



SC to hear petition seeking postponement of civil services exams  
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Australian cricketer and commentator Dean Jones passes away  
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## NEARBY



### 3,834 new COVID-19 cases reported in Delhi

NEW DELHI  
As many as 3,834 new COVID-19 cases were reported in the Capital in the past 24 hours, taking the tally to 2,60,623, according to a health bulletin released by the Delhi government on Thursday. Also, 36 more deaths were reported, pushing the toll to 5,123. Of the total cases, 2,24,375 people have recovered so far. Over 55% of the total 15,810 beds available for COVID-19 treatment are vacant.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

## Farmers in Punjab begin rail blockades

### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHANDIGARH

Farmers in parts of Punjab on Thursday started a three-day 'rail roko' agitation under the banner of the Kisan Mazdoor Sangharsh Samiti (KMSS) against the Union government's three farm Bills.

The railways suspended several trains completely or partially till September 26 for the safety of passengers and protection of its property. Members of the Bhartiya Kisan Union (Ekta Ugrahan) blocked railway tracks in Sangrur and Barnala, while members of the Samiti blocked railway lines in Amritsar and Ferozpur.

"The 'rail roko' will continue till September 26 in the first phase... And if our demands are not met, we will intensify the agitation," said Sarvan Singh Pandher, State president of KMSS. "We will also support the Bharat bandh call given by the All India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee," said Mr. Pandher, adding that representatives of political parties will not be allowed to share the stage in their agitation".

Terminating the farm Bills an "ill-conceived move", Mr. Pandher said their implementation would ultimately lead to exploitation of farmers at the hands of big corporates. "It will lead to the end of the Minimum Support Price regime," he said.

As many as 31 farmers' outfits based in Punjab have given a call for a total shutdown on September 25.

## Harley shuts India factory, sales

U.S. motorcycle major announces exit as part of 'The Rewire' plan; to cut 70 jobs

### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

Harley-Davidson Inc. has announced that it will discontinue its sales and manufacturing operations in India and shed about 70 jobs in the country as part of a global strategic restructuring plan 'The Rewire'.

"Harley-Davidson plans to close its manufacturing facility in Bawali and significantly reduce the size of its sales office in Gurgaon," the U.S. motorcycle major said in a statement. "The company is communicating with its customers in India and will keep them updated on future support. The Harley-Davidson dealer network will continue to serve customers through



End of the road: Harley-Davidson sold less than 2,500 units in India in the last financial year. ■ THULASI KAKKAT

the contract term," it said.

Harley's decision to exit one of the world's largest markets for two-wheelers – domestic motorcycle and scooter sales in the 12

months ended March 2020 exceeded 17 million units – follows a struggle to find takers for its bikes, including the Street, which saw it register sale of less than 2,500 un-

its in the last financial year.

The U.S. company's decision to exit manufacturing also undermines the government's efforts to attract and retain global manufacturers as it aims to woo investment from firms looking to exit China.

Observing that it was changing its business model in India and evaluating options to continue to serve its customers, the company said, "These actions are aligned with 'The Rewire'... leading to 'The Hardwire', a new strategic plan for 2021-2025 aimed at building desirability for the Harley-Davidson brand and products."

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

## 'If PLA comes close, our troops can fire'

Clear message given to Chinese that pushing back Indian soldiers won't work: official

### DINAKAR PERI NEW DELHI

Shots have been fired in the air on multiple occasions on the north and south banks of Pangong Tso in eastern Ladakh recently, and the Chinese have been given a clear message that pushing back Indian soldiers physically will not work any more, a senior government official said on Thursday.

Stating that once a melee happens, like the Galwan clash on June 15, opening fire was not possible, the official pointed out, "Now, we said, if you come close we will fire. Distance is dependent on the conditions like day or night, location and so on... If they are about to be overrun or in self-defence, troops are authorised to fire."

### 'Wait and watch'

At the sixth round of Corps Commander talks early this week, India and China had agreed not to send any more troops to the frontline. "It is a good start. We have to wait and watch till there is concrete action on the ground, we will not lower our guard on the ground. Our stand is you moved first, so you move back first. That will be a good confidence-building measure (CBM)," the official stated.



On its way: A convoy carrying supplies to Ladakh on the Manali-Leh highway last week. ■ PTI

stance on the continuing boundary stand-offs.

At the talks since the development on the south bank since August 29, the Chinese want to resolve the latest incidents first, but India favoured a package resolution of the entire eastern Ladakh situation. "When we say status quo, what we mean is status quo before May," the official stated.

### Chinese deaths

The official revealed that the Chinese had conveyed through diplomatic channels that they had suffered five deaths, including their commanding officer, in the June 15 Galwan Valley clash, which left 20 Indian Army soldiers dead.

Asked why the Chinese had acted in the way they did, the official felt there was "no one overarching reason" but many reasons, including turning Jammu and Kashmir into a Union Territory in August 2019 and also to divert

attention from China's COV-19 crisis.

Pointing out that the situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in other sectors remains stable, the official said that local commanders on both sides were in contact and even they (the Chinese) had said: "Let not what's happening in eastern Ladakh happen here".

Interestingly, in the eastern sector, Indian and Chinese troops patrol contentious areas by weekly rotation, a formula that could be brought into play in eastern Ladakh as well.

The official asserted that there was no intelligence failure in detecting the Chinese movements in early May as they made ingress into the Indian side of the LAC. "Whoever moves first has the initiative and the first mover advantage," the official, said stating they had been monitoring the Chinese all along.

Currently, troops are fac-

ing each other at Depsang, the north and south banks of Pangong Tso, and Patrolling Points 17A, Rezang La and Rechin La.

On possible collusion between China and Pakistan against India in the ongoing stand-off, the official said there was no major troop movement on the Line of Control (LoC), and only regular battalion movement was taking place.

### 'Terror activities'

"Nothing unusual on that front. We don't see any build

on the other side. But terror

activities continue. We are

quite strong on the ground,

so we eliminate the threat on

the LoC," the official said.

On the global support to

India in the ongoing stand-off and the transgressions by China and engagement with Quad countries, the official said: "At the end of the day, you have to fight your own battles".

On the situation in the Depsang plains, where Chinese troops continue to block Indian patrols to the Patrolling Points 10-13, the official said there were one or two Chinese vehicles near the Y-junction, which kept going back and forth.

Beyond the Y-junction, Indian patrols had to go on foot, which were being blocked by Chinese vehicles,

the official stated, adding that patrol parties followed protocols and returned.

"We have not given up our

claims. It has only been tem-

porarily halted due to the

circumstances," the official said.

Currently, troops are fac-

ing each other at Depsang, the north and south banks of Pangong Tso, and Patrolling Points 17A, Rezang La and Rechin La.

On possible collusion between China and Pakistan against India in the ongoing stand-off, the official said there was no major troop movement on the Line of Control (LoC), and only regular battalion movement was taking place.

### 'Unilateral moves'

"The Foreign Minister said

we must condemn, oppose

any unilateral and illegal

measures to change the sta-

tus of disputed territories in

violation of UN Security

Council Resolutions," the offi-

cial Pakistan news agencies

reported.

The reports said Mr. Qu-

reshi also referred to "sys-

tematic human rights viola-

tions of the people suffering

from long-running

disputes".

A similar statement was

made at the CICA Special Mi-

nisterial conference, that

the SAARC platform to make

a detailed statement on the

resolution of "long-standing

disputes", a veiled reference

to Jammu and Kashmir and

New Delhi's 2019 move to

withdraw Article 370.

Speaking at the South

Asian meeting, External Af-

fairs Minister S. Jaishankar

called on all SAARC mem-

bers to "collectively resolve

to defeat the scourge of ter-

rorism, including the forces

that nurture, support and en-

courage an environment of ter-

rorism and conflict, which

impede the objective of

SAARC to realise its full

potential for collective col-

laboration and prospe

rity across South Asia".

brings together Asian na-

tions ranging from Russia

and Central Asia to the Gulf

and South-East Asia.

India rebutted Mr. Qu-

reshi in his right to reply, said

the MEA. "We advise Pakis-

tan to cease its sponsorship

and overt and covert sup-

port to terrorism against In-

dia," India said.

MEA spokesperson Anu-

rag Srivastava said Pakistan's

statements at both events

were "inconsistent" with the

mandates of SAARC and CI-

CA, where bilateral conten-

tious issues are not raised.

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Air quality of Delhi-NCR		
Delhi <b>104</b>	Gurugram <b>97</b>	
Ghaziabad <b>96</b>	Faridabad <b>126</b>	
Noida <b>71</b>	Greater Noida <b>66</b>	
Good 0-50	Satisfactory 51-100	Moderate 101-200
Poor 201-300	Very poor 301-400	Severe >401
AIR QUALITY INDEX AT 4 P.M. YESTERDAY (AVERAGE OF PAST 24 HOURS) [SOURCE: CPCB]		

# 'Look into role of woman in honey-trapping case'

HC tells police chief to file report after man seeks protection

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH  
NEW DELHI

Umar Khalid sent to judicial custody till October 22

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Former JNU student Umar Khalid, who was arrested on September 13, has been sent to judicial custody till October 22 by a Delhi court.

His family met him before he was sent to jail. Mr. Khalid was in police custody for 10 days after which he was produced before the court through video-conferencing where the Additional Sessions Judge sent him to custody till October 22.

Mr. Khalid also told the court that he has not signed any documents during his police custody. His father Syed Qasim Ra-sool Ilyas said he along with his wife and daughter met him. "Umar's mother, youngest sister, Sarah and I met him at Special Cell today for around 40 minutes before his judicial custody. Umar was cheerful...He conveyed his regards and greetings to all his well-wishers," Mr. Ilyas tweeted.



complainant [woman] and there was not an iota of any demur and/or any protest," the man's plea said. The man alleged that the woman called him at her home and when her demand for ₹5,00,000 was not met, she registered a false case of rape against him.

#### Claims of prosecution

On the other hand, the case of the prosecution states that the woman had texted him for a job to which he had sent "offensive" replies. She had said they could discuss the issue. The woman claimed that the man asked her for a relationship to which she replied that "she did not feel comfortable with anyone in the first meeting". The prosecution said the man called her and asked if he could buy her wine. "She replied in the affirmative and sent him her location. At her place, they normally spoke about their professions. Following this, the petitioner gave her two drinks and raped her," the court said.

prosecution said.

The prosecution added that the man had no business to attend her call and visit a stranger's place. It called for the dismissal of the bail plea moved by the man in pursuant to the FIR registered against him by the woman. "I have gone through the pictures and chats, which are annexed with the present petition and seems to be the allurement on the part of the complainant and petitioner got trapped," Justice Suresh Kumar Kait said.

However, without commenting on the merits of the prosecution case, the court said the man deserves protection.

#### Personal bond of ₹25K

It said in the event of arrest, the man shall be released on furnishing a personal bond of ₹25,000. "Though acceptance allurement is not justified but at the same time, allurement advanced for extortion of money is also not acceptable," Justice Kait remarked. It asked the top officer to take action if needed. "In addition to above, the Commissioner shall call reports from all the police stations of such cases as the present one and file a report to this effect within four weeks from today," the court said.

## Man arrested for cheating company of ₹3 crore

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

A resident of Sainik Farms has been arrested for allegedly cheating a company to the tune of ₹3 crore on the pretext of sale and purchase of agriculture land, the police said on Thursday.

JCP (Economic Offences Wing) O.P. Mishra said the accused – Pankaj Dayal – was nabbed from his office in Greater Kailash. The accused had told the owners of the company that he was in process of purchasing

5.06 acre agriculture land in Kapashera for which his firm had already paid ₹3 crore in advance to the landowner.

He also assured them that he will find a suitable third-party buyer. The complainant was induced on hefty profit sharing by further sale of the property, the police said adding that on this pretext, he obtained ₹3 crore from the victim. The police said the accused is found to be involved in several cheating cases.

Tender Notice Government of Punjab			
Executive Engineer DWSS, Division Rajpura, on behalf of Chairman of Concerned GPWS, invite online bids for the following works, under Sub Component 2A(ii), in District Patiala:-			
Sr. No.	Name of work	App. Cost (In lacs)	
		Bid Security (In lacs)	
PROVIDING IMPROVED ACCESS TO WATER, THROUGH HOUSE CONNECTIONS TO WATER SUPPLY SCHEMES:-			
1.	Chappar Block Ghanour	13.67	0.27
2.	Mehmadpur Block Ghanour	2.12	0.04
3.	Mugal Sarai Block Ghanour	2.09	0.04
4.	Mehargarh Battla Block Sanour	9.34	0.19
5.	Fuloglan Block Sanour	10.51	0.21
6.	Noor Kherian Block Sanour	9.18	0.19
7.	Mirzapur Block Rajpura	12.90	0.26
8.	Gurditpura Block Rajpura	17.79	0.36
9.	Shamda Block Rajpura	23.86	0.48
10.	Bhoglan Block Shambhu Kalan	14.92	0.30
11.	Gardinagar Block Shambhu Kalan	6.89	0.14
12.	Bhateri Block Patiala	3.85	0.08

Date & Time of start of sale of Bid Document: 23.09.2020 at 09:00 Hrs.  
Date & Time for submission of Bid document : 07.10.2020 upto 17:00 Hrs.  
Date & Time of opening of Technical Bid : 08.10.2020 at 11:00 Hrs.  
Bid Processing fee: As per Website. For detail log onto : <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>  
Note: Any corrigendum(s) to the Tender Notice shall be published on the above website only.  
Ph.: 01762-241169  
Email: [wss\\_xenrajpura@yahoo.in](mailto:wss_xenrajpura@yahoo.in)  
Executive Engineer,  
W/S & Sanitation Division, Rajpura  
DPRPB-II/81455

### NOTICE INVITING TENDER

#### HP.PWD KANGRA

Sealed item rate tenders on form 6 & 8 are invited by the Executive Engineer, Kangra Division, HP: PWD, Kangra on behalf of the Governor of Himachal Pradesh from the approved and eligible contractors/firms enlisted in HPPWD in the appropriate class for the work mentioned below on 15.10.2020 up to 10-45 A.M. and will be opened on the same day at 11-00 A.M. in the presence of intending contractors or their authorized representatives. The tender forms can be obtained from his office on cash payment (non refundable) on any working day from 12.10.2020 to 14.10.2020. The applications for the issue of tender forms will be received latest by 12.10.2020 up to 12.00 Noon. The applications for issue of tender forms accompanied with enlistment letter/or renewal letter and the earnest money in the shape of National Saving Certificates/Saving Account/Time deposit Account in any of the Post Office in Himachal Pradesh duly pledged in favour of Executive Engineer, Kangra Division, HPPWD, Kangra.

The conditional tenders and the tenders received without earnest money will summarily be rejected. The offer of the tender shall be kept open for 120 days.

**Work No.1:-** C/O Link road from Ravinder Kumar House to Ramesh Chand House km.0/00 to 0/200 G.P. Dadoli Ward No.4 Block Kangra Tehsil Kangra (SH: - P/L Cement Concrete pavement at RD.5/00 to 0/200) Estimated cost: Rs. 464027/- Earnest Money Rs. 9300/- Time Limit One Month Cost of tender 350/-.

**Work No.2:-** C/O Community Centre in Ward No.4 Taduch Basti G.P. Tharu Tehsil Sharup Distt. Kangra (HP) Estimated cost: Rs. 392586/- Earnest Money Rs. 8000/- Time Limit Three Month Cost of tender 350/-.

**Work No.3:-** C/O Community Hall Sheela Mandali Dhandot at Chambi Khad (SH: - C/O Civil work) (Deposit work) Estimated cost: Rs. 348981/- Earnest Money Rs. 6500/- Time Limit Three Month Cost of tender 350/-.

**Work No.4:-** Restoration of rain damages on Daulatpur to Janyarkar via Dugiyal from km.0/0 to 4/00 (SH: - C/O R/Wall at RD.2/018 to 0/031.50) (L.H.S.) Estimated cost: Rs. 450966/- Earnest Money Rs. 8000/- Time Limit Two Month Cost of tender 350/-.

**Work No.5:-** C/O road along with culvert for Nag Mandi Odru Ward No.04 in G.P. Har Boh in Tehsil Sharup (SH: - C/O 1.00mtr span R.C.C. slab culvert & P/L Kharana stone soling and cement concrete) Estimated cost: Rs. 223960/- Earnest Money Rs. 4500/- Time Limit Two Month Cost of tender 350/-.

**Work No.6:-** Basic work of C/O 30.00mtr span bridge over Kent Nallah on Charri to Ghera road at RD.3/072 under NABARD RIDF-XXIV in Distt. Kangra (SH: - C/O Diversion of road to Kent Nallah) Estimated cost: Rs. 235160/- Earnest Money Rs. 4800/- Time Limit One Month Cost of tender 350/-.

**Work No.7:-** C/O Upela Bhaniar Shihoga Nadghun road (SH: - C/O R/Wall at RD.0/070 to 0/130) Estimated cost: Rs. 371008/- Earnest Money Rs. 7500/- Time Limit Two Month Cost of tender 350/-.

**Work No.8:-** RD on Chambi Dharamshala road MDR-45 km.0/00 to 12/800 (SH: - C/O R/Wall at RD.8/370 to 8/395) Estimated cost: Rs. 420523/- Earnest Money Rs. 8500/- Time Limit Two Month Cost of tender 350/-.

**Work No.9:-** C/O Link road Rachhiali Bentlu Banjoi road km.0/0 to 1/655 (SH: - C/O 900mm RCC Hume pipe culvert at RD.0/115, 0/445, 1/055 and 1/145 & C/O R/Wall at RD.0/255 to 0/265) (Under MMGSY) Estimated cost: Rs. 371197/- Earnest Money Rs. 7500/- Time Limit Three Month Cost of tender 350/-.

**Work No.10:-** C/O Link road to Village Bhattabha km.0/0 to 0/500 (SH: - P/L Interlocking concrete paver block RD.0/0 to 0/145) Estimated cost: Rs. 499990/- Earnest Money Rs. 10000/- Time Limit Two Month Cost of tender 350/-.

**Work No.11:-** MDR from Ranital 32mille (Kolla) road km.0/0 to 39/173 (SH: C/O R/Wall at RD.20/200 to 20/220) Estimated cost: Rs. 443874/- Earnest Money Rs. 9000/- Time Limit Two Month Cost of tender 350/-.

**Work No.12:-** Balance work for boundary wall in combined office building at Kangra (SH: - C/O Boundary wall and parking shed for Govt. vehicle) Estimated cost: Rs. 362369/- Earnest Money Rs. 8000/- Time Limit Two Month Cost of tender 350/-.

**Work No.13:-** C/O Community Centre Mahila Mandal Bhawan Bhanala Tehsil Sharup Distt. Kangra (HP) (SH: - C/O Building portion) (Deposit work) Estimated cost: Rs. 298381/- Earnest Money Rs. 6000/- Time Limit Three Month Cost of tender 350/-.

**Work No.14:-** Restoration of rain damages on Kholi Kaled via Upper Simbal Kholo road (SH: - C/O R/Wall at RD.1/585 to 1/595 (L.H.S.) & C/O V-shape drain at RD.1/550 to 1/570) Estimated cost: Rs. 313822/- Earnest Money Rs. 6500/- Time Limit Two Month Cost of tender 350/-.

**Work No.15:-** C/O Link road Gaggal Dodan Tyali Sahoura road (SH: - P/L Cement Concrete pavement in different RD's) (Balance work) Estimated cost: Rs. 499000/- Earnest Money Rs. 10000/- Time Limit Three Month Cost of tender 350/-.

**Work No.16:-** C/O Moch Gurgiun road km.0/0 to 3/240 (SH: - C/O R/Wall at RD.0/960 to 0/975, 1/165 to 1/190, 1/341 to 1/349 & 1/351 to 1/359) Estimated cost: Rs. 442974/- Earnest Money Rs. 8900/- Time Limit Three Month Cost of tender 350/-.

**TERMS & CONDITIONS:-** 1. The contractors/firms should be registered as or/dealer under GST Act 2017.

2. The intending contractors/firms shall have to produce the copy of latest enlistment and renewal enlisted in HPPWD.

3. The contractors is required to submit an affidavit for not having more than two works in hand in the shape of affidavit duly attested by the competent authority.

4. If any of the date mentioned above happened to be Gazetted Holiday the same shall be processed on next working day.

5. The contractor should quoted the rates of all the items in the tender both in figures and in words failing which tender is likely to be rejected.

6. The copy of Employees Provident Funds (EPF Number) should be attached with the application.

7. Minimum one similar work done of amount not less than 40% (forty percent) of the estimated cost (without Liquidated Damage or compensation) in last five years.

8. The Earnest Money for the above works should be required at the time of sale of tender forms.

9. All the required document should be submitted with the application otherwise single application may be rejected.

10. The Executive Engineer reserves the right to accept/reject any tender/application or all tenders without assigning any reason.

# Five held for killing man, thrashing teen

Accused went to beat victim, his friend over a relationship tussle, say police

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Five people have been arrested for allegedly killing a man and attacking an 18-year-old youth in northwest Delhi's Kanjhawala area, the police said on Thursday.

They added that the incident took place on Tuesday night in Sawada village and the injured has been identified as Reehan, a student of IGNOU, and the deceased as Shaukat (23), a photographer.

The accused have been identified as Ankit, Vikas, Vishal, Harish and Ajay.

The police said Ankit found out about his former

girlfriend's relationship with Saider – Reehan's friend – and decided to "teach him a lesson".

On Tuesday night, Ankit and his friends reached Block-O in J J Colony in Sawada village where Reehan and Saider live.

They first went to Reehan's house and asked him to come out, but he did not, a senior officer said.

The accused then pelted stones at his house, dragged him out and

started beating him.

The accused have been identified as Ankit, Vikas, Vishal, Harish and Ajay.

The police said Ankit found out about his former

head injuries, the officer said.

Penal Code sections of rioting and attempt to murder.

A Section 302 (murder) of the IPC was also added to the FIR," he said.

**Villagers protest**

After Shaukat's body arrived in his village, more than 200 people, including his family members and villagers, staged a protest against the police.

They refused to bury his body, an officer said. He said the police managed to persuade the villagers to conduct the burial later.

Policemen have been deployed in the area and the situation under control, he added.

## 52-year-old man shot at for resisting robbery

Teams

Timings  
DELHI

FRIDAY, SEP. 25	
RISE 06:11	SET 18:14
RISE 14:22	SET 00:00
SATURDAY, SEP. 26	
RISE 06:12	SET 18:13
RISE 15:12	SET 00:52
SUNDAY, SEP. 27	
RISE 06:12	SET 18:12
RISE 15:56	SET 01:50

Delhi Weather max min  
Delhi City 36 26  
Safdarjung 36 26  
Palam 36 27

Delhi Palam Today  
38°C Dry weather with hot day condition. Light winds likely with partly cloudy sky.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow  
37°C Moderate winds would prevail. Day would become very warm. A short spell of rain and thunderstorm likely.

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THE HINDU

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IN BRIEF

Govt. lawyers not being paid fees: BJP chief

NEW DELHI  
The Delhi government was exploiting its employees and now government lawyers were not being paid their fees, the Opposition BJP alleged here on Thursday. First guest school teachers, then university teachers and now government lawyers were not getting their financial due and government lawyers' bills had remained pending for the last several years, Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta alleged.

North body employees protest over salary delay

NEW DELHI  
Employees of the North Delhi Municipal Corporation held demonstrations at the Civic Centre on Thursday demanding salaries, which, they say, have not been paid for the last five months. They also wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking his intervention in the matter.

AAP slams BJP over no salary for civic workers

NEW DELHI  
The Aam Aadmi Party on Thursday attacked the BJP for allegedly not paying salary to municipal corporation workers and said that the South Corporation has to give ₹2,137 crore to the North Delhi Municipal Corporation, which can be used to pay salaries to North body employees.

Domestic workers protest over social security

NIKHIL M BABU  
NEW DELHI  
Domestic workers, many of them out of work since the outbreak of the pandemic, protested near Civil Lines metro station on Thursday, demanding financial aid and social security benefits such as pension, help for education of their children, insurance, and maternity benefits from the government.

The protest was part of a national protest in around 20 States under the banner of National Platform for Domestic Workers, a network of over 50 unions and associations, the platform said. The group said that domestic workers were not included in the Code of Social Security, 2020, which was passed by the Lok Sabha earlier this month which means that domestic workers will not get any social security benefits from the government. "We are protesting against the anti-labour laws passed by Parliament," said Christin Mary, national coordinator of National Domestic Workers' Movement.

# No. of containment zones in Capital crosses 2,000 mark

Over 300 areas have been added to the list over the last six days: govt. data

JATIN ANAND  
NEW DELHI

The total number of containment zones in the Capital has breached the 2,000 mark with over 300 having been added over the last six days, according to Delhi government Revenue Department records.

This, even as a panel of experts tasked with reducing COVID-19 cases being reported from containment zones that account for roughly 40% of the total daily COVID-19 cases in Delhi, to 'zero' by Lieutenant-Governor Anil Baijal has met on multiple occasions to formulate a strategy to this end.

Submit report

Sources privy to information in this regard said the experts had been asked to submit their report by the end of the month, following which it would be discussed at a meeting of the Delhi Disaster Management Authori-



A man undergoing rapid antigen test in north Delhi on Thursday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

ty (DDMA) with Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in attendance, to effectively attempt at reducing cases in containment zones to non-existent levels.

According to official figures, there are 2,059 containment zones across Delhi as of September 23 up from 1,751 on September 17 – an increase of 308 over the last week or 51 being delineated per day.

Government records posit that active containment zones are up to 1,612 from 1,433 and the number of zones removed from the list of containment zones has increased to 1,464 from 1,293.

Mr. Baijal, at a meeting of the DDMA on September 18, according to sources, had observed that the administration's focused attention should be on containing transmission as well as improving the recovery of patients and reducing deaths due to COVID-19.

Mr. Baijal had also directed expert groups to prepare a blueprint on re-strategising the containment policy.

# Delhi's COVID-19 tally climbs to 2,60,623 with 3,834 new cases

With 2,24,375 recoveries, there are 31,125 active cases now

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Virus spread  
Total number of COVID-19 cases 2,60,623  
Total deaths 5,123

New cases in the past 24 hours	New deaths
3,834	36

SOURCE: DELHI GOVERNMENT HEALTH BULLETIN

Now, Sisodia diagnosed with dengue

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Delhi Deputy CM Manish Sisodia, who was admitted in a government hospital after testing positive for COVID-19 earlier this month, was diagnosed with dengue on Thursday and later shifted to a private hospital in the city, sources said.

Mr. Sisodia was shifted to Max Hospital, Saket, a private hospital, on Thursday night. "He is admitted in ICU of Max Saket and will most probably given plasma therapy," the source said. Mr. Sisodia was admitted to Lok Nayak Hospital on Wednesday with fever and low oxygen level. He was tested positive for COVID-19 on September 14 and was under home isolation till then.

## 'Bio-decomposer technique will curb stubble burning pollution'

CM will meet Javadekar to discuss effective implementation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal visited the Indian Agricultural Research Institute on Thursday to see the bio-decomposer technique of converting crop stubble into compost, which is deemed a cost-effective way to deal with air pollution caused due to crop stubble burning.

The technology, called 'Pusa Decomposer', involves making a liquid formulation using decomposer capsules and readily available inputs, fermenting it over 8-10 days and then spraying the mixture on fields with crop stubble to ensure speedy bio-decomposition of the stubble.

Mr. Kejriwal said that this technique will decrease the use of fertilisers and increase the productivity of the farm soil.

He also said that he would meet the Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar to discuss the efficient and effective implementation of this simple, doable and practical technique to stop stubble burning.

"Delhi and many other North Indian States are con-



Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute on Thursday. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

vered with smoke due to stubble burning in the neighbouring States by the farmers. We visited the Pusa Agricultural Institute today and spoke to its director. They have developed a new and innovative technique, under which they give four capsules, with the help of which the farmers can prepare 25 litre of liquid mixture with jaggery and chickpea flour, which is sufficient to cover 1 hectare of land," he said.

The cost of the capsule, Mr. Kejriwal said, is very less and the Delhi government would soon be getting a proposal with all the important details. The technique, he said, was the result of many years of hardwork and efforts of the scientists who got the validation after a year after all their pilot testing and pro-

jection.

## Govt. moves HC over ICU bed reservation for COVID-19 patients

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government has moved the Delhi High Court challenging its decision which stayed the Health and Family Welfare Department's order directing 33 big private hospitals here to reserve 80% of ICU beds for COVID-19 patients.

The petition stated that the Single-Judge Bench, while passing the order, did not appreciate the categoric

submissions made on its behalf regarding the surge in the number of COVID-19 patients, and the dynamic efforts being undertaken to tackle the ever-changing situation regarding healthcare and medical facilities in the Capital on account of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Delhi government stated that the High Court's order on Tuesday was passed on the plea of the Association of Healthcare Pro-

viders and has been masked as a petition that is seeking to secure the interest of non-COVID-19 patients.

In reality, the same has been preferred on behalf of private nursing homes and hospitals solely to look out for and secure their own financial interests, and be able to levy arbitrary and exorbitant medical treatment fee and other such charges from critical COVID-19 patients," the petition stated.

## DEPARTMENT OF TRADE & TAXES, GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI VYAPAR BHAWAN, IP ESTATE, NEW DELHI

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Attention of the persons registered, under DGST/CGST Act is hereby drawn to Rule 18 of Delhi Goods and Services Tax Rules, whereby, it is mandatory to display the certificate of registration at a prominent location at principal place and at every additional place or places of business.

It is also mandatory to display Goods and Services Tax Identification Number (GSTIN) on the name board exhibited at the entry of the principal place of business and at every additional place of business.

Violation of the above provisions of the Act may attract penalty upto Rs. 25000/- u/s 125 of the DGST Act. This penalty is leviable under CGST Act also separately.

Therefore, all registered persons are hereby advised to ensure that Rule 18 of DGST Rules is complied by them.

Commissioner,  
Delhi State Tax

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## Tribal youth block highway in Rajasthan

They are demanding recruitment to vacant posts of teachers in the State

### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

JAIJUPUR

After 15 days of protest at the nearby hills, tribal youth on Thursday laid siege to the Udaipur-Ahmedabad national highway in Rajasthan's Dungarpur district with the demand for recruitment to vacant posts of teachers in the Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) area. The protesters clashed with the policemen, who lobbed teargas shells to disperse them.

Several tribal youth and policemen were injured in the scuffle, but the highway remained blocked till late in

the evening. Though the traffic was diverted to other routes, a massive jam for several kilometres was witnessed on the highway.

### Policemen injured

The youth hurled stones and damaged a large number of vehicles after blocking the road. Police used force to bring the situation under control, but Additional Superintendent of Police Ganpati Mahawar and several other policemen, brought mainly from Bichhiwara police station, were injured in the clash. The district officials had tried to

The youth have been demanding the appointment of Scheduled Tribe candidates to 1,167 posts of general category teachers for TSP area, left vacant after the Rajasthan Eligibility Examination for Teachers (REET) held in 2018. They were earlier staging a protest on the issue at Kakri-Dungri hills, situated adjacent to the national highway.

The Bichhiwara police had registered two cases on the protest, terming it as violative of the guidelines for the COVID-19 pandemic. The district officials had tried to

persuade the agitating youth to stage their protest at a designated place after getting the Collector's permission, but the demonstrators did not relent.

The TSP area in Rajasthan comprises the complete Banswara, Dungarpur and Pratapgarh districts and some blocks in five other districts. With the delay in the holding of this year's REET, which has been postponed several times, the tribal candidates lost patience and raised the demand for recruitment to the posts which remained unfilled in 2018.

## No proposal to sell J.P. Narayan Centre'

Lucknow Development Authority quashes rumours on SP's pet project

### OMAR RASHID

LUCKNOW

There are no plans to sell the Jaya Prakash Narayan International Centre (JPNIC), a multi-purpose convention centre dedicated to the socialist ideologue in Lucknow, an Uttar Pradesh official stated on Thursday.

"No such proposal has been sent to the government," Chief Engineer of the Lucknow Development Authority (LDA) Indu Shekhar Singh told *The Hindu*. "We are a construction agency.

This is a government project. How can we pass a proposal to sell it," the official asked.

Mr. Singh's clarification came after a controversy was triggered over a report that the BJP-led Uttar Pradesh government was planning to sell off the JPNIC to private firms for a slated price of over ₹1,642 crore.

The JPNIC, an interpretation centre envisaged along the likes of the India Habitat Centre in New Delhi, was conceived by the previous

Samajwadi Party government, under Akhilesh Yadav.

Once complete, the almost 19-acre project near the Gomti river would boast a number of facilities ranging from a world-class convention halls, an Olympic-sized swimming pool, a multi-sports block, a luxury hotel, an auditorium, a business centre, a helipad and a museum.

Dedicated to the personal and political journey of J.P. Narayan and through it the nascent years of Indian de-

mocracy, the museum, called the Museum of Socialism, has been operative since late 2016. However, most of the other facilities are either incomplete or inoperative. After coming to power in 2017, the Yogi Adityanath-led BJP government had initiated a probe into its construction.

SP president Akhilesh Yadav claimed that by selling the JPNIC to "private hands" the BJP government would finish off the "prime objective" of the centre that was dedicated to socialist values.

### SEARCH FOR MISSING BOY



Rashid

General Public is hereby informed that one boy (depicted in the photo) namely Rashid S/o Abdul Kabir R/o Village Mohara Bhichayl, P.S. Suram Kot Distt. Poonth (J&K) Aged- 11 Years has been reported missing since 21.09.2019 at 4:00 PM from 9719, Zuberiya Madarsa, Gali Neem Wali, Nawab Ganj, Delhi vide FIR No. 64/19 u/s 363

IPC Dated 23.09.2019 has been lodged at Police Station Bara Hindu Rao, Delhi.

His physical description is as under:-

**Complexion:** Fair, **Height:** 4'6", **Face:** Long, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Gray coloured kurta & pajama and slipper in feet. Any person having any information/Clue about this missing boy, may inform SHO, Bara Hindu Rao, Delhi at E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) or website : <http://cbi.nic.in>

Tele No. : 011-2301404(Direct), 011-3015229 & 23015218 extn. 210

Sd/-  
FAX No.: 011-230111334  
SHO, Bara Hindu Rao, Delhi  
DP/277/N/2020

### SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that one woman namely Salma, W/o Zubair, R/o: H.No. 256, Leprosy Colony, Delhi, Age: Approx 35 years, Height: 5'3", Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Built: Medium, wearing Pink colour Suit-Salwar and Hawai Chappal in feet, has been missing from her house since 12.08.2020.

In this regard a DD No. 70-A dated 22.08.2020 has been registered at P.S. Nand Nagri, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the woman but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about her please inform undersigned.

Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>

E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)

Fax: 011-24368639

Ph. No.: 011-24368638, 24368641

SHO  
P.S. Nand Nagri, Delhi

DP/272/NE/2020

Ph. No.: 011-22585985, 22583307

### Office of the Chief Engineer-cum-Executive Director Programme Management Unit (SWSM)

#### Drinking Water & Sanitation Department, Jharkhand

Doranda Bazar (Water Tower Compound, First floor)

Doranda, Ranchi – 834002, Jharkhand, Phone: 0651-2480166

Email: [swsms.jharkhand@gmail.com](mailto:swsms.jharkhand@gmail.com), Website: [dwsd.jharkhand.gov.in](http://dwsd.jharkhand.gov.in)

Letter No: Providing of Manpower - 848/13 (Part-II) - ...../SWSM Dated: .....

#### CORRIGENDUM/ADDENDUM

The notice inviting EOI for providing personnel in State/District and Sub Divisional level water testing laboratories in Jharkhand published vide PR No - 232932 (Drinking Water and Sanitation Department Jharkhand 2020-21) in different news paper and on pursuant of pre-bid meeting held on-15.09.2020, following Corrigendum/Addendum are made.

Particulars	Previous date	Modified Date	Place
Starting of Online submission of EOI (Date & Time)	26.09.2020 from 4:00 pm onwards	02.10.2020 from 4:00 pm onwards	Office of the Chief Engineer-cum-Executive Director Programme Management Unit (SWSM)
Last Date, Time & place of submission of Online Proposal	12.10.2020 upto 4:00 pm	21.10.2020 upto 4:00 pm	Drinking Water & Sanitation Department, Jharkhand
Hardcopy (Cost of EOI & EMD) submission Date	14.10.2020 upto 4:00 pm	22.10.2020 upto 4:00 pm	Doranda Bazar (Water Tower Compound, First floor)
Opening Date and Time of Technical Bid	15.10.2020 at 1:00 pm	27.10.2020 at 1:00 pm	Doranda, Ranchi – 834002, Jharkhand, Phone: 0651-2480166 Email: <a href="mailto:swsms.jharkhand@gmail.com">swsms.jharkhand@gmail.com</a> , Website: <a href="http://dwsd.jharkhand.gov.in">dwsd.jharkhand.gov.in</a>

Other terms and conditions will remain same.

(Deepak Kumar Mahto)  
Deputy Director – I

PR 233224 Drinking Water and Sanitation (20-21)\_D

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA

### DIESEL LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI - 221004

Bid No. E-43/2020-2021 E-TENDERS Dated : 16.09.2020

E-Tenders are invited for & on behalf of the President of India for the supply of following items. Only E-offer will be accepted for which vendors must have Class III Digital Signature and registration on IREP. The details of tenders are in the following sequence - S. No. - Tender No. (Due Date), Description and Quantity. (1) 05201737 (05.10.2020), Wire Gauge, Part No. 74491015, 1833 Kgs (2) 05201739 (09.10.2020), Light Weight Flexible grinding Disc, Part No. 70237426, 600 Nos. (3) 05201686A (09.10.2020), Abrasive Belt aloxide, Part No. 70207045, 449 Nos. (4) 05205167A (09.10.2020), Work station with 3D Design software, Mod-71913, 01 Nos. (5) 05205067A (12.10.2020), Abrasive Shot Blasting Helmet, 03 Nos. (6) 05205140B (12.10.2020), Three Phase Slipring Induction Motor, 01 Nos. (7) 05205141B (12.10.2020), Three Phase Sci. Cage Induction Motor, 01 Nos. (8) 05205183A (12.10.2020), Double Ended Heavy Duty Pedestal Grinder, Mod-71914, 02 Nos. (9) 05205186A (12.10.2020), Battery Operated Platform Truck, Mod-71904, 02 Nos. (10) 05201904A (12.10.2020), Drilling Machine, Mod-71908, 01 Nos. (11) 07201026A (09.10.2020), PLN. No. 17270595 (I) Sealant Silicon Rubber, (i) 767 Liter, PLN. No. (ii) 17270716 (ii)Adhesive, (i) 2730 Kg, (ii) 12201046A (09.10.2020), PLN. No. 29170552, Safety Flooring Sheet, 1350 Metre, (14) 03201315A (16.10.2020), Tube C/I, PLN. No. 29170333, 1380 Metre, (15) 07201704C (06.10.2020), PL. No. 8211625, Gloves (Size XL), 3000 Pair, (16) 06201292B (09.10.2020), Electronic Governor of the Motor, Make for 2.5/2.4 MW DS SET (ALCO Engine) Consist of-a) 723 Generator control and KV Transducer Model (UTM15/B1-B) No. B) ACU Actuator, 3 PIN Connector with Booster-01 No. C) Kit Linkage for AGU Actuator-01 No. D) Magnetic Pickup-02 Nos, to PLT-12630135, 02 Nos. Note: For Complete details of EMD and downloading of tender documents and Hindi Version also available at website [www.dlw.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.dlw.indianrailways.gov.in) and [www.iresh.gov.in](http://www.iresh.gov.in). Corrigendum Notice : 16.09.2020 Revision : E-33 Tender No.: 04201073. Revision : E-33 Details of Correction: The tender will open on 16.09.2020 instead of 18.09.2020 Note: All other terms and conditions of the tender will remain unchanged. Bid No.: E-33 Tender No.: 04201252 Revision : E-33 Details of Correction: The tender will open on 18.09.2020 instead of 20.09.2020 Note: All other terms and conditions of the tender will remain unchanged. Corrigendum Date : 18.09.2020 Revised due date : 22.09.2020 Revised due date : 21.10.2020 Note: All other terms & conditions remain unchanged. Corrigendum Date : 21.09.2020 Revised due date : 06201198, Bid Inv. No.: 27 Existing due date : 22.09.2020 Revised due date : 21.10.2020 Note: All other terms & conditions remain unchanged. Corrigendum Date : 22.09.2020 Revised due date : 06201198, Bid Inv. No.: E-23 Rev. 02 Existing due date : 22.09.2020 Revised due date : 21.10.2020 Note: All other terms & conditions remain unchanged. Corrigendum Date : 21.10.2020 Revised due date : 06201198, Bid Inv. No.: E-23 Rev. 02 Existing due date : 22.09.2020 Revised due date : 21.10.2020 Note: All other terms & conditions remain unchanged.

P.R.O/DLWS-48 On the behalf of PCMM

f [diesellocoworks](http://diesellocoworks) "Website : [www.dlw.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.dlw.indianrailways.gov.in)"

## Bills aimed at lifting MSP safety cover, says Minister

Punjabis won't accept any move to harm farmers' interests'

### VIKAS VASUDEVA

CHANDIGARH

Punjab Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal on Thursday said the Centre's agriculture sector Bills were primarily aimed at lifting the safety cover in the form of Minimum Support Price (MSP), thereby ruining the food growers of the country.

Mr. Badal said Punjabis would not accept any such move that aimed to harm farmers' interests, and the State government would vehemently oppose these attempts of the BJP-led Union government.

"No one will be allowed to harm the interests of farmers at any cost. The agriculture Bills will deprive the farmers of a safety cover in the form of MSP," said Mr. Badal.

He said the ₹50 increase in MSP of wheat announced by the Centre recently was the least in the previous decade (only 2.6%). He said



Punjab Finance Minister  
Manpreet Singh Badal

of food growers, it also acted as a catalyst in the State's development. In Punjab, procurement of food grains worth ₹70,000 crore took place every year. Mr. Badal said the State received ₹3,900 crore mandi fees annually, which was used for maintenance, repair, and upkeep of 65,000 km of link roads, bridges, culverts, mandis, and other infrastructure.

"BJP anti-Punjab" The Finance Minister said Punjab always borne the brunt of the BJP government's anti-Punjab stance. "Special tax concessions to hill States, the GST regime, and now these agriculture Bills have broken the backbone of Punjab's economy," said Mr. Badal.

Highlighting the significance of MSP to farmers, the Finance Minister said that besides ensuring well being

Shelter home case: sentence challenged

### STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Thursday asked the Central Bureau of Investigation to respond to a petition by Vikas Kumar, a former Child Welfare Committee member, challenging his life imprisonment in a case of sexual assault of several girls in a shelter home in Bihar's Muzaffarpur district.

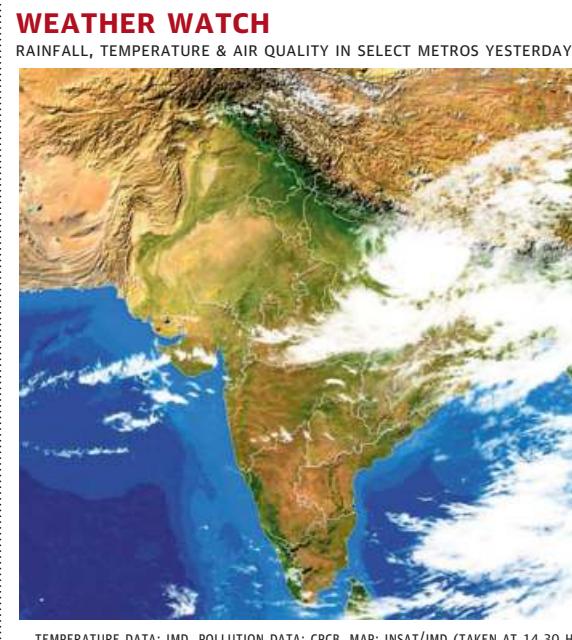
A Bench of Justice Vipin Sanghi and Justice Rajnish Bhatnagar asked the agency to submit its response by October 1, the next date of hearing. The High Court will hear Kumar's appeal along with appeals of other convicts, Brajesh Thakur and Dilip Kumar Verma, both also sentenced to life imprisonment by the trial court in the case.

The trial court had on January 20 convicted the three for offences under Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act and offences of rape and gang-rape under the IPC.

## More opposition against Tripura Bru resettlement

Halam, Manipuri groups raise voice

### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT</h



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD; POLLUTION DATA: CPCB; MAP: INSTAT/MD (TAKEN AT 14.30 hrs)

**Forecast for Friday:** Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, central Maharashtra, Marathwada, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Telangana and north interior Karnataka

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	29.6	30.2	25.1	Kozhikode	15.8	32.5	24.4
Ahmedabad	—	35.2	26.3	Kurnool	—	32.5	23.5
Aizawl	21	26.9	19.1	Lucknow	34.4	26.6	24.6
Allahabad	19.4	30.7	26.3	Madurai	—	37.2	25.0
Bengaluru	—	27.4	20.0	Mangaluru	15.4	29.5	22.9
Bhopal	19.3	31.1	23.2	Mumbai	108.7	30.6	23.8
Rhubaneswar	—	33.6	26.8	Mysuru	—	29.0	20.0
Chandigarh	0.2	33.3	25.5	New Delhi	—	35.9	25.8
Chennai	—	36.6	27.6	Patna	35.8	29.8	25.2
Coimbatore	—	32.0	22.4	Pond Blair	—	29.4	25.5
Dehradun	—	31.3	20.6	Puducherry	—	35.9	26.6
Gangtok	8.8	20.0	16.3	Pune	—	29.5	22.9
Goa	8.8	30.6	25.3	Raipur	—	31.7	25.2
Guwahati	8.8	29.4	24.0	Ranchi	15.6	31.8	22.6
Hubballi	—	27.0	22.0	Shillong	78.3	20.4	17.8
Hyderabad	0.8	30.7	22.3	Shimla	—	26.5	19.2
Imphal	33.8	28.9	20.5	Srinagar	—	29.3	9.3
Jaipur	—	38.0	26.4	Thiruvananthapuram	2.1	30.4	23.7
Kochi	22.2	30.4	23.6	Tiruchi	—	37.2	25.0
Kohima	12.6	26.0	17.8	Vijayawada	0.6	35.0	26.9
Kolkata	6.6	32.8	26.6	Visakhapatnam	—	32.1	27.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Yesterday

**Pollutants in the air you are breathing**

CITIES	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>x</sub>	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	14	.56	23	.76	.91	■■■■■
Bengaluru	13	.25	20	.131	.105	■■■■■
Chennai	—	.12	48	.121	.105	■■■■■
Delhi	—	.371	28	.59	.66	■■■■■
Hyderabad	.6	.44	.8	.24	.35	■■■■■
Kolkata	—	.19	20	.48	.64	■■■■■
Lucknow	.6	.60	.35	.81	.97	■■■■■
Mumbai	.3	.31	23	.41	.60	■■■■■
Pune	—	—	—	—	—	■■■■■
Visakhapatnam	.8	.41	.21	.44	.89	■■■■■

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)  
**SO<sub>2</sub>:** Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.  
**NO<sub>x</sub>:** Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.  
**CO:** Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.  
**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

# Is NCB now called NaMo Controlled Bureau?: Cong.

Party questions the agency for not probing Kangana Ranaut

**ALOK DESHPANDE**  
MUMBAI

The Maharashtra Congress on Thursday asked whether the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) had now been renamed as the NaMo Controlled Bureau as it was neglecting the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) angle in its investigations into the Bollywood drug connection.

The Congress also wanted to know why the NCB was avoiding a probe against actor Kangana Ranaut on her video in which she has reportedly confessed to consuming drugs. "While the NCB made such a huge ado over a 59 gram cannabis case, at the same time, BJP activist Chandrakant Chauhan was arrested in Karnataka with 1,200 kg of cannabis and the NCB didn't even bother to look into the case," State Congress general secretary Sachin Sawant said.

He said actor Ragini Dwivedi, a star campaigner of Karnataka BJP, was arrested in a drug case. "Aditya Alva too has been arrested. Mr. Alva is the brother-in-law of Gujarat BJP's star campaigner, actor Vivek Oberoi, and Mr. Oberoi is the co-producer of the Modi biopic with Sandeep Ssingh," Mr. Sawant said.

The Congress leader

pointed out that the alleged BJP-Bollywood-sandalwood-Goa drug connection was not being probed.

Mr. Sawant said that the poster release of the Modi biopic was done in the presence of the then chief minister Devendra Fadnavis. "It is yet to be revealed whom Mr. Ssingh had called 53 times in the BJP office and who had helped him in a case in Mauritius. All these

things are linked. The Maharashtra government has told the CBI about this. But to this day, this angle has not been investigated which is surprising," Mr. Sawant said.

"Even Ms. Ranaut is missing from the NCB's drug connection probe. She has confessed that she was taking drugs. While her video is evidence of drug use, why isn't she being questioned?" asked Mr. Sawant.

## NCB seeks time to reply to bail pleas of Rhea, Showik

**SONAM SAIGAL**  
MUMBAI

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Thursday sought time before the Bombay High Court to reply to the bail pleas filed by actor Rhea Chakraborty and her brother Showik in connection with a drug case after the death of actor Sushant Singh Rajput.

Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Anil Singh representing the NCB told a single judge Bench of Justice S.V. Kotwal that he had not received a copy of the bail applications and that he needed time to file a reply.

Advocate Satish Maneshinde appearing for the Chakrabortys said that he had served a copy twice to the NCB and that he could also serve it to the ASG directly. He also questioned the jurisdiction of the agency to probe the matter as the Supreme Court had ruled on August 19 that all investigation in Sushant's death case had to be transferred to the Central Bureau of Investigation.

Meanwhile, the NDPS court on Thursday allowed the NCB to visit the Chakraborty and Mr. Sawant at Taloja Central Jail.

## Bhiwandi collapse: HC issues notices

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
MUMBAI

been rescued by the NDRF.

A Division Bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice G.S. Kulkarni was hearing a matter related to a construction in Kalyan Dombivali. The court said, "A building has collapsed in Bhiwandi; several lives have been lost. We are told the sit-

uation is quite serious in Mumbai too."

The court made the State of Maharashtra, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, and the civic bodies of Bhiwandi-Nizampur, Kalyan-Dombivali, Thane, and Navi Mumbai as respondents in the case.

The Bombay High Court on Thursday took suo moto cognisance of the building collapse in Bhiwandi in Thane and said that it was a very serious incident where 41 people were declared dead and 25 people had

been rescued by the NDRF.

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## Terms of disengagement

Military-level talks help avoid confrontation, but the China border remains a challenge

**T**hat India and China have agreed to stop sending more troops to the frontline is a welcome step towards hitting pause on the rising tensions along the LAC. Indeed, the genesis of the tensions lies in China's large-scale deployment of troops to forward areas in May, and subsequent multiple transgressions in the Galwan Valley, Pangong Lake, Gogra, Hot Springs, and Depsang plains that have violated almost every core tenet of the four border agreements that have helped keep the peace since 1993. This has forced India to match the Chinese deployment, leading to an extraordinary build-up on a scale not seen since 1962. The new agreement of September 21, at the sixth round of Corps Commander talks since June, will put a stop to this build-up, that is, if it is implemented sincerely. The joint press release said the sides had agreed to strengthen communication on the ground, avoid misjudgments, and to refrain from unilaterally changing the situation on the ground, besides holding a next round at an early date, underlining that many issues remain unresolved.

If this agreement can potentially help stem the bleeding as it were, it does not address most of India's fundamental concerns on the LAC. Prior to the talks, Indian officials had highlighted the key points of their agenda as having China withdraw from all friction points including Depsang and Pangong Tso and granting unhindered access to all patrolling points (PPs) – China has blocked access to 10 PPs since May. The joint press release makes no mention of restoration of the *status quo ante* of April, only referring to no unilateral changes to the ground situation, which refers to the current *status quo*. It is true that one or two rounds of talks cannot be expected realistically to resolve a situation that is, in many ways, even more complex than the 1986 Sumborong Chu stand-off – and that took six years before the *status quo* was restored. At the same time, a second joint public statement in as many weeks is a positive development in itself, showing both have the intent to stabilise the situation, even if their motivations may be different. For the Indian government, such a statement in the midst of a Parliament session where it has faced questions over its handling of the LAC situation sends the message that the China crisis is under control. For China, the motivations could be two-fold – either a tactical pause that gives it time to prepare for further military manoeuvres, as was the case in end-August south of Pangong Lake, or a signal that Beijing wants to dial down tensions, albeit on its own terms and most likely without giving up the territorial gains it has made since May. Whichever may be the case, the reality for Delhi is that the challenge along the LAC may be far from over.

## The foreign hand

NGOs fill in for the state; regulations should not stifle their functioning

**A**mendments to the FCRA, drafted without consultation with stakeholders and passed with limited discussion in Parliament, further clip the wings of India's battered civil society. New regulations put onerous conditions on civil society organisations, and educational and research institutions that have partnerships, including of a financial nature, with foreign entities. Passions overwhelm rationality in conversations on foreign influences, and it could well be true that a portion of such foreign assistance may be reaching the wrong hands. In Parliament, the BJP alleged that foreign money was being used for religious conversions. In 2017, the government barred American Christian charity, Compassion International, accusing it of supporting conversions. The debate on religious propagation and conversions must be delinked from the question of foreign funding. There are adequate laws against conversion by inducement, and the right or wrong of it cannot be decided against the touchstone of the source of funds, native or foreign. Some of the restrictions appear well meaning, but could impact NGOs besides showing up India to be overregulated.

The International Commission of Jurists has said the new law was incompatible with international obligations and India's own constitutional provisions on rights. Seamless sharing of ideas and resources across national boundaries is essential to the functioning of a global community, and should not be discouraged unless there is reason to believe the funds are being used to aid illegal activities. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has often cited the ancient Indian ethos of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* as the framework for its global engagement. The pandemic has only underscored the importance of this approach. As a growing economy, India under Mr. Modi has been proactive in seeking global capital and technology. The aversion appears to be towards select categories of global ideas and ideals – environmentalism, human rights and civil liberties. Organisations working in these fields have often had their patriotism being called into question. To be fair, this approach predates the current government, and it was during the UPA that an official report even quantified the GDP losses allegedly caused by environmental NGOs, insinuating a foreign conspiracy against India. Such paranoia does not go well with India's legitimate ambitions to be a global player. The BJP and the Congress are well aware of the limits of the national-foreign binary. In 2017, both joined hands to legislate an escape route after receiving funds from foreign entities in violation of FCRA provisions. Thousands of NGOs serve extremely disadvantaged sections, at times filling in for the state, at others, supplementing it. A presumption of guilt against them all, followed by control, amounts to throwing the baby out with the bathwater. The world is poorer when new barriers are raised.

# Shadow force apart, India needs a China plan

With a resolution to the stand-off far away, New Delhi must study how Beijing has handled its other boundary disputes



GURDIP SINGH UPLAN

**T**he mystic, celestial snow lion, 'Gang Seng Ge' in local lore, derives its name from the Sanskrit *Simha*. It is the emblem of Tibet showcasing its eternally snow-covered mountains and glaciers, even as it symbolises power, strength, fearlessness and the joy of living. It is also the symbol and the flag of the intrepid, fearless warriors of the 'Special Frontier Force', or the SFF, which has figured so prominently in the recent clashes in eastern Ladakh.

### Stand-off in the heights

Towards the end of April this year, 4 Motorised and 6 Mechanised Divisions of the Chinese Western Theatre Command, having completed their exercises on the edge of the Gobi Desert, took to the Xinjiang highway. In a well-planned and rehearsed move, they branched off onto a series of feeder roads on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh. Once the troops were in position, they initiated multiple incursions across the LAC into what had been "No Man's Land" patrolled by both sides (India and China). This included areas in the Depsang plains threatening the forward airstrip of Daulat Beg Oldie as also the north and the south of the expansive Pangong Tso salt water lake.

The world watched in horror, as soldiers of two nuclear armed Asian giants engaged each other in a slug fest on the snowy summits of the Himalayas. In the melee that followed, they went at each other with clubs studded with barbed wire, machetes and rocks, resulting in serious injuries. Not a shot was fired, but the Indian Army which was initially surprised, reacted swiftly and with bravery and courage inflicted casualties to

the Chinese side.

The inevitable fallout of these actions was both sides jostling for heights, leading to a stalemate. Suddenly, on the night of August 29-30, in a surprise move, the Indian Army turned the tables on China by occupying heights that were not only of great tactical importance north and south of the Pangong Tso lake as also dominating the Spangur Gap. It was now looking into the innards of the Chinese depth localities at Moldo including China's armour, guns and reserves. This amazing feat was accomplished primarily by a Ghost Army, the Special Frontier Force. Who are these super human troops? What are their antecedents? They are the dreaded shadow warriors of the SFF.

### Working in the shadows

During the era of the "Great Game", the British employed natives to patrol their own lands, which included Tibetans. It was the Mustang Base in the Northern Border Range that escorted the 14th Dalai Lama to safety to India during the 1959 rebellion. As a consequence of the 1962 war, the Jawaharlal Nehru government ordered the raising of an elite Commando Force called the Special Frontier Force comprising among others, Tibetans who had sought refuge in India along with the Dalai Lama.

My father, Major General Sujan Singh Uban, was a natural choice for this based on sheer merit and his being a legendary war veteran of the British Army famous for his daring exploits with the Long Range Desert Group in the Middle East, and the Guerrilla Wars in Burma during World War II. He was tasked with raising, training and commanding this nascent Force; as also moulding them into a well-oiled fighting machine.

To enhance their inherent fighting capabilities its members were given airborne training in addition to acquiring expertise in mountain and jungle warfare. Initially aided and equipped by the United



States, they quickly indigenised and were soon on their own feet. The opportunity to display their mettle as also to repay their host country came during the India-Pakistan war of 1971. As the Indian Army moved in with its major thrust into East Pakistan, the SFF, while supporting the flank of the Indian Army, in a blitzkrieg cleared the Chittagong hill tracts, as also the Kaptai dam, and encircled and prevented the escape of the Pakistani 97 (Indep) Brigade and No 2 Commando Battalion, all of whom were taken prisoners. The SFF was poised for the capture of Chittagong port when a ceasefire was declared; a daring move which paid handsome dividends. This earned them the *nom de guerre*, the 'Phantoms of Chittagong'.

### The importance of Tibet

It soon became my turn to serve the SFF, enabling me to fulfil a family commitment. Having performed exceedingly well in the Indian Army (including being awarded the Vishisht Seva Medal (VSM) and based on my record of service) I was promoted as Inspector General to command the SFF and was privileged to command it during the Kargil war in battles fought at heights of 14,000 feet and above in subzero temperatures; actions which were lauded in the Ladakh and Kargil sectors. That year, the security for the Amarnath Yatra was provided by the SFF.

The strategic importance of Tibet cannot be overemphasised. It is the roof of the world, with vast

mineral and natural resources. The mighty rivers that emanate from its expansive glaciers – such as the Brahmaputra, the Yangtze, the Yellow river, the Mekong, the Salween and the Indus – together with thousands of their tributaries have nurtured civilisations in peripheral countries for centuries. The Kailash Mansarovar, which is centered in this region and with its spiritual overtones, tugs at the heart strings of every Indian. In an act of naked aggression, China occupied Tibet in 1959.

A buffer was eliminated, and the de facto boundary of China became contiguous to that of India, a boundary deliberately left undemarcated to enable further expansion. Mao Zedong declared, "Tibet is the palm that we shall occupy and then go after the five fingers, Ladakh, Nepal, Bhutan, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh." Consequently, in 1959, China committed the naked act of aggression, to which India acquiesced, and our dream of "Hindi Chini Bhai Bhai" was rudely shaken in 1962.

### Understanding China's stand

India is dealing with bellicose neighbour, with its obsession for asserting its rights over land which its predecessors may have acquired through conquest or guile. China has land borders with 14 neighbours covering an estimated 22,100 kilometres. Post independence, and as its economic status burgeoned, so did its military muscle. China embarked on claims based on perceived imbalances of treaties forced on countries when they were weak.

Some of these have since been resolved after bloody clashes such as with Russia and Vietnam, while others have been resolved using a combination of lucrative offers of money, trade and guile. In most cases, the end result has been such that victory can be claimed by both sides.

Russia accepted half of China's claim, Kazakhstan was given lucrative economic deals, Kyrgyzstan retained 70% of the land, ceding

just 30%, and so on.

It would be fallacious to surmise that there will be any resolution to the on-going stand-off between India and China in the near future. Let us assume that both countries wish to avoid a full-scale war considering the nuclear backdrop, the COVID-19 pandemic and also the economic downturn. The road ahead will have to be evolved and based on a study of the manner in which China has negotiated its boundary disputes with 12 of its neighbours and the results achieved.

### What must be done

There can be little doubt that the actions by the People's Liberation Army, or the PLA, in Ladakh were pre-meditated, planned and executed with precision. The Chinese were fully aware that they were transgressing into "No Man's Land". With a pre-determined aim in mind they proceeded to secure tactical heights and gained access to the areas which would forestall a counter-offensive by the Indian Army. To expect them to vacate these areas at this juncture would be naive. At the same time, the PLA, in its present configuration and posture, has immense weaknesses which they would be aware of, and which should make them uneasy.

Under the prevailing circumstances, it has become imperative to form a group of experts from among retired professionals, who have a proven track record with the Indian Army, the Indian Navy, the Indian Air Force, diplomats, the intelligence services, cyber technology and cartographic services, who will plan and prepare, short-, medium- and long-term goals to achieve them within a suggested time frame. Let us play down the rhetoric and adopt a pragmatic approach. It can no longer be a part-time issue to be addressed only when a crisis occurs. The crisis is upon us now.

Gurdip Singh Uban is former Inspector General, Special Frontier Force

## Health worker safety deserves a second look

The key is to adopt a systems approach and lay emphasis on a culture of health worker well-being



HARIKEERTHAN RAGHURAM & ANANT BHAN

**H**ealth facilities are a place of healing and restoration. But can they be places of harm as well? The world over, one in 10 patients experiences or is subject to harm in health-care settings. These range from operations done on the wrong patient, to injections being administered in an unsafe manner. Studies in India have shown that more than two-thirds of injections are given in an unsafe manner; equally worrying is the fact that over two-thirds of injections in primary care are unnecessary in the first place.

### Global focus

To highlight this important issue, the World Health Organization observes World Patient Safety Day (<https://bit.ly/3mOqOTG>) every year (September 17). The theme for 2020 was 'Health Worker Safety: A Priority for Patient Safety' with a call to action to 'Speak up for health worker safety!' But one may wonder, why, on a day dedicated for patient safety, we should speak up for health worker safety? So, why is health worker safety important for patient safety?

Much harm done to patients in health-care settings is because of unsafe health-care practice and unsafe health-care communication. Unsafe health-care practice refers to unsafe or unnecessary procedures, wrong medications,

medications given in a wrong dosage, etc. Unsafe health-care communication refers to mistakes made in health-care settings due to miscommunication between health professionals, for example, during patient handover in between staff shifts. The quality of both practice and communication is dependent on the safety and well-being of health workers. For example, numerous studies have shown that health workers, such as residents, who have been on duty for more than 24 hours at a stretch, have a higher risk of making mistakes, increasing the likelihood of a direct impact on patient safety.

### COVID-19 and reporting cases

During the current COVID-19 crisis, health workers are not only putting in longer hours but also working under increasingly difficult circumstances, which affect both their physical and mental health. The mental health of health workers is linked to the workplace culture. Some organisations have a culture of supporting staff, responding to their needs and encouraging learning from mistakes; while others have a culture of fault-finding, blame, guilt and abuse. When instances of patient harm occur, whether people feel encouraged to report them, depends on the organisation's culture and leadership.

Without reporting, it is difficult for organisations to learn from mistakes and create systems, such as check lists in order to prevent similar future occurrences. In addition, in India, it is not uncommon to find health-care organisations observe strict hierarchies between specialties, between designations,



and between doctors and other health professionals, such as nurses. Such power differences can further prevent reporting and cooperative organisational learning and may, in fact, increase chances of abuse: verbal, physical, emotional and sexual, putting the safety of health workers and patients at risk.

### Looking at the organisation

Organisational learning is more important than individual learning. This is because instances of patient harm, even when they occur at the individual level, are often an end result of a chain of organisational failures.

For example, systemic understaffing, lack of reporting mechanisms, lack of dedicated time for handovers, audits, training and team building, poorly maintained equipment and corruption in purchases, are all organisational failures that could result in a cascade leading to avoidable harm to the patient. Moreover, good systems can mitigate the effects of individual mistakes.

Thus, it is pertinent to look beyond the individual to look at the organisation as the sum of multiple elements that interact with each other. This involves taking a systems approach. What does that involve? Let us take the

example of overcrowding. In many hospitals, quality of care is often compromised because of overcrowding, such as in the emergency department. To take a systems approach in this situation would mean looking at it holistically – for example, from at least three angles using the input-throughput-output conceptual model described by Aspin *et al* in the *Annals of Emergency Medicine* in 2003 (<https://bit.ly/2Hu43Nh>).

One, the input: looking at whether patients who come to the emergency department need to be there in the first place or could be managed somewhere else such as in the community itself. Two, the throughput: looking at whether there are inefficiencies such as shortage of doctors, nurses, equipment or space that is increasing the time taken for patients to be treated. And three, the output: looking at whether the patients are staying longer in the emergency department than required because of lack of non-emergency department inpatient beds, delays at the pharmacy or delays in transportation of patients out of the emergency department.

The conversation on health during COVID-19 has often centred on individuals, with certain individuals, such as health-care workers, seen as heroes, and others (including those referred to as 'super spreaders' in a stigmatising way), seen as villains. Many health workers have demonstrated excellence despite the limitations in the Indian health system. This is laudable but may not be sustainable. Creating sustainability would involve taking a systems approach to make sure all parts of the system, both of health care and of support

ive social care are well functioning.

Many health workers are overworked not by choice, but rather the lack of it since understaffing and shortages are a common feature of the Indian public health-care system. In addition, India simply does not have enough health facilities to cater to all its population, even without a pandemic. Further, the lack of adequate social care, such as care homes, community health services and community-based rehabilitative and palliative services, unduly increase the burden on health-care facilities.

### Stakeholder involvement

Finally, a systems approach involves all stakeholders. Patients themselves need to be aware of patient safety as well as be empowered to demand safe health care and resist unnecessary medications and procedures. Hospital managers must understand the need for and be empowered to create systems of reporting, monitoring and organisational learning. Policy makers must prioritise staffing, co-designing functional and safe workplaces, and ethics in health care.

Numerous persons find healing and restoration in health care. But some are harmed as well. In crises such as COVID-19, quality of care can be compromised further. We can help improve patient safety by taking a systems approach and promoting a culture of health worker safety and well-being.

Dr. Harikeerthan Raghuram is a public health researcher and consultant. Dr. Anant Bhan is a researcher in global health, bioethics and health policy

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

**Opposition strategy** Though the passage of the 'farm Bills' in Parliament raises certain questions on the working of democratic processes, especially under the present government, the onus lies on the Opposition to make a sincere effort to inform the stakeholders – through online platforms and other forms of media – about what it perceives to be the adverse impact of the Bills in the short, medium and

long term. Vague allegations about the commercialisation of agriculture, akin to what happened under British colonial policy which forced the farmer to grow indigo, will not fetch the desired results. The Opposition cannot expect an Indigo revolt in the 21st century without adequate mobilisation through sustained, systematic communication lines and the grass-root level

participation of farmers and social organisations.  
**ROHAN DIXIT,  
New Delhi**

**Narcotics and actors** Drug abuse and drug peddling should be dealt with seriously. Some Members of Parliament who were once film actors themselves should not be possessive or defensive about alleged drug use in Bollywood as they must remember that their days in

the film industry were vastly different from what it is now. Many actors alleged to be involved with narcotics are also 'role models' and 'ambassadors'. They too must realise the impact they will have on society and youth. The message must be clear – say no to drugs and drug abuse.  
**T. KAILASH DITYA,  
Hyderabad**

**It appears that the fabled Indian film industry in**

wrapped in the tentacles of the narcotics trade. But are the crocodiles still lurking free? The time is ripe for a huge clean-up before the woods are reduced to ashes.  
**P.K. VARADARAJAN,  
Chennai**

**COVID-19 and after** With only a vaccine to our aid, we cannot breathe easy till mid-2023 – the year when we can start measuring the benefit of total pan-India vaccination, provided we

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work with super efficiency and focus. Our daily case counts will continue indefinitely even

# Will the farm bills benefit farmers?

PARLEY

The APMC Bypass Bill leaves too much to the benevolence of private players

Three farm bills – the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill (commonly referred to as the APMC Bypass Bill), and the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill – were cleared by Parliament amid protests from the Opposition. Sudha Narayanan and Arindam Banerjee discuss the implications of the controversial Bills in a conversation moderated by **Vikas Dhoot**. Edited excerpts:

**What are the concerns about these Bills? Do they hold up?**

**Sudha Narayanan:** Sometimes we say, 'Be careful what you wish for, you may actually get it'. These Bills represent fairly important changes in marketing regulation and are what many were asking for because of the flaws in the APMC [Agricultural Produce Market Committee] system. But at the same time, they are worrying for two reasons. The first is in what they say. The Bills have lacunae: lack of regulation, regulatory oversight and reporting. They're somewhat non-transparent. The second is what they do not say. You can't have marketing Bills that are devoid of the larger context of State intervention in agriculture, and agricultural policy.

**Could you give us examples of a couple of those?**

**SN:** The APMC bypass Bill is the most controversial. This Bill actually assumes that private players don't exist today and the APMC is a monopoly. That is a flawed assumption. Private players actually look to the APMC for a reference price to conduct their own transactions.

Now you're trying to create an alternative that's outside the APMC, which is on advantageous terms where you don't have to pay mandi fees or taxes. This could result in two perverse consequences. One is that the APMC continues to set the reference price. That makes no sense because if your private players are still looking to the APMC for a reference price, then your idea of getting rid of the inefficient APMC doesn't hold. Large-scale trade out-

side the mandi is bound to happen because new players will prefer to trade outside the mandi because they don't have to pay charges. APMC traders too might now prefer to operate outside the mandi for the same reason. So, if the APMC system collapses, then this Bill hasn't envisioned any alternative for a large market that can actually set price signals. So, instead of unifying the national market, you could actually have little bargaining islands where people are just setting prices. This might undermine farmer interests. And in that new trade area, there is no regulation, no data, transactions are invisible. In the current APMC system, even with its flaws, at least there is some recording and grievance redressal. The current Bill leaves too much to the benevolence of private players to give fair terms to the farmers.

**Arindam Banerjee:** Private trade in agricultural commodities is not something new in India. At the same time, the justification for these Bills at this point of time is primarily, I think, to facilitate bigger private players into the farm sector. There are several reasons for that. The government's justification is hinged on farmers getting better prices for their produce because they are going to get greater choices. Now, the farmers, at least the big farmers, and net surplus producers don't seem convinced. The reason is that market prices or farmers' incomes are not simply dependent on the market structure. Farmers' organisations are concerned that other demands are being ignored, particularly during this difficult economic situation. Market prices are sluggish because demand is sluggish. Farmers' incomes are actually seeing a period of stagnation. The other concern for farmers has been growing input costs. Farmers have been squeezed between rising costs of cultivation and sluggish prices. These concerns need interventions from the government in the form of subsidies or procurement. There is MSP [Minimum Support Price] and procurement but one major concern is that certain policy documents were presented before the government earlier, which talked about replacing the Food Corpora-



tion of India (FCI) and PDS with cash transfers.

What might happen as a result of the facilitation of big players into the farm sector is that some farmers will get better choices and big farmers will actually start selling to the private players. There is a possibility that the importance of the APMC and the procurement system will actually wither away over time. And that concerns everybody.

**There is concern that big retail players and corporates could end up monopolising farm trade and vitiate farmers' interests. What are the global precedents and can we learn something from there?**

**SN:** Internationally, we've seen cartels. The French dairy producers and the dairy farmers' co-operatives in the U.S. have become huge players. A lot of buyer cartels fix the price, and that's one of the reasons the EU and the U.S. are taking a hard look at their own supply chains to reduce the power of consolidation.

In India, it's going to be less predictable, because big players themselves want to minimise costs. The traditional marketing channels are very resilient... if the farmer goes to a trader, it is for multiple reasons, not just the sale of crop. The trader extends credit, has a deeper relationship of trust and he will take all kinds of quality. The farmer runs a lot of risks dealing with the big players. It's not a given that the big players will come in, set up shop and crowd out other players. But if they manage to get a place, there are two ways in which I have seen them operate. One is to try to crowd out competition and the other is to co-opt them. Big businesses are well positioned to interact with a lot of farmers because they have the field

**It's a valid demand to include a clause regarding procurement in the Bills.**

ARINDAM BANERJEE

staff. But eventually, many of them end up co-opting farmer cooperatives or anybody who's able to aggregate produce for them. So, though we keep saying that these Bills will facilitate direct transactions with farmers, what we are seeing is not dis-intermediation, but re-intermediation. Companies will find that it's too expensive to work with a large number of farmers and look for intermediaries who will aggregate produce for them.

**AB:** If you look at the global experience, corporate food markets are all about monopolies or duopolies. So, we can expect that to happen. But what I'm more concerned about is this: private trade in agricultural commodities has existed for several years in India, so what is the new usefulness from the perspective of big capital? Pepsi has been in the potato value chain and there are several other examples of contract farming. I think the new thrust area is the grain trade in India and that is where procurement by the government happens. I think global corporations are eyeing the grain market.

With more than 90 million tonnes of foodgrain in our stocks, it is clear that there is a massive market to play around with, only if there is a relative shift of weight from government regulation to private players. Even with the pandemic measures, the stocks have not reduced. The pandemic has caused massive disruption of jobs globally. Consequently, it has caused a massive disruption for capital and profits as well. Agricultural goods have suf-

fered less because these are necessary items in consumption baskets. There is less chance of revival of demand of industrial goods and services to pre-pandemic levels in the near future. This is why big capital is trying to move into the agricultural commodity trade on a bigger scale, so that it can recover some of its lost profits.

**While the Bills are said to give farmers more choices, shouldn't they also have more predictable trade policies to work with? Every time prices rise, exports are curbed as we see with onions now.**

**SN:** What you said is important. Look at what happened after these ordinances were passed. We had the ban on export of onions. So the farmers are not getting a signal that these Bills are, in fact, farmer-centric. There's nothing in the Bills that says what the procurement policy is going to be. In general, when you want to protect the interests of the consumers, while not undermining the interests of the farmers, you have an array of policies that work together. You can't say, I'm not going to use the Essential Commodities Act and then try to influence consumer prices by a policy that hurts farmers.

**The Opposition and some farmer groups want the MSP to be added to the legal framework so that they have a floor price of sorts. Is that some kind of a solution for now?**

**AB:** The FCI was formed in 1965 as a response to a significant food shortage in the country. From that point, we have made progress in food production. In the early 1990s, we were not facing food shortages. That did not mean that the problem of hunger was addressed. It continues to persist because there is mal-distribution of foodgrain. And that is happening in spite of the PDS. One has to recognise that we have a different political-economic regime than the time the FCI was set up. Post-liberalisation, private players and capital have a much greater role to play in the economy, which is fine. But then you also need regulations for those players. So, if today there is a perceived concern about the government public procurement system, then it's a valid demand to include a

clause regarding procurement, or maybe just bring in another law that would quell a lot of fears.

**SN:** Given that these Bills are quite problematic, I wouldn't want an MSP clause to be introduced into them. If these Bills are flawed, we have to think of ways of fixing them. And I think the MSP question is larger, more complex, and deserves a very serious consultative process, and its own dedicated Act. Now the two may not be compatible. Because you can't say I want to get private players but insist what price they deal with. That's going to be self-defeating both for the MSP as well as for private participation. The reason MSP has to be a separate question is because farmers from Punjab may disagree with farmers from Bihar. So, how are you going to enforce the MSP? There have been interesting suggestions there. One suggestion was, if the APMCs were functioning as they would under the old regime, then you would ensure that all bidding starts at the MSP, which ensures that the MSP starts as a floor price. We've lost that opportunity now because now if you say APMC has a MSP, but outside it, you can do whatever you want, then it makes no sense any more.

If we keep an MSP that actually forces the government to procure way more than it needs (like China did a decade ago and could not distribute it within the country or export it), then unless you have a very well-planned distribution system, does it make economic sense for the government? Who is going to take responsibility, and how is it going to be geographically distributed and across crops? So, even if you were to go for an MSP legislation, there needs to be serious discussion on all these different aspects.

**Is there any scope for course corrections in these Bills?**

**AB:** There cannot be minor tweaks; major corrections need to be done. The consultative process that was missing within our federal democratic structure... at least some amount of that needs to be done. I may sound like an alarmist, but on the face of it, if these Bills undermine the grain procurement system, there could be Balkanisation of the country. It's not simply a matter of farmers anymore, it's a much deeper concern.



**Sudha Narayanan**  
is Associate Professor at the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research



**Arindam Banerjee**  
is Associate Professor at the School of Liberal Studies at Ambedkar University



Scan the QR code to listen to the full interview online

## Environmentalism at the core

Firms should consider creating green supply chains rather than following a few environmental practices

VIJAYA SUNDER M.

The United Nations Millennium Development Goals and the World Bank Group's global practices have recognised sustainability as an essential issue of global importance. Economic, social and other forms of sustainability have evolved over the years, but it is environmental sustainability that has gained significant popularity.

Environmental sustainability is understood as buying greener products, avoiding hazardous materials, energy optimisation, and waste reduction. While some firms are still reluctant to engage in environmentally beneficial activities as they are afraid to compromise on the economic benefits, some others have positioned environmental practices at the forefront due to legislation, and industry and government commitments. In several firms, high importance has been given to environmentalism due to compelling regulatory norms, and a potential to manage costs, risks and optimise eco-friendly practices. However, in this process, organisations, especially in the manufacturing sector, get so serious about the low-hanging fruits of waste reduction and energy efficiency improvements that they fail to recognise the need for restructuring their learning imperatives and see the big picture of environmentalism. While government norms, organisational policies and corporate environmental responsibility projects drive environmental-friendly practices, these are merely short-term actions towards environmental sustainability.

**Long-lasting benefits**  
Only through organisational learning can people be urged to work towards long-lasting benefits. In this context, green supply chain practices are useful. These include green procurement, green manufacturing, green distribution, and reverse logistics. With practices starting from acquisition of eco-friendly raw material to disposal/reuse/recycle of used products, employees, suppliers, distributors, retailers and customers will be able to integrate environmental concerns in the daily operations of a firm. Thus, green supply chain prac-

tices enable organisational learning in environmental sustainability.

Our research, based on a survey of 220 respondents across 21 manufacturing units in India, points to the inter-linkages between green supply chain practices, organisational performance and learning. We found that these inter-linkages not only lead to a long-lasting natural drive towards environmental performance, but also to higher economic performance. Research shows that the positive impacts of environmentalism can only be felt in the long term when they get embedded into organisational learning systems through green supply chain practices. The resultant learning system smoothens the knowledge flow in the organisation and help firms to strategise for better performance, bearing in mind the environmental aspects. This further promotes environmentalism across all players in manufacturing supply chains. Thus, environmental sustainability is ensured from the source (willingness) and not through force (regulations).

### Understanding links

Drawing linkages between green supply chain practices, corporate environmental performance, corporate economic performance and the dimensions of learning organisations in firms is necessary for an organisation's progress and environmental protection in society. Understanding these inevitable links will enable managers and experts to shape their organisational values, work practices, and performances for the greater good of society.

We infer that when the different players of a manufacturing supply chain realise the inherent benefits associated with organisational learning dimensions, their drive towards environmentalism increases. Policymakers should support this thinking by not merely imposing environmental practices as regulatory norms but by emphasising on the creation of green supply chain-based learning systems in manufacturing.

Vijaya Sunder M. is Assistant Professor of Practice in Operations Management at the Indian School of Business, Hyderabad



### NOTEBOOK

## The slow and frustrating journey of recovering from COVID-19

Unlike in the case of most diseases, recovery is not a linear process

GAUTAM SUNDER

Following the COVID-19 outbreak, I stocked up on sanitisers, N95 masks, and stayed at home during the lockdown. Yet, I somehow managed to contract the virus.

Thanks to my paranoia, I visited the hospital the minute I developed a cough and a temperature. But not even when I was advised to take the dreaded RT-PCR test did I fear the worst; after all, I had followed all the precautions to a tee.

Unfortunately, when the results came, I suddenly found myself in a hospital bed, which was to be my home for the next 15 days. The only contact I had with the outside world was with healthcare workers in personal protective equipment who attached an IV drip to my left hand and communicated with me in sign language. I was riddled with anxiety about my family who

now had to get checked. I heaved a huge sigh of relief when I received the news of their negative results a couple of days later.

The symptoms of COVID-19 hit me hard. I experienced intense fatigue; it felt like a freight train had hit me. I had frequent headaches that were like "thunderclaps inside the brain", as *The New York Times* aptly described them. I had lung inflammation despite not being a smoker, and a persistent cough.

It is important to understand that unlike most diseases, recovering from COVID-19 is not a linear process. There were days when I woke up feeling perfectly normal, but within a few hours, I would be overcome by breathlessness and in need of an oxygen mask. I took 30 tablets a day, multiple blood tests, X-rays, CT scans, and lots of intravenous fluids.

However, it isn't so much

the physical symptoms as the isolation which gets to you. With nobody allowed to visit and with no one to talk to (even doctors communicated only via video calls), the experience of being stuck in a room all alone was overwhelming.

After two weeks, the doctors felt I was stable enough to leave (though I still hadn't tested negative). Since then, I have been in home quarantine, picking up plates of food that my parents leave outside my bedroom door, and checking my blood oxygen levels on the pulse oximeter. A few days earlier, despite my symptoms reducing drastically, I still tested positive, which only shows that recovery can be a slow and frustrating journey.

However, I have to say I am privileged and lucky: I got tested and got access to a hospital bed immediately after exhibiting symptoms. I have a comfortable room at home with family to

help, and a job that allows me to work from home. Since I am a film correspondent, I get paid to review and keep track of all the movies and shows online. Watching episodes of *Friends* and *The Office* on Netflix as well as *Vadivelu* comedy scenes on YouTube was a great distraction for me during my time in hospital. I also recited lists of my favourite movies and football clubs every time the anxiety got too severe. Meanwhile, thousands of fellow journalists continue to brave the pandemic on a daily basis, reporting and going to office.

Every case of COVID-19 is unique. I read about a teenager who tested positive four times in a row, and a 90-year-old who have fought the virus in just a week. The virus doesn't always follow a pattern. I still don't know how I got infected, but my only advice would be this: stay at home as much as possible.

The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 25, 1970

U.P. coalition breaks up

The six-month-old Uttar Pradesh Coalition of the Bharatiya Kranti Dal and Ruling Congress broke down to-night [September 24] after a day long political drama in which the Chief Minister Mr. Charan Singh took the first offensive by demanding the resignation of 14 of his ministers (13 of Congress (R) and one of B.K.D.) from his Cabinet. He later advised the Governor, Mr. Gopala Reddi to dismiss the ministers if they failed to tender resignations. Swiftly reacting to the Chief Minister's action, the State leadership of the Congress (R) with the approval of the Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi, who flew in on an unscheduled visit to Lucknow, withdrew support to the Government. Political circles here [Lucknow] fear a grave legal and constitutional crisis following the day's developments. The break-up of the coalition was not unexpected as events last night had portended so, but what took the State by surprise was the Chief Minister asking in the first instance resignation of all 26 Congress Ministers and then picking up only 13 of them and one from his own party whose loyalty he had doubted.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPT. 25, 1920

Educational reconstruction  
(From an editorial)

The importance of universities for national progress can not be too often emphasised. In all advanced countries they form the focus-centre of national life where the best men of the nation are engaged in preparing the flower of its youth for the future work of the country. Hence the supreme necessity for the expansion of the sphere of University education and the popularisation of the University idea among the people. Mr. H.A.L. Fisher, Minister of Education, recently delivered an informing lecture on the "Place of Universities in national life" wherein he deals with new opportunities opening before Universities. He speaks of the cardinal requirement of modern civilisation that a career should be open to talent and says that this could be achieved only if our Universities are made to play a much larger part in the life of the people than historical accidents had hitherto assigned to them. The expanding curricula of the Universities and the increased demand for the University education in Britain, from all classes of people is, according to him, but a sign of the new life opening for the Universities there.

FROM PAGE ONE

## Harley-Davidson shuts India factory, sales

In a filing with the U.S. Securities & Exchange Commission, Harley said, "the Company expects to incur restructuring expenses of approximately \$75 million in 2020, of which approximately 80% are expected to be cash expenditures, including one-time termination benefits of approximately \$3 million".

The company expects to complete restructuring within the next 12 months. Harley has been scrambling for years to grow sales beyond baby boomers in the U.S. and has not posted retail sales growth there in the past 14 quarters, *Reuters* reported.

Chief Executive Officer Jochen Zeitz, who took the reins at the company in February, had unveiled a major shift in strategy to boost

profits by reducing Harley's product portfolio by 30% and investing in 50 markets with growth potential in North America, Europe and parts of Asia Pacific.

India, still far cheaper and poorer than many of the developing economies with which it competes for investment, has proven an inhospitable market for other auto industry players.

Last year, Ford Motor Co pared back its interests and ceased independent operations in India by entering into a joint venture with Mahindra & Mahindra.

General Motors, which stopped domestic sales in 2017, also plans to stop manufacturing and exports from India by the end of this year.

(With inputs from *Reuters*)

## India, Pak. trade charges at SAARC, CICA meets

Last week, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval had walked off from a virtual meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) after his Pakistani counterpart appeared with a Pakistani version of its map that included Indian territories. Last year, at the SAARC Foreign Minister's meeting held on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York, Mr. Jaishankar and Mr. Qureshi had boycotted each other's speeches.

PM Modi had also refused to attend the 19th edition of the SAARC summit, due to be held in Islamabad in 2016, over the issue of Pakistan's continued support to terror groups.

Speaking at the SAARC FM meet, however, Nepal's Foreign Minister Pradeep Gyawali and Nepal's Foreign Secretary Shanker Das Bairagi both said it is "imperative" to hold the SAARC summit.

"The delay in convening the 19th SAARC Summit and the absence of formal meetings of the SAARC Charter

bodies since 2016, has greatly impacted the functioning of our organisation," said Mr. Gyawali, adding that this "has raised a serious question about the relevancy" of SAARC.

However, sources said "most countries" agreed it is not the "opportunity time" to convene the summit as proposed by Pakistan, given the COVID-19 situation, and the proposal "fell through".

### Battling the pandemic

All SAARC nations including India and Pakistan, however, built a common stand on the need to cooperate in battling the coronavirus pandemic.

Mr. Jaishankar listed a number of measures taken by India in the past few months including the SAARC Leaders video-conference convened by Mr. Modi, a 'COVID-19 Information Exchange Platform (COINEX), a SAARC Food Bank mechanism, as well as the SAARC COVID-19 Emergency Fund, to which India has contributed \$10 million, making essential drugs.

## Sudha Bharadwaj can seek bail on merits: SC

But Justice Lalit asked Ms. Grover to explain more about the case against her client.

To this, Ms. Grover drew a detailed picture of how her client has been a noted lawyer, globally recognised for her work. She has taught at the National Law University, Delhi.

"They [prosecution agencies] claimed there is a criminal conspiracy, but nothing has been recovered from me. Charges have not been framed. Two years are over. My father passed away in the meantime... I have never abused the process of law... I need bail to get myself diagnosed medically," Ms. Grover explained her client's predicament.

It was at this point both judges wondered why Ms. Bharadwaj had not applied for bail on the merits of her case alone. They, however, said they cannot grant bail on medical grounds.

**'Encouraged'**  
Withdrawing the bail plea, Ms. Grover said she was encouraged by the observa-



Sudha Bharadwaj

tions made by the apex court about her client's chances to get bail on merits itself.

The Bombay High Court had rejected bail to Ms. Bharadwaj on medical grounds in August.

Earlier, the Special Court in Mumbai had denied her bail on the objection of the National Investigation Agency.

Ms. Bharadwaj was arrested in 2018 and initially lodged at the Yerwada Jail. She has remained incarcerated in the Byculla jail on charges under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

## Jnanpith presented to Malayalam 'Mahakavi' Akkitham



ABDUL LATHEEF NAHA  
PALAKKAD

Malayalam literature witnessed a golden moment on Thursday when the Jnanpith award announced in November last year was handed over to poet Akkitham Achuthan Namboothiri at a special function through videoconferencing.

Kerala and Malayalis across the world had celebrated it when Akkitham became the

### Act like Chanakya to root out drug menace: HC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BENGALURU

It is high time that investigating agencies like the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) act like Chanakya to remove the menace of narcotics from the grassroots, the Karnataka High Court said while taking note of high-profile drug peddling cases in recent days.

"There is a trend of inculcation of drugs, ganja and other such substances in society by various transactions. It has created a menace for society. Such things are to be dealt with an iron hand. They [drug peddlers] could not be spared even for a while," the court observed.

Justice B. A. Patil made these observations while quashing a seven-year-old case registered against a man for allegedly possessing dry leaves of cannabis.

The court said that increasing circulation of drugs would seriously affect society, particularly harming the younger generation, besides promoting other crimes. The menace of drugs, which affects the future of youngsters, will have to be removed from the root like Chanakya "who removed the stump of grass from the root as it obstructed his movement," the court observed.

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Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister highlighted the virtuous character of Akkitham, who is widely considered the tallest among the living Malayalam poets.

Kerala and Malayalis across the world had celebrated it when Akkitham became the

S. ANIL RADHAKRISHNAN  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala is to take another lead in bringing together States governments and scholars to deliberate on the Goods and Service Tax (GST) compensation.

Amidst reports that more States are towing the Centre's line, Kerala will organise webinar jointly with Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation Thiruvananthapuram, and Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial

Development, Chandigarh, on Sept. 28.

Finance Ministers of West Bengal, Delhi, Punjab, Jharkhand, Punjab and Puducherry have agreed to attend. Amit Mitra, West Bengal Finance Minister, and Chairman of the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers on GST, is to chair the morning session. In the afternoon, eminent academicians and media captains will further deliberate on the issue.

M.P. PRAVEEN  
KOCHI

A person accused of child sexual abuse escaped recently from the first-line treatment centre (FLTC) being run at the convention centre of the Kochi airport, throwing light on the challenge being faced by the police in guarding those who have tested positive for SARS-COV-2.

The infected among those arrested by the police and excise are put up at the FLTC at Kochi airport along with other infected members of the public. Though police personnel are put on guard

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
THRISSUR

The repeated COVID-19 episodes reported in a man from Thrissur is posing a diagnostic challenge for health officials. Savio Joseph, 38, from Ponmukkara, who was working in Muscat, has contracted the infection thrice. Though he does not

duty at the centre, the security remains far from foolproof.

"We have taken up the matter with the District Dis-

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rate FLTC exclusively for the arrested. With those arrested increasingly testing positive since September, the task is getting progressively difficult," said K. Karthik, District Police Chief.

While the centre has multiple entries and exit points, police are deployed only at the main entrance, which is more than 100 metres away from the facility. "The accused are not always in the sight of the police guards who have to largely depend on information from health and paramedical staff at the centre. We have already petitioned the District Police Chief and now plan to raise it with the District Collector as well," said M.V. Sanil, district secretary (Ernakulam Rural) of Kerala Police Association.

**Infected accused pose challenge to police**

## Thrissur man has three episodes of COVID-19

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## IN BRIEF



Gopalkrishna Gandhi appointed IIC life trustee

NEW DELHI  
Former West Bengal Governor Gopalkrishna Gandhi has been appointed life trustee of the India International Centre (IIC) here, a statement from the centre said on Thursday. He fills the vacancy after the death of Kapila Vatsyayan. Mr. Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, is a retired diplomat. He was Governor from 2004 to 2009. "He has held various important positions in the State of Tamil Nadu and at the National Capital," the statement said.

## MP questions Deputy Chairman's motives

NEW DELHI  
CPI(M) MP K.K. Ragesh, in an open letter to Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh, questioned the motive behind allegedly throwing off Parliamentary procedures aside to ignore the demands for a vote by him and others during the passage of the two farm Bills. He accused Mr. Harivansh of doing so to appease Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Mr. Ragesh, along with seven MPs, was suspended for the ruckus in the House on Sunday.

## 'FCRA Bill incompatible with international law'

NEW DELHI  
The International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) on Thursday observed that the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2020 passed by Parliament was incompatible with international law. "The legislation fails to comply with India's international legal obligations and constitutional provisions to respect and protect the rights to freedom of association, expression, and freedom of assembly," the ICJ said.

## CPI flays Delhi police probe in CAA case

NEW DELHI  
Reacting to the recent chargesheet filed against several political leaders and activists in connection with anti-Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) protests, the CPI on Thursday said the Delhi police were trying to frame anyone critical of the Narendra Modi government. In a statement, the party said, "The glaring absence in the chargesheets on the role of leaders associated with the BJP, who gave inflammatory speeches, is unmissable."

## 'Cong. promised same reforms'

Tomar hits out at party for agricultural changes proposed in its 2019 manifesto

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI



**Farmers, so far, were forced to sell their produce in mandis. In Punjab, there's 8.5% tax in the mandis on several items. Now, through these Bills, the farmer will be able to sell his produce even outside the ambit of the mandi, even outside his State, at any price he chooses**

NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR  
Agriculture Minister

A day after the monsoon session of Parliament ended amid a flurry of protests by the Opposition over three farm Bills, Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on Thursday demanded that the Congress first disassociate itself from its own 2019 Lok Sabha election manifesto that promised the same agricultural reforms that the Modi government had brought in.

"If Rahul Gandhi agrees with the Congress manifesto of the 2019 Lok Sabha election, then he should join efforts in educating farmers," Mr. Tomar said.

At a press conference at the BJP headquarters here, Mr. Tomar reiterated the government's commitment to farmers' welfare, and said the new measures would bring them remunerative prices for their produce. He said the government was open to holding talks with

farmers to assuage any doubts among them on the efficacy of the reforms. "If any farmer wants to speak to any government representative on these Bills even at midnight, we are ready," he said.

Responding to the demand by the Opposition that continuation of the minimum support price should be mentioned in the law, he said the MSP was always an administrative decision. "Why did the Congress not bring a law during its 50 years of rule if it thinks this was necessary," he asked. He

The new laws will allow farmers to get paid for their

cited reports of various commissions and reported views of Sharad Pawar, who was Agriculture Minister in the UPA government, to assert that these Bills were in line with their recommendations.

## 'Withdraw manifesto'

Asked about Mr. Gandhi's charge that the Modi government had harmed farmers and was now doing "PR", Mr. Tomar said the Congress leader should first withdraw his party's manifesto.

The new laws will allow farmers to get paid for their

Parliament passed the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020, and the Farmers' (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020, did not explicitly mention MSP anywhere. Centre's claim was technically correct, that these laws did not explicitly say that the provision of MSP had been removed. But they

## TV analyst and lawyer shot dead at his Kashmir home

In 2018, he had said that he feared a bid on his life

## PEERZADA ASHIQ SRINAGAR



Television analyst and lawyer Babar Qadri, an Al-Badr militant and a CRPF jawan were killed in three separate incidents in Kashmir on Thursday.

Two gunmen knocked the door of 39-year-old Qadri's residence in Srinagar's Hawal area around 6.30 p.m. and asked him to come out. "Mr. Qadri had just returned home from the court. He was shot in the head from a close range, immediately after he stepped outside his house. He was declared brought dead to the hospital," a police official said.

No outfit has claimed responsibility for the killing. In 2018, Qadri had claimed that he feared an assassination attempt "for his political views".

Mr. Qadri was a regular analyst on a national news channel. He was the son-in-law of separatist Ghulam Qadir, who was also assassinated by unknown gunmen in the 1990s. Mr. Qadri is survived by his wife and two young children.

Babar Qadri

J&K's political parties condemned the killing. "The assassination of Mr. Qadri is tragic and I unequivocally condemn it. The sense of tragedy is all the more because he was warned of the threat. Sadly his warning was in his last tweet," National Conference vice-president Omar Abdullah said.

Peoples Conference (PC) chief said he "is yet another victim of conflict. My thoughts with the family."

A Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) spokesman said his party "vehemently condemns the assassination."

Apni Party vice-president Ghulam Hassan Mir termed the incident "highly inhuman and barbaric".

Earlier in the day, one Al-Badr militant was killed in a joint operation of the security forces. "He was offered an opportunity to surrender. Instead, he fired indiscriminately. The terrorist was identified as Irfan-ul-Haq Dar, a resident of Gadikhal Charsoo in Awantipora," the police said. They said Dar was released in April 2020 and "was an important motivator and influenced young minds for joining the terror ranks in Awantipora and Tral areas". The police decided to bury the body far away in the Handwara area.

**Jawan killed**  
In another incident, militants attacked a CRPF checkpoint and killed a jawan in Budgam.

"The militants first lobbed a grenade and subsequently opened indiscriminate fire on the Road Opening Party of 117 battalion CRPF. One jawan lost life in the terror attack," an official said. He was identified as ASI N. Bodolay from Nagpur. The attackers managed to snatch his rifle and flee.

Mr. Khalid had been charged with sedition, conspiracy to murder, and under sections of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), the statement noted.

"This process of criminalizing all dissent has been underway for a few years and even under a COVID-19 pandemic, relentless political arrests under fabricated charges are punishing the innocent long before they are brought to trial", it stated.

The statement raised the question: "What was Umar Khalid's crime?"

It said, "That he used the passion of his commitment to his country, marshalled his education and his voice to join the movement for equal citizenship, against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act [CAA]; this law introduced religion as a criterion for citizenship, and has no place in a secular nation".

H&M LIL MEDIPARK LIMITED

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No. Material Description Due Date

202113 Procurement of Liquid PAC (Poly Aluminium Chloride) 08.10.2020

Terms & Conditions, Specifications, Qty, Tender Fee, EMD are available in

tender document at our website: [www.tnpl.com/www.tenders.tn.gov.in](http://www.tnpl.com/www.tenders.tn.gov.in)

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Expression of Interest (EoI)

For Developed Industrial Plots for Medical Devices Companies in "Medipark", Chennai.

HLL Medipark Limited intends to seek Expression of Interest (EoI) for developed industrial plots in "Medipark" from Medical Devices companies on a long term lease basis. Interested parties may submit their respective details to the above mentioned address either by hardcopy or by E-Mail, latest by 15:00 hrs, 28th October 2020.

A pre investors meet through video conferencing may be held on 11:00 hrs, 07th October 2020. The interested parties may visit the website [www.hllmedipark.com](http://www.hllmedipark.com) for further details.

Chief Executive Officer (HML)

## CHENNAI SMART CITY LIMITED Chennai

C.S.C.L.C.No.281/2020-21

## e - TENDER NOTICE

e-Tenders are invited for the following work in Two Cover System as per details furnished below:

## Smart City Work

Request for Proposal (RFP) for Selection of Consultant for providing Consultancy Services for Preparing Road Safety Action Plan for Chennai Metropolitan Area.

Tender Document will be available in website <https://intenders.gov.in> from: 22.09.2020 to 02.11.2020

Pre-Bid Meeting Scheduled on: 29.09.2020 @ 3.00 PM.

Tender Submission Date and Time: 02.11.2020 upto 3.00 PM.

Tender open Date and Time: 03.11.2020 at 3.30 PM.

Managing Director (Chennai Smart City Limited)

## GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MH&amp;FW, DGHS BCG VACCINE LABORATORY

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Sealed tenders are invited from the Manufacturers / Dealers in the prescribed form ON or BEFORE 16.10.2020 01:30 PM for supply of the following item. Technical Bid will be opened at 03:00 PM on 16.10.2020 at the above said office address. The date and time of opening of Financial Bid will be informed to the bidders who are qualified in the Technical Bid.

SI.No Description of the item Quantity

1 D.21016/01/2020-21(Stores) LIGHT AMBER COLOUR TUBULAR 2R VIALS WITH FLAT BOTTOM, TYPE 1, NEUTRAL GLASS VIALS AS PER DRAWING AND SPECIFICATION ENCLOSED IN THE TENDER FORM AS ANNEXURE - I 30 lakhs

2 No.D.21016/02/2020-21(Stores) Aluminium Flip Off - Suitable for 2R Vials, Plastic Button to be pale yellow colour with glossy finish enabling for sticking VVM as per Drawing and Specification enclosed in the Tender Form as Annexure - I 20 lakhs

3 No.D.21016/03/2020-21(Stores) BIFID SILICONISED RUBBER WADS 13MM BROMO BUTYL LYQ, GREY COLOUR SUITABLE FOR 2R VIALS - READY TO WASH AS PER DRAWING AND SPECIFICATION ENCLOSED IN THE TENDER FORM AS ANNEXURE - I 10 lakhs

Drawing with specification, Tender Forms and Vendor Qualification forms can be downloaded from the CPP Portal / BCGVL website - [bcgclab.gov.in](http://bcgclab.gov.in)

DIRECTOR

## 'China refused plea for help from northeast insurgents'

Outfits later sought Pak. aid, Assam govt. tells UAPA tribunal



The Home Ministry said since 2015, the NDFB was involved in the killing of 19 civilians.

of Assam (ULFA). He is wanted in India for a number of cases such as attacks on security personnel, kidnapping and extortion, and is said to shuttle between Taga in Myanmar and Yunnan province in west China. Yung Aung is a leader of National Socialist Council of Nagaland-Khaplang faction.

The tribunal was constituted under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) after the Union Home Ministry extended the ban on the National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) in November 2019 for five years. On September 22, the tribunal upheld the ban and declared NDFB an "unlawful association for a period of five years".

**ISI steps in**  
After the Chinese refused, "as an alternative, UNLFSEA looked for establishing

nexus with Pakistan at any cost at the earliest," the affidavit said. "It was learnt that Pakistan (ISI) was providing all sorts of assistance to all outfit groups fighting against India ... Pakistan (ISI) desired such groups to destroy more and more Indian government's properties, railways, bridges, Army, Police and security forces, oil refineries and other government properties. However, the plan could not be executed due to two main reasons - i) impeachment of Khango Konayak from NSCN(K) and ii) Attack in Taga Camp by Indian and Myanmar Army jointly," the affidavit read.

The Union Home Ministry informed the tribunal that since 2015, NDFB was involved in killing of 19 civilians.

On January 11, several NDFB leaders crossed over to India from their base camps in Myanmar" to join peace talks. A tripartite suspension of operation agreement was signed between the Union Home Ministry, Government of Assam and factional head of NDFB. On January 27, a Memorandum of Settlement was arrived among the NDFB factions, All Bodo Students Union, the Assam government and the Home Ministry.

NOTICE is in furtherance to the Notice dated 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2020 issued by the Bank to its members for holding 94<sup>th</sup> to 97<sup>th</sup> AGMs on 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2020 at Thoothukudi. In view of the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic and the proclamation of country wide lock down by the Government of India, it was not possible for the bank to convene the AGMs (the 94<sup>th</sup> to 97<sup>th</sup>) as scheduled on April 9, 2020 and the same was deferred with the permission of the Court appointed Chairman. The deferred AGMs of Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Limited will be held on Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2020 at 10:00 A.M. (IST) onwards through Video Conferencing("VC") / Other Audio Visual Means ("OAVM"), to transact the businesses as set out in the earlier sent AGMs notice. The AGMs are being convened in pursuant to the order passed by the Hon'ble High Court of Madras vide its order dated 16.09.2020 on the C.M.P.Nos.7089 and 7094 of 2020 in W.A.No.2 of 2016, order dated 06.02.2020 on the W.A. No. 2 of 2016 & CMP Nos. 10145,16385,16386,16389 of 2019 and 16419 of 2019 & W.P.Nos. 23056 of 2019 and WMP. 22748, 22751 of 2019 subject to the terms and conditions mentioned in the order. Notice is also hereby given that the Register of Members and Share Transfer Books of the Bank will remain closed from Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2020 to Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2020 (both days inclusive) for the purpose of Annual General Meetings. A person whose name appears in the Register of Members as on 1<sup>st</sup> October, 2020 shall be eligible to get the Notice of the above said AGMs.

Further notices shall be published in due course with detailed information as required in terms of circulars issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Govt of India, section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with Rule 20 of the Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014 and the cut-off date for voting rights.

For Tamilnad Mercantile Bank Limited  
Prakash Chandra Panda  
Company Secretary

## Govt. claim on MSP is a half-truth, says Congress

Singhvi says two farm Bills do not mention it anywhere

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI



The government's claim that the protection of minimum support price (MSP) for farmers would continue in spite of the new farm laws is a 'half-truth', according to Congress spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi.

In the first of a series of nationwide press conferences that the party plans to hold over the next month, Mr. Singhvi said the farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020, and the Farmers' (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020, did not explicitly mention MSP anywhere. Centre's claim was technically correct, that these laws did not explicitly say that the provision of MSP had been removed. But they





**Hand me a leaf**  
The team preparing leaf plates at Vistaraku factory in Siddipet, Leaf plates, Madhavi and Venugopal • PRABALIKA M BORAH

## Turning a NEW LEAF

PRABALIKA M BORAH

On a morning walk around their gated community in Gandipet, Hyderabad, Madhavi and her husband Venugopal Vippulancha were heartbroken to see a pile of disposable plates and cutlery dumped at a street corner. Adding to the misery of the sight was the non-biodegradable waste (milk sachets, disposable plates) that cows were 'feasting' on. The couple started to think of an alternative option, keeping in mind the harmful effects of eating from low-cost plastic plates.

This led them to consider healthy and environment-friendly alternatives, like plates made from leaves of banana or *palash* trees. Venugopal says, "We call them *vistarakulu* in Telugu. They are basically dried leaves stitched together with thin dry twigs. Though they are still available, the usage has come down. With all events

big and small turning to buffet options, leaf plates were gradually replaced by sturdy, leak-proof paper plates with plastic coating and colour, with harmful chemicals."

**Old leaves, new meaning**  
The couple decided to bring the trend of leaf plates back and named their project 'Vistaraku'. They started making frequent trips to their farmhouse



in Siddipet on being urged to do so by Madhavi's mother.

Venugopal says, "It was because of my mother-in-law that we frequented the farm and started planting organic fruits. Then we noticed that our farm was well endowed with *palash* (flame of forest tree) whose leaves are traditionally used to make *vistarakulu* (leaf plates). Our caretaker dismissed the tree calling them useless because the fallen leaves needed



**GREEN TRADITIONS**  
Communities in different parts of India use different leaves for traditional dining plates, like coconut, sal, lotus, banana, banyan and oak.

Vistaraku is Hyderabad-based Madhavi and Venugopal's venture to bring back the tradition of eating on leaves



The leaves grow as climbers and are a protected species. Once collected, these are sold in the market to be made into plates and bowls," says Venugopal.

He is thankful for the reach through organic food groups on Facebook. One such contact put them in touch with a supplier who works for the welfare of the tribal communities.

Their next step was to find machines that convert these leaves into sturdy plates. A mechanical engineer, Venugopal says that the machinery was available. "Even though operating these machines is no rocket science, there are no takers. Reason being there is no steady supply of leaves. And if the machines break down due to minor glitches, the service team takes at least a month to attend to them. Since we had sorted the problem of steady leaf supply, I put my engineering skills to practise and worked on the machines to fix them. Soon, we started making *vistaraku* with help from two girls from the village; now we have a team of six."

The process of making these plates is simple; stitched leaves are placed on squares of hard brown paper with a polycoat of 5 microns which acts as adhesive on applying heat. They are then put in between heated frames of desired size and shape, with the leaf facing up.

"The temperature is anything between 60-90°C. Pressure is applied for about 15 seconds. The heat makes the fine sheet of polycoat on the hard brown paper act as gum that makes the leaf stick to it," explains Venugopal.

### Starting local

The couple began supplying to parties held in their Gandipet society and family functions. "That was the only way we marketed Vistaraku. Friends and family started posting on social media about the plates, and we got a good amount of traction. Until then, we were just producing and not knowing where to sell them.

Surprisingly, there are a lot of enquiries from abroad about our product." The sizes of meal plates range from 11 to 16 inches; breakfast plates range from six to 10 inches; and bowls from three to six inches.

*They can be found on FB as Vistaraku or visit their website: vistaraku.co.in*



to be constantly cleared. We started collecting and making plates out of the leaves as they fell. They couldn't be stitched; they were too small to be used for meals but were ideal for snacks and breakfast."

Being a member of organic farmer and food groups helped Venugopal and Madhavi understand the advantages of leaf plates. Naturopaths on the groups discussed why cooked rice and raw meat were traditionally covered with *palash* leaves.

"Apart from adding flavour to cooked food, *palash* is also known to have insect repellent properties. Our search took us to a community that helps tribal leaf cultivators in Odisha. The leaf, which the community harvests, is called *siyali*. Tribal women trek into forests in groups to harvest them.



### Care for some vegan cream?

When non-vegans are busy displaying their cream whipping skills and decorating cakes, why should vegans be left behind? After successfully mastering vegan pizza, burgers and desserts, vegan eaters in India are steadily mastering the vegan cream, also called Aquafaba. It is made from the viscous water in which legumes such as chickpeas or *kabuli chana* have been cooked. The viscous water has the ability to mimic the functional properties of egg white, according to vegan blogs. This makes the water an ideal replacement to egg white, making it easy to be beaten to get the consistency of cream. Chickpea should be boiled without salt. Once done, the water should be separated from the boiled chickpeas and left to chill in the refrigerator for more than three-four hours. The chilled water then needs castor sugar and constant beating, till it gets thick like cream.



### Flavoured coffees

Bengaluru-based Slay Coffee is enabling consumers around the country to have a cafe experience in the comfort of their homes. They deliver to Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Pune and counting, with over 100 cloud kitchens, through Zomato and Swiggy. Their USP is their unique flavour range, with coffees that have a hint of rose, peppermint, lavender, salted caramel, water melon or the classic hazelnut, chocolate and Irish. To make their coffee unique, they are also introducing pour-over brew bags.



NIVEDITA GANGULY

Packed with nutrition, microgreens are fast gaining popularity. And a growing tribe of health conscious individuals are trying their hand at growing these superfoods in kitchen gardens during the pandemic.

While being a plant parent can be challenging, microgreens need little space to grow. They are small plants in the next stage of sprouting, when the first leaves develop from the seed. "If you have a windowsill or balcony that gets a few hours of sunshine every day, you are good to go," says Visakhapatnam-based S Ravi Kanth Reddy, founder of the NGO Mother Earth Environmental Consciousness Society (MEECONS), and an advocate of sustainable living.

Recently, Ravi Kanth and his wife Naga Vijaya, released a video on Vijaya's Healthy Home on YouTube. The video showed how to grow microgreens through hydroponics, showing the time-lapse of the growth. "These superfoods contain abundant Vitamin C, E and anti-oxidants, and are far more nutritious than the adult leafy versions. These are ideal to throw onto a salad or sandwich. You can also garnish a dish with a dash of microgreens," says Ravi Kanth.

Besides being healthy, they are also simple to grow. "They don't need a lot of light and can be grown in four to six

days. So, there is no fretting about fertilising, repotting, or pruning," he explains. And more importantly, these greens are completely organic as you would be growing them without pesticides or fertilisers. "Seeds like those of fenugreek, wheat, green gram and mustard take just two to three days to germinate. Preparing the seed is the first step in growing microgreens. For the initial 24 hours, the seeds need to be placed in a darker place before shifting them to a bright spot," says Ravi Kanth.

**Process of choice**  
He used the hydroponic method which he says can be an alternative to cocopeat and soil, as these may not be easily accessible everywhere during the pandemic. "I used a stainless steel sieve, which is usually available at every household, to grow microgreens hydroponically. Wash the seeds well; spread them on the sieve and place it above a container with water; spray water twice a day and cover with a lid. Follow the process for two to three days till you see tiny leaves coming out," he says, adding, "After this, shift the sieve along with container to a brighter spot. But do not cover it. In six days' time, you are good to go and harvest it."

**WHAT TO KEEP IN MIND**  
When using cocopeat and soil, microgreens should be grown in flat surfaces, like a tray or cardboard box with drainage holes, that can hold up to two inches of soil.

Spray water daily to keep it moist especially during the first two-three days of the germination stage.

Microgreens taste best when fresh but can be refrigerated for a couple of days.

The tender greens can be used as a nutritious side dish, added to smoothies or as colourful topping to salads.

Use seeds that are untreated with any chemical.

Good quality soil and cocopeat, which are chemical free, ensure that microgreens grow well.

Be careful not to overwater them.

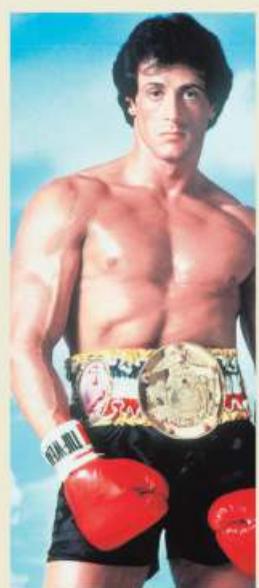
## These greens pack a punch



**HOMING IN**

A Kamal Haasan classic to a Bollywood blockbuster, Malayalam actor **Unni Mukundan** picks underdog tales that show the "fighting spirit" for this week's **Watchlist**

HARIKUMAR J S

**Rocky series**

Featuring Sylvester Stallone as the eponymous Rocky Balboa, it is the ultimate story of the underdog and his fight for victory. What hooks me the most is the never-give-up attitude of the protagonist in the boxing drama series.

**Kireedam**

Apart from Mohanlal's great performance, it poignantly shows how the world around you shapes your destiny more than your own desires. It is a classic from the Sibi Malayil-Lohithadas duo in Malayalam.

**Nayakan**

I get a high whenever I watch this Kamal Haasan classic. It is a thought-provoking exploration of the conflict between right and wrong.

**Agneepath**

For me, *Agneepath* gives pure adrenaline rush. It is not a surprise that this Bollywood classic has a cult following even today. Amitabh Bachchan aced the angry young man role.

**Scarface**

This Hollywood blockbuster fires on all cylinders thanks to a hard-hitting script. Al Pacino as the anti-hero Tony Montana is dashing; his nuanced performance makes it feel so real.

We would love to know how you are keeping busy at home. Tell us what you are watching, at metro@thehindu.co.in



DIVYA KALA BHAVANI

"I have seen reviews of my novels where I am addressed as Kunzru, but for my podcast, I am Hari." A smile forms on novelist and journalist Hari Kunzru's face as he talks about his foray into the world of podcasting over a video call from his home in New York. "It is an intimate thing because you are in someone's ear; I think the excitement is when you find someone whose mind or style of storytelling you appreciate." In his first podcast, *Into The Zone*, Hari's crisp diction and soothing baritone facilitate an ASMR-like experience.

Hari describes his recently-released novel, *Red Pill*, "an anxious book." His transition to podcasting comes at a time of loneliness and introspection for millions around the world owing to the pandemic. "That is the power of this format; the companionship in a lonely time and the escapism; just to be told a story is soothing even if it is about serious matters."

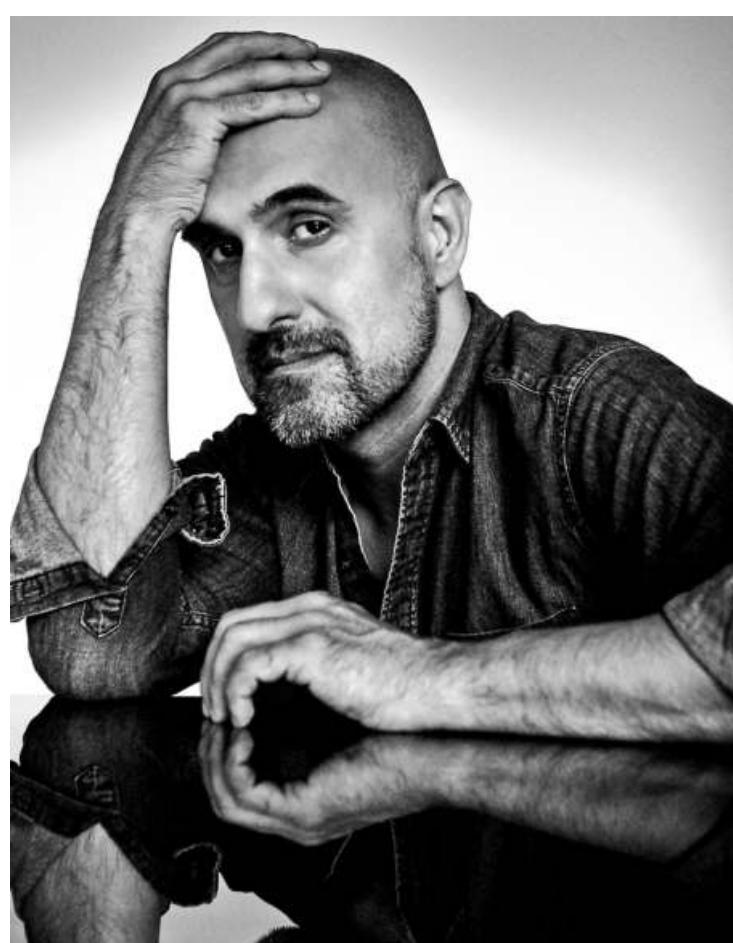
*Into The Zone* has Hari taking listeners to meet an array of figures from philosophers and punk musicians to New Age gurus, to explore the zones between dichotomies – life and death, love and war, moderation and tradition.

In the episode, 'The Guru of Ojai', Hari, who often uses history to understand the world and his place in it, walks listeners through a weird story when his family home in Agra briefly hosted a messianic visitor in the 1920s. This kicks off the episode-long, researched monologue on theosophy and existentialism.

"The theosophy was particularly

# Lend an ear, take a journey

Novelist and journalist Hari Kunzru embarks on a multimedia trip with his début podcast, *Into The Zone*, which grapples with identity among other things



**Introspection time** Hari Kunzru's foray into podcasting comes along with his recently-released novel *Red Pill* ■ CLAYTON CUBITT

personal to me because it is a family story and it allowed me to think about some of my relationships with my family, and also to England and India. I find theosophy an exotic belief system, it is not something I have an immediate connection with. But I appreciate that theo-

sophical meetings were the only place where British and Indians could meet on a level of equality. There was a mutual risk and the political work started there."

**Making connections**  
Theosophy is not the only school of

thought the 51-year-old discussed; a new episode links the German punk music scene (Hari is an avid music-lover) and German philosopher Theodore W Adorno, who is known for his critical theory of society. One cannot help but see Hari's mind as a crime scene bulletin board complete with splaying red thread, making all sorts of connections. In this case, however, Hari's podcast is united by the themes of identity and also unites people who are trying to understand their own identity.

Hari's podcasts are more than stream-of-consciousness outpourings; they get listeners to ponder the world from which they may be cut off now.

"You have to find stories and compelling ways to discuss big issues. If you say 'this is about borders' and just talk about the nature of borders, it is easy to lose people. However, if you say 'my father came from India, my mother came from England, and I have this existence on the border,' that is much more relatable and personal," he says.

Hari grins as he talks about creating his own 'studio' to record *Into The Zone* during lockdown. "I had to build a box, a six by six-foot cube and cover it in curtains, duvets and anything that deadens the sound. I stay inside and that is where I recorded all the tracks, the narration for the podcast... that was me sitting inside this past summer with the producers on video call so they could help me with the delivery. That has been a strange, isolated thing."

*Into The Zone* can be streamed on Apple podcasts, Spotify and Google podcasts, with new episodes released weekly.

that has been put behind achieving this, and how the numbers are flourishing. I want people to see, hear and understand how magnificent India is, how colourful the surroundings are and how engaging the story is.

**A lot of the younger generation – be it in sport or otherwise – look up to you as an inspirational figure. How would you like them to react to your project?**

I want them to help me save the rhino, and continue to create awareness about illegal wildlife trade. We are in the middle of a pandemic at the moment because we haven't protected our planet. I'm dead against ruining our planet like how we have in the past; we don't have to get rich by destroying it. We need to enjoy, respect and love the peacefulness and emotional connection we can have with it – from the great plains of Africa and its deserts to Northeast India and the oceans.

**Save This Rhino: India** featuring Kevin Pietersen is currently streaming on Disney+ Hotstar VIP.

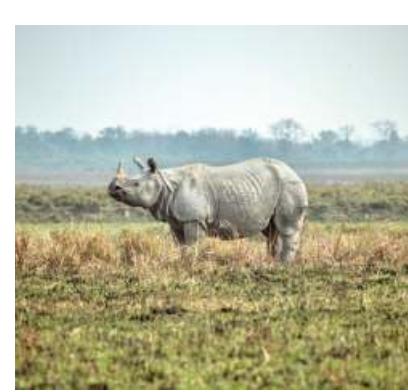
## Kevin Pietersen's second innings

The cricketing icon talks about his collaboration with National Geographic on *Save This Rhino: India*

GAUTAM SUNDER

Prior to his retirement, Kevin Pietersen, the former England international cricketer, set stadiums alight and wowed audiences with his mastery of the game. Now, the 40-year-old has brought similar grit and perseverance as he bats for another cause dear to him: saving the Indian rhino.

Animal conservation isn't something new to Kevin; in 2018, he established a luxury resort in South Africa which is both a retreat and a means to spread



awareness on endangered species in the country.

But his love for rhinos began in early 2010, when former South African skipper Graeme Smith took him to the Kruger National Park to take part in a rhino tagging exercise. Over the years, Kevin began taking an active interest in fighting to save the fascinating animal that is poached for its horn.

This led to him founding the charity called Saving Our Rhinos Africa & India (SORAI). Now, Kevin has turned his efforts to focus on the Greater One-Horned

Rhinoceros in India.

Collaborating with National Geographic, he stars in the docu-series *Save This Rhino: India*, which was shot in the Kaziranga National Park. Kevin's incredible two-week journey – along with several local schoolchildren who accompany the cast – is documented in the two-part show. Kevin talks to us from Dubai, where he is part of the commentary team for the ongoing Indian Premier League. Excerpts from an interview:

**Was there a particular incident in**

### the past that prompted you to become an ambassador for the rhino?

• It was sometime in 2013. I was in South Africa, and spending a weekend in those gorgeous plains along with a team putting in efforts to microchip rhinos. During this activity, we came across an elephant that was snared and struggling, and we worked to rescue the animal. This raised a lot of questions in my mind about poaching and illegal trade, and I promised myself that I'd commit myself to stop this. I've been banging the drum on this ever since!

### After watching *Save This Rhino: India*, what do you want the takeaway to be for audiences?

• The docu-series is a story about the beauty of Kaziranga National Park (Assam), the fabulous people who live alongside the animals, the technology that we launch in the area to help the animal-human conflict, the Brahmaputra river that floods every year and the disastrous consequences, and most importantly, why India is among the global leaders in rhino conservation: the work



### Man on a mission

Kevin Pietersen during the shoot ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Rhinoceros in India.

Collaborating with National Geographic, he stars in the docu-series *Save This Rhino: India*, which was shot in the Kaziranga National Park. Kevin's incredible two-week journey – along with several local schoolchildren who accompany the cast – is documented in the two-part show. Kevin talks to us from Dubai, where he is part of the commentary team for the ongoing Indian Premier League. Excerpts from an interview:

**Was there a particular incident in**

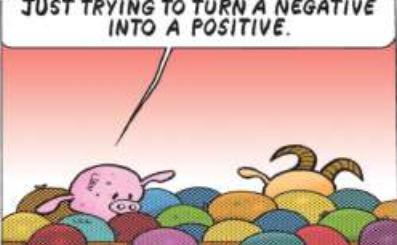
### PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



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### CALVIN AND HOBBES



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# 380 'detention camps' in Xinjiang: report

40% more centres detected than previous estimates, says Australian Strategic Policy Institute

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
SYDNEY

China is running hundreds of detention centres in north-west Xinjiang across a network that is much bigger than previously thought, according to research presented on Thursday by an Australian think tank.

The Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) said it had identified more than 380 "suspected detention facilities" in the region, where China is believed to have held more than one million Uighurs and other mostly Muslim Turkic-speaking residents.

The number of facilities is around 40% greater than previous estimates, the research said, and has been growing despite China's



**Secure facility:** Satellite imagery of a new detention centre near Kashgar in January 2020. ■ ASPI.ORG.AU

claims that many Uighurs have been released.

Using satellite imagery, eyewitness accounts, media reports and official construction tender documents, the

institute said "at least 61 detention sites have seen new construction and expansion work between July 2019 and July 2020".

Fourteen more facilities

were under construction in 2020 and around 70 have had fencing or perimeter walls removed, indicating their use has changed or they have been closed.

Beijing on Thursday again denied the existence of detention sites. The government says they are vocational training centres used to counter extremism.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin called ASPI "the vanguard of anti-China forces, whose academic credibility is seriously questionable".

U.S. lawmakers recently voted to ban imports from Xinjiang, citing the alleged use of systematic forced labour.

Beijing recently published a white paper defending its

policies in Xinjiang, where it says training programmes, work schemes and better education mean life has improved.

## 'Training camps'

It claims to have given "training sessions" to an average of 1.29 million workers each year between 2014 and 2019.

Following the publication of the ASPI report, the Chinese government-controlled nationalist tabloid *Global Times* cited "sources" as saying contributors Clive Hamilton and Alex Joske were banned from entering China.

Mr. Wang did not confirm if the two academics had been banned on Thursday, but said the matter was "totally within the scope of China's sovereignty".

# Trump won't commit to peaceful transfer of power

The postal ballots are a disaster, says U.S. President

SIRIRAM LAKSHMAN  
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump failed to commit to the peaceful transfer of power when asked a question on the subject on Tuesday, adding to concerns that the post-election scenario in November might be chaotic.

"Well, we're going to have to see what happens. You know that I've been complaining very strongly about the ballots and the ballots are a disaster," Mr. Trump said in response to the question.

The President, in a bid to question the legitimacy of postal ballots, has been complaining for months about vote by mail, including by making unsubstantiated claims about the incidence of voter fraud (orchestrated by Democrats).

All States use some amount of mail in voting but the COVID-19 pandemic has meant an expansion of the process across the country. Vote by mail has already started for the elections, and at least 75% of Americans will be eligible for a postal ballot as per a *New York Times* study.

"Get rid of the ballots and you'll have a very peaceful... there won't be a transfer frankly, there'll be a continuation," Mr. Trump said when the reporter further pressed him on whether



Donald Trump

he'd commit to a peaceful transfer of power in light of the fact that "people are rioting."

In an interview to Chris Wallace of Fox News, Mr. Trump had in July said he would "have to see" when asked if he would accept the November election results.

In 2016, running against Hillary Clinton, Mr. Trump had given a similar answer to the question.

## Supreme Court pick

Mr. Trump also stated on Wednesday that he wanted to replace liberal justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg before the November 3 election as he expected a dispute over the results. Mr. Trump is expected to announce his pick on Saturday, a pick that is likely to further solidify the conservative majority of the court.

Former (2012) Republican presidential nominee and

U.S. Senator from Utah Mitt Romney, who had voted to convict Mr. Trump on impeachment charges earlier this year but has also said he will consider a Trump nominee for the Supreme Court, reacted strongly to Mr. Trump's comments on Wednesday.

"Fundamental to democracy is the peaceful transition of power; without that, there is Belarus. Any suggestion that a President might not respect this Constitutional guarantee is both unthinkable and unacceptable," Mr. Romney wrote on Twitter.

## 'Not surprised'

Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden reacted to Mr. Trump's comments and said he was not surprised, while implying a challenge to the peaceful transfer of power was not something that happened in the U.S.

"What country are we in? Mr. Biden told reporters in Delaware. "He [Mr. Trump] says the most irrational things. I don't know what to say... but it doesn't surprise me."

"The American people will decide this election. And the U.S. government is perfectly capable of escorting trespassers out of the White House," the Biden campaign said in a statement issued on Wednesday.

# 2 police officers shot during Louisville protests

Kentucky grand jury's decision to not charge 2 policemen for death of a black woman sparks outcry

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
LOUISVILLE

Hours after a Kentucky grand jury brought no charges against Louisville police for Breonna Taylor's death and protesters took to the streets, authorities said two officers were shot and wounded on Wednesday night during the demonstrations expressing anger over the killings of Black people at the hands of police.

Interim Louisville police chief Robert Schroeder said a suspect was in custody but did not offer details about whether that person was participating in the demonstrations. He said both officers are expected to recover, and one is undergoing surgery.

Several shots rang out as protesters in downtown Louisville tried to avoid police blockades, moving down

an alleyway as officers lobbed pepper balls, according to an Associated Press journalist. People covered their ears, ran away and frantically looked for places to hide. Police with long guns swarmed the area, then officers in riot gear and military-style vehicles blocked off roadways.

The violence comes after prosecutors said two officers, who fired their weapons

at Taylor, a Black woman, were justified in using force to protect themselves after they faced gunfire from her boyfriend. The only charges were three counts of wanton endangerment against fired Officer Brett Hankison for shooting into a home next to Taylor's with people inside.

**No justice, no peace**  
The FBI is still investigating potential violations of feder-

al law in connection with the raid at Taylor's home on March 13.

Ben Crump, a lawyer for Taylor's family, denounced the decision as "outrageous and offensive," and protesters shouting, "No justice, no peace!" immediately marched through the streets.

Scuffles broke out between police and protesters, and some of them were arrested.

# China cautious on G4 push for UNSC reforms

Foreign Ministers of 4 nations express their frustration at bid to derail reforms

ANANTH KRISHNAN

China on Thursday said there were "enormous divisions" and a lack of consensus on taking forward the stalled reforms of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), a day after the G4 countries – India, Brazil, Japan and Germany – called for an early push for text-based negotiations.

The Foreign Ministers of the four countries that are seeking UNSC reforms and permanent membership of the body met virtually on Wednesday, expressing their frustration at the repeated attempts to stall and derail the reforms process.

**Text-based negotiations**  
External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said the meeting had "called for a decisive push" and was unanimous in backing "text-based negotia-



Wang Wenbin

and with increased urgency at this 75th anniversary of the UN," a statement said, adding that "without substantive text based negotiations actually taking place in an intergovernmental setting" this process could not go forward.

Chinese analysts have long been dismissive of the G4, and have in the past indicated that China would not favour the inclusion of at least three of its members for differing reasons – India and Japan considering their historically difficult relations with China, and Germany because it is not a developing country.

## 'Enormous divisions'

On Thursday, China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin suggested that China's long-held stance that the reforms process cannot go ahead quickly is unlikely

to change. "We believe the reforms should increase the representation and voice of developing countries and allow more small and medium size countries to enter the Security Council and participate in the decision making," Mr. Wang said in response to a question on the G4 statement.

"We believe the reform of the Security Council is an important issue which concerns the long term development and all the immediate interests of its members. There have been enormous divisions on this issue and there lacks a widespread consensus on the arrangement for reform," he said. "China is willing to work with other UN members to seek a package solution that can accommodate all parties' interests and concerns, through dialogue and negotiation."

he was interrogated in the water over several hours, Seoul military officials said on Thursday.

It is the first killing of a Southern citizen by North Korean forces for a decade.

The fisheries official disappeared from a patrol vessel near the western island of Yeonpyeong on Monday, a South Korean military official said. More than 24 hours later, North Korean forces lo-

# N. Korea shot dead defector from South: Seoul

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
SEOUL

North Korean soldiers shot dead a suspected South Korean defector at sea and burned his body as a precaution against COVID-19 after

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## ELSEWHERE



Hong Kong activist Joshua Wong arrested

HONG KONG  
Prominent Hong Kong activist Joshua Wong was arrested on Thursday for taking part in a protest last year, but he vowed to continue resisting China's crackdown on dissent. The arrest of the territory's most high-profile dissident is the latest in a string of arrests of government critics. He was arrested for "unlawful assembly" over a 2019 demonstration against a government ban on face masks that was imposed before the pandemic. AFP

**TikTok urges U.S. court to block ban on app**

SAN FRANCISCO  
TikTok is urging a federal court to block U.S. President Donald Trump from banning the video app, arguing the move is motivated by election politics rather than legitimate national security concerns. A deal to restructure ownership of the app was thrown into doubt on Monday when Mr. Trump vowed to block a deal that allows its Chinese parent firm ByteDance to retain any control. TikTok has some 100 million users in the U.S. AFP

# Trailblazing journalist Harold Evans dead at 92

His career spanned over 70 years

REUTERS  
NEW YORK

Sir Harold Evans, a British-American Editor whose 70-year career as a hard-driving investigative journalist, magazine founder, book publisher and author made him one of the most influential media figures of his generation, died on Wednesday at the age of 92. Evans died of congestive heart failure in New York, according to his wife Tina Brown.

A former editor of Britain's *Sunday Times* and, at his death, Reuters editor-at-large, Evans put a unique stamp on investigative journalism. Championing causes either overlooked or denied, he and his team uncovered human rights abuses and political scandals, and advocated for clean air policies.

One of his most famous investigations exposed the plight of hundreds of British thalidomide children, who had never received any compensation for their birth defects. Evans organised a campaign to take on the drug companies responsible for manufacturing the drug, an effort that eventually won compensation



Harold Evans

for the families. "All I tried to do – all I hoped to do – was to shed a little light," Evans said in an interview with the *Independent* in 2014.

After 14 years at the *Sunday Times*, Evans became editor of the *Times of London* shortly after media mogul Rupert Murdoch purchased the paper in 1981. Evans left a year later in a dispute with Murdoch.

Evans received one of the highest honours of the British monarchy when he was knighted by Queen Elizabeth in 2004 for his services to British journalism. He penned several books, including *The American Century* and its sequel *They Made America*, as well as an ode to good writing called *Do I Make Myself Clear?*.

# Lanka scraps Japan-funded rail project

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's President has ordered the termination of a \$1.5-billion Japanese-funded light rail project, saying it is not a "cost-effective solution" for the congested capital Colombo, officials said on Thursday.

The deal signed under the previous government is the largest single foreign-funded infrastructure project in Sri Lanka, and was seen as a sign of the island nation reducing its dependence on China.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, elected last year, told the Transport Ministry to "terminate this project and close the project office with immediate effect", top aide P.B. Jayasundara said in a letter to the ministry.

There was no immediate comment from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), which in March last year loaned 30 billion yen (\$285 million) to finance the first phase of the Light Rail Transit (LRT). Japanese technology including rolling stock was to be used on the rail system, which included 16 stations over 15.7 km.

## MARKET WATCH

	PRICE	CHANGE
Sensex	36,554	-2.96
US Dollar	73.89	-0.43
Gold	50,418	-0.65
Brent oil	41.65	-1.14

## NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	313.75	-10.85
Asian Paints	1918.35	-28.20
Axis Bank	402.45	-17.30
Bajaj Auto	2931.85	-54.35
Bajaj Finserv	5425.70	-220.95
Bajaj Finance	3028.90	-214.95
Bharti Airtel	419.30	-14.50
BPCL	377.25	-10.40
Britannia Ind	3612.75	-12.15
Cipla	733.45	-33.95
Coal India	115.70	-5.35
Dr Reddys Lab	5027.40	-80.35
Eicher Motors	2034.45	-42.35
GAIL (India)	83.00	-2.70
Grasim Ind	679.70	-38.70
HCL Tech	788.30	-25.80
HDFC	1636.85	-30.25
HDFC Bank	1030.40	-16.85
HDFC Life	577.65	-2.60
Hero MotoCorp	2918.30	-38.45
Hindalco	159.10	-6.35
Hind Unilever	2060.90	-8.35
ICICI Bank	335.70	-16.15
IndusInd Bank	490.25	-37.80
Bharti Infratel	169.10	2.15
Infosys	975.40	-44.35
Indian Oil Corp	72.00	-3.95
ITC	166.55	-5.95
JSW Steel	258.55	-9.65
Kotak Bank	1246.10	-29.30
L&T	850.70	-9.90
M&M	575.10	-37.50
Maruti Suzuki	6297.70	-203.60
Nestle India Ltd.	15258.85	-107.20
NTPC	82.65	-2.45
ONGC	66.65	-1.00
PowerGrid Corp	159.35	-4.55
Reliance Ind	2181.20	-49.60
State Bank	176.35	-7.45
Shree Cement	18341.95	-609.90
Sun Pharma	485.80	-17.10
Tata Motors	122.80	-8.60
Tata Steel	343.90	-17.40
TCS	2332.25	-135.20
Tech Mahindra	751.80	-41.20
Titan	1096.15	-21.05
UltraTech Cement	3777.80	-91.35
UPL	505.15	-27.25
Wipro	304.70	-10.15
Zee Entertainment	190.35	-1.45

## EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	73.71	74.03
Euro	85.77	86.15
British Pound	93.82	94.23
Japanese Yen (100)	69.92	70.23
Chinese Yuan	10.79	10.84
Swiss Franc	79.53	79.88
Singapore Dollar	53.55	53.79
Canadian Dollar	54.99	55.23
Malaysian Ringgit	17.68	17.76
Australian Dollar	51.86	52.08

Source: Indian Bank

## Havells to sell fridges

NEW DELHI

Havells India has forayed into refrigerators and unveiled 25 models under the Lloyd brand. Prices range between ₹10,000 and ₹84,990.

## Govt. extends IBC pause by 3 months

Code will not be invoked against companies that have defaulted on loans since March 25

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Corporate India has got three more months of relief from invocation of insolvency and bankruptcy proceedings by lenders, with the government extending the suspension of relevant provisions of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) against firms defaulting on their loans since March 25 this year.

The IBC's invocation was first suspended for a period of six months in view of the emergent stress on balance sheets due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the national lockdown announced in March. The Corporate Affairs Ministry notified a further three-month extension on Thursday evening, when that six-month period was due to end.



**Take it easy:** The suspension of the insolvency process will help companies stay afloat, say observers. ■ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that the extension of the suspension of sections 7, 9 and 10 of the IBC reinforces the government's commitment to protecting businesses. "It also

gives companies breathing time to recover from financial stress," she said in a tweet. The government had issued an ordinance to amend the IBC in June to enable the suspension of the

Code's provisions for firms committing defaults after March 25. The ordinance permits the government to extend the suspension of insolvency invocation for up to one year, and was passed as a legislation by Parliament this week.

**'Result still elusive'**

"The notification was expected but the desired result is still elusive," said Anoop Rawat, partner, insolvency and bankruptcy at Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co.

"The rate of stress resolution outside IBC is abysmal and the stress is only accumulating," he added. Mr. Rawat hoped the three months could be used to build stakeholder consensus on resolving the stress created on account of COVID-19 to avoid further build-up of stress at

the end of the period.

While the economy contracted more than 23% in the first quarter, when the harshest lockdown restrictions were in place, the industry is yet to see a significant revival in revenues as consumers remain cautious and hold on to cash amid a surge in novel coronavirus infections and dwindling jobs and incomes.

The suspension of the corporate insolvency resolution process for another three months will help companies stay afloat, said Uttara Kotharkar, partner at J. Sagar As-sociates.

"The current COVID-19 situation has had a debilitating effect on the Indian economic situation and the passing of the Bill will give such stressed companies the much-needed cushioning effect," she added.

## VIL, Airtel lose 59 lakh mobile users in June

Jio adds 45 lakh subscribers: TRAI data

and rural mobile subscribers in total wireless user base was pegged at 54.3% and 45.7%, respectively, at the end of June.

With the exception of Reliance Jio, India's largest telco, all other operators lost mobile subscribers in June. During the month, Jio gained 44.9 lakh subscribers, propping up its wireless customer base to 39.7 crore.

Bharti Airtel lost almost 11.3 lakh users in the mobile category, and its subscriber base stood at 31.6 crore in June. The subscriber base of Bharti Airtel included Tata Teleservices'. VIL's subscriber base fell by 48.2 lakh in the month to 30.5 crore.

The broadband subscriber base rose about 2% from 68.4 crore at the end of May to 69.8 crore at end-June.

## Relax current account curbs for borrowers: CII

RBI urged to raise threshold to ₹100 cr.

## YUTHIKA BHARGAVA

NEW DELHI

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has written to the RBI seeking changes to the central bank's recent circular on current accounts.

The RBI in its August 6 circular mandated that no bank should open new current accounts for customers who had availed of cash credit (CC) or overdraft (OD) from the banking system.

The RBI also said that for borrowers for whom the exposure was ₹50 crore or more, banks would be required to put in place an escrow mechanism, among other restrictions. The CII has pitched that the thresholds limits be increased

from ₹50 crore to ₹100 crore, given the impact on MSMEs and to ensure minimal impact on the banking sector. "Similarly, decrease the banking exposure limit from 10% to 5% for clients availing CC/OD, or make limits consistent with Tier 1 Capital base to 15% of the bank's capital to provide for a wider lender consortium," the industry body urged.

Further, it said certain categories of borrowers such as MFIs, insurance companies, exchange brokers and NBFCs should be excluded from credit worthiness in terms of external ratings, given their high level of risk management and governance standards.

## Five States can borrow more on reform

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

The Centre on Thursday permitted five States to borrow an additional ₹9,913 crore through open market borrowings to meet expenditure requirements amid falling revenues due to the COVID-19 crisis.

These States are A.P., Telangana, Goa, Karnataka and Tripura. The permission was accorded after these States met the reform condition of implementation of 'One Nation One Ration Card' system.

The Centre had, in May, allowed additional borrowing limit of up to 2% of Gross State Domestic Product to States for FY21 with certain conditions.

## Adani-GVK airport deal gets CCI nod

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

don't want to [face the] same situation of overstocking as we did in the last two years," Mr. Gulati said.

Kia Motors and Toyota Kirloskar Motor had met expectations of dealers better than others in the passenger vehicle segment during the lockdown, FADA said.

In the July-August period, FADA had conducted a survey in association with PremonAsia, on support given by original equipment manufacturers to their dealers for COVID-19. "Even before the pandemic hit us... we were already de-growing for 15-odd months. Against this backdrop, the COVID-19 outbreak has been a significant blow to... auto dealers," Mr. Gulati said.

"We are speaking to SIAM and auto companies to keep inventory in check during the festive season this year in order to avoid overstocking at dealers as witnessed in the last two years, he added.

"Dealers are looking at moving to smaller places with relatively low rent and also looking at rationalisation of manpower... to carry forward in these challenges times," FADA President Vinod Gulati told reporters.

To keep the sector alive,

we need to take some steps to sustain business," FADA

## Sensex tanks 1,115 points on global sell-off

M&M, TCS and Tata Steel among 29 losers in BSE pack; Nifty plummets 326 points



opened weak and India followed the trend," he added.

"Additionally, if we see, foreign portfolio investors have been sellers for most of this week," he added.

**IPOs sucking liquidity**

"Finally, the list of IPOs that have hit the market is also sucking out liquidity from the secondary market. Elections and other political events in the U.S. will continue to have an impact and act as an overhang. It may not come as a surprise if we see continued weakness in India for some more time," Mr. Mahajan said.

The selling pressure was widespread wherein IT,

banking and auto were the top losers, Ajit Mishra, VP,

Research, Religare Broking

Ltd., said. He said the looming uncertainty over the stimulus package in the U.S., combined with the issue of rising COVID-19 cases worldwide, had raised concerns over the economic recovery. "And, it may deteriorate further if the virus situation results in partial lockdown," he added.

He said since Nifty had been down by nearly 6% this week so far that it would be prudent for traders to wait for clarity before jumping into a trade, while investors should continue to accumulate fundamental sound stocks on dips. According to Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Service, as volatility is expected to be high, traders should remain cautious.

## 'Investment advisers must split advisory, distribution'

SEBI norms tied to client segregation, fee

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Markets regulator SEBI has come out with detailed guidelines for investment advisers (IA) asking them to ensure segregation of advisory and distribution activities at the client level.

Besides, SEBI has fixed a cap on fee that IA can charge from clients.

Under the rules, an individual IA will apply for registration as non-individual investment adviser on onboarding 150 clients and IA will have to enter into an investment advisory agreement with its clients.

In a circular on Wednesday, the regulator said investment advisers will have to ensure compliance with regard to client-level segregation of advisory and distribution activities.

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# Rahul leads Kings XI Punjab to a majestic win

His unbeaten 132, coupled with impressive spells from Bishnoi and Ashwin, floors Royal Challengers Bangalore

## IPL 2020

### SPORTS BUREAU

Bengaluru lad K.L. Rahul showed little concern for allegiance to home, dismantling Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) with a sparkling unbeaten century for Kings XI Punjab (KXIP) at the Dubai International Stadium on Thursday. Rahul's 69-ball 132, laced with 14 fours and seven sixes, propelled KXIP to a comfortable 97-run victory.

KXIP amassed 206 for three in 20 overs before skittling out RCB for 109 in 17 overs.

### In full flow

Rahul, a former RCB player, was in full flow while recording his second IPL century. He got going with two crisp square-cuts off Dale Steyn, which pierced the tight off-side field. Umesh Yadav was not spared either, with Rahul launching into the fast bowler in the 10th over.

Yuzvendra Chahal was the pick of the bowlers once again, but when the leg-spinner strayed on the pads, Rahul unleashed the sweep to good effect. The 28-year-old cut loose in the last three over-



**Swashbuckling:** Kings XI Punjab skipper K.L. Rahul was at his scintillating best while notching up the first century of this edition on Thursday. ■ BCCI/IPL

ers, smashing five sixes and three fours.

Quite uncharacteristically, RCB skipper Virat Kohli dropped two sitters in the deep. Rahul, the beneficiary on both occasions, could

hardly believe his luck. The KXIP skipper ended up scoring more than half of his team's total.

The RCB pacers, meanwhile, made life easy for KXIP. Umesh sprayed it

down the leg much too often, while Steyn bowled too short and wide. Even Navdeep Saini, the team's standout pacer, could not maintain a good length and was punished.

RCB's troubles continued

in a poor chase. The side lost three wickets in the first three overs, including that of key man Kohli.

### Falling early

Opener Devdutt Padikkal, who had shown much promise in the previous match, was cramped for room by left-arm seamer Sheldon Cottrell.

The lefthander's awkward pull sliced to Ravi Bishnoi at mid-on.

Young Australian wicket-keeper-batsman Josh Philippe was trapped on the pads by Mohammed Shami for a duck.

The wicket of Kohli (1, 5b), who was dismissed in similar fashion to Padikkal, big trouble for RCB.

### Not enough

Aaron Finch (20, 21b) and A.B. de Villiers (28, 18b) tried to repair the damage, but their 49-run stand was grossly inadequate.

### Innings scan

KXIP	Dots	RCB
32	53	
21	Four	10
7	Sixes	3
50/0	PP	40/3
10.30	RR	6.41

The rest of the contest drudged along without much purpose, as RCB was well and truly out of it.

Leggies Bishnoi and M. Ashwin picked up three wickets each for KXIP.

The Punjab side notched up its first win in two matches, while the Bengaluru outfit was humbled after a sparkling start to its campaign a few days earlier.

### Next assignment

**KXIP:** Sept. 27 vs. RR  
Sharjah, 7.30 p.m. IST

**RCB:** Sept. 28 vs. MI  
Dubai, 7.30 p.m. IST



**No clue:** KXIP leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi had the RCB batsmen in a bind, with Umesh Yadav being one of his three victims.

■ BCCI/IPL

### SCOREBOARD

#### KINGS XI PUNJAB

K.L. Rahul (not out) 132 (69b, 14x4, 7x6), Mayank Agarwal b Chahal 26 (20b, 4x4), Nicholas Pooran c de Villiers b Dube 17 (18b, 1x4), Glenn Maxwell c Finch b Dube 5 (6b), Karun Nair (not out) 15 (8b, 2x4); Extras (b-2, lb-4, w-4, nb-1); 11; Total (for three wkts. in 20 overs): 206.

#### FALL OF WICKETS

1-2 (Padikkal, 0.4 overs), 2-3 (Philippe, 1.3), 3-4 (Kohli, 2.4), 4-53 (Finch, 7.5), 5-57 (de Villiers, 8.2), 6-83 (Dube, 12.6), 7-88 (Umesh, 13.6), 8-101 (Washington, 15.2), 9-106 (Saini, 16.2).

#### FALL OF WICKETS

Devdutt Padikkal c Bishnoi b Cottrell 1 (2b), Aaron Finch b Bishnoi 20 (2tb, 3x4), Josh Philippe lbw b Shami 0 (3b), Virat Kohli c Bishnoi b Cottrell 1 (5b), A.B. de Villiers c Sarfaraz b M. Ashwin 28 (18b, 4x4, 1x6), Washington Sundar c Mayank b Bishnoi 30 (27b, 2x4, 1x6), Shivam Dube b Maxwell 12 (12b, 1x6), Umesh Yadav b Bishnoi 0 (2b), Navdeep Saini b M. Ashwin 6 (7b, 1x4), Dale Steyn (not out) 1 (2b), Yuzvendra Chahal lbw b M. Ashwin 1 (3b); Extras (lb-2,

#### KINGS XI BOWLING

Cottrell 3-0-17-2, Shami 3-0-14-1, Bishnoi 4-0-32-3, M. Ashwin 3-0-21-3, Neesham 2-0-13-0, Maxwell 2-0-10-1.

**Toss:** Royal Challengers.

**Man-of-the-match:** K.L. Rahul.

**KXIP won by 97 runs.**

## Super Kings face the Capitals test



Faf du Plessis... in striking form. ■ BCCI/IPL

Amit Mishra... may get a look-in. ■ FILE PHOTO

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA DUBAI

Mahendra Singh Dhoni's promotion in the batting order will be an area of interest when Chennai Super Kings strives to pick up the pieces against a confident Delhi Capitals in its third IPL outing on Friday.

Dhoni had come in at No.

### TODAY'S MATCH



HEAD-TO-HEAD

Played: 21

CSK 15 | DC 6

In 2019

Played 3 | CSK 3 | DC 0

STAR SPORTS 1, 2 & SELECT 1 (SD & HD)

## We are still finding our feet, says Fleming

All-rounder Bravo resumes training

### S. DIPAK RAGAV CHENNAI

After a win and a loss in its first two matches, Chennai Super Kings takes on Delhi Capitals in its third game in seven days on Friday in Dubai, and head coach Stephen Fleming said the team is still finding its feet, figuring out the right combination.

"One of the biggest challenges is to find the right combinations and also give the guys some match-play, keeping in mind we've got many players who haven't played for 12 months," Fleming told the team's website.

"We're working hard on many fronts, one is to get the right team for the conditions which we've been unsure about, and also to get the guys up to speed with their playing form," he added.



Bravo steaming in again is the best news for Super Kings. ■ BCCI/IPL

The coach also added that he is hopeful of having Ambati Rayudu for the next match against Sunrisers Hyderabad, especially with a six-day gap after Friday's match. Kasi Viswanathan, CSK CEO, revealed that Bravo has resumed training, but the team will take a call on playing him in Friday's game only before the match.

**On Rayudu**  
The coach also added that he is hopeful of having Ambati Rayudu for the next match against Sunrisers Hyderabad, especially with a six-day gap after Friday's match. Kasi Viswanathan, CSK CEO, revealed that Bravo has resumed training, but the team will take a call on playing him in Friday's game only before the match.

### IN BRIEF



#### Herro helps Heat hold off Celtics for 3-1 lead

##### MIAMI

Tyler Herro scored a career-high 37 points and Jimmy Butler chipped in with 24 as Miami Heat seized a 3-1 lead in its Eastern Conference finals against Boston Celtics with a 112-109 win on Wednesday.

**The results:** EC finals: Miami Heat 112 (Herro 37, Butler 24) bt Boston Celtics 109 (Tatum 28, Brown 21) Heat 3-1. AFP

#### Ankita bows out of French Open qualifiers

##### PARIS

India's top-ranked women's player Ankita Raina lost to Japan's Kurumi Nara 6-3, 6-2 in the second round at the French Open qualifiers here on Thursday. Her defeat means no Indian will compete in the singles main draw of the claycourt Grand Slam. PTI

#### Atletico announces signing of Suarez

##### MADRID

Atletico Madrid announced the signing of Barcelona forward Luis Suarez late on Wednesday, confirming that the Uruguayan striker is set to continue playing in La Liga rather than joining Juventus in Italy. Barcelona said Atletico had agreed to pay €6 million for Suarez. AFP

**SUDOKU**

4	5			9			
2		4		9			7
9			5	3	2		
			5				
6	4		7	8	1		
			1				
8	1	3			5		
9	5	8		1			
4			7		6		

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

### FRENCH OPEN

#### N. SUDARSHAN

Twelve-time champion Rafael Nadal will open against Belarus' Egor Gerasimov in the opening round of the French Open starting on Sunday (Sept. 27).

Gerasimov was a finalist at the Tata Open Maharashtra early this year, losing to Jiri Vesely.

In the draws unveiled on Thursday, the Spaniard was placed in the bottom half, with US Open champion Dominic Thiem a potential semifinal opponent.

Thiem will have a tough start against Marin Cilic, and finds himself in a quarter that also has Alexander Zverev and Gael Monfils.

Djokovic, the top seed, heads the top half, and will open against Swede Mikael Ymer.

Daniil Medvedev is a potential four opponent for the Serb, with Stefanos Tsitsipas and Matteo Berrettini rounding off the quarter.

The stand-out match of the first round will be between Andy Murray and Stan Wawrinka (bottom half).

In fact, the Brit's last match at Roland Garros was against Wawrinka, a grueling five-set semifinal that the latter won in 2017.



**First day first show:** The last time Wawrinka and Murray met at the French Open, it turned out to be a memorable five-set marathon. ■ FILE PHOTO

+

Among women, top seed Simona Halep leads the top half with Elina Svitolina, while the bottom has second seed Karolina Pliskova paired with 2020 Australian Open champion Sofia Kenin.

### FAITH

## God's guiding hand

The word Azhvar means one who is deeply involved in something. To be involved in something, one must like it. Secondly, one must get an opportunity for involvement. And finally, and most importantly, the thing one is involved in must be something that engages one for a lifetime. It must not be something temporary, here now, gone the next minute. And given the nature of the mind, it is difficult for us to find something that holds our attention always. The mind has, after all, been likened to a monkey, which cannot stay in one place for long, but keeps jumping about here and there. The only thing that is capable of lasting forever is attachment to Lord Narayana. Once one realises that there is nothing worth thinking of than the Lord, the involvement begins and never goes away.

We see this in the case of Pillai Urangavilli Dasar, said Kidaambi Nar

