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Maharashtra govt.
to shift Varavara Rao
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Schwartzman to keep
his hopes alive
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NEARBY



HC notice to Centre, U.P. on Hathras arrests

LUCKNOW
The Allahabad High Court on Wednesday issued notices to the Union and the Uttar Pradesh governments on a writ petition filed by two scholars and a cab driver who were arrested in Mathura while they were on their way to Hathras, along with Siddique Kappan, in October.

NEWS ▶ PAGE 9

ANTHROPOLOGY LIVE ONLINE 27TH NOV NEW BATCH AL2A 9821805141 9868560857 www.l2a.in

Start goods trains first, farmer outfits tell Centre

CHANDIGARH
As many as 30 farmers' outfitts in Punjab on Wednesday decided to maintain status quo on their blockade of passenger trains in the State in protest against Centre's recent agriculture laws. Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh expressed disappointment over the development, "especially in view of the State government's support for their cause".

NEWS ▶ PAGE 9

Army builds extreme weather habitats for troops in Ladakh

Due to stand-off with China, more personnel will be stationed through the winter

Tough task

- **Altitude:** 14,000 feet to 18,000 feet
- **Temperature:** Minus 40 degrees Celsius, coupled with the wind chill factor
- **Snowfall:** Up to 40 feet from December onwards
- **Road access:** to front-line areas remain cut off from November to May

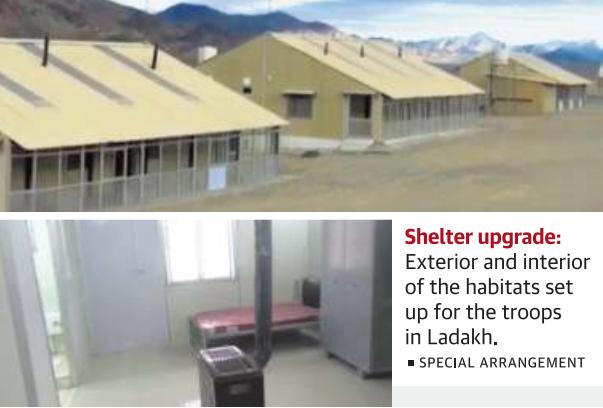
The state of art
habitats come with integrated arrangements for electricity, water, heating facilities, health and hygiene

The altitude in Ladakh where troops are deployed ranges from 14,000 feet to 18,000 feet and the area experiences up to 40 feet of snowfall from December onwards. Coupled with the wind chill factor, the temperature dips to minus 40 degrees Celsius, disrupting road access to the area for some time.

The Army has deployed thousands of additional troops and equipment in eastern Ladakh and along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) since the stand-off began in early May.

The Army recently procured 15,000 extreme weather clothing from the

The Army has created modern habitats for troops deployed in Ladakh during the winter season. A look at the conditions faced by the soldiers



Shelter upgrade:
Exterior and interior of the habitats set up for the troops in Ladakh.

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

U.S. under the bilateral logistics pact, Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Understanding, for the additional troops in Ladakh. "The order was placed in early July and the deliveries have been completed. Additional reserves have also been catered to and supply orders as required have been placed," another source said.

No shortage'

Last week, Army chief General Manoj Naravane said "there was no shortage whatsoever of any kind" with respect to extreme weather clothing and equipment for the troops. The equipment normally catered

to a certain number of troops at any point of time. They "had to go in for certain emergency procurements" for the additional troops.

Gen. Naravane said that over the years they have been going in for indigenous supplies, and out of the extreme weather clothing and equipment, of some 10 to 12 items, six were done by local suppliers and the contracts for another four were also being done by Indian suppliers. The Army did annual advanced winter stocking of rations and supplies during the summer months for the winter period from November to May.

Beating the chill



Winter care: A Kashmiri vendor selling kangris, a traditional firepot, in Srinagar on Wednesday. People fill kangris with lighted charcoal to keep themselves warm during the winter. ■ NISSAR AHMAD

Kejriwal seeks all-party meet on COVID

Saving economy and livelihoods the topmost priority, reiterates Delhi CM

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has called for an all-party meeting on Thursday to discuss the COVID-19 situation in the Capital.

Leaders from the Aam Aadmi Party, the BJP and the Congress have been invited to participate in the meeting as daily cases continued to surge on Wednesday with 7,486 new infections and 131 deaths reported in the last 24 hours.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Kejriwal visited GTB Hospital to review preparedness and said 663 more ICU beds would be added across Delhi government hospitals in the coming days to deal with the rising demand.

He said that the Centre has assured the Delhi government that the DRDO will add 750 ICU beds to Central government hospitals, which will translate to an additional 1,400 ICU beds.



A health worker tests a commuter travelling from Delhi to Noida on Wednesday. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said the Indian Railways is in the process of equipping train coaches with 800 beds for COVID-19 patients at Shakur Basti station, and that as many as 45 doctors and 160 paramedics of the paramilitary forces have arrived in Delhi for COVID-19 duties.

The measures come in the

wake of 12 decisions taken at a high-level meeting chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on November 15.

'No mini lockdown'
Mr. Kejriwal, meanwhile, sought to assure citizens that no mini lockdown will be enforced in Delhi and markets would be shut only if "very necessary". "We are not shutting the markets down

The Delhi government is going to start a door-to-door survey from Friday in areas where cases are high, including containment zones, to scale up testing and for better contact tracing.

MORE REPORTS ▶ PAGES 2, 3

right now. I was listening to some news channels on Tuesday, which mentioned that there will be a mini lockdown in Delhi, which is not the case. We will monitor the situation in the coming days and will assess accordingly," Mr. Kejriwal told reporters.

"Saving the economy and the livelihood of the people is our topmost priority. Unless very necessary, we will not take any step," he said.

The MHA added that the Indian Council of Medical Research and the Delhi government are working together to enhance RT-PCR testing capacity to 60,000 by the end of November.

The Delhi government is going to start a door-to-door survey from Friday in areas where cases are high, including containment zones, to scale up testing and for better contact tracing.

The order, accompanied by a three-page affidavit, was filed by the government on Wednesday. The court will hear the case on Thursday. "While freedom of expression is a fundamental right, the tone and tenor of the episodes telecast do indicate that the channel has through the various utterances and audio visual content breached the Programme Code," the order said.

The channel was asked to avoid "attacks on religions or communities or visuals or words contemptuous of religious groups or which promote communal attitudes". Any content which "criticise, malign, slander any individual or group, segments of social public and moral life" should also be avoided.

The order also said the channel should comply and report back to the Ministry before the telecast.

Vaccine trial showed 95% success: Pfizer

Firm to apply for emergency U.S. nod

REUTERS

Top shot | A look at the final results from Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine trial



■ There were 170 cases of COVID-19 in the trial of more than 43,000 volunteers

■ Only eight people with the disease had been given the shot rather than a placebo

■ Efficacy of the two-dose vaccine in adults over 65 years was over 94%

■ The most severe side effect was fatigue, which affected 3.7% candidates

■ The vaccine must be stored at -70 degrees Celsius

in Philadelphia. "Today is a special day."

Pfizer said it expected the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's vaccine advisory committee to review and discuss the data in a public meeting, likely to be held in December.

The final analysis comes a week after initial results from the trial showed the vaccine was more than 90% effective.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8
PLASMA THERAPY ▶ PAGE 10

Questionnaire of NPR being finalised: RGI

VIJAYA SINGH
NEW DELHI

The office of the Registrar-General of India (RGI) has said the schedule, or the questionnaire, of the National Population Register (NPR) is "being finalised" and the information about the expected date of the first phase of Census 2021 is "not available".

The response came in reply to a question filed by The Hindu under the Right to Information Act seeking information on the expected date of the first phase of the Census – House listing & Housing census – and an update of the NPR that was earlier scheduled to begin on April 1. The two were to be conducted simultaneously from April to September, but were postponed indefinitely on March 25 due to the pandemic.

Though the twin exercise was to be rolled out first in Meghalaya, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep and the New Delhi Municipal Council area in April, the RGI said in its reply on November 17 that "the schedule of NPR is being finalised". As many as 13 States and Union Territories have opposed the update of the NPR due to its link to the proposed National Register of Citizens and the Citizenship (Amendment) Act.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

'Bindas Bol' is offensive, says I&B Ministry

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

A Ministry of Information and Broadcasting order placed on record in the Supreme Court on Wednesday said Sudarshan TV's 'Bindas Bol - UPSC Jihad' programme is "not in good taste, offensive and has the likelihood of promoting communal attitudes". But the Ministry order does not expressly stop the channel from telecasting further episodes.

'Bindas Bol' accuses Muslims of "infiltrating" the civil services with the help of funding from terror-linked organisations abroad. The Ministry order only says that the programme's audio and visual content should be "suitably moderated, modified". The Ministry "cautions" the channel to be "careful" and promises "stricter penal action" in case of further violations.

Tone and tenor'
The order, accompanied by a three-page affidavit, was filed by the government on Wednesday. The court will hear the case on Thursday. "While freedom of expression is a fundamental right, the tone and tenor of the episodes telecast do indicate that the channel has through the various utterances and audio visual content breached the Programme Code," the order said.

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The order also said the channel should comply and report back to the Ministry before the telecast.

50 Haryana students test positive

ASHOK KUMAR
GURUGRAM

Around 50 students of various senior secondary schools in Rewari and Jhajjar districts of Haryana have tested positive for COVID-19 over the past fortnight.

Haryana Education Minis-

ter Kanwar Pal told The Hindu that many students had tested positive in schools across the State during routine health check-ups but there was no proposal to withdraw or amend the order for holding classes.

He added that the depart-

ment was monitoring the situation.

It is estimated that around 100 students have tested positive in Rewari and Jhajjar since schools opened in the State in September.

DETAILS ON ▶ PAGE 4

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IN BRIEF

Man dies after wall of adjacent house collapses

NEW DELHI A 67-year-old man died after a wall of a house fell on the lawn of his house in Vasant Kunj. The accused, an ex-serviceman, has been arrested, the police said. DCP (South-West) Ingit Pratap Singh said that bathroom wall of the accused's fourth-floor house collapsed and the debris fell in the lawn of the victim, injuring him and his son.

Online events, webinars mark Child Safety Week

NEW DELHI Child Safety Week 2020 (November 14 to 20) has been witnessing a host of online events, webinars and content on social media that will help create awareness on the issue. A campaign called #ItCanWeCan will also be launched with videos on the facts of Child Sexual Abuse and how to play a role in preventing it. Child Safety Week is a people-led movement, set up by Arpan, an NGO, in 2019.

Submit details of OBE results, HC tells DU

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday asked the Delhi University to submit details of the courses whose results for open book examination (OBE) have been declared and the time line for the declaration of results of the remaining courses.

Justice Prathiba M. Singh asked the varsity to file an affidavit within five days.

The High Court's order came on plea by students that the results of their final-year exams, which were conducted in August, have not been declared yet and due to which they are unable to join higher studies.

Another punch in the face for traders

Businessmen, hoping to recover from lockdown losses, may have to grapple with another shutdown

CITY TEAM
NEW DELHI

said Atul Bhargava, president of the New Delhi Traders' Association (NDTA).

Traders and market associations fear that the Delhi government's decision to shut markets in response to the sudden spate in COVID-19 cases in the city will dent their hopes of retrieving some of the loss caused by the lockdown. Besides, it will affect business during the ongoing marriage season.

At the same time, the decision to restrict attendees at marriages has dampened the spirits of families and banquet hall operators.

"Business in Connaught Place had just begun to pick up and now there is the fear of it being affected once again. I am completely on board with the government taking any step necessary to control the disease but stricter enforcement of social distancing norms is the solution. Not shutting shops,"

"We are already following social distancing guidelines. If the government has any doubt, they should randomly check busy markets and fine shopkeepers for violating



People shopping in a market in the Capital. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

norms," he said.

At C.R. Park, shopkeepers have started stocking up, lest a lockdown is imposed. Saraswati Halder, a grocer, said: "When we heard there is a possibility of a lockdown, we immediately decided to stock up on grains like rice. Last time when the lockdown was imposed, everyone was caught unawares and items were flying off the shelves within minutes. This time, we want to be as prepared as possible."

Pooja Kapoor, a resident of north-west Delhi, who is getting married in a banquet in west Delhi on November 25, said her family is worried.

Wedding blues

"It is a tense situation. The Chief Minister can't play with numbers like that. He should not have given the relaxation in the first place. Only wedding gatherings do not contribute towards the spread. And if the concern is for public health then he should

ideally close all restaurants, cinema halls, religious places and other social gathering spots," she said.

The family has invited 200 people as allowed earlier and it'll be embarrassing to tell them not to come, she said.

Vikas Guturia, MD of FNP Gardens, says they are booked to host 10-12 weddings each in the coming days across 11 venues but are now anticipating changes or delays. "Many clients who were to get married in May had pushed their wedding to November-December. They are again looking to postpone it to the next year. Because of these cancellations and alterations, all the associated units have been affected," Mr. Guturia said.

(With inputs from Nikhil M Babu, Hemani Bhandari, Jaideep Deo Bhanji, Shinjini Ghosh, Saurabh Trivedi and Jatin Anand)

been booked, cards have been distributed and other preparations have also been completed. In such a situation, the number of people attending the wedding has suddenly been reduced. This decision will definitely create problems for many people," Mr. Bidhuri stated in a letter to the L-G.

Mr. Bidhuri urged the L-G to direct the Delhi government to fulfil its responsibilities and ensure strict adherence to the use of masks, sanitisers, thermal scanners in markets and social functions in addition to social distancing rules.

"At the all-party meeting on Thursday, besides these issues, I will also raise the issue of Chhath celebration as it is a question of the faith of millions of people in Delhi," Mr. Bidhuri said.

Defer govt's proposal till all-party meet: BJP

Party tells L-G decision is problematic

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Leader of the Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri on Wednesday urged Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal to defer a decision on the government's proposal to close city markets due to a spike in COVID-19 cases as well as limiting the number of attendees at wedding gatherings to 50 from 200, followed Mr. Baijal's approval of a proposal in this regard from the Delhi government.

"People have made all the preparations for weddings. Hotel-banquet halls have

DU new academic session begins with virtual orientations and college tours

Freshers get to interact with college professors online

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The first day of college for thousands of Delhi University (DU) undergraduate students turned out to be a new experience sans campus activities, with orientations moving online due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Both college orientations and department orientations were conducted online by several colleges on Wednesday as the new session commenced.

Ramjas College principal Manoj Khanna said: "Both orientations were held online and it went well. A few larger departments faced certain technical glitches



A few students seen at the North Campus on Wednesday. ■ SANDEEP SAXENA

due to which the orientation was held in slots so that all students could be accommodated. Classes will begin in full swing from Thursday."

Several students spoke on the physical tours of respec-

tive colleges were now replaced with virtual tours.

Kamalkali Majumdar, a student of Miranda House said: "The orientation was great and very well conducted. We even had seniors who spoke to us, members from the various committees and societies. After the main orientation was over, we broke into our own department orientations which was a lot more personal, where we interacted with all the professors and even we got to introduce ourselves."

With the mode of teaching being shifted completely to online methods as of now, the university campus bore a deserted look.

Head Constable gets out-of-turn promotion

Seema Dhaka, the first in city to achieve the distinction, had rescued 76 children

SAURABH TRIVEDI
NEW DELHI

Seema Dhaka, Head Constable at the Samaypur Badli Police Station, became the first police personnel in Delhi to be granted 'out-of-turn promotion' under the incentive scheme. She had traced 76 missing children, out of which 56 were under the age of 14, officers said on Wednesday.

On August 7, Delhi Police Commissioner S.N. Shrivastava had announced the grant of additional incentives, including out-of-turn promotion, for any Constable or Head Constable who rescues 50 or more missing children below 14 years...within 12 months. At least 15 children should be aged

less than eight years.

Moreover, Asadharan Karya Puraskar was announced for those who rescued 15 or more missing children below 14 years – five out of them aged less than eight years – within 12 months.

Not just Delhi

These 76 children were reported missing from various police stations of Delhi and Ms. Dhaka had put sincere efforts and traced them within a span of two and half months from the national capital and other States.

Ms. Dhaka said that she has rescued these children not only from Delhi but also from other States. She rescued two children from West Bengal, two from Hoshiyarpur district of Punjab and several from Gurugram, Ghaziabad, Noida, Bihar etc.



Seema Dhaka

pur district of Punjab and several from Gurugram, Ghaziabad, Noida, Bihar etc.

"There was a painstaking case in which a girl studying in Class 8 was kidnapped by her neighbour in Alipur area and sold to a man in Meerut. After four years, the girl's parent received a call from her. They came to me crying and wanted to see their daughter.

Following protocols, I traced the location of the mobile phone and rescued her," said Ms. Dhaka.

By the time she was recovered, she was already a mother of two, she added. "A lot of times I went for raid in NCR on my own expense because at the end, the smile of the parents meeting their children after a long time matters to me. I live in a joint family and get a lot of support," added Ms. Dhaka.

She joined the force on July 3, 2006. After her promotion, she was posted in South-East district till 2012. She was later transferred to Outer district in 2012 and from there, she went to Rohini and later to Outer North, the police said.

Institutions like JNU should lead the way: Kovind

The President was speaking at the virtual fourth convocation ceremony of JNU

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

President Ram Nath Kovind on Wednesday said that in the prevailing scenario of epidemics and pandemics, the National Education Policy 2020 states that it is critical for higher education institutions to take the lead in

undertaking research, and universities like Jawaharlal Nehru University should be at the forefront.

Mr. Kovind was speaking at the fourth convocation ceremony of JNU, which was conducted virtually, wherein 603 students were awarded Doctorate of Philosophy de-

grees from 15 different schools and centres in various disciplines.

The President asked students to draw inspiration from the exalted centres of learning in ancient India and try and create an original body of knowledge, which is utilised for dealing with con-

temporary global challenges.

"Universities in Takshashila, Nalanda, Vikramashila and Vallabhi had set high standards of teaching and research. That ancient system, which had many elements of modernity, produced great scholars," Mr. Kovind said.

Student groups including ABVP not in favour of renaming JNU

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

BJP National Secretary C.T. Ravi's proposal that Jawaharlal Nehru University be renamed Swami Vivekananda University has not found favour with students on campus with all major student organisations, including the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) opposing the suggestion.

The BJP leader made the suggestion after PM Narendra Modi unveiled a statue of Swami Vivekananda last week.

Shivam Chaurasiya, ABVP president at JNU said, "We are not in favour of any kind of changes. The statue is an honour for the student community here in JNU and we want to spread the idea of Swami Vivekananda among students."

Former JNUSU presidential candidate from NSUI, Prashant Kumar, said that it was not for the first time that BJP leaders have called for a change in the name of the university and played "name change" politics.

JNUSU president Aishe Ghosh from the Students' Federation of India, said that instead of wanting to rename JNU, the government should build new universities and name them after whoever they like.

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2	Repairs & Renovation of Building No. 4/5 at Tilak Nagar, Vidyanagar (E), Mumbai,	Rs. 1,28,51,453/-

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CM YK

M ND-NDE

Timings

DEHLI

THURSDAY, NOV. 19	
RISE 06:47	SET 17:27
RISE 11:00	SET 21:30
FRIDAY, NOV. 20	
RISE 06:48	SET 17:26
RISE 11:51	SET 22:31
SATURDAY, NOV. 21	
RISE 06:49	SET 17:26
RISE 12:35	SET 23:31

Delhi Weather	max	min
Delhi City	25	11
Safdarjung	25	11
Palam	24	13

Delhi Pali Today
26°C Cool morning with shallow fog and comfortable sunny afternoon. Pollution level would remain same.

Delhi Pali Tomorrow
25°C Cool morning with shallow fog. Dry cool winds would strengthen. A pleasant sunny day.

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Air Quality of Delhi-NCR		
Delhi	211	Gurugram 141
Ghaziabad	236	Faridabad 172
Noida	207	Greater Noida 228
Good 0-50	Satisfactory 51-100	Moderate 101-200
Poor 201-300	Very Poor 301-400	Severe >400
Air Quality Index at 4 p.m., yesterday (Average of past 24 hours) Source: CPCB		

Delhi's AQI deteriorates, enters 'poor' category

Condition likely to worsen tomorrow

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The air quality of Delhi and Noida deteriorated to enter 'poor' category on Wednesday, while that of Gurugram was in 'moderate' category, according to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data.

"The AQI is likely to marginally deteriorate and it is forecast to be in 'moderate' to 'poor' category by Thursday. It is forecast to further deteriorate to the higher end of the 'poor' to the lower end of the 'very poor' category on Friday and Saturday," said a statement by the government-run monitoring agency

COVID-19: ICMR to collect 8K more samples from Delhi for RT-PCR tests

Over 58 lakh people in the national capital live in 'high-risk' areas: govt. data

NIKHIL M BABU
NEW DELHI

Following Home Minister Amit Shah's meeting on Sunday with Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, the Delhi government has received ventilators and bilevel positive airway pressure (BiPAP) machines from the Centre. Besides, the ICMR has decided to increase the number of samples from Delhi that can be sent for RT-PCR tests in the ICMR labs, by nearly 8,000 a day, officials told *The Hindu*.

Moreover, about 58.1 lakh people live in high-risk areas of COVID-19, including containment zones and busy markets. The highest congregation of such people are in the south-west district and lowest in the north-east district, as per Delhi government data.

About 57.58 lakh people will be covered in a door-to-



A healthcare worker collecting swab sample for rapid antigen test in New Delhi on Wednesday. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

door survey, starting Friday, to find people who have developed symptoms of COVID-19, according to officials. Though the 11 districts raised a demand of 11,400 teams to conduct the exercise in four to five days, the government has decided to go ahead with 9,500.

Delhi government has received 188 ventilators and 49 BiPAP machines from the Central government as of Wednesday evening. "The Delhi government received

the machines today and they will be installed in city hospitals from tomorrow," a Delhi government official said. The government is yet to officially comment on the development.

Breathing aid
A BiPAP machine aids in breathing by helping to push air into the lungs. About 90% of ICU beds with ventilators in Delhi were occupied by Tuesday night.

"Earlier, labs under ICMR

were taking about 2,000 samples from Delhi for RT-PCR testing. It has been increased to nearly 10,000," a health department official said.

After Sunday's meeting, the MHA had said that it had decided to hold house-to-house survey. But in a meeting on Monday, it was decided that the survey will be conducted in high-risk areas. Symptomatic people will be tested and isolated so that they don't spread it.

The South-West district has about 10 lakh people living in high-risk areas and the East has about 9.6 lakh people, while North-East has on

ly 80,000 living in high-risk areas, as per the data.

Similarly, the South-West district has 740 containment zones, which is the highest among the 11 districts and the North-East has the lowest with 140.

night, as per government data. Also, 55.3% of the total 16,884 beds available for COVID-19 treatment was occupied.

AAP attacks Centre

AAP on Wednesday attacked the BJP-led Centre over provision of ICU beds. "On Sunday, the Centre promised to establish 250 ICU beds with in 24 hours in Delhi. Subsequently, in the next 48 hours, 500 beds were promised to us. Three days have passed and we have not even received the first 250 beds promised to us," AAP chief spokesperson Saurabh Bharadwaj said.

As many as 45 doctors and 160 paramedics of the paramilitary forces have arrived in Delhi for COVID-19 patients at Shakur Basti railway station in Delhi, the Ministry of Home Affairs said on Wednesday.

The number of containment zones was 4,444 on Wednesday.

About 91.7% of ICU beds with ventilators for COVID-19 treatment and 86.8% of such beds without ventilators were full by Wednesday.

MHA outlines steps to curb virus cases in the Capital

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The railways were in the process of equipping coaches with 800 beds for COVID-19 patients at Shakur Basti railway station in Delhi, the Ministry of Home Affairs said on Wednesday.

As many as 45 doctors and 160 paramedics of the paramilitary forces have arrived in Delhi for COVID-19 patients at Shakur Basti railway station in Delhi, the Ministry of Home Affairs said on Wednesday.

The number of containment zones was 4,444 on Wednesday.

These came in the wake of 12 decisions taken at a high-level meeting chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday.

Yamuna cleaning: Delhi CM meets DJB officials

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday chaired a meeting with Delhi Jal Board (DJB) officials on the swift implementation of a concrete plan to clean up the Yamuna and reduce 90% pollution by March 2023.

The DJB presented a detailed action plan on the reuse of around 400 MGD against the existing capacity of 90 MGD of water as well as various steps that will be taken to improve the quality of the existing STPs, including upgrading all the equipment in the STPs.

The DJB's action plan seeks to reduce 90% pollution in the Yamuna by March 2023 and all the steps

will have different milestones to be completed by March 2021, 2022 and 2023.

According to the government, the DJB said four major interventions devised for the cleaning up of the Yamuna would include treating of around 150 MGD of polluted water coming from Haryana and Uttar Pradesh by natural wetlands and aeration method.

It would also consist of trapping waste water in small or big drains at STPs, steps would be taken to improve the quality of the existing STPs and all the sludge and the septage from the septic tanks across Delhi will be collected by the DJB for reuse in bio-gas plants to generate electricity and gas.

HC rejects plea against ban on Chhath celebrations

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday rejected a plea challenging the AAP government's decision to ban Chhath Puja celebrations at public places like ponds and riverbanks in the Capital owing to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The court remarked that the petitioner, Shri Durga Jan Seva Trust, "has lost sight of the COVID-19 pandemic situation in Delhi, where even as per the government, a third wave is under way."

"While religious sentiments of all sections of the society must be respected, the right to life and health of the public at large cannot be sacrificed at the altar of a right to celebrate a festival

however significant it may be for a particular community," the High Court remarked.

It highlighted that the daily infection rate in the past one week is between 7,800 and 8,593. "The daily death rate has crossed double figures and has touched 104 just a few days ago. Even as on date, there are 42,004 active cases of COVID-19 infections in Delhi," the court said.

"In such circumstances, the petitioner/trust cannot expect the respondent/State to permit it to organise Chhat Puja for over two lakh persons at a public place in Delhi," the court observed.

The court said "this is the time to contain the infection and not to escalate it," while dismissing the plea.



"I do not like carving the world into segments;
we are one world"

Indira Gandhi



Let us on this NATIONAL INTEGRATION DAY
salute the indomitable spirit of India's unity,
harmony and sovereignty in memory of
former Prime Minister

Late Smt. Indira Gandhi

on her

103rd Birth Anniversary

Capt. Amarinder Singh
Chief Minister, Punjab

9 projects to tackle Jaipur's traffic woes

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

Nine new projects for construction of road over bridges (ROBs) and underpasses have been finalised for resolving the road traffic issues in Jaipur. All the projects will start in March 2021 and will be completed in 12 to 18 months.

Rajasthan Urban Development Minister Shanti Dhariwal, who inspected the project sites in the State Capital, said the expenditure would be decided after the preparation of detailed project reports.

New ROBs and underpasses would make movement in the city easy and hassle-free and reduce congestion on roads, he said.

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-III, DELHI
4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001

Notice under Section 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institute Act, 1993 read with Rule 12 & 13 of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure Rules) 1993.

In the matter of OA 868/2019

IDBI BANK LTD.

Versus
Large View Marketing Pvt. Ltd. & Others
Defendants

To D-1, Large View Marketing Pvt. Ltd., Village & Post Office Kherki Daula, Behind Haldiram Foods, Gurgaon-122001, Haryana
Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in this Tribunal 11.12.2020 at 10:30 a.m.

Due to ongoing Pandemic Situation, all the matters will be taken up through Video Conferencing and for that purpose:- (a) All the Advocates/Litigants shall download the Cisco Webex application/ software, (b) Meeting ID and Password for the next date of hearing qua cases to be taken by registration/ Recovery Officer/ Land Recovery Officer- It shall be available one day prior to the next date at DRT Official Portal i.e. drt.gov.in under the Public Notice Head.(c) In any exigency qua that, the Advocates/Litigants can contact the concerned official at Ph. No. 23748499 Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this the 06th day of Nov, 2020.

By Order of the Tribunal,
Assistant Registrar, DRT-III, New Delhi

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely Margub, S/o Md. Tahir, R/o: Village Larhawa, Distt, Purniya, Bihar, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 50/18 U/s 3/14 Child Labour Act & 16/17/18/75/79/370/374 IPC dated 16.03.2018, registered at P.S. Timarpur, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued (unexecuted), stating that the said Margub cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said Margub has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proceeding u/s 82 Cr.P.C. has been initiated in this case. Proclamation is hereby made that the said Margub accused of FIR No. 50/18 U/s 3/14 Child Labour Act & 16/17/18/75/79/370/374 IPC dated 16.03.2018 P.S. Timarpur, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer said complaint on or before 04.01.2021

By Order
Ms. Riya Guha
Ld. Metropolitan Magistrate,
Room No. 26, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

In Remembrance Of



Shri K Shankar Rao (Chairman)
Woodlands Group of Hotels
Chennai & Bangalore

20th YEAR

Wife : Mrs. K.S. Rathi Rao
Son : K. Rajesh Rao

Daughter : Mrs. Deepika Deepak Rao
Grand Daughters & Grand Sons

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

NINTH ANNIVERSARY



SRI K.VENKATESWARAN F.C.A
Chartered Accountant, Madurai
Fondly remembered by
Sons, Daughters,
Sons-in-law,
Daughters-in-Law,
Grand Children &
Great Grand Children
Friends & Relatives

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IN MEMORIAM

DEATH

SAD DEMISE



Date of demise: 18.11.2020

Mourned by his
Family and friends.

EDUCATIONAL

Jats of 2 Rajasthan districts seek reservation in Central list too

They also demand withdrawal of agitation-related cases

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

Jats belonging to Bharatpur and Dholpur districts in Rajasthan on Wednesday demanded that the State government recommend their inclusion in the Other Backward Class (OBC) category for reservation to the Centre. Though the community enjoys the benefit in the State, the two districts have been excluded from reservation in the Union government's services.

The other major demand was withdrawal of criminal cases registered against Jats during their agitation between 2015 and 2017. These Jats were denied the reservation as they belonged to the ruling class during the pre-Independence era and were not considered socially or economically backward.

Though the State government incorporated them in the authorised list of OBC category on August 23, 2017, the issue has been hanging fire with the Centre.

The Union government had included Jats in the OBC list in 1999, followed by the State in 2000. The community has been getting the benefit in jobs and education from both the Union and State governments in 31 of the 33 districts.

Mr. Singh said similar mapanchayats would be organised in the Jat-dominated areas in both the districts and a massive agitation launched to exert pressure on the State government.

50 Haryana students test positive for COVID-19

No plan to stop classes despite cases, says Education Minister

ASHOK KUMAR
GURUGRAM



Class amid pandemic in Gurugram. ■ FILE PHOTO

wari) Rajesh Kumar said, adding that the 25 students were asymptomatic.

Random Sampling

Similarly, around 25 students across a dozen government senior secondary schools in Jhajjar tested positive for COVID-19 this month. The samples were taken randomly from among 1,000 students. "A total of 34 students have tested positive for COVID-19 in government schools since September," said District Education Officer (Jhajjar) Brahmprakash Rana.

The Haryana government had allowed all schools to hold guidance sessions for Class IX-XII students in the last week of September. The students were allowed to attend school only with the written consent of their parents. In October last week, the education department directed holding of regular classes for three hours daily.

'Cracks in BJP, JJP ties after bypoll loss'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Congress leader and Rajya Sabha MP Deepender Hooda on Wednesday claimed that after the Congress's win in the recently held Baroda Assembly by-election, cracks have emerged among the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party and the coalition government in Haryana is all set to fall under the weight of its mistrust any time soon.

"The Chief Minister had publicly stated that the BJP did not get JJP's vote. In such a situation, the JJP should clarify if it accepts or rejects this statement of the Chief Minister. It is clear to everyone that the Baroda results have created a crisis of confidence among coalition partners," said Mr. Hooda at a press meet.

He said the roadmap for the upcoming fight against the government will be announced by Leader of Opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda on December 13.

Haryana Education Minister Kanwar Pal told *The Hindu* that many students had tested positive in schools across the State during routine health check-ups but there was no proposal to withdraw or amend the order for holding classes. He said the department was monitoring the situation. It is estimated that around 100 students have tested positive in Rewari and Jhajjar since schools opened in September.

Six students in Pali and 19 students in Kund tested posi-

tive during medical examination of employees and students at a camp organised recently by the district health department.

"Samples of 46 students in Kund and 32 in Pali were taken. The results came back on Tuesday. Usually, we shut the school for 48 hours in the event of any positive COVID-19 case, but this time the two schools have been shut for 15 days. The principals and headmasters of all schools have been directed to get their premises sanitised," District Education Officer (Re-

U.P. gets nod for teacher recruitment

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Teacher Recruitment Examination 2019 at 65 and 60 for the general and reserved categories, respectively.

Giving the go-ahead for recruitment of 69,000 assistant basic teachers in accordance with the results declared in May, a Bench led by Justice U.U. Lalit recorded

an assurance by the State government that Shiksha Mitras would be given a last opportunity to attend the next recruitment examination, the modalities of which would be decided by the government.

The court did not intervene against the State's posi-

tion that the cut-off percentage was increased by 20% to draw the best candidates.

The court had earlier sought an explanation from the State government for changing the earlier cut-off of 45% for general category and 40% for reserved category.

Importance to girl child behind best sex ratio: Khandu

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Equal importance to girl child is among several factors behind Arunachal Pradesh recording the best sex ratio in India, Chief Minister Pema Khandu has said.

A 2018 study based on the Civil Registration System said Arunachal Pradesh had 1,084 females born per thousand males followed by the adjoining north-eastern State of Nagaland with 965 and Mizoram with 964.

"There are two-three indicators behind the surge. First, in tribal societies, there is no discrimination against females. There is equality. Secondly, there is institutional delivery and the records say so," Mr. Khandu told *The Hindu* from State capital Itanagar.

"Most importantly, we give equal importance to the girl child. In fact, in some societies, girls get more importance," he added.

The Chief Minister said the data had made his government more motivated to work for girls and women.

Govt. programmes

"The Government of India has several programmes to take women forward. This includes the issue of nutrition of children," Mr. Khandu said.

Statistics with the State's Education Department over the last 10 years showed girls in Arunachal Pradesh had by and large performed better with more opportunities provided to the remotest of corners, the Chief Minister said.

The sex ratio had also reflected in government jobs, Mr. Khandu said.

"In group A and B of government services, there is an increased ratio of women employees. Women are doing well in social services. In politics also, they are getting their space," he said.

The 60-member Arunachal Pradesh Assembly has three women MLAs – all from the Bharatiya Janata Party elected in 2019. This is a record for the frontier State.

Directorate of Tourism, Government of Jharkhand
MDI Building, 2nd floor, HEC Campus, Dhurwa, Ranchi - 04
Tele Fax : 0651-2331828 Email: dirjharkhandtourism@gmail.com Ref. No. :- 769/2020

VACANCY CIRCULATION NOTICE

Jharkhand Tourism Development Corporation Ltd., Ranchi invites applications from Indian Nationals fulfilling the eligibility criteria to fill up the post of Assistant General Manager -AGM on contractual basis. The complete details of qualification, experience, number of vacancies and salary are as given below:-

SI. No.	Name of post	Number of post	Salary	Qualification & Experience	Role (Summary)
1.	AGM (Admin, Finance & Personnel)	01	35000-40000 with existing annual increment of 05%	CA/ ICWA or MBA in finance with 10 Years work experience in any PSU's or Private sector	To manage the finance /Admin/ Personnel Department.
2.	AGM (Operation & Estate)	01	35000-40000 with existing annual increment of 05%	Professional having MBA Degree in Marketing with work experience of 10 years in a related field.	To look after Hotel Units and manage all affairs with all responsibilities.
1.	Emoluments		Rs. 35000/- (Thirty Five Thousand only) per month at the time of joining as per salary shown in above structure.		
2.	Duration of contract		Initially for period of one year and extendable for further period of one year depending upon requirement of the company and performance of the candidate.		
3.	Last date of submission of form		15.12.2020		

The eligible and interested person may send their application in the given format so as to reach to Managing Director, Jharkhand Tourism Development Corporation Limited, Birsa Vihar Market Complex, 5, Mahatma Gandhi Marg (Main Road) Ranchi - 834002 till 15.12.2020 at 20:00 PM through Speed Post. JTCL working employees having above qualification & experience may also apply. They are advised to visit our Website: <http://jharkhandtourism.gov.in> to download application format.

PR 236005 Tourism, Art Culture Sports And Youth Affairs (20-21D) Sd/- Director

Government of Jharkhand
Dr. Ram Dayal Munda Tribal Welfare Research Institute
Department of Schedule Tribe, Schedule Caste, Minorities, and Backward Classes Welfare Department Morabadi, Ranchi - 834008
Tel: 0651-2551824 e-mail- tri.directorate@gmail.com/ Ranchi, Dated: 18/11/2020

Corrigendum, P.R. No. 235263
(Expression of Interest)

There are some minutes changes has been done in this Research Project. The last date of submission and opening of the 'Expression of Interest' has been rescheduled as given below:-

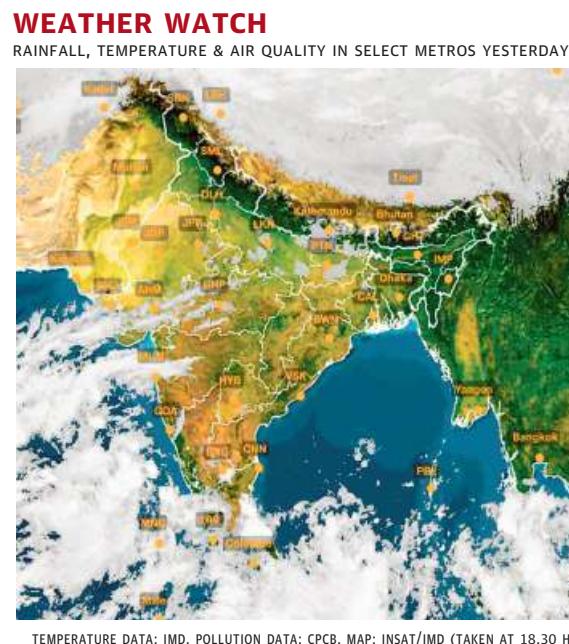
Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Date of Submission As per EoI	Rescheduled date of submission	Date of opening as per EoI	Rescheduled date of opening
1.	Topic: A historical study of tribal chiefdoms of Jharkhand: Kherwar of Ramgarh, Mundia of Bunder, Bhumij of Jungle Mahal, Nagwanshi of Ranchi, Santhal of Hazaribagh & Others. Ref:- Our Advertisement No. 808 Dated 03.11.2020	06/11/2020	27/11/2020	11/11/2020	02/12/2020

*Note:
I. Remaining all other mentioned terms and conditions in EOI will remain unchanged for details can be obtained from the office of the TRI on any working day during office hour to meet concerned Nodal person and the same can also be downloaded from the website www.tri.jharkhand.com/ (<http://59.145.222.53/twi.tenders.php>) or through E-mail tri.directorate@gmail.com by specifying the topic & details of institution/ Organization Interested.

PR 235997 (Schedule Tribe, Schedule Caste, Minority and Backward Class Welfare Department)20-21ID Sd/- Director

J&K POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LTD.
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
TRANSMISSION LINE MAINTENANCE DIVISION -IV
AMBEDKAR CHOWK, JAMMU,
NOTICE INVITING e-Bids
e-NIT No. TLMD-IV/J 06 of 2020-21 DT: 13/11/2020
(NOTICE INVITING TENDER)

The Executive Engineer, Transmission Line Maintenance Division-IV, Jammu, JKPTCL, invites online e-bids from registered Contractors Electrical for "RECTIFYING SPACING BETWEEN CONDUCTORS (PHASE TO PHASE), BRANCH CUTTING / CORRIDOR CLEARANCE OF LINE, SUBMISSION OF DETAILED REPORT SHOWING ADEQUATE CLEARANCES AND ALLIED WORKS IN RESPECT OF 220 KV D/C THEIR HIRANAGAR TRANSMISSION LINE", under the jurisdiction of TLMD-IV Jammu. JK&K as per terms, conditions, technical specifications and schedules forming part of this tender document. The tender document is available at website [http://jkptcl.gov](http://jkptcl.gov.in)



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD; POLLUTION DATA: CPCB; MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.30 HRS)

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

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	... 31.2	18.1	12.6	Kozhikode	... 17.4	30.6	12.6
Ahmedabad	... 31.3	18.0	12.6	Kurnool	... 34.0	22.0	12.6
Aizawl	... 24.8	14.1	12.6	Lucknow	... 27.2	16.8	12.6
Allahabad	... 25.0	17.6	12.6	Madurai	... 38.2	30.4	23.0
Bengaluru	... 28.3	19.2	12.6	Mangaluru	... 35.4	25.0	12.6
Bhopal	... 32.9	18.6	12.6	Mumbai	... 34.4	24.0	12.6
Bhubaneswar	... 33.9	21.5	12.6	Mysuru	... 28.0	20.0	12.6
Chandigarh	... 24.9	11.7	12.6	New Delhi	... 25.4	10.6	12.6
Chennai	... 6.8	30.6	25.0	Patna	... 27.8	15.6	12.6
Coimbatore	... 31.2	30.0	21.9	Poorni	... 31.8	26.4	12.6
Dehradoon	... 25.6	9.5	12.6	Puducherry	... 31.3	22.8	12.6
Gangtok	... 15.2	9.5	12.6	Pune	... 32.6	18.5	12.6
Goa	... 34.2	24.8	12.6	Raipur	... 34.2	18.8	12.6
Guwahati	... 30.0	17.4	12.6	Ranchi	... 28.7	16.7	12.6
Hubballi	... 29.0	21.0	12.6	Shillong	... 19.7	9.0	12.6
Hyderabad	... 31.0	20.1	12.6	Shimla	... 19.0	5.8	12.6
Imphal	... 24.4	10.6	12.6	Srinagar	... 12.9	1.6	12.6
Jaipur	... 24.8	16.2	12.6	Tiruvananthapuram	... 66.4	32.2	22.8
Kochi	... 19.0	30.2	23.8	Tiruchi	... 27.5	32.0	23.5
Kohima	... 24.2	10.8	12.6	Vijayawada	... 32.2	23.5	12.6
Kolkata	... 31.8	21.3	12.6	Visakhapatnam	... 31.8	24.2	12.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO ₂	NO _x	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	17	63	18	139	126	GREEN
Bengaluru	11	39	65	35	61	GREEN
Chennai	... 14	50	88	—	—	GREEN
Delhi	11	74	52	308	207	RED
Hyderabad	5	84	.5	87	106	RED
Kolkata	26	23	.9	338	242	RED
Lucknow	13	54	76	212	130	RED
Mumbai	12	88	31	206	175	RED
Pune	... 46	34	.82	85	26	GREEN
Visakhapatnam	10	30	47	182	143	GREEN

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)
SO₂: 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_x: 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

Lockdown aid: tribals yet to receive a penny

Maharashtra govt's scheme aims to cover 11.55 lakh families

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

Four months after the Maharashtra Cabinet decided to extend assistance – cash and goods – to a few of the most backward tribes, landless labourers, and needy families from the tribal community facing financial brunt due to the lockdown, not a single rupee has been disbursed to any beneficiary.

According to a source, who shared the information with *The Hindu*, the file on the decision is making rounds between the Tribal Welfare and Finance Departments, with no final call being taken.

Cash and food

On August 12, the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government cleared the Khawati Grants scheme targeting 11.55 lakh tribal families across the State. Under this, each family was to be benefited by ₹2,000 being deposited in their bank or postal

account and by receiving essential food items worth ₹2,000. But in the last four months, neither the amount has been credited to any of the accounts nor food items have been supplied to the families.

The 11.55 lakh tribal families include four lakh families of the most backward tribal communities; 64,000 families from Pardhi community; 1.65 lakh families who gained forest rights; and three lakh families, including landless labourers, widows, needy women, handicapped individuals, and orphans from the tribal community.

The State issued a government resolution dated Sep-

tember 9 and issued detailed guidelines on September 30 spelling out the procedure to deposit the money and how material should reach every targeted family.

According to officials from the Tribal Welfare Department, when the State Cabinet cleared the decision in August, the move was to infuse some money into economy.

Tremendous help'

"While the tender process to procure material may take time, the amount could have been released before Deepavali. It would have been of tremendous help to poor tribal families before festivals," the source said.

When contacted, State Tribal Affairs Minister K.C. Padvi initially refused to comment. Later, he said that his department was working on speedy delivery of money. He did not comment on when the process would be completed.

Shetti warns govt. against 'forced recovery' from power consumers

Such U-turn would result in people losing faith: farmers' leader

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

After the Uddhav Thackeray-led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government said that it would not be able to extend any concessions in power bills to consumers, Swabhiman Shetkari Sanghatana (SSS) chief Raju Shetti on Wednesday warned that attempts at 'forced recovery' would result in serious consequences for the ruling tripartite MVA.

State Energy Minister Nitin Raut, who had earlier hinted at providing relief to domestic consumers saddled with inflated electricity bills during the lockdown period, did a volte face on Tuesday by stating that his department would not be able to provide relief, while putting the onus on the Centre and holding the erstwhile Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government responsible for the State's mounting energy arrears.

"Mr. Raut has been consistently saying that his government will be taking measures to provide relief

and help consumers who have received inflated power bills, while hinting at concessions before Deepavali. Now, he is throwing his hands up and stating that he will ensure stern recovery. Is this the good news that he had promised for harried consumers?" asked the former MP from Hatkanangale in Kolhapur.

Mr. Shetti, who had cast in his lot with Sharad Pawar's Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) in the 2019 general elections, is one of the four nominees to the State Legislative Council put forward by the NCP, a coalition partner in the MVA.

The farmers' leader said that if the MVA ministers kept up with such irresponsible utterances, then it would not be long before common people lost their faith in Mr. Thackeray's government. "Commoners and small farmers suffered most during the lockdown. It has been our [SSS] ongoing demand that the State government waive off power bills during the COVID-19-in-

duced lockdown. How does it expect smaller businesses to cough up the money when everything has been shut for the past half-year?" Mr. Shetti asked.

Castigating Mr. Raut for his announcement, he said that the minister ought not to make such proclamations unless he had a green signal from senior leaders of the MVA government.

In the event that the State government attempts forced recovery, then we will hit the streets and protest strongly," Mr. Shetti warned.

Defending his announcement, Mr. Raut tweeted: "The Covid-19 pandemic has affected the financial position of Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (MSEDCL). However, the biggest blow to the MSEDCL was dealt by the previous BJP government for not even showing average efficiency and in their non-recovery of electricity bills. As a result, the MSEDCL's arrears has now shot up to Rs. 50,000 crore."

BJP demands CBI probe into Palghar lynching

STAFF REPORTER
MUMBAI

Almost seven months after three people, including two sadhus, were lynched over rumours in Maharashtra's Palghar district, Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has demanded that the case be handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) claiming that the State police had failed to deliver justice.

BJP MLA Ram Kadamb on Wednesday was detained by the police after he warned of an agitation in Palghar by going on to the site. The BJP termed it as a dictatorship of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government.

The Congress, which is part of the MVA government, ridiculed the BJP saying that the demand for a CBI probe had come up because BJP workers who were part of the mob that killed three people had been arrested.

"Detaining a BJP MLA for warning of a protest is an indication of that. But no matter how oppressive you remain and no matter how many people you arrest, BJP and Hindutva activists will continue to fight for justice in Maharashtra," he said.

Presently, the Criminal Investigation Department of the Maharashtra Police is probing the case. On April 16, two seers and their driver while on their way to Surat from Mumbai were beaten to death by a mob in Palghar's Gadchinch village on suspicion that there were child-lifters. A total of 186 people have been arrested in this case till now.

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Calendar of Events :

SL. No.	Name of Work	Details
1	Name of Work	IT hardware and software upgradation(billing and other application) complete turnkey installation. (Supply, Installation, Commissioning, Customization and Integration of Unified Metering, Billing, Collection (MBC), Customer Information System (CIS) and Meter Data Management System (MDMS) on Cloud.) Estimated cost Rs.181 Crores
2	Date of Publication of NIT on website	19-11-2020 at 12:30 hrs
3	Pre-Bid Meeting Date and Time	15-12-2020 at 12:30 hrs
4	Last Date / Time for receipt of bids	04-01-2021 till 16:00 hrs
5	Date and Time for Opening of Technical bid	05-01-2021 at 17:00 hrs

1. The tender documents with detailed conditions can be obtained through web site <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> and should upload all relevant documents as mentioned in the tender document only through online e-tender portal/web site <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>
2. Due to Covid-19 pandemic, interested bidder may participate in the pre-bid meeting Video Conference by sending a request on email ID : itcelljbvnli@gmail.com by date 14-12-2020 and Time: 15:00 hrs. Also, the bidder may send their pre-bid queries through email: itcelljbvnli@gmail.com by date: 15-12-2020 and time 11:00 hrs.

Sd/-
General Manager (IT)
PR 236007 Jharkhand Bijlije Vitran Nigam Ltd (20-21)_D

16 injured after bus rams into underpass wall

RAINA ASSAINAR
NAVI MUMBAI

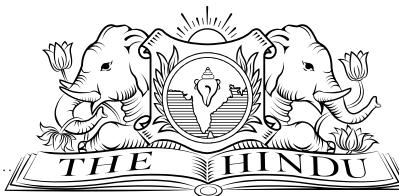
Around 16 people were injured after a speeding bus crashed into the wall of an underpass at Kamothe on the Sion-Panvel Highway in the early hours of Wednesday. The private bus, belonging to Mohan Travels, which was coming from Kolhapur, was on its way to Badlapur.

The bus was carrying around 25 passengers to Badlapur via Kalyan and after it reached the Sion-Panvel Highway underpass near the

Kalamboli bridge, the driver lost control and dashed against the edge of the wall. The driver, Shankar Kamble (45), sustained grievous injuries and had been unconscious, the police said.

The accident occurred around 6 a.m. "Since the driver is unconscious, we have not been able to record a statement. We suspect that he was overspeeding and hence missed a speedbreaker," police sub-inspector Anil Patil from Kamothe police station said.

The bus was carrying around 25 passengers to Badlapur via Kalyan and after it reached the Sion-Panvel Highway underpass near the



New challenges

India must not fight shy of engaging with the Biden administration on contentious issues

With the late night call on Tuesday between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President-elect Joseph Biden done, Indian and U.S. officials can begin their formal interactions on the future of bilateral relations. The two leaders listed out their priorities, according to separate statements issued by the External Affairs Ministry and the Biden-Harris transition team. According to the readouts, the leaders committed to strengthening the Indo-U.S. Comprehensive "Global" Strategic Partnership, and cooperating on global challenges including the COVID-19 pandemic, affordable vaccines, climate change and the Indo-Pacific region. Mr. Biden's readout also included "strengthening democracy at home and abroad", which was dropped from the MEA version, indicating New Delhi's discomfort. Critical and recent comments made by Mr. Biden and Vice-President-elect Kamala Harris over Jammu and Kashmir, the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and actions against NGOs should not make the Modi government shy from engaging with the U.S. on these issues.

Most remarkably, the leaders did not dwell on traditional security issues, global terrorism, conflict regions or even trade, but instead charted areas for Indo-U.S. cooperation that are more in line with their current challenges and indicate Mr. Biden's own immediate priorities. On COVID-19, Mr. Biden and Mr. Modi have their work cut out, given that the U.S. (over 11 million cases) and India (over 8 million cases) remain the top two worst affected countries, and showing daily increases. Making affordable vaccines available to their afflicted populations will be the immediate challenge. On the need for economic recovery, their projected policies do not appear to be too divergent. Unveiling his administration's economic revival policy, Mr. Biden announced a plan to "Buy American", and to ensure no government contract goes to companies that do not make their products in America. The Modi government has already launched its "Atmanirbhar Bharat" programme on similar lines, with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar making it clear that the globalised economy and trading arrangements have been assessed as detrimental to India's manufacturing industry. On climate change, a decision by the U.S. to re-enter the Paris Accord will be welcomed by India, that is also hoping to promote cooperation on the International Solar Alliance that it co-founded in 2016 with France. But it is unclear if Mr. Biden would revive the earlier U.S. promises of funding green technology that Mr. Trump cancelled when he walked out of the Paris Accord. Finally, it is significant that Mr. Biden expressed his commitment to the Indo-Pacific policy, but New Delhi will be keen to see just what shape the new administration intends to take in its measures to maintain a "secure and prosperous" Indo-Pacific, and how far the Biden Administration will challenge China's moves in the region.

Reinventing cities

A new urban development paradigm should focus on cutting disease spread

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for a reimagining of urban planning and development to make cities and towns healthy and liveable after COVID-19 reflects the reality of decrepit infrastructure aiding the virus's spread. At the Bloomberg New Economy Forum, he emphasised resetting the mindset, processes and practices for safe urban living, and acknowledged that governments actually do little for the working millions. In the first hundred days of the pandemic, the top 10 cities affected worldwide accounted for 15% of the total cases, and data for populous Indian cities later showed large spikes that radiated into smaller towns. Rapid transmission in Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru and Chennai was the inevitable outcome of densification and an inability to practise distancing norms. In globally recognised Dharavi, which has one of the world's highest slum densities, epidemiologists attribute a seemingly low viral impact to screening and herd immunity. The pandemic's full social impact, especially among the poorer quintiles, has not been adequately measured here or elsewhere, and as the Prime Minister said, it is only clear that the cities "are not as they were before". If governments are serious about the reset moment – he likened it to a post-World War reconstruction plan – they must resist returning to business-as-usual.

Good, affordable housing is the cornerstone of a sustainable and healthy city, but it also represents India's weakest link. Unlike speculative housing investments, well-designed rental housing that is key to protecting migrant labour and other less affluent sections remains poorly funded. Mumbai is estimated to have added only 5% of rental housing in new residential construction (1961-2000), and that too led by private funding. The post-COVID-19 era, therefore, presents an opportunity to make schemes such as the Centre's Affordable Rental Housing Complexes deliver at scale, focusing on new good houses built by the state – on the lines of the post-war reconstruction in Europe, Japan and South Korea. The Ministry of Housing, which has thus far focused on a limited set of expensive showpiece smart cities, could work on this imperative with the States, digitally aggregating and transparently publishing data on demand and supply for each city. It is also an open secret that laws on air pollution, municipal solid waste management and water quality are hardly enforced, and tokenism marks the approach to urban mobility. Past scourges such as cholera, the plague and the global flu pandemic a century ago led to change – as sewerage, waste handling, social housing and health care that reduced disease. Governments are now challenged by the pandemic to show the political will to reinvent cities.

Amid a judicial slide, a flicker of hope on rights

It is reassuring that there is a signal from the Supreme Court about thinking and speaking about personal liberty



AJIT PRAKASH SHAH

There can be no better way for a judge of the Supreme Court of India to mark his birthday by celebrating the glorious constitutional duty that has been entrusted to him and his peers as officers of the highest court in the land. Last week, Justice D.Y. Chandrachud did precisely this, when he remarked, "[W]e are a constitutional court... If we as a constitutional court do not lay down law and protect personal liberty, then who will?" It was a salve for those who have doubted the Court's ability to protect basic human freedoms in the country.

An expeditious hearing

But even as the Court seems to have shown some self-awareness after an arguably long time, the circumstances in which this statement was made diminished its value considerably. The statement was made during the hearing that concluded in granting interim bail to TV anchor Arnab Goswami in a matter that was listed a mere one day after the petition was filed.

The application before the Supreme Court was in appeal against the decision of the Bombay High Court to refuse to entertain Mr. Goswami's *habeas corpus* petition, citing procedure that no bail can be granted in a petition under Article 226 of the Constitution and requiring him to apply to a lower court for appropriate relief. The Bombay High Court, in issuing that order, merely followed the law. In response, in a unique turn of events, Mr. Goswami sought relief – simultaneously – from both the trial court (a sessions court) and the Supreme Court. This is ar-

guably the first time that an accused has moved both the lowest and highest courts together.

The larger concern here is the decision of the Supreme Court to offer, barefacedly, Mr. Goswami special treatment of an order that ordinary citizens of this country cannot even dream of. Indeed, the entire process, starting with the original application at the Sessions Court in Alibaug, to the High Court in Mumbai, to the top court, was concluded in a total of only seven days. The extraordinary speed at which the judicial system seems to have worked to entertain Mr. Goswami's plea is one thing to note. But observers are also surprised that the Supreme Court listed the matter for the very next day after receiving the petition, despite having placed the case under the Defect List after identifying a host of defects (at least nine) in his petition. If similar leeway was given to every citizen, the judicial system would be viewed with less suspicion and more benevolence.

In these circumstances, it comes as no surprise that an individual like Kunal Kamra, a comedian, makes certain remarks, albeit crude, on the series of unfortunate events; arguably, this is the view of a large section of the general public. This case has now become a textbook example of what power and influence can do for you in this country. Mr. Goswami, whom I regard as an exemplar non-journalist in the Indian media today, covered his bases by being the loudest voice in the room, and his arrest had many in the corridors of the Secretariat buildings scurrying to suddenly, and uncharacteristically, defend "free speech".

The executive's actions

For the past few years, particularly since the Bharatiya Janata Party-led government took power at the Centre, the performance of the judiciary has deteriorated to disappointing lows. It no longer



stands on the pedestal of chief protector of freedoms: the government has done so much damage to personal liberty, but the courts, and especially the Supreme Court, have watched this indiscriminate and often, literally, violent trampling of dissent like mute spectators.

This is hammered home in incident after incident, and case after case: in the haphazard arrests of students and teachers made after the Delhi riots; in the treatment of dissenters against the patently unconstitutional Citizenship (Amendment) Act; in the persecution of veteran public intellectuals and social justice leaders in the wake of the Bhima-Koregaon violence; in the blatant disregard of the case of the political detainees in Kashmir.... The list is disappointingly long and getting longer still.

Most recently, the 83-year-old Jesuit priest and tribal rights leader, Father Stan Swamy, who is suffering from Parkinson's disease, and has been arrested in connection with Bhima-Koregaon, requested to be given a straw and a sipper in jail. Instead of granting him immediate relief, which would have been the most appropriate humanitarian response, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) court gave the prosecution two weeks' time to reply. Elsewhere, the Supreme Court had earlier refused to entertain the petition of a journalist from Kerala, Siddique

Kappan, who has been detained without any basis in Uttar Pradesh for over a month now, directing him to lower courts instead. The Court has now agreed to take up the matter later this week only after the journalist's family approached the Court again, seeking similar treatment as Mr. Goswami, asking if they were not citizens of this country.

Bail applications

That the Supreme Court's lightning response to Mr. Goswami's plea is an exception to the rule is highlighted by the general position the Court appears to have taken in bail matters. In its April 2019 decision, in *National Investigation Agency vs Zahoor Ahmad Shah Watali* on the interpretation of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), the Court essentially created a new doctrine that an accused must remain in custody throughout the period of a trial, even if evidence against the person is eventually proven inadmissible (and the accused is acquitted). The Supreme Court said that in considering bail applications under the UAPA, courts must presume every allegation made in the first information report to be correct, and the burden rests on the accused to disprove the allegations. This is virtually impossible in most cases. The litigious impact of this is tragic: bail hearings under the UAPA are now a mere farce; and high barriers of proof mean that individuals can be detained indefinitely.

But wait, it gets worse. The Supreme Court's interpretation was on the UAPA alone, and not on general criminal procedure. But it has left a glaring loophole for rampant abuse by the government, police and prosecution alike. It has now become commonplace for dissenters to be charged (usually without any valid proof) with sedition or criminal conspiracy and under the UAPA. It no longer matters that evidence is weak. Once

the UAPA is included in the first information report, lower courts have their hands tied. Bail must be refused outright, without examining the evidence, for this is what the Supreme Court has directed.

This pattern of arrest, first information report, prosecution and outcome have been followed in many cases involving dissent since the Supreme Court decision came about. The effect is dangerously reminiscent of the draconian preventive detention laws dating back to the dark days of the Emergency, where courts universally deprived people access to judicial remedy.

A relegation

Whatever Justice Chandrachud might eloquently and passionately espouse in court, the bitter truth is that personal liberty has been relegated to the background in Indian jurisprudence today. A recent study by *The Indian Express* of 10 cases involving free speech that were heard by the Supreme Court earlier this year (<https://bit.ly/2Uzr9N4>) revealed that the Court gave relief only when the state and the petitioner were in agreement, and refused to do so when the state expressed objections.

This article would not have been written if Justice Chandrachud's observations were the norm, i.e., wherever personal liberty is involved, the matter is taken up the next day and resolved at the earliest. But his observations come as a ray of hope: it is reassuring that there is at least someone in the Supreme Court thinking and speaking about personal liberty. As custodians of the Constitution, this is the bare minimum that a Supreme Court judge should be doing. Could it be that the sentinel on the *qui vive* is slowly coming to life again?

Justice Ajit Prakash Shah is retired Chief Justice, Delhi and Madras High Courts, and former Chairperson, Law Commission of India

Decoding Biden's presidency, for India and the world

His major preoccupation could be the difficult U.S. domestic agenda; India must revert to pluralist multi-alignment



KRISHNAN SRINIVASAN

There was a time not long ago when Indian attention was not riveted on the American election results. Prime Ministers Manmohan Singh and Narendra Modi have drawn India close to the happenings in Washington, together with fawning on prominent Indian-Americans and well-publicised warmth towards American leaders.

Every country is trying to assess if a Biden presidency will be good, bad or neutral. Perhaps Mr. Modi does not know Mr. Biden well, but neither had he met Mr. Trump before Mr. Trump became President. Personal relations must never be over-estimated as a guide to foreign policy, which is best developed on the basis of objective interests. Hostility to a third country cannot constitute a foundation in a world with inconsistent priorities. Mr. Modi might have been prompted by the Indian community in the United States, but his 'Namaste Trump' event of February 2020 in Ahmedabad was ill-advised. The Biden administration will forgive but not forget.

No wishing away Trumpism

Despite being world leader in terms of economy, military size and technological prowess, fear and hatred were predominant features of the American elections. Hatred of Republicans and Democrats for each other, fear of what President Trump might do in vindictive destruction during the days before he leaves office, and dread that he might find some pretext not to quit at all. Offensive personal insults degraded the dignity of the process, and hatred of Mr. Trump translated into support for his opponent, even if it was the elder, lacklustre Mr. Biden. Fear caused the record turn-out, with over 78 million voting for Mr. Biden and over 73 million for Mr. Trump. The two parties will suffer fragmentation and internal conflict. Trumpism, still formidably popular as evidenced by the voting figures, will devastate the already diminished liberal and moderate wings of the Republican Party, while Democrats suffer clashes with progressives and centrists accusing each other for the party's disappointing electoral results.

Of particular discomfort for America's image, Twitter, Facebook and mainstream TV channels issued warnings on the veracity of Mr. Trump's messages and his incitement to violence. There is apprehension that before President Biden takes office in January, Mr. Trump will cancel many Obama-era regulations, noble various agencies, promote his personal financial interests, and issue pardons including pre-emptively for himself against the threat of prosecution for crimes before and during his presidential tenure.

With its President claiming for months that the polls were rigged,



the simultaneous appeal of the American government (the U.S. Embassy) to West Africa's Côte d'Ivoire on its presidential election, to "show commitment to the democratic process and the rule of law", was singularly ironic, and the refusal of the outgoing administration to provide briefings for its successor, adds grist to those who accuse the U.S. of hypocrisy. For decades, the U.S. situated itself as an arbiter for verifying democracy around the world, ignoring its own discrimination against black, Hispanic, native Americans and other minorities that makes it difficult and often impossible for them to vote. One in 11 African American adults is in prison, on probation or parole.

A weakened America

American global dominance has relied on economic, military and cultural power, and a foreign policy that operates on threat and force through its military deployed in nearly 800 bases in approximately 70 countries, and extravagant use of direct, secondary and extra-territorial sanctions which currently afflict an estimated 30 countries and territories. Unilater-

alism based on presumed exceptionalism masks America's weakened moral and political authority and loss of confidence in its leadership. The U.S. political system is dominated by powerful corporations and entrenched interests which control politicians for their own interests and not those of the working population. Massive trade deficits reveal that the U.S. is no longer a manufacturing economy, and collapsing social conditions are indicators of deficiencies ranging from health care to civic infrastructure.

India apprehends a lessening of American pressure on China as does Taiwan. Russia fears Mr. Biden would oppose the almost-complete Nord Stream pipeline, reprise his erstwhile campaigns against Russia in Eastern Europe, and that the incoming team of Obama veterans will pursue an aggressive interventionist policy. China fears more acute trade wars and an Obama-era hostile pivot to Asia. Israel and some Gulf states are warning against diminishing pressure on Iran. Venezuela, Iran and Cuba hope for a moderation in Washington's Trump-era hostility. Europe seeks greater respect and consideration. Already these countries are laying down markers of their expectations.

Biden's concerns

These fears and hopes may be unfounded. Mr. Biden's preoccupation will be on his domestic agenda in a country divided down the middle. Half the electorate is seething with discontent stoked by Mr. Trump. Mr. Biden must deal

urgently with the novel coronavirus pandemic, the economy and race relations; in his short tenure, he must work for a more equal society though Mr. Trump has packed the Supreme and Federal Courts with reactionary nominees. The 2,497 counties that voted for Mr. Trump generate only 29% of GDP, while 477 counties won by Mr. Biden contribute 70%, revealing the economic divide even as the stock market registers record gains. Mr. Biden is an emollient politician with political skills, but because Trumpism looms so large, much will depend on his relationship with Mitch McConnell, Republican leader in the Senate. The Senate has the right to confirm 1,200 of Mr. Biden's appointments, endorse or reject treaties, and can frustrate restoration of membership of the World Health Organization, the Climate Change accord, the Iran nuclear deal, and restoring credibility to the World Trade Organization.

The United States, not Britain, is the nation of shopkeepers. American business regards China as a major market and driver of its economic prospects, as do Japan and Australia. Without the impetus, driven for blatant political purposes, of the Trump administration, the future viability of the Quad formation is in doubt. New Delhi should concentrate on building its economy and re-set its external relations, reverting to the recently discarded formula of pluralist multi-alignment.

Krishnan Srinivasan is a former Foreign Secretary

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.

Biden and diplomacy

In the last few years, India has laid unusual emphasis on 'personality driven' foreign policy. Personalities have a role, but that cannot be the fulcrum on which the engagement between two nations can evolve. There must be a look at values and policies. The purported endorsement of Trump government by the Indian leadership was a by-product of that approach. It is worth quoting President Kennedy who said: "Domestic policy can only defeat us, but foreign policy can kill us." It is pretty obvious that

Barack Obama will have a direct or indirect role in the new administration, and an emphasis on core constitutional values such as liberty, individual freedom, human rights will find a place. India will have no choice but to engage with such opinions (Editorial page, "Under Biden, security empathy, liberal antipathy", November 18).

TONY AUGUSTINE,
Bengaluru

■ There is no doubt that the dynamics of trade and political underpinnings in the changed power

equations brought in by the U.S. elections will matter now. However, empirically, the U.S. is not known to compromise its interests, however bitter its internal political slugfest back home may be, in favour of a nation or the world at large.

J. VIJAYAVEL JAGANATHAN,
Adirampattinam, Tamil Nadu

The Obama book
After former U.S. President Barack Obama's rather unflattering remarks in his book, *A Promised Land*, it is clear that the Hamlet in waiting in the Congress party is not cut out for any kind of leadership. This must prove

extremely galling for the grand old party, and a perception that has only been strengthened after the results of the Bihar election. The veterans within could well be aware that the family may be incapable of reversing the party's misfortunes, but may not have the nerve to confront them. Voters may have also realised that the party may never reclaim its glory.

SHANMUGAM,
Pune

■ The best course for the party would have been to simply ignore Mr. Obama's impressions. The more they

come to the defence of Mr. Gandhi, the more likely it is the comments will stick. Mr. Gandhi could in fact gain from the comments if he is willing to make a no-holds-barred introspection. But as Congresspersons are prone to thrust greatness upon the family, unashamed sycophancy and abject servility will prevail.

C.G. KURIAKOSE,
Malippara, Kothamangalam, Kerala

Soumitra Chatterjee
The passing of the legendary Bengali actor, Soumitra Chatterjee, is a great loss. In one of his films, *Sakha Prosakha*, directed by

Satyajit Ray, the performance of Soumitra Chatterjee as the mentally challenged son of a landlord is so exemplary that one cannot believe how such a natural performance could be delivered by an actor.

R. SEKAR,
Visakhapatnam

■ Who can forget his acting in Satyajit Ray's iconic movie, *Apur Sansar*, which made him unique. He was also interested in sport, especially cricket and football.

N. MAHADEVAN,
Chennai

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FROM PAGE ONE

Vaccine trial showed 95% success, says Pfizer

Moderna Inc on Monday released preliminary data for its vaccine, showing 94.5% effectiveness.

The better-than-expected results from the two vaccines, both developed with new messenger RNA (mRNA) technology, have raised hopes for an end to a pandemic that has killed more than 1.3 million people and wreaked havoc upon economies and daily life. The Pfizer-BioNTech shot was found to have 94% efficacy in people over 65 years.

While some groups such as healthcare workers will be prioritised in the U.S. and the U.K. for vaccinations this year, it will be months before large-scale rollouts begin in either country. Pfizer also has agreements with the EU, Germany and Japan where distribution could begin next year.

Distribution of a Pfizer shot is complicated by the need to store it at ultra-cold

temperatures of -70 degrees Celsius. It can, however, be kept in a normal fridge for up to five days, or up to 15 days in a thermal shipping box.

Pfizer said its two-dose vaccine, BNT162b2, was well-tolerated and that side effects were mostly mild to moderate, and cleared up quickly. It said the only severe adverse events experienced by volunteers were fatigue and headaches. Out of 8,000 participants, 2% had headaches after the second dose, while 3.8% experienced fatigue. Older adults tended to report fewer and milder adverse events.

Authorisation of vaccines for children will take longer. Only Pfizer has started vaccinating volunteers under the age of 18 in trials, giving shots to children as young as 12.

Moderna and Johnson & Johnson have said they hope to start testing the vaccine in younger patients soon.

Questionnaire of NPR being finalised, says RGI

According to the Citizenship Rules framed in 2003, the NPR is the first step towards compilation of the National Register of Indian Citizens (NRIC), or the NRC. The NPR was first collected in 2010 and then updated in 2015. Some States such as West Bengal and Rajasthan have objected to additional questions to be asked in the fresh NPR such as "date and place of birth of father and mother, last place of residence and mother tongue".

The CAA, passed by Parliament on December 11, 2019, allows citizenship on basis of religion to six undocumented communities from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh who entered India on or before December 31, 2014. There are apprehensions that the CAA, followed by a nationwide NRC, will benefit non-Muslims excluded from the proposed citizens' register, while excluded Muslims will have to prove their citizenship. The government has denied that the CAA and the NRC are linked.

In an RTI reply in March, A.K Samal, Deputy Registrar-General, said the process pertaining to the Census 2021 was evolving in nature and the disclosure may create confusion in the field and hamper the census work of national importance. "Hence these are not being provided under Section 8 (1) of the RTI Act, 2005," he stated.

Section 8 (1) of the Act bars providing any information the "disclosure of

which would prejudicially affect the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security, strategic, scientific or economic interests of the State, relation with foreign State or lead to incitement of an offence".

The Hindu had sought the "details of the Conference of the State/UT Chief Secretaries and Administrator organised by the Registrar-General of India and the Census Commissioner in New Delhi on January 17, 2020" and asked for a copy of the minutes of the meeting. Mr. Samal responded that the minutes of the conference have not been prepared and the presentations were prepared for internal use and deliberations on preparation of Census 2021.

21 parameters
In 2019, the "pretest", or the trial NPR form, collected details from 30 lakh respondents on 21 parameters, seeking specific details on "place of birth of father and mother, last place of residence" along with other information such as Aadhaar (optional), voter ID card, mobile phone and driver's licence numbers. In 2010 and 2015, the NPR collected details on 14 parameters.

The Ministry of Home Affairs informed a parliamentary panel earlier this year that there was a need to update the NPR to "incorporate the changes due to birth, death and migration" and "Aadhaar is individual data whereas NPR contains family-wise data".

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A 10 kilometre swim across a canal, hands and legs bound

Life guard attempts to set a Guinness World Record

NAVAMY SUDHISH
KOLLAM

Ratheesh was first called 'Dolphin' when he tried to emulate the swimming style of the marine mammal, propelling himself forward in water with his hands and legs tied.

The world of adventure sports was not quite accessible to the boy from a fisher family in Alappad. The 38-year-old's nearly-two-decade-long efforts bore fruit on Wednesday when he crossed the 10-km stretch across Thiruvananthapuram-Shoranur Canal in an attempt to set a Guinness World Record. It took him five hours and 10 minutes to complete the challenge.

"The current record holder is Gopal Kharvi, another Indian and it is for 3.7 km," he says.

Ratheesh, who currently works as a life guard on Kollam beach, has been training



Rare feat: 'Dolphin' Ratheesh crossing the 10-km stretch with his hands and legs tied. • C. SURESHKUMAR

in the Arabian Sea since 2002. He organised his first adventure event in 2002, jumping from the 50-foot-high Neendakara bridge to the estuary and swimming 500 metres with his hands and legs bound.

A year later, he swam for 1 km in the Ashtamudi lake with his body wrapped in a sack.

My idea is to make Kerala a State with zero drownings," says the swimming instructor. Ratheesh, who has many records, including Limca Book of Records and Arabian Book of World Records in his kitty, says his next aim is to cross English Channel, considered one of the toughest tasks by adventure swimmers.

The committee had earlier finalised an annual fee

structure that ranged from ₹6.22 lakh to ₹7.65 lakh in the general category and ₹20 lakh for NRI seats after applying a combined inflation rate of 6.41% to the previous year's fee.

However, the High Court directed the fee regulatory committee to consider the managements' reasoning that "the hospital has to be treated as a separate establishment of the college and its profit or loss cannot have any bearing on the fee payable by the students."

As a result, the CEE has now released a fee structure that ranged from ₹7.65 lakh to ₹20.7 lakh in the general category and from ₹20 lakh to ₹34 lakh for NRI seats.

The immense hike has created widespread concern among medical aspirants and guardians, prompting the government to go in appeal against the order.

Despite her curious name, she was not made the target of any barb even by her political opponents, adds Corona. "I have been getting very warm and posi-

tive response from all corners."

The pregnant 24-year-old tested positive for COVID-19 a few days before her due date and has since recovered.

The meaning of her name is halo. The initial days of the pandemic were not easy for

her. She found her name very embarrassing, especially when the 'go corona go' slogan started doing the rounds. "I even thought of changing my name. But now I am totally in love with my name and also confident that the electoral outcome will be positive," she says.

CMYK

Ex-Minister held in flyover case

The Kerala legislator has been remanded in judicial custody for 14 days

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM



V.K. Ebrahim Kunju

The Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau (VACB) arrested IUML legislator and former Public Works Minister V.K. Ebrahim Kunju on Wednesday in a case of corruption in the construction of the decommissioned flyover bridge at Palarivattom, Kochi.

A VACB team led by Dy.SP Shyam Kumar descended on the MLA's house in Kochi armed with a warrant for his arrest. Investigators searched the house and learned that Mr. Kunju had sought treatment at a private hospital late on Tuesday.

Investigators arrived at the hospital and recorded his arrest around 10.30 a.m.

Later, Vigilance Inquiry Commissioner and Special Judge Jobin Sebastian arrived at the hospital and remanded Mr. Kunju in judicial

custody for 14 days. Mr. Kunju is likely to remain in the hospital during the remand period unless a medical board decides otherwise.

The VACB has sought his custody for three days. The court will consider the plea later.

The VACB has booked Mr. Kunju on a charge of conspiracy to accord undue pecuniary advantage to the builder, misuse of official

position and illegal amassing of wealth.

The ambitious flyover project launched by the Oommen Chandy government in 2013 to ease traffic congestion in Kochi had metamorphosed into a symbol of political sleaze in the public mind.

Its decommissioning by the Pinarayi Vijayan government on the ground that the structure was faltering and unsafe for traffic had caused a public outcry. The Supreme Court later ordered the demolition of the bridge and construction of another in its stead.

The VACB has so far arrested eight persons in connection with the suspected multi-crore scam.

The crux of the case against Mr. Kunju was that he had advanced ₹9 crore to the builder ostensibly to expedite the work. The VACB

concluded that Mr. Kunju had extorted a sizeable and "norm-breaking" credit to the builder at a nominal and "brazenly advantageous" rate of interest. The agency alleged that the government's "largesse" to the builder had, by a conservative estimate, cost the public exchequer ₹60 lakh in terms of interest alone.

The Enforcement Directorate is also investigating the MLA on a money laundering charge.

'Politically motivated'

The Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) has condemned the arrest of its MLA.

IUML general secretary P.K. Kunhalikutty, MP, and working secretary E.T. Mohammed Basheer, MP, described the arrest as "untimely and politically motivated."

Karnataka's Bellari district to be split

Vijayanagara district will be carved out

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Cabinet on Wednesday approved the long-standing demand for carving out Vijayanagara district from the existing Bellari district.

Vijayanagara will be the 31st district of the State.

Minister's demand

A Cabinet meeting presided over by Chief Minister



KARNATAKA

B.S. Yediyurappa decided to bifurcate Bellari and fulfil the demand of Forest and Environment Minister B.S. Anand Singh, who quit the Congress in 2019 by tendering resignation to the membership of the Legislative Assembly and helped bring the BJP to power. The issue was highlighted in the run-up to the

IN BRIEF



'Situation not conducive for local body polls'

VIJAYAWADA
Andhra Pradesh Chief Secretary Nilam Sawhney (in photo) has written a letter to State Election Commissioner N. Ramesh Kumar, requesting him to re-examine his

decision to conduct the local body elections in February 2021, suggesting that the situation is not yet conducive and a comparison cannot be drawn with other States as the strategies followed to contain the COVID-19 pandemic are different.

Customs officials question Swapna Suresh

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
A team of Customs officials questioned UAE consulate-linked gold smuggling case accused Swapna Suresh at the Attakulangara Women's Prison here for nearly six hours. Swapna is under preventive detention as per the provisions of the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities (COFEPOSA) law.

Kalaburagi to Hindon direct flight flagged off

KALABURAGI
The first direct flight operations from Kalaburagi in Karnataka to Hindon Airport in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, were flagged off on Wednesday under Regional Connectivity Scheme Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (RCS-UDAN). Star Air was awarded the route last year. The airline will operate three weekly flights on the route and will deploy its 50-seater Embraer-145 luxury aircraft, an official statement said. PTI

Kerala to commission genome survey for SARS-CoV-2

Study, commissioned on November 11, will collect 100 samples from 14 districts for three months

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

Kozhikode, from which it emerged that outbreaks in the State were less due to international expatriates and more due to reduced monitoring of inter-State movement once the restrictions were eased.

'NextGen' sequencing

The genome sequencing uses an approach called 'Next-Gen' sequencing, in which 1000s of individual genomes can be simultaneously analysed, rare variations picked up and occasionally, SARS-CoV-2 missed by the gold

standard RT-PCR test, detected.

"This could demonstrate the utility in identifying apparently unconnected outbreaks and evidence to design or validate policy interventions—like strict quarantine of foreign travellers," Vinod Scaria of the CSIR-IGIB and among those closely involved in the project told The Hindu.

Kerala recorded the first cases of COVID-19 in India, and for several months managed to contain the transmission to limited pockets. Ho-

wever, with the easing of restrictions and Onam festivities, congregations multiplied and led to huge spikes in cases.

Kerala had about 87,000 active cases as of Wednesday but has confirmed only 884 deaths so far.

For the project, the State has budgeted ₹68 lakh, according to a note issued by the Health Department.

Used in U.K., Australia

The United Kingdom and Australia have employed genome sequencing to map the

outbreaks. The earlier pilot study had found that virus samples sequenced from Kerala belonged to the A2a clade, which is predominant in India, within which there were three clusters. The largest one had genomes from Odisha; the second cluster's ancestry was traced to Maharashtra and the third from Karnataka.

The study also uncovered four novel genetic variants and 89 variants that were specific to Kerala and not reported from elsewhere in the country.

Kerala to move SC over MBBS fee hike

State government to oppose HC order

STAFF REPORTER
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala government will move the Supreme Court against a Kerala High Court order that paved the way for a revision of the fee structure fixed for MBBS admissions by considering the demand of self-financing medical colleges.

The High Court had on November 13 ordered the Commissioner for Entrance Examinations (CEE) to issue notification of the maximum fee that will be levied by the colleges as proposed by the managements. Based on the order, the CEE on Wednesday issued fee structures for 18 out of 19 self-financing medical colleges that were over thrice what had been fixed by the R. Rajendra Babu Fee Regulatory Committee for medical education in the State.

The committee had earlier finalised an annual fee

structure that ranged from ₹6.22 lakh to ₹7.65 lakh in the general category and ₹20 lakh for NRI seats after applying a combined inflation rate of 6.41% to the previous year's fee.

However, the High Court directed the fee regulatory committee to consider the managements' reasoning that "the hospital has to be treated as a separate establishment of the college and its profit or loss cannot have any bearing on the fee payable by the students."

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IN BRIEF



SC seeks reply on Jaishankar's RS election

The Supreme Court on Wednesday issued notices on a batch of petitions challenging the election of External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar to the Rajya Sabha from Gujarat. The pleas have also raised the issue of the Election Commission's power on issuance of separate notifications for holding bypolls for casual and regular vacancies in the Rajya Sabha. A Bench comprising Chief Justice S.A. Bobde, Justices A.S. Bopanna and V. Ramasubramanian took note of the submissions of senior advocate Kapil Sibal that a date be fixed for hearing these matters.

Party worker murdered in West Bengal, says BJP

KOLKATA
The Bharatiya Janata Party leadership on Wednesday alleged that a party worker was killed at Tufanganj in West Bengal's Cooch Behar district. "Trinamool's 'murder politics' continues in West Bengal! In Cooch Behar, BJP booth secretary Kalachand Karmakar was brutally beaten to death by TMC goons. Pishi [aunt], referring to Mamata Banerjee] you cannot expect people of Bengal to support your politics of blood and terror. Enough. Start counting your days!" the West Bengal BJP wrote.

12 civilians injured in Pulwama grenade attack

SRINAGAR
Twelve civilians were injured when a grenade thrown by militants missed the target in south Kashmir's Pulwama on Wednesday. "Terrorists hurled a grenade on a CRPF bunker of 41 Battalion. However, the grenade missed the target and exploded on road. Twelve civilians sustained injuries," a police spokesman said. The injured are undergoing treatment. The area was cordoned off and a search launched but no one has been arrested so far.

8 Ministers in Bihar face criminal cases, says ADR

NEW DELHI
Eight Ministers recently sworn in to the Bihar Cabinet have declared criminal cases against themselves, a report by the Association for Democratic Reforms said on Wednesday. The ADR analysed the election affidavits of 14 of the 15 Ministers, including Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. One Minister – Ram Surat Kumar – was left out of the analysis, as his completed affidavit was not available. Six Ministers had declared serious criminal cases, the report said.

BJP starts 'Mission Bengal' early

Amit Shah, Nadda to visit State every month in the run-up to the polls next year

NISTULA HEBBAR
NEW DELHI

The BJP is preparing a meticulous campaign for the West Bengal Assembly election to be held early next year with the Citizenship (Amendment) Act as one of the important issues in the campaign.

Senior sources in the party told *The Hindu* that five leaders – Sunil Deodhar, Dushyant Gautam, Vinod Sonkar, Harish Dwivedi and Vinod Tawde – had been despatched to five different areas of the State to get feedback from the ground.

The BJP's West Bengal chief, Dilip Ghosh, said Union Home Minister Amit Shah and party president JP Nadda would visit the State every month in the run-up to the election. "Amit Shahji and J.P. Naddaji will visit the State separately every month till the Assembly election is over," he said. Much



More tours: BJP president J.P. Nadda during a visit to Siliguri in West Bengal in October. • PTI

of it would be to raise the morale of the organisation and workers, he added.

Mr. Shah's visit in early November was a good primer on the kind of campaign the BJP is to run.

On the one hand, Mr. Shah had lunch at the home of a person belonging to the Matua community and on the other, he left meticulous instructions to party workers on organising down to

the booth level. The lunch is significant in that it signals that the BJP will be ratcheting up the rhetoric around the CAA.

The Matuas are Namasudras and Hindu refugees who came to West Bengal from Bangladesh and are the second largest Scheduled Caste community in the State. Citizenship rights and issues is a sensitive matter to the community, with several

party leaders, including Shantanu Thakur, Bongaon MP and relative of the late Matua matriarch Boro Maa, demanding that the BJP make good on its promises with regard to framing rules for the CAA.

A list for workers

On the organisational front, from forming booth committees to keeping a list of voters who have smartphones in case of another COVID-19-compliant campaign, Mr. Shah has left a detailed 23 point to do list with workers.

The party is convinced that the Assembly polls will be between it and the ruling Trinamool Congress, despite the presence of the Left and the Congress. In 2019, the BJP won 18 seats in the Lok Sabha election and emerged as the second largest party in the State.

The BJP clearly wants to give no advantage away.

State machinery misused, allege Omar, Mehbooba

'Non-BJP candidates are not being allowed to campaign'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

The National Conference (NC) and the People's Democratic Party (PDP) on Wednesday accused the BJP of "misusing the official machinery" in Jammu and Kashmir against the joint candidates being fielded by the Peoples Alliance for the Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) for the District Development Council (DDC) polls.

"The J&K administration is going out of its way to help the BJP and its recently created King's party by locking up candidates opposed to the BJP, using security as an excuse. If the security sit-



uation isn't conducive to campaigning what was the need to announce elections?" NC vice president Omar Abdullah said in a tweet. PDP president Mehbooba Mufti alleged that the candidates of the Gupkar Alliance were not being allowed to campaign for the polls, scheduled from No-

vember 28. "Non-BJP candidates for the DDC polls aren't allowed to campaign freely and are being locked up on the pretence of security. But BJP and its proxies are given full bandobast. Is this the democracy that the Government of India claimed its promoting in yesterday's phone conversation with the US president elect?", she asked.

J&K Awami National conference vice-president Muzaffar Shah and J&K Peoples Movement president Javaid Mustafa Mir said that there were unfair attempts to reject their candidate's nomination.

Survey of forest dwellers in J&K on

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

Amid regional parties' protests over the eviction of forest dwellers, the Jammu and Kashmir administration on Wednesday said it was in the process of implementing the Forest Rights Act of 2006 "to grant the rights to forest dwellers".

The Forest Rights Act of 2006 provides for granting of rights to forest dwellers across the country. It was not applicable or imple-

mented in J&K till 31st October, 2019. It has been decided that the survey of claimants by the forest rights committees for assessing the nature and extent of rights being claimed at village-level be completed by January 15, 2021", an official spokesman said.

The sub-divisional committees shall complete the process of scrutiny of claims and prepare the record of forest rights by or before January 31, 2021 and the dis-

Start goods trains first, farmer outfits tell Centre

VIKAS VASUDEV

CHANDIGARH

As many as 30 farmers' outfits in Punjab on Wednesday decided to maintain status quo on their blockade of passenger trains in the State in protest against Centre's recent agriculture laws.

"We have decided to continue letting goods trains go, but not passenger trains. Once the Central government starts movement of goods trains, we will take a positive call on movement of passenger trains. The ball is in the Centre's court now," Jagmohan Singh, general secretary, Bhartiya Kisan Union (Dakhauna), told *The Hindu* after a meeting of farmers' outfits here.

CM disappointed

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh expressed disappointment over the refusal of the outfits to completely lift their rail blockade that has brought the State virtually to a standstill for the past month and a half.

He said he had expected them to back down in the interest of Punjab especially in view of the State government's support for their cause and the Centre's decision to engage with them.

Request turned down

The Bench brushed aside the petitioner's repeated requests to adjourn the case. In fact, the court accused Mr. Yadav of trying to abuse the process of law by seeking repeated adjournments.

HC notice to Centre, U.P. on plea against Hathras arrests

Four men were held on their way to the village on Oct. 5

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
LUCKNOW

The Allahabad High Court on Wednesday issued notices to the Union and the Uttar Pradesh governments on a writ petition filed by two scholars and a cab driver who were arrested in Mathura while they were on their way to Hathras, along with Malayalam journalist Siddique Kappan, in October.

A list for workers

On the organisational front, from forming booth committees to keeping a list of voters who have smartphones in case of another COVID-19-compliant campaign, Mr. Shah has left a detailed 23 point to do list with workers.

The party is convinced that the Assembly polls will be between it and the ruling Trinamool Congress, despite the presence of the Left and the Congress. In 2019, the BJP won 18 seats in the Lok Sabha election and emerged as the second largest party in the State.

The four, who were on their way to Hathras to meet the family of an alleged victim of rape, are in prolonged detention at a Mathura jail under serious charges, including those under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, and sedition.

While the Supreme Court is hearing a similar petition filed on behalf of Mr. Kappan, the other three approached the High Court praying for their release from what they alleged "illegal custody".

Hearing the petition, a Division Bench of Justices Rakesh Dhawal and Subhash Chandra Sharma directed the court registry to issue



Siddique Kappan and three others are in the Mathura jail.

notices to the Union of India, sub-inspector of the Maant police station Prabhal Pratap Singh and the superintendent of the jail after formal amendments to the writ for impleading the respondents.

The State government counsel did not oppose the applications filed by counsel for the accused seeking impleadment of the Centre, the SHO and the jail superintendent.

The four accused were ap-

prehended by the police under the jurisdiction of the Maant police station in Mathura.

'Law-abiding citizens'

In the plea, filed by Shakhat Kha, the maternal uncle of research scholar Atiq-ur-Rehman, one of those arrested accused, stated that they "are peace-loving, public-spirited and concerned law-abiding citizens, who are unfortunate victims and scapegoats of the high-handedness of the police authorities".

"They have committed no offence, which is clear from a bare perusal of the Sections slapped on them," said the petition.

From Mr. Kappan and Mr. Rehman, the other two in jail are activist-scholar Masood Ahmed from Bahraich and Rampur native Mohammad Alam, the cab driver.

They were accused of allegedly raising funds for terrorist acts and conspiring to trigger caste riots over the Hathras incident.

UN reform being blocked, says Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi reiterated India's demand for reform of the United Nations, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said "one or two" countries are obstructing the process of expansion of the UN Security Council.

The Minister said India had been urging the global community for reform of the major institutions but one or two countries had shown that they wanted to "freeze one moment of history for perpetual gain to continue".

The fact that different people in different parts of the world are pointing out to the shortcoming of the UN ... is something that UN should take seriously," said Mr. Jaishankar, who made the comments during a virtual speech at the Centre for European Policy Studies.

On more than one occasion, Indian policy makers have referred obliquely to China's opposition to the idea of reform of the UN Security Council.

Senate caucus chiefs expect strong ties to stay

Focus on technology, vaccines, energy, defence

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN

WASHINGTON DC

As the dust settles on the U.S. presidential election and a change in administration is imminent, Senate India Caucus Co-Chairs Mark Warner (Democrat) and John Cornyn (Republican) emphasised the role of China in their discussion on the India-U.S. partnership.

In remarks made at an U.S.-India Business Council post-election seminar, held online, the senators talked of a continuing India-U.S. partnership in technology, vaccines, energy (including renewables) and defence.

Responding to a question posed by former U.S. Ambassador to India Richard Verma on the trajectory of the U.S.-China relationship and India's role, Mr. Warner of Virginia said that under a Biden administration, there would be opportunities to align not just on "traditional economic issues" but also technology issues.

Mr. Warner said that no Indian or U.S. company could alone compete with the Chinese industrial model which he described as "authoritarian capitalism".

"There is no American or Indian company alone that can compete with that ... There was a while, maybe a decade ago, when India wanted to kind of skirt not being on the China side or on the American side. But I think, echoing what Senator Cornyn



Mark Warner

said, we both are nations that operate under rule of law, China does not ... And I think I've seen increasingly my contacts to Indian government officials is they know they need to come down on the side of rule of law," Mr. Warner said.

On vaccines, Mr. Warner said India and the U.S., independent of vaccines, needed to look at the sourcing of compounds used in pharmaceuticals – much of which is located in China now.

On the defence partnership, Mr. Cornyn said countries like India and the U.S. would have to work to support one another in the face of China's increasing aggression. He said the two countries would continue to resolve issues such as India's purchase of the Russia S-400 missile defence system, which risks attracting American sanctions.

"But I think those are sort of legacy problems that we're going to continue to work on to try to resolve, but I see it getting better and better all the time," he said.

DELHI JAL BOARD: DELHI SARKAR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SOUTH)-II JAL SADAN: LAJPAT NAGAR: NEW DELHI-110024				
STOP CORONA: "Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"				
NIT No.219/II/2020-21 Press Tender				
S. No.	Name of Work	Reserve Price	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Last date and time for download & RTGS through e-procurement solution
1	Shifting of damaged sewer line by P/L 630mm dia HDPE pipe at C.V. Raman Marg under EE (S)II (AC-51 Kalkaji)	1,90,91,690/-	2020-DJB_196536_01 18.11.2020	01.12.2020 upto 2:00 PM

Further details in this regards can be seen at <http://delhi.govtprocurement.com>

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(S. Ghulam Sajjad)
Executive Engineer (South)II

Rajasthan Co-operative Dairy Federation Limited	
'SARAS SANKUL' J.L. N. MARG, JAIPUR – 302017 Ph. No. 2702501-08; Direct: 0141-2710209; Website : www.sarasimilkfed.rajasthan.gov.in E-Mail: pur-tmf@nic.in	
No. RCDF/Pur/F/(Packaging Material)/2020/2133-09 Dated: 05th Nov., 2020	
Single Stage Two Parts unconditional online e-Tender/Bids are invited by Rajasthan Co-operative Dairy Federation Ltd., Jaipur for the procurement of "ISI Marked Metal Tins for 15 kg. Ghee Packing (UBN No. CDF2021GLRC00756), Metalised (Aluminium) Panier Pouches/Bags for 200 gm/1 kg. (UBN No. CDF2021GLRC00757), Long Flame Steel Coal (Bags) (UBN No. CDF2021GLRC00758), ISI Marked Metalized (Aluminium) Panier Pouches/Bags for 15 kg. Ghee (UBN No. CDF2021GLRC00760), Ghee Tin 5 Litre as per ISI Specifications (Square Tins for 5 Litre Ghee Packing) (UBN No. CDF2021GLRC00761), HDPE Laminated Kraft Paper Bag/HDPE Laminated Gusset Bag for packing 25 kg. SMP in two different sizes (15 kg. and 25 kg.) (UBN No. CDF2021GLRC00762), PP Woven Sack (Tubular Type) Red Pigmented Bag for packing Cattle Feed (UBN No. CDF2021GLRC00763)" from eligible manufacturers or their authorized sellers as per details given in the respective bid document.	
The Complete Bidding Documents can be visited and downloaded from our website www.sarasimilkfed.rajasthan.gov.in and www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in . E-Bids shall be submitted only on http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in .	
(R.K. Suthar) General Manager (Purchase)	

Raj, Samwadi/C6896/2020-21

Finance panel for PPPs on health infra

Spending by the Centre and the States needs to go up very significantly in the sector, it says

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The 15th Finance Commission has mooted a greater role for public private partnerships to ramp up health infrastructure and scale up public spending on health from 0.95% of the GDP to 2.5% by 2024, N.K. Singh, Chairperson of the panel, said on Wednesday.

While public outlays should focus on primary health care at the panchayat and municipality levels, private players should be relied on for specialty healthcare, he said, hinting that the commission has recommended steps to fix the skewed availability of healthcare across India as poorer States have the worst facilities.

National cadre

Mr. Singh recommended substantial improvements in the working conditions for doctors in government hospitals, many of whom are hired on a contract basis by the States, and the creation of an Indian Medical Service cadre as envisaged in the Ci-

Inadequate spending

The table lists the three States/Union Territories with the highest and lowest per capita public expenditure on health-care, respectively according to FY20 (budget estimates)

STATES SPENDING THE MOST

State/U.T.	Per capita public expenditure on healthcare
Delhi	₹3,808
Himachal Pradesh	₹3,780
Jammu and Kashmir	₹3,163

STATES SPENDING THE LEAST

Bihar	₹781
West Bengal	₹988
Uttar Pradesh	₹1,065

Source: RBI | Northeastern States excluding Assam spent ₹3,717 per capita on healthcare

to 2.5% of GDP by 2024," Mr. Singh said.

While India does not have adequate health infrastructure, the picture is "exceedingly skewed" among the States with the poorest of them having the worst health infrastructure. "It's somewhat unfortunate... So how does one address the skewed nature of the availability of health infrastructure among the States of India, particularly those which are most vulnerable," Mr. Singh asked.

Seeking greater attention on the role of paramedics and frontline health workers in countering the pandemic, Mr. Singh said the commission was amazed to learn that doctors in many States were engaged on a contract basis, and underlined the need to improve their working conditions.

On the proposal to constitute an All India Medical Service, he said it was "quite amazing" that no action had been taken on the issue till date.

To achieve better health-

resetting healthcare systems.

"The total spending of around 0.95% of GDP is not adequate both in relation to our peer groups, and in relation to the commitments under the National Health Policy of 2017. There is no doubt that public spending, both by the Centre and the States, need to go up very significantly. And the endeavour must be to raise public spending from 0.95% of GDP

care parameters, public private partnerships must be considered "in a holistic way" instead of the current situation where the government only turned to the private sector in times of emergency, Mr. Singh said.

Trust deficit

"For that, a working relationship is needed and this relationship can be built only if, first and foremost, the trust deficit that exists [between industry and government] now is bridged. Private sector investment in health has an exceedingly important role to play," he said.

"The government must do what it is expected to... it is duty-bound to address the issue of health deficiency at the level of municipal corporations and village panchayats. The primary health centres must be the central focus of public outlay, I think the private sector participation can be at other levels of speciality and at levels where they are better placed due to their innovative skills," he said.

appropriate test.

PLACID is the world's largest pragmatic trial on CPT conducted in 464 moderately ill, confirmed affected adults in a real-world setting, wherein no benefit of use of CPT could be established, the ICMR said. A release issued by the council noted that similar studies conducted in China and the Netherlands have also documented no significant benefit of CPT in improving the clinical outcomes of hospitalised patients.

dies in convalescent plasma that could neutralise the effects of SARS-CoV-2, it said.

It stated that the CPT could be used with specific criteria, including that potential donors could give plasma after 14 days of symptom resolution (testing negative is not necessary). A potential recipient should be in the early stage of COVID-19 (three to seven days from the onset of symptoms, but not later than 10 days) and should have no IgG antibody against COVID-19 by

the time of transfusion.

The report concluded that the therapy "did not lead to a reduction in progression to severe COVID or all-cause mortality in the group that received CPT as compared to the group that did not receive CPT".

Benefits of CPT in improv-

ing the clinical outcomes, re-

ducing severity of disease,

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and mortality in patients

were dependent on the con-

centration of specific antibo-

odies.

that if he died, it would be a custodial death. She read the report submitted by doctors of Nanavati Hospital on November 17, which recorded his age as 45.

The report was prepared after examining Mr. Rao for 15 minutes through video conferencing.

Multiple ailments

Ms. Jaisingh read a previous report by Nanavati Hospital, which mentioned he had dementia and had had a heart attack, liver failure and kidney failure and was COVID-19-positive.

She said multiple post-COVID complications could take place in an elderly person, and Mr. Rao was already bedridden and had urinary tract infection because his catheter was not changed for three months.

With 'dossier', Pak. tries to kill two birds with one shot

Bid to shift focus from domestic issues, target India on FATF

SUHASINI HAIDAR

NEW DELHI

In a strong retort to Pakistan's announcement of a 'dossier' on terror released over the weekend, India dismissed the charges as having "no credibility, are fabricated and represent figments of imagination".

The Ministry of External Affairs said the press conference addressed by Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi and its military spokesperson was a "deliberate attempt on the part of the Pakistani establishment to shift focus from its internal political and economic failures". Senior officials told *The Hindu* that they also denoted a more long-term campaign by Pakistan to attempt to 'mirror' what Pakistan itself has been accused of, that led to its grey-listing at the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

Pakistan is attempting to mirror what it believes were Indian attempts at 'politicising the FATF', forgetting that its primary problems began not with India, but [with] the U.S., the U.K., France and Germany, which nominated it to the greylist in [June] 2018, and even China supported the nomination," said a senior security official who had studied the documents released.

In fact, the overview document entitled "Indian state sponsorship of terrorism and destabilisation in Pakistan", which was circulated by the office of Pakistan's Special Adviser on National Security Moeed Yusuf, specifically mentions the FATF. "Tangible evidences reflect that Indian foreign mis-

ions in FATF member countries have always been extensively lobbying with hosts prior to FATF meetings to undermine Pakistan's achievements and create conditions for our grey/blacklisting," says the document issued by Islamabad.

"India needs to be scrutinised at FATF platform in the light of evidences presented by Pakistan as well as recent revelations made by the [U.S.] Department of Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FINCEN) which amplify the fragility of Indian terror financing and money laundering regimes," says the document, laying out Islamabad's intention to raise this at the FATF's India review that begins in February 2021.

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Flight mode on

PRIYADARSHINI PAITANDY

Earlier this year, when the country went into lockdown and commercial flights were grounded, those stranded away from home resorted to private jets, often pooling resources to afford the cost. Flight paths have changed steadily since then as the beleaguered travel industry found ways to repackage what was once an unfurnished luxury for most travellers.

Sachit Wadhwa of Mumbai-based Book My Charters that offers private jets, helicopters and yacht says his four-year old company recorded a 60% surge in clients this year. "One of the contributing factors has been first time flyers," he says. "There were also those waiting to commute in a medical emergency, executives who had to urgently travel on business, and clients flying to their vacation homes."

Though domestic commercial flights resumed in May, Wadhwa says his business started picking up from June. "With the pandemic, safety has become the first priority for most flyers. They do not want to sit with strangers. Only 25% want meals on board, the rest prefer sealed food like chips and cookies. There is still a bit of paranoia," he explains.

What started off primarily with emergency and repatriation flights now sees leisure travel too. "Within India, Goa is where people are flying to, considering it does not require an e-pass. Some of the countries such as the UAE, the UK and Maldives, with which India has travel bubbles, are also seeing a lot of traffic," says Kanika Tekriwal who started JetSetGo in Delhi in 2014.

Her fleet has 28 aircraft; she now gets four to five clients per week opting to fly to these destinations.

In early 2020, they ferried stranded people home during the national lockdown. Now, private jets are being recruited for business meetings, weddings and burnout holidays



PRETTY FLY

- Around the world, resorts, retreats and estates are tying up with air charter companies to fly in guests for daycations and getaways. This includes anything from an eight course meal to a 10-day safari.
- Other than charter, there are a few companies that also lease out aircraft. In such a case one can customise the aircraft and even have their logo on the cutlery on board.
- Flying private saves time as one can escape the arrive two hours before departure rule that commercial flights require.
- Most private jets have their own separate gates and terminals.
- It's your space and you do not have to share it with unknown people.
- A lot of remote locations are accessible.
- Reduced touch points

35-36 bookings per day. Now we are doing 12 bookings a day," she says. But she did see an increase in requests for leisure travel after the restrictions eased. "The surge in leisure trip requests grew by almost 70%," she says. She also saw many one-way flight bookings; these were mostly people shifting their bases temporarily for a month or two as they continued working from home. "Earlier the margins were much higher. Now we are investing so much in safety and sanitisation but we are selling at the same cost. It is a price-sensitive customer."

The cost varies depending on the type of aircraft and number of engines it has. The general charter range starts at about ₹70,000 per hour for an eight-seater plane and can go up to six to seven lakhs for expensive models like Global 6000, Gulfstream G550, Falcon 8X. "The perception of luxury associated with private jets is slowly changing.

Now, people are looking at booking a jet for weddings so a group of 20 can travel together to a destination," says Wadhwa. "There were a lot of conservative rich in the country who were not ready to spend on things like charter flights but now we are seeing a surge," he adds.

While the pricing may be a deterrent for many, operators believe that the advantages of flying in a charter aircraft are compelling. Services are available in almost 200 cities across India and these jets also fly to cities and towns that have limited connectivity. Some of them have no airports but only airstrips with no commercial flights. For example cities like Dhule and Baranasi and districts such as Umara. Flights are direct without layovers and clients can enjoy privacy. Since the jet is booked by a client they can decide when they want to fly.

"For a business traveller who wants to fly in and out of a meeting, he no longer has to wait for a flight nor rush his meeting to catch a commercial flight," says Sunilkumar. "And the flyer can head to the flight just 15 minutes before take off... They have separate gates dedicated to them."

Tekriwal says people are now appreciating the importance of private aviation in the country. In September 2020, Delhi got its first General Aviation Terminal Facility for private jets. "Earlier, it used to take a car 20 minutes to get to the plane from the gate. But now it takes just five minutes," she says.

All the charter companies say most clients are from Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru and Hyderabad. These include entrepreneurs, the start-up community as well as young holidaymakers who together charter an aircraft with family and friends, and split the cost. As Sunilkumar says, "With private jets almost getting into a character similar to that of cabs, this is how travelling will be in the new normal."



The trend that took off
The perception of luxury associated with private jets is slowly changing
■ BOOK MY CHARTERS

The road to discovery

Meet the team behind Road Ashram, travelling along India's borders to chronicle people affected by the pandemic

SRINIVASA RAMANUJAM

Is it a car? Is it a home? Is it a relief?

It is all of those rolled into one, and is called the Road Ashram.

The modified car called Road Ashram has been a dependable companion to Siddhartha Dutta, Neha Chaturvedi and Ahmer Siddiqui, who started on a journey together on October 4 from Delhi.

Since then, the three-member team has been on the road, covering the entire Northeastern belt, Bihar, Odisha, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, raising awareness and money for COVID-19 relief. They were recently in Chennai for a day en route to Puducherry and Kanyakumari.

Along the way, they witnessed and documented stirring stories. "This is a crucial time in history. The pandemic is not just a health crisis in India; it is humanitarian crisis as well," says Mumbai-based Siddhartha, who calls himself the navigator and trivia machine of the group.

The trip was the result of conversations between him and his long-time friend Ahmer, both of whom work in the non-profit sector. "During the lockdown, we were privileged enough to be in the comfort of our homes. But when we kept seeing photos of migrants walking long distances to reach their homes, it troubled us."

The two decided to do something about it. Roping in



Life is a journey Siddhartha Dutta, Arsh Siddiqui, Neha Chaturvedi and Ahmer Siddiqui near Napier Bridge in Chennai ■ R RAGU

filmmaker Neha Chaturvedi from Agra, they embarked on a journey across the country's borders, documenting tales of people whose livelihoods have been hit. Along the way, they also met several like-minded people and changemakers.

They plan to cover 25,000 kilometres and 30 states during this trip, which is likely to conclude by mid-December. "We plan to put all the stories we chronicle as a documentary, so that future generations will know about these times," says Ahmer, who is in charge of the wheel and drives about 10 hours every day.

In a village near Forbesganj in Bihar that is known for pottery, they met a man who went without food for several days. In Arunachal Pradesh, they met someone who had to

Ropin to

Roadashram.in

The dolphins of Kovalam and other stories

Hanif Mohammed wants to take you out on his boat to share the wonders of the sea. He is also promoting sustainable fishing with his new online portal

AKILA KANNADASAN

Over a hundred dolphins swimming alongside each other in clear blue waters. And a few whales too. It was a lucky day for Kovalam-based Hanif Mohammed Q and guests on his boat. "It's another world out there," says Hanif, recalling the sight. An interior designer, Hanif has been fishing out of passion for 15 years, and owns two boats. He knows the wonders of the sea first-hand, and wants to share it with others.

"I take people on small trips into the sea," says the 40-year-old, adding that from July to August, and February to March, guests can witness the migration of dolphins.

"I want to encourage parents to show children the outdoors; to let them experience Nature at its best," he adds. "They can learn about the sea, among a lot of other things," he says, adding how once, his guests released turtles caught in a fishing net. He is now in the process of setting up his company, called South Fin for leisure trips, as well as finalising essentials such as changing rooms and toilets. "We will launch in 10 days or so," he says.

Hanif has launched yet another recent venture: Fresh Fins, an initiative that lets people from Chennai order fresh fish online. "My intention is to help small boat fishermen make a better living," he

says. With less financial support from the Government and no access to facilities to store their catch, these fishermen often end up selling to middle-men for a pittance. "I want to take their catch directly to customers," he explains.

Right now, he sells catch from over 45 boats from Kanyakumari to Ennore and 90% of his team, right from call-centre executives to delivery persons, are from Kovalam.

There are 40 people in my team right now, and we deliver as far as Mogappair and Anna Nagar West," he says.

Apart from eliminating middlemen and ensuring small boat fishermen get a good price for their catch, Hanif wants to familiarise people

with seasonal fish and promote sustainable fishing.

"Customers should get used to the idea of eating what is local and seasonal," he says. "This way, they will be able to enjoy a wide range as opposed to the usual vanjiram that big boats bring from as far as Andhra Pradesh and Odisha."

For details, visit freshfins.in. To know more about the fishing trips call 9696089696.



IN SEASON

Anchovy
Indian whiting
Indian mackerel
Japanese threadfin bream
Sea bass
Croaker
Grouper

Go local Hanif wants to familiarise people with seasonal fish

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Official who refuted poll fraud claim fired

The DHS official had said the claims were 'either unsubstantiated or technically incoherent'

SIRIRAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON D.C.
In his latest effort to fight the outcome of a presidential election he is yet to concede, U.S. President Donald Trump fired senior Department of Homeland Security (DHS) official Christopher Krebs who had countered his claim that the election was rigged.

Mr. Trump announced the firing on Twitter.

The recent statement by Chris Krebs on the security of the 2020 Election was highly inaccurate, in that there were massive improprieties and fraud – including dead people voting, Poll Watchers not allowed into polling locations, 'glitches' in the voting machines which changed votes from Trump to Biden, late voting, and many more. Therefore, effective



Back in the day: Donald Trump shaking hands with DHS official Chris Krebs in 2018. ■ REUTERS

immediately, Chris Krebs has been terminated as Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), he said in a tweet, which Twitter marked as disputed.

Mr. Krebs has led the CISA since it was formed two years ago.

The President's allegations of "massive improprieties" are unsubstantiated. His campaign and some al-

lies have filed lawsuits in a number of battleground States, but none of these have thus far successfully overturned any results.

Earlier on Tuesday, Mr. Krebs had tweeted, "59 elec-

tion security experts all agree, 'in every case of which we are aware, these claims either have been unsubstantiated or are technically incoherent'."

On Monday, 59 scientists and officials – many of them computer scientists and security researchers – had released a letter stating that to their knowledge, there was no "credible evidence" that the outcome of the election in any State had been altered as a result of being technically compromised.

"Honored to serve. We did it right. Defend Today, Secure Tomorrow. #Protect2020," Mr. Krebs tweeted on Tuesday evening after he had been fired.

Mr. Krebs had told officials last week that he expected to be fired, as per reports in the American press.

Will return to nuclear deal if U.S. sanctions are lifted: Iran

Tehran's return to commitments can be done automatically'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TEHRAN

Iran will "automatically" return to its nuclear commitments if U.S. President-elect Joe Biden lifts sanctions imposed over the past two years, its Foreign Minister said Wednesday.

Tehran's return to its commitments "can be done automatically and needs no conditions or even negotiations," Mohammad Javad Zarif said in comments published in the state-run Iran daily.

Decades old U.S.-Iranian tensions escalated after U.S. President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew from a landmark nuclear agreement in 2018 and reimposed, then reinforced, crip-



Mohammad Javad Zarif

pling sanctions.

While Mr. Trump has sought to maximise pressure on Iran and isolate it globally, Mr. Biden has proposed to offer the Islamic republic a "credible path back to diplomacy".

Mr. Zarif argued that "America is obligated to implement Resolution 2231 as a

member of the United Nations and its Security Council," pointing to the UNSC resolution that enshrined the 2015 nuclear deal.

"If it does carry out this resolution and sanctions are lifted, and there are no obstacles to Iran's economic activities, then Iran will carry out" its obligations under the deal, he said.

Iran has since May 2019 gradually suspended most of its key obligations under the agreement.

Mr. Zarif described Mr. Biden as a "foreign affairs veteran" whom he has known for 30 years. Once in the White House, Mr. Biden could "lift all of these [sanctions] with three executive orders," he said.

U.K.'s Labour denies key post to Jeremy Corbyn

Anti-Semitism row in party intensifies

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

LONDON

The leader of Britain's main opposition Labour party on Wednesday refused to readmit his predecessor Jeremy Corbyn to its parliamentary ranks, intensifying a row over anti-Semitism.

Keir Starmer was elected leader in April, taking over from Mr. Corbyn after his thumping election defeat to U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Conservatives last December.

Mr. Starmer has vowed to root out anti-Semitism in the party that opponents alleged went unchecked and flourished under Mr. Corbyn. But six months into the job, the row shows no sign of abating.

Last month, a report by the U.K.'s Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) found Labour under Mr. Corbyn had broken the law in its "inexcusable" handling of anti-Semitism com-



Jeremy Corbyn

plaints. Mr. Corbyn had refused to accept all its findings. That prompted his immediate suspension pending an internal investigation, and the "whip" was withdrawn, meaning he could not sit with other Labour MPs in the House of Commons. But his party membership was restored on Tuesday by a party disciplinary panel.

Mr. Starmer nevertheless said he was not prepared to allow the socialist campaigner back into Labour's parliamentary ranks.

Pelosi to lead Democrats in U.S. House

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

Democratic lawmakers on Wednesday chose U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, 80, to lead the party into the Joe Biden era and preside over their narrow House majority as the most powerful person in Congress.

"Congratulations to @SpeakerPelosi, once again elected by House Democrats to be our fearless leader and nominee for Speaker of the House for the 117th Congress!" the Democratic caucus tweeted.

Ms. Pelosi, the chief nemesis of outgoing President Donald Trump in Congress, has led her House caucus since 2003.

A formal House floor vote for the speakership occurs in January after the new congressional session begins, and shortly before Mr. Biden takes office as the 46th U.S. President.

Michigan GOP backtracks, certifies results

The resolution in Wayne County propels Biden toward formal victory in State

ASSOCIATED PRESS
DETROIT

In an abrupt about-turn, Michigan's largest county on Tuesday night unanimously certified election results showing Democrat Joe Biden defeating U.S. President Donald Trump, hours after Republicans first blocked formal approval of voters' intentions.

The initial move was quickly condemned by Democrats, election experts and spectators at the Wayne County Board of Canvassers online meeting as a dangerous attempt to block the results of a free and fair election.

"We depend on democratic norms, including that the losers graciously accept defeat. That seems to be breaking down," said Joshua Douglas, a law professor at the University of Kentucky.

The State vote certification process is usually a routine task, and the ultimate resolution in Wayne County propels Mr. Biden toward



Up in arms: Supporters of President Donald Trump at a protest in Michigan last week. ■ AP

formal victory in Michigan. Still, Tuesday's chaotic developments are likely to sow more doubt among Mr. Trump's supporters in the election results and could galvanise Republicans in other States to try to look for ways to slow down the final steps in making his loss official.

Formal certification

Republicans are also trying to stop formal certification of the election results in other swing States, including Arizona, Nevada and Penn-

sylvania. Mr. Biden crushed Mr. Trump in Wayne County, a Democratic stronghold, by more than a 2-1 margin and won Michigan by 1,46,000 votes, according to unofficial results. His victory reversed Mr. Trump's surprise 2016 gains in the industrial Midwest and put Mr. Biden on the path to clearing the 270 Electoral College votes needed to win the White House.

Still, Mr. Trump and his allies have launched an array of attacks on the integrity of the election and numerous lawsuits aimed at slowing

U.S. to reduce troops in Iraq, Afghanistan

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

The U.S. will slash troop levels in Afghanistan and Iraq to their lowest in nearly 20 years, the Pentagon said on Tuesday, prompting security worries among allies and fear on Kabul's streets after President Donald Trump pledged to end conflicts abroad.

Rejecting concerns that precipitous drawdowns could give up security gains after years of fighting, Acting Defense Secretary Chris Miller said around 2,000 troops would be pulled from Afghanistan by January 15. Five hundred more would return from Iraq by the same date, leaving 2,500 in each country. Mr. Trump had made ending overseas wars one of his key promises and U.S. forces in Afghanistan had already been reduced from about 13,000 following a deal with the Taliban.

Who won the war over Karabakh?

Armenia and Azerbaijan agreed to end fighting, in a deal brokered by Russia

STANLEY JOHNY

After six weeks of fierce fighting, Armenia and Azerbaijan agreed to end military operations in and around Nagorno-Karabakh in a ceasefire brokered by Russian President Vladimir Putin. Some 2,000 people, including combatants and civilians, are estimated to have been killed in the war.

What led to the war?

In 1991 when the Soviet Union collapsed, the newly independent Armenia and Azerbaijan went to war over Nagorno-Karabakh, which had been an autonomous region within Azerbaijan during the Soviet years. Armenians have made historical claims over the enclave, which is largely populated by ethnic Armenians. By the time the all-out war came to an end in 1994, Armenia had captured Nagorno-Karabakh and seven surrounding districts from Azeri forces, which amounted to some 13% of Azerbaijan's territory.

In September, Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev launched the offensive vowing to take back Nagorno-Karabakh and other Armenian-occupied districts. In six weeks, Azeri forces, backed by Turkey-supplied armed drones and other equipment, cut through Armenian defences and retook territories, including some 40% of Nagorno-Karabakh itself.



hold. When Azerbaijan defeated Armenian troops and captured territories, Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan sought Russian

help. But President Vladimir Putin said the security guarantee is for Armenia, not for the Armenians in Nagorno-Karabakh. But Russia was apparently concerned about the rapid change in the status quo and the more assertive security role Turkey was playing in its backyard.

By the third week of October, Russia established small military outposts along the Armenian border, apparently to prevent the conflict from spilling into mainland Armenia and also to send a message to Baku. In the same week, Russia conducted a massive air strike in Syria's Idlib against Turkish

defences and retook territories, including some 40% of Nagorno-Karabakh itself.

EXPLAINER

Russia, which has a security agreement with Armenia, remained neutral in the early days of the war when Turkey threw its weight behind Azerbaijan. Russia brokered a ceasefire two weeks into the conflict, but it didn't

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
Directorate of Animal Husbandry, A.P. Vijayawada
E-Procurement Notice

Tender Notice No: 1768/P/YSR Chevya/2020, Dt: 18/11/2020
E-Procurement tenders are invited for Procurement of Milk animals, Pregnant Milk animals, Pregnant Heifers, & Heifers and transportation of animals for the years 2020-21 & 2021-22 from the date of finalization of tender as specified in the Tender document Terms and Conditions. For details visit <https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in> For any clarification, contact: Dr.N.Ramana Rao, O/o, Directorate of Animal Husbandry, Labbipet, Vijayawada-10, Phone No. 9490047359, DIPR 1386/CL, Dt: 18-11-2020

Sd/- Director

POLICE DEPARTMENT
Office of the Additional General of Police,
Police Computer Wing, 7th Floor, M.S.Building, Gate-1,
Dr. Ambedka Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001. Tel No.080-22943784
E-mail: adgpcw@ksp.gov.in

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

No.32/STS/ADGP/PCW/2019-20/call-3 Date: 17-11-2020
The tender are invited in "Two Cover System" as per Karnataka Transparency in public Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through e-Tender of Government of Karnataka website (www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in) for Supply and Install of following items required for Police stations of Police Department across the state.

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Particulars	Qty	Last date for submission of tender
1	No.32/STS/ADGP/PCW/2019-20/call-3	2KVA Online UPS	81	01-12-2020 by 1700 hrs

Tender forms containing technical specifications, can be downloaded from <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>. Those who are willing to implement the project must necessarily be registered in e-procurement portal. The training about e-procurement is being provided at e-procurement cell, e-Governance Department, M.S. Building, Dr. Ambedka Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001. The vendors may contact the helpline no: 080-46010000+22631200+68948777. For further details the vendors are requested to visit the website <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>. Tender document will be available on <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> from 17-11-2020

1) Downloading of Tender Document & last date of submission of Tender Document : From 17-11-2020 to 01-12-2020 before 1700 Hrs. 2) EMD amount : Rs.1,05,500/- (One lakh five thousand five hundred only)which shall be paid online through any of the following modes. A) Credit Card, b) Debit Card, c) National Electronic Fund Transfer (NEFT), d) Detail of the payment mode as mentioned in the bid document (e-payment document available on website).

3) Pre-bid Meeting : 23-11-2020 at 12.30 hrs. 4) Technical Bid : 04-12-2020 at 12.30 hrs. 5) Commercial Bid : 07-12-2020 at 12.30 hrs.

Sd/- Additional General of Police,
Police Computer Wing, Bengaluru.

COVID-19 - DON'T SPREAD RUMOURS. ACT RESPONSIBLY, AVOID INFECTION-NOT THE INFECTED.



भारतीय विज्ञान शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान मोहली
(विज्ञान अनुसंधान भारत सरकार द्वारा स्थापित)

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Sector-81, Knowledge City, PO-Manauli, S.A.S. Nagar Mohali, Punjab-140306. website : www.iisermohali.ac.in

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Last date for receipt of online applications is 31.12.2020

सी.एस.आर.आर - केंद्रीय विद्युतसंचयन अनुसंधान संस्थान

काराकूपी / Karakuppé - 630 003.

ONLINE INTERVIEW **NOTIFICATION No. PS/05/2020**

Position & Stipend Essential Qualification Age limit

Senior Project Associate Ph.D. in Engineering Sciences 40 Years

Project Associate-II B.E. / B.Tech in Chemical Engineering with 55% marks (50% marks for SC / ST) with 2 years experience in Research and Development in Industrial and Academic Institutions or Science and

MARKET WATCH

	PRICE	CHANGE
Sensex	44180	0.52
US Dollar	74.19	0.36
Gold	50253	0.27
Brent oil	44.33	2.09

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	391.10	-1.45
Asian Paints	2195.75	8.10
Axia Bank	636.30	7.50
Bajaj Auto	3037.90	-7.25
Bajaj Finserv	7789.95	424.60
Bharti Airtel	4653.75	165.75
BPCL	383.05	-11.60
Britannia Ind	3500.35	-9.45
Cipla	742.95	0.40
Coal India	128.25	-0.45
Divis Lab	3451.80	24.80
Dr Reddys Lab	4703.80	-80.35
Eicher Motors	2614.15	72.45
GAIL (India)	93.95	0.40
Gasim Ind	848.95	6.05
HCL Tech.	814.30	-0.70
HDFC	2364.90	15.90
HDFC Bank	1408.70	0.25
HDFC Life	664.80	-5.25
Hero MotoCorp	2983.00	-48.30
Hindalco	219.35	5.80
Hind Unilever	2132.10	-45.50
ICICI Bank	497.65	11.25
IndusInd Bank	828.30	44.15
Infosys	1110.55	-13.15
Indian Oil Corp	85.25	0.30
ITC	184.05	-3.30
JSW Steel	342.60	1.65
Kotak Bank	1830.60	33.95
L&T	1148.15	67.25
M&M	705.75	68.50
Maruti Suzuki	7054.30	72.85
Nestle India Ltd.	16872.60	-110.25
NTPC	88.30	-0.40
ONGC	71.95	0.65
PowerGrid Corp	185.40	-1.40
Reliance Ind	1987.20	-6.05
SBI Life	857.95	-5.20
State Bank	252.00	11.80
Shree Cement	24069.25	79.50
Sun Pharma	513.00	-5.40
Tata Motors	173.50	15.50
Tata Steel	517.20	-5.50
TCI	2626.65	-39.40
Tech Mahindra	836.10	-9.15
Titan	1280.10	21.85
UltraTech Cement	4927.50	18.45
UPL	426.30	-3.35
Wipro	345.30	-3.40

EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	74.00	74.32
Euro	87.83	88.21
British Pound	98.22	98.65
Japanese Yen (100)	71.14	71.45
Chinese Yuan	11.29	11.34
Swiss Franc	81.21	81.56
Singapore Dollar	55.15	55.40
Canadian Dollar	56.59	56.86
Malaysian Ringgit	18.09	18.19
Australian Dollar	54.10	54.30

Source: Indian Bank

IN BRIEF



Wipro aims to accelerate mergers and acquisitions

BENGALURU
Wipro aims to accelerate the pace of mergers and acquisitions to acquire newer capabilities, expertise and market positioning, said CEO Thierry Delaporte. "We are in a market where size matters. We want to bring in better capabilities, expertise and market position. M&As will be a strategy in this direction," Mr. Delaporte said in a virtual analysts' meet on Wednesday.

Rising steel prices deal blow to exporters: EEP

HYDERABAD
Engineering exporters body EEP India on Wednesday said a sharp rise in steel prices in recent months had dealt a crippling impact to exporters. "Exporters are deeply concerned... steel prices have increased from ₹35,000 per tonne to ₹42,000, in the past six months for a product like Hot Rolled Coil, an essential raw material for the engineering industry," chairman Mahesh Desai said.

L&T bags order to supply mining gear to Tata Steel

MUMBAI
The construction and mining equipment business of Larsen & Toubro has secured one of its biggest orders from Tata Steel to supply 46 units of Komatsu mining equipment. "Komatsu's superior products and L&T's seamless support over the years, paved the way for securing this prestigious order and we look forward to partnering India's largest steel producer in their growth journey," S.N. Subrahmanyam, CEO & MD, L&T said.

Hero MotoCorp retails 14 lakh units in festive sales

NEW DELHI
Hero MotoCorp on Wednesday said it retailed more than 14 lakh units of motorcycles and scooters during the just concluded festive season. "The good retail off-take during the 32-day festival period was 98% of the festive season volumes sold by the company in the previous year (2019) and 103% compared to the same period in 2018," Hero MotoCorp said in a statement.

Vedanta bids for BPCL, major foreign player too in the race

Expression of interest is aimed at evaluating synergies, says mining group

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI
Mining conglomerate Vedanta has put in a preliminary expression of interest (EoI) for buying the government's stake in Bharat Petroleum Corp. Ltd. (BPCL), for which a major foreign player too is said to be in race.

A special purpose vehicle floated by the BSE-listed Vedanta Ltd. and its London-based parent Vedanta Resources submitted an EoI before the close of deadline on November 16.

"Vedanta's EoI for BPCL is to evaluate potential synergies with our existing oil and gas business," the company said in a statement. "The EoI is at a preliminary stage and



Thumbs down: BPCL's share price has plunged by close to a fourth since the sale was approved in Nov. 2019. ■REUTERS

exploratory in nature."

Sources in the department handling the sale said that a major foreign player was among the 3-4 entities whose EoIs were received by the close of the bidding on November 16. The other po-

tential investors are foreign funds but their identity was not immediately disclosed.

The government is selling its entire 52.98% stake in India's second-largest fuel retailer as part of plans to raise a record ₹2.1 lakh crore from

disinvestment proceeds in 2020-21. But, the BPCL share price has plunged by close to a fourth since the sale was approved in November last year.

At Wednesday's closing price of ₹383.20 on the BSE, the government's stake in BPCL is worth just over ₹44,000 crore. Also, the acquirer would have to make an open offer for buying another 26% from the public, which would cost about ₹21,600 crore.

Vedanta's interest in BPCL stems from its \$8.67 billion acquisition of oil producer Cairn India about a decade ago. The company produces oil from oilfields in Rajasthan.

Acquisition of LVB to boost DBS India business'

DBS to gain retail, SME clients: Moody's

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) draft scheme to amalgamate the troubled Lakshmi Vilas Bank into DBS Bank India will strengthen the business position of the wholly owned unit of Singapore's DBS Bank Ltd. in India by adding new retail and small and medium-sized customers, Moody's Investors Service said in a statement.

"We estimate that DBS India's customer deposits and net loans will increase by about 50%-70%... LVB will also add around 500 branches to DBS India's 27 branches," Moody's said. It said the acquisition would be positive for depositors



and senior creditors of LVB as the bank would benefit from parental support from DBS, "a very strong bank."

LVB's rescue process flagged deficiencies in the bank resolution mechanism as the moratorium restricts full and timely payments, thus leading to a temporary default, Moody's added.

AIBOC mints PSB suitor in place of DBS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

A day after the RBI put in public domain a draft scheme of the merger of Lakshmi Vilas Bank (LVB) with the subsidiary of Singapore-based DBS, public sector banks' (PSBs') officer union AIBOC on Tuesday said the amalgamation was not in national interest, and demanded that the merger be consummated with a PSB.

The proposed merger of cash-strapped LVB with DBS Bank India seemed to be a ploy to provide entry of foreign banks into the country in a big way, All India Bank Officers' Confederation (AIBOC) president Sunil Kumar said.

"There is no run on the bank's deposits," T.N. Manoharan, the administrator, told journalists on a conference call. "As an administrator, I will cater to the interests of depositors. There is sufficient liquidity in the

Apple halves App Store commission

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

iPhone maker Apple on Wednesday said it had slashed its App Store commission by half to 15% for small businesses earning up to \$1 million (about ₹7.4 crore) per year on the platform. In the past, Apple and Google have been criticised for the high commissions charged from app developers.

In a statement, Apple said the new developer programme will accelerate innovation and help small businesses and independent developers propel their businesses forward.

The move also assumes significance as Apple has been aggressively expanding its presence in India, which is home to a large developer base.

IMF foresees legacy scars from COVID-19 crisis

Debt to hurt future activity: Gopinath

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Despite the hopes of a COVID-19 vaccine emerging soon, the global economy remained on tenterhooks as new cases were surging worldwide, Gita Gopinath, chief economist at the International Monetary Fund (IMF), said on Wednesday.

Observing that the world economy hadn't returned to pre-pandemic levels yet despite a rebound in recent months, Ms. Gopinath said that the crisis triggered by the virus was likely to scar future economic activity as companies, governments, students and the worst-hit sections of the workforce would have to cope with the pandemic's 'legacies'.



Gita Gopinath

ments with large amounts of debt. We have a generation of students impacted by loss of schooling, the job market is recovering in some places strongly, but if you look at low-income workers, women and young workers, they are very hard hit," Ms. Gopinath said.

'Lives and livelihoods'

"The pandemic has had a tremendous cost in terms of lives and livelihoods lost. While the world economy has rebounded from the depth of its collapse in the first half of this year, we are still far from returning back to the pre-pandemic levels in almost all parts of the world," she said in a discussion at the Bloomberg New Economy Forum.

"Indeed, there has been positive news on the vaccine front, which makes us hopeful but that said, we are right now still living through an increased spread of the virus with record number of cases in the world, and that is going to impact economic activity. We also have to keep in mind there will be many legacies from this crisis that will weigh on economic activity in the future," added Ms. Gopinath.

Stressed balance sheets

"There will be corporates with stressed balance sheets, there will be govern-

Liquidity is sufficient, says LVB's administrator

Depositors' requirements will be met

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

The RBI-appointed administrator of Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd. (LVB) on Wednesday stressed that the bank, which was placed under a 30-day moratorium on Tuesday, had adequate funds to meet depositors' requirements and would emerge stronger once the Indian unit of Singapore's DBS Bank completed its takeover of the private lender.

"There is no run on the bank's deposits," T.N. Manoharan, the administrator, told journalists on a conference call. "As an administrator, I will cater to the interests of depositors. There is sufficient liquidity in the

bank and the needs of depositors will be taken care of," he added.

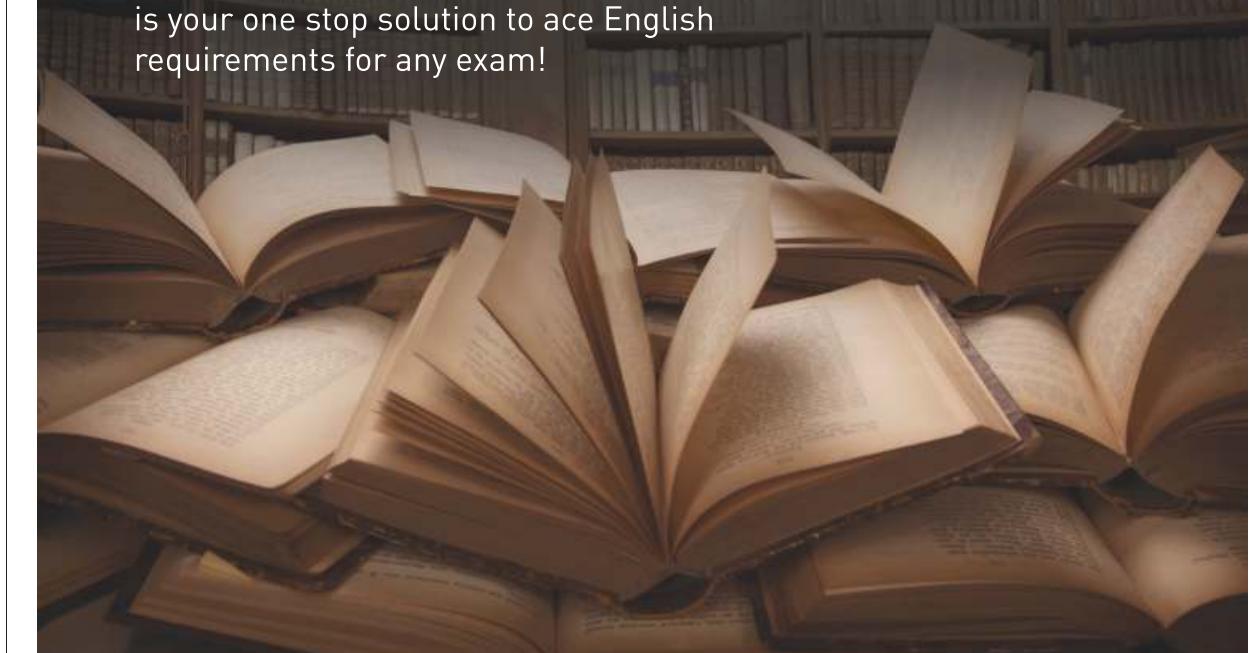
Assuring customers that LVB's operations would return to normal by Thursday, Mr. Manoharan said the bank had got into trouble after it shifted focus from retail to corporate lending and found many of the corporate loan accounts turning into non-performing assets.

Earlier in the day, communication prevailed at some branches of LVB in the city with depositors, including several senior citizens, unable to withdraw even the ₹25,000 allowed under the moratorium as the bank took its IT system offline to update it.

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Tough going: Reigning champion Stefanos Tsitsipas had to dig deep to put it past Andrey Rublev. •AP

India's England series could have spectators

ECB unveils fixtures for 2021 season

CRICKET

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

LONDON
A five-match Test series against India will headline England's bumper home summer in 2021 as the country's cricket board on Wednesday unveiled a provisional fixture with plans to get crowds back into the stadia. The matches against India are scheduled for August-September.

Earlier this year, England hosted Pakistan and the West Indies in twin Test series behind closed doors due to the raging COVID-19 situation.

During their last tour in 2018, Virat Kohli-led India lost the Test series 1-4.

India's provisional schedule for 2021 Test series: Aug. 4-8: 1st Test at Trent Bridge, Aug. 12-16: 2nd at Lord's, Aug. 25-29: 3rd at Headingley, Sept. 2-6: 4th at the Oval, Sept. 10-14: 5th at Old Trafford.

England to tour Pakistan after 16 years

PRESS TRUST INDIA

England will make its first trip to Pakistan in 16 years for a two-match T20I series next October as part of a reciprocal agreement reached between the two cricket boards.

The two games, to be held in Karachi on October 14 and 15, will form part of the 2021 T20 World Cup build-up.

Both the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) and its counterparts from Pakistan on Wednesday confirmed that the tour will take place just before the mega-event in India.

According to sources in BCCI, Bumrah and Shami's

pandemic, before welcoming Australia for a series of limited-over matches.

However, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) now seems eager to stage the return of fans into the playing arena from the next season onwards depending on the COVID-19 situation.

The two games, to be held in Karachi on October 14 and 15, will form part of the 2021 T20 World Cup build-up.

Both the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) and its counterparts from Pakistan on Wednesday confirmed that the tour will take place just before the mega-event in India.

According to sources in BCCI, Bumrah and Shami's

workload management is paramount for head coach Ravi Shastri and bowling coach Bharath Arun in case Ishant Sharma is not available for the first Test.

The first red ball warm-up game at Drummoyne Oval will be played between De-

mber 6-8. But, India's second and third T20Is will be coinciding with the first warm-up game for the Tests.

"If both (Bumrah and Shami) play the T20 Internationals (on Dec 4, 6 and 8), then they will have one warm-up match less which I don't think the team management will fancy at this moment," a source said.

Tye for Richardson

Fast bowler Andrew Tye on Wednesday replaced Kane Richardson in Australia's

squad for the upcoming ODI and T20 series against India after the latter decided to be

with his family in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ashwa Jauhar for feature event on opening day

HYDERABAD: Ashwa Jauhar, who is well prepared, has an edge over his rivals in the Doddla Pratap Chander Reddy Memorial Million (1,100m), the main attraction of the opening day's races of the Hyderabadi Winter Season 2020-21 here on Thursday (Nov.19).

1 BEGINNERS PLATE (1,100m), rated 20 to 45 (Cat.III), 12.55 p.m.; 1. Mehrzad (13) Gaurav Singh 60, 2. Waiwoma (2) A.A. Vikrant 57.5, 3. Brilliant View (17) Suraj Narredu 57, 4. Elmira (12) A.S. A.nandes 57, 5. Kapell Bruek (8) Kiran Naidu 57, 6. Stepper (7) Rafique Sk 57, 7. Merry Dane (1) Gopal Singh 55.8, 8. Elegant Stroke (1) Nekhat Singh 55, 9. Four One Four (Late Saffra) (14) Kuldeep Singh 55, 10. Let It Be Me (15) G. Naresh 54.5, 11. That's My Speed (5) Akshay Kumar 54.5, 12. Twenty Twenty (8) Abbay Singh 54.5, 13. Magic Street (10) Darshan R N 54, 14. Blue Valentine (4) Surya Prakash 53, 15. Capricornic (9) Ashad Asbar 53, 16. Hip Hop (16) C.P. Bopanna 53, 17. Negress Princess (3) Jodha R S 53 and 18. Sun Dancer (6) Afroz Khan 52.5.

1. BRILLIANT VIEW, 2. ELMIRA, 3. WAITOMA

2 DECAN STAR PLATE (DIV. I) (1,200m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat.II), 1.30: 1. Her Legacy (12) Kiran Naidu 60, 2. Ashwa Yashobhan (7) Rafique Sk 58.5, 3. Loch Stella (11) C.P. Bopanna 58, 4. Rapid Fire (10) Sindhuja Singh 57.5, 5. Sitara (5) Akshay Kumar 57, 6. Beyond Limits (1) Santosh Raj R N 55.5, 7. La Mer (3) Md. Ismail 54, 8. Meritocracy (9) B.R. Kumar 54, 9. Blazer (8) P. Trevor 52.5, 10. Soul

Empress (2) Gaddam 52.5, 11. Conscious Gift (6) A. Sandesh 51.5, 12. Star Gazer (13) Nekhat Singh 51.5 and 13. Dancing Doll (4) Afroz Khan 51.

1. SITARA, 2. CONSCIOUS GIFT, 3. BLAZER

3 GRAND ENTRY PLATE (DIV. II) (1,400m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 2.05: 1. Galloping Gangster (8) Santosh Raj N R 62.5, 2. Dandy Man (2) Suraj Narredu 61.5, 3. That's My Magic (5) Md. Ismail 61, 4. Premier Action (1) Akshay Kumar 55.5, 5. Ayur Shakti (10) Irvan Singh 57, 6. N R I Vision (9) Abbay Singh 56, 7. Ice Warrior (6) Nekhat Singh 54.5, 8. Lombardy (7) Trevor 52, 9. Mark My Day (3) B.R. Kumar 51 and 10. Sublime (4) Gopal Singh 55, 10. Let It Be Me (15) G. Naresh 54.5, 11. That's My Speed (5) Akshay Kumar 54.5, 12. Twenty Twenty (8) Abbay Singh 54.5, 13. Magic Street (10) Darshan R N 54, 14. Blue Valentine (4) Surya Prakash 53, 15. Capricornic (9) Ashad Asbar 53, 16. Hip Hop (16) C.P. Bopanna 53, 17. Negress Princess (3) Jodha R S 53 and 18. Sun Dancer (6) Afroz Khan 52.5.

1. LOMBARDY, 2. DANDY MAN, 3. GALLOPING GANGSTER

4 DECAN STAR PLATE (DIV. II) (1,200m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 2.40: 1. Asteria (1) Kiran Naidu 60, 2. City of Blossom (6) Ashad Asbar 59, 3. Makram (Late Rahil) (13) Afroz Khan 58, 4. Strategis (10) Irvan Singh 57.5, 5. Marima Del Rey (3) Naresh 56.5, 6. Max (2) S.Zervan 55.5, 7. Esteva (8) Akshay Kumar 55, 8. Flamingo Fame (4) C.P. Bopanna 53, 10. Sporting Smile (5) Jitendra Singh 53, 11. Dunkirk (7) Darshan R N 52, 12. Wah Ms Zara (12) Rafique Sk 52 and 13. Best In Show (11) Kuldeep Singh 51.

1. ESTEVA, 2. CITY OF BLOSSOM, 3. MAX

5 SRISAILAM PLATE (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, (Cat. III), 3.15: 1. Linewiler (18) Afroz Khan 60, 2.

Big Brave (11) Gopal Singh 57, 6. Lockhart (10) Ajeeth Kumar 57, 7. Rhythm Selection (1) Late No Compromise (5) Ashad Asbar 56.5, 8. Star Of Flora (7) A. Sandesh 54, 9. Mr. Shanghai (6) Darshan R N 53.5, 10. Alshwa (9) Suraj Narredu 53 and 11. Mind Reader (2) B.R. Kumar 52.5.

1. ASHWA BRAVO, 2. GUIDING FORCE, 3 ARTISTRY

6 DODLA PRATAP CHANDER REDDY MEMORIAL MILLION (1,100m), (Terms) Maiden 2-yo only, 3.50: 1. Akido (1) Nekhat Singh 56, 2. Ashwa Jauhar (5) Suraj Narredu 56, 3. Costello (3) S. Zervan 56, 4. Greek's Ace (1) Ashad Asbar 56, 5. Horse O' War (9) Gaurav Singh 56, 6. Jarvis (10) P. Trevor 56, 7. Quality Warrior (6) Ashok Kumar 51, 17. Break The Ice (8) Jitendra Singh 50.5 and 18. Royal Valentine (11) Nekhat Singh 50.5.

1. GOOD CONNECTION, 2. AINTREE, 3. HIDDEN HOPE

7 GRAND ENTRY PLATE (DIV. I) (1,400m), rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 4.25: 1. Artistry (8) Gaurav Singh 62.5, 2. Egyptian Prince (3) Surya Prakash 61.5, 3. Guiding Force (1) Kiran Naidu 61.5, 4. British Empress (4) Rohit Kumar 60, 5.

Big Brave (11) Gopal Singh 57, 6. Lockhart (10) Ajeeth Kumar 57, 7. Rhythm Selection (1) Late No Compromise (5) Ashad Asbar 56.5, 8. Star Of Flora (7) A. Sandesh 54, 9. Mr. Shanghai (6) Darshan R N 53.5, 10. Alshwa (9) Suraj Narredu 53 and 11. Mind Reader (2) B.R. Kumar 52.5.

1. OWN OPINION PLATE (1,200m), Maiden 3-yo and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 5.00: 1. Unstoppable (14) Deepak Singh 60, 2. Amrya (17) P. Trevor 59, 3. Belle Springs (2) A. Sandesh 59, 4. Just Incredible (5) Darshan R N 58.5, 5. Machismo (Late Rathaphamithi) (8) Gaurav Singh 58, 6. Beautiful Luv (3) Ashad Asbar 57.5, 7. Fashion Universe (6) Ashok Kumar 57.5, 8. Always Success (4) Kingfisher Singh 57, 9. That's My Star (8) Md. Ismail 57, 10. Xfinity (16) Afrach Khan 57, 11. Africanus (7) S. Zervan 55.5, 12. Due Diligence (1) Neeraj 55.5, 13. Melting Ice (9) Nekhat Singh 55.5, 14. Millennium (15) Ajit Singh 55.5, 15. Misty River (13) Irvan Singh 55.5, 16. Star Of Fashion (11) C.P. Bopanna 55.5, 17. Moringa (12) Ajeeth Kumar 55 and 18. Turf Winner (10) G. Naresh 55, 1. FASHION UNIVERSE, 2. BELLE SPRINGS, 3. AMRYA

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Mini jackpot: (i) 2, 3, 4 & 5; (ii) 5, 6, 7 & 8.

Treble: (i) 1, 2 & 3; (ii) 3, 4 & 5; (iii) 6, 7 & 8.

Tanala: All races.

Ferran Torres grabbed a hat-trick as Spain condemned Germany to its worst defeat in 89 years on Tuesday, winning 6-0 in Seville to qualify for the UEFA Nations League Finals and join France, which beat Sweden 4-2.

"This has been a black day for us," admitted coach Joachim Loew after Germany's heaviest defeat since losing by same margin to Austria in 1931.

Germany came into its final game in League A, Group 4 on top, a point clear of Spain, and only needed a draw to qualify for the Finals in October next year.

But Alvaro Morata headed Spain in front in the 17th minute, Torres crashed in the second on 33 minutes and City teammate Rodri headed in to make it 3-0 before the end of a first half in which it lost

65) lost to Portugal 3 (Ruben Dias 52, 90, Joao Felix 60); France 4 (Giroud 16, 59, Pavard 36, Coman 90+5) bt Sweden 2 (Claesson 5, Quaison 88).

Group 4: Spain 6 (Morata 17, Ferran Torres 33, 55, 71, Rodri 38, Oyarzabal 89) bt Germany 0.

Group D: Group 1: Malta 1 (Guillamer 54) drew with Faroe Islands 1 (Jonsson 70);

Group 2: Gibraltar 1 (Branle 17-09) drew with Liechtenstein 1 (Frick 44).

Important results: League A: Group 3: Croatia 2 (Kovacic 29,

65) lost to Portugal 3 (Ruben Dias 52, 90, Joao Felix 60); France 4 (Giroud 16, 59, Pavard 36, Coman 90+5) bt Sweden 2 (Claesson 5, Quaison 88).

Group 4: Spain 6 (Morata 17, Ferran Torres 33, 55, 71, Rodri 38, Oyarzabal 89) bt Germany 0.

At Montevideo: Uruguay 0 lost to Brazil 2 (Arthur 33, Richardson 45).

At Quito: Ecuador 6 (Arboleda 7, Mené Delgado 9, Estrada Martínez 32, Arreaga 39, Plata 78, Estupián 90+1) bt Colombia 1 (Rodríguez 45+1-pen).

At Caracas: Venezuela 2 (Mago 9, Rondon 81) bt Chile 1 (Vidal 15).

At Asuncion: Paraguay 2 (A. Romero 19-pen, Kaku 72) drew with Bolivia 2 (Moreno 41, B. Cespedes 45).

At Lima: Peru 0 lost to Argentina 2 (Gonzalez 17, Martinez 28).

FAITH

Protecting the good

Lord Krishna says in the Gita that He comes to protect the good, kill the wicked and to establish dharma. Dharma is never destroyed totally. But it is sometimes threatened, when evil people gain the upper hand, and torment the virtuous. At such times, He comes to the rescue of the good. The main purpose of His avatars is to save the good, said M.A. Venkatakrishnan in a discourse. To accomplish this, naturally He must kill the evil ones, and automatically dharma again regains supremacy. That is why He talks of protecting the good first, before He talks of killing undesirable people and re-establishing dharma.

There are four types of people who seek Him, Krishna says. They are as follows: those who have lost their wealth and want to regain it; those who want to acquire wealth; those who want to experience the self, and those who surrender to Him, for they seek nothing but the Lord Himself. The last category are jnānis, and Krishna says they are very dear to Him. He says that although all His devotees are important to Him, it is the jnānis who rank the highest.

Protecting such people becomes imperative, when they are threatened, and hence the Lord takes avatars. When He begins the task of protecting the good, those who are ill disposed towards the good are naturally destroyed, just as flourishing rice crops crush emerging weeds and prevent them from spreading. There is a sloka that says that when Rama was born as the son of Dasaratha, the Vedas too arrived, through the words of sage Prachetas (Valmiki). In other words, through Valmiki, the Vedas appeared as the Ramayana. Equally, it can be said that when the Lord took birth as Krishna, the Vedas appeared as the Vishnu Purana, and as Srimad Bhagavatam.

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