



Akhilesh Yadav rules out alliance with BSP and Congress in 2022

Page 9



Ceasefire violations: Pakistan used heavy weapons, says Army

Page 9



Trump loyalists march in Washington to contest vote result

Page 11



Hamilton wins seventh drivers' title, equals Schumacher's record

Page 13

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

## NEARBY



Delhi to conduct over one lakh tests a day

NEW DELHI

At a meeting called by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday to evaluate the COVID-19 situation in the Capital, it was decided that 750 ICU beds would be added for virus-infected patients and the number of tests would be increased to over one lakh a day.

CITY ▶ PAGE 2

## Eviction notices sudden, inhumane, say artists

NEW DELHI

Several eminent artists who have been asked to vacate the houses allotted to them by the government in Lutyens' and south Delhi by December 31 say the decision was sudden and inhumane during the COVID-19 pandemic. Kathak dancer Birju Maharaj told *The Hindu* that he would "return all the awards" if he is evicted.

NEWS ▶ PAGE 9

Have LIMITED STUDY TIME for IAS21  
**UPSC WARRIOR PROGRAM**  
All GS Notes  
Video Lectures  
Flexible Guidance Schedule  
Test Series  
CSAT, ESSAY  
**crack IAS** 921-7070707  
crackIAS.com

CLASSIFIEDS ▶ PAGE 2

EDUCATIONPLUS ▶ PAGE 5

# Mega trade bloc RCEP takes off

India will have to re-apply for membership

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE  
NEW DELHI

The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), a mega trade bloc comprising 15 countries led by China, that came into existence on Sunday said India would have to write expressing "intention" to join the organisation to restart negotiations for membership.

In a statement after the initialising ceremony among member-countries on the sidelines of the 37th ASEAN Summit held virtually, the newly formed organisation laid down the path for restarting discussions and said "new" developments would be taken into consideration when India re-applied.

"The RCEP signatory states will commence negotiations with India at any time after the signing of the RCEP Agreement once India submits a request in writing of its intention to accede to the RCEP Agreement to the depository of the RCEP Agreement, taking into consideration the latest status of India's participation in the RCEP negotiations and any new development thereafter," declared the RCEP, which comprises the 10 ASEAN members and Australia, China, Japan, South Korea and New Zealand. The China-backed group is ex-

## Landmark pact

A look at some features of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), which was signed on Sunday



**Virtual signing:** A screen grab showing Philippines' Secretary of Trade and Industry Ramon Lopez holding up the agreement on Sunday. ■ AFP

- Members of the RCEP include all ASEAN countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar and Cambodia) along with China, Japan, South Korea and Australia
- The members account for nearly 30% of the global GDP
- The RCEP

pected to represent at least 30% of the global GDP and will emerge as the largest free trade agreement in the world. The mega trade bloc is a landmark initiative, which is expected to boost commerce among the member-countries spread across the Asia-Pacific region.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the ASEAN Summit on November 12 and highlighted the necessity for peace and stability in the region but maintained silence regarding RCEP, indicating India's difficulty in welcoming the China-backed grouping. India's ties with China in recent months have been disturbed by the military tension in eastern Ladakh along the LAC. In the meantime, India has also held maritime exercise with Japan, Australia and the United States for the "Quad", interpreted as an anti-China move. However,

these moves did not influence Japanese and Australian plans regarding RCEP.

Experts are interpreting the beginning of RCEP as a major development that will help China and trade in Asia-Pacific region in the post-COVID-19 scenario.

## Leverage for China

"The agreement means a lot for China as it will give it access to Japanese and South Korean markets in a big way, as the three countries haven't yet agreed on their FTA," said Amitendu Palit, senior research fellow and research lead (Trade and Economics) at the Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore.

"The fact that this happened, despite the pandemic, is certainly leverage for China, and shows the idea of decoupling from China is not a substantive issue in a re-

gional sense," he said.

While the door remains open for India to join, Mr. Palit said there was "a degree of cynicism" among trade representatives in the region after how the negotiations turned out. "Except perhaps with Australia and Japan, there is a sense that India increasingly turning inward doesn't connect with a region looking to come together," he said. "India will also have to consider if the new U.S. administration revives the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal in some form and brings in all of its partners in the region, can India afford to stay out of a template that excludes China, at the same time as it is looking to move out supply chains from China in the next 5 or 10 years?"

(With inputs from Ananth Krishnan)

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

includes provisions on trade in goods and services, intellectual property, e-commerce, telecommunications, small and medium enterprises, and other issues

▪ The three largest economies in the pact, China, Japan and South Korea, are part of a free trade agreement for the first time

▪ On November 4, 2019, India walked out of the agreement as negotiations failed to address the country's issues and concerns

# Nitish to take oath as Bihar Chief Minister again today

Tarkishore Prasad elected BJP legislature party leader

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
PATNA

Janata Dal (United) president Nitish Kumar was elected leader of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) legislature party in Bihar on Sunday. He will take oath as Chief Minister of the State for the fourth consecutive term on Monday.

Four-time MLA from Katihar Tarkishore Prasad was elected leader of the BJP legislature party and Renu Devi, MLA from Bettiah in West Champaran, his deputy.

Mr. Prasad, 64, is tipped to be the next Deputy Chief Minister, replacing long-time incumbent Sushil Kumar Modi.

Mr. Kumar was elected unanimously at the meeting held at 1 Anne Marg, official residence of the CM. Senior BJP leader and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, party's poll in-charge Devendra Fadnavis and State party in-charge Bhupendra Yadav were present.

Soon afterwards, Mr. Kumar, accompanied by leaders of all the four alliance partners, met Governor Fagu Chauhan at the Raj Bhavan and staked claim to form the new government. "The Governor accepted our request. Tomorrow the oath-taking ceremony will be held between 4 and 4.30 p.m.,"



**Back in the saddle:** Nitish Kumar and other NDA leaders after meeting Governor Fagu Chauhan in Patna on Sunday. ■ PTI

Mr. Kumar said.

After the NDA legislators' meeting, BJP leaders headed to the State guest house. Mr. Modi, Mr. Singh, Mr. Fadnavis and Mr. Yadav were closeted in another meeting before they went to meet the Governor. The leaders avoided a direct answer to a question about the next Deputy Chief Minister. "You all will know at an appropriate time," said Mr. Singh.

Mr. Modi, who is known to be close to Mr. Kumar, later tweeted that no one could "snatch" the position of party worker from him. "In my political career spanning 40 years, the BJP and the Sangh Parivar (RSS) have given me much more than anyone will ever get. I will discharge whatever responsibility is given to me," said

the tweet in Hindi.

Meanwhile, the buzz in political circles is that Mr. Modi may be inducted into the Union Cabinet through a Rajya Sabha seat, vacant after the demise of Lok Janashakti Party chief Ram Vilas Paswan.

"Hon'ble Sushil ji, you are a leader and held the post of Deputy CM... you will be a leader of the BJP in future too. No one becomes small or big through a post," tweeted Union Minister Giriraj Singh.

The NDA, which comprises the BJP, the JD(U), the Hindustani Awam Morcha-Secular and the Vikasheel Insaan Party won 125 seats in the 243-member Assembly. The BJP won 74 seats and the JD(U) 43. HAM-S and VIP won four seats each.

## Qureshi's claims a bid to divert attention: MEA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

India on Sunday described Saturday's press conference by Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi as a "desperate attempt" to divert attention from its internal problems.

Official spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs Anurag Srivastava reiterated India's allegation against Pakistani involvement in sponsoring cross-border terrorism and reminded that Pakistan's Science and Technology Minister Fawad Chaudhary had recently "claimed" the Pulwama attack was a "success of Pakistan".

Mr. Qureshi had claimed Islamabad would provide the United Nations proof of India's involvement in sponsoring terrorism in Pakistan.

Two police personnel, including a station house officer, were suspended for not registering an FIR on a complaint from the family of a missing Dalit girl who was found dead in a field in Basti district on Sunday.

The family of the girl suspects she was kidnapped and raped before being murdered. However, a post-mortem report is awaited and the police are yet to confirm

# Dalit girl found dead in U.P. village, + family suspects kidnap and rape

Two policemen suspended for not registering an FIR

OMAR RASHID  
LUCKNOW

Two police personnel, including a station house officer, were suspended for not registering an FIR on a complaint from the family of a missing Dalit girl who was found dead in a field in Basti district on Sunday.

The family of the girl suspects she was kidnapped and raped before being murdered. However, a post-mortem report is awaited and the police are yet to confirm

or deny the allegations.

A resident of a village in Kalwari area of Basti in eastern Uttar Pradesh, the girl had gone out with her mobile phone on November 10 but did not return, said the police. On November 12, her family informed the Kalwari police station, said Basti SP Hemraj Meena.

## Body found in field

The body was discovered under a stack of hay in a field around 70 metres away

**VISION IAS**  
INSPIRING INNOVATION  
LIVE/ONLINE Classes Available  
www.visionias.in  
7 IN TOP 10 SELECTIONS IN CSE 2019  
from various programs of VISION IAS  
Heartiest Congratulations To All Successful Candidates  
2 AIR JATIN KISHORE 3 AIR PRATIBHA VERMA 6 AIR VISHAKHA YADAV 7 AIR GANESH K BASKAR 8 AIR ABHISHEK SARAF 9 AIR RAVI JAIN YOU CAN BE NEXT  
Hindi माध्यम में भी उपलब्ध  
FOUNDATION COURSE GENERAL STUDIES PRELIMS CUM MAINS 2021  
NEVER MISS A CLASS Access recorded classes, resources and track your performance through Student Portal  
LIVE / ONLINE cum OFFLINE classes  
DELHI English Medium 25 Nov 10 AM | 27 Oct 5 PM हिन्दी माध्यम 29 Oct 1 PM | 7 Aug  
Jaipur | Ahmedabad | Hyderabad | Pune  
Chandigarh Lucknow 7 Aug  
LIVE / ONLINE CLASSES AVAILABLE  
Start: 1 Nov for MAINS 2021 starting from 8 Nov  
MAIN 365 1 YEAR CURRENT AFFAIRS for GS MAINS 2020 in 60 Hours Specific targeted content oriented towards Mains exam  
MAIN 365 10 Nov 5 PM हिन्दी माध्यम 11 Nov 1 PM  
Delhi • Head Office: Apsara Arcade, Karol Bagh | Contact: 8468022022, 9019066066  
Jaipur 900194244 | Pune 8007500096 | Hyderabad 9000104133 | Ahmedabad 9909447040 | Lucknow 8468022022 | Chandigarh 8468022022  
DELLI • HEAD OFFICE: Apsara Arcade, Karol Bagh | CONTACT: 8468022022, 9019066066  
JAIPUR PUNE HYDERABAD AHMEDABAD LUCKNOW CHANDIGARH 8468022022  
900194244 8007500096 9000104133 9909447040 8468022022  
9019066066 8468022022 8468022022 8468022022 8468022022  
CM YK

# Soumitra Chatterjee, one of India's tallest actors, dies

The 85-year-old thespian, widely admired for his roles as Apu and Feluda, died after a month-long battle



Soumitra Chatterjee

mortal remains were kept at the Technician Studio and then at Rabindra Sadan for people to pay their last respects.

**Busier in final years**  
That the actor – who debuted in Satyajit Ray's *Apur Sansar* in 1959 and acted in over 300 films, working until his recent hospitalisation – was very close to death had become evident on Deepavali eve when critical care specialist Arindam Kar, who headed the team of doctors attending on him, said they were hoping for a miracle.

While the sad news was not entirely unexpected, given his age and the complications he had developed after contracting COVID-19, the formal announcement of his departure numbed Kolkata, his home, and shocked

Nath Kovind said Indian cinema had lost one of its legends, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his condolence message, said the actor, through his works, had come to embody "Bengali sensibilities, emotions and ethos".

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who rushed to the hospital on learning of the actor's demise, tweeted: "Feluda is no more. Apu has said goodbye. Farewell, Soumitra (Da) Chatterjee. He has been a legend in his lifetime. International, Indian and Bengali cinema has lost a giant. We will miss him dearly. The film world in Bengal has been orphaned." The most common sentiment expressed by fans was that legends like him don't die – they live on.

As actors, Soumitra and

fans across the globe. Far from being someone who led a retired life at 85, this winner of the Dadasaheb Phalke award was busier in his final years than ever and several of his films are still awaiting release.

**Tributes pour in**

Tributes poured out on Twitter. While President Ram

Uttam Kumar were the two most popular faces in Bengal – no one else came close. The latter was older by nearly a decade but they died 40 years apart – incidentally, in the same hospital. It was also at this hospital that Soumitra's mentor Satyajit Ray received his Oscar and spent his final days in 1992.

"[Soumitra] proved himself to be a warrior, fighting valiantly till the last. He cooperated with the doctors and gave his best. But destiny had other plans – and who can fight destiny," one of the doctors who attended on the actor told *The Hindu*. "No one else could have fought this long in spite of advanced age and the severity of the infection and co-morbidities."

To know more, get FREE Counseling or Register

SEE ALSO ▶ PAGE 10

# Delhi to conduct over 1 lakh tests a day

Centre to step in to increase ICU beds; 3,235 fresh COVID-19 cases, 95 deaths and 7,606 recoveries reported

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

At a meeting called by Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday to evaluate the COVID-19 situation in the Capital, it was decided that 750 ICU beds would be added for the virus-infected patients and the number of tests would be increased to over one lakh in Delhi.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said that COVID-19 have been on the rise since October 20 and while Delhi has sufficient number of hospital beds for COVID-19 patients, the number of ICU beds are getting exhausted. "The Centre has assured that it will add 750 ICU beds at the DRDO facility to deal with the increased demand. They will al-



COVID-19 test under way at Lal Bagh in north Delhi on Sunday.

• SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

so provide BiPAP machines to Delhi government hospitals so that ICU beds can be increased," Mr. Kejriwal said.

A decision to increase the number of tests being conducted was also taken at the meeting. The Chief Minister said: "The number of tests

will be increased to over 1 lakh with the ICMR's help. Currently, we have been conducting approximately 60,000 tests, which is the government's maximum capacity."

Union Home Minister tweeted that the number of tests

RT-PCR tests in Delhi will be doubled and mobile vans at COVID-prone areas will be set up.

## Containment measures

He added that paramilitary medical professional from across the country will be flown to Delhi to overcome the shortage of doctors and healthcare workers. He stressed on reviving all containment measures that were in place in Delhi such as marking containment zones, contact tracing quarantine and screening.

He said that a high level committee under Dr. V.K. Paul, AIIMS and ICMR has been constituted that will prepare a protocol for high-risk patients to receive "plasma

donation."

According to a health bulletin released by the Delhi government on Sunday, the Capital recorded 3,235 new COVID-19 cases, 95 deaths and 7,606 recoveries in a 24-hour period. The number of tests conducted was 21,098 with a positivity rate of 15.33%. Of them, 9,221 were RTPCR tests and 11,877 were rapid antigen tests.

On November 14, the Capital recorded 7,340 new cases with 96 deaths. The number of tests conducted was 48,645 with a positivity rate of 14.79%. The total cases now stand at 4,85,406 with 7,614 deaths and 1,37,801 recoveries. There are 39,990 active cases, out of which 28,681 are under home isolation.

# Court orders inspection of living conditions at detention centre

HC asks authorities to take steps if shortcomings are found

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has ordered a judge to visit the Sewa Sadan Deportation Centre in Narela and inspect it after the wife of a detainee complained about its 'pathetic' condition.

A Bench of Justice J.R. Midha and Justice Brijesh Sethi directed the Principal District and Sessions Judge concerned here to depute a judicial officer to visit the detention centre and inspect the conditions.

The High Court's order came on a plea by Ruma Bibi, whose husband Asif Hussain is detained at the centre. She complained

that there was no cleanliness, hygiene or any medical facilities being provided to detainees.

## No legal aid

Ms. Bibi also alleged that the detainees are not allowed to communicate with the family and counsels and that no legal aid was provided to them.

Taking note of the allegations, the High Court said if the judicial officer concerned finds any shortcomings in the detention centre, immediate steps shall be taken by the authorities to tackle them within a specified time.

"The judicial officer shall

again visit the detention centre to verify whether the shortcomings have been rectified or not. The report will be submitted to this court in a sealed cover before the next date of hearing," the High Court said, posting the case for further hearing on December 16.

Ms. Bibi has filed a habeas corpus plea seeking to produce her husband, claiming he has been illegally detained at the centre since April this year. She claimed that her husband is a permanent resident of India and was residing in Kolkata with their two children.

# CLASSIFIEDS

thehinduads.com

## MATRIMONIAL

### BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

#### INDEX OF MATRIMONIAL

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

BRIDES WANTED

BRIDES & GROOMS WANTED

Classification common for Brides, Bridegrooms, Brides & Grooms

Assamese

Awadhi

Bengali

Bhojpuri

Bihari

Chhattisgarhi

English

Gujarati

Haryanvi

Hindi

Kannada

Kashmiri

Konkani

Malayalam

Manipuri

Marathi

Marwari

Nepali

Oriya

Parsi

Punjabi

Saurashtra

Sindhi

Tamil

Telugu

Tulu

Urdu

Advocate

Business

Defence

Doctor

Engineer

Finance / Banking

Government / Quasi-Govt.

IAS / Allied Services

Information Technology

MBA / CA / ICWA

NRI

Cosmopolitan

Divorcee

Physically Challenged

MARRIAGE BUREAUS

WEDDING ARRANGEMENTS

COMPUTER / INFO.TECH.

UDAYAR COMMUNITY (Tamil girl, 31 yrs/ 5.5 ft, B.Tech, IT Engineer, Working onsite in HCL, Mob: 7259808471)

COSMOPOLITAN

WANTED A suitable RC groom for our daughter aged 26, B.Tech, MBA bank employee. Contact 99454143190.

DOCTOR

HINDU PADMAHALI Girl, MBBS MS (OBG) ongoing, age 24, height 5'6 ft seeks handsome groom from Doctors / civil services / business and other equal Cadres. Boy should be below 29 yrs height atleast 5'10- 6 ft, preferably Padmahali community, from Hyderabad, Telangana state. Andhra Pradesh, strictly well settled Ultra Rich family. C: 9515844920.

THEVAR, 27/167CMS, MBBS/MD Anes. Father-Rehd Engr., Mother-Doctor. Seeks Doctor groom. CT: 7339157563.

HINDU PRAKASHNIK GIRL, 24, MBBS, MRCOG, age 24, height 5'6 ft, seeking a suitable groom from Doctors / civil services / business and other equal Cadres. Boy should be below 29 yrs height atleast 5'10- 6 ft, preferably Padmahali community, from Hyderabad, Telangana state. Andhra Pradesh, strictly well settled Ultra Rich family. C: 9515844920.

CHRISTIAN Vellar Girl, 24/ 5'6 ft, Central Govt in Chennai / seeks well educated groom working in Govt./Bank /Reputed Cos. Ct: 944342703

MUSLIM ROWTHER, 33/157cm, E.M. working in a reputed 5/w concern in chennai, suitable bridegroom. cmt: sharmin2082@gmail.com

TAMIL MUSLIM B.E / 25 / 5.3, Well Settled Parents. Invite Alliance from Suitable Educated Tamil Muslim Groom. Preferably Doctor. Contact: 9894667655

CHRISTIAN 30y 163cm/65kg Eng Non-IT Msc 13.5L PA Wanted Eng IT/ITI Groom. Working at Chennai From a Decent Literate Family Seated at Chennai Cont 9445931257

HINDU DAKSHINAMURTHY, 26, 5'6 ft, seeking a suitable groom from MD/ MS doctors from same caste C: 8072289968

R.C. Christian 30 / 160 cm, M.B.B.S, M.D. 1/18 pm private Medical College. Divorcee Seeks Suitable Bridegroom. Caste No Bar. Contact 9489695984

NAIR, UTHRADAM, 26, Software M.B.B.S, Bangalore, Upper middle class, Kanyakumari District based Groom. Caste No Bar. Contact 9445672882

NAIR, UTHRADAM, 26, Software M.B.B.S, Bangalore, Upper middle class, Kanyakumari District based Groom. Caste No Bar. Contact 9445672882

NAIR, UTHRADAM, 26, Software M.B.B.S, Bangalore, Upper middle class, Kanyakumari District based Groom. Caste No Bar. Contact 9445672882

NAIR, UTHRADAM, 26, Software M.B.B.S, Bangalore, Upper middle class, Kanyakumari District based Groom. Caste No Bar. Contact 9445672882

NAIR, UTHRADAM, 26, Software M.B.B.S, Bangalore, Upper middle class, Kanyakumari District based Groom. Caste No Bar. Contact 9445672882

NAIR, UTHRADAM, 26, Software M.B.B.S, Bangalore, Upper middle class, Kanyakumari District based Groom. Caste No Bar. Contact 9445672882

NAIR, UTHRADAM, 26, Software M.B.B.S, Bangalore, Upper middle class, Kanyakumari District based Groom. Caste No Bar. Contact 9445672882

NAIR, UTHRADAM, 26, Software M.B.B.S, Bangalore, Upper middle class, Kanyakumari District based Groom. Caste No Bar. Contact 9445672882

NAIR, UTHRADAM, 26, Software M.B.B.S, Bangalore, Upper middle class, Kanyakumari District based Groom. Caste No Bar. Contact 9445672882

NAIR, UTHRADAM, 26, Software M.B.B.S, Bangalore, Upper middle class, Kanyakumari District based Groom. Caste No Bar. Contact 9445672882

NAIR, UTHRADAM, 26, Software M.B.B.S, Bangalore, Upper middle class, Kanyakumari District based Groom. Caste No Bar. Contact 9445672882

NAIR, UTHRADAM, 26, Software M.B.B.S, Bangalore, Upper middle class, Kanyakumari District based Groom. Caste No Bar. Contact 9445672882

NAIR, UTHRADAM, 26, Software M.B.B.S, Bangalore, Upper middle class, Kanyakumari District based Groom. Caste No Bar. Contact 9445672882

NAIR, UTHRADAM, 26, Software M.B.B.S, Bangalore, Upper middle class, Kanyakumari District based Groom. Caste No Bar. Contact 9445672882

NAIR, UTHRADAM, 26, Software M.B.B.S, Bangalore, Upper middle class, Kanyakumari District based Groom. Caste No Bar. Contact 9445672882

NAIR, UTHRADAM, 26, Software M.B.B.S, Bangalore, Upper middle class, Kanyakumari District based Groom. Caste No Bar. Contact 9445672882

NAIR, UTHRADAM, 26, Software M.B.B.S, Bangalore, Upper middle class, Kanyakumari District based Groom. Caste No Bar. Contact 9445672882

NAIR, UTHRADAM, 26, Software M.B.B.S, Bangalore, Upper middle class, Kanyakumari District based Groom. Caste No Bar. Contact 9445672882

NAIR, UTHRADAM, 26, Software M.B.B.S, Bangalore, Upper middle class, Kanyakumari District based Groom. Caste No Bar. Contact 9445672882

NAIR, UTHRADAM, 26, Software M.B.B.S, Bangalore, Upper middle class, Kanyakumari District based Groom. Caste No Bar. Contact 9445672882

NAIR, UTHRADAM, 26, Software M.B.B.S, Bangalore, Upper middle class, Kanyakumari District based Groom. Caste No Bar. Contact 9445672882

NAIR, UTHRADAM, 26, Software M.B.B.S, Bangalore, Upper middle class, Kanyakumari District based Groom. Caste No Bar. Contact 9445672882

NAIR, UTHRADAM, 26, Software M.B.B.S, Bangalore, Upper middle class, Kanyakumari District based Groom. Caste No Bar. Contact 9445672882

NAIR, UTHRADAM, 26, Software M.B.B.S, Bangalore, Upper middle class, Kanyakumari District based Groom. Caste No Bar. Contact 9445672882

NAIR, UTHRADAM, 26, Software M.B.B.S, Bangalore, Upper middle class, Kanyakumari District based Groom. Caste No Bar. Contact 9445672882

NAIR, UTHRADAM, 26, Software M.B.B.S, Bangalore, Upper middle class, Kanyakumari District based Groom. Caste No Bar. Contact 9445672882

NAIR, UTHRADAM, 26, Software M.B.B.S, Bangalore, Upper middle class, Kanyakumari District based Groom. Caste No Bar. Contact 9445672882

NAIR, UTHRADAM, 26, Software M.B.B.S, Bangalore, Upper middle class, Kanyakumari District based Groom. Caste No Bar. Contact 9445672882

NAIR, UTHRADAM, 26, Software M.B.B.S, Bangalore, Upper middle class, Kanyakumari District based Groom. Caste No Bar. Contact 9445672882

NAIR, UTHRADAM, 26, Software M.B.B.S, Bangalore, Upper middle class, Kanyakumari District based Groom. Caste No Bar. Contact 9445672882

Timings  
DELHI

MONDAY, NOV. 16
RISE 06:45 SET 17:28
RISE 07:46 SET 18:34
TUESDAY, NOV. 17
RISE 06:46 SET 17:27
RISE 08:55 SET 19:29
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 18
RISE 06:46 SET 17:27
RISE 10:01 SET 20:28

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	29	11
Safdarjung	29	11
Palam	27	15

**Delhi Palam Today**  
27°C A spell of rain and thunderstorm likely during early hours. Pollution level may improve clouding will decrease.

**Delhi Palam Tomorrow**  
27°C Cool morning with smog. Comfortable day with clear sky. Deterioration of pollution level.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2019  
All rights reserved.

Air Quality of Delhi-NCR		
Delhi	435	Gurugram 425
Ghaziabad	448	Faridabad 414
Noida	441	Greater Noida 417
■ Good	■ Satisfactory	■ Moderate
0-50	51-100	101-200
■ Poor	■ Very Poor	■ Severe
201-300	301-400	>400
Air Quality Index at 4 p.m., yesterday (Average of past 24 hours)   Source: CPCB		

# Post-Deepavali, air quality hits 'severe' category in the Capital

PM2.5 level recorded at 469.3 ug/m<sup>3</sup>, which is about eight times the safe limit

NIKHIL M BABU  
NEW DELHI

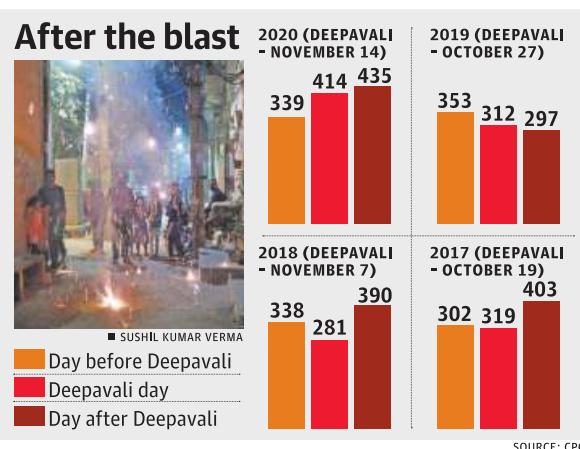
Despite the blanket ban on firecrackers in the NCR, the air quality in Delhi on Deepavali and a day after the festival was in the 'severe' category. The readings were the worst in the last four years, as per the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data.

The prime reasons were Delhites bursting firecrackers, violating the ban, and Deepavali being in mid-November, which is late in the year (compared to the other three years), when the meteorological conditions are unfavourable.

The air quality index (AQI) of Delhi, a day after Deepavali was 435, while it was 297 in 2019, 390 in 2018 and 403 in 2017, as per CPCB's 4 p.m. bulletin, which is an average of the past 24 hours. The AQI on Deepavali day this year was 414, while it was 312 in 2019, 281 in 2018 and 319 in 2017.

The level of PM2.5, a deadly pollutant, in Delhi-NCR was 469.3 ug/m<sup>3</sup> at 6 a.m. on Sunday, which is about eight times the safe limit (60ug/m<sup>3</sup>) as per Indian standards.

## After the blast



According to government run monitoring agency SAFAR (System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research), this year's Deepavali day had the worst air quality in the past five years. But as per SAFAR, the air quality a day after Deepavali was the best in past five years, which is different from CPCB data.

"SAFAR uses data from fewer monitoring stations to arrive at the data compared to the CPCB and they take the value at a different time. This might have led to the difference," a CPCB official said.

Explaining the high pollution this year, Anumita Roychowdhury, Executive Director of Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), said: "Deepavali usually happens earlier in the year and since it was late this year, the winter inversion condition was much severe. The wind speed and the mixing depth was less this year. Due to it, pollutants do not get dispersed easily. Last year, Deepavali was in October-end when conditions are not that bad. Certainly, this is one of the reasons for the high pollution this year."

Due to these reasons, pol-

lution on the days leading to Deepavali this year was also higher than last year.

"Effect of crop burning was also higher in Delhi till yesterday [Deepavali day]. With bursting of firecrackers, these two have contributed to the pollution," Ms. Roychowdhury said.

SAFAR also said that there was a peak in levels of PM2.5 during the intervening night of Saturday and Sunday, probably due to bursting of firecrackers.

The expert said that with data currently available, it is not possible to say whether the effect of firecrackers was more this year.

"The restrictions on firecrackers is very difficult to implement because there is no long-term planning. By that time, people have already manufactured crackers and it is available in the market. If the next Deepavali has to be different, then we should have a strategy and proper roadmap now itself, so that everyone can understand it, prepare better and it will be impactful in controlling pollution," Ms. Roychowdhury added.

# 1,300 kg crackers seized in Delhi

1,206 cases were registered on Deepavali night, 850 arrested

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI/GURUGRAM/  
GHAZIABAD

Delhi Police received over 2,000 PCR calls in connection with bursting firecrackers and seized over 1,300 kg of crackers from across the national capital on Deepavali, an officer said on Sunday.

Bursting of firecrackers were witnessed across Delhi on Deepavali night even though a ban was imposed on its sale and use in the National Capital Region in view of rising air pollution and the pandemic.

A senior police officer said they received 2,100 PCR calls from people complaining about firecrackers being burst in their neighbourhood. "We received 2,100 PCR calls on Deepavali night alone. Most of these calls regarding bursting of firecrackers were received from Dwarka, south-west and north-west parts of Delhi," the officer said.

According to a data shared by Delhi Police, 1,206 cases including *kalandras* (legal notice) were registered in connection with sale and usage of firecrackers on Deepavali night. *Kalandras* were issued to those who were bound down in connection with the incident. The total number of people arrested,



Burnt firecrackers a day after Deepavali in Ghaziabad. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

including those bound down on Deepavali, were 850. The police seized 1,314.42 kg of firecrackers on Deepavali.

**Plaints from Gurugram**

In Gurugram, the police received 59 complaints and one case was registered in connection with illegal sale of crackers. Gurugram Police said that PCR vehicles, Quick Response Teams, Police Riders and Station House Officers carried out patrolling. The police also issued challans to 537 people for not wearing masks in market areas on Saturday.

**Drop in sound, smoke**

Ghaziabad saw a drop in sound and smoke of firecrackers compared to previous years, but still the air quality was in severe category. Revellers found ways to circumvent the ban and the

general impression was that the ban is on bombs, not on crackers that emanate light. So, sparklers and rockets were in good supply.

The administration had a tough time imposing the ban. The complexity of the issue came out in Bulandshahr's Khurja tehsil when a video of police detaining firecracker sellers went viral.

"Following the NGT order, a police team raided temporary stalls of six persons. While they were being taken in the police van, daughter of one of them started crying and banging her head in the police vehicle. When the video went viral, higher officers and I decided to visit the residence of the firecracker seller and ensured that he could celebrate Deepavali as he had suddenly lost his means of livelihood. Also, the girl should not carry a negative image of the administration," said Lavi Tripathi, SDM, Khurja, adding the legal procedure would continue against them.

Ms. Tripathi said senior police officers also took action against the policemen who showed high handedness while imposing the order. "One head constable has been sent to the police lines on the basis of the content of the video," said Ms. Tripathi.

## Fire Dept. receives 205 calls on Deepavali

Number of distress calls less compared with 245 last year, says fire official

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Fire Service received 205 calls related to fire incidents on Deepavali, slightly less compared to last year, officials said on Sunday.

The incidents include a fire at a godown in west Delhi's Mundka in which a 28-year-old man was killed while another was injured, the police said.

"We received 205 fire-related calls till Deepavali midnight and only two calls were specifically related to firecracker bursting while most of the calls were about the blaze in open areas or dump yards," Delhi Fire Service director Atul Garg said.

Last year, the fire department had received 245 such

Of the 205 calls received, 175 were related to fire while the remaining were related to other requirements, including assistance for rescuing birds and animals, the senior fire official said.

Only two of the 175 calls were related to fire due to bursting of firecrackers, while 71 calls were related to fire at dump yards or open areas, including fire at a cooler-cum-wood godown in Mundka area on Saturday night, he said.

The deceased and injured were identified as Sunil Kumar (28), and Aditya (20) respectively, both residents of Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh, the official said. The official suspects that Kumar was sleeping inside the godown when the fire broke

out. The charred body was recovered from the godown, he said. The fire was eventually brought under control but what led to the blaze is not known yet, he said.

The Delhi Fire Service had deployed 2,500 personnel to deal with any emergency during the festival. Also, fire tenders were deployed at 24 locations across the city.

**Oil rain'**  
The DFS said that on Sunday, they received around 57 calls from all parts of Delhi over 'oil rain'. "It seems that the road had turned slippery due to rain, dust and other materials on the road. Hence, motorists gave the call," said a DFS officer.

## Court denies bail to riot accused

Man was arrested in connection with murder of auto driver

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court has denied bail application of a man arrested in connection with the brutal murder of an auto driver, Babu, by an unruly mob during the north-east Delhi riots.

Additional Sessions Judge Vinod Yadav said, the accused was "conscious of the fact that eyewitnesses in the same locality; they are presumably still frightened and the possibility of applicant threatening them, if released on bail cannot be ruled out".

"I am conscious of the fact that some co-accused persons have been granted bail in this case. However, it is

noted that they were those accused persons who had not been identified by any independent eyewitness, except the police constable," the judge said.

The court added that the bail applications of around 11 accused persons have already been dismissed by it on different dates and the role assigned to Kuldeep Singh in the matter is no different to those co-accused persons.

**Sole breadwinner**  
Mr. Singh, in his bail plea, had argued that he was 28-year-old and the sole breadwinner of his family.

Mr. Singh said he has been falsely implicated in the present matter by the investigating

**SWEATSHIRT**  
Jackets & Sweaters  
**SALE**  
FESTIVE OFFER

Raymond ColorPlus LOUIS PHILIPPE PARK AVENUE

Hi-Fashion winter Collection 2020  
Best Brands Sweaters,  
Jackets, sweat shirts & Lovers  
upto 60% off  
By Economy Sales: 9212758425

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

**TO ADVERTISE  
PLEASE CONTACT**  
**Mr. N SELVA KUMAR**  
PH: 9820350726  
selvakumar.n@thehindu.co.in

**THE HINDU**  
India's National Newspaper

**THE HINDU**  
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any query or making any arrangement.  
PUBLISHING PVT LTD, the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of the advertisement or services offered by any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In event the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director, Editor-in-Chief or any other officer or employee of the paper or any other person connected with the paper or its publication is held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages in this newspaper.

**Financial Support:** Stipend of ₹ 30,000/- to ₹ 35,000/- per month; International Conference Grant of ₹ 2 Lakhs, National Conference Grant of ₹ 1.2 Lakhs, Contingency Grant of ₹ 1 Lakh. Free board and lodging for the Fellows.

Last date for submission of the online application form is January 25, 2021.

For detailed information, please visit [www.iimdr.ac.in](http://www.iimdr.ac.in)

**INDIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT INDORE**  
Prabandh Shikhar, Rau-Pithampur Road, Indore-453556  
AACSB  
AMBA  
EQUIS

**NOTICE FOR ADMISSION INTO THE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME IN MANAGEMENT (FPM)-2021 LEADING TO A PhD**

**Specialization:** Communication, Economics, Finance & Accounting, Information Systems, Marketing Management, Organization Behaviour & HRM, Operations Management & Quantitative Techniques, Strategic Management.

**Financial Support:** Stipend of ₹ 30,000/- to ₹ 35,000/- per month; International Conference Grant of ₹ 2 Lakhs, National Conference Grant of ₹ 1.2 Lakhs, Contingency Grant of ₹ 1 Lakh. Free board and lodging for the Fellows.

Last date for submission of the online application form is January 25, 2021. For detailed information, please visit [www.iimdr.ac.in](http://www.iimdr.ac.in)

**Sabse Pehele Life Insurance**

**Khushiyon ki shuruat  
aur zindagi bhar ka saath**

**LIC's New JEEVAN ANAND**

UIN: 512N279V02 PLAN NO: 915

**Enjoy twin benefits of FULL PAYOUT on maturity & continued LIFELONG COVER thereafter**

- Minimum Basic Sum Assured: ₹1,00,000
- Age eligibility: 18-50 years
- Maximum maturity age: 75 years
- Loan facility available
- Accidental Death & Disability Benefit Rider available

Follow us on: LIC India Forever

Contact your agent/branch or visit our website [www.licindia.in](http://www.licindia.in) Or SMS 'YOUR CITY NAME' to 56767474 (eg. 'MUMBAI')

Beware of spurious phone calls and fictitious/fraudulent offers. IRDAI has issued a circular to its members to take steps to prevent sale of any kind of insurance or financial products nor invest premium.

IRDAL does not announce any bonus. Public receiving such phone calls are requested to lodge a police complaint along with details of phone call, number.

For

# West U.P.: demolishing the might of the mafia

Police trying to unravel complex web of organised crime in the area

ANUJ KUMAR  
GHAZIABAD

On November 7, people of Punjabipura in Meerut woke up to a band sound and a police announcement that they had come to attach the belongings of dreaded gangster Badan Singh Baddo, convicted to life in a murder case by a Gautam Buddha Nagar court, from his bungalow.

The action apparently came after the Allahabad High Court asked the Uttar Pradesh administration to put on record what action had been taken against Baddo, who escaped from police custody in March 2019 from a Meerut hotel when he was brought from Farrukhabad jail for a hearing. The court noted that the absconder is said to be active on social media and had political

connections.

Interestingly, it took the Meerut police more than a year to find out that Baddo, whose network is spread in Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, apart from western Uttar Pradesh, had a house in the city.

#### Political patronage

Social activist Abhishek Som, who filed a public interest litigation petition in the High Court, had alleged that Baddo enjoyed the patronage of politicians and that he had been active in the region through his henchmen in extortion and illicit land deals. "It seems the government is picking and choosing in its fight against organised crime. Some are being shielded and others are being made an example," said Mr. Som, who is also a spokesperson of the Samajwadi Party.

Avinash Pandey, Superintendent of Police (rural), Meerut, said, "Baddo had gifted the house to his sister-in-law but the loan was in his name. So we could connect it

to him. We demolished whatever construction had taken place without the municipal corporation permission. Now we are looking into whether the requisite permissions of the Meerut Development Authority are there or not to decide further course of action".

Though the police are tightlipped on his location, a look at his Facebook account, in the name of Badan Sandhu, shows his location in Rotterdam, Netherlands. It carries a post against former DGP and BJP Rajya Sabha member Brijlal. In his friends list, there are local political leaders and journalists.

A senior crime reporter said he received a call from Baddo when he wrote about his henchmen. "He indirectly reminded me he is no longer a land grabber and that the gangster has business interests in Australia," he said, requesting anonymity.

After the Vikas Dubey encounter, the government reportedly drew a list of 25

most wanted criminals. Out of these, at least a dozen is from western Uttar Pradesh. It included names such as Anil Dujana, Sunder Bhati, Anil Bhati, Sushil Moonch, Ankit Gurjar and Akash Jat. However, interestingly, there was no mention of Baddo, who carries a reward of ₹ 2.5 lakh on his arrest.

Most of them are languishing in jails but sources said these places were more like 'shelter homes' for these mafias as they continued to carry out their illicit businesses from there. Locals said that in a jail, everything came for a price. Meetings were arranged in jails and dates in courts were used to pass on vital information.

#### Threats to BJP MLA

Yogesh Dhami, BJP MLA from Baghpat, has approached the Chief Minister and the Director General of Police, complaining that he was receiving threats from notorious gangster Sunil Rathi, who is lodged in the Ti-

har jail in connection with the Munna Bajrangi murder case.

Police sources said Rathi was possibly using a 4G mobile SIM from the high-security prison to dodge the jammers. He had interests in mining in the region and wanted to push his political ambitions through his wife.

The government often boasts that under the present regime, criminals either want to be in jail or want to leave the State. Those who follow the crime scene closely in West Uttar Pradesh said that sometimes, it could be part of a criminal's plan as well.

Take Sushil Moonch, he is said to be a confidante of Baddo. When Baddo escaped from police custody, Moonch surrendered. But when the noose began to tighten on Baddo, he applied for bail. It was granted by a local court in September and is now apparently untraceable.

Mr. Pandey denied that the action of attachment of

Baddo's belongings came after the High Court order. He said the action against Baddo required a lot of legwork. "It was in the pipeline for six months. We had to coordinate with a number of other departments. From the outside, it looks easy for the police but in reality it is very difficult to take out even a single paper from a government department. Sometimes, we have to get the evidence from 'other' sources," he noted.

Similar action was being mounted against other mafias in the region, he asserted.

**Properties attached**  
The Gautam Buddha Nagar police have attached and demolished the illegal properties of Anil Dujana and Sunder Bhati, and the Mathura police have seized assets of gangster Harish Sharma but sources said it was just the beginning of unravelling the complex web of organised crime in the wild west of Uttar Pradesh.

## Assam's Baghjan blowout well killed

It began ejecting natural gas on May 27 and later caught fire

**RAHUL KARMAKAR  
GUWAHATI**  
Indian and foreign experts on Sunday "killed" a disastrous well of Oil India Limited (OIL) in eastern Assam's Tinsukia district 173 days after it had a blowout, ejecting natural gas and associated elements uncontrollably from a depth of 3.7 km.

The blowout had hit Well No 5 in OIL's Baghjan Oilfield, adjoining the ecologically fragile Dibrugarh National Park, on May 27.

To make matters worse, the blown out well caught fire on June 9.

"The well has been killed with brine solution and is under control now. Fire has been doused completely," an OIL spokesperson said from the exploration major's headquarters at Dilijan in the neighbouring Dibrugarh district.

#### No pressure

"There is no pressure in the well now and it will be observed for 24 hours to check if there is any amount of gas migration and pressure build-up. Further operation to abandon the well is in progress," he added.

OIL initiated the process

of injecting "kill fluid" or cement-laced chemical mud, the final phase of well-snubbing operation, at about 11 a.m. to kill the blowout well.

#### Global experts

The operation was headed by an eight-member global experts team along with officials of OIL's crisis management team.

The well was killed 12 days after 60 tonnes of the snubbing unit, flown in from Canada's Calgary by a giant Antonov An-24 aircraft, reached the blowout site on November 4.

## Arunachal local body elections opposed amid COVID-19 scare

Parties threaten to take State Election Commission to court

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GUWAHATI**

Opposition political parties and the apex students' organisation in Arunachal Pradesh have slammed the State Election Commission (SEC) for deciding to conduct the local body elections despite COVID-19 worries.

The Congress, the People's Party of Arunachal (PPA) and the Janata Dal (Secular) have also threatened to take the SEC to court if the polls are not deferred. They said the

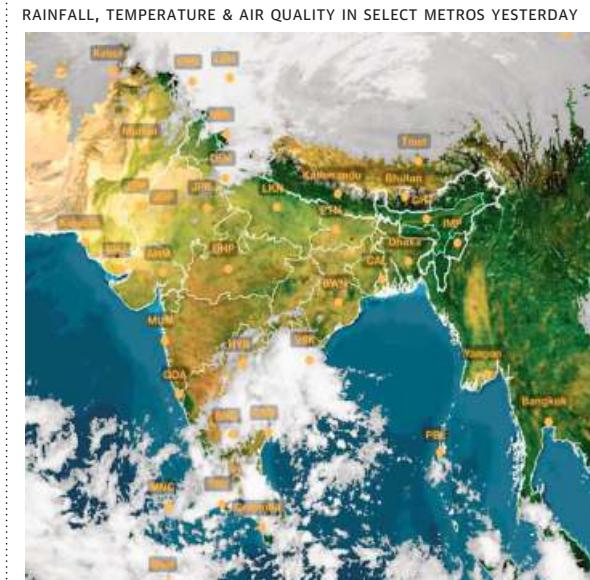
panchayat and municipal elections had already been postponed by two years and delaying them by a few more months for the sake of public health would make no difference. The parties also said the election date was close to Christmas, a major festival of people in the State, while the process would clash with the harvesting season.

State Election Commissioner Hage Kojeen had on November 12 announced December 22 as the date for

holding elections to 25 zilla parishes with 241 constituencies and 2,215 gram sabhas with 8,436 seats. The election to 28 wards in two municipal corporations – Itanagar and Pasighat – was scheduled on the same date.

The SEC did not hold the elections when the Gauhati High Court directed it to. It now wants to hold the polls when the situation is so vulnerable," State Congress general secretary Toko Mina said.

#### WEATHER WATCH



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

**Forecast for Monday:** Heavy rainfall is very likely at isolated places over coastal Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. Thunderstorms and lightning are very likely at isolated places in Rayalseema, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala and Mahe.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	... 32.3...	15.9	26.0	Kozhikode	... 34.2...	21.8	26.0
Ahmedabad	... 35.0...	20.3	20.3	Kurnool	... 30.7...	21.8	21.8
Aizawl	... 25.3...	15.1	15.4	Lucknow	... 31.0...	15.4	15.4
Allahabad	... 32.6...	17.6	22.5	Madurai	1.6...	31.1...	24.0
Bengaluru	... 27.7...	18.8	20.5	Mangaluru	... 34.1...	23.4	23.4
Bhopal	... 32.3...	18.7	20.5	Mumbai	... 35.6...	25.0	25.0
Bhubaneswar	... 32.5...	20.8	20.6	Mysuru	... 29.8...	20.6	20.6
Chandigarh	... 27.7...	13.7	13.7	New Delhi	... 27.9...	10.8	10.8
Chennai	27.9...	28.5...	24.9	Patna	... 30.4...	17.3	17.3
Coimbatore	... 30.4...	22.5	22.5	Port Blair	... 31.0...	25.3	25.3
Dehradun	... 27.4...	11.5	11.5	Puducherry	2.9...	28.0...	23.5
Gangtok	... 20.5...	11.5	11.5	Pune	... 30.8...	17.7	17.7
Goa	... 35.5...	23.3	23.3	Raipur	... 32.5...	18.0	18.0
Guwahati	... 31.0...	24.2	24.2	Ranchi	... 30.1...	16.2	16.2
Hubballi	... 30.0...	19.0	19.0	Shillong	... 25.1...	14.3	14.3
Hyderabad	... 31.2...	18.6	18.6	Shimla	... 15.6...	8.9	8.9
Imphal	... 25.2...	10.1	10.1	Srinagar	... 7.7...	2.3	2.3
Jaipur	... 29.0...	19.5	19.5	Thiruvananthapuram	... 33.7...	24.8	24.8
Kochi	... 32.4...	24.5	24.5	Tiruchi	... 30.7...	23.8	23.8
Kohima	... 21.8...	0.00	0.00	Vijayawada	... 30.0...	23.0	23.0
Kolkata	... 31.9...	20.5	20.5	Visakhapatnam	... 31.4...	25.6	25.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

#### Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>x</sub>	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	28	100	64	245	172	GREEN
Bengaluru	.4	31	39	76	67	GREEN
Chennai	.4	10	11	.47	.39	GREEN
Delhi	61	128	28	459	418	ORANGE
Hyderabad	11	20	21	106	.99	ORANGE
Kolkata	20	60	23	181	162	ORANGE
Lucknow	27	54	—	318	—	RED
Mumbai	10	65	31	194	139	ORANGE
Pune	—	76	46	243	208	ORANGE
Visakhapatnam	.7	18	27	.123	.116	ORANGE

Quality Air 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.

**CO:** Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

**PM2.5 & PM10:** 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

## Haryana's first woman MP dead

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
CHANDIGARH

Haryana's first woman Member of Parliament and former Puducherry Lt. Governor Chandrawati passed away on Sunday. She was 92. The senior Congress leader was undergoing treatment at Rohtak's PGIMS hospital since November 5, an aide said.

#### CENTRAL RAILWAY

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT  
E-PROCUREMENT AT NOTICE NO.E-39/2020, DT. 12-11-2020

Description	Qty	T.O.D.
Set of Lock easily	50 Sets	09-12-2020
Liquified petroleum gas	45000 Kgs	11-12-2020
Set of Resistor Element Tray Assembly	05 Sets	14-12-2020
Door for medium size weldless	1000 Sets	14-12-2020
Detachable		
Sides for medium size weldless	1000 Sets	14-12-2020

# The new-age English teacher

A collaborative approach between the language and subject teachers may help deliver the Professional English course successfully

■ K. ELANGO

Now that the Tamil Nadu government has made Professional English a specialised and mandatory course for all undergraduate students, there is a row over who should teach it. The view of teachers' organisations that only language teachers can do so contradicts the government's position. This raises certain significant questions: who would be better, subject or language teachers; how different is this from teaching general English, which pedagogical approach should be adopted and how far can the expected outcomes be realised?

**Subject and language**  
 'Professional English' has already been integrated into the curriculum of most engineering colleges from the 1980s as 'English for Engineers and Technologists'. However, the

engineering and it would be something totally different for Information Technology. Even assuming that English teachers have some knowledge of these domains, it would be impossible to teach those who specialise in them. However, sidelining English teachers is not an option; they have to engage themselves dynamically in acquiring some specialist knowledge in some domain or the other to survive. Letting subject

However, the teachers could not be faulted entirely, as they were expected to be informed of technological developments and trends. But, in the new educational ecosystem where the boundaries of disciplines are collapsing, English teachers can no longer be content with explicating poems and prose pieces, or claiming to develop communicative competence.

Yet another paradox is that only one common course is offered for the multiple engineering streams. The language skills required for printing technology would differ from that of civil

GETTY IMAGES/STOCK PHOTOS

teachers teach English may lead to a focus on the subject and defeat the idea of the Professional English programme.

## Specific to the career

All over the world, 'Professional English' courses have taken on different avatars: Content and Language-Integrated Learning (CLIL), Content-Based Language Teaching (CBLT), and Content-Based Instruction (CBI), all broadly under the nomenclature of English for Specific Purposes (ESP). 'English for Business',

'English for Tourism', 'English for Nurses', 'English for Waiters', 'English for Lawyers' and 'English for Aviation Industry' are some of the popular courses that attempt to cater to prospective careers. Their popularity is attributed to their occupational relevance and to the targeted learner/learning-centric approaches.

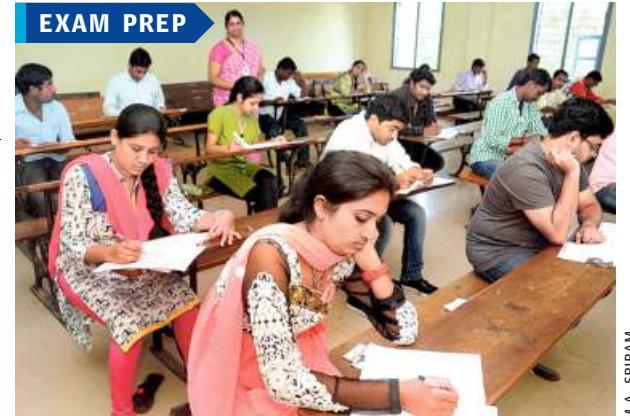
Professional English ought to be treated as a continuum of general English, not as a distinct course, on the assumption that learners already possess a basic level of linguistic competence. The objective of this course should be distinctly established as being geared towards acquiring a better command of the language in a specific domain.

## Collaborative enterprise

If the Professional English courses are to be successful, content and subject teachers should work collaboratively to select relevant material and devise the pedagogical process to focus on lexical and grammatical items and the features of discourse and genre. This would enable learners to acquire both content knowledge and linguistic competence. It, however, necessitates a structural transformation; instead of an exclusive department of English, one language teacher at least should be attached to different departments to carry out the teaching-learning processes on an on-going basis. Team teaching of language and subject would engender a transformative process, causing maximum learning outcomes. However this seems highly idealistic in our context.



The writer is National Secretary, English Language Teachers' Association of India & Professor of English, (former), Anna University



## The Mains challenge

How to prepare for the tricky second stage of the Civil Services Examination

■ MANOJ K. JHA

Every year, the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) conducts the Civil Services Examination to recruit officers for various branches of the government. This exam has three stages – the Preliminary (known as Prelims), the Mains, and the Personality Test – and the final list is prepared by combining the marks obtained in the Mains and the Personality Test. However, the marks of the Mains exam takes the lion's share of 1750 out of a total 2025 marks.

### Why it's vital

There are three reasons why the Mains exam is considered vital. One, the weightage of marks for the final list. Second, the massive syllabus of the General Studies paper and variety of optional subjects. Third is the competition among the candidates who have cleared the gruelling Preliminary stage. Therefore, a Civil Services aspirant requires a calculated strategy to crack the second stage.

Many tend to worry about what they call "a good answer". There is no single definition but broad guidelines are clarity of thought and expression and good presentation. One can write the answers as essays or as points or even a combination of the two. This will depend on the

question. Remember, the Mains exam can be extremely unpredictable given the vast scope of the syllabus. So the candidate needs to be ready for surprises. When preparing, try to cover the syllabus as comprehensively as possible. While shoring up your strong points, do not neglect areas of weakness. If well prepared, you will be ready to connect all the dots as demanded by the question.

During your preparation, split the syllabus so that you can deal with it from different perspectives. The two optional subjects will comprise 500 marks; the essay is a separate paper of 250 marks. The remaining 1000 marks are split as General Studies and cover a wide range of subjects. Make sure your optional subjects are well-prepared. For the General Studies papers, quite a bit would have been covered during preparation for the Preliminary stage. Use a multi-pronged strategy to cover the syllabus. Focus on content enrichment rather than looking for new resources. Candidates will need to expand their thinking and analytical abilities in order to integrate multiple perspectives. For example, you can find links between the Governance, Constitution, Polity, Social Justice and International relations and Ethics and Integrity papers. A study of past papers will also suggest similar connections.

There are plenty of ways to climb the mountain that the Civil Services Examination represents. While some strategies may be common to all, it is best to figure out which path will lead you to the peak.

The writer is the Director, GS Score

## SCHOLARSHIPS

### Shiksha ki Udaan Scholarship

Samasta Microfinance Limited, an IIFL Group Company, invites scholarship applications for higher secondary education.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Open to girls who are residents of Bihar and Odisha, who have scored more than 60% in the Class 10 board exams and are studying in Class 11. The annual family income must be less than ₹3 lakh from all sources. Candidates who are currently Samasta Microfinance customers can also apply.

**PRIZES AND REWARDS:** ₹5,000

**DEADLINE:** December 31

**APPLICATION:** Online

b4s.in/edge/SCS4

Courtesy: Buddy4study.com

or 12. Annual family income must be less than ₹4 lakh.

**PRIZES AND REWARDS:** ₹15,000

**DEADLINE:** December 31

**APPLICATION:** Online

b4s.in/edge/SCS4

### Keep India Smiling Foundational Scholarship Programme

Colgate-Palmolive (India) Ltd. aims to provide financial aid to students pursuing studies at various post-matric and undergraduate levels.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Students who have passed Class 10 with at least 75% marks or Class 12 with at least 60% marks in 2019 board exams and pursuing higher secondary, graduation, engineering degree, diploma and one-year vocational course respectively. Annual family income must be less than ₹5 lakh per annum.

**PRIZES AND REWARDS:** Up to ₹30,000 per year for up to three years of studies depending on their current level of education.

**DEADLINE:** February 28, 2021

**APPLICATION:** Online

b4s.in/edge/KISSPO1

### Shriram Capital Scholarship

Shriram Capital Limited invites scholarship applications from needy meritorious students.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Wards/children of commercial transport drivers who are studying in Class 10, 11

Courtesy: Buddy4study.com

## SAVE THE DATE

### M.Sc Aerospace Engineering

The University of Sheffield, the U.K., invites applications for the course starting in September 2021 meant for engineering graduates looking to specialise in aerospace.

**DURATION:** 1 year full-time

**ELIGIBILITY:** Holders of a three- or four-year Bachelor's Mechanical Engineering, Materials Science and Engineering, Automatic Control Systems Engineering or Electrical and Electronic Engineering degree with at least 60% or "first class" from a reputable university. Overall IELTS score of 6.5 with a minimum of 6.0 in each component, or equivalent.

**FEE:** £23,750 annual fees for International students (2020). 2021 fees yet to be announced. <https://bit.ly/3eOlmfE>

### Masters in International Management

Strathclyde Business School, Glasgow, invites applications for the course starting at an ad-

ditional entry point in January 2021.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Minimum second-class Honours degree in business or management, or a non-business degree plus some work experience in international trade or business, or equivalent. Applications from those who can demonstrate that their work experience merits direct entry to the programme will also be considered. IELTS (Academic): 6.5 overall (no individual band less than 5.5)

**FEE:** £22,050 for International students

<https://bit.ly/2UjiTRO>

### M. Tech. (CSE, ECE, & CB)

IIT-Delhi has opened admissions for the winter semester for M. Tech. degrees in Computer Science and Engineering (CSE), Electronics and Communications Engineering (ECE), and Computational Biology (CB).

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** November 22

**CLASS COMMENCEMENT:** January 11, 2021

<https://iitd.ac.in/admission/mtech/2020>

## CAREERS

# Multidisciplinary endeavour

Why an M.Sc. in Drug Discovery Science is more important now than before and what it offers for graduates

■ BEINING CHEN

The Covid-19 pandemic has claimed many thousands of lives globally and put enormous strain on healthcare systems around the world. Those suffering from other conditions such as cancers, heart diseases, strokes, COPD, infections and diabetes have been the worst affected and the demand to produce a constant stream of new chemical entities (NCEs) as therapeutic drugs has never been higher.

### What it involves

A M.Sc. in Drug Discovery Science is a very exciting course for graduates in chemistry, biological science, pharmacy, medicine or a related subject who want to be equipped with knowledge and skills to discover new drug candidates. The content varies from course to course but, typically, medicinal chemistry, drug design, drug synthesis, pharmacology and toxicology are covered in the core curriculum followed by an independent research project as the practical element.

During the course, the students will not only be exposed to theories in drug discovery target identification and validation, screening platforms, optimisation of small molecule drugs and biotherapeutics, and the importance of pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics, but also gain hands-on experience of molecular modelling and computer-

based drug design, analytical and synthetic techniques, and modern technologies including proteomics, genomics and epigenetics. The course is usually delivered through a combination of lectures, tutorials and seminars supported by e-learning systems and practical classes. Assessment is through a combination of written examinations and coursework. A research project is part of the programme and is assessed through a written thesis and an oral examination.

### Career opportunities

Drug discovery jobs are among the most challenging and rewarding. The technical and transferable skills gained through an M.Sc. in Drug Discovery Science offer a wide range of career destinations. A research position in pharmaceutical or biotech industries, a contract research organisation (CRO) or a clinical research organisation are potential options. Many graduates also opt for a doctorate in a specific area. Others may take up jobs in regulatory bodies, pharmaceutical sales and marketing. Some even go for a career in science teaching or consulting.

The writer is Professor of Medicinal Chemistry, Department of Chemistry, University of Sheffield, the U.K.



## Call for action

An online platform with curated resources to support and promote high quality visual arts education.... that's what Art Room Hero ([www.artroomhero.com](http://www.artroomhero.com)), a project of the Indian Art and Design Educators Association (IADEA) seeks to achieve to promote the visual arts sans physical interaction.

Currently Art Room Hero has a database of 250 lessons and now invites art educators to submit their most successful, original and popular learnings to be considered for the launch edition of this curated resource library. The selected contributions will be created.

Lessons can be submitted as pdf or video at [www.arteducatorsindia.org/submit-your-less](http://www.arteducatorsindia.org/submit-your-less) sons under the categories: Art for Emotional Well-being; Best use of Elements of Art; Innovation in the Art Room; Art Integrated Learning; Promoting Artistic Process; Collaboration in the Art Room; Art Teaching Techniques; Instilling Creative Confidence; Art Projects for Children with Special Needs.

Last date for submission: December 15, 2020.

[artroomhero.com](http://artroomhero.com) plans to launch in February with 500 curated submissions to inspire visual arts teaching and learning.

## Study in The Netherlands

Beyon Education will host a virtual webinar on Study in The Netherlands, which will focus on course opportunities, application and admission procedures and scholarship options. The participating universities are Vrije University Amsterdam; HAN University; Utrecht University; Tio University; NHL Stenden; The Hague University; Saxion University; and Rotterdam Business School.

To register, contact +91-9500124679 or +91-9384880122 or e-mail abhinay.ready@beyoneducation.com

On November 26, 2020, from 5.30 to 6.30 pm



## Border on the boil

India's threat matrix now includes the possibility of a two-front situation

**W**ith a series of ceasefire violations by the Pakistan Army that targeted civilians, and heavy artillery fire by the Indian Army, the LoC is once again on the boil. Six civilians, four Indian Army personnel and a BSF jawan were killed in the firing from Pakistan across three sectors, and official Pakistani media said one Pakistani soldier and five civilians were killed by Indian cross-border shelling. The government accused Pakistan of firing as a way of providing cover for terrorists infiltrating into India before the winter snow closes the passes and underground routes, and issued a démarche to Pakistan's top diplomat in New Delhi on Saturday decrying the "coordinated firing along the length of the LoC using heavy caliber weapons, including artillery and mortar, on Indian civilians" by the Pakistan Army. The temperature has been further raised by political words from the highest level. Prime Minister Modi's speech, as he stood atop a tank during a Deepavali visit to the Longewala post, warned of a "prachand jawab" (fierce reply) to Pakistan, and criticised China's "expansionist mindset", albeit without naming either neighbour. Hours later, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan tweeted that there should be "no doubt" of Pakistan's ability and "national resolve" to defend its borders. Pakistan's assault at the LoC was followed by allegations against India on terror. In a new diplomatic tactic, its Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi appeared at a press conference along with Pakistan's military spokesperson, claiming to have a "dossier" on Indian involvement in terror attacks inside Pakistan that he said primarily targeted China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) infrastructure projects. India termed the press conference a "futile anti-India propaganda exercise" and said the charges were fabricated.

The present situation at the LoC cannot be normalised and must be taken seriously. Army officials now say 2020 has seen the highest levels of firing since the 2003 India-Pakistan ceasefire agreement, with a record number of 4,052 ceasefire violations by Pakistan since January. Pakistan's intentions are to provoke India ahead of its two-year term at the UN Security Council from January 2021, as well as to rouse up trouble before the Financial Action Task Force review in February. By naming the CPEC, Pakistan also appears to want to further strain India-China relations that have undergone what Foreign Secretary Harsh Shringla called their "worst crisis" since 1962, as a result of PLA aggression at the LAC in Ladakh and the stand-off. Studied with the escalation by Pakistan at this time, it should be evident that India's threat matrix includes the very real possibility of a two-front situation where the Army will be engaged at the LoC and the LAC simultaneously, along with a possible spike in terrorist activity in Jammu and Kashmir.

## Suu Kyi again

With her mandate, she must be more assertive against the military in Myanmar's transition

**T**he National League for Democracy's landslide victory in the November 8 general election in Myanmar indicates that a vast majority of its nearly 38 million voters continue to think that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is a bulwark against the military, which ruled the nation with an iron fist for about half a century. While full results are yet to be announced, the Election Commission has stated that her party has won at least 346 of the 476 elected seats in Parliament, well past the 322 mark needed to stay in power. The military-linked main opposition Union Solidarity and Development Party has won 25 seats so far. When Ms. Suu Kyi's NLD came to power after winning Myanmar's first truly contested election in 2015, hopes were high that the pro-democracy icon would spearhead the transition into full democracy. Ms. Suu Kyi, who is barred from becoming the President by the military-era Constitution, took the levers of power as the State Counsellor in 2015. But during this time, instead of confronting the Generals or pushing to end the military's outsized influence, she appeared to have bought peace with them. Her public defence of the Generals' handling of the operations in Rakhine State that led to the exodus of at least 740,000 Rohingya Muslims dented her image as a pro-democracy fighter and raised questions about her commitment to the country's transition.

Those who support Ms. Suu Kyi say her critics outside the country do not understand the complexities of Myanmar's power dynamics. Even though the military allowed free elections, it made sure that its interests were preserved. A bloc of seats in Parliament is reserved for soldiers, which would prevent any amendment to the Constitution. And the military would control three key government ministries, including the Defence Ministry. More importantly, the military continued its campaigns against the country's ethnic minority rebel groups despite her promise to reach out to them. All these suggest that the power struggle between the popular civilian leadership and the powerful military establishment is an ongoing reality despite the elections. While Ms. Suu Kyi avoided confronting the Generals, she remained a force between the military and the people. In a country where the memories of the military dictatorship are still fresh, it is unsurprising that Ms. Suu Kyi, who built her moral and political capital in the long fight against the junta, remains the most popular leader. But when she begins her second term with another decisive victory, she would face tough questions again. Did she win just to act as a buffer between the Generals and the voters or to lead the country into full democracy? As the elected ruler, she will also have to address allegations of genocide and walk her talk of making peace with the ethnic minority groups.

# Protect our Republic, my lords

The judiciary's quick intervention in the Arnab Goswami case turns the spotlight on other serious cases that languish



SIRAM PANCHU

**T**he facts are brief. Mr. Arnab Goswami of Republic TV, a media group perceived to be supportive of the ruling party, was arrested by the Mumbai Police on November 4, 2020 on a charge of abetting the suicide of Anvay Naik. The suicide note mentioned that the channel had not paid bills amounting to ₹83 lakh and this was a proximate cause of the act of suicide. The accused was remanded to judicial, not police, custody. He moved a writ petition for *habeas corpus* before the Bombay High Court, wholly unusual, since that only applies to detention without cover of law; in this case he should have moved the Sessions Court for bail or discharge and then come to the High Court if unsuccessful.

**A contrast that is worrisome**  
The High Court heard his case for five hours on a holiday, and said exactly this on November 9. Mr. Goswami did file such a petition. Strangely, he also moved the Supreme Court and his case is listed on November 11. It takes up the whole day, and that evening he is set free, and emerges pumping his hands in the air, much like a conquering public hero. Two whole days of judicial time of top constitutional courts have been spent in deciding whether this one man should get bail, when his case for precisely this relief was coming before the Sessions judge the next

day. As regards the release itself, suffice it to say that once a court thinks there is no tenable case for continued detention, no man should be held imprisoned.

There is however the disturbing contrast between the breakneck speed of the Supreme Court in this case with other cases which involve large scale and serious violations of fundamental freedoms. And at the back of the discourse looms large two questions, almost too frightening to voice. Has the Court done the one thing which a separate and equal judicial arm never does, and that is to cease being the counter-majoritarian check to a powerful executive? Has the Court abandoned its role of judicial review over acts of government, reducing itself to an arbiter of private disputes?

**What is of import**  
I cannot but help recall what happened at Rashtrapati Bhavan when the then chief Justice of India M.N. Venkatachaliah was sworn in to his office in February 1993. Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao said that he looked forward to a cordial relationship between the Court and the government.

He received a riposte which can only be described as classical – "Mr. Prime Minister, the relationship between us has to be correct, not cordial. Cordiality between court and government has no place in our constitutional scheme of checks and balances."

When comes another such Chief Justice of India? And what must the Bheeshma Pitamah, recently turned 92, be going through when he surveys the present Court and notes that there is not one decision in the recent past where the Court has held against the execu-



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

# A recipe to tear down trade unions

The new labour laws are a brutal attack on workers' ability to safeguard their rights



GAUTAM MODY

Labour law 'reform' has been on the table since 1991 as every government's favourite solution for economic growth. Yet, there was no consensus between governments, political parties, workers and their trade unions, and employers, on what this meant. Unlike other political formations, the BJP has been in unqualified agreement with employers that the existing labour laws needed to be replaced. During its rule in 1998-2002, the BJP constituted the 2nd National Labour Commission and limited trade union representation in it. The consequent recommendations of the Commission were rejected by trade unions across the country.

This time too, the BJP-led Central government has actively excluded trade unions from pre-legislative consultations on drafting the new labour codes, repealing all existing labour laws and replacing them with four new labour codes. It saw these through Parliament in the absence of the Opposition, whilst ignoring substantive recommendations of the Parliamentary Standing Committee.

The BJP portrayed the now-repealed laws as serving only a small, exclusive section of working people, while claiming that what has now been legislated has a universal reach. This is just political chicanery. What is common to all the four codes is that they dilute workers' rights in favour of employers' rights, and together undermine the very idea of workers' right to association and collective action.

## Long history

Trade unions first emerged in the 19<sup>th</sup> century as self-managed organisation of workers in the face of extreme exploitation. They provided, and continue to provide, a collective voice to working people against employers' exploitative, unfair and often illegal practices.

It is through trade unions that workers have been able to win better wages, fairer employment condi-



Rallying point: Trade unions protesting against Centre's policies for workers, in Gurugram in 2019. ■ MANOJ KUMAR

tions, and safe and secure workplaces.

In India, workers won the legal right to form trade unions under the colonial rule in 1926, when the Trade Union Act (TUA) was adopted. The law provided a mechanism for the registration of trade unions, from which they derived their rights, and a framework governing their functioning. The TUA also bound workers' actions within a legal framework by providing for deregistration if a trade union "contravened any provisions of the Act".

The TUA gave workers the right, through their registered trade union, to take steps to press their claims, and where necessary, as in the case of a malevolent employer, agitate for their claims and advance them before the government and the judiciary. It also provided members (workers) and elected officers of a union a degree of immunity, including against the law on criminal conspiracy. Importantly, the law recognised that actions based on collective decisions by workers were legal and did not constitute criminal conspiracy.

The so-called "simplifying" of labour laws, repealing the TUA, the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 and the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946, and creating the Industrial Relations Code (IRC), has a very sinister outcome for workers' right to association. The code enor-

mously widens the grounds under which a trade union may be deregistered. Under the TUA, deregistration was limited to the internal functioning of a union – in case a union violated the financial rules set down under the law or its own constitution. The Standing Orders Act and the Industrial Disputes Act were concerned with conditions of employment and settlement of disputes respectively. They had nothing to do with the internal functioning, and, therefore, with the existence of a trade union.

## Vague definitions

Under the new IRC, a trade union can be deregistered for contravention of unspecified provisions of the code. It simply says that deregistration would follow in case of "contravention by the Trade Union of the provisions of this Code". The possibility of deregistering a trade union in this unspecified manner shifts the balance completely in favour of employers, who continue to enjoy protection under the Companies Act. This violates the principles of equality before the law and of natural justice.

When a trade union is deregistered, it can no longer represent its members (the workers) before the dispute resolution machinery or in court. And, the moment a trade union loses its registration, any collec-

tive decision taken by its members and elected officers can be treated as illegal. For example, a decision for strike action would leave employers free to either dismiss striking workers or charge them huge penalties for their claimed losses. It also means that the trade union's members and elected officers lose their immunity from prosecution for criminal conspiracy for collective decisions and actions, which is exactly what the TUA protected them against. The new code has cut and pasted from the TUA the provisions granting immunity against charges of conspiracy, but this is meaningless if the trade union itself is deregistered. The new code appears to be designed to deter collective action by workers' unions, and make them fearful of getting trapped in the cross hairs of the new, supposedly "simplified" code.

## Extra-legal formations

With the threat of deregistration ever-present, workers and their unions will be pushed to create extra-legal formations like 'struggle committees' and 'workers' fronts', such as existed before the TUA, in order to advance their demands against unreasonable employers. This would have two outcomes: first, it will push employment dispute resolution outside the legal framework, which, in turn, will lead to the second, even more damaging outcome, which is criminalising working class dissent, since workers' agitations will have to take place through extra-legal formations. The freewheeling provision for trade union deregistration in the IRC, apart from being an attack on a century-old universal right is, very importantly, also the withdrawal of an absolute right. Once a trade union is deregistered or is effectively silenced by a constant and amorphous threat of deregistration, workers effectively lose their fundamental right to freedom of association.

This has grave implications for the working class's ability to defend its rights at a time when it is up against a capitalist class whose greed is insatiable, a vengeful government, and a capricious judiciary. Undermining trade unions, as the new code does, bodes ill for democratic rights in this country.

The author is general secretary of the New Trade Union Initiative

## FROM THE READERS' EDITOR

# Universal values and partisan interests

Not just journalism, but all our institutions must be guided by the tenets of equity and fairness



A.S. PANNEERSELVAN

There are queries, sarcastic comments and angry rebuttals, both for and against the way *The Hindu* handled the developments relating to the arrest of the chief of Republic TV, Arnab Goswami. The reactions included a cartoon by Satwik Gade published on November 13, which commented on the fast-track hearing of Mr. Goswami's case by the Supreme Court, while many were forced to wait, and an editorial, "For one and all". The editorial pointed out the court's "recent record of evading and postponing hearing on many matters concerning fundamental rights and constitutional questions that affect the rights of large sections of society is a veritable story of judicial abdication". I wanted to write about the advertising policy of this newspaper, and the areas where the editor vetoes an advertisement that may infringe upon the editorial policy. Though queries from readers directed me to this issue, I have decided to keep that column for the year-end as it has many generic features.

The volume of mails relating to the intervention of the apex court changed the theme of this week's column. One reader, J. Seetharaman, came up with two questions about the cartoon. He asked: "Where were you when he [Mr. Goswami] was illegally arrested or when his staff after staff were harassed by Mumbai Government through Police? Why this cynicism against a co-journalist?" I do not indulge in whataboutery. Another reader, Dharmalingam Chandran, from Lodevale, asked counter questions. His questions were: How often did his channel cross the Lakshman Rekha to harm not only communal and social harmony but also individual privacy? Can one categorise Mr. Goswami's prime time programmes as journalism, when he has no compunction or regrets in hurling murder charges on individuals in a case involving death by suicide? My firm position is that the questionable nature of Mr. Goswami's journalism cannot be used as an excuse to deny him his individual rights.

Journalism has its core values and cardinal principles, and many news organisations have their own code of ethics and values that

guide their vocation. If any reader is interested in knowing the different codes that guide journalists and journalism, they can visit the Accountable Journalism database (<https://accountablejournalism.org>) where over 400 codes are listed. These vary from the ones that are drafted by individual news organisations to the ones that are adopted by professional associations of journalists. The fundamental principle is 'journalistic expression is not a free for all, but rather speech which is constrained by ethical values'. These codes are an indication of ethical deficiency among some media players, and a reminder not to clump all forms of journalism under a single rubric of news media.

## Journalistic ethics

I not only follow some of the printed codes that govern good and accountable journalism, but also dig into the vast literature that governs our lives. From Hans Christian Andersen to A.K. Ramanujan, many storytellers have collected innumerable folk tales that have distilled the collective wisdom of the human race over three millennia. The enchanting, yet cautionary tale of 'The Emperor's New Clothes' has been a constant source of inspiration for fair evaluation of complaints without any blinkers. I see a parallel between those who adorned the court of the emperor, and who, out of sheer pride, refused to see the obvious and misled the sovereignty, and the institutions that do not maintain the critical distance with the ruling regime. I am of the firm opinion that both journalism and the Readers' Editor (RE) should be like the child, who, without malice, calls out the fact, and should not behave like the members of a Royal Court. I do not see any reason to change this perspective.

As an RE, my tools are universal and they refrain from exceptionalism to the privileged and those in power. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his address to the UNGA in 2019, invoked the 192<sup>nd</sup> entry from the Tamil anthology Purananuru, "Yaadhum Oore, Yaavarum Kelir" ("To us all towns are one, all humans our kin"). There is another brilliant line in the same poem, which roughly translates to read: "It is despicable to grieve before those who are above us; and it is worse to look down on those who are below us." I expect this equanimity not only in journalism but in all our institutional arrangements.

*readerseditor@thehindu.co.in*

# Headed towards deadlock

GOP Senator Mitch McConnell is likely to be a tough adversary for the Biden administration

MOHAMMED AYOOB

After U.S. President-elect Joe Biden's inauguration, Republican Senator Mitch McConnell, the Senate majority leader, is likely to hold the key to the future trajectory of American politics. In the post-Trump era, as the senior-most Republican in Washington, with an increased concentration of power in his hands, he will determine the Senate's agenda if, as expected, the Republican Party retains control of the Upper House after the Georgia runoffs.

Mr. McConnell has been leader of the Republican Party in the Senate since 2006 – the longest-serving Senator to hold this position. He repeatedly demonstrated his obstructionist streak during the Obama presidency.

In October 2010, Mr. McConnell declared, "The single most important thing we want to achieve is for President Obama to be a one-term president." Although he failed to prevent Barack Obama's re-election in 2012, he continued his obstructionist attitude during Mr. Obama's second term. He was principally responsible for blocking many of Mr. Obama's judicial nominees, including Supreme Court nominee Merrick Garland in 2016, on the spurious excuse that the President did not have the authority to fill a Supreme Court vacancy in his last year in office. He, of course, ate his words when he steered Trump-appointed Justice Barrett's nomination through the Senate, just a month before the presidential election this year, in order to stack the court before Mr. Trump left office.

## Committed Republican

Mr. McConnell's obstructionist attitude towards Democratic administrations could be a recipe for frequent deadlocks and policy paralysis during Mr. Biden's presidency. Mr. McConnell is committed to the Republican economic and political agenda far more than Mr. Trump, for whom the Republican Party was a convenient tool to enhance his personal interests.

Mr. McConnell is a dyed-in-the-wool Republican, committed to the party's long-time goal of reshaping the judiciary, overturning Roe v.

Wade, the landmark decision of the U.S. Supreme Court legalising abortion, and opposing healthcare reform and economic policies aimed at redistributing wealth and income.

Mr. McConnell is expected to obstruct Mr. Biden's legislative initiatives on environmental policy, healthcare, COVID-19-related relief measures, immigration, and many other issues, on which Mr. Biden is expected to reverse Mr. Trump's policies. The Republican stalling is expected to begin immediately after the inauguration, when the Senate would ratify Mr. Biden's cabinet appointments.

In the words of Senator Chris Murphy of the Democratic Party, "Mitch McConnell will force Joe Biden to negotiate every single Cabinet secretary, every single district court judge, every single U.S. attorney with him ... my guess is we'll have a constitutional crisis pretty immediately."

This anticipated gridlock does not augur well for the functioning of the American government for the next four years. Of late, the Senate has become more rigidly divided on party lines and its members have been subjected to unprecedented control by party leaderships.

The Senate traditionally had independent-minded members, who acted like elder statesmen, and not merely as partisan politicians. The situation has now come to resemble a Westminster-style parliamentary system, where the party whip has to be obeyed unquestioningly, because the political costs for dissenters can be very high. This is understandable in a parliamentary system because it provides stability to the government. But in a presidential system based on separation of powers, such rigid party discipline is a recipe for perpetual impasse.

This is particularly so because in addition to its legislative role, the Senate also exercises the important function of "advise and consent" in the executive sphere. If past experience is any guide, Mr. McConnell is likely to contribute to the gridlock, not ameliorate it.

Mohammed Ayooob is a Distinguished Professor Emeritus of International Relations at Michigan State University



## DATA POINT

### Cases on a steep climb

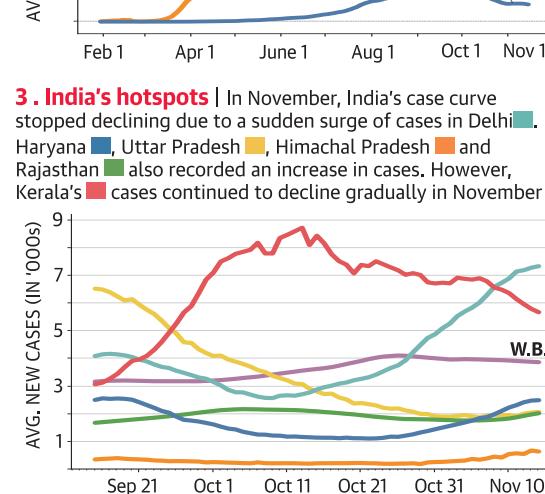
Since October, the global tally of COVID-19 cases has been on a steep ascent due to a second wave in Europe and a third wave in the U.S. The gradual decline in India's cases was hampered in November due to a third wave in Delhi. Lately, India's testing has also been inconsistent, with a rapid increase in a week and a steep fall in the next. By Suman Sen and Vignesh Radhakrishnan

**1. Two curves** | Since October, the growth in the global caseload has accelerated at a much faster pace than what was witnessed in the previous periods. Also, the gradual decline of cases recorded in India since mid-September ended abruptly in November

**2. Global hotspots** | In October, the rise in global cases was mostly due to the sudden surge in Europe. While Europe's case growth decelerated in November, the total number of cases in the world continue to ascend steeply due to a surge in the U.S. The graph shows the 7-day rolling average of new cases

**3. India's hotspots** | In November, India's case curve stopped declining due to a sudden surge of cases in Delhi. Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan also recorded an increase in cases. However, Kerala's cases continued to decline gradually in November

**4. Test curve** | Of late, growth in India's testing has been inconsistent. Since mid-October, the test curve has been oscillating, with a steep increase in a week and a rapid decline in the following. However, the number of tests conducted per confirmed case has been improving, which is a good sign.



## The Hindu

### FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 16, 1970

"Danger to the Nehru Tradition"

[NEW DELHI, Nov. 15] Mr. R.K. Khadilkar, Union Minister of State for Supplies, said here to-day he saw a "real danger" to the Nehru tradition as some of his erstwhile colleagues in India had begun an attack on the tradition.

The fight against "attempts to denigrate Nehru" should not be confined merely to one party, the Congress (R). It should be taken to a "broad platform", Mr. Khadilkar told an Afro-Asian convention on Nehru to mark his 81st birth anniversary.

Mr. Khadilkar said Nehru's erstwhile colleagues were not even prepared to recognise what Nehru had said and done. "The breakaway Congress did not care to observe Nehru's birthday as the united Congress used to do."

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 16, 1920

Englishmen's answer  
A reply to Mr. Gandhi's open letter

Messrs. H.A. Popley and G.E. Phillips of Bangalore have addressed the following letter to Mr. Gandhi:-

Dear Mr. Gandhi:- Thank you for your letter to every Englishman in India, with its hard hitting and its generous tone. Something within us responds to the note which you have struck. We are not representatives of any corporate body, but we think that millions of our countrymen in England, and not a few in India, feel as we do. The reading of your letter convinces us that you and we cannot be real enemies.

May we say at once that in so far as the British Empire stands for, the domination and exploitation of other races for Britain's benefit, for degrading treatment of any, for traffic in intoxicating liquors, for repressive legislation, for administration such as that which led to the Amritsar incidents, we desire the end of it as much as you do. We quite understand that in the excitement of the present crisis owing to certain acts of the British administration, which we join with you in condemning, the Empire presents itself to you under this aspect alone. But from personal contact with our countrymen, we know that working like leaven in the midst of such tendencies as you and we deplore is the faith in a better ideal, the ideal of a commonwealth of free peoples voluntarily linked together by the ties of common experience in the past and common aspirations for the future, a commonwealth which may hope to spread liberty and progress through the whole earth.

FROM PAGE ONE

## Mega trade bloc RCEP takes off

India had ended negotiations on the RCEP last November over terms that were perceived to be against its interests.

In May, *The Hindu* reported that according to senior official sources, concerns regarding China in the post-coronavirus world scenario had prevented Delhi from restarting negotiations for membership of the RCEP.

India did not return to the negotiations despite request from the RCEP members, who have discussed the trade pact for nearly eight years.

### South China Sea

Concerns regarding China were reflected in the statements of External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar who stuck to India's well-known

position about the South China Sea.

### Eroded trust'

In his comments at the ministerial-level discussion of the 15th East Asia Summit, Mr. Jaishankar obliquely referred to China and said "actions and incidents" in the important maritime region eroded trust and suggested the need to adhere to the rules-based international system.

He also maintained the need for "respecting territorial integrity and sovereignty" – an obvious reference to tension at the LAC and Chinese activities in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

It is understood that staying out of RCEP may interfere with India's bilateral trading with the RCEP member-countries.

## Qureshi's claims attempt to divert attention: MEA

The claims from the Minister came as India summoned the Charge d'Affaires of the Pakistan High Commission and lodged a strong protest against the ceasefire violation along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir that resulted in the loss of lives of several citizens on Friday.

"The press conference was a deliberate attempt on the part of the Pakistani establishment to shift focus from its internal political and economic failures. It also seeks to justify cross-border terrorism, including ceasefire violations and infiltration across the LoC and the International Border," Mr. Srivastava said.

"India condemns, in the strongest terms, the deliberate targeting of innocent civilians by Pakistani forces. It is highly deplorable that Pakistan chose a festive occasion

in India to disrupt peace and perpetrate violence in J&K through coordinated firing along the length of the LoC using heavy calibre weapons, including artillery and mortar on Indian civilians," said the Ministry summing up the communication to Aftab Hasan Khan, Charge d'Affaires.

The statement said the firing from the Pakistani side had claimed the lives of four Indian citizens and caused serious injuries to 19 persons.

### 3,800 violations'

The violation came weeks after India said the Pakistan military had carried out 3,800 ceasefire violations till October.

On October 22, Mr. Srivastava had pointed out that the ceasefire violations were aimed at facilitating cross-border infiltration of terror modules.

## A.P. cases register a drop, Kerala tops 4,500

Test positivity rate in Andhra Pradesh at 1.98%; Karnataka tests nearly one lakh, with 1.57% positivity

### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala's COVID-19 case graph moved up slowly to a cumulative 5,24,998 cases, with 4,581 new cases on Sunday from 46,126 samples. The test positivity rate was below 10 at 9.93%.

### COVID-19

The State's toll rose to 1,869, with the addition of 21 deaths. Thiruvananthapuram accounted for five deaths, Thrissur and Kannur four each, Palakkad and Malappuram three each and Wayanad one death.

In Telangana, only 661 cases were recorded on Saturday as 21,264 people were tested. Usually, around 40,000 to 45,000 samples were tested in a day. Three deaths were reported on Saturday.

The new cases on Saturday included 167 from Greater Hyderabad, 57 from Rangareddy and 45 from Medchal-Malkajgiri. Nizamabad had zero cases, and there were two each from Kurnool, Bhimavaram, Rajanna-Sircilla, and Yadadri-Bhuvanagiri.

Andhra Pradesh reported 1,056 new infections and 14 deaths on Sunday. It was the lowest single-day tally in four months. The daily positivity rate was one of the lowest at 1.98% from 53,215 samples.

The government has set aside ₹50 crore to form board

The overall positivity rate for 91.54 lakh samples was 9.3%.

Karnataka reported 1,565 cases on Sunday, 840 in Bengaluru. The government said 21 new deaths were reported on Sunday.

Also, 99,606 tests were conducted on Saturday with test positivity rate of 1.57%.

The number of persons testing positive for COVID-19 in Tamil Nadu remained below 2,000, with 1,819 fresh cases reported on Sunday.

The tally of active cases in the State stood at 16,441. As on date 7,58,191 persons have tested positive for the infection.

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

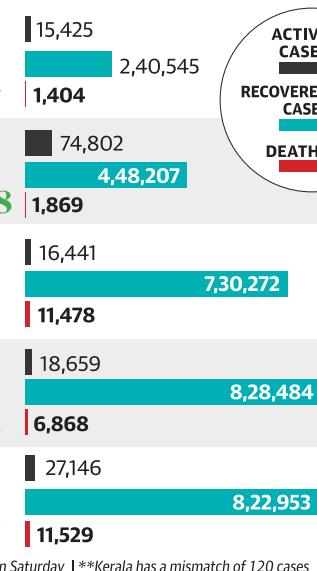
## Karnataka's Maratha board move draws mixed response

board comes in the backdrop of Karnataka's border dispute with Maharashtra, which claims that Belagavi and a few other adjoining areas ought to belong to it.

Slamming the decision, former legislator and Kannada leader Vatal Nagraj asked, "Will the State set up development boards for Telugu and Tamil people too in the future? Our understanding is that the decision is not Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa's. The BJP and RSS are behind this." However, Karnataka Kshatriya Maratha Parishat welcomed the decision, saying the funds coming through the board would help in the overall development of Marathi-speaking people in Karnataka.

A three-judge Bench of the Supreme Court led by Justice U.U. Lalit is scheduled on Monday to hear separate writ petitions against the Andhra Pradesh government and Chief Minister Y.S. Jaganmohan Reddy for levelling "false, vague and political allegations" against sitting apex court judge, Justice N.V. Ramana, and other High Court judges.

The controversy is based on a letter by Mr. Reddy addressed to the Chief Justice of India against the judges, and the subsequent revelation of its contents during a press conference on October 10. Recently, Attorney General K.K. Venugopal had refrained from giving his statutory consent to pleas



## SC to hear separate pleas against A.P. CM today

He is accused of levelling 'false' charges

### LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

A three-judge Bench of the Supreme Court led by Justice U.U. Lalit is scheduled on Monday to hear separate writ petitions against the Andhra Pradesh government and Chief Minister Y.S. Jaganmohan Reddy for levelling "false, vague and political allegations" against sitting apex court judge, Justice N.V. Ramana, and other High Court judges.

The controversy is based on a letter by Mr. Reddy addressed to the Chief Justice of India against the judges, and the subsequent revelation of its contents during a press conference on October 10. Recently, Attorney General K.K. Venugopal had refrained from giving his statutory consent to pleas

seeking contempt of court action against Mr. Reddy and his Principal Adviser Ajeya Kallam.

Mr. Venugopal said it was up to the CJI, who is "seized of the letter" to take an appropriate decision.

On Monday, Justice Lalit's Bench will hear first the petition filed by advocate G.S. Mani, who has accused Mr. Reddy of "misusing his official post." A similar petition has also been filed by an NGO, Anti Corruption Council of India Trust. The third petition is by another lawyer, Sunil Kumar Singh, who has urged the apex court to issue an order to bar Mr. Reddy from making public statements against the judiciary and holding press conferences to malign the judicial institution.

## Sabarimala opens for pilgrimage

Only those booking via virtual system will be allowed entry

### STAFF REPORTER

PATHANAMTHITTA

The Ayyappa temple at Sabarimala opened for the annual Mandalam-Makaravilakku season on Sunday, marking the beginning of a pilgrimage season drastically scaled down by the COVID-19 pandemic.



The pilgrimage season has been drastically scaled down due to the pandemic.

ing the Ashtadraya Maha Ganapati Homam on Monday morning.

Devotees who booked for darshan through the virtual queue system will be permitted entry to the hill shrine from November 16.

After the Makaravilakku festival on January 14, the temple will close on January 20.

The two-month season will be under strict COVID-19

guidelines. Authorities have already issued an advisory to ensure compliance by pilgrims to health protocols to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

All pilgrims have to carry the COVID-19-negative certificate with tests done 24 hours before reaching the base camp Nilackal. The small band of pilgrims will observe physical distancing as they trek up the hill and return.

### Priest tests positive

Meanwhile, a 26-year-old priest, appointed by the Travancore Devaswom Board on a temporary basis, tested positive on Saturday during an antigen test at Nilackal.

The person was immediately shifted to a first-line treatment centre while two of his co-travellers were sent to quarantine.

## Formula 3 racing track getting ready in A.P.

FIA recognition sought for the 3.4-km circuit coming up as part of a 219-acre resort under development in Anantapur

RAMESH SUSARLA  
ANANTAPUR

A Formula Three (F3) racing track is getting ready at Kotapalle in Andhra Pradesh's Anantapur district.

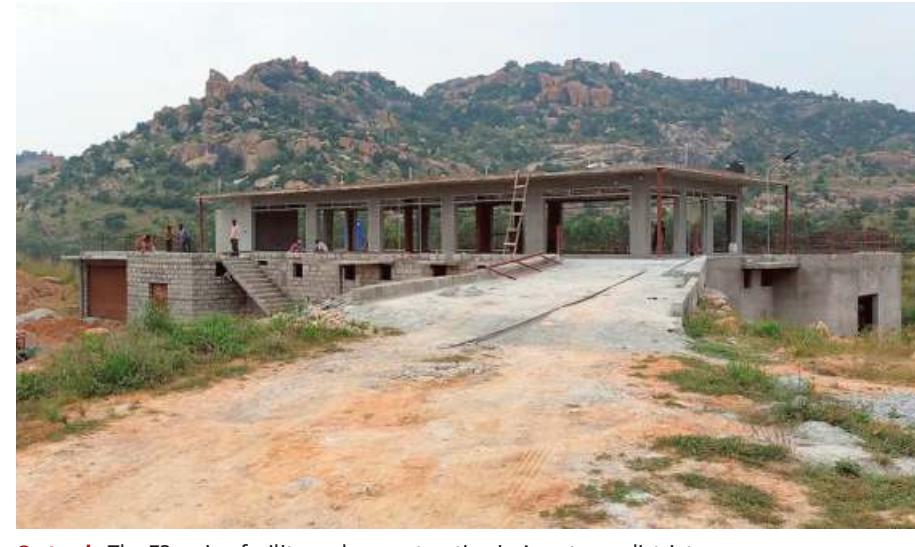
The Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) and the Fédération Internationale de Motocyclisme (FIM).

### Dual purpose

The 3.4-km track in Takkalur mandal will be one of the country's key attractions, similar to the Buddh International Circuit, India's only Formula One (F1) circuit located at Greater Noida in Uttar Pradesh, and the 3.74-km track located at Irungattukottai, near Chennai.

"With its proximity to Bengaluru airport and a number of motor sport enthusiasts in the metropolis, the ₹100-crore resort, planned with a wellness centre and a golf course on 50 acres, is bound to bring in a large number of tourists," Mr. Eswariah said.

An amusement park



On track: The F3 racing facility under construction in Anantapur district. ■ R.V.S. PRASAD

would be developed in the second phase and the project would employ 150 to 200 people from the district, he said.

The Tourism Department has submitted a proposal to the Central government to give its nod for the Rayalaseema Heritage Circuit in Anantapur-Kurnool-Kadapa districts. The circuit proposes to cover the Lepakshi and Tadipatri temples, the Penukonda and Gooty forts in

Anantapur; the Belum Caves, Mahanandi and Ahobilam in Kurnool district; and the Gandikota fort and canyon in Kadapa.

### Tourist potential

With the Orvakal airport getting ready for commercial operations, a proposal to build a hotel with 5-star facilities in the PPP mode is also on the anvil at the Rock Garden, for which an expression of interest has been called for from prospective developers.

Another large project proposed is the development of the Madakasira tank as a tourist destination with a boating facility. With the Ratnagiri fort and the seventh century Hymavathi temples in close proximity, the Department expects to attract a good crowd.

### IN BRIEF



'Isaac overstepped his constitutional bounds'

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Leader of the Opposition Ramesh Chennithala on Sunday said Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB) had overstepped its constitutional bounds by issuing sovereign bonds to borrow from the foreign market. Kerala Finance Minister T.M. Thomas Isaac had turned his ire against the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) for pointing out the anomaly in a draft report, he said.

### Two held on charge of smuggling turtles

KAKINADA

Forest personnel arrested two persons and seized 437 live Indian softshell turtles at Andhra Pradesh's Burugupudi checkpost while they were being transported in a van on Sunday. According to officials, the two persons – Jayadeb Ray and Bolachu – belong to Lachupeta in Malkangiri district in Odisha.

### Mar Thoma Metropolitan installed in Kerala

PATHANAMTHITA

Suffragan Metropolitan Geevarghese Mar Theodosius has been installed the 22nd Metropolitan of the 1.6-million-strong Malankara Mar Thoma Syrian Church. He will be known by the name Mar Theodosius Mar Thoma Metropolitan. The installation was held in Thiruvalla on Saturday.

### Non-agricultural land registration from Nov. 23

HYDERABAD

The registration of non-agricultural properties which stopped on September 8 following the Telangana government's decision to route all land transactions, both agricultural and non-agricultural, through the Dharani portal, will resume on November 23.

### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU

The Karnataka government's decision to set up a Maratha Development Board has received mixed reaction, with Kannada activists opposing it. The government has set aside ₹50 crore to form the board.

B.S. Yediyurappa

Jeshwarinagar, the government announced the setting up of the Kadugolla Development Corporation. It was seen in the context of the Gollas constituting a considerable chunk of voters, after the Vokkaligas, in the Sirsa constituency. However, the opposition to a Maratha

'Congress, Left will give tough fight in Bengal'

SHIV SAHAY SINGH  
KOLKATA

West Bengal Pradesh Congress Committee president Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury has been projecting an alliance of the Left and the Congress as the "third alternative" to the people of West Bengal in a highly polarised electoral contest between the ruling Trinamool Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) next year.

Reacting to the recent electoral outcome in Bihar and the remarks made by Communist Party of India (Marxist Leninist) general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya, Mr. Chowdhury, a five-time Congress MP from Behrampore in Murshidabad district and also the leader of the Congress in the Lok Sabha, said the ground realities in Bengal and Bihar were very different. Mr. Bhattacharya had recently said that "any subservience to the Congress will be suicidal to Left parties in Bengal".

"Dipankar babu should appreciate that the ground realities in West Bengal are different from Bihar. The Left parties here have a baggage of running the State for 34 years," Mr. Chowdhury told *The Hindu*.  
The Congress leader said that in the 2016 Assembly election, the Congress contested nearly 90 seats and won 44 whereas the Left parties, which contested more than 200 seats, won only 32. There are 294 seats in the State Assembly. In the 2019 Lok Sabha election, the Congress leader said the party won two seats whereas the Left parties drew a blank.

Mr. Chowdhury said the Congress had been committed to the alliance from the start as the party felt that it would provide a credible third alternative to the people. "The Left and Congress will give a tough fight to the Trinamool Congress. Ours is not just an electoral alternative but also an ideological alternative than is contrary to the competitive communalism of the Trinamool and the BJP," he said.

Faroq Abdullah, Gupkar alliance chairman and National Conference (NC) president, chaired a meeting at his residence, but Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti skipped it. Sources said Dr. Abdullah later called up Ms. Mufti and offered "to select

seats of her choosing for the upcoming polls".

Sources said many leaders in the PDP and Sajad Lone's Peoples Conference (PC) were upset with the seat

sharing exercise finalised by the alliance.

Mr. Lone, in a tweet, also hinted at differences. "The reality as it exists is that statesmanship and magnanimi-

ty is still a missing trait in our polity. And the absence is being felt more than any other time," he tweeted.

**Bigger cause'**

However, PDP general secretary Ghulam Nabi Lone Hanjura downplayed the differences after the meeting.

"There were no issues between the alliance partners.

Seat sharing on DDC is not important to us. We are fighting for a bigger cause. Our fight is to get the status of pre-August 5 2019 back."

The meeting came a day after PDP patron Muzaffar Hussain Baig resigned from the party over "skewed seat

sharing arrangement" bet-

ween the PDP and the NC.

"The NC is fighting on the majority of seats. It is not in the interest of the PDP. I respect Dr. Abdullah, Ms. Mufti. I wish them luck. I am leaving PDP on principle," Mr. Baig said.

Gupkar alliance constituent Awami National Conference (ANC) senior vice-president Muzaffar Shah said the alliance had decided

"not to leave a single seat to the communal and fascist forces in coming DDC polls."

Jammu and Kashmir Congress chief Ghulam Ahmad Mir, who also attended the meeting, said, "The issue of seat sharing will be given a final touch very soon."

Initially detained on October 5 under Section 151 of the Cr.Pc, Atif-ur-Rahman, Masood Ahmad, Mohammad Alam and journalist Siddique Kappan were later booked under Sections 124-A (sedition), 153A (promoting enmity), 295 (out-

rageous religious feelings) of the IPC and Sections 65, 72 and 75 of the IT Act.

The stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act was later slapped on them.

The police claimed that the four were part of the Popular Front of India and the Campus Front of India.

Judge Mayur Jain cited the gravity of the charges while rejecting the bail applications.

The court delivered three separate orders but all of them stated that the bail

pleas were liable to be rejected due to the embargo created under Section 43-D (5) of the UAPA.

## SP rules out tie-up with major parties

Akhilesh hints at patch-up with estranged uncle for 2022 U.P. Assembly election

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
LUCKNOW

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav has virtually ruled out an alliance with either the BSP or the Congress for the 2022 Assembly election.

At a press conference in Etawah on Saturday, he said he was more keen on having "adjustments" with smaller parties, including the Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party (PSPL) run by his estranged uncle Shivpal Yadav. "Chote dalo se adjustment hoga. Lekin bade dalo se koi gathbandhan nahi hoga [We will have adjustments with smaller parties. There will be no alliance with major parties]," he said.

Mr. Shivpal Yadav, an MLA from Jaswant Nagar, founded the PSPL before the 2019 Lok Sabha election, after a family feud that stretched from Mr. Akhilesh Yadav's tenure as the Chief Minister.

Mr. Akhilesh Yadav also said that in 2022, he would leave the Jaswant Nagar seat for his uncle. In the recent by-elections to seven seats in

Uttar Pradesh, the PSPL did not field any candidate, triggering speculation that it was on course to a patch-up with the SP. In the 2019 Lok Sabha election, the PSPL had fielded candidates, denting the SP's prospects in some regions.

Mr. Shivpal Yadav has stressed that though he will not merge his party with the SP, he is open to a pre-poll alliance with it. "Our priority is [an alliance with] the SP," he said last week.

With the SP, the BSP and the Congress still wrangling for the slot of top contender, the role of smaller parties is likely to be crucial for both the BJP and its opponents in 2022.

Mr. Shivpal Yadav, an MLA

from Jaswant Nagar, founded the PSPL before the 2019 Lok Sabha election, after a family feud that stretched from Mr. Akhilesh Yadav's tenure as the Chief Minister.

Mr. Akhilesh Yadav also said that in 2022, he would leave the Jaswant Nagar seat for his uncle. In the recent by-elections to seven seats in

Uttar Pradesh, the PSPL did not field any candidate, triggering speculation that it was on course to a patch-up with the SP. In the 2019 Lok Sabha election, the PSPL had fielded candidates, denting the SP's prospects in some regions.

Mr. Shivpal Yadav has stressed that though he will not merge his party with the SP, he is open to a pre-poll alliance with it. "Our priority is [an alliance with] the SP," he said last week.

With the SP, the BSP and the Congress still wrangling for the slot of top contender, the role of smaller parties is likely to be crucial for both the BJP and its opponents in 2022.

Mr. Shivpal Yadav, an MLA

from Jaswant Nagar, founded the PSPL before the 2019 Lok Sabha election, after a family feud that stretched from Mr. Akhilesh Yadav's tenure as the Chief Minister.

Mr. Akhilesh Yadav also said that in 2022, he would leave the Jaswant Nagar seat for his uncle. In the recent by-elections to seven seats in

Uttar Pradesh, the PSPL did not field any candidate, triggering speculation that it was on course to a patch-up with the SP. In the 2019 Lok Sabha election, the PSPL had fielded candidates, denting the SP's prospects in some regions.

Mr. Shivpal Yadav has stressed that though he will not merge his party with the SP, he is open to a pre-poll alliance with it. "Our priority is [an alliance with] the SP," he said last week.

With the SP, the BSP and the Congress still wrangling for the slot of top contender, the role of smaller parties is likely to be crucial for both the BJP and its opponents in 2022.

Mr. Shivpal Yadav, an MLA

from Jaswant Nagar, founded the PSPL before the 2019 Lok Sabha election, after a family feud that stretched from Mr. Akhilesh Yadav's tenure as the Chief Minister.

Mr. Akhilesh Yadav also said that in 2022, he would leave the Jaswant Nagar seat for his uncle. In the recent by-elections to seven seats in

Uttar Pradesh, the PSPL did not field any candidate, triggering speculation that it was on course to a patch-up with the SP. In the 2019 Lok Sabha election, the PSPL had fielded candidates, denting the SP's prospects in some regions.

Mr. Shivpal Yadav has stressed that though he will not merge his party with the SP, he is open to a pre-poll alliance with it. "Our priority is [an alliance with] the SP," he said last week.

With the SP, the BSP and the Congress still wrangling for the slot of top contender, the role of smaller parties is likely to be crucial for both the BJP and its opponents in 2022.

Mr. Shivpal Yadav, an MLA

from Jaswant Nagar, founded the PSPL before the 2019 Lok Sabha election, after a family feud that stretched from Mr. Akhilesh Yadav's tenure as the Chief Minister.

Mr. Akhilesh Yadav also said that in 2022, he would leave the Jaswant Nagar seat for his uncle. In the recent by-elections to seven seats in

Uttar Pradesh, the PSPL did not field any candidate, triggering speculation that it was on course to a patch-up with the SP. In the 2019 Lok Sabha election, the PSPL had fielded candidates, denting the SP's prospects in some regions.

Mr. Shivpal Yadav has stressed that though he will not merge his party with the SP, he is open to a pre-poll alliance with it. "Our priority is [an alliance with] the SP," he said last week.

With the SP, the BSP and the Congress still wrangling for the slot of top contender, the role of smaller parties is likely to be crucial for both the BJP and its opponents in 2022.

Mr. Shivpal Yadav, an MLA

from Jaswant Nagar, founded the PSPL before the 2019 Lok Sabha election, after a family feud that stretched from Mr. Akhilesh Yadav's tenure as the Chief Minister.

Mr. Akhilesh Yadav also said that in 2022, he would leave the Jaswant Nagar seat for his uncle. In the recent by-elections to seven seats in

Uttar Pradesh, the PSPL did not field any candidate, triggering speculation that it was on course to a patch-up with the SP. In the 2019 Lok Sabha election, the PSPL had fielded candidates, denting the SP's prospects in some regions.

Mr. Shivpal Yadav has stressed that though he will not merge his party with the SP, he is open to a pre-poll alliance with it. "Our priority is [an alliance with] the SP," he said last week.

With the SP, the BSP and the Congress still wrangling for the slot of top contender, the role of smaller parties is likely to be crucial for both the BJP and its opponents in 2022.

Mr. Shivpal Yadav, an MLA

from Jaswant Nagar, founded the PSPL before the 2019 Lok Sabha election, after a family feud that stretched from Mr. Akhilesh Yadav's tenure as the Chief Minister.

Mr. Akhilesh Yadav also said that in 2022, he would leave the Jaswant Nagar seat for his uncle. In the recent by-elections to seven seats in

Uttar Pradesh, the PSPL did not field any candidate, triggering speculation that it was on course to a patch-up with the SP. In the 2019 Lok Sabha election, the PSPL had fielded candidates, denting the SP's prospects in some regions.

Mr. Shivpal Yadav has stressed that though he will not merge his party with the SP, he is open to a pre-poll alliance with it. "Our priority is [an alliance with] the SP," he said last week.

With the SP, the BSP and the Congress still wrangling for the slot of top contender, the role of smaller parties is likely to be crucial for both the BJP and its opponents in 2022.

Mr. Shivpal Yadav, an MLA

from Jaswant Nagar, founded the PSPL before the 2019 Lok Sabha election, after a family feud that stretched from Mr. Akhilesh Yadav's tenure as the Chief Minister.

Mr. Akhilesh Yadav also said that in 2022, he would leave the Jaswant Nagar seat for his uncle. In the recent by-elections to seven seats in

Uttar Pradesh, the PSPL did not field any candidate, triggering speculation that it was on course to a patch-up with the SP. In the 2019 Lok Sabha election, the PSPL had fielded candidates, denting the SP's prospects in some regions.

Mr. Shivpal Yadav has stressed that though he will not merge his party with the SP, he is open to a pre-poll alliance with it. "Our priority is [an alliance with] the SP," he said last week.

With the SP, the BSP and the Congress still wrangling for the slot of top contender, the role of smaller parties is likely to be crucial for both the BJP and its opponents in 2022.

Mr. Shivpal Yadav, an MLA

from Jaswant Nagar, founded the PSPL before the 2019 Lok Sabha election, after a family feud that stretched from Mr. Akhilesh Yadav's tenure as the Chief Minister.

Mr. Akhilesh Yadav also said that in 2022, he would leave the Jaswant Nagar seat for his uncle. In the recent by-elections to seven seats in

Uttar Pradesh, the PSPL did not field any candidate, triggering speculation that it was on course to a patch-up with the SP. In the 2019 Lok Sabha election, the PSPL had fielded candidates, denting the SP's prospects in some regions.

Mr. Shivpal Yadav has stressed that though he will not merge his party with the SP, he is open to a pre-poll alliance with it. "Our priority is [an alliance with] the SP," he said last week.

With the SP, the BSP and the Congress still wrangling for the slot of top contender, the role of smaller parties is likely to be crucial for both the BJP and its opponents in 2022.

Mr. Shivpal Yadav, an MLA

from Jaswant Nagar, founded the PSPL before the 2019 Lok Sabha election, after a family feud that stretched from Mr. Akhilesh Yadav's tenure as the Chief Minister.

Mr. Akhilesh Yadav also said that in 2022, he would leave the Jaswant Nagar seat for his uncle. In the recent by-elections to seven seats in

Uttar Pradesh, the PSPL did not field any candidate, triggering speculation that it was on course to a patch-up with the SP. In the 2019 Lok Sabha election, the PSPL had fielded candidates, denting the SP's prospects in some regions.

Mr. Shivpal Yadav has stressed that though he will not merge his party with the SP, he is open to a pre-poll alliance with it. "Our priority is [an alliance with] the SP," he said last week.

With the SP, the BSP and the Congress still wrangling for the slot of top contender, the role of smaller parties is likely to be crucial for both the BJP and its opponents in 2022.

Mr. Shivpal Yadav, an MLA

from Jaswant Nagar, founded the PSPL before the 2019 Lok Sabha election, after a family feud that stretched from Mr. Akhilesh Yadav's tenure as the Chief Minister.

Mr. Akhilesh Yadav also said that in 2022, he would leave the Jaswant Nagar seat for his uncle. In the recent by-elections to seven seats in

Uttar Pradesh, the PSPL did not field any candidate, triggering speculation that it was on course to a patch-up with the SP. In the 2019 Lok Sabha election, the PSPL had fielded candidates, denting the SP's prospects in some regions.

Mr. Shivpal Yadav has stressed that though he will not merge his party with the SP, he is open to a pre-poll alliance with it. "Our priority is [an alliance with] the SP," he said last week.

With the SP, the BSP and the Congress still wrangling for the slot of top contender, the role of smaller parties is likely to be crucial for both the BJP and its opponents in 2022.

Mr. Shivpal Yadav, an MLA

from Jaswant Nagar, founded the PSPL before the 2019 Lok Sabha election, after a family feud that stretched from Mr. Akhilesh Yadav's tenure as the Chief Minister.

Mr. Akhilesh Yadav also said that in 2022, he would leave the Jaswant Nagar seat for his uncle. In the recent by-elections to seven seats in

Uttar Pradesh, the PSPL did not field any candidate, triggering speculation that it was on course to a patch-up with the SP. In the 2019 Lok Sabha election, the PSPL had fielded candidates, denting the SP's prospects in some regions.

Mr. Shivpal Yadav has stressed that though he will not merge his party with the SP, he is open to a pre-poll alliance with it. "Our priority is [an alliance with] the SP," he said last week.

With the SP, the BSP and the Congress still wrangling for the slot of top contender, the role of smaller parties is likely to be crucial for both the BJP and its opponents in 2022.

Mr. Shivpal Yadav, an MLA

&lt;p

# 10 States, UTs account for 82.87% of new cases

The national capital saw 7,340 new patients in 24 hours

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

About 85.01% of the 447 COVID-19 case fatalities reported in the past 24 hours are from 10 States/Union Territories, the Union Health Ministry on Sunday.

About 23.5% of new fatalities reported are from Maharashtra which reported 105 deaths. Delhi and West Bengal follow with 96 and 53 new deaths, respectively, a release said.

The other States in this group are Uttar Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan.

"Twenty-one States/Union Territories have death per million lower than national average," said the release.

The Ministry said 10 States and Union Territories had contributed 82.87% of the new cases and in this, Delhi reported 7,340 cases in the last 24



**Best bet:** People being tested for COVID-19 in north Delhi on Sunday. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

hours. Kerala recorded 6,357 new cases while Maharashtra reported 4,237 new cases.

India has reported fewer than 50,000 new daily cases for the eighth continuous day and in the last 24 hours, 41,100 persons were found to be infected, said the Ministry.

The Ministry said that in the last 24 hours, India also registered 42,156 new recoveries which has led to a further contraction of the active case load.

"Apart from the success-

ful dissemination of COVID-19 appropriate behaviour among the varied population groups, this trend assumes wider significance as many countries in Europe and America continue to see a surge in their daily numbers," noted the Ministry.

It said the daily new case tally last crossed the 50,000 threshold on November 7.

"Apart from the success-

## Murder case filed against DM

It relates to the death of his former assistant last year

STAFF REPORTER  
BHUBANESWAR

The Malkangiri police on Sunday lodged a murder case against District Magistrate Manish Agarwal and three other officials.

On the direction of the Malkangiri sub-divisional judicial magistrate, the police registered a case against the four under Sections 302, 506, 201, 204, 120 (B) and 34 of the IPC in connection with the death of Mr.

Agarwal's former personal assistant, Debnarayan Panda.

Panda was found dead near Satiguda Dam on December 28 last year, a day after he went missing from his office under mysterious circumstances.

The police initially suspected it to be a case of suicide but later converted it into a case of unnatural death.

After six months of the

incident, family members of Panda went public alleging foul play.

Banaja Panda, wife of the deceased, moved the court of the SDJM, Malkangiri seeking registration of a case of murder against the district collector. She alleged that her husband had come to know about certain corruption cases involving the district collector and others for which he might have been killed.

He got the award in 2012, and ever since then he got only busier by the year. In 2019, he had as many as 15 releases; and in the pandemic-hit 2020, almost as many of his films either released or are lined up for

# The tree's gone, the shade remains

The actor, even in his mid-eighties, was not only active but also highly sought-after; he was never a 'has-been' or 'yesteryear' star

BISHWANATH GHOSH

A piece of information, by itself, is dead wood – like a piece from a jigsaw puzzle – which comes to life only when you collate it with other pieces. Take actor Soumitra Chatterjee's date of birth, for example. The fact that he was born on January 19, 1935 does not say much about him. But if you place that date against October 1, 2020, when he last reported for a shoot before showing symptoms of COVID-19, you realise he was no ordinary actor but someone who was professionally active even when nearing 86.

Not many lead actors continue to work – or get work – at 86. None actually, if you discount Clint Eastwood, Kirk Douglas, Christopher Plummer and maybe a couple of other names that don't lend to easy recall. Back home, there was exception in the form of Dev Anand, who continued to work until he died at 88, but by then he was long past his prime.

But Chatterjee, even in his mid-eighties, was not only active but also highly sought-after. Terms like 'has-been' or 'yesteryear' never applied to him.

Ernest Hemingway once said that no writer ever produced anything worthwhile after winning the Nobel; the same holds true for the Dadasaheb Phalke award in Indian cinema, in the sense that it invariably comes at a time when the awardee's productive years are spoken of in the past tense. But not for Chatterjee.

He got the award in 2012, and ever since then he got only busier by the year. In 2019, he had as many as 15 releases; and in the pandemic-hit 2020, almost as many of his films either released or are lined up for

two names to mind, Uttam Kumar and Soumitra Chatterjee. They were the two colossi. After Kumar, nearly a decade older and far more popular of the two, died at the age of 54 in 1980, Chatterjee became the lone flag-bearer of meaningful Bengali cinema.

He was one of those very few Indian actors who, even while playing the lead in commercial movies, was acknowledged more as an actor than a "hero". If you label him as a Satyajit Ray actor – they worked together in 14 films – his knowledgeable fans will instantly point out that he worked with numerous other directors too and that those 14, even though they brought him acclaim, form only a small percentage of the more than 300 films he did during his lifetime. In fact, with the notable exceptions of Ritwik Ghatak (whom Chatterjee claimed to have punched once, during a debate back in the 1960s) and Buddhadeb Dasgupta, he worked with nearly all directors, including Tapan Sinha, Mrinal Sen and Tarun Majumdar.

If you label him as a cinema actor, people will remind you that he did theatre too. If you label him as an actor, someone or the other is bound to tell you that he was a painter, poet and an activist as well.

If you identify him as Feluda, there will be someone disagreeing: "No, he was more popular as Apu." If you classify him as a Calcuttan or a Bengali, they will say he was global, decorated twice by the French, with Order of Arts and Letters and with the Legion of Honour.

**More actor than 'hero'**  
But in debate-loving Bengal, one thing remains indisputable: that for several generations of Bengalis, the mention of the word 'actor' instantly brought

release. So, how does one define Soumitra Chatterjee? If you label him as a Satyajit Ray actor – they worked together in 14 films – his knowledgeable fans will instantly point out that he worked with numerous other directors too and that those 14, even though they brought him acclaim, form only a small percentage of the more than 300 films he did during his lifetime. In fact, with the notable exceptions of Ritwik Ghatak (whom Chatterjee claimed to have punched once, during a debate back in the 1960s) and Buddhadeb Dasgupta, he worked with nearly all directors, including Tapan Sinha, Mrinal Sen and Tarun Majumdar.

While it was only fairly recently that some fresh air swept through Bollywood with the arrival of Irrfan Khan, Ayushmann Khurrana, Nawazuddin Siddiqui and Rajkumar Rao, Chatterjee was all of them rolled into one, right from the black-and-white era. And considering that he was around for 61 long years, almost every Bengali lovingly preserves in mind his or her own image of Chatterjee: the innocent Apu; the charming Amal of *Charulata*; the daring Feluda; the resolute swimming coach in *Kony*; the middle-aged man next door; the genial grandfather. His very presence on the screen was assuring: for filmmakers and audiences alike.

His passing is akin to the falling of an ancient tree. But while the tree is gone, its shade remains. It wouldn't be entirely wrong to say that the trunk of the tree was essentially made of the 14 films he did for Ray. For, one will always wonder how Chatterjee's career would have fared without Ray. For that matter, one can also wonder how Ray's films would have fared without Chatterjee. That's something Bengal can now debate.



**Legend in frames:** Soumitra Chatterjee with then Vice-President Hamid Ansari and I&B Minister Ambika Soni after receiving the Dadasaheb Phalke award in New Delhi in 2012; at a felicitation by West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee in Kolkata in 2012; with Madhabi Mukherjee in *Charulata*; and Sharmila Tagore in *Devi*. • AFP, SUSHANTA PATRONOBISH & THE HINDU ARCHIVES

## Former CEC calls for a ban on opinion polls

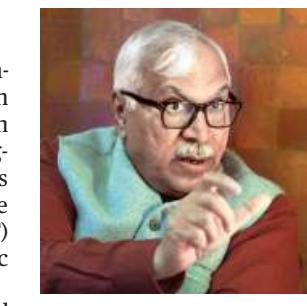
Allow EC to deregister parties: Quraishi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Former Chief Election Commissioner S.Y. Quraishi on Sunday called for a ban on opinion polls and also suggested counting of votes from the Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) slips instead of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs).

In his lecture on the need for electoral reforms organised by the Capital Foundation on the occasion of Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer's birth anniversary, Mr. Quraishi said the EC had been a "powerful neutral umpire" and never missed a deadline for elections.

He flagged the problem of "criminalisation", with 30%-40% of the members of any legislature having pending criminal cases. Among the reforms he suggested were changing the process of removal of Election Commissioners, who can be re-



moved on the recommendation of the CEC while the removal of the CEC is by impeachment. "They [ECs] feel like they are on probation," he said

The EC should have the power to de-register political parties, he said, adding that "there are lots of defunct and bogus parties" that only exist for "money laundering". "Opinion polls should be banned. You have seen how they vitiate the purity of the election process," he said.

## India, U.S. keen on training peace missions

India is among top troop contributors to the UN; China is now scaling up its personnel for missions

DINAKAR PERI  
NEW DELHI

With China significantly scaling up its troop contribution for United Nations Peace Keeping (UNPK) missions, India and the U.S. are looking to undertake training of military personnel for the missions from Southeast Asian countries on the lines of the ongoing initiative for African countries.

"The U.S. is keen on undertaking joint training of Southeast Asian countries in the UN peacekeeping and discussions are underway," an official source said on Friday. India has consistently been among the top troop contributing nations to the UN and is the fifth largest with 5,424 personnel in eight countries. The U.S. on the other hand has never contri-



buted ground troops but contributes 27% of the U.N. peacekeeping budget.

In 2016, India and the U.S. began a joint annual initiative "UN Peacekeeping Course for African Partners" to build and enhance the capacity of African troop and police-contributing countries to participate in

U.N. and regional peacekeeping operations. While this is going on, the U.S. is keen on a similar initiative for South East Asian nations like Vietnam and others, the source said.

China is significantly expanding its troop contribution to the UN in addition to staff officers in other missions. India has also set up two field



As per the new rules, a worker who migrates is entitled to get benefits in the State where he works.

cess in respect of building and other construction workers (BOCW).

The draft rules also provide for Aadhaar-based registration, including self-registration by unorganised workers, gig workers and platform workers on the portal of the Central government. The Ministry of Labour and Employment has

already initiated action for development of such portal," the Ministry said.

The rules also provide for the Aadhaar-based registration of BOCW on a portal of the Centre, State government or the BOCW welfare board of the State.

"Where a building worker migrates from one State to another he shall be entitled to get benefits in the State where he is currently working and it shall be the responsibility of the Building Workers Welfare Board of that State to provide benefits to such a worker," it said.

The BOCW cess will be calculated by the employer on the basis of the cost of construction according to the rates of the State Public Works Department or the Central PWD or the documents submitted to the Real Estate Regulatory Authority.

## Lancet panel seeks new task force on diabetes

Commission highlights rising cases

RAMYA KANNAN  
CHENNAI

A Lancet Commission on Diabetes, four years in the making, warns of possible damaging effects of coronavirus 2 on the pancreatic islets, responsible for regulating blood sugar, and thereby, on diabetes. It has also recommended the setting up of a global task force for diabetes and non-communicable diseases (NCDs), consisting of stakeholders from different sectors. The report was released online early on Saturday.

"The task force can design, steer, and support a multi-component strategy to address the multi-dimensional nature of diabetes and other NCDs," it said.

The publication and recommendations to governments across the world are the culmination of four years of extensive work. Prevention, early detection and

regular monitoring have been outlined as the key elements in reducing the growing burden of diabetes. "In 2019, 463 million people had diabetes worldwide, with 80% from low-income and middle-income countries. Over 70% of global deaths are due to non-communicable diseases, including diabetes, cancer, cardiovascular and respiratory diseases," the report said.

In 2016, 26 experts in public health, clinical care, epidemiology, and health economics were brought together by *The Lancet* to review the evidence and knowledge gaps in diabetes and to develop actionable plans. Among the authors of the paper is the Chennai-based diabetologist A. Ramachandran of Dr. Ramachandran's Diabetes Hospital, who was one of the commissioners representing South Asia.

"The task force can design, steer, and support a multi-component strategy to address the multi-dimensional nature of diabetes and other NCDs," it said.

The publication and recommendations to governments across the world are the culmination of four years of extensive work. Prevention, early detection and

law specifies detention periods: SC

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL  
NEW DELHI

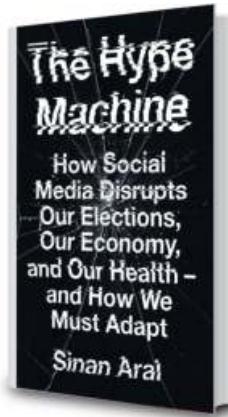
An accused, irrespective of the merits of the case against him, should be granted "default" or "compulsive" bail if the investigating agency does not complete the probe within a prescribed time limit, the Supreme Court has held in a judgment.

A Bench, led by Justice U.U. Lalit, referred to how "in England, even a person accused of grave offences such as treason could not be indefinitely detained in prison till commencement of the trial".

The court held that an accused has an "indefeasible right" to default bail under Section 167(2) of the Code of Criminal Procedure if the

probe agency failed to complete the investigation on time. Under Section 167, an accused can be detained in custody for a maximum of 90 days for a crime punishable with death, life imprisonment or a sentence of over 10 years. It is 60 days of investigation if the probe relates to any other offence.

These time-limits were set to ensure that agencies do not use the ruse of an ongoing probe to keep people behind bars indefinitely. Justice Mohan M. Shantanagoudar, who wrote the verdict for the Bench, observed. Magistrates have to mandatorily inform the accused, especially those from the poor sections, of their statutory right to apply for default bail, the court said.



■ SINAN ARAL

On August 6, 2016, Greg Van Avermaet rode for his life in Rio de Janeiro. Beginning in Copacabana, he raced his bicycle 150 miles through the Ipanema, Barra, and Reserva Maripendi beaches, before returning to Copacabana to capture the men's individual gold medal in the cycling road race at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Brazil. It was a gruelling race, which saw multiple crashes that day. He averaged 23.3 miles per hour over the six-hour-and-nine-minute race, during which he hit a maximum speed of 67.1 miles per hour. He did all this in 89-degree (Fahrenheit) weather, which peaked at over 100 degrees. He hit a maximum cadence – the speed with which a rider turns the pedals – of 173 rpm, averaged 85 rpm, and ended the race with a winning sprint at 110 rpm.

Then he did something he could never have done before 2009. He posted all these statistics to a social exercise app called Strava, sharing the details of his golden ride with the world. He got back a resounding 15,000 "kudos", Strava's version of digital congratulations, from friends, fans and admirers.

In 2018 Strava athletes gave 3.6 billion kudos for the 6.67 billion miles of athletic activities their peers recorded across 32 sports in 195 countries. On average, 25 activities were uploaded to Strava every minute. The average run was 5.1 miles long and lasted about fifty minutes. The average bike rider completed a 21.9-mile ride in one hour and thirty-seven minutes. Sundays were the most popular days to exercise, and Tuesdays were the fastest day of the week for both runners and cyclists worldwide.

One Strava statistic from 2018 stands out for me. When Strava plotted the data for 2018, it found that people exercise longer when exercising with friends. Group rides are 52% longer than

# Good tech

How social influence and peer support affect exercise behaviour, from a book on how social media shapes our lives

solo rides, on average, and group runs are 20% longer than solo runs.

It seems exercise is motivated by socialisation. But the Hype Machine institutionalises this motivation by instantaneously sharing our exercise activities with our friends, at no cost, just as Greg Van Avermaet shared his Olympic ride with the world. If social support and competition motivate us to exercise, then the digital socialisation of fitness has the potential to increase the amount, duration and intensity of the world's exercise activities. By institutionalising the sharing of exercise activities, the Hype Machine is digitally enabling social influence and peer effects in exercise behaviours. These correlations raise an important question: does the digital social influence of the Hype Machine cause us to exercise more? Or put more directly: is exercise digitally contagious? And if so, what other kinds of behaviours might be digitally contagious?

#### Is exercise contagious?

Unfortunately, comparing group to solo exercise sheds little light on whether exercise is contagious because we don't know what drives those differences. For the same reason we can't measure the effects of Russian interference on elections or the returns from digital marketing by looking at correlations, we can't measure digital social influence in exercise or any other behaviours without distinguishing

#### WHAT IS IT?

## Naturopathy

■ SUNALINI MATHEW

Bookend between Mahatma Gandhi's birthday on October 2 and Naturopathy Day on November 18 this year, the National Institute of Naturopathy has been conducting a series of Facebook live sessions to help people understand the principles of the practice. Gandhi was a proponent: he practised this form of drugless healing himself and often self-experimented, wrote a book called *Nature Cure*, and helped set up Nisargopachar Ashram at Urulikanchan near Pune that is a naturopathy centre. The invisible letter in AYUSH, because it goes along with yoga, naturopathy hasn't got the press that Ayurveda has.

It is the art and science of healthy living that does not apply any form of medication. "We look at the body holistically, and believe that the accumulation of toxins is the root cause of all diseases. The treatment is detoxification," says Dr Babina NM, Chief Medical Officer at Jindal Naturecure Institute, Bengaluru.

She says naturopaths believe that the body is made up of *panchamahabhoota*, the five elements: earth, water, fire, air, space. "So the main treatments correspond to these." For instance, earth treatments may include mud packs, water treatments may have a hip bath for pelvic disorders, fire treatments may include steam baths and hot oil packs, space treatments will have fasting, while air treatments centre on pranayama. "We believe in the body's innate capacity to heal itself," she says. Elimination forms a large part of the treatment, through four elimination organs: the skin, lung, kidney, and colon.

Most facilities insist you spend at least a week there, so you are put through a regimen and get a chance to experience what an



ideal lifestyle means for you (since treatment is based on personalisation), so you can practise it at home. "Physiological and psychological rest is important during the treatment period," says Babina, adding that it is difficult to get that at home.

Naturopathy practitioners are trained through a five-and-a-half-year Bachelor of Naturopathy and Yogic Sciences programme, though there are also an array of diploma and certificate courses, with the established centres asking for degree course graduates. "Students study regular MBBS courses like anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, except pharmacology," says Babina.

Its limitations are for emergency situations. "We are only saying medicine shouldn't become a part of life. We shouldn't eat out daily and pop a pill," says Dr Abhishek Devikar, the Medical Director at Nisargopachar Ashram. People looking to reverse lifestyle-related disorders, those for whom other streams of medicine have failed, and those who want to detoxify after heavy medication (like chemotherapy) all come.

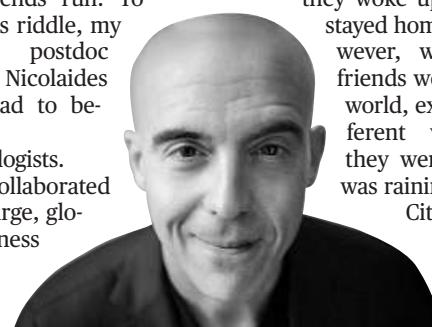
*In this column, we demystify the buzzwords in wellness.*



**Social matters** Digital social influence has an impact on the way we exercise; the author (below) ■ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK, BUTCH HOGAN

collect data on the network ties and daily exercise patterns of 1.1 million runners who ran over 350 million kilometres over five years. Participants recorded the distance, duration, speed, and calories burned on their runs and shared those details with their friends on an app. For a global network of runners, we knew who ran, when, where, and how fast they ran, and who their friends were. We also collected data from 47,000 weather stations in 196 countries and knew the precise temperature and rainfall in the exact location of each of our 1.1 million runners for every day of the five years they ran. Why?

Well, the trick to the study was that weather influences running. As you might expect, the less it rained and the milder the temperature, the more people ran. When runners woke up to beautiful weather, they laced up their sneakers and hit the road. When they woke up to rain, they stayed home. The key, however, was that their friends were all over the world, experiencing different weather than they were. So while it was raining in New York City, it was sunny in Phoenix, Arizona, where someone's



#### What changes after 40?

Dr Deepika Lunawat, consultant Dermatologist, Mahi Clinic and Fortis Malar Hospital, Chennai says, "As one ages the fat under one's skin and around muscles starts to melt and change, leading to the formation of wrinkles and folds and on our skin." There is also dryness,

wrinkles and fine lines, discolouration and loose skin.

"Another is adult acne, mostly caused due to hormonal imbalance," she explains. Several factors including genetics, overall health and how well you have been taking care of your skin from the time you were much younger, contribute to this.

Food also plays a role in maintaining healthy skin. "Consuming high amounts of sugar can lead to glycation of the skin. This means the sugar can attach to proteins and lead to fluid retention which can lead to wrinkles. Food cooked at very high temperature like barbecue also creates such an effect," explains Priyanka Rohatgi, Chief Clinical Dietician at Apollo

Hospitals, Bengaluru. Include vegetables, fruits and nuts in your diet. Adding lemon and aloe vera juice to your water can help to maintain a natural glow. "Lime is rich in vitamin C and potassium that helps to control the extra fluid retention on one's face and helps to control the puffiness. Aloe Vera is also rich in minerals and potassium. It is important to maintain good gut health as an issue there can result in breakouts on the skin," she says.

## GET SKIN THAT DEFIES AGE

Here are tips from experts on how to take care of our skin after turning 40

■ SUSAN JOE PHILIP

Skin ageing may seem like a distant reality until it makes its appearance with a few fine lines or dryness. While it is impossible to stop the process, we can control or postpone it to an extent. Here, experts tell us how.



#### Discolouration

Hormonal imbalances or sun damage of the skin can lead to discolouration or pigmentation. Use sunscreen with SPF 30 or above while stepping out and remember to reapply it after three to four hours. Suparna recommends a natural face mask to control discolouration. She says, "Take two teaspoons of almond powder and one teaspoon of dried orange peel powder; mix with one teaspoon of oatmeal, one teaspoon of grated potato, half a teaspoon of lemon and enough full-fat cream milk to make a thick paste. Allow it to sit on your face till it is semi-dry. Then, massage it in a circular motion with some full-fat cream milk and warm it off." Dr Apratim Goel, Dermatologist, Cutis Skin Solution, Mumbai explains, "Almond powder has vitamin E and C while orange peel is rich in vitamin C and has retinol. Oatmeal is both moisturising and exfoliating while potato helps with removing dullness."

#### THE CREAKING TREE



## A different kind of Deepavali



■ SHOVON CHOWDHURY

I'm now completing 25 Deepavolis in Delhi. Before that, I spent them in Kolkata. Not that they have Deepavali in Kolkata. A few non-Bengalis celebrate it, tucked away in their non-Bengali homes, but for the rest of us, Deepavali was something we watched Kajol and Shah Rukh celebrate in the movies, with costumes and catering by Karan Johar.

Despite efforts by external forces to homogenise our Hindu festivals, for us in Kolkata, Deepavali has always been Kali Pujo, a very different kettle of fish. The mood was usually sombre. We had just finished stuffing ourselves during Durga Puja, and most of us were still consuming Gelusil. Acid reflux was rampant.

The air was full of dashed hopes. The young men of Bengal had started dressing up from shoshthi, hopeful that this year, finally, they would get a girl. Failure on saptami did not dampen their enthusiasm – there were still three days to go. By ashtami, doubt was beginning to set in, and on the afternoon of nabami, the first glimmerings of hopelessness.

Even worse were the feelings of those who briefly tasted success, when the girl of their dreams allowed them to pay for an egg chicken roll, regardless of what the raw onions did to their breath. This was the unkindest cut of all, because two days after the pujas, the same girl would fail to recognise them at the bus stop.

This is how it has always been. By the time Kali Pujo comes around, the bitterness of defeat has fully sunk in, combined with the knowledge that in less than a year, the whole cycle of hope and

despair will repeat itself. This is why the city of Kolkata has always been prone to violence.

It also explains why so many Bengali young men develop an appetite for destruction and try to make their own fireworks, leading to a surge in the demand for ambulances in the week prior to Kali Pujo. This tradition goes back to the days of the revolutionaries, who would manufacture bombs to chuck at the British. As I once discovered, this tradition has also left a deep impression on the Hindi heartland.

As a stripling, I once spent three days on an assignment in Hardoi, in the heart of the Chambal belt, where everyone carried a gun, except for the poor, who carried metal tipped lathis. I tiptoed around very nervously, but my inherent idealism led to an outburst on the third day. "Why do you all carry guns?" I demanded of a man carrying a gun. "Can't you see that violence is not the answer?" He was having a cup of tea at the time. He sipped it thoughtfully, looked at me and said, with no trace of rancour, "You're Bengali, aren't you?" I said I was. "In Calcutta, you have a lot of bombs, don't you?" he said. I admitted what we did. "Well, here we don't have so many bombs," he said, "so we manage with guns instead."

As you can see, Kali Pujo in Kolkata is very different from Deepavali in Delhi, bringing with it a host of mental problems, as opposed to the physical problems of gluttony and alcoholism. Personally, I find this encouraging. Efforts are currently on to make us all homogeneous. So it's nice to know that however hard they try, some little bits of us, that they cannot see, will always be disturbingly different.

No one throws any bombs in Shovon Chowdhury's most recent novel, *Murder With Bengali Characteristics*, although the New Thug Society does strangle a few people.

#### Loose skin

"After 40, the production of collagen and elastin (both proteins that provide structure) also come down. There can also be a mild loss of muscle mass that leads to the drooping of the face," adds Dr Manveen Kaur, consultant dermatologist, Dr Kaur's Skin and Cosmetic Clinic, Coimbatore. Some of the ingredients that can help in the development of collagen are vitamin D3, A, C, and E. Omega-3 fats and evening primrose oil supplements can help in collagen production and hydration. Do check with your doctor about this though.

#### Dryness

Hydrating the skin is important, so drink water as per your body weight, height, the weather, and thirst (for an adult this usually works out to at least a litre-and-a-half). Start the day with a creamy, rich cleanser. "This will not strip the skin of moisture or natural oils," says Dr Lunawat. Also, apply moisturising lotion during the day and before going to bed. Suparna Trikha, who advocates for kitchen-cabinet beauty, suggests using products containing shea butter or cocoa butter. Remember your lips, hands and feet. "With age, our feet get dry and develop cracks on the heels. Exfoliation after soaking it in warm soapy water helps. Always remember to moisturise the feet after this step," says Dr Kaur.

#### Wrinkles

Vitamin C, E and ferulic acid are rich in antioxidants that help to neutralise free radicals (these can trigger a number of diseases, including cancer).

"While serums containing these ingredients can be used during the day, anti-ageing creams containing retinol, hyaluronic acid, peptides can be used at night," explains Dr Lunawat. She reminds us about under-eye care. "The skin here is thin and needs good attention. Do not forget to use these products in these areas as well," she adds.



With a rise in terrace gardening, zero-kitchen-waste advocates are excited to note a parallel rise in people making their own compost and fertilisers at home

SWETA AKUNDI

Kuppulakshmi Krishnamoorthy's is a family of three... or three billion, if you also count the microorganisms stewing inside the two compost bins sitting on the balcony of her fourth floor apartment Urapakkam, near Chennai.

Composting, along with gardening, is a childhood joy of Kuppu's that she rediscovered in 2020, while quasi-homeschooling her eight-year-old daughter.

"I had been wanting to grow my own vegetables and compost for a while now. But it took staying at home for so many months and making our own meals every day to realise how much waste we create," says Kuppu. For the past few months, the waste from every meal – peels, shells, coconut husk – and the grounds from every cup of coffee made, all go into an old bucket making do as a compost bin.

It was but natural that a rise in kitchen gardening would lead to a rise in composting at home, believes Bengaluru-based Vani Murthy, a pioneer dubbed 'Compost Queen' on social media.

Member of the city's Solid Waste Management Round Table (SWMRT), Vani has been an advocate for decentralising waste management for a decade now, but the attention it has received in 2020, "has been phenomenal," she says, "Every-



## One with the SOIL



body started growing food at home, but that movement also needed people to look for fertilisers. Rather than buying, they want to create their own nutrients for the soil."

Her Instagram page, @womrani, saw a rise of followers from 5,000 before March to over 80,000 now, thanks to her steady stream of workshops, IGTVs and posts featuring composting hacks. "I am constantly holding meetings on my terrace. We have had people from Sikkim, and even China attend," she says.

Bombarded by an overwhelming

number of queries, Vani says she tells people to look at it as a trend but "make sure they understand why they are composting first. I tell them about how we are losing our resources, how compostable material gets trapped in landfills and releases methane, and how we need to regenerate soil quality by putting those nutrients back to the soil where they belong."

Another member of SWMRT, Vasuki Iyengar, points out a probable reason for the rise in the interest in composting. "In the initial months of the lockdown, as families could not rely on maids and housekeeping staff, people in apartments would have to go downstairs and deposit their own kitchen waste. That exposure may have made them start thinking about composting," he says.

Founder of Soil and Health Solutions, a waste management service in Bengaluru, Vasuki makes and installs different types of compost bins in the city. "Since June, I have been observing an increase in the number of online gardening and composting classes, and we are also receiving more online orders for bins," he says. From April to October, SWMRT hosted 200 sessions on composting with an overall participation of 14,000 people from Bengaluru, Chennai, Mumbai, Pune and Goa, among others. Oota from your Thotta, another such community on organic gardening, has been hosting sessions every Sunday on Facebook and Zoom, with over 2000 views each.

For beginners on his Instagram, Vasuki has put up short videos on 'jugaad' or 'dabba' composting. "I explain how to turn paint buckets or takeaway food



### COMPOSTING HACKS

Think of your compost bin as a bread sandwich, suggests Archana Stalin. The bottom and top 'brown' layers are dry (coconut husk, soil, newspaper) and the middle 'green' layer comprises peels and other waste.

Stir the compost once a week to get the microbial action going. Add yeast or buttermilk to accelerate the process. You might not want to add cooked food, as they lead to a foul smell. "Cooked leftovers can be rather given to stray animals," suggests Archana.

Indian climates generally suit aerobic composting, however, in case you have space constraints, you can try bokashi composting, says Vani Murthy. It is an anaerobic method involving fermenting. It can also take cooked leftovers which are unsuitable for aerobic composts.

Vasuki Iyengar recommends making onion compost tea by soaking onion and garlic peels for two days and using a diluted form of that water as fertiliser.

**Squelch!** (Clockwise from far left) Archana Stalin with her bioenzymes; Kuppulakshmi's daughter composting; Vani Murthy ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

containers into compost bins," he says.

Using old drums to store compost and covering them with cardboard is perhaps your best bet when stepping into the hobby, according to Chennai-based Archana Stalin. "Many communities in Chennai have started composting enthusiastically, but few have been successful. You need to be consistent for that," notes the founder of farm rental service myHarvest Farms. "If the initial investment isn't costly, you won't feel guilty if anything goes wrong," she adds.

### The *aatmanirbhar* life

Though she has been composting for about six years, even she learnt something new during the lockdown. "For the past four months, I have been doing my laundry with bio-enzymes I made myself," she says. These are homemade cleaning agents – centre of focus for most of 2020 – made using citrus peels, jaggery and water.

For Archana, it started the day she made huge quantities of lemon rice, resulting in peels and peels of citrus. "I couldn't use citrus peels in composting as they go bad, so I needed to do something else with them. That's when it struck me that I could make my own cleaning liquid," she says, adding that the ease of the process made it better. "Fermentation happens on its own for three months, all I had to do was open and close the lid of the jar."

Living a zero-waste life, says Archana, is a family effort, starting right from the segregation of waste. Kuppu, her partner and their eight-year-old could not agree more. With their daughter's school shut, they are more conscious about the kind of knowledge they are imparting to her. "She always has so many questions, she's an old soul in a kids body."

Outside their window, lives a family of mynahs that Kuppu and her daughter observe. "Every day we see how living can be so simple, and how we choose to make it so complex," remarks Kuppu, "Composting is just one of the changes we want to make towards leading a simpler life."

Her bucket of microbes is one month away from being ready to use: "It smells wonderful, and I can't wait."

## Let the light shine in

A model retirement community project in Coimbatore revisits traditional architecture designs that use sunlight as a natural disinfectant for the building

K JESHI

"The pandemic has been good for us," jokes Dhinakar Perumal as he walks around a model villa in the Nirmala Nilayam Retirement Community (NNRC) campus near Siruvani, 15 kilometres from Coimbatore city. "COVID-19 made us revisit traditional architectural designs such as the sky-lit courtyard that lets sunlight filter in and disinfect the building,"

he says. The compact villas for senior citizens modelled after the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards of the US, use the traditional Open To Sky (OTS) design, where an area in the house opens to the sky and is covered by fibre or translucent glass.

"Nothing like sunlight to sanitise homes," says architect Manikandan Ilango who has designed the villas. He has done projects across South India for over two



**Designed with flare** A model home at Nirmala Nilayam Retirement Community campus near Siruvani ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

decades. "Healthy living is the keyword now. Our vernacular traditional buildings with courtyards were designed with forethought. At NNRC, we have used natural sunlight wherever possible. OTS is a traditional concept that we lost along the way. It is now making a comeback."

### Buzzing with activity

Dhinakar says the project took off when he began looking for a re-

tirement home for his mother. "Retirement communities abroad pack in a lot of fun. I frequented some in the suburbs of Malden, Massachusetts, during my stay in Boston," says Dhinakar, adding how he watched people there play pétanque, basketball, croquet and frisbee. "That's the kind of retirement home I wanted for my mother: a place buzzing with energy. Though she passed away the same year, I de-

cided to go ahead with the project in her memory."

Located at Theethipalam, off Siruvani Road, at the foothills of the Western Ghats, the sprawling green campus has spaces earmarked for pottery, sculpting and painting. A gazebo with a double-layered tile roofing and open sides all around stands tall in the middle of the property.

Says Dhinakar, "We have OTS primarily in spaces that are wet like

mil Nadu for over two decades, says that sunlight inside homes ensures continuous circulation of fresh air. "It distributes light in all directions. It is best to have the ceiling at 15 or 20 ft high to accommodate the OTS courtyard. This way, the inside spaces look larger and better." The elderly can bathe in sunlight right inside the home and get their dose of Vitamin D.

The OTS concept has gained traction among people designing holiday homes away from the city and want to bring Nature back into their lives, says Mumbai-based artist Neha Arte, an environmental architect who works with sustainable designs and green buildings. "OTS works beautifully for green buildings that are basically about creating energy efficient, healthy and comfortable spaces. It saves energy as it reduces the need for artificial lighting and mechanical ventilation," she says.

There are additional perks such as views of lush treetops and bursts of bird song that add to the experience.

### POOCH CAFE



### PEANUTS

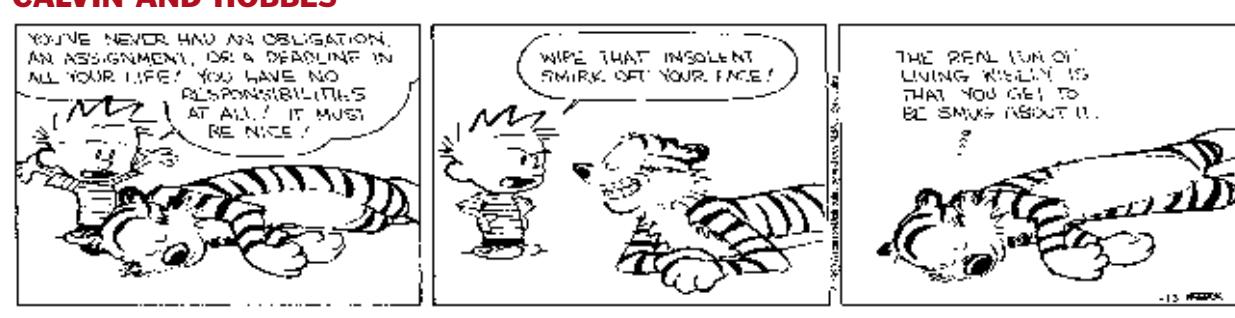


### HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



© 2000 Paul Gishen. Out by Andrews McMeel Syndication. 11-16 GISHEN

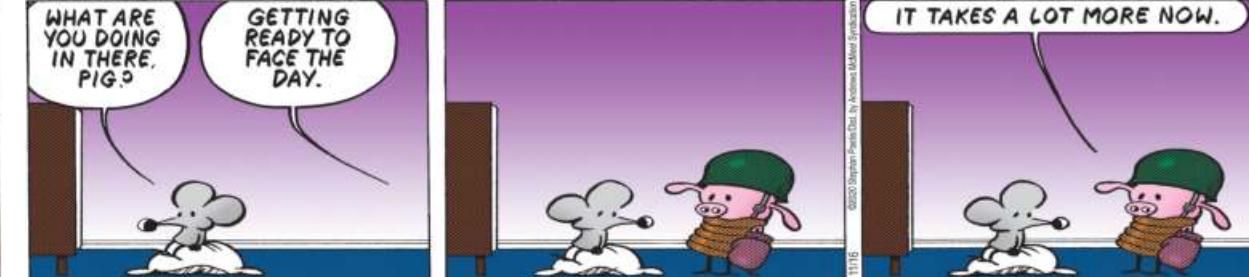
### CALVIN AND HOBBES



### TIGER



### PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



CMYK

AN-NDE

# Clashes in U.S. after Trump supporters protest

He appeared to acknowledge publicly for the first time that Biden won the election, but made it clear he would not concede

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
REUTERS  
WASHINGTON

After several thousand supporters of President Donald Trump protested the election results and marched to the Supreme Court, nighttime clashes with counter-demonstrators led to fist-fights, at least one stabbing and more than 20 arrests.

Several other cities on Saturday also saw gatherings of Trump supporters unwilling to accept Democrat Joe Biden's Electoral College and popular vote victory as legitimate. Cries of "Stop the Steal" and "Count Every Vote" rang out despite a lack of evidence of voter fraud or other problems that could reverse the result.

## Trump's motorcade

The demonstrations in the nation's capital went from tense to violent during the night and early Sunday. Videos posted on social media showed fights, projectiles and clubs as Trump backers sparred with those demanding they take their "Make America Great Again" (MAGA) hats and banners and leave. A variety of charges,



Show of strength: Supporters of President Donald Trump in Washington on Saturday. • AP

including assault and weapons possession, were filed against those arrested, officials said. Two police officers were injured and several firearms were recovered by police.

Mr. Trump himself had given an approving nod to the gathering on Saturday morning by sending his motorcade through streets lined with supporters before rolling on to his Virginia golf club. People chanted "USA, USA" and "four more years,"

and many carried American flags and signs to show their displeasure with the vote tally and insistence that.

"I just want to keep up his spirits and let him know we support him," said one loyalist, Anthony Whittaker of Winchester, Virginia. He was outside the Supreme Court, where a few thousand assembled after a march along Pennsylvania Avenue from Freedom Plaza, near the White House.

On Sunday, President

Trump appeared to acknowledge publicly for the first time that Mr. Biden won the November 3 U.S. presidential election but asserted that it was "rigged", reiterating his false claims of widespread voting fraud.

**Election was rigged'**  
"He won because the Election was Rigged," Mr. Trump wrote on Twitter on Sunday morning, not referring to Mr. Biden by name. "NO VOTE WATCHERS OR OBSERVERS

allowed, vote tabulated by a Radical Left privately owned company, Dominion, with a bad reputation & bum equipment that couldn't even qualify for Texas (which I won by a lot!), the Fake & Silent Media, & more!"

About an hour later, Mr. Trump wrote, "He only won in the eyes of the FAKE NEWS MEDIA. I concede NOTHING! We have a long way to go. This was a RIGGED ELECTION!"

A broad coalition of top government and industry officials has declared that the November 3 voting and the following count unfolded smoothly with no more than the usual minor hiccups — "the most secure in American history," they said, repudiating Mr. Trump's efforts to undermine the integrity of the contest.

In Delray Beach, Florida, several hundred people marched, some carrying signs reading "Count every vote" and "We cannot live under a Marxist government." In Lansing, Michigan, protesters gathered at the Capitol to hear speakers cast doubt on results that showed Mr. Biden winning the State

by more than 1,40,000 votes. Phoenix police estimated 1,500 people gathered outside the Arizona Capitol to protest Mr. Biden's narrow victory in the State. Protesters in Salem, Oregon, gathered at the Capitol.

Among the speakers in Washington was a Georgia Republican newly elected to the U.S. House. Marjorie Taylor Greene, who has expressed racist views and support for QAnon conspiracy theories, urged people to march peacefully toward the Supreme Court.

The marchers included members of the Proud Boys, a neo-fascist group known for street brawling with ideological opponents at political rallies. Multiple confrontations appeared later in the day as small groups of Trump supporters attempted to enter the area around Black Lives Matter Plaza, about a block from the White House, where several hundred anti-Trump demonstrators had gathered.

Videos posted on social media showed some demonstrators and counter-demonstrators trading shoves, punches and slaps.

# Judge rejects limits on DACA programme

It protects 7 lakh so-called 'Dreamers'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
WASHINGTON

A judge on Saturday rejected the White House's limitations on a programme protecting 7,00,000 so-called "Dreamers," undocumented migrants brought to the U.S. as children.

The federal judge in New York ruled that President Donald Trump's acting Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf was not lawfully serving in his role when he issued the new rules for the DACA programme in July.

The ruling is another victory for proponents of the Barack Obama-era programme after the U.S. Supreme Court in June rejected Mr. Trump's cancellation of it.

President-elect Joe Biden, who defeated Mr. Trump in the November 3 polls, had pledged to reinstate the programme when he takes office on January 20.



Donald Trump

Judge Nicholas Garaufis said the correct order of succession had not been followed for the acting secretary appointment.

It was not the first time Mr. Wolf has seen the legality of his appointment as acting secretary in 2019 drawn into question.

Mr. Trump entered office promising to halt almost all immigration and to expel the more than 10 million people estimated living in the country, many for decades, without legal immigration documents.

The Obama administration sought to address the issue in 2012, with the DACA policy offering protection at renewable two-year periods, including authorisation to work, to people brought into the United States illegally as children and then growing up here.

DACA, and the subsequent DAPA programme – Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents – were executive actions by Mr. Obama to eliminate the constant threat of deportation for more than four million undocumented migrants.

Mr. Trump cancelled DAPA after coming to office and then went after the more established DACA, but faced court battles over it.

## Authority questioned

Mr. Wolf, who has not been confirmed in his role by the U.S. Senate, issued new restrictions on the programme in response to the Supreme Court ruling.

Saturday's court decision said his restrictions "effectively suspended" DACA, or Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, while the Trump administration reviewed how to proceed.

Mr. Wolf's rules said new applications would not be accepted and renewals would be limited to one year instead of two.

They are now invalid because "the court holds that Mr. Wolf was not lawfully serving as Acting Secretary of Homeland Security under the Homeland Security Act" when he issued them, the ruling said.

# U.S. govt. must approve transition this week: Biden aide

## IN BRIEF



### U.K. will not change stance in EU talks: Frost

BRUSSELS  
Britain will not change its stance as it seeks a post-Brexit deal with the European Union, negotiator David Frost said on Sunday as he arrived in Brussels for talks. "We are working to get a deal, but the only one that's possible is one that is compatible with our sovereignty and takes back control of our laws, our trade, and our waters. That has been our consistent position from the start and I will not be changing it," Mr. Frost said in a tweet. AFP

# U.S. govt. must approve transition this week: Biden aide

REUTERS  
WASHINGTON

U.S. President-elect Joe Biden's incoming Chief of Staff on Sunday said the federal government needs to sign off on transition team efforts this week so that Mr. Biden's team can receive national security briefings and address COVID-19.

"What we really want to see this week... is the General Services Administration issue that ascertainment," Ron Klain said on NBC News' "Meet the Press."

## Meet the Press.

Mr. Trump's tweet acknowledging Mr. Biden's win — before later saying he did not concede — had no bearing on the actuality of the election, Mr. Klain added.

"Donald Trump's Twitter feed doesn't make Joe Biden President or not president. The American people did that," he told NBC.

He also urged Congress to pass bipartisan pandemic financial aid as the number of new coronavirus cases shat-

tered U.S. records and strained many state healthcare systems from coast-to-coast. He said such a Bill was

urgently needed given the surge in COVID-19 cases, and that a relief package could pass before Mr. Biden took office on January 20.

Mr. Klain added that Mr. Biden's team planned to meet with Pfizer Inc and other drugmakers this week, but is still awaiting federal government authorisation to formally begin transition efforts between his pandemic advisers and the White House Coronavirus Task Force.

Mr. Biden has spent days huddled with advisers as he weighs Cabinet appointments, fields congratulatory calls from world leaders and maps out the policies he will pursue. He is expected to continue meeting with advisers in private on Sunday.

Mr. Biden has won 306 votes in the Electoral College system that determines the presidential winner, according to Edison Research, far more than the 270 needed to secure a majority.

# Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly poll concludes; counting begins

India had opposed Pak. plan to hold election in the region



Disputed election: Locals at a campaign event in Sherqilla, Gilgit-Baltistan, Pakistan, on November 10. • REUTERS

cast ballots even after the end of polling time.

There are 24 seats for the contest but polling on one seat was postponed, leaving 23 seats up for grabs. As many as 330 candidates, including four women, are in the contest, they said.

India has opposed Pakistan's plan to hold election in Gilgit-Baltistan. "Any action by Pakistan to alter the status of the militarily-occupied region has no legal basis.

The voting, which commenced at 8 a.m. (local time), ended peacefully without any break at 5 p.m. and no untoward incident was reported.

The latest attack is a grim addition to the human cost which we bear collectively," Daniel Bekele, commission head, said in a statement.

It said there were reports of "similar" attacks, and of people fleeing the violence, in other parts of the region.

The counting of votes has started and complete results are expected by tomorrow.

Earlier, the polling officials said that the voters present inside the polling stations would be allowed to

cast their votes even after the end of polling time.

There are 24 seats for the contest but polling on one seat was postponed, leaving 23 seats up for grabs. As many as 330 candidates, including four women, are in the contest, they said.

India has opposed Pakistan's plan to hold election in

### Azerbaijan extends Armenian pullout date

KABUL

Azerbaijan said on Sunday it had agreed to extend a deadline for Armenia to withdraw from a disputed

district as part of a peace accord that ended six weeks of fierce fighting over the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

The withdrawal deadline for "Armenian armed forces and of illegal Armenian settlers" has been extended until

November 25. AFP

### Cyprus made up of two separate States: Erdogan

NICOSIA

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Sunday he favours a permanent division of Cyprus into two States, during a visit to the breakaway Turkish-held north decried as a "provocation" by the internationally recognised Greek-speaking south. "There are two peoples and two separate states in Cyprus," he said. AFP

# 25,000 Ethiopians flee to Sudan

Tigray leader claims responsibility for strikes on Eritrea

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
KHARTOUM

Around 25,000 Ethiopians fleeing conflict in the Tigray region have crossed into neighbouring Sudan, state news agency SUNA reported, as the UN said it was working to find them shelter.

"The number of Ethiopian refugees who have arrived in Gadaref and Kassala states since Saturday has reached 24,944," the agency said.

Sudan's commissioner for refugees Abdullah Suleiman toured the border region on Saturday with UN refugee agency assistant representative in Sudan Jan Hansmann to discuss the influx.

Mr. Hansmann, quoted by SUNA, said the priority of the UNHCR was to provide the refugees with shelter, food and water and then to transfer them to regions far from the border "for security reasons".

He said the UN refugee

capital, a move that ratcheted up fears of a wider conflict in the Horn of Africa region. Diplomats told AFP on Saturday night that multiple rockets had struck the capital, Asmara, landing near the airport, though communications restrictions in Tigray and Eritrea made the reports difficult to verify.

Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed announced November 4 he had ordered military operations in Tigray in a dramatic escalation of a long-running feud with the region's ruling party, the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF).

"Ethiopian forces are also using the airport of Asmara," TPLF leader Debretekin Gebremichael said, saying this made the airport a "legitimate target" for the strikes.

UNHCR said it expected the number of refugees to grow if the conflict in neighbouring Eritrea worsens.

Refugees from the Tigray region of Ethiopia at Hamdayet, Sudan. • AP

Wearing face masks, the people of Gilgit-Baltistan in northern Pakistan voted on Sunday, as fears grow of a security vacuum in the country amid a military campaign in the north.

The Ethiopian Human Rights Commission said the number of people killed was likely to rise after what it called a "gruesome" attack on the passenger bus in the Benishangul-Gumuz region.

The latest attack is a grim addition to the human cost which we bear collectively," Daniel Bekele, commission head, said in a statement.

It said there were reports of "similar" attacks, and of people fleeing the violence, in other parts of the region.

The counting of votes has started and complete results are expected by tomorrow.

Earlier, the polling officials said that the voters present inside the polling stations would be allowed to

cast their votes even after the end of polling time.

There are 24 seats for the contest but polling on one seat was postponed, leaving 23 seats up for grabs. As many as 330 candidates, including four women, are in the contest, they said.

India has opposed Pakistan's plan to hold election in

# UAE to widen 'golden' visa's eligibility criteria

10-year residency in certain categories

REUTERS  
DUBAI

The United Arab Emirates will extend its "golden" visa system — which grants 10-year residency in the West Asian nation — to certain professionals, specialised degree-holders and others, the UAE's Vice-President said on Sunday.

Foreigners in the UAE usually have renewable visas valid for only a few years tied to employment. The government in the past couple of years has made its visa policy more flexible, offering longer residencies for certain types of investors, students and professionals.

All holders of doctorate degrees, medical doctors and also computer, elec-

tronics, programming, electrical and biotechnology engineers are eligible, Vice President and the ruler of Dubai Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum said. Also eligible are those with specialised degrees in artificial intelligence, big data and epidemiology, as well as high school students living in the UAE who rank top in the country and students from certain universities with a GPA of 3.8 or higher.

After first announcing a long-term visa plan in 2018, the UAE in 2019 started granting 5- and 10-year renewable visas to certain foreign investors, entrepreneurs, chief executives, scientists and outstanding students.

Some 20 groups called the rally at Bangkok's Democracy Monument under the name "Mob Fest" as the latest in a series of protests calling for significant reforms in government. Secondary school students, women's right advocates and LGBTQ activists were among them.

The core demands of the student-led protest movement are that Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha step down, the constitution be amended to make it more democratic, and the monarchy be reformed to be made more accountable.

The movement has put pressure on Mr. Prayuth's government, which after failing to stop it through the use of police force has now sche-

duled a session of Parliament for Tuesday and Wednesday to debate changes to the Constitution.

amended to make it more democratic, and the monarchy be reformed to be made more accountable.

The movement has put pressure on Mr. Prayuth's government, which after failing to stop it through the use of police force has now sche-

duled a session of Parliament for Tuesday and Wednesday to debate changes to the Constitution.

The protest movement, however, has prioritised the issue of reforming the monarchy because it believes that the institution holds too much power and that change is the key to establishing true democracy.

# Thai protesters rally again, call for reforms

## ASK US

ARATI KRISHNAN

**Q.** I have never invested in the equity market. However, in the belief that it will rise over time, I am considering investments in it but for the long term. I just want to know whether this kind of belief is helpful or should I still refrain from investing in the equity market?

KAVYA VIJAY

**A.** Before you decide to invest in equities, it would help to understand how equity returns are generated. Shares are said to outperform other assets over the long term because when you buy shares (equity) in a company, you become a part owner of a business. Any successful business must generate profits that are higher than its borrowing costs and compensate its owner for the risks it takes, which is why equity returns over the long-term are believed to be higher than debt returns. Whether you make high returns from equity in practice, though, depends on whether you are able to select companies that can grow their earnings or profits at a healthy pace over time.

Selecting the right stocks to invest in involves taking a long-term view on a sector and business, and gauging whether it can generate strong returns on your invested capital. If the business turns loss-making, suffers a downturn or fails due to its inability to repay debt, you, as an equity shareholder, will have to suffer losses too. Successfully investing in equities therefore requires not just understanding the key drivers of a sector's prospects and profitability, but also the sources of competitive advantage for a company within a sector. Stock prices in the long run reflect a company's earnings or profits on a per share basis. If these are rising, stock prices will rise; if they fall, stock prices will follow suit.

Now, while stock prices do broadly track a company's profits per share over long periods of five or 10 years, in the short run, there's no saying how they may move. While companies certainly don't experience any changes in their business fundamentals or financial position on a daily basis, the stock markets constantly mark up or mark down the valuations that they're willing to pay for a business based on how a majority of investors view the sector or business growth prospects over the next 1, 3 or 5 years.

Such a valuation is commonly measured by the price-earnings, or PE ratio, which captures the market price for every rupee of earnings generated by the company on a per share basis. To ensure that you make good equity returns in the long run, it is essential not just to identify good businesses to invest in, but to also enter them when their valuations are reasonable.

Therefore, there are two factors that decide whether you make good equity returns in the long run. One, your ability to pick successful companies that deliver long-term profit growth. Two, your ability to buy them at the right price or valuations, so that you don't overpay for that growth.

If you aren't an expert at analysing businesses or stocks, you can solve the first problem by buying into equities through an index fund owning the top 50 or 100 stocks in the market (say a Nifty50 or Nifty Next50 index fund) or any of the actively-managed equity funds offered by mutual fund houses, where a professional manager picks stocks that he thinks will outperform.

Addressing the second issue though, is left to you. If you invest a lump sum into equities when stocks are expensively valued, your long term returns can suffer. Today, the PE ratio of the Nifty50 is above 30, which is well above the long-term average of about 18 times.

Investing a lump sum into equities or equity funds at this time is therefore not ideal for a first-time investor. At the same time, waiting for valuations to correct (which can take months or years) can lead to missed opportunity to make a start on your long-term equity portfolio.

To get around this, you can make a start on your equity investments for the long run by starting an SIP (systematic investment plan) in either a broad-based index fund (Nifty100 or Nifty 500 fund) or in a multi-cap equity fund with the help of an adviser. An SIP will help you invest a small sum each month into a select basket of stocks (held by your fund) so that you can participate in their growth over the next 7-10 years. Do not invest any funds that you may need within the next five years, in equities.

Readers can send in queries on personal finance and investing to moneywise@thehindu.co.in. Our experts who write on personal finance will answer these queries. Moneywise will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund scheme, share or fixed deposit.

## MIND YOUR MONEY

# Let the power of compounding serve you

Starting early holds the key to a large corpus that would allow you to hang up your boots

GAURAV MASHRUWALA

Often, a question comes to me from a client, viewer or reader. 'When should I start investing for retirement?' My answer is, 'The day you earned your first income. The day we start working.' If you experienced your first day of work, it also means that some day you would retire. On retirement, we all will need a 'money' tree that will feed us when our income stops.

## Sowing a seed

Anyone who has ever sowed a seed will know that all seeds do not blossom. Many fail to germinate. Out of the few that survive, not all go on to become large trees.

Some will die after a few weeks, or months. In some cases, there could be external factors such as adverse weather conditions, an animal eating away the leaves and the like. This can be compared with our savings that may suddenly get wiped out on account of contingencies

such as income loss due to an adverse economy or health-related spending.

Sometimes, our investment decisions go wrong. For example, we may end up investing in an instrument that fails to deliver returns. Take the example of a mutual fund scheme where investment decisions by the fund manager go wrong; by the time they get rectified, it is possibly too late. If we have invested in such schemes, we may miss out on adding to our savings.

Albert Einstein is said to have termed compounding the eighth wonder of the world. The longer the tenure, greater the compounding. Investment is a habit. So, develop that habit in early stage of life.

Let us also consider this concept from the perspective of different stages of life. At a younger age, generally, there are fewer responsibilities. Chances are that there are no dependents. Parents could still be working or independently generating income. An individual could be living with his/her parents and hence, there would be nil-to-less household expenses. They may not also experience the need to purchase a house independently.

In such situation, it is easier to save. As an individual grows in life, parents may become dependent, one's own family would need support, a house purchase may be necessary, and the like.

(The author is a financial planner and the author of *Yogic Wealth*)

the sooner we start our retirement planning, the better it is for us.

Let us try and understand the above concept with the aid of a simple numbers table, as above.

## Length of time matters

If we notice here, those who start off early go on to create a much larger corpus than those who begin late. What counts is not the rate of return but how long we keep investing.

While calculating compound interest, what is important is 'n' i.e. the number of years we keep investing and not 'r' i.e. the rate of return.

However, if these things happen at the beginning of our career, we would have the time to rectify them.

What happens to an individual who has to face such a situation with his retirement corpus? The bigger the tree, better it is.

The larger the tree, the more the shade, flowers, and fruits; and the stronger it will be as it will be deep rooted. It takes time for a sapling to grow into a large tree. The more the time the tree gets, the bigger it will grow. Therefore,

\* Assuming monthly investment of ₹5,000 and a 12% annual rate of return

THE LONGER, THE BETTER

No. of years

Eventual corpus (₹)

40 5,88,23,862.55

30 1,747,820.66

20 49,46,276.83

10 11,50,193.45

5 4,08,348.35

Einstein is said to have termed compounding the eighth wonder of the world. The longer the tenure, the greater the compounding. Start investing early in life

IMAGING: J.A. PREMKUMAR

## THINK INVESTOR

## Why lock-in is good for bonds but bad for equities

Investment liquidity should be based on source of returns, not on the length of lock-in periods

VENKATESH BANGARUSWAMY

ELSS (Equity Linked Savings Scheme) has a shorter lock-in period than the public provident fund (PPF). So, individuals prefer ELSS as a tax-saving investment. In this article, we discuss why investment liquidity should be based on the source of returns, and not on the length of the lock-in period.

## Upside versus downside

Your goal-based investments should have a lock-in period! Why? We typically lack self-control. That means, we have to be nudged to save for the future whereas spending comes naturally to us. This is because we suffer from present bias; now is better than the future.

So, spending today gives us more happiness than saving for the future. Now, relate present bias to your goal-based investments. Suppose you are investing to make a down payment to buy a house five years hence. If the returns on this investment



**Key point:** Though lock-in is an external mechanism to protect your investments from you, it is not always good. ■ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

is credited into your savings account every year, you may be tempted to spend the money for purposes other than what it was intended for.

The easier it is to take out the investment, the more likely you will. Lock-in is an external mechanism to protect your invest-

ments from you! That said, lock-in is not always good. Your decision to choose an investment with a lock-in period should be based on the source of returns on the investment.

Most investments offer income returns and capital appreciation. Your goal-based in-

vestments should be created to earn interest income on bond investments and capital appreciation on equity investments; bonds provide stability whereas equity offer upside returns. You should lock-in your bond investments through the time horizon for your life goal, but not your equity investments. Why?

Suppose your initial investment in equity increases in value from ₹100 to ₹125. Your unrealised gains of 25% can be wiped out if the investment declines by 20% (25 upon 125). On the other hand, suppose your investment declines to ₹75. Your unrealised loss can be recovered only if your investment increases by 33% (25 upon 75). This suggests that it is easy to lose unrealised gains, but it takes more effort to recover unrealised losses.

Now, what if your investment carries large unrealised gains or gathers unrealised losses during the lock-in period? You may want to take profit to protect

your existing gains or take losses if you expect the investment to suffer further declines. But you cannot exit your investment because of the lock-in period.

## Conclusion

Lock-in period for equity investments is not good because the primary return on such investments is from capital appreciation. True, the three-year lock-in period for ELSS is significantly shorter than the 15-year lock-in for PPF. But PPF is an interest-earning investment compounded every year without suffering downside risk.

In addition, the lock-in period saves you from spending the interest income. On the other hand, ELSS exposes you to the risk that the market may decline during the lock-in period, either reducing your unrealised gains or accumulating unrealised losses.

Your inability to take action during the lock-in period could hurt your chances of achieving

your goal. You should, therefore, invest in regular equity funds that do not have a lock-in period. And invest in income-generating products with lock-in period whose maturity aligns with the time horizon for your life goal. For instance, if you are accumulating money to buy a house after five years, invest in a five-year recurring deposit. Of course, you can break your deposit before maturity but that comes with a huge penalty.

The trick to maintaining investment discipline is this: first, choose bond investments that do not credit interest income into your savings account till the maturity of the investment. And second, take profit on your equity investments every year if unrealised gains are higher than your expected return. This will reduce the risk that all your unrealised gains will be wiped out during market declines.

**The author offers training programme for individuals to manage their personal investments**

## Bank fixed deposit rates

Bank Name	Highest Slab	1-year tenure	3-year tenure	5-year tenure	Interest Rates (%)
<b>SMALL FINANCE BANKS</b>					
Jana Small Finance Bank	7.50	6.90	7.50	7.00	
Suryoday Small Finance Bank	7.50	6.75	7.15	7.50	
Equitas Small Finance Bank	7.00	6.75	7.00	6.75	
Utkarsh Small Finance Bank	7.00	6.75	6.75	6.75	
AU Small Finance Bank	6.75	5.50	6.75	6.50	
ESAF Small Finance Bank	6.50	6.50	6.00	5.50	
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	6.50	6.50	6.05	5.80	
Fincare Small Finance Bank	6.50	6.00	6.30	6.00	
Capital Small Finance Bank	6.40	6.00	6.00	6.00	
<b>PRIVATE SECTOR BANKS</b>					
IndusInd Bank	7.00	7.00	6.75	6.75	
Lakshmi Vilas Bank	7.00	7.00	6.00	6.00	
RBL Bank	6.95	6.75	6.95	6.50	
DCB Bank	6.95	6.50	6.95	6.95	
Nainital Bank	6.35	5.25	5.35	5.35	
IDFC First Bank	6.00	5.75	5.75	5.75	
Bandhan Bank	6.00	5.75	5.75	5.75	
City Union Bank	6.00	5.50	5.75	5.50	
Karur Vysya Bank	6.00	5.50	5.65	5.65	
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	5.75	5.75	5.50	5.50	
Karnataka Bank	5.70	5.40	5.65	5.65	
Dhanlaxmi Bank	5.60	5.25	5.40	5.50	
South Indian Bank	5.50	5.40	5.50	5.50	
Federal Bank	5.50	5.25	5.50	5.50	
<b>PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS</b>					
Axis Bank	5.50	5.15	5.40	5.50	
HDFC Bank	5.50	4.90	5.15	5.30	
ICICI Bank	5.50	4.90	5.15	5.35	
Jammu & Kashmir Bank	5.30	5.10	5.30	5.30	
CSB Bank	5.25	5.00	5.25	5.25	
Kotak Mahindra Bank	4.90	4.60	4.90	4.50	
<b>FOREIGN BANKS</b>					
Deutsche Bank	5.75	3.85	4.75	5.75	
DBS Bank	5.50	4.05	5.50	5.50	
HSBC Bank	4.00	3.15	4.00	4.00	
CitiBank	3.75	3.00	3.75	3.75	

Rates as on November 9

Source:Paisabazaar.com

## Home loan interest rates

Name of Lender	Loan Amount (Rs.)		
Upto 30 lakh</			

# Hamilton seals historic seventh title

Masterly display puts him alongside Schumacher for the most number of drivers' crowns

## TURKISH GP

REUTERS

Britain's Lewis Hamilton choked back the tears as he won a record-equalling seventh Formula One world championship on Sunday and became the most successful driver in history.

The Mercedes ace put on a masterclass in wet and slippery conditions to take a record-breaking 94th career win at a rollercoaster of a Turkish Grand Prix and secure the title with three races to spare. Only Ferrari great Michael Schumacher has seven titles to his name, a number once thought unlikely ever to be matched, but most of the German's records have been passed by Hamilton.

So complete was Hamilton's domination that he lapped sole rival and teammate Valtteri Bottas with 12 laps to go on a nightmare afternoon for the spinning Finn who finished 14th.

Hamilton already has more race wins, pole positions and podium finishes than anyone in history but, despite starting a season-low sixth, the 35-year-old was determined to add to the tally.

"Thank you so much guys... that's for all the kids out there who dream the impossible. You can do it too man," he whooped over the radio after taking the chequered flag. "Seven is just unimaginable, but when you work with such a great group of people and you really



**Tears of joy:**  
Lewis Hamilton  
couldn't control  
his emotions after  
a record-equalling  
triumph on Sunday.  
■ GETTY IMAGES



trust each other, there is just no end to what we can do together," said Hamilton.

"I told him that it was very special for us because we witnessed history being made," said Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel. "There is no doubt Lewis is the greatest in terms of what he has achieved."

## THE RESULTS

### 1. Hamilton (Mercedes)

**1:42:19.313s**, 2. Perez (Racing Point) +31.633, 3. Vettel (Ferrari) +31.960, 4. Leclerc (Ferrari) 33.858, 5. Sainz Jr. (McLaren) 34.363, 6. Verstappen (Red Bull) 44.873, 7. Albon (Red Bull) 46.484, 8. Norris (McLaren) 1:01.259, 9. Stroll (Racing

Point) 1:12.353, 10. Ricciardo (Renault) 1:35.460, +1 Lap: 11. Ocon (Renault), 12. Daniil Kvyat (AlphaTauri), 13. Gasly (AlphaTauri), 14. Bottas (Mercedes), 15. Raikkonen (Alfa Romeo), 16. Russell (Williams), DNF: 17. Magnussen (Haas), Grosjean (Haas), Latifi (Williams), Giovinazzi (Alfa Romeo).

**Standings: Drivers:** 1. Hamilton 307, 2. Bottas 197, 3. Verstappen 170, 4. Perez 100, 5. Leclerc 97.

### Constructors:

1 Mercedes 504,

2 Red Bull Racing 240,

3 Racing Point 154,

4 McLaren 149,

5 Renault 136.

## In seventh heaven

With his 94th career victory at the Turkish Grand Prix on Sunday, Hamilton sealed his seventh drivers' title and pulled level with Michael Schumacher

▪ The Briton also holds the record for the most number of wins, podiums (163) and pole positions (97)

▪ This is Hamilton's fourth straight world title, a feat also achieved by Sebastian Vettel (2010-2013) and Juan Manuel Fangio (1954-1957)

### HAMILTON'S CROWNS

2008: McLaren  
2014: Mercedes  
2015: Mercedes  
2017: Mercedes  
2018: Mercedes  
2019: Mercedes  
2020: Mercedes



### SCHUMACHER'S TITLES

1994: Benetton  
1995: Benetton  
2000: Ferrari  
2001: Ferrari  
2002: Ferrari  
2003: Ferrari  
2004: Ferrari

▪ Schumacher holds the record for most consecutive world titles (5), winning from 2000 to 2004

Don't listen to anyone who tells you you can't achieve something. Dream the impossible. Speak it into existence. You've got to work for it, chase it, and never give up! LEWIS HAMILTON

## Smith dares Indian pacers



Steve Smith. ■ GETTY IMAGES

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MELBOURNE

Steve Smith has dared the lethal Indian fast bowling unit to bring on the short stuff in the upcoming Test series, saying he has faced a lot of it in his life.

According to the former captain, trying short-pitched bowling against him could work in Australia's favour.

"If teams are trying to get me out like that it's probably a big benefit for the team because it takes a lot out of people's bodies if you continually bowl short," said Smith.

"I've faced a lot of short bowling in my life and I haven't had too many stressers with it. I suppose we'll just wait and see."

## Agarkar, Maninder, Chetan and SS Das in the fray

Kuruvilla, Bose too apply for selector's post

### AMOL KARHADKAR

MUMBAI

For the second time this year, renowned former cricketers have thrown their hats into the ring for the selectors' posts.

On deadline day for submitting applications for the three vacant posts in the National selection committee, Ajit Agarkar, Maninder Singh, Chetan Sharma and Shiv Sunder Das (SS Das) mailed their applications.

Agarkar, Maninder, Chetan and Das confirmed to *The Hindu* that they have applied for the jobs. Former India pacer Abey Kuruvilla and Bengal stalwart Ranade Bose have also applied.

The posts have been vacant since three of the five members — Sarandeep Singh (North), Devang Gandhi (East) and Jatin Paranjape (West) — finished their maximum tenures, according to the BCCI rule-book.

While the advertisement posted by the BCCI on its website hasn't specified the zones that the applicants

are required to hail from, a precedent was set in March when Sunil Joshi and Harvinder Singh replaced M.S.K. Prasad and Gagan Khoda as the representatives from South and Central zones respectively.

### Zonal policy

If the zonal policy is adhered to, Agarkar and Kuruvilla will be key contenders from the West, Das and Bose from the East, and Chetan and Maninder from the North.

Interestingly, since Chetan has represented Bengal as well — he was Sourav Ganguly's teammate in the 1993-94 Ranji Trophy final — he could be considered from the East as well.

The rulebook prescribes that one with the most number of Test caps will be the chairman of the committee. Should Maninder (35 Tests), Agarkar (26), or Chetan (23) be picked in the panel, Joshi (15) will be replaced as chief selector.

With inputs from Shayan Acharya

## Indian cricketers undergo net session

Clear COVID test before training for both red and white ball formats

### INDIA IN AUS

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA SYDNEY

The Indian cricketers had their first full-fledged net session on Sunday with simultaneous training for both red and white ball formats.

While Saturday's first

training session was mostly about gym and running workouts, the players were seen hitting the straps right away on the second day itself.

It is understood from the videos of the practice session the BCCI shared on its social media feed that since the Test specialists are also tra-

velling, the red ball training will also take place along with the white ball nets.

### Slip catching

Captain Virat Kohli and Cheteshwar Pujara, India's two specialist slip fielders, were seen taking catches with the red ball for a considerable



Gearing up: T. Natarajan and Cheteshwar Pujara sweat it out. ■ TWITTER/BCCI

## How will the WTC finalists be decided?

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

The ICC will consider percentage of points earned from the matches played while deciding the finalists of the inaugural World Test Championship (WTC), which has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We have seen him bowl with a lot of success in the @IPL and here is @Natarajan\_91 bowling in the #TeamIndia nets for the first time after his maiden India call-up! A dream come true moment," the BCCI tweeted.

Natarajan's Sunrisers Hyderabad mentor V.V.S. Laxman termed it an "inspirational story".

The likes of Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane, Prithvi Shaw, Hanuma Vihari, Rishabh Pant and R. Ashwin will be training only with the red ball and the others who are in both the squads will be doing a "mix and match".

The reason for having nets with players of both formats is to get acclimated to the red ball as most of the players haven't played red ball cricket since the first week of March.

### Meeting begins today

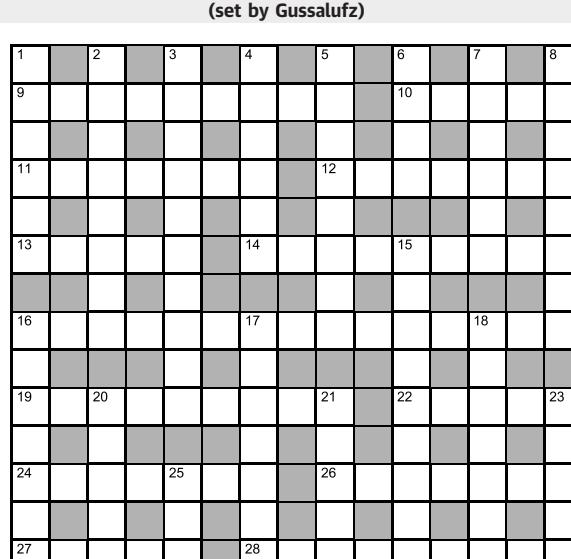
The ICC's last quarterly meeting of the year begins on Monday.

India has played four series so far and are currently at the top with 360 points, followed by Australia (296) and England (292).

## CROSSWORD + 13094

(set by Gussalufz)

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



### ACROSS

- 9 Tiny bits of malleable idli I consumed in character (9)
- 10 Half-dead retired leaders used trickery to manipulate (5)
- 11 Questionable puja rite that sacrifices a neighbour (7)
- 12 A nap wasted after tossing and turning in long pajamas — they hinder movement (7)
- 13 As of now, led by evil (5)
- 14 Headless dream-thing, perhaps? (9)

- 16 Euphemisms good man had, for revolting rag amidst boxers, briefs, and vests (15)
- 19 Be lost quietly in Paradise Lost (9)
- 22 Wordplay with only the first half of word backfires; admit it! (3,2)
- 24 Prophet from the east embraces backward man, gives a new identity (7)
- 26 Arc covering the initial part of season one is jointly written (7)
- 27 Best among gout doctors! (5)
- 28 Defending, but not before begrudging (9)
- DOWN
- 1 Graphic reactions and a drink making an appearance during monthly loan payments (6)
- 2 Closed wild nude gathering? Nothing doing! (8)
- 3 Old car part, later redesigned to limit wastage, essentially (10)
- 4 Move quickly to get away from awful U.N. tour (6)
- 5 Slender enclosure for small portable lamp (8)
- 6 Galileo of Galilei, Astronomer" starts getting reviewed with anticipation (4)
- 7 Gussalufz's friend, a ruminant (6)
- 8 "These trips on acid... wild, disco days, no?" "Yes..." (8)
- 15 Instrument platform's bottom aboard rickety boat leaked water (10)
- 16 One likely to lose ground, perhaps, after collecting two bad grades in succession (8)
- 17 Bank's endeavour: keeping a user in confusion (8)
- 18 High on riding, having a balloon with no supporting framework (3-5)
- 20 A movement as sound as that gets regularly covered (6)
- 21 A kind of oppression on the rise in Gurgaon (sic) area (6)
- 23 Assurance offered by principled general (6)
- 25 Perhaps Callisto's immature; most would understand taking only seconds (4)

## SUDOKU

			4	1				
9	5	8			1			
6					5	7		
8			5	4	6	2		
2	4	3	6				1	
7	8						5	
6		3		9			8	
	4	7						

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

### Solution to puzzle 13093

R	E	C	I	T	B	O	C	A	T
A	H	A	P	Y	R				
A	N	T	I	P	O	V	I	C	I
G	D	I	W	A	L	I			
B	O	L	E	R	T	E	P	O	
R	I	C	P	A	D	F	A	I	R
N									T
S	O	U	L	S	E	M	A	P	H
U	N	S	P	O					O
C	R	A	K	S	R	I	B	A	L
P	I	P	E	I	E	L			D
S	A	N	T	O	N	I			
S	T</td								

# Johnson pulls away to four-stroke lead

Im and Ander, seeking debutant-winner record, share second with Smith; Woods tied 20th



Flying high: An eagle and five birdies made it a special day for Dustin Johnson. • AFP

## AUGUSTA MASTERS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
AUGUSTA

Top-ranked Dustin Johnson seized command of the Masters on Saturday, matching the 54-hole record at Augusta National and grabbing a four-stroke lead in quest of a second Major title.

Pulling away from an elite field, the 36-year-old American fired a seven-under 65 to be 16-under 200 after three rounds. "I've got a lot of confidence in everything I'm doing," Johnson said.

Johnson is the first player to shoot 65 or better twice in the same Masters after a first-round 65.

Im Sung-jae, a 22-year-old South Korean who could become the first debut Masters winner since 1979, closed with a birdie to shoot 68 and share second on 204 with Mexico's Abraham Ander, another Augusta newcomer, and Australia's Cameron Smith.

Im could become only the second Asian man to win a Major after South Korean Yang Yong-eun at the 2009 PGA Championship.

Johnson, the 2016 US Open champion, is trying to become the first top-ranked golfer to win the Masters since Tiger Woods in 2002.

### Woods soldiers on

Defending champion Woods, who began four strokes off the pace, battled through back pain to shoot

72 and stand on 211, answering bogeys at the par-5 eighth and par-4 11th with birdies at the par-3 12th and the par-5 15th.

Woods, a 15-time Major winner who turns 45 next month, seeks a sixth green jacket and an 83rd career PGA Tour victory to break the record he shares with Sam Snead.

### McIlroy fades

Fifth-ranked Rory McIlroy, needing only a green jacket to complete a career Grand Slam, shot 67 to stand on 208, but sees little hope of swiping the green jacket.

"Being a realist here, I just need to go out and shoot a good one tomorrow and see where it puts me," McIlroy said. "But I have zero thoughts about winning this golf tournament right now."

US Open winner Bryson DeChambeau, who many thought would overwhelm Augusta National with his power-driving game, tested negative for COVID-19 on Friday after feeling dizzy on the course. He shot 69 on Saturday to stand on 213.

**The scores:** **200:** Dustin Johnson (65, 70, 65); **204:** Im Sung-jae (66, 70, 68), Abraham Ander (68, 67, 69); **205:** Dylan Frittelli (65, 73, 67).

**206:** Justin Thomas (66, 69, 71); **207:** Sebastian Munoz (70, 68, 69), Patrick Reed (68, 68, 71), Jon Rahm (69, 66, 72).

**208:** Rory McIlroy (75, 66, 67), Brooks Koepka (70, 69, 69), Tommy Fleetwood (71, 66, 71), Hideki Matsuyama (68, 68, 72).

### Woods soldiers on

Defending champion Woods, who began four strokes off the pace, battled through back pain to shoot

Langer – still going strong!

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
AUGUSTA

Two-time Masters champion Bernhard Langer of Germany became the oldest player to make the cut in tournament history at Augusta National on Friday.

The 63-year-old winner of green jackets in 1985 and 1993 finished 36 holes on three-under 141 after completing a four-under 68 first round and a second-round 73. Langer beat the record held by Tommy Aaron who was also 63 but a month younger when he made the cut in 2000.

"To be the oldest to make the cut, it's certainly an achievement," Langer said. "Hopefully, I get to play a few more years and enjoy this place. It's certainly not easy to do it."

Langer has competed in a Major against Gene Sarazan (born 1902) and Abel Gallegos (born 2002), that's opponents born 100 years apart! Sarazan figured in his last Major at the 1976 Open championships, Langer's first!



Bernhard Langer. • AFP

Ailing DeChambeau barely makes the cut

COVID-19 test returns negative



Something's not right! DeChambeau plans to have a major health check-up after the Masters. • AP

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
AUGUSTA

After struggling to make the cut at the Masters, Bryson DeChambeau said he's just not feeling well. He's not sure what the problem is, but he did get tested for COVID-19 again just to make sure that wasn't the issue.

It came back negative.

DeChambeau, who was the betting favourite to win the Masters after a dominating triumph at the US Open, did manage to shoot a three-under 69 in the third round on Saturday. But that left him a whopping 13 shots behind leader Dustin Johnson.

"Not good, to say the least," DeChambeau said after finishing up his second round on Saturday morning.

ing, before heading back out to play the third. "As I kept going through the round, I started getting a little dizzy. I don't know what was going on, a little something weird.

"I don't know what it is or what happened, but these past couple days, I've felt really, really odd and just not 100%," he said.

DeChambeau plans to finish the Masters, but he'll get more extensive testing after he returns home.

"Every time I'd bend over and come back up, I'd like lose my stance a little bit," he said. "I don't know what's going on. I've got to go and do some bloodwork and get checked out and figure out what's going on for this off-season."

## UEFA cancels Norway's game

NYON  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

UEFA said it cancelled a Nations League game because Norway could not travel to Romania after a COVID-19 case in the squad.

Norway risks a 3-0 loss by forfeit for not fulfilling the match scheduled on Sunday in Bucharest.

There are no clearly available dates in the international calendar to make up the game. UEFA said it sent the case to its disciplinary committee for a decision.

The case could cost Norway dearly. AP

## Kante's strike sinks Portugal, puts France in the finals

Werner shines for Germany in easy win over Ukraine; horror night for Ramos as he fluffs two penalties

### TV PICKS

**ATP Finals:** Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Tuesday)

### IN BRIEF



Aditi rises to seventh at Saudi International

KAEC (SAUDI ARABIA)

Indian golfer Aditi Ashok turned in her best round at the \$1 million Aramco Saudi Ladies International by bringing home a card of 3-under 69 and rising to tied-seventh after three rounds here on Saturday. Tvesa Malik (78) and Diksha Dagar (77) were both tied-62nd at 12-over. PTI



Joan Mir assured of maiden MotoGP crown

VALENCIA

Suzuki rider Joan Mir clinched his maiden MotoGP crown and became the Japanese team's first World champion in two decades with a seventh-placed finish at the Valencia GP on Sunday. The race won by Italy's Franco Morbidelli. Reuters

### Brazil huffs and puffs past Venezuela

SAO PAULO  
Liverpool striker Roberto Firmino scored the crucial goal as Brazil laboured to a 1-0 win over a well-organised but limited Venezuela in its World Cup qualifier on Friday. **The results:** Brazil 1 (Firmino 66) bt Venezuela 0; Chile 2 (Vidal 19, 34) bt Peru 0; Colombia 0 lost to Uruguay 3 (Cavani 5, Suarez 54-pen, Nunez 73).



Peaty sets new 100m breaststroke mark

BUDAPEST  
Britain's Adam Peaty set a world record for the short course 100m breaststroke at the professional International Swimming League here on Sunday, finishing in 55.49 seconds to better the 55.61s set by South Africa's Cameron van der Burgh 11 years ago. REUTERS

CM YK

## Prajnesh in final

### SPORTS BUREAU

CARY (USA)

Fourth seed Prajnesh Gunneswaran got a walkover from Mikael Torpegaard of Denmark in the semifinals of the \$52,080 Challenger tennis tournament here on Saturday.

The 31-year-old Prajnesh recovered from being 1-5

down in the deciding tie-break to beat qualifier Thomas Bellucci 3-6, 7-5, 7-6(5) in the quarterfinals.

**The results:** \$52,080 Challenger, Cary, USA: **Semifinals:** Prajnesh Gunneswaran w/o Mikael Torpegaard (Den).

**Quarterfinals:** Prajneshbt Thomas Bellucci (Bra) 3-6, 7-5, 7-6(5).

## Indian boxers celebrate Diwali in Italy

27-member contingent light candles and relish traditional Indian cuisine

cially during these tough CO-

VID-19 times. Everyone en-

joyed it. "As we have been

### ISL

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA  
KOLKATA

Antonio Habas, coach of reigning champion ATK Mohun Bagan, announced that five players, in rotation, will be given the captain's armband during the upcoming

training here in a bio-secure environment such celebrations make us happy. The fo-

cus will be again on training as we want to make the most of this opportunity."

training here in a bio-secure environment such celebrations make us happy. The fo-

cus will be again on training as we want to make the most of this opportunity."

training here in a bio-secure environment such celebrations make us happy. The fo-

cus will be again on training as we want to make the most of this opportunity."

training here in a bio-secure environment such celebrations make us happy. The fo-

cus will be again on training as we want to make the most of this opportunity."

training here in a bio-secure environment such celebrations make us happy. The fo-

cus will be again on training as we want to make the most of this opportunity."

training here in a bio-secure environment such celebrations make us happy. The fo-

cus will be again on training as we want to make the most of this opportunity."

training here in a bio-secure environment such celebrations make us happy. The fo-

cus will be again on training as we want to make the most of this opportunity."

training here in a bio-secure environment such celebrations make us happy. The fo-

cus will be again on training as we want to make the most of this opportunity."

training here in a bio-secure environment such celebrations make us happy. The fo-

cus will be again on training as we want to make the most of this opportunity."

training here in a bio-secure environment such celebrations make us happy. The fo-

cus will be again on training as we want to make the most of this opportunity."

training here in a bio-secure environment such celebrations make us happy. The fo-

cus will be again on training as we want to make the most of this opportunity."

training here in a bio-secure environment such celebrations make us happy. The fo-

cus will be again on training as we want to make the most of this opportunity."

training here in a bio-secure environment such celebrations make us happy. The fo-

cus will be again on training as we want to make the most of this opportunity."

training here in a bio-secure environment such celebrations make us happy. The fo-

cus will be again on training as we want to make the most of this opportunity."

training here in a bio-secure environment such celebrations make us happy. The fo-

cus will be again on training as we want to make the most of this opportunity."

training here in a bio-secure environment such celebrations make us happy. The fo-

cus will be again on training as we want to make the most of this opportunity."

training here in a bio-secure environment such celebrations make us happy. The fo-

cus will be again on training as we want to make the most of this opportunity."

training here in a bio-secure environment such celebrations make us happy. The fo-

cus will be again on training as we want to make the most of this opportunity."

training here in a bio-secure environment such celebrations make us happy. The fo-

cus will be again on training as we want to make the most of this opportunity."

training here in a bio-secure environment such celebrations make us happy. The fo-

cus will be again on training as we want to make the most of this opportunity."

training here in a bio-secure environment such celebrations make us happy. The fo-

cus will be again on training as we want to make the most of this opportunity."

training here in a bio-secure environment such celebrations make us happy. The fo-

cus will be again on training as we want to make the most of this opportunity."

training here in a bio-secure environment such celebrations make us happy. The fo-

cus will be again on training as we want to make the most of this opportunity."