registered and further investigation is on.

City cyclists said they had been facing this problem for the past many years and despite complaints to the police, nothing had been done. "We get two or three complaints every month, primarily from people who cycle through the T.T.K. Road-Cathedral Road junction and near City Centre. We don't get too many

complaints from other parts of the city," said Akilesh Chalani, organiser, We are Chennai Cycling Group (WCCG).

Mr. Chalani said cyclists had observed that the culprits would usually be a duo on a bike. "They not only snatch the phone, but also push the cyclist down. We have already complained to the police," he said.

Joggers, too, said they felt vulnerable while jogging through T.T.K. Road and Cathedral Road, which is used by many residents for walking, running and cycling. "Now, we ensure that we run in a group and I try to avoid these two

## Trees near Tidel Park junction to be relocated

U-shaped flyover will be constructed on Rajiv Gandhi Salai

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
CHENNAI

Thirty-five trees between Tidel Park junction and Indira Nagar junction on Rajiv Gandhi Salai will be transplanted to another location.

Sources in the Tamil Nadu Road Development Company (TNRDC) said that 25 of these trees were planted by them 14 years ago, and the others were on the road before it was widened.

The trees will be moved to make way for the U-shaped flyover coming up on the road.

"From the time the company was formed, we have transplanted around 135 trees and all of them are fine. We have planted hundreds of trees wherever we have space," said an official.

The trees would be shifted inside the Central Polytechnic campus and nur-

**Shrinking space:** A view of the trees along the Tidel Park Junction that are set to be relocated. ■ M. KARUNAKARAN

tured for nine months.

ed with the project.

S. Geetha, who uses the Tidel Park junction often, said she would miss the trees at the traffic island.

"That is a very nice spot amidst the traffic. I am only happy that they are saving the trees instead of cutting them down," Ms. Geetha said.

## Constable dies in hit-and-run

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
CHENNAI

A 29-year-old constable was killed after he was hit by a vehicle on Anna Salai in the early hours of Wednesday. The police are trying to trace the vehicle.

Police said Mohammed Asif of the Tamil Nadu Special Police's 5th battalion was deployed as a guard at Indian Overseas Bank. The accident occurred when he was returning home. He is survived by his wife and 4-year-old daughter.

**DEATH ANNIVERSARIES****10th Anniversary**

**DEATH**  
**S. KASTURI**, retd Telecom Dept attained Acharya Thiruvadi on 02.12.2020. Deeply mourned by R. Rajagopal ( Husband ), R. Parthasarathy ( Brother In-Law - 9884044192 ), K.N. Srikanth ( Brother - 9500001887 ) Families.

**DEATH ANNIVERSARIES****3rd Anniversary**

**DEATH**  
**V. VENUGOPAL REDDY**, D.O.B. 10-10-1940, D.O.D. 03-12-2010 Konnur, Villivakkam  
**V.R. ENTERPRISES** ( Founder ) Fondly remembered by Wife V. Sakuntala Sons V. Muralikrishna Reddy V.Sridhar Reddy, V.Suresh Reddy Daughters-in-law & Grand Children

**DEATH ANNIVERSARIES**

**1st Death Anniversary**

**DEATH**  
**V. RAJA GOPAL**, Ex Secretary TN Sand Lorry Owners Federation Prop. Sree Ramayam Bus Services, Chennai-44

**DEATH ANNIVERSARIES**

**5th Anniversary**

**DEATH**  
**K.V. PADMANABHAN**, Founder, The Bangalore Automobiles Group, SALEM

**In memory of your loved ones**

To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact: 044-28575711 / 28575714 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. & 72990 9575 from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m.

from 5 to 9 p.m. for Monday Edition

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**DONATE EYES-GIFT SIGHT**

**DEATH ANNIVERSARIES**

**BORN ON : 31.01.1945**

**HOME CALL ON : 03.12.2013**

**Mrs. MAHESWARI EBENEZER**

**I HAVE FOUGHT THE GOOD FIGHT, I HAVE FINISHED THE RACE**

**I HAVE KEPT THE FAITH. - II TIMOTHY : 4:7.**

**A mother so lively and precious,**

**The epitome of being gracious and selfless,**

**Made each day so meaningful and wonderful,**

**Your life, a testimony of how to be, for that we are eternally grateful.**

**We miss you each and every day,**

**In eternity we will meet and celebrate someday.**

**WEATHER WATCH**

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



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

**Forecast for Thursday:** Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over coastal Andhra Pradesh, Rayalaseema, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep

Bhubaneswar ..... 30.6 ..... 15.0 Mysuru ..... 28.9 ..... 20.0

Chandigarh ..... 25.9 ..... 9.4 New Delhi ..... 26.7 ..... 8.2

Chennai ..... 26.6 ..... 24.8 Patna ..... 27.0 ..... 10.8

Coimbatore ..... 29.5 ..... 19.3 Port Blair ..... 29.8 ..... 27.0

Dehradoon ..... 25.8 ..... 9.1 Puducherry ..... 2.1 ..... 21.8

Gangtok ..... 16.0 ..... 9.9 Pune ..... 30.3 ..... 17.9

Goa ..... 33.7 ..... 21.7 Raipur ..... 30.1 ..... 15.8

Guwahati ..... 28.5 ..... 15.0 Ranchi ..... 26.3 ..... 11.0

Hubballi ..... 29.0 ..... 17.0 Shillong ..... 18.7 ..... 10.9

Hyderabad ..... 30.4 ..... 15.1 Shimla ..... 22.2 ..... 11.2

Imphal ..... 24.8 ..... 7.6 Srinagar ..... 14.2 ..... 0.1

Jaipur ..... 30.0 ..... 12.2 Tiruvananthapuram ..... 32.3 ..... 24.7

Kochi ..... 32.6 ..... 23.4 Tiruchi ..... 26.7 ..... 23.2

Kohima ..... 20.0 ..... 6.4 Vijayawada ..... 29.8 ..... 19.4

Kolkata ..... 28.6 ..... 15.8 Visakhapatnam ..... 29.2 ..... 21.8

(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	34	132	.25	149	160	.....
Bengaluru	12	.40	.34	.69	.97	.....
Chennai	.9	.4	.56	.42	.97	.....
Delhi	26	.53	.116	.410	.365	.....
Hyderabad	14	.92	.28	.161	.143	.....
Kolkata	40	.122	.47	.305	.211	.....
Lucknow	.4	103	.36	.410	.412	.....
Mumbai	.91	.25	.206	.179	.103	.....
Pune	.6	.74	.68	.145	.103	.....
Visakhapatnam	16	.15	.79	.102	.102	.....

**Yesterday**

In observation made at 4.00 p.m. Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 421 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.

# Koyambedu flower market to reopen on December 14

Traders say vegetable prices, which shot up recently, had stabilised now

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI

After nearly seven months, the Koyambedu flower market will be reopened on December 14. This is the last section of shops waiting to be reopened at the market complex.

The wholesale market was closed in May after it turned into a COVID-19 cluster. The flower market began functioning from a four-acre site in Vanagaram sans basic amenities.

Business was also carried out in other places of the city for several months.

About 600 shops that are functioning in various places are set to shift to Koyambedu soon.

On Wednesday, members of the Tamil Nadu Vanigar Sankangalin Peramaipu and the Federation of All Traders' Associations of Koyambedu Wholesale Market Complex met Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority member-secretary Shunchoongam Jatak Chiru on the issue.

Merchants said various sections of the market had been reopened in four phases so far. The market now received about 40,000-50,000 retailers daily and customers



**Back in business:** The Koyambedu market sees about 50,000 visitors a day. ■ B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

were not allowed on the premises.

Meanwhile, vegetable wholesalers said prices of most vegetables had stabilised after the remaining semi-wholesalers reopened 700 shops on November 29.

S. Chandran, Koyambedu Periyar Wholesale Market Licensed Merchants Association, said, "Wholesale business has picked up by 20-30% after semi-wholesalers shifted to Koyambedu.

We are able to manage crowds in the market as 90% of the encroachments have been controlled. The Market

Management Committee authorities conduct periodical checks."

Wholesale price of most vegetables had dropped by 50% over the past few days, except potatoes, onions, tomatoes and carrots. D. Rajasekaran, president, Federation of All Traders' Associations of Koyambedu Wholesale Market Complex, said the price of onions had dropped to ₹30-₹40 a kg. Retailers did not prefer Egyptian onions anymore as local onions were available at almost the same price.

While carrots were sold for ₹55 a kg in the wholesale market on Wednesday, the price had dropped by almost half now. Heavy rain in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka had led to the price hike. Similarly, potatoes were sold at ₹35 a kg and tomatoes ₹25 a kg in the wholesale market due to shortage of produce.

"As the yields are better, we expect the cost of most vegetables to dip further. Broad beans and capsicum are being sold for ₹20 a kg. Even those priced over ₹30 may sell for a lower price by January," said Mr. Rajasekaran.

## Photo biennale deadline extended

STAFF REPORTER  
CHENNAI

The Chennai Photo Biennale Foundation and Confederation of Indian Industry have extended the deadline for submissions as part of the #My2020Hero initiative.

As part of #My2020Hero, people are encouraged to share a photo and story about a real-life hero

who has helped them this year. Entries can now be submitted till December 20.

Entry is free and open to all residents of India and worthy entries will be featured in an online exhibition on www.my2020hero.in which will celebrate these unsung heroes.

Participants can take a photo of

anyone they consider their hero in 2020, write 50 to 150 words about them and upload the story via Instagram or Facebook.

The participants will have to mention #my2020hero, @chennaiphotobiennale, @followcii and their Instagram handle in their caption. Submissions can also be made at www.my2020hero.in.

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**OMC** NEW OPPORTUNITIES

**NOTICE** No.14518/OMC/Perasn/2020  
Date: 02/12/2020

Pursuant to Advt. No. 46/ OMC dated 26.02.2020 regarding recruitment of 128 Non-executive posts in OMC Ltd., this is for information of all candidates that a "Mock Test" questionnaire is being uploaded in OMC website (<http://omcltd.in>) to make candidates familiar with the interface of Computer Based Test (CBT) to be conducted from 08.12.2020 to 11.12.2020 & 14.12.2020.

The questions in the Mock Test are only for reference purpose and have no connection to the questions appearing in the CBT. The Mock Test link will also be sent to applicant's registered e-mail ID.

Sd/-  
**General Manager (P&A)**

**NB:** Candidates are advised to check the OMC website (<https://omcltd.in>) regularly for important instructions / notifications relating to the online Computer Based Test.

CAD-853:

OIPR-30095/11/0117/2021

two persons. Sathik Abdul Mannan and Thamemun Ansari Abdul Rashid, who arrived from Dubai, were held. They were trying to smuggle in 98 g of gold bits and a paste bundle of 169 g, which yielded 142 g of gold.

## Gold seized at airport

STAFF REPORTER  
CHENNAI

The Chennai Air Customs seized 240 g gold, iPhones, cigarettes and used desktops estimated to cost ₹22.66 lakh at the airport on Wednesday, and arrested

+

TNPL TAMIL NADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED

TNPL, a well known Paper and Board Manufacturing Company with a turnover of over ₹ 3437 Crores requires the following personnel for its Multilayer Double Coated Board Plant (TNPL Unit-II) at Manapparai Taluk, Trichy District, Tamilnadu:-

Sl. No.	Name of the posts	No. of posts	Reservation	Scale of Pay / Monthly CTC ₹
1	Semi Skilled (C) (Chemical) / Semi Skilled (B) (Chemical) for Unit-II	41	GT-12 BC-11 BCM-2 MBC/DNC-8 SC-6 SCA-1 ST-1	For Diploma Holder:- For Semi Skilled (C):- Scale of Pay ₹ 11110-139-12500-146-14690. Monthly CTC ₹ 41,596/- for the month of November, 2020.
2	Semi Skilled (D) (Mechanical) / Semi Skilled (C) (Mechanical) for Unit-II	21	GT-7 BC-6 MBC/DNC-4 SC-3 SCA-1	For Semi Skilled (B):- Scale of Pay ₹ 11531-148-13011-153-15306. Monthly CTC ₹ 47,459/- for the month of November, 2020.
3	Semi Skilled (D) (Electrician) / Semi Skilled (C) (Electrician) for Unit-II	12	GT-3 BC-3 BCM-1 MBC/DNC-3 SC-2	For NTC (ITI) Holder:- For Semi Skilled (D):- Scale of Pay ₹ 10880-127-12150-133-14145. Monthly CTC ₹ 40,949/- for the month of November, 2020.
4	Semi Skilled (C) (Instrumentation) / Semi Skilled (B) (Instrumentation) (or) Semi Skilled (D) (Instrument Mechanic) / Semi Skilled (C) (Instrument Mechanic) for Unit-II	10	GT-4 BC-2 SC-1 SCA-1	For Semi Skilled (C):- Scale of Pay ₹ 11110-139-12500-146-14690. Monthly CTC ₹ 45,892/- for the month of November, 2020.

For detailed advertisement on grade-wise No. of Posts, Disciplines, Eligibility Criteria, General Conditions and Instructions for filling the Online Application, please visit TNPL website: [www.tnpl.com/careers](http://www.tnpl.com/careers).

DIPR/1171/Display/2020 TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper

## TNPL TAMIL NADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED

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Sl. No.	Name of the posts	No. of posts	Reservation	Scale of Pay * / Monthly CTC ₹
1	Shift Engineer (Chemical) / Assistant Manager (Chemical)	14	MBC/DNC-3 SC-2 ST-1	For Shift Engineer / Plant Engineer:- Scale of Pay ₹ 19200-480-24000. Monthly CTC ₹ 85,132/- for the month of November, 2020.
2	Plant Engineer (Mechanical) / Assistant Manager (Mechanical)	10	GT-1 BC-3 BCM-1 MBC/DNC-2 SC-2 SCA-1	For Assistant Manager:- Scale of Pay ₹ 23400-590-29300. Monthly CTC ₹ 1,02,700/- for the month of November, 2020.
3	Plant Engineer (Electrical) / Assistant Manager (Electrical)	6	GT-2 BC-1 BCM-1 MBC/DNC-1 SC-1	For Assistant Manager:- Scale of Pay ₹ 23400-590-29300. Monthly CTC ₹ 1,02,700/- for the month of November, 2020.
4	Plant Engineer (Instrumentation) / Assistant Manager (Instrumentation)	3	GT-1 BC-1 M	

# SC rejects Sterlite's appeal to reopen plant for 30 days

Proposal a 'ruse to open' the copper plant in Thoothukudi: T.N. govt.

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday rejected a proposal made by Vedanta Sterlite to operate its closed copper plant in Thoothukudi for 30 days under the supervision of an expert committee appointed by the court.



the HC order later.

On Wednesday, senior advocate A.M. Singhvi, for Vedanta, argued that the question whether the plant complied with pollution norms or not could be ascertained by the court only if it was allowed to resume operations for 30 days. "The proof of the pudding is in the eating... Can this country afford the closure of a plant which takes care of 36% of the need for copper?" he submitted.

He said the plant, established in 1995, was upgraded periodically with the best available technology. Its overall asset value is ₹3,630 crore.

He said the company, through "deliberate half-truths", was trying to actually restore the plant and create a *fait accompli*.

and Additional Advocate General Balaji Srinivasan said the proposal was only a "ruse to open" a plant which had been polluting for over 20 years. The Madras High Court had ordered its permanent closure and sealing. The plant has been closed since May 2018.

The top court said it would hear the main appeal filed by the company against

the Central exchequer was ₹2,559 crore. Senior advocate C.S. Vaidyanathan, appearing for the State pollution authorities, countered that the "trial run" proposal was an "ingenious" way to reopen the factory without arguing the main appeal against the Madras HC's decision of permanent closure.

Mr. Srinivasan submitted that the purported basis of seeking such an "extraordinary prayer" was to enable ascertainment of compliances in 2020, when the plant has been shut down on account of non-compliance and pollution between 2013-2018 and beyond.

He said the company, through "deliberate half-truths", was trying to actually restore the plant and create a *fait accompli*.

The company mooted the idea so that the court could ascertain whether the plant was complying with pollution norms. Vedanta said its plant met 36% of the need for copper in the country and it was not in public interest to keep it closed. But a Bench led by Justice Rohinton Fali Nariman, in a short order, refused the proposal point-blank.

The Tamil Nadu government, represented by senior advocate K.V. Viswanathan

## Cases registered against PMK leaders and workers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

The Triplicane police have registered a case against over 1,000 members of the Pattali Makkal Katchi (PMK), including its president G.K. Mani and youth wing leader Anbumani Ramadoss, for violating lockdown norms and staging a protest on Tuesday.

The Nungambakkam police registered cases against Mr. Mani, former Union Minister A.K. Moorthy, and over 160 workers for staging a protest at Valluvar Kottam on Wednesday in violation of lockdown norms.

PMK founder S. Rama-

doss had announced protests from December 1, demanding 20% separate reservation for the Vanniyars in education and employment in Tamil Nadu.

Traffic on GST Road in the southern suburbs was paralysed for hours on Tuesday morning as PMK workers blocked the road near Perungulathur when the police prevented them from entering the city for staging a demonstration.

The Chennai city police registered a case against Dr. Anbumani and other leaders under the Indian Penal Code and the Epidemic Diseases Act.

### 'Anbumani absconding'

The police have mentioned Dr. Anbumani as absconding in the case filed for Tuesday's protests.

This was because "...he did not court arrest like the others, but went to meet the Chief Minister straight from the agitation spot," an officer said.

## Spell out decision on arrear exams, HC tells law varsity

The judge *suo motu* includes the Bar Council of India as one of the respondents

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

The Madras High Court on Wednesday directed the Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University to disclose by Friday the decision taken by it on conducting arrear examinations for final year students.

Justice N. Anand Venkatesh directed Advocate General Vijay Narayan to ascertain the stand of the

university since a final year student had approached the court for conducting the examinations.

The judge also *suo motu* included the Bar Council of India (BCI) as one of the respondents to the case since the petitioner had claimed that the council had asked law universities to conduct the arrear exams for final year students through online mode.

In his affidavit, the litigant stated that he had joined the 2015-2020 batch of five-year integrated law course in the university's School of Excellence in Law in Chennai. He took the final semester examinations conducted between September 23 and 29 and cleared all the papers.

He and other students in the final year were expecting the arrear examinations also to be conducted along with

the final semester but it did not happen, the petitioner said.

He stated that the BCI had permitted universities to conduct arrear examinations through online mode or award marks on the basis of project reports.

However, the law university was yet to follow either of the two modes and had left the students in the lurch, he complained.

Farmers plan to lay siege to Raj Bhavan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

TIRUCHI

Condemning Prime Minister Narendra Modi's silence on the farmers' protest against the three farm laws, the Coordination Committee of the All Farmers Associations of Tamil Nadu on Wednesday called for a siege of the Raj Bhavan in Chennai on December 11 to express solidarity with the Delhi protesters.

The committee also called upon the ruling AIADMK to withdraw its support to the farm laws.

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MUSIC DANCE DRAMA

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## Teachers happy to have students back on campus

At many colleges, students from outside Chennai didn't return

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

Colleges offering postgraduate programmes and research facilities opened on Tuesday. Students of the final-year postgraduate science programmes were allowed on campus.

It was nice to see the students. The campus is alive. We have to instruct the students to follow the Standard Operating Procedure

lege after a long time, they tend to group together. When they move out of the classroom, we have to monitor them. I have asked the physical directors to prevent grouping," she said.

The college will begin the semester examination from Thursday. It would be held online, she said.

The head of a department at an aided autonomous college said that though the classes had started, there were not enough teachers to monitor the online as well as physical classes.

"We have not received any guidelines on how to conduct classes. We cannot provide Internet connectivity to all on the campus. We have to teach the junior classes, which are online too. How can we attend to both activities?" he asked.

It was a fulfilling experience for teachers to have students back. However, at many colleges, students hailing from outside the city did not return.

New College principal Basheer Ahmed said that in certain departments, all students came to class.

He hoped the others would return in due course. All staff members were present.

Queen Mary's College principal B. Uma Maheshwari said 70%-80% students were present. The rest were expected to be present from Thursday. "We have only one student for a work table.

It was nice to see the students. The campus is alive.

We have to instruct the students to follow the Standard

Operating Procedure.

Happy to come. Physical classes are more effective than online classes. When you engage a class, we can

not express the amount of happiness thus derived," he said.

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# HC judge lauds 7.5% horizontal quota

It is 'the greatest' thing to have happened in the State in a long time, says Justice Anand Venkatesh

MOHAMED IMRANULLAH S.  
CHENNAI

Justice N. Anand Venkatesh of the Madras High Court on Wednesday lauded the enactment of the Tamil Nadu Admission to Undergraduate Courses in Medicine, Dentistry, Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy on preferential basis to students of Government Schools Act, 2020.

The judge told Advocate-General (A-G) Vijay Narayan that the 7.5% horizontal reservation for government school students in medical college admissions was "the greatest" thing to have happened in the State in a long time.

"This will be a turning point for government school students and will change their family status altogether," he said.

The observations were made while hearing petitions filed by the parents of students R. Dharshini and A.



**Landmark decision:** The judge said the 7.5% reservation would be a turning point for government school students. ■ FILE PHOTO

Elakkai of Cuddalore district. Senior Counsel P. Wilson said the students had been offered seats under the 7.5% quota, even if they get allotted to private colleges. "These students need not pay even a single paisa. Even their food will be sponsored by the State," he said.

**Entire expenditure**  
However, the A-G told the court that the government had now decided to bear the

entire expenditure to be incurred for educating all students admitted under the 7.5% quota, even if they get allotted to private colleges.

"These students need not pay even a single paisa. Even their food will be sponsored by the State," he said.

At the time of counselling, a government order to this effect had not been issued. However, the officials gave an

**G** The government has now decided to bear the entire expenditure to be incurred for educating all students admitted under the 7.5% quota

VIJAY NARAYAN  
Advocate-General

oral assurance to the students that the government would bear the expenditure.

"About 95% of the students accepted the oral assurance, obtained the allotment letters and joined the colleges allotted to them," the A-G said.

However, a small section of students did not join private colleges despite accepting the allotment letters as they feared that they would not be able to pay the fees.

"We will revalidate the allotment letters of these students and make sure that they join the colleges. There was a third category of students

who did not accept the allotment letters at all," he added.

"The present petitioners fall under the third category. We are trying our best to accommodate this category also after the return of unfilled seats to the State government from the all-India quota. Every year, the Centre returns 100 to 150 seats to the State government. Apart from that, some private colleges also surrender their seats to the government quota," he said.

"After these seats are returned, the 7.5% quota would be applied to them, too," the A-G assured the court.

The judge recorded his submission and adjourned the two writ petitions for December 11, since it was represented to the court that the number of unfilled seats under the all-India quota would be made known by the Director General of Health Services by December 8.

## The female *thavil* player breaking the mould

Playing it remains a male bastion, but few have been able to break tradition

B. KOLAPPAN  
CHENNAI

Although women have made their mark in various fields, playing the *thavil* in Carnatic music remains a male bastion. There are many women who play the *nagaswaram*. But only a few have been able to break the mould and pursue a career as a professional *thavil* player. M. Sarojini, a *thavil* player from Vriddhachalam in Cuddalore district, is one among them.

Devotees at the Viruthagiriswarar temple know her well as she is a musician there. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



**Far from tradition:** Devotees at Viruthagiriswarar temple know her well as she is a musician there. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Learning the instrument was easy for her as she belonged to a family of *nagaswaram* and *thavil* players.

**All in the family**  
Her father Chinna Pillai, a *nagaswaram* player, and her brother Gurumurthy, a *thavil* player, are attached to the Viruthagiriswarar temple in Vriddhachalam.

The family has its roots in Thanjavur, but migrated to Vriddhachalam 30 years ago. As a temple musician, I play four times a day in the temple when the *pujas* are conducted. I accompany my father. I also perform outside at concerts but mostly with my family members, who are musicians," said Ms. Sarojini.

They play classical and film songs at different functions and weddings.

"Our troupe has performed in various places, including in Chennai. I am keen on improving my career as a performing artiste," added Ms. Sarojini.

## Special educators run into challenges as learning moves online

S. POORVAJA  
CHENNAI

The United Nations, ahead of the International Day for Persons with Disabilities on December 3, has called for greater inclusion of persons with disabilities amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

With several changes taking over education which has rapidly moved online, the focus is on ensuring that students with disabilities are able to continue learning. "Since we work with students who are hearing-impaired and are largely from the underprivileged sections, our main priority is to ensure access and continuity of learning," said Sr. M. Jesintha Rosalind, principal, Little Flower Convent Higher Secondary School for the Deaf.

The school's special educators have been sending out PowerPoint presentations and video resources, as well as customised recorded lessons, to the students of the higher classes.

Earlier this year, the State government's *Kalvi TV* started telecasting classes in the sign language to help the hearing-impaired students. For the visually impaired

students, WhatsApp voice calls and recordings have been used extensively by their teachers.

Jacqueline Latha, principal, Government Higher Secondary School for the Visually Impaired, Poonamallee, said that to the students of Classes 9-12, voice notes, along with video resources that they could listen to, were being sent.

"I, however, miss the classroom environment. In school, we picked up concepts quicker and had the option of discussing lessons with our peers, which we don't have now," said B. Vijayabalan, a Class 12 student.

B. Radhakrishnan, managing trustee, Annai Special School, run by Karunai Trust, pointed out that families that had children with intellectual disabilities had several challenges, especially with regard to children losing out on a structured daily routine and access to therapeutic services.

The one welcome aspect, special educators like B. Malathi say, is the increased involvement of parents.

Government of India Department of Atomic Energy General Services Organisation Transport Section Kalpakkam - 603 102				
<b>Notice Inviting e-Tender</b>				
Chief Administrative Officer, GSO, Kalpakkam – 603 102, Chengalpattu District, Tamilnadu for and on behalf of the President of India invites tender from reputed transport operators for the following work:-				
TR. No	Name of work	Caution Deposit (EMD)	Tender Process fee	Time allowed
GSO/TPT/2020/03	Providing one Jeep (SUV with minimum 7 seats including driver) (model - 2018 to 2020) for commuting officials working in Safety Section, ESG, GSO, Kalpakkam / DAE Townships, Kalpakkam / Anupuram to IGCAR Plant site and back, Chennai & back for a period of one year on 12 hours per day basis. (2000 Kms/Per Month).	Bid Security (EMD) Declaration is to be given	₹ 590/- by e-payment	12 (Twelve) months

e-Tender documents available for view and download from 03.12.2020 to 14.12.2020. Last date of prebid clarification upto 18.12.2020. Last date for closing of online submission of tender 22.12.2020. Tender will be opened on 24.12.2020.

Detailed NIT is published in the Website: <http://www.igcar.gov.in/gso>. For further information please contact 044 - 27480500 Extn. 84755.

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4th Floor, Main Block, BSBCL Bhawan Hospital Road, Shastri Nagar, Patna - 800023				
Tender No.: BMSIC/10035/04/2020/01				
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Bihar Medical Services & Infrastructure Corporation Limited (BMSICL) intends to empanel agencies for supply of stationery items and cartridges.

To participate in the e-tendering process, the bidders/agency are required to get themselves registered with the Bihar Government Centralized e-Procurement portal, <https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in/BELTRON>

Detailed Tender document containing eligibility criteria, details of EMD, tender Fees and other terms and conditions are available on the website [www.eproc.bihar.gov.in](http://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in).

### Schedule of Tender

Activity/Event	Date and Time
Date & time of downloading the tender	From 8/12/2020 (11.00 am) to 29/12/2020 (4.00 pm) on the e-Procurement Portal ( <a href="https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in/BELTRON">https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in/BELTRON</a> ).
Pre-bid meeting (in the office of BMSICL, Patna)	On 15/12/2020 at 1:00 pm
Last date for submission (upload) of online bidding document	31/12/2020 till 3:00 pm on the e-Procurement Portal ( <a href="https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in/BELTRON">https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in/BELTRON</a> )
Last date for submission of EMD & tender fees in Hard (Physical) Copies (Offline Mode)	05/01/2021 till 2:00 pm
Opening of Technical Bids	05/01/2021 3:00 pm on the e-Procurement Portal ( <a href="https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in/BELTRON">https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in/BELTRON</a> )

BMSICL reserves the right to amend or withdraw any of the terms and conditions contained in the Tender Document or to reject any or all tenders or annul the tender process at any stage without giving any notice or assigning any reason.

For further details please visit website [www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar](http://www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar)

PR. No. 008968 (Ni.Ni) 2020-21

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Last date for submission tender is 17.12.2020 (03.00 PM)

Director (Scientist-III) I/C

CM YK

## Rahul Gandhi and Stalin to participate in joint campaign

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI

DMK president M.K. Stalin has agreed to campaign with Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during his election tour in Tamil Nadu for next year's Assembly poll.

"When we asked him to participate in the joint campaign, Mr. Stalin agreed," said TNCC president K.S. Alagiri who, along with senior Congress leader Dinesh Gundu Rao, called on the DMK president

here on Wednesday.

"Mr. Gandhi might visit the State four or five times. It could either be a road show or a public meeting or a rally. We will take a decision on Thursday in the meeting with Mr. Gundu Rao," Mr. Alagiri said.

Asked whether they had discussed seat-sharing for the 2021 election, Mr. Alagiri said the subject did not come up for discussion.

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e-Tender ID: 2020 COOP\_7154\_1

Vehicles : 10 Vehicles in 10 Routes

Last Date for Submission:23.12.2020 before 04.00 P.M.

Contact Ponlat: 0413-2224750, 9942994112



## Castes count

A caste-wise survey helps gather quantifiable data, but the aim must be a casteless society

The idea of a caste census is back in the realm of public debate, following the Tamil Nadu government's decision to establish a commission to collect caste-wise data. The move may have been born out of political expediency, in response to the restive pre-election agitation organised by the Pattali Makkal Katchi demanding 20% exclusive reservation in education and government jobs for the Vanniyar community, its main electoral base. However, it is equally true that there is a social and legal necessity for compiling caste-wise data. The Supreme Court has been asking States to produce quantifiable data to justify their levels of reservation, and it would help Tamil Nadu to retain its 69% total reservation. At the same time, some castes that have either electoral or numerical importance across India have been restive about the manner in which affirmative action programmes based on classes and communities have been implemented so far. Be it the Gujjars, or Jats or the Patidars, or the Vanniyars, some sections have been linking their prospects of advancement to exclusive reservation. In Tamil Nadu, sections of the Vanniyars, whose violent 1987-88 agitation resulted in the creation of a 'most backward classes' category entitled to 20% reservation, are apparently dissatisfied about being clubbed with over a hundred other castes. It is a sobering reflection on how reservation operates that some castes feel crowded out in the competition and aspire for the safety of exclusive reservation.

The proposed commission may not conduct an elaborate enumeration on the lines of the Centre's decennial census. Its mandate is to examine the methodology for collecting caste-wise particulars, conduct a survey based on that and submit a report. It will be quite a challenge to arrive at a sound assessment of the social and educational backwardness of each caste. The Census of India has not collected caste-wise data since 1931, with the exception of details about SCs and STs. The Centre conducted a 'socio-economic caste census' in 2011, in an attempt to link the collection of caste data along with socio-economic data so that there could be a comprehensive assessment of levels of deprivation and backwardness in society. However, presumably because of the lack of reliability of the data collected, or its political and electoral sensitivity, the caste portion of the SECC has not been disclosed so far. The State government could possibly seek access to this data pertaining to Tamil Nadu as part of its exercise. However, it should not treat this as a politically expedient move to quell a possible electoral setback due to the agitation of one party or community. Rather, it should seek to rationalise and deepen its social justice policy with a true assessment of the backwardness of various castes. After all, progress towards a casteless and equal society ought to remain the state's ultimate goal.

## Choppy tidings

The govt. must do more for sectors that are employment-intensive before the next Budget

Rewards from the GST crossed the ₹1-lakh crore mark for the second month in a row in November. The healthiest indirect tax collection streak since the national lockdown to combat COVID-19 in March, it is an encouraging sign for the economy that contracted less-than-expected in the second quarter. GST revenues in a month are a reflection of transactions from the previous month. The upturn in October's GST collections can be partly explained by the speedier unlocking of the economy in September as public transport restrictions were lifted in most parts of India. Some compliance-related relaxations for GST-paying businesses also pushed up collections significantly. There is no such compliance caveat attached to November's GST kitty – even though it is about ₹200 crore lower than the ₹1,05,155 crore from October. This suggests that the first month of the third quarter did see a genuine improvement in activity, whether it was driven by pent-up or festive demand, or a bit of both. This also ties in with other indicators from October, be it auto sales or the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for manufacturing, which hit a 12-year high that month. With Deepavali falling in November this year (it was in October last year), some festive spending effect may be expected to come through in December's GST collections as well. The question is whether the improved demand trend will hold after the festival exuberance fades.

There are some early signs that the fervour and pace of economic activity already began to moderate in November. For instance, e-way bills generated by GST-covered entities fell nearly 14% to 55.3 million in November from 64.1 million in October, while the latest PMI indicates slower growth in orders and a further decline in employment as businesses are wary of the pandemic's lingering uncertainties. While India's infections have declined since September, some parts, including Delhi, Rajasthan and Gujarat, are seeing sharper spikes, prompting fresh travel curbs from there to the commercial capital Mumbai. In November, only Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu saw double-digit growth in GST collections among major States, while Delhi's inflows fell 15% and Maharashtra's by 6% year-on-year. Thus, economic activity that has resumed remains fragile while the recovery seen so far has been uneven across States, thanks to the virus's unpredictable spread. The government has been conservative so far in its stimulus and support measures, despite which its fiscal math for 2020-21 will go awry. More direct and specific measures to help employment-intensive sectors, particularly those in distress such as travel and tourism or retail, are needed to ensure that further job losses today do not translate into tomorrow's demand slump.

# Questionable data, little room for exuberance

Using the latest quarterly estimates to point to an economic rebound seems flawed; recovery is likely to remain modest



R. NAGARAJ

**T**he decline in the quarterly GDP growth rate, by 7.5% during July-September 2020 (FY 2020-21: Q2), compared to a 24% decline in the first quarter has raised expectations of a sharp economic recovery after the novel coronavirus pandemic and the nationwide lockdown. But is such optimism justified?

### A tracker

India's GDP at current prices in 2019-20 was ₹204-lakh crore, or \$2.8 billion at an exchange rate of ₹73 to a dollar. Its growth rate over the previous year (2018-19) was 5% in real terms, that is net of inflation. The economy, expectedly, slumped after the pandemic and the economic lockdown in March this year. Output contracted by as much as 24% during April-June 2020 (FY 2021: Q1) compared to the same period last year. In June, economic activity resumed as the lockdown began to be gradually lifted. Expectedly, output recovered sharply, reducing the extent of contraction. During the July-September quarter (FY2021: Q2), output growth contracted by 7.5%, compared to the same period in the previous year, an official press release last Friday showed.

The economic rebound is being hailed as a vindication of the government's decision (though harsh) to impose the national lockdown at four hours' notice as well as the success of the relief and revival packages that were an-

nounced by the Centre later. By extrapolating from the latest quarterly estimates, many believe that the adverse effects of the lockdown would be behind us by the end of the current financial year in March 2021.

But such optimism is in contrast to widespread academic and informed opinion that is of the view that India had introduced one of the strictest lockdowns in the world which has resulted in the sharpest output contractions and massive losses in terms of jobs and livelihoods. So how credible is the popular optimism?

### On expected lines

To begin with, not much should be read into the quarterly national income estimates as they are mostly extrapolations or projections of the annual estimates, using rates and ratios. Very little up-to-date primary information from farms, factories and offices is available for the estimation. However, the quarterly figures do indicate the broad direction of change. In this case the change is on the expected lines.

That said, some estimates seem anomalous. Manufacturing sector output growth witnessed the sharpest rebound: from a negative 39% in the first quarter to positive 0.6% growth in the second quarter looks too good to be true. Corresponding figures for the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), based on physical output indicators, are minus 40.7% and minus 6.8% respectively. The groundswell for the suspicions are *prima facie* valid given the long-standing dispute over the estimation of manufacturing sector GDP on account of questionable corporate sector quarterly financial returns. Nevertheless, one should cautiously analyse the



quarterly variations between GDP and IIP numbers as there are too many factors that could account for the observed discrepancies.

There are, however, more serious and substantive issues to grapple with, considering the opportunistic biases that dominate the public discourse. The lockdown shaved off nearly one-fourth of the yearly output in the first quarter. The output during the first half of the year (April-September 2020) (FY2021: H1) is just about 40% of the GDP in 2019-20 at constant prices. The economy has to grow at an unprecedented rate in the remaining two quarters to climb back to the output level of 2019-20.

Do prospects look bright for such growth rates? The answer is doubtful for the following reasons.

### Demand is still weak

The healthy recovery in the second quarter met the pent-up demand for industrial goods and to re-build inventories. Aggregate demand is still very weak. Despite much vocal support, the government's current and capital expenditures have hardly moved up in the first half of the year when compared to the previous year.

The government's debt-GDP ratio has gone up though, mainly to make up for revenue shortfalls. Bank credit growth in the econo-

my continues to decelerate – 5.1% in Q2, when compared to 8.8% in the same quarter last year.

After the sharp recovery of output in the second quarter, many high frequency output indicators – that is, those economic variables for which up-to-date information is available at shorter time intervals – suggest the momentum of recovery to be tapering off. For example, the official infrastructure index of eight core sector industries (namely, coal, natural gas, crude oil, refinery products such as petrol and diesel, fertilizers, steel, cement and electricity) declined by 2.5% in October over the same period last year. The cumulative growth of the index from April to October this year stood at negative 13% when compared to the same period last year.

### Balance of payment surplus

The opportunist bias in public perception is also based on related aggregate economic indicators beyond production trends. The Chief Economic Adviser has exuded confidence that the financial year is likely to end with a balance of payment surplus, as a badge of good economic management. This is surprising since elementary economics would make it clear that balance of payment surplus for a developing country means that it is importing less than the warranted rate of import growth for maintaining sustainable output expansion. Most of the shortfall is on account of a sharp decline in investment demand, denting potential output.

Similarly, populist optimism is based on rising foreign exchange reserves and a booming stock market. They are taken as evidence of global confidence in Indian economic policy. These are fallacious

measures. India's burgeoning foreign exchange reserves are made up of short-term debt flows; they are not our net export earnings (unlike China's).

Similarly, the booming stock market is almost entirely driven by short-term foreign capital inflows, propelling up the balance of payment. They are a sign of the economy's weakness – not strength – as such inflows are highly fickle, representing hot money, which can quit the financial markets in a jiffy if perceptions change for any exogenous reason.

### The prognosis

In conclusion, a sharp recovery in the second quarter GDP – thus reducing the decline in the quarterly growth rate – represents meeting the pent-up demand after the 'Unlock' phase started in June. One should not attach too much value to the precise number of quarterly growth rates as the underlying estimation methods and the data used are weak and questionable. Whether the tempo of recovery will be maintained and whether India will wipe out the negative growth for the current year are open to doubt. Many high frequency data series suggest moderation of the recovery after the initial bounce from the 'Unlock' phase. Since additional expenditure on government consumption or investment or credit growth remain muted, the recovery is likely to remain modest for the year as a whole. There is little room for exuberance given the limited boost to aggregate demand to sustain the recovery momentum.

R. Nagaraj was with the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai. The views expressed are personal

## Behind China's wolf warrior diplomacy

Xi Jinping is deepening a 'Chinese Communist Party-state' brand of nationalism for a domestic and global audience



SHIKHA AGGARWAL

In the last few years, 'nationalism' has returned as a governing theme of global politics and relations among major world actors. However, of late, a peculiarly abrasive brand of nationalism has come to be associated with China, and more importantly with the persona of Chinese President Xi Jinping. While Beijing's recourse to nationalistic aggression as a foreign policy strategy has gained the euphemism of 'wolf warrior diplomacy' only recently, it has been a work-in-progress for much longer and involves a state-sponsored and systemic indoctrination campaign. Under Mr. Xi, this process has become even more intense and has acquired the dynamics of 'Chinese nationalism with Xi Jinping at [the] Core'.

### Its basis

The Chinese Communist Party initially embraced nationalism as a co-option strategy in the aftermath of the Tiananmen Square massacre. Consequently, nationalism was turned into a state dogma to embed the Chinese Communist Party in the political subconsciousness of the country, and secure the filial piety of its populace. While this process marked the Chinese Communist Party's transition from a revolutionary to a national party, it forever transformed the Chinese nation-state into a Party-state. It is this 'Party-state' brand of nationalism that the international community is being confronted with.

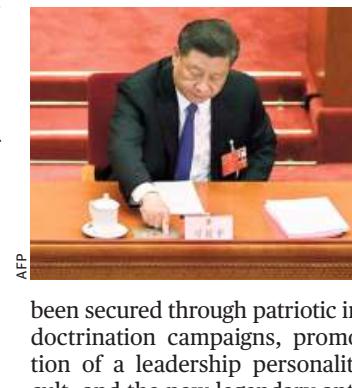
Today, this nationalism derives

its inspiration from the idiom of 'Great Rejuvenation' and its obsession with re-achieving the glories of an imaginary past. Mr. Xi has turned this old Chinese Communist Party jargon into a hallmark of the Party's success and a tool to advance his personal ambitions. Therefore, Chinese nationalism presents a hedonistic combination of the Chinese Communist Party's *raison d'être* to remain as China's political master, Mr. Xi's relentless quest to cast the Party into his own image, and a popular sentiment fed on the rubric of the 'China Dream'. Hence, this version of nationalism is as much domestically oriented as it is directed at an international audience.

### Linked to a threat perception

The first concerted attempt by the Chinese Communist Party to shape Chinese nationalism came with the launch of the 'Patriotic Education Campaign' in the 1990s. Consequently, a narrative of 'Century of humiliation' was invented and etched in public memory as a historical fact. At the core of this campaign was the grand design to project the Chinese Communist Party as the harbinger and sole guarantor of the peace, prosperity and sovereignty of the eternally 'victimized' Chinese nation. As such, the very legitimacy of the Chinese Communist Party within Chinese politics is based upon an imaginary enemy or a threat perception.

As Mr. Xi tries to rewrite the rules of the Party, and indeed the contours of the existing world order, he needs his own enemies. Therefore, nationalist mobilisation based on an aggressive posturing and display of strength in international affairs is an important currency in this larger scheme of things. At the domestic level, this nationalist fervour has



been secured through patriotic indoctrination campaigns, promotion of a leadership personality cult, and the now legendary anti-corruption drive.

Contrary to most international analysis, the drive has become a key component of nationalist sentiment in China. This is so because corruption has for long been recognised by the Chinese Communist Party as the single biggest challenge to its existence and thereby the survival of the Chinese nation in the political dynamics of a Party-state. In fact, the campaign has earned Mr. Xi the epithet of 'fandui fubai', or the one who is opposed to corruption among the Chinese public.

### Agenda of indoctrination

On the issue of propaganda operations, their centrality in Mr. Xi's politics can be gauged from the fact that after Mao, he has become the only Chinese leader to appoint a Party theoretician (Wang Huning) on the Politburo Standing Committee.

The Chinese Communist Party's patriotic indoctrination efforts consist of dedicated programmes for both the Party members, and the general public. The new 'Patriotic Education' guidelines were introduced in 2019, along with the '2019-2023 National Work Program for the Education and Cultivation of Party Members'. Though largely similar in content with their previous avatars, they pre-

sented a much hard-line version of Communist ideology and aim for a wider dissemination of ideological indoctrination throughout Chinese society.

In addition to dictating the academic curriculum, these guidelines promote extra-curricular activities such as 'Red Education' history tours which include visits to Chinese Communist Party museums and 'martyrdom commemoration sites', 'Study Lei Feng Volunteer Service' programmes, etc. The stated aim of such programmes is to achieve Mr. Xi's mission to cultivate future generations of Chinese youth with 'Red DNA'.

### Personality cult at its core

The Chinese Communist Party's propaganda machinery also designs customised programmes that target specific sections of society as per the Party's perceived challenges. For instance, in 2018, the Party launched a "patriotic striving spirit" campaign to enhance patriotism among Chinese intellectuals. This came in the wake of the famous letter by (recently sacked) Tsinghua Professor Xu Zhenzhu in which he had criticised Mr. Xi. Similarly, Chinese media outlets have been asked to follow the dictum of "telling China's stories well" to shape domestic and international opinion as per the Party's diktats.

While such top-down measures might elicit non-compliance or criticism from a public increasingly exposed to western ideas, the Party-state secures absolute acquiescence through the promotion of a personality cult around the core leadership, whereby all his actions become a rallying call for the masses.

The promotion of the Xi Jinping personality cult has become an intrinsic component of Chinese nationalism, as with Mr. Xi's 'Two

Centennial Goals', the meticulously cultivated nostalgia of the Chinese people for the fabled Middle Kingdom appears more tangible than ever.

Though Mr. Xi's personality cult has percolated into practically all aspects of Chinese society, academic establishments have emerged as its primary targets. This follows his clarion call, back in 2016, to turn China's universities into "strongholds of Party Leadership". Today, several elite institutions in China have either established research centres or introduced mandatory courses in 'Xi Jinping Thought'. Interestingly, even the Ministry of Foreign Affairs recently inaugurated a 'Xi Jinping Thought' study centre to guide the "theoretical construction" of China's foreign policy.

### The plans ahead

The Xi Jinping cult of personality is set to gain further momentum after the recently concluded fifth plenum of the Party which approved a plan for China to become a global leader in technology by 2035. With this 15-year plan, Mr. Xi has further declared his intentions to remain at the helm of China's affairs long after his due retirement date as General Secretary of the Party in 2022.

While the decks of China's politics will only become clear with the 20th Party Congress, the international community is poised to face an increasingly aggressive Chinese nationalism as Mr. Xi continues with his march to further entrench the Chinese Communist Party's within Chinese society, and establish a personal legacy that surpasses all those of his predecessors.

Shikha Aggarwal is a Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Taiwan Fellow at the National Chengchi University



## 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.

### Barons and banks

It is an inexplicable paradox that even as there are mergers and amalgamations in the banking sector, there are plans as well to rope in large industrial houses onto the banking canvas. The recent episodes in connection with Yes Bank, LVB and PMC Bank, which were triggered by the ruthless financial irregularities of their promoters and the concomitant agony generated by them among their clientele, cannot be easily forgotten. Instead of

opening the floodgates by getting corporates to establish banks, it would be prudent to strive for much-needed "corporate governance" in public banks. There is also a need to strengthen these banks with the requisite infusion of capital and professionalism right from the board to the barefoot banking staff level. We also need to leverage the diverse capital providers into these public banks in the context of embracing the last mile touchpoints and the bottom of the pyramid clientele. Intriguingly, a chunk of

them are still outside the ambit of traditional leave alone smart banking.

G. RAMASUBRAMANYAM,  
Kanuru, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh

### Nobel recipients

As far as Peace Nobel recipients are concerned, the Nobel Committee should examine recalling the Prize from them if they are found to be encouraging directly or indirectly, acts of aggression or war, post the Prize (OpEd page, "Winners who disappoint", December 2). Those who sweat in talks, not bleed in

wars, should be given the Prize. When the Prize was not conferred on Mahatma Gandhi, the very embodiment of truth and non-violence, why should it be given to world leaders who turn 'jingoists'? In the recent past, only Nelson Mandela deserved the Prize. Aung San Suu Kyi and Abiy Ahmed, are Prize recipients who disappoint. K. PRADEEP,  
Chennai

More a reformer  
It is significant to point out that the Buddha and his teachings did not recognise

metaphysics or the soul's existence. The Buddha was more a social reformer. The concept of "moksha" or liberation of the soul is undoubtedly a Hindu principle from time immemorial (Editorial page, "The pernicious idea of exclusive belonging", December 2). To quote Nehru's *The Discovery of India*: "... Buddha gives no answer about the existence of the soul. He does not deny it and he does not affirm it. He refuses to discuss this question..." B.M. BALIGA,  
Bengaluru

**Canada's comments</b**

# Hard bargains and the art of policymaking

Discontent over the new farm laws is a result of sidestepping debate and discussion in Parliament



M.R. MADHAVAN

The ongoing farmers' agitation epitomises the need to have detailed discussions and consultations while making law and policy. The process of building consensus and addressing concerns may be time-consuming, but it leads to greater acceptance of policy objectives. While such work has to be done at multiple levels, Parliament is perhaps the most important forum for this. It has a well-established process to get inputs of experts and stakeholders, and to build cross-party consensus while enacting a law. This is usually done through its committees. The government can also use other consultative mechanisms, such as expert committees and consultative groups, to get feedback and tailor policy.

Parliamentary committees perform a very important role in the law-making process. They allow MPs to engage with experts and understand the nuances of a Bill, enable discussion across party lines without the pressure of posturing for the public, and on several occasions, these committees have helped negotiate a path through conflicting interests.

#### The GST journey

An example will illustrate the working of this process. The Goods and Services Tax (GST) was proposed to be introduced about a decade ago. As GST subsumed several taxes in the Union List (such as excise duties) and the State List (such as sales tax), the Constitution had to be amended. This amendment required not just the support of two-thirds of members of each House of Parliament, but also ratification by half the State legislatures. For successful implementation, the new system needed support across party lines and State governments, as value chains for goods and services run across States. Lack of proper implementation by even one State in the value chain would jeopardise the working of the system, as it requires matching of invoices and crediting taxes across the chain.



**Rising tide:** Farmers protesting against the new farm laws at Singhu border in New Delhi on Tuesday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

An empowered group of State Finance Ministers was set up in 2007, and it was a key forum for discussing and negotiating the new tax. Importantly, this body was chaired by a State Finance Minister from a party in the Opposition at the Centre. Based on its inputs, a Bill was introduced in 2011 to amend the Constitution. This Bill suggested a GST Council (which would decide through consensus) as the apex body to take all decisions regarding the tax, and a GST Dispute Settlement Authority. The Standing Committee on Finance examined the Bill, received numerous suggestions from experts and States, and made several recommendations. Notably, these included proposing a voting procedure for the GST Council, dropping the dispute resolution authority, and including a compensation structure for States that may lose revenue due to their taxes being subsumed by the GST.

A new Bill was introduced in 2015 which incorporated these changes. This Bill also introduced a tax of 1% on inter-State sale, and a compensation for a period of up to five years. The Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha, but the Rajya Sabha referred it to a Select Committee. This Committee suggested that the tax on inter-State trade be dropped as it would negate the objective of making India a single market. It also recommended that

compensation to States be guaranteed for a period of five years. The Constitution (Amendment) Bill was passed with these changes, and ratified by States. Subsequently, the GST Council, which had Finance Ministers from all States, unanimously approved the draft of the Bills to implement the GST. That set of Bills was also passed by Parliament and all State legislatures. Throughout this process, the empowered committee of State Finance Ministers was also having regular meetings and addressing the concerns of States.

#### Deliberative fora

This process highlights the importance of building a broad consensus before making a major policy or legislative change. The Standing Committee and Select Committee provided fora for parliamentarians to engage with experts and stakeholders, which helped them recommend changes that would lead to a broadly acceptable Bill. Though the process was time-consuming, it led to a new tax structure, which had broad support across all States – a necessary condition for it to work. There were compromises made, such as multiplicity of rates and a very generous compensation for States, but these helped get the new tax off the ground.

Compare this with the process fol-

lowed for the new farm laws. The Bills were initially enacted through ordinances. That is, the government enacted these laws through executive decision when Parliament was not in session.

#### Stakeholders ignored

However, ordinances need to be ratified by Parliament when it meets next. The Bills to replace the ordinance were introduced in Lok Sabha and passed within three days without being referred to a Standing Committee. In Rajya Sabha, several members moved motions to refer them to a Select Committee. These motions led to commotion, amidst allegations that a demand for division (recorded vote) was ignored, and the Bills were passed amidst pandemonium. Thus, an opportunity to discuss and debate the Bills with stakeholders was missed.

While the jurisdiction of Parliament to enact these laws seems to be clear, they affect agricultural markets, which are governed by State laws. Much of the implementation would depend on State governments. States may also get lower taxes from these markets. It was important to address the concerns of various stakeholders, including farmers and State governments. The absence of proactive engagement with affected parties has led to the current crisis. Three States – all with Opposition governments – have passed their own laws to negate some of the provisions of the central laws. And a large number of farmers are protesting against the laws.

We need to learn an important lesson from this episode. Stable policymaking needs a broad agreement on the benefits of the policy. Such consensus has to be built through conversations with stakeholders. Parliament should revitalise its committees to enable wider public participation. It should insist that every Bill is deliberated upon in a committee, much like what the British Parliament does. Parliament needs to perform its function as a deliberative body that enables compromises to assuage concerns. As the adage goes: politics is the art of the possible, the attainable, the art of the next best.

M.R. Madhavan is President of the PRS Legislative Research, New Delhi

# The purpose of a vaccine

It is crucial to define the outcomes we are expecting from population-level vaccination plans for COVID-19



MATHEW GEORGE

While the whole world waits for a COVID-19 vaccine as the last resort to control the pandemic, it is important to examine the challenges it poses to qualify as a 'public health' intervention in India.

Vaccinations have a dual purpose. First is the ability to develop immunity by producing antibodies among those individuals who have taken a vaccine shot. In the midst of a pandemic, the popular perception for vaccination is that which safeguards oneself from the disease. It is this individualistic need that generates a huge demand for vaccines in the market, which, in the absence of government intervention, will be affordable only for those who can pay for them.

The second and more crucial purpose of vaccination is to achieve herd immunity in a population by ensuring a threshold coverage – the proportion of population that needs to be covered so that the entire population is protected. The threshold coverage for any disease in a given population is based on the vaccine efficacy in a population, the rate of spread of infection through it, also known as infectivity rate, and the natural immunity that already exists in the population due to prior exposure to the same disease or through cross infections. The threshold coverage is estimated to be around 60% for COVID-19 vaccine to achieve population-level immunity, which should ideally vary, depending on different stages of the pandemic.

While deciding on whether vaccines need to be introduced amid a pandemic, there can be individual as well as population-level considerations. The concerns raised in the context of individual prevention include vaccine efficacy, which is generally defined as the probability that an individual, if vaccinated, can prevent the onset of infection. Equally important is the probability of adverse reactions that can arise among individuals. Both these parameters must be considered even to qualify vaccines as potential candidates for a public health intervention.

However, there are several other complex economic, social, ethical and systemic factors that need to be looked into. Already, there are concerns raised about the economic resources needed to make the vaccine available for a large population: will it be provided free at the point of delivery or will

it be charged? How will an already weakened health system be able to take on the vaccination drive that is expected to cover the entire population? What is the cost of ensuring necessary support services, including cold chains and human resources required for effective vaccine delivery? The most difficult ethical question posed is about who should be prioritised and what the basis is for such prioritisation. Equally relevant is the projected proportion of the population that may face adverse reactions and the ability of the health system to respond to those. Another aspect specific to the COVID-19 vaccine is the duration of protection provided.

#### Unclear objectives

These are all important questions, but they will arise only when the most important public health purpose of vaccination – as an immunisation programme – is convincingly answered. In the Indian context, it is not clear what outcome is expected of a population-based vaccination programme for COVID-19. The most dominant argument is that health workers need to be covered on a priority basis, and then the elderly. One of the arguments posed for targeting health workers is that it will protect the health system from collapsing due to COVID-19. If this is so, how can we think of the health system as comprising only health workers, when a majority of stakeholders, even in terms of mere numbers, are always the patients and their caregivers. Second – and more crucial – is the goal of population-level immunity, which is the expected outcome of any population-level vaccination drive. Its very purpose will be defeated if only a specific population group is targeted, when the pandemic can infect all groups similarly. In New Zealand, preparations are on for a countrywide immunisation programme with a goal of covering the whole population with a threshold coverage.

Like other public health programmes, it is safe to demonstrate the success of vaccination as a public health intervention in a small population, like a block or a district, before scaling it up for the national level. If population-level immunity is not the focus, then the key purpose of COVID-19 vaccines will be to ensure individual immunity, which might operate within the logic of the market. We should not forget that it took us more than 13 years to declare eradication and achieve population-level immunity for a disease like polio, which targeted only children.

Mathew George is Professor at the Centre for Public Health, School of Health Systems Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai

# A looming health crisis

Antimicrobial resistance is growing exponentially and needs to be tackled before it is late

#### ATUL BAGAI

While the COVID-19 pandemic continues to wreak havoc on our daily lives, a silent pandemic has been brewing in the background for decades. Governments need to factor in new research and bring in businesses and consumers as active stakeholders before it is too late.

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is growing at an alarming rate. Globally, about 35% of common human infections have become resistant to available medicines. About 700,000 people die every year because available antimicrobial drugs – antibiotics, antivirals, antiparasitic and antifungals – have become less effective at combating pathogens. Resistance to second- and third-line antibiotics – the last lines of defence against some common diseases – are projected to almost double between 2005 and 2030. In India, the largest consumer of antibiotics in the world, this is a serious problem. According to a study published in *The Lancet*, an estimated 58,000 new-born children die annually from sepsis in India alone because antibiotics can no longer treat certain bacterial infections.

We have long known that microorganisms develop resistance to antimicrobial agents as a natural defence mechanism. We have also known for some time that human activity has significantly accelerated the process. The misuse and overuse of antimicrobials for humans, livestock and agriculture is probably the biggest reason for this, but other factors also contribute.

Research points to the role of environment and pollution in AMR. Once consumed, up to 80% of antibiotic drugs are excreted un-metabolised, along with resistant bacteria. Their release in effluents from households and health and pharmaceutical facilities, and agricultural run-off, is propagating resistant microorganisms. Wastewater treatment facilities are unable to remove all antibiotics and resistant bacteria.

In India, there is capacity to treat only about 37% of the sewage generated annually. The rest is discharged into natural water bodies without treatment. An analysis of single-wa-

tewater discharge from a treatment facility in India catering to drug manufacturers found concentrations of antibiotics high enough to treat over 40,000 people daily.

Water, then, may be a major mode for the spread of AMR, especially in places with inadequate water supply, sanitation and hygiene. Wildlife that comes into contact with discharge containing antimicrobials can also become colonised with drug-resistant organisms.

#### Key initiatives

This issue has been on the radar of scientists for several years. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) identified antimicrobial resistance as one of six emerging issues of environmental concern in its 2017 Frontiers Report. In that same year, the UN Environment Assembly pressed the need to further understand the role of environmental pollution in spreading AMR. UN agencies are working together to develop the One Health AMR Global Action Plan (GAP) that addresses the issue in human, animal, and plant health and food and environment sectors.

The Centre and State governments in India can strengthen the environmental dimensions of their plans to tackle antimicrobial resistance. It is particularly important to promote measures that address known hotspots such as hospitals and manufacturing and waste treatment facilities.

This has started to an extent. Early in 2020, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) issued draft standards which set limits for residues of 121 antibiotics in treated effluents from drug production units. These standards await finalisation. And in July this year, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and MoEF&CC constituted the inter-ministerial Steering Committee on Environment and Health, with representation from WHO and UNEP.

We saw how quickly a pandemic can spread if we are not ready. This is an opportunity to get ahead of the next one.

Atul Bagai is Head, UN Environment Programme, Country Office, India

#### DATA POINT

## COVID-19 at a constant pace

India's first COVID-19 wave refuses to die down. The consistent fall observed in India's daily count of cases and deaths between mid-September and October-end, did not persist in November. Lately, many States' case curves have shown fluctuations, with a week of steady rise followed by a week of consistent decline in new cases, thereby keeping the national curve constant. By Vignesh Radhakrishnan

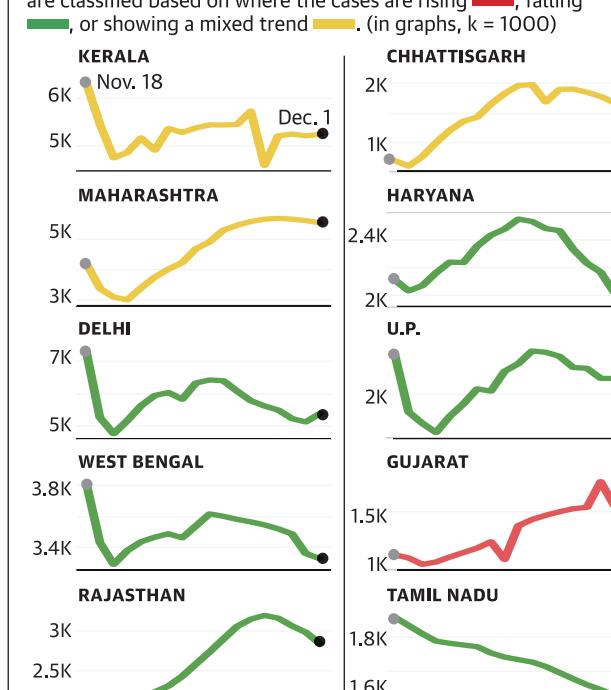
**HOLDING STEADY** | India's average daily cases oscillated between the 40,000 and 45,000 marks in November, while average new deaths ranged between 480 and 560. The graph shows the seven-day moving average of cases and deaths since May

**RECORD NUMBERS** | India continues to be among the top three countries with the largest tallies of daily cases and deaths. The U.S. continues to top both the lists. The table\* lists the top ten countries in terms of daily cases and deaths as of November 30

Nation	New cases	Nation	New deaths
U.S.	1,57,901	U.S.	1172
India	31,763	Italy	672
Turkey	31,219	India	489
Russia	26,046	France	409
Brazil	21,138	Spain	401
Spain	19,979	Germany	388
Italy	16,376	Iran	372
Germany	14,221	Russia	364
Iran	13,321	Brazil	287
U.K.	12,428	Mexico	285

Source: State health portals and \*Our World in Data

**MIXED TREND** | Except for the consistent fall recorded in Tamil Nadu's cases, the infection curves of other States have been oscillating with many peaks and troughs. The graphs depict new cases in the last 14 days in States with a high caseload. The States are classified based on where the cases are rising (red), falling (green), or showing a mixed trend (yellow). (in graphs, k = 1000)



#### FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO DECEMBER 3, 1970

#### Cong (O) MPs Not for Unity

[NEW DELHI, DEC. 2] The move for reunion of the two Congress parties suffered yet another setback when the executive committee of the Congress (O) Parliamentary Party to-day endorsed the stand taken by the Party President Mr. S. Nijalingappa on this issue.

Mr. Nijalingappa had on Monday ruled out unity and stated that he could not accept the stipulation of acceptance of leadership of Mrs. Gandhi as a precondition to unity. According to Mr. Nijalingappa, leadership should be evolved and not superimposed on any party.

It was this that the Congress (O) Parliamentary Party Executive had endorsed.

It is learnt that the issue was raised by Mrs. Yashoda Reddy who wanted a resolution to be adopted by the executive, but Dr. Ram Subhag Singh, who presided in the absence of Mr. Morarji Desai, tactfully avoided any discussion by pointing out that there was no need for any formal resolution as the Executive endorsed the party president's stand. The known supporters of the unity move found themselves in a minority and kept quiet.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO DECEMBER 3, 1920

#### The Racial Problem (From an editorial)

The almost universal awakening among the coloured races of the globe, which will stand as one of the outstanding features of the early twentieth century history, has for some time been providing matter for anxious speculation for political prophets and historians. The age of the white man in succession of races, though of comparatively recent origin in the vast history of humanity, may well be said to have passed its zenith of power and glory. His materialistic supremacy over the world, if it has not been in any way conducive to the establishment of Righteousness and Peace, has at least been eminently successful in rousing up the victims of his oppressive exploitation to a keen sense of their natural rights and inherent strength. Further, the forces that have till now considerably helped to maintain his hegemony unchallenged, have also received a decided setback in recent years. The glamour of the white race has ceased to hypnotise the non-white peoples into that psychology of self-imposed inferiority and willing submission, which so materially facilitated the former's expansion.

## FROM PAGE ONE

## Farmers demand special session of Parliament

The Centre is only willing to consider more limited revisions of the laws. Senior sources in the BJP told *The Hindu* that while providing a legal safeguard for minimum support prices or writing it into the law is not something that the government wants to do, adequate safeguards within the Agricultural Produce Market Committee structure could be considered.

"Even though there have been complaints from farmers themselves that there have been cases of exploitation within the APMC structure, further safeguards can be added as per what the farmers want," said a senior leader. The second demand that could be looked into is the grievance redress mechanism under the new laws which makes the district administration very powerful, said the source.

The protesters are widening their scope and their allies. The All-India Motor Transport Congress, the apex truckers' body, will go on a strike in north India from December 8 in support of the farmers' agitation, said its president Kultaran Singh Atwal. He told *The Hindu* that the strike would spread to the whole coun-

try, if the Centre failed to heed the farmers' demands.

The Bharatiya Kisan Union-Tikait group, which has been blocking highways in Uttar Pradesh in a separate protest, and had a separate meeting with Cabinet Ministers on Wednesday, has also joined hands with the wider movement for now. "The Centre has been trying to divide the farmers' movement by negotiating separately with different groups. This is not only a struggle of the Punjab farmers any more. We are a national movement jointly fighting under the Samyukta Kisan Morcha banner," said Mr. Pal, urging other farmers' and social movements to hold solidarity protests.

On December 7, sportspersons and ex-servicemen supporting the farmers will return their awards and medals to the Central government.

Asserting that large corporates will benefit from the new laws at the expense of farmers, protest leaders called for burning the effigies of industrialists Mukesh Ambani and Gautam Adani on December 5 in every village, along with the effigies of the Prime Minister.

(With inputs from Jagriti Chandra)

## Boris Johnson invited as chief guest for R-Day

There has been no top level visit since U.S. President Donald Trump's visit in February due to COVID-19. Also, with the number of COVID-19 cases in India crossing 9.5 million, there is still no clarity on the Republic Day celebrations next year.

The MEA said in a statement on Friday that the two leaders exchanged thoughts about the challenges posed by the pandemic and reviewed the promising cooperation between India and the U.K. in the area of vaccine development and manufacturing.

The leaders reiterated their shared desire to impart a quantum jump to the India-U.K. partnership in the post-COVID, post-Brexit era, and agreed that there was tremendous potential for enhancing collaboration in trade and investment, scientific research, mobility of professionals and students, and defence and security.

Officials said that with focus on a range of areas, the emphasis between the two countries would be to work out a comprehensive strategic partnership.

Defence cooperation, a priority area for the two countries, has seen a lot of

activity in the past few years. A mutual defence logistics support agreement is in the advanced stages of being signed, while a defence training Memorandum of Understanding is also in the works. A Defence Technology and Industrial Capability Cooperation MoU was signed in April 2019.

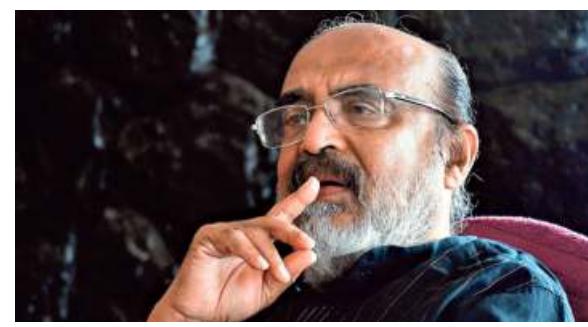
The two countries are close to signing a government-to-government agreement on jet engine technology development. In addition, the U.K. government is working on a government-to-government framework for defence deals in future. The U.K. has already announced its intent to deploy a Liaison Officer at the Indian Navy's Information Fusion Centre for Indian Ocean Region meant to improve Maritime Domain Awareness.

The U.K. has also made a pitch to India for joint technology development of sixth generation fighter technologies which can go into India's fifth generation Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft as well as offered design of its Queen Elizabeth-class aircraft carrier for the Indian Navy's proposed second indigenous carrier.

## Isaac issue sent to ethics panel

Breach of privilege notice given by Congress legislator V.D. Satheesan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM



**Privilege row:** The Speaker's decision is not a punishment, Finance Minister T.M. Thomas Isaac said.

In an unusual move, Speaker P. Sreeramakrishnan on Wednesday referred a breach of privilege notice given by Congress legislator V.D. Satheesan against Finance Minister T.M. Thomas Isaac to the Privileges and Ethics Committee of the Assembly for scrutiny.

It is the first time in the history of the House that a breach of privilege notice against a Minister has been referred to the committee for scrutiny.

The decision came after Dr. Isaac gave his explanation as sought by Mr. Sreeramakrishnan on the basis of the notice under Section 159 of the Kerala Legislative Assembly, Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business.

Mr. Satheesan had alleged that Dr. Isaac infringed on the rights of the House by prematurely disclosing the

details of an audit report of the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB) for 2018-19 by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG).

Speaking to presspersons on Wednesday, the Speaker said the committee had also been asked to look into the fundamental issues raised by Dr. Isaac, in his reply on Monday, on the laying of the CAG report in the House and on the breach of privilege

committed by the CAG.

The nine-member committee headed by A. Pradeep Kumar will meet on December 4 to look into the issue. "The Minister has pointed out that this was not just a matter of breach of privilege of the Assembly but there are certain unprecedented situations. Let the committee take a decision after hearing both sides," the Speaker said.

According to Dr. Isaac, he

thought it was a draft report and he assumed the CAG would seek the opinion of the government before preparing the final report. However, it was only later that he realised it was the final CAG report.

Opposition parties attempted to depict the Speaker's decision as a sign of the abandonment of Dr. Isaac by the party and the administration.

Leader of the Opposition Ramesh Chennithala said Dr. Isaac should resign as he did not have the right to continue in his post. He had also violated the Official Secrets Act, and a case should be registered against him under the Indian Penal Code, he said.

Dr. Isaac welcomed the opportunity to state his case, and said the Speaker's decision was not a punishment as was made out by the Opposition parties.

## Sasikala applies for sentence remission

Prisons Department yet to take a call

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BENGALURU



V.K. Sasikala

three days of remission per month of good behaviour.

"Remission is not a right, but a discretion of prison authorities. She has sought a review of an earlier decision, where her remission was forfeited. A decision is pending on the application," a senior prison official said.

Meanwhile, Sasikala will complete her sentence on January 27, 2021, if she doesn't avail herself of any remission.

## Mid-sea search



**On the lookout:** Search operations on off the Mangaluru coast for a fisherman after a boat capsized on Monday. Five bodies have been recovered. Fishermen in the Old Port area suspended work on Wednesday in honour of the deceased. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

## Winners of Infosys Prize announced

STAFF REPORTER  
BENGALURU

The Infosys Science Foundation (ISF) here on Wednesday announced the winners of the Infosys Prize 2020 in six categories for their contributions to science and research – Engineering and Computer Science; Humanities, Life Sciences, Mathematical Sciences, Physical Sciences, and Social Sciences. After a virtual press conference announcing the winners, they were awarded in a virtual ceremony the same day.

The prize consists of a gold medal, a citation and a purse of \$1,00,000.

According to a release from the foundation, the

winners were picked from 257 nominations.

The winners are: Hari Balakrishnan from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Engineering and Computer Science); Prachi Deshpande from the Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Kolkata (Humanities); Rajan Sankaranarayanan from the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad (Life Sciences); Sourav Chatterjee from Stanford University (Mathematical Sciences); Arindam Ghosh from the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore (Physical Sciences) and Raj Chetty from Harvard University (Social Sciences).

## IN BRIEF



Flat debris removal over, says Maradu municipality

KOCHI The Maradu municipal authorities have informed the National Green Tribunal (NGT) that the removal of apartment demolition debris has been completed. The Secretary of the civic body has submitted a report before the Southern Bench of the tribunal stating that service providers have completed the removal of debris as per the agreement.

## GHMC polling percentage revised to 46.55%

A day after it was reported that the polling percentage at the recently concluded Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation elections recorded was 45.71%, the Telangana State Election Commission on Wednesday revised it to 46.55%. According to data, the 150 wards under the GHMC jurisdiction has 74,12,601 electors.

## 'Centre willing to rectify lapses in Polavaram cost'

VIJAYAWADA Holding his predecessor N. Chandrababu Naidu responsible for inordinate delay in obtaining financial clearance for the Polavaram project, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy said in the Assembly on Wednesday that the Union government was positively responding to his government's request to rectify the anomalies in arriving at the Revised Cost Estimate.

## Bill against 'love jihad' may not be tabled soon

Karnataka BJP watching response to proposed legislation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BENGALURU

In the midst of vocal support from several Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders, including Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, to the "love jihad"

legislation prohibiting forcible interfaith conversion, the piloting of the Bill in the Karnataka Assembly's winter session is unlikely, party sources said.

The winter session of the legislature will commence on December 7.

Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister J.C. Madhuswamy has also said that the legislation was unlikely even as Deputy Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy on Wednesday told reporters in Mysuru that the government is bringing the Bill before the legislature before it is moved as a Bill in the legislature.

Meanwhile, government sources indicated that the legislation drafting is under progress though, crucially,

the legislation is still to be discussed in the Cabinet before it is moved as a Bill in the legislature. "Legislation making is a process, and the departments concerned are looking at the legal issues. The Cabinet is yet to discuss on the issue. It is more of a political decision," government sources said.

While the Congress leaders, including former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, have opposed the proposed legislation, former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy on Wednesday told reporters in Mysuru that the government is facing bigger challenges that need to be dealt with rather than bringing a legislation to curb interfaith conversions.



**Freedom to choose:** Various organisations staged a protest against communal laws in Bengaluru. ■ SUDHAKARA JAIN

## Kerala's positivity rises again, Telangana fears spike

Test positivity rate exceeds 11% in Kerala, with over 6,300 cases; A.P. records 1.16%; impact of Hyderabad civic polls feared

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala reported 6,316 new cases of COVID-19 on Wednesday after testing 56,993 samples. The test positivity rate rose to 11.08%.

The State's official toll rose to 2,298 with another 28 deaths being added. Eight deaths were reported from Kozhikode, seven from Ernakulam, four from Thiruvananthapuram, three from Thrissur, two from Kottayam, two from Alappuzha and one each from Kollam, Thiruvananthapuram and Kannur.

Malappuram reported 822 cases, Kozhikode 734, Ernakulam 732, Thrissur 655, Kottayam 537, Thiruvananthapuram 523, Alappuzha 437, Palakkad 427, Kollam 366, Pathanamthitta 299, Wayanad 275, Kannur 201, Idukki 200 and Kasaragod 108 cases.

Although the Centre gave

permission for schools to reopen from mid-October while following safety measures, few States have taken the decision to allow students to return to physical classes.

After multiple postponements and court cases, the remaining papers were cancelled, and grades calculated through a court-approved formula.

Unable to go to school during this academic year, students have been forced to rely on distance education instead, ranging from Zoom classes and television lectures to WhatsApp les-

sons and self-study. The syllabus for the Class 10 and 12 board examinations was reduced by 30% to ease the burden on students.

While the positivity rate for the day stood at 1.35%, the Case Fatality Rate touched 1.11%. Bengaluru Urban reported 712 cases, taking its tally to 3,71,204. With 10 more deaths from Bengaluru, the toll rose to 4,156. Active cases in Bengaluru touched 18,394. In all, 1,05,918 tests were conducted in 24 hours, including 86,434 RT-PCR tests.

Meanwhile, 1,115 patients

recovered in the past day and the recovery rate was 98.40% for a total of 8,55,485 patients, leaving 6,924 active patients.

In the past day, 56,988 samples were tested with a positivity rate of 1.16% and the death toll rose to 7,003. The death rate was 0.81%. After the first thousand deaths were reported, the death rate was 1.08% and it gradually dropped. While it took about 70 days for the deaths to increase from 1,000 to 6,000, the last thousand deaths were reported in the past 58 days. Among the districts, the death rate was the highest in Krishna district, at 1.39% in Krishna district, at 637 so far. Chittoor, which had a 0.99% death rate, saw the highest absolute number of deaths at 828.

Meanwhile, 1,115 patients

overall positivity rate for 1,016 crore samples at 8.55%.

Krishna reported two new deaths while Guntur, Anantapur, Visakhapatnam, West Godavari and Nellore reported one new death each.

The district wise death toll and death rate were: Chittoor (828, 0.99%), Guntur (651, 0.89%), Krishna (639, 1.39%), East Godavari (66, 0.52%), Anantapur (591, 0.88%), Prakasam (577, 0.94%), Visakhapatnam (542, 0.93%), West Godavari (526, 0.57%), Nellore (496, 0.80%), Kurnool (486, 0.81%), Kadapa (450, 0.83%), Srikanthakulam (346, 0.76%) and Vizianagaram (235, 0.58%).

Krishna also reported the highest number of new infections at 117, followed by Chittoor (106), West Godavari (96), Guntur (86), East Godavari (60), Visakhapatnam (54), Anantapur (34), Nellore (34), Kadapa (29), Vizianagaram (17), Prakasam (15), Srikanthakulam (10) and Kurnool (5). The district infection tallies were: East Godavari

(1,22,421), West Godavari (92,615), Chittoor (83,875), Guntur (73,055), Anantapur (66,743), Prakasam (61,498), Nellore (61,497), Kurnool (60,250), Visakhapatnam (58,288), Kadapa (54,411), Krishna (45,675), Srikanthakulam (45,474) and Vizianagaram (40,715).

Covid-19 cases were said to be declining in Telangana. Only 565 of 51,562 samples tested returned positive on Tuesday. The downward trajectory of cases was observed from November 20.

Health department officials said on Wednesday that there could be a fresh surge. Cold temperatures, and gatherings for the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) elections and polling were possible causes.

New cases on Tuesday included 106 in GHMC, 43 in Rangareddy, and 42 in Medchal Malkajgiri. One patient died.

(With inputs from Bengaluru, Vijayawada and Hyderabad bureaus)

## 2021 board exams will be in written mode: CBSE

sons and self-study. The syllabus for the Class 10 and 12 board examinations was reduced by 30% to ease the burden on students.

Although the Centre gave permission for schools to reopen from mid-October while following safety measures, few States have taken the decision to allow students to return to physical classes.

Karnataka on Wednesday

reported 1,440 new cases and 16 deaths. As many as 983 persons were discharged on Wednesday, taking total recoveries to 8,51,690. Of the remaining 24,150 active patients, 318 were in ICUs.

While the positivity rate for the day stood at 1.35%, the Case Fatality Rate touched 1.11%. Bengaluru Urban reported 712 cases, taking its tally to 3,71,204. With 10 more deaths from Bengaluru, the toll rose to 4,156. Active cases in Bengaluru touched 18,394. In all, 1,05,918 tests were conducted

## Farmers' incomes have halved: Rahul

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday said that instead of doubling farmers' income, as claimed by the Narendra Modi government, their income had been "halved", while the income of the "crony friends of the government" had grown four times.

Mr. Gandhi reiterated the Congress's demand that the three farm laws be abolished at the earliest. He called the ongoing talks between farmers' groups and the government a farce.

"They [the government] said farmers' income will be doubled. What they did was increase the income of [their] 'friends' four times. This is a government of suit-boot, lies and loot," the Congress leader said in a tweet in Hindi.

The party's communication in-charge Randeep Singh Surjewala questioned the talks, asking that if the PM had asserted that the laws were right, "then what are the talks about?" Constitutionally, too, the three laws were faulty, he said, since agriculture was a State subject.

## 'Withdraw cases against farmers'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Civil society groups and academics have condemned the BJP government's "repressive reaction" to the farmers' protests and demanded the withdrawal of all cases filed against protesters.

At a meeting held virtually on Wednesday, they expressed solidarity with the farmer groups and backed their demand for the repeal of the farm laws.

Kavita Krishnan of the All-India Progressive Women's Association said the way the farmers were being criticised as anti-national and Khalistani terrorists was reminiscent of what was done to protesters against the Citizenship Amendment Act.

Annie Raja, National Federation of Indian Women, said women protesters were being insulted and asked if they had been paid to join the agitation.

# Punjab farmers continue 'Dilli Chalo'

Thousands of them are moving towards the national capital to keep the numbers swelling

VIKAS VASUDEVA  
AZIZPUR

As farmers lay siege to State borders surrounding the national capital in protest against the Centre's agriculture laws, thousands from Punjab continue to move towards Delhi to ensure that the build-up on the border keeps swelling.

At a "24-hour" protest site at Azizpur on the Zirakpur-Patiala National Highway in Shaibza Aji Singh Nagar (Mohali) of Punjab, a group of farmers told *The Hindu* on Wednesday that they were sitting at the *paccā-morcha* (permanent protest site) with a resolve to ensure that the momentum of agitation in Punjab did not die down even as farmers marched to Delhi.

### Essential supplies

"I am sitting here so that the momentum of our agitation doesn't drop. Many of our fellow farmers have reached Delhi and several are on the move. Hundreds of farmers from Mohali district in over a



**Keeping up the momentum:** Women protesters seen at the farmers agitation on the Singhu border of New Delhi on Wednesday. • SANDEEP SAXENA

dozen vehicles, such as tractor-trolleys and cars, left for Delhi with essential supplies including food, medicine and clothes. This is an ongoing process and will continue till the agitation in Delhi continues. We will not relent unless our demands are met, even if the battle goes on for months," said Prithi Singh

from Phabhat village.

Kirpal Singh, a farmer leader of the Bharatiya Kisan Union (Sidhpur), said while the front-line battle ground had shifted to Delhi, we want to ensure that the protests across Punjab did not lose its steam. "Our demonstrations against farm laws are continuing in all parts of the State.

We are sitting on indefinite *dharna* at toll plazas, outside prominent malls run by big corporates and fuel stations. The reason is to not let the continuity of the agitation break at any cost," he added.

"Also, by staying back we are involved in all preparations for our frontline war-

riors in Delhi. We are collecting funds, rations and other things from villages. We are in constant touch with our fellow farmers in Delhi. Whatever is needed there [in Delhi], we try to arrange it from here by sending it through vehicles," said Mr. Kirpal Singh.

### 'Not just about farmers'

"These farm laws are a threat to our existence... The Haryana government has installed barricades, barbed wires, boulders on our way but they won't be able to stop us. It's not just about farmers now, if we don't raise our voice in coming times everything will be sold to big corporates, ultimately every section of the society will suffer," said Surinder Singh of Kurali village, squatting at the toll plaza.

"Thousands of farmers have reached Delhi border and we would in large number continue to throng Delhi in coming days. The agitation is not going to die any time soon," he added.

## Trinamool imbroglio unresolved

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOLKATA

The imbroglio in the Trinamool Congress over the fate of party heavyweight Suvendu Adhikari continues with Mr. Adhikari on Wednesday expressing strong reservations about the party making details of a meeting between him and senior leaders public.

The meeting was held on Tuesday evening in Kolkata where top leaders like Abhishek Banerjee, Saugata Roy and Sudip Banerjee met Mr. Adhikari. Soon after the meeting, Mr. Roy, who has been assigned with the task of negotiating with Mr. Adhikari, started making statements to media claiming the issue was resolved.

He described the rally was also as message – "don't destroy Kashmir" – to Pakistan, the ISI, the Hurriyat and the Gupkar alliance. "The Sopore *mandi* should have been exporting apples to London and as far as Kerala. Unfortunately, it was consumed by terrorism. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will set up an international *mandi* in Sopore. People should vote for Mr. Modi's mission and vision," Mr. Gupta said. The rally comes as the BJP is fast emerging as a significant political player taking on the seven-party Gupkar alliance and dominating many municipalities and panchayats since the 2018 polls, especially in central and south Kashmir.

# Install cameras at NIA, CBI offices: SC

'Needed to protect right to dignity, life'

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday ordered the Centre to compulsorily install CCTV cameras and recording equipment in the offices of central agencies like National Investigation Agency (NIA) and Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which have the power to carry out "interrogations".



The CCTVs and recording equipment, the court said, would be used as a measure to protect the fundamental right to dignity and life.

### 'Power of arrest'

A three-judge Bench led by Justice Rohinton Fali Nariman specifically ordered the Centre to have CCTVs and recording equipment installed in the offices of the CBI, NIA, Enforcement Directorate, Narcotics Control Bureau, Department of Revenue Intelligence, Serious Fraud Investigation Office

and "any other agency which carries out interrogations and has the power of arrest".

"As most of these agen-

cies carry out interrogation in their office(s), CCTVs shall be compulsorily installed in all offices where such interrogation and holding of accused takes place in the same manner as it would in a police station," Justice Nariman directed.

Large posters informing people about the CCTV coverage should be prominently placed at the offices of these central agencies and police stations.

The court ordered that the Principal Secretary/Cabinet Secretary/Home Secretary of each State/Union Territory should give it a "firm action plan with exact timelines for compliance" within the next six weeks.

"As most of these agen-

## SC asks Char Dham panel to discuss Ministry plea

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked the Char Dham High-Power Committee (HPC) to meet within two weeks and submit a report on the minutes of their meeting to the court with copies to the Ministries of Defence and Highways.

curity and urgent troop mobilisations.

A Bench led by Justice Rohinton Nariman asked the HPC to meet within two weeks and submit a report on the minutes of their meeting to the court with copies to the Ministries of Defence and Highways.

The Bench has scheduled the next hearing in the third week of January.

## BJP campaign wagon hits Sopore

Voter turnout a message that people want peace and brotherhood, it says

PEERZADA ASHIQ  
SRINAGAR



**On the trot:** The BJP's *tonga* campaign rally for the DDC polls in Sopore on Wednesday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

date fielded by the BJP, for the District Development Council (DDC) election.

"A DDC constituency of Sopore recorded 18% polling [on Tuesday]. It was once in the throes of terrorism and supporters.

The campaign was for Farida Khan, a local candi-

turnout is a message from people that they want peace and brotherhood. Dilution of Article 35(A) and Article 370 have opened up the atmosphere in Kashmir and people are coming out to vote," Mr. Gupta said.

Higher Education Secret-

ary Amit Khare will head a task force to prepare the road map for imparting technical education in the mother tongue. The task force will submit its report within a month after taking into consideration suggestions from various stakeholders.

## Centre plans professional courses in mother tongue

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Centre is drafting a road map to ensure that students of medicine, engineering, law and other professional programmes can study in their own mother tongue, the Education Ministry said

on Wednesday.

The decision was taken by Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, after a meeting on the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP). Mr. Nishank emphasised that no language will be imposed on

any student, said the statement. However, enabling provisions should be made so that bright students are not deprived of technical education due to lack of knowledge of English language, it added.

Higher Education Secre-

## Kappan bail plea: journalists' union cites Arnab case

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The Kerala Union of Working Journalists (KUWJ) on Wednesday told the Supreme Court that it would use the court's intervention to protect Republic TV editor-in-chief Arnab Goswami as a precedent in its case for the immediate release of its secretary and journalist, Siddique Kappan.

It referred to the case of Mr. Goswami when a Bench led by Chief Justice S.A. Bobde repeatedly advised it to approach the Allahabad High Court instead of fighting in the Supreme Court.

"There have been occasions in the past when the Supreme Court has interfered... In the case of Arnab Goswami, this court interfered even when his bail application was pending in the lower court... We will rely on that," senior advocate Kapil Sibal, for the KUWJ, submitted.

"Every case is different," Chief Justice Bobde replied. The court further questioned the capacity of the KUWJ to "agitate the rights of an accused" charged with the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. "Show us any precedent where an association can agitate the rights of an accused... This is a criminal matter," Chief Justice Bobde said to Mr. Sibal. The journalists' union said it would overcome this 'technical' hitch by impleading the wife or daughter of Mr. Kappan in the plea.

Eight women lawyers of the Supreme Court had brought this order to the attention of the top court. They had challenged the High Court's 'trivialisation' of the victim's trauma.

Mr. Venugopal, in his written submissions, said judges need to be trained to place themselves in the shoes of the victim of sexual violence while passing orders.

He pointed to the dearth of compulsory courses on gender sensitisation in law schools.

## GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT NABARD AND RURAL ROADS CIRCLE, CHENGPALATTU TENDER NOTICE

Short Tender Notice No. 19/2020-2021/SDO/DT.02.12.2020

For and on behalf of Governor of Tamil Nadu Percentage tender through online only will be received upto 21.12.2020, 15.00 hours by the Superintending Engineer (H) NABARD & Rural Roads, Chengalpattu Circle for One Individual work in respect of Chengalpattu (H) NABARD & Rural Roads Division under Upgradation of Panchayat Union roads and Panchayat Roads to ODR Standards.

Details of Name of works, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details are available from 11.12.2020 onwards in the Government website <https://tnitenders.gov.in> If any Changes/Corrections/ Amendments etc. to the tender, it will be published on the above Government website only.

DIPR/4473/TENDER/2020

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (H)  
NABARD AND RURAL ROADS CIRCLE, CHENGALPATTU-1

## GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Buildings (C&M) circle, (Medical Works), Madurai - 625 002

Notice Inviting Tenders (Lumpsum Contract / Pre qualification Two Cover System) & Rate system

Tender Notice No.: 12SE/BCMC(MW)/2020-2021/Date : 30.11.2020

For and on behalf of Governor of Tamil Nadu selected tenders are invited from the contractors registered in Public Works Department in the appropriate class to the office of Superintending Engineer, PWD, Buildings (C&M) circle, (Medical Works), Madurai.

Tender Schedule Available Date : 03.12.2020 to 21.12.2020 Upto 5.45 PM (Rate Tender) (Sl.No 1 & 3)

03.12.2020 to 05.01.2021 Upto 5.45 PM (PQ Tender) (Sl.No 2)

Tender Schedule Receiving Date : Upto 3.00 PM on 22.12.2020 (Rate Tender) (Sl.No 1 & 3)

Upto 3.00 PM on 06.01.2021 (PQ Tender) (Sl.No 2)

Tender Opening at : 3.30 PM on 22.12.2020 (Rate Tender) (Sl.No 1 & 3)

: 3.30 PM on 06.01.2021 (PQ Tender) (Sl.No 2)

Total No of works : 3, Total value of Works : Rs 630.20 Lakhs.

For further details and tender documents visit the website [www.tenders.tn.gov.in](http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in) and

Superintending Engineer, PWD, Buildings (C&M) circle (Medical Works) Madurai.

DIPR/4467/TENDER/2020

E-mail ID: sectorb\_2006@yahoo.co.in; Tel/Fax – 0671-2301751/2302751

Government of Odisha

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER CUTTACK (R&B) CIRCLE, CUTTACK

(e) – PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Bid Identification No. S.E.Ctc.(R&B)16/2020-21

1. The Superintending Engineer, Cuttack (R&B) Circle, Cuttack on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites on Percentage rate basis bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Bridge work as mentioned below.

2. No. of work : 1 No.

3. Nature of work : Bridge Work

4. Class of contractor : Special & Super Class

5. Tender Paper Cost : Rs.1000/- (Online)

6. Available of bid documents : From 08.12.2020 to 16.00 Hours of 23.12.2020 in the web site

7. Date of opening of bid : Dt.24.12.2020 at 11.00 Hours.

8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website <https://tendersodisha.gov.in>. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said web site.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Cuttack (R&B) Circle

INTERVIEW | S. JAISHANKAR

# India approaches China bilaterally, with the challenge of global rebalancing'

Complicated issues will take time to sort out and a mutually respectful and mutually sensitive path is best for the long-term future, says External Affairs Minister

SUHASINI HAIDAR

*Negotiations with China are ongoing, says External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, and hints that they could even take years. Speaking about his book The India Way: Strategies for an Uncertain World, where he lays out a treatise for Indian foreign policy, Dr. Jaishankar also defended the government's moves on Article 370, the Citizenship Amendment Act, and trade protection. Excerpts:*

In your book you speak of 'managing China's rise'. Yet, nearly eight months into the LAC stand-off, the sense is that the government's reaction has been more diplomatic rather than trying to push back against China. Is this not a 'sense of fatalism disguised as deliberation' that your book is critical of?

■ No, no, not at all. I think there has been an enormous military response. If you look at the troops we have deployed there, it is pretty much unprecedented. Of course, it is because their deployment is also unprecedented. Now, I would urge

you to look at the trend line. Not necessarily at an incident, however important an incident may be, because it is a trend line that gives you the real picture.

The bottom line right now is that we have bilateral agreements that commit both countries not to amassing a large number of forces along the LAC. Without credibly explaining why, the Chinese have chosen to violate that compact. The second aspect of it is that the progress in our bilateral ties have been very much predicated on peace and tranquility along the LAC. If that is disturbed, as has been the case this year, then obviously, the rest

There has not been any incident in the past few months. But the troops remain amassed. There are reports in Depsang and along Pangong Tso north, that Chinese troops have taken over territory, or have made it impossible for India

of the relationship cannot be unaffected.

The challenge today is whether we have the wisdom to be guided by the big picture. I used that term, I think in my book, whether we can take a "long view" of the relationship. My sense is that India approaches China more bilaterally, but with the challenge of global rebalancing. In contrast, I think China seems more affected by third parties, whether in our own region, or whether, you know, in their global calculations. So, for our own long-term future, it is important that we take a bilateral path that is mutually respectful and mutually sensitive.

to patrol territories it used to. The question is, if there is no other incident, is the status quo today acceptable to you?



Both parties have formally taken on responsibilities to observe and respect the LAC

of the ground picture. I think they have made their moves and we have responded.

We are very, very clear that both parties have formally taken on responsibilities to observe and respect the LAC. That, to my mind, is the bottom line.

Beyond that, on the question of what is happening today with China and Ladakh, I will be very honest with you, I won't be answering any of it because, as I said, I am in the

middle of an ongoing negotiation.

It has been ongoing for some time, which is why the questions keep coming...

■ Well, I don't know if you remember Sumdorong Chu [India-China stand-off in 1986 that ended only nine years later]. I mean, I know in this day and age, there is a lot of media pressure. But you know, complicated issues will take time and I will go for what is my interest and my bottom line. I mean, I will not be stampeded into accepting something less.

Will India need to build a new engagement with the Biden administration, or will there be a seamless transition from the Trump administration?

■ Obviously, there will be elements of change, because at the very least, the storyline, the method, you know,

the modality of dealing with others would be different.... But none of this should really worry us. Because when I look at the potential administration, I mean, I see familiar figures with whom we have worked for many, many years, including the period when I was Ambassador, and then Foreign Secretary.

As a diplomat, perhaps you would never have thought of boycotting the U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee meeting (December 2019), because of the presence of an individual (Democratic U.S. Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal). Do you think you have changed because you have become a politician?

■ A politician by definition is different from a diplomat. Obviously, when others do diplomacy, when it is a diplomatic situation, you deal with it through diplomacy. When others do politics, you

deal with it politically. Of course, I am a politician. You can't expect me as EAM to behave like me as Foreign Secretary.

In your book, you describe India's delayed liberalisation a big burden on foreign policy. Yet in a speech you gave recently, you criticised free trade agreements, you criticised the impact of globalisation. Is this not taking India back to pre-liberalisation times?

■ No. I think that would be an erroneous reading both of my speech and of the global situation and our policy. I don't think anybody is in denial of globalisation, the real issue for any country, especially ours, is what are the terms with which you enter the globalisation process and engage? My urging is, negotiate better, get better terms, what works for us.

(Full interview on <https://bit.ly/MEAInterview>)

## IN BRIEF



## Ex-MP from Jaipur royal family passes away

Prithvi Raj of the erstwhile royal family of Jaipur and former MP from Dausa, died here on Wednesday due to complications arising from COVID-19. The 84-year-old had played an iconic role in launching Rajasthan as a tourism destination. He suffered a cardiac arrest.

## Twitter flags Amit Malviya's tweet

NEW DELHI Twitter has flagged a tweet put out by Amit Malviya, who heads the information and technology department for the BJP, as 'manipulated media'. The tweet was on the farmer protests. He had shared a video with the heading 'propaganda vs. reality' that showed that while a cop swung the baton, a farmer escaped its blow. But a fact-checking website said that the farmer did suffer injuries.

## Former Minister held for violating COVID-19 norms

AHMEDABAD Former Gujarat BJP Minister Kanti Gamit was arrested on Wednesday for violation of COVID-19 guidelines, a day after a video showing a huge crowd without masks at an engagement ceremony he hosted went viral. Two policemen who attended the ceremony have been suspended.

## UNESCO seeks probe into death of journalist

GUWAHATI Director-General of UNESCO Audrey Azoulay has sought a timely investigation into the death of television reporter Parag Bhuyan at Kakopathar in eastern Assam's Tinsukia district on November 11. The 47-year-old journalist died at the Assam Medical College and Hospital in adjoining Dibrugarh district after receiving serious injuries in a hit-and-run case.

## Court grants bail to actor Rhea's brother

MUMBAI Actor Rhea Chakraborty's brother Showik was granted bail on Wednesday by a special Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS) after being arrested by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) in an alleged drug case. Special NDPS judge G.B. Gurao granted bail on a personal bond of ₹50,000.

## Panel formed to oversee India's Paris climate goals

NEW DELHI The Union Environment Ministry has constituted a high-level inter-ministerial apex committee for Implementation of Paris Agreement (AIPA) under the chairmanship of Secretary, MoEFCC, to ensure that India is "on track" towards meeting its obligations under the Paris Agreement. He said there

## Global alert on vaccine frauds

Interpol calls for safety of supply chain and identifying sale of fake products

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI Interpol has issued a global alert to law enforcement agencies of its 194 member countries, asking them to prepare for the targeting of COVID-19 vaccines, both physically and online, by organised crime networks.

"The Interpol Orange Notice outlines potential criminal activity in relation to the falsification, theft and illegal advertising of COVID-19 and flu vaccines, with the pandemic having already triggered unprecedented opportunistic and predatory criminal behaviour," it said on Wednesday.

The notice includes examples of crimes in which individuals were found to be advertising, selling and administering fake vaccines.

The alert was issued on the day the U.K. authorised a COVID-19 vaccine for use from next week.

"As a number of COVID-19 vaccines come closer to approval and global distribution, ensuring the safety of the supply chain and identifying illicit websites selling fake products will be essential. The need for coordination between law enforcement and health regulatory bodies will also play a vital role to ensure the safety of individuals and well-being of communities are protected," Interpol said in a statement.

Stating that vaccines were the prime target of organised crime, Interpol Secretary-General Jürgen Stock said: "As governments are preparing to roll out vaccines, criminal organisations



Health threat: Interpol has warned of advertisers promoting fake drugs and services. ■ AP

are planning to infiltrate or disrupt supply chains."

He said that criminal networks would also be targeting unsuspecting members of the public via fake websites and false cures, which could pose a significant risk to their health, even their lives.

"It is essential that law enforcement is as prepared as possible for what will be an onslaught of all types of criminal activity linked to the COVID-19 vaccine, which is why Interpol has issued this

global warning," he said. Given that international travel is gradually resuming and testing for the virus will be of greater importance, Interpol suspects that it will lead to parallel production and distribution of unauthorised and falsified testing kits.

With cases of COVID-19-related frauds increasing, the agency is advising people to take special care when going online to search for medical equipment or medicines.

"In addition to the dangers of ordering potentially life-threatening products, an analysis by the Interpol's Cybercrime Unit revealed that of the 3,000 websites associated with online pharmacies suspected of selling illicit medicines and medical devices, around 1,700 contained cyber threats, especially phishing and spamming malware," it said. "Always check with your national health authorities or the World Health Organization for the latest health advice in relation to COVID-19."

21-year-old held in Bareilly for trying to convert a woman

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

LUCKNOW A 21-year-old man in Bareilly, who became the first person to be booked under the new ordinance against "unlawful" conversion in Uttar Pradesh, was arrested on Wednesday, the police said.

Uwaish Ahmed had been absconding since being booked under Sections 3 and 5 of the Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Ordinance, 2020, which was cleared by the State Cabinet last week and promulgated on November 27.

This was the first case lodged in the State under the new ordinance, which makes religious conversion a cognisable and non-bailable offence inviting penalties up to 10 years in prison, if found to be effected for marriage or through misrepresentation, force, undue influence, coercion, allurement or other alleged fraudulent means.

Uwaish Ahmed had been absconding after being booked.

The FIR was lodged against Mr. Ahmed at the Deorajpur Police Station on charges of allegedly trying to coerce a 20-year-old married Hindu woman to convert to his religion and marry him. Sections 504 and 506 of the Indian Penal Code were also invoked.

The FIR was lodged on the complaint of Tikaram Rathore, a resident of Sharifnagar village. Mr. Rathore alleged that the accused person had developed a friendship with

his daughter during their education and wanted to "coerce, coax and allure her into converting".

"Despite repeated disapprovals by me and my family, he [the boy] is not listening, and is applying pressure on me and my family through abuses and death threats..." he said in his police complaint.

Superintendent of Police (Rural) Bareilly Sansar Singh said a case of kidnapping the woman had been lodged against the accused earlier.

The woman's brother Karpal Rathore, however, had said that the case involving the accused had been resolved in 2019. His sister had also married another boy in May this year, he said. He said the family did not approach the police for the latest FIR, claiming that police came to their house and questioned them about the earlier case. The police then took his father to the police station, he said recently.

## West Bengal Minister is a vaccine volunteer

He gets a Phase 3 Covaxin jab

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT



Firhad Hakim

administered Covaxin. "I feel I am quite lucky to be part of the trial. I am absolutely okay after taking the shot," he told presspersons.

The Phase 3 trial was inaugurated by Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar.

## Lt.Gen. Saini flags threat of bioweapons

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI Vice Chief of the Army Staff Lieutenant General S.K. Saini on Wednesday said that "future wars may gravitate towards zero cost wars, wherein a very virulent pathogen may immobilise high-technology arsenals".

Virtually addressing participants at the National Defence College Bangladesh on post-COVID-19 security challenges, Lt.Gen. Saini said that "weaker militaries will continue to seek an asymmetric advantage in an unrestricted warfare milieu".

## There should be zero tolerance of terrorism: Shah

At annual police meet, PM given overview of security scene

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI Prime Minister Narendra Modi was given an overview of the national security scenario, left-wing extremism and the role of the police in enforcing national directives related to COVID-19, on the first day of the annual police conference organised by the Intelligence Bureau on Wednesday.

This is the first time since 1932 that the conference of Directors-General and Inspectors-General of Police is being organised virtually.

In the inaugural address, Home Minister Amit Shah emphasised that there should be zero tolerance of terrorism. "While stressing upon the need to ensure safety and dignity of the citizens, he underlined the importance of capacity building of police to deal with emergency situations and disasters.

He directed that security agencies should have a coordinated approach in national security scenario and achieve the target of making India a developed and safe nation," a Home Ministry statement said.

The Prime Minister was given a presentation on the "implementation of recommendations of previous conferences".

After a detailed session on the "national security scenario", Mr. Modi was apprised of the state response to left-wing extremism on successful interventions, strategies and challenges ahead. The conference will continue on Thursday and Friday and the Home Minister and the Prime Minister are expected to attend the sessions.

## Drop in active COVID-19 caseload

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI India's total active COVID-19 caseload dropped to about 4.28 lakh on Wednesday, which was the lowest after 132 days. The total active cases were a little over 4.26 lakh on July 23.

"There has been a sustained decrease in the number of active cases. India's present active caseload consists of just 4.51% of India's total positive cases," said a Health Ministry statement.

In all, 501 fatalities were reported in the past 24 hours. Ten States and Union Territories accounted for 79.84% of new deaths. Maharashtra recorded the maximum of 95, followed by Delhi with 86 and West Bengal with 52 daily deaths.

Kerala reported the highest of 5,375 daily new cases, followed by Maharashtra with 4,930. A total of 77.25% of the new cases were from 10 States and Union Territories.

In the past three days, the daily new cases added to the country's COVID-19 numbers have been around 30,000. The number of daily new cases in the last 24 hours was 36,604. While 43,062 patients recovered and were discharged in the past 24 hours, the number of daily recovered cases surpassed the daily new cases in the past five days.

## NEP upholds quota norms, says Minister

No intention to dilute them: Pokhrayan

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI Pokhrayan was no mention of the word "reservation" in the NEP. There is no intention to dilute the provisions of reservation policy enshrined in the Constitution, Education Minister Ramesh Pokhrayan Nishank said on Tuesday, rebutting an allegation that the NEP 2020 seeks to end reservation for the disadvantaged groups.

Last week, CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi asking for a "clear and categorical" response on whether the NEP intended to end the reservation policy. He said there

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI "We have not come here to take away anything," Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said in Mumbai on Wednesday, amid concerns that he was in the city to take away the local Hindi film industry to Noida where his government has allocated 1,000 acres for a brand new film city.

"It is not a purse, that it can be taken away. This is open competition. If someone who can provide a safe working atmosphere, better



facilities and social security and an environment in which every individual can work without discrimination, better

investment," Mr. Adityanath said. He was responding to questions on statements issued by the Shiv Sena and Maharashtra Congress leaders on the motive behind his visit and how difficult it would be to shift Bolliwood from Mumbai.

"We are creating something new. Why are you worried?" he said. "We are not snatching away investment from anybody nor are we derailing anyone's development."

Mr. Adityanath had arrived in Mumbai for the



## MARKET WATCH

	PRICE	CHANGE
Sensex	44,618	-0.08
US Dollar	73.81	-0.18
Gold	48,169	+0.22
Brent oil	47.39	-0.25

## NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	438.20	+14.40
Asian Paints	2315.85	+85.80
Axist Bank	608.10	+4.45
Bajaj Auto	3338.15	+94.50
Bajaj Finserv	8802.20	+55.65
Bajaj Finance	4922.90	+37.20
Bharti Airtel	484.90	+5.45
BPCL	384.50	+5.20
Britannia Ind	3597.00	+32.35
Cipla	758.35	+2.75
Coal India	129.75	+3.35
Divis Lab	3639.55	+18.80
Dr Reddys Lab	4850.25	+19.85
Eicher Motors	2532.50	+0.20
GAIL (India)	116.70	+6.00
Grasim Ind	915.50	+7.70
HCL Tech	843.15	+9.05
HDFC	2276.35	+30.60
HDFC Bank	1406.95	+26.35
HDFC Life	636.50	+5.40
Hero MotoCorp	3126.20	+15.95
Hindalco	231.85	+2.55
Hind Unilever	2139.30	+6.25
ICICI Bank	480.45	+4.65
IndusInd Bank	897.30	+1.80
Infosys	1140.90	+3.05
Indian Oil Corp	88.40	+2.55
ITC	195.95	+1.55
JSW Steel	368.40	+10.25
Kotak Bank	1814.20	+61.65
L&T	1113.75	+2.20
M&M	753.60	+19.05
Maruti Suzuki	7206.50	+104.80
Nestle India Ltd.	17266.45	+151.70
NTPC	94.80	+1.05
ONGC	84.85	+3.30
PowerGrid Corp	194.15	+1.80
Reliance Ind	1958.15	+3.25
SBI Life	875.55	+24.20
State Bank	246.95	+1.10
Shree Cement	24635.70	+272.70
Sun Pharma	544.65	+5.30
Tata Motors	183.60	+3.85
Tata Steel	604.35	+18.55
TCS	2749.55	+22.75
Tech Mahindra	908.70	+1.40
Titan	1389.00	+47.90
UltraTech Cement	4933.10	+22.60
UPL	441.95	+8.90
Wipro	358.90	+6.05

## EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	73.60	73.92
Euro	88.70	89.09
British Pound	98.31	98.74
Japanese Yen (100)	70.31	70.62
Chinese Yuan	11.22	11.27
Swiss Franc	81.81	82.17
Singapore Dollar	54.91	55.16
Canadian Dollar	56.88	57.14
Malaysian Ringgit	18.04	18.14
Australian Dollar	54.33	54.38

Source: Indian Bank

## IN BRIEF



**Sugar output doubles to 43 lakh tonne: ISMA**  
COIMBATORE  
Sugar output increased by over twofold with 408 mills producing 42.9 lakh tonne in October and November, the first two months of the current sugar season 2020-21. During the first two months of the 2019-2020 season, 309 mills produced 20.72 lakh tonne, the Indian Sugar Mills Association (ISMA) said in a statement.

**Lucideus unveils anti-cyberthreat application**  
NEW DELHI  
Enterprise cybersecurity solutions provider Lucideus unveiled mobile application 'SAFE Me' targeted at consumers. Lucideus, which worked on security of the BHIM UPI application, aims to empower consumers against rising cyberthreats amid growing digital presence, especially in the post-COVID world. The application can be downloaded free on both Android and iOS devices.

## 'Exxon Mobil eyeing stakes in oil, gas fields'

NEW DELHI  
Energy supermajor Exxon Mobil Corp. is in talks to buy stakes in oil and gas fields in India. Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said, showcasing efforts to raise domestic output to cut imports. Exxon Mobil had, in October last year, signed a memorandum of understanding with state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation to offer its expertise and technology for developing resources in offshore blocks. PTI

## NMDC raises iron ore prices by ₹500 a tonne

HYDERABAD  
NMDC has increased the prices of iron ore lumps and fines by ₹500 a tonne with immediate effect. In a filing the company said with effect from December 2, the price is being revised to ₹4,500 per tonne for lump ore and ₹4,110 per tonne for fines. It had revised the price twice last month, to ₹3,600 per tonne (lump ore) and ₹3,310 tonne (fines) on November 4 and on November 17 to ₹4,000 and ₹3,610 respectively.

# Industry tells SC govt's payback scheme on interest is 'arbitrary'

Business sectors classified as 'big' borrowers urge loan relief in plea to apex court

## LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI  
Industry and business sectors complained to the Supreme Court on Wednesday that the government's decision to restrict its payback scheme to "small" borrowers covering only eight categories of loans, worth up to ₹2 crore, was "arbitrary."

A Bench led by Justice Ashok Bhushan was hearing a host of pleas from various sectors for similar financial relief to help them overcome the stress caused by the pandemic and lockdown.

So far, the payback scheme covers only MSME, education, housing, consumer durables, credit card, auto, personal and con-



**Raw deal:** Senior advocate for CREDAI Kapil Sibal said sectors such as real estate and retail were in the doldrums. ■ REUTERS

sumption loans. Under this scheme, lenders have already returned over ₹4,300 crore as the difference in the compound interest and simple interest charged between March 1 and August 31 (moratorium period). Ex-

gratia payments had been made into 13.12 crore bank account as of November 13, the Supreme Court had noted from the government's submission in a judgment on November 27.

However, industrial and

## China buys first Indian rice in decades amid scarce supply

Tightening supplies from others, lower prices trigger move

## REUTERS

MUMBAI  
China has begun importing Indian rice for the first time in at least three decades due to tightening supplies from Thailand, Myanmar and Vietnam and an offer of sharply discounted prices, Indian industry officials said.

India is the world's biggest rice exporter and China the biggest importer. Beijing buys about 4 million tonnes a year but has avoided purchases from India, citing quality issues.

The rice imports come despite political tensions over a border dispute in the Himalayas which erupted into a clash in June in which 20



Indian soldiers were killed. India has since tightened rules for investments from China and banned dozens of Chinese mobile apps. Although the public mood in India has been anti-China, the country has remained engaged with Indian businesses. "For the first time, China has made rice trade purchases.

They may increase buying next year after seeing the quality of Indian crop," B.V. Krishna Rao, president of the Rice Exporters Association, told Reuters on Wednesday.

Indian traders have contracted to export 100,000 tonnes of broken rice for December-February shipments at around \$300 per tonne on a free-on-board (FOB) basis, industry officials said.

China's traditional suppliers, such as Thailand, Vietnam, Myanmar and Pakistan, have limited surplus supplies for export and were quoting at least \$30 per tonne more compared with Indian prices, according to Indian rice trade officials.

## Nasscom welcomes legal relief on U.S. visa move

District court bars H-1B rule changes

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU  
Nasscom on Wednesday welcomed a U.S. court order barring new rules pertaining to the H-1B visa programme and said the order would help U.S. businesses access critical talent.

While the changes would have hurt Indian IT firms, Nasscom said, "Study after study has demonstrated that the H-1B programme plays an essential role in helping U.S. enterprises secure skillsets that they cannot find locally and that these high-skilled employees provide tremendous benefit to their employers and the U.S. economy as a whole".

The industry group cited the judge as saying the changes were introduced in a hurry and did not abide by transparency obligations such as giving notice and time for public comment.



day ruled against recent changes in the H-1B visa programme made by the Trump administration, which raised minimum wage levels and tightened eligibility requirements, according to Nasscom.

With this, NMI expects to take on competition in the sub-four-metre segment now occupied by Hyundai Venue, Ford Ecosport, Maruti Vitara Brezza, Tata Nexon, Kia Sonnet and Mahindra XUV.

"It will be a disruptive game changer that is high on technology and aspirations," said Rakesh Srivastava, MD, NMI.

Nissan Magnite MT's price goes up to ₹7.55 lakh for the premium version.

Bookings for the SUV started on Wednesday.

## Rolls-Royce partners Infosys for engineering

To source services for civil aerospace

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI  
Larsen & Toubro International FZE, a wholly owned subsidiary of Larsen & Toubro Ltd. (L&T), has signed agreements with Rolls-Royce's power systems division for the strategic divestment of its U.K.-based Servowatch Systems, an integrated marine automation solutions provider.

The firm has 44 staff in the U.K. and India.

"The divestment of Servowatch Systems is part of our stated goal of unlocking value within the existing business portfolio by divesting non-core units," said S.N. Subrahmanyam, CEO & MD, L&T.

"We believe its partnership with Rolls-Royce and its product and solution brand MTU will pave the way for its further growth."

Aerospace and defence technology major Rolls-Royce and tech consulting and digital services firm Infosys have entered into a partnership for sourcing engineering and R&D services for Rolls-Royce's civil aerospace.

Under the partnership, Rolls-Royce is expected to transition a significant part of its engineering centre capabilities for civil aerospace and a 'small team' of people in Bengaluru to Infosys.

"India has grown to become a key contributor to the Rolls-Royce global engineering ecosystem, delivering high levels of technical capability to support a broad range of complex business demands," said Kishore Jayaraman, president, Infosys.



"We are looking forward to supporting the company [Rolls-Royce] in addressing civil aerospace industry challenges," said Jasmeet Singh, executive VP and Global Head of Manufacturing, Infosys.

# China's Ant said to mull sale of Paytm stake amid tensions

Indian payments provider, Chinese firm term report 'false'

## REUTERS

HONG KONG/NEW DELHI  
Chinese fintech giant Ant Group is considering selling its 30% stake in Indian digital payments processor Paytm amid tensions between the two Asian neighbours and a toughening competitive landscape, people with direct knowledge of the matter said.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, for CREDAI, highlighted the need for the government and the Reserve Bank of India to understand the specific problems faced by each industry during the pandemic.

Observing that some sectors such as pharma and digital platforms had done well during the lockdown, Mr. Sibal said others such as real estate and retail were in the doldrums. Clubbing distressed sectors with others would be a violation of Article 14 of the Constitution.

Financial details of the possible transaction have not been firmed up and Ant, the Alibaba-backed payments-to-consumer credit behemoth, has not launched a formal sale process yet, four people told Reuters.

Paytm, which is also backed by SoftBank Group, was valued at about \$16 billion during its latest private fundraising round a year ago. At that valuation, Ant's stake in the Indian firm is worth about \$4.8 billion.

Since the clash India has

tightened rules for investments from China and banned dozens of Chinese mobile apps, including from tech giants Tencent, Alibaba and ByteDance. It banned 43 more apps late last month.

Ant's possible exit from Paytm would mark another reversal for the Chinese firm following the suspension of its \$37 billion listing last month, which would have been the world's largest.

It also would be a step back from its ambitions of becoming a global payments leader. Sources told Reuters in October that Ant was cutting its financial support to many of the overseas affiliates it had

Even so, Ant was in the middle of an investment review and it could still decide to shelve a divestment if it failed to get the desired valuation, he added.

The main trigger for Ant to consider the divestment of its stake in Paytm is the worsening diplomatic relations between India and China.

Two other sources said that as a result of the review Ant could end up retaining a small stake in Paytm.

Indian start-ups are heavily funded by Chinese investors such as Alibaba and



**Money**

# Hardik, Jadeja and pacers bring India some cheer

The visitors pull one back to finish on a winning note; Aussies clinch the series 2-1; Kohli becomes fastest to 12,000 ODI runs



All aggro: Hardik Pandya and Ravindra Jadeja's blistering partnership catapulted India to a competitive total. ■ AP



## SCOREBOARD

### INDIA

Shikhar Dhawan c Agar b Abbott 16 (27b, 2x4), Shubman Gill lbw b Agar 33 (39b, 3x4, 1x6), Virat Kohli c Carey b Hazlewood 53 (78b, 5x4), Shreyas Iyer c Labuschagne b Zampa 19 (21b, 2x4), K.L. Rahul lbw b Agar 5 (11b), Hardik Pandya (not out) 92 (76b, 7x4, 1x6), Ravindra Jadeja (not out) 66 (50b, 5x4, 3x6); Extras (b-1, lb-1, w-4, nb-2): 8; Total (for five wkts. in 50 overs): 302.

### FALL OF WICKETS

1-26 (Dhawan, 5.5 overs), 2-82 (Gill, 15.4), 3-114 (Shreyas, 22.4), 4-123 (Rahul, 25.3), 5-152 (Kohli, 31.6).

### AUSTRALIA BOWLING

Hazlewood 10-1-66-1, Maxwell 5-0-27-0, Abbott 10-0-84-1, Green 4-0-27-0, Agar 10-0-44-2, Zampa 10-0-45-1, Henriques 1-0-7-0.

### AUSTRALIA

Marnus Labuschagne b Natarajan 7 (13b, 1x4), Aaron Finch c Dhawan b Jadeja 75 (82b, 7x4, 3x6), Steve Smith c Rahul b Shardul 7 (15b), Moises Henriques c Dhawan b Shardul 22 (31b, 3x4), Cameron Green c

Jadeja b Kuldeep 21 (27b, 1x4, 1x6), Alex Carey run out 38 (42b, 4x4), Glenn Maxwell b Bumrah 59 (38b, 3x4, 4x6), Ashton Agar c Kuldeep b Natarajan 28 (28b, 2x4), Sean Abbott c Rahul b Shardul 4 (9b), Adam Zampa lbw b Bumrah 4 (7b), Josh Hazlewood (not out) 7 (7b); Extras (lb-6, w-9, nb-2): 17; Total (in 49.3 overs): 289.

**FALL OF WICKETS**  
1-25 (Labuschagne, 5.1), 2-56 (Smith, 11.2), 3-117 (Henrikis, 22.2), 4-123 (Finch, 25.3), 5-158 (Green, 30.5), 6-210 (Carey, 37.4), 7-268 (Maxwell, 44.3), 8-278 (Abbott, 46.6), 9-278 (Agar, 47.1).

**INDIA BOWLING**  
Bumrah 9.3-0-43-2, Natarajan 10-1-70-2, Shardul 10-1-51-3, Kuldeep 10-0-57-1, Jadeja 10-0-62-1.

**Toss:** India.  
**Man-of-the-Match:** Hardik.  
**Man-of-the-series:** Smith.

India won by 13 runs, Australia clinched series 2-1.

**Next match**  
First T20I: December 4, Canberra, 1.40 p.m. IST.

can be a massive driving force.

"It's fantastic... you need to be on your toes to compete against Australia. I feel that you always have that extra edge in you when you play against Australia, you want to face up to that challenge," he said.

Australia skipper Aaron Finch was pleased with the fight his team put up in the absence of senior players like opener David Warner, and the pace duo of Mitchell Starc and Pat Cummins.

"I thought we fought really well. It was a great partnership between Hardik and Jadeja. If we had got one of those wickets, we could have chased 240 maximum. Cameron Green (debutant) came in and made an impact with ball and bat, and showed he belongs here."

Finch was also confident about Starc's fitness for the T20I series beginning here on Friday. "Hopefully he's (Starc) ready for the T20Is. It was just a niggle," said the Australian skipper.

The changes in the team brought freshness: Kohli

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA CANBERRA

India captain Virat Kohli on Wednesday said the consolation win over Australia in the final ODI was made possible by the freshness that came with the changes in the squad.

India included Shubman Gill, Kuldeep Yadav, Shardul Thakur and T. Natarajan in place of Mayank Agarwal, Yuzvendra Chahal, Mohammed Shami and Navdeep Saini.

"We were put under the pump in the first half and in the second half of Australia's innings but pulled through. Shubman (Gill) and others coming in brought freshness. The team needed that boost," said Kohli at the post-match presentation.

"Hopefully, we will take the momentum forward. I would have liked to bat for a bit longer, but it was a great partnership between Pandya and Jadeja."

Pandya said competing against a team like Australia

## INDIA IN AUS

REUTERS

CANBERRA

India all-rounder Hardik Pandya scored his highest one-day international score of 92 to set up a thrilling 13-run win for his team against Australia in the third match at the Manuka Oval on Wednesday and avoid a clean sweep in the series.

### Entertaining stand

Hardik's unbeaten knock in 76 deliveries featured seven fours and one six and he added 150 in an entertaining unbroken stand for the sixth-

wicket with Ravindra Jadeja to help India post 302 for five.

The host seemed cruising in its chase but India's pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah dismissed Glenn Maxwell with Australia 35 runs away from a win to turn the game in his team's favour.

Bumrah returned in the last over to take the final Australian wicket to dismiss the home team out for 289, with three deliveries remaining.

Maxwell fell for 59 off 38 balls and one of his four sixes landed on the top of the roof of the stadium in Australia's capital city.

Australia captain Aaron Finch top-scored with 75 to set up the chase after a charmed life during which he was dropped twice early in his innings and also survived a run out chance.

### Shardul scalps three

Shardul Thakur was one of the four changes in the Indian side and was the most successful bowler with 3-51, while Bumrah and debutant T. Natarajan picked up two wickets each.

Australia had already bagged the series with two victories in as many matches in Sydney and the hosts also

made three changes to their team.

India won the toss for the first time in the series and opted to bat, having failed to chase Australia's score in the previous two matches.

### In trouble

Australian bowlers, however, kept the batsmen under check and reduced them to 152 for five in the 32nd over when India captain Virat Kohli was out for 63 to fast bowler Josh Hazlewood for the third time in the series.

During his knock, Kohli became the fastest batsmen to reach 12,000 runs in the

50-over format, reaching the milestone in his 242nd innings.

The 32-year-old Kohli broke the record of India batting great and all-time leading run-scorer Sachin Tendulkar, who reached the milestone in 300 innings.

Jadeja, who smashed five fours and three sixes in his unbeaten 66 off 50 balls, and Hardik added 76 from the last five overs to give India a late boost.

The two sides will next play in a three-match T20I series, starting with the first game at the same venue on Friday.

## Dismissing Smith early was huge, says Shardul

Mumbai seamer all praise for Natarajan

ABHISHEK MUKHERJEE

Shardul Thakur, who played a key role in India's win in the third ODI against Australia on Wednesday, said he was thrilled to see the back of Steve Smith early.

"For Smith, we had planned to bowl at the stumps. We were lucky as he edged behind on the leg-side. He's top player and getting him early on in the innings while defending 302 was a big moment," said Shardul, who finished with three wickets, at a virtual media interaction.

About his gameplan, he said, "The Australian batsmen had played the cut and pull shots a lot in the first two games. I just tried to keep them off those shots and make them play straighter. That worked."

Shardul said David Warner's absence was felt by



Shardul is ecstatic after removing Smith. ■ AP

Australia. "We thought we could take advantage of his absence and put Australia on the backfoot."

Shardul was all praise for the bowling of debutant and fellow seamer T. Natarajan, who took two wickets. "In white-ball cricket, you are going to get hit as a bowler, but what is important is to come back, bowl again."

## Braveheart Natarajan's rise – a triumph of the spirit

From Chinnappampatti to Canberra, it has been a fascinating journey for the yorker specialist

S. DINAKAR

CHENNAI

Natarajan's success shows it is all right to dream and dream big.

Natarajan's, though, was no flight of fancy. His dream was backed by sweat, blood and titanic struggle. Son of a daily wage labourer, Natarajan came from Chinnappampatti, a hamlet near Salem.

Cricket was an escape for him – from abject poverty – and it was in the dusty lanes of his village and with a tennis ball that he first learnt to bowl yorkers.

Bowling is a lot about understanding your craft and, with the tennis ball, Natarajan learnt his release point, the most important element in bowling yorkers.

### High-risk delivery

And it is this potent high-risk delivery – you require guts to bowl a sequence of it – that has catapulted him to the top. And when Natarajan walked out with the Indian

team for his first international game in Canberra's quaint Manuka Oval, the occasion marked a triumph of the spirit.

Natarajan, not showing any nerves on his debut, contributed to India's 13-run ODI victory over Australia with two important wickets

at vital stages; Marnus Labuschagne with a short-pitched delivery and then removing a battling Ashton Agar towards the end.

Yes, his scorching yorkers were on view. And the manner in which Natarajan pulled himself back after an expensive over 'at the death' revealed his character.

The 29-year-old Natarajan's cricketing journey has been fascinating, every aspect of it; clinging on to cricket as his lifeline, bowling, astonishingly, with a cricket ball only at the age of 20.

He then broke out of his poverty-stricken life, rose in the Tamil Nadu ranks, overcame problems with his bowling action, went for big money at the IPL auction but ran into injury hurdles for Kings XI Punjab and then came back strong this year for Sunrisers Hyderabad.

He had filled up physical, upped his pace, and unleashed his yorkers, often six of them in an over, with great precision.

Braveheart Natarajan's tale is heart-warming. And it has only just begun.

### The Natarajan dossier

Age:	29						
Place of birth:	Chinnappampatti, Salem, Tamil Nadu						
Major teams:	India, Tamil Nadu, Kings XI Punjab, Sunrisers Hyderabad						
ODI debut	vs. Australia, Canberra, 2020						
First Class debut	vs. Bengal, Kolkata, 2015						
List A debut	vs. Gujarat, Chennai, 2018						
T20 debut	vs. Karnataka, Chennai, 2017						
IPL debut	Kings XI vs Rising Pune Supergiant, Indore, 2017						
M	I	Wkts	BBI	Avg.	Econ.	SR	5W
ODI	1	1	2	2/70	35.00	7.00	30.0
First Class	20	33	64	5/41	27.03	3.02	53.5
List A	16	16	18	3/22	31.27	4.52	41.5
T20s	38	38	35	3/4	27.97	7.53	22.2
IPL	22	22	18	2/24	34.39	8.20	25.1

In the 2020 edition, he took 16 wickets in 16 matches for Sunrisers



COMPILATION BY G. PRASAD

## QUICK SINGLES

Australia moves to top of ICC Super League table

DUBAI

Australia on Wednesday jumped to the top of the ICC World Cup Super ODI League points table following its 2-1 series victory over India, which is placed sixth. With the series win, Australia moved to 40 points, overtaking England. On the other hand, India logged its first points of the tournament by winning the third and final ODI and is placed sixth with nine points. PTI

### SCG set to have capacity crowd for final T20

SYDNEY

The third T20 International between India and Australia is set to be played in front of a capacity crowd with the New South Wales (NSW) Government lifting restrictions on stadiums from December 7.

NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian has announced that stadiums can move to 100 per cent capacity from December 7.

"From Monday, life will be very different in NSW," Berejiklian was quoted as saying by The Australian. PTI

**TH CROSSWORD + 13109**  
(set by Dr. X)

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27						

**ACROSS**

1 Teases about including enchantress in unscrupulous sales tactic (4,3,6)

8 Toughen rebellious characters in Manchester United (5)

9 Alert umpire will check for signs of tampering here? (2,3,4)

11 Working together, architects finally plan green city (10)

12 Son lost tough fight (4)

## TV PICKS

**ISL:** Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Star Sports 3, 7 p.m.  
**Europa League:** Sony Ten 1, 2, 3 (SD & HD), 11.25 p.m.

## IN BRIEF



**Haas driver Romain Grosjean leaves hospital**

SAKHIR  
French Formula One driver Romain Grosjean left hospital on Wednesday after being treated for burns to his hands suffered when his Haas car was engulfed in a fireball at the Bahrain GP. Haas said Grosjean will remain in Bahrain to continue private treatment. REUTERS



**Aitken to drive for Williams at Sakhir GP**

SAKHIR  
Formula One's Williams Racing says Jack Aitken will race in this weekend's Sakhir Grand Prix with Nicholas Latifi. The 25-year-old Aitken takes the place of the team's regular driver George Russell. AP

**Sidharth Rawat advances**

CAIRO  
Third seed Sidharth Rawat beat qualifier Simon Beaupain of Belgium 3-6, 6-4, 6-2 in the first round of the \$15,000 ITF men's tennis tournament in Cairo on Wednesday.

**Other results:** Toby Alex Kodat (USA) bt Muthu Adithi Senthilkumar 6-2, 6-2. **2-Double (pre-quarterfinals):** Akram El Sallaly & Adam Gaber (Egy) bt Yaroslav Shyla (Blr) & Arjun Kadhe 7-6(7)-1, 6-1, [10-8].

**Mick Schumacher to drive for Haas in 2021**

SAKHIR  
Mick Schumacher, son of seven-time World champion Michael Schumacher, will drive in Formula One for the first time with Haas next season, the team announced on Wednesday. The 21-year-old will get a taste of what is in store when he takes part in free practice ahead of the 2020 season-ending Abu Dhabi GP on December 11. AFP

**Table tennis tournament**

CHENNAI  
The Tamil Nadu Table Tennis Association will conduct the TNTA-Shareplay State championships at DAV Boys SSS (Gopalapuram) from Dec. 11 to 14. Matches will be conducted from cadet section. Entries close on Dec. 7, and can be mailed to trittae@gmail.com.

**Malan and Buttler make it a no-contest**

Duo puts on a record stand



**In punishing mood:** Dawid Malan's 47-ball 99 helped England win the T20I series 3-0. ■ AFP

**ENGLAND IN SA**

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
CAPE TOWN  
Dawid Malan and Jos Buttler launched a savage assault on South Africa's bowlers as England completed a series clean sweep with a nine-wicket win in the third and final Twenty20 international at Newlands in Cape Town on Tuesday.

Malan finished on 99 not out, while Buttler was unbeaten on 67. They shared a World record T20 international second wicket partnership of 167 off 90 balls to

# Injury-ravaged Liverpool makes the pre-quarterfinals

Inter hands Real a lifeline after Shakhtar does the double over the Madrid team

**CHAMPIONS LEAGUE**

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
LONDON

Curtis Jones sent a depleted Liverpool through to the Champions League last 16 on Tuesday, while Zinedine Zidane dismissed suggestions he might walk away from Real Madrid after another defeat by Shakhtar Donetsk left their European hopes in the balance.

Liverpool was without a host of key players for the visit of Ajax to Anfield in Group D, with 22-year-old Irishman Caoimhin Kelleher starting in goal in the absence of the injured Alisson.

Teenager Jones scored the only goal just before the hour, tucking the ball in after Ajax 'keeper Andre Onana thought he could afford to let

a Neco Williams cross sail over his head.

Liverpool will go through as group winner after Atalanta had to come from behind to draw 1-1 at home to Midtjylland.

Two-time former European champion Porto also sealed a last-16 spot after drawing 0-0 at home to Manchester City.

Porto would have qualified regardless, because Olympiakos lost 2-1 to Marseille in France.

Real Madrid could yet be consigned to the Europa League after it went down 2-0 to Shakhtar in Kiev, its second defeat this season by the Ukrainians with substitutes Dentinho and Manor Solomon scoring second-half goals.

GlADBACH is top by a point,

while Shakhtar has the upper hand on Real thanks to its superior head-to-head record.

However, the damage was limited for Real after Inter Milan won 3-2 away to Gladbach to keep its own hopes alive. Matteo Darmian put Inter ahead and Romelu Lukaku scored twice for Antonio Conte's side.

It means Inter is bottom of the group but could still qualify, while Real will definitely qualify as long as it wins at home to Gladbach.

**Tough for Atletico**

Real's city rivals Atletico Madrid will also still have it all to do in its group game after being held to a 1-1 draw at home by a weakened Bayern Munich.

Joa Joao Felix gave Atletico the

lead against a Bayern side which had already won Group A. Thomas Muller won and then converted a late penalty to earn the defending champion a draw.

**The results:**

**Group A:** Atletico Madrid 1 (Felix 26) drew with Bayern Munich 1 (Muller 86-pen); Lokomotiv Moscow 1 (Miranchuk 79-pen) Isot to Salzburg 3 (Berisha 28, 41, Adeyemi 81).

**Group B:** MGladbach 2 (Plea 45+1, 76) lost to Inter Milan 3 (Darmian 17, Lukaku 64, 73); Shakhtar Donetsk 2 (Dentinho 57, Solomon 82) bt Real Madrid 0.

**Group C:** Marseille 2 (Payet 55-pen, 75-pen) bt Olympiakos 1 (Camara 33); Porto 0 drew with Manchester City 0.

**Group D:** Atalanta 1 (Romero 79) drew with Midtjylland 1 (Scholz 13); Liverpool 1 (Jones 58) bt Ajax 0.



**Crucial goal:** Curtis Jones makes the most of Ajax goalkeeper Onana's blunder to score Liverpool's winner. ■ AFP

## Eze strike denies Hyderabad FC

Jamshedpur defender cancels out Santana's goal



**Man of the moment:** Eze, centre, hogged the limelight with a sensational goal. ■ ISL/SPORTZPICS

**ISL 2020-21****SPORTS BUREAU**

A bullet strike from Stephen Eze five minutes from time earned Jamshedpur FC a 1-1 draw against Hyderabad FC at the Tilak Maidan Stadium in Vasco on Wednesday.

The defender's thunderous drive from just inside the penalty area cancelled out Aridane Santana's opener for Hyderabad early in the second half.

Peter Hartley could have won it for Jamshedpur in the dying minutes, but his header from close range flew over the bar.

The evening ended in agony for Hyderabad when coach Manuel Marquez was shown a red card for entering the pitch. The side will also be fretting over a hamstring injury to mainstay Santana, that resulted in the striker being stretchered off in the 80th minute.

Going into the match, much depended on Hyderabad's and Jamshedpur's abilities to feed their respective target men, Santana and Nejrus Valskis. But neither player received the service he would have liked. The Hyderabad trio of Halicharan Narzary, Liston Colaco and Mohammed Yasir buzzed early on, but couldn't find Santana. Valskis cut a frustrating figure too, unhappy with his teammates' habit of hoofing the ball upfield aimlessly.

Jamshedpur's first chance came when Hyderabad goalie Laxmikant Kattimani was forced to tip over a fine first-time shot by Jackichand Singh on 24 minutes. Just before half-time, Hyderabad came close through Narzary, who cut in from the left-flank and drilled a shot that went off the far post.

Hyderabad broke the deadlock on 50 minutes when Santana bundled in a rebound after Jamshedpur goalie Pawan Kumar made a mess of Narzary's shot from the edge of the box.

**Controversy**

With 20 minutes left, controversy erupted when Jamshedpur was denied an equaliser. Kattimani tried to fist an incoming free-kick but hit Santana and boomeranged into the goal. The referee disallowed it after deeming Hartley offside, but subsequent replays showed otherwise.

Eze, however, ensured that Jamshedpur wouldn't leave the pitch without a share of the spoils.

**The result:** Hyderabad FC 1 (Santana 50) drew with Jamshedpur FC 1 (Eze 85).

THURSDAY'S MATCH  
ATK Mohun Bagan VS Odisha FC  
7.30 P.M.  
STAR SPORTS 2 (SD & HD), 3

## Cosmos vs. Salazaars in Ashoka Chakra Cup

BENGALURU: Cosmos and Salazaars may fight out the finish in the Ashoka Chakra Cup (1,800m), the feature event of the races to be held here on Thursday (Dec. 3). False rails (width about 4m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

1 LONGCHAMP PLATE (1,400m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 2-00 p.m.; 1. Acaster (5) Srinath 57, 2. Code Of Honour (8) Trevor 57, 3. Country's Pailwan (6) P. Surya 57, 4. Gladbach (7) Suraj 57, 5. Max Mueller (1) P.P. Dhebe 57, 6. Ombudsman (3) Darshan 57, 7. Searet Souree (2) Akshay 57 and 8. Activated (4) R. Marshall 55.5.

1 GARAMOND, 2. CODE OF HONOUR, 3. ACASTER

2 CORDON BLEU PLATE (DIV. II), (1,400m), rated 15 to 35, 2:30 p.m.; 1. Another Rainbow (3) Shareef 60, 2. Black Coffee (2) Neeraj 59.5, 3. Highland Rock (7) Jagadeesh 59.5, 4. Twinkle Feet (5) Ashish 59.5, 5. Girl With Pearl (11) Arshad 58.5, 6. Golden Memory (9) Darshan 58.5, 7. Pastiche (6) D. Patel 58, 8. See My Heels (4) Akshay 58, 9. Star Citizen (12) Nazeri 58, 10. Reverence (8) Sai

3 ASHOKA CHAKRA CUP (1,800m), 3-y-o & over, (Terms), 4:30 p.m.; 1. Royal Crystal (6) Trevor 62, 2. Salazaars (5) Anjali Alam 60, 4. Anjeze (1) Srinath 59, 5. Big Sur (8) Mark 59, 6. Point To Prove (2) Neeraj 57, 7. Secretive Force (3) Irvan 57 and 8. Cosmos (4) Suraj 56.

1. COSMOS, 2. SALAZAAR, 3. MANCHESTER

4 DECEMBER PLATE (1,200m), rated 30 to 50, 3:30 p.m.; 1. Animal Queen (2) Saddam H 60, 2. Donna Bella (4) Suraj 60, 3. Moraine Gabriella (5) R. Pradeep 57.5, 4. Songkran (11) Tousif Khan 57.5, 5. Birchwood (12) Kiran Rai 56.5, 6. Amazone (6) Vaibhav 56, 7. Aceros (8) J.H. Arul 55.5, 8. Jain Sabah (3) Irvan 55, 9. On The Trot (9) Ankit Yadav 54.5, 10. Rivers Of Babylon (10) Afzar Khan 54.5, 11. Asgardia (1) Trevor 54 and 12. She's Innocent (7) Chetan K 54.

5 KABINI CUP (1,400m), rated 50 & above, 4:00 p.m.; 1. Arshad 57, 8. Three Wishes (7) Darshan 55, 9. Karadeniz (5) Trevor 54, 10. Lycurgus (12) Vaibhav 54, 11. Astral Force (10) Akshay K 53 and 12. Grey Channel (2) Irvan 53.

1. THALIAN, 2. ELECTRA, 3. ASTRAL FORCE

8 CORDON BLEU PLATE (DIV. I), (1,400m), rated 15 to 35, 5:30 p.m.; 1. Baltimore (II) S. John 60, 2. Sovereign Legend (6) Neeraj 60, 3. Black Whizz (10) S. Shareef 59.5, 4. Katana (3) Trevor 59.5, 5. Radiant Treasure (7) Khurshad 59, 6. Doubtbreaktherules (9) Chetan K 57.5, 7. Realia (12) Akshay K 57.5, 8. Ekalavya (5) Darshan 57, 9. Industrialist (1) Naveen K 56.5, 10. Kingsfield (8) Saddam H 56, 11. Bombix (4) Arshad 55 and 12. Fortunet (2) P.P. Dehebe 50.5.

1. SOVEREIGN LEGEND, 2. KATANA, 3. REALIA

Day's best: MALWA

Double: GARAMOND — SOVEREIGN LEGEND

Jkt: 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8; Tr (i): 3, 4 & 5; (ii): 6, 7 & 8.

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