



Two Navy personnel killed in glider crash near bridge in Kochi

Page 8



Donald Trump 'much better' but says next days 'the real test'

Page 11



Watson, du Plessis help Super Kings breeze past Kings XI

Page 13

## NEARBY



Delhi schools to stay shut till Oct. 31: Sisodia

NEW DELHI

Refuting reports of partial reopening of schools in the wake of fresh guidelines by the Centre, Delhi Deputy CM Manish Sisodia, who also holds the education portfolio, on Sunday tweeted that all schools in the city will remain shut till October 31 in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

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## Take action against police officers: Delhi HC

NEW DELHI

The Delhi HC has ordered the Commissioner of Police to take "serious and effective" action against its officers who neglected the complaint of a woman to trace her missing daughter as she was "poor". "The petitioner works as a maid and her complaint/FIR was neglected," the HC said.

CITY ▶ PAGE 2

EDUCATION PLUS ▶ PAGE 5

# One in five Indians may be vaccinated by July 2021: govt.

States told to prepare priority list of beneficiaries, says Health Minister Vardhan

### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The government on Sunday indicated that about 25 crore individuals are likely to be inoculated with a double dose of the COVID-19 vaccine by next July.

The States have been asked to prepare a list by month-end of "priority population groups" for vaccination. These would include frontline health workers – both government as well as private sector doctors, nurses, paramedics, sanitary staff, ASHA workers, surveillance officers and others involved in the tracing, testing and treatment of patients.

"The Centre is working on plans for building capacities in human resources, training, supervision, etc., on a massive scale and roughly estimates to receive and utilise 400-500 million doses, covering approximately 20-25 crore people by July 2021," said Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan, adding, "All this is under various stages of finalisation."

Dr. Vardhan was speaking at his weekly social media interaction, Sunday Samvad.

The States had also been asked to submit details of cold chain facilities and related infrastructure required down to the block level, the Minister said.



No distancing here: Hundreds of people are seen on the busy Ranganathan street in T. Nagar, Chennai, on Sunday, with only a few seen wearing masks. ■ B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

There are three prominent vaccine candidates being tested in India, only one of which, Covishield, has reached phase-3 trials. Covishield, developed by Oxford University and pharma major AstraZeneca, is being tested in India by the Serum Institute of India (SII), Pune.

The SII has committed to producing 200 million doses for India and other low- and middle-income countries as the vaccine to be proven successful and cleared by regulators.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

## FinMin says virus past peak, predicts growth

### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

India's COVID-19 infections may have already peaked last month, setting the stage for a "further push up the frontiers of economic recovery", the Union Finance Ministry said on Sunday, listing several indicators from September that "allude to a steady recovery across almost all sectors".

The economic division of the Finance Ministry has pointed to several green shoots from the months of August and September, which combined with the healthy monsoon, augur well for a recovery after India's growth slipped by 23.9% in the first quarter of 2020-21.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

## + India-China talks on Oct. 12

### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

India and China are scheduled to hold the 7th round of Corps Commander talks to work out measures for disengagement and de-escalation along the disputed border in eastern Ladakh.

The talks are scheduled

on October 12 and are likely to be attended by two Lieutenant Generals from the Indian side, a defence source said. Lt. Gen. Harinder Singh, 14 Corps Commander, is set to be replaced by Lt. Gen. P.G.K. Menon in mid-October.

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### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI

The All India United Democratic Front, led by Maulana Badruddin Ajmal, will contest the 2021 Assam Assembly election in alliance with the Congress and the Left Front.

"The meeting was de-

layed because of the COVID-19 restrictions. Our president gave his assent to joining hands with the Congress and other like-minded, secular political parties that have opposed the Citizenship [Amendment] Act," AIUDF spokesperson said.

DETAILS ON ▶ PAGE 10

## AIUDF, Cong. join hands

### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

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## BJP starts 'Grah Sampark' campaign

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

The BJP conducted a door to door 'Grah Sampark' programme in several villages in the Capital's rural belt on Sunday.

BJP Delhi president Adesh Gupta, Lop Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, MPs Manoj Tiwari, Meenakshi Lekhi, Ramesh Bidhuri, Pravesh Sahib Singh, Gautam Gambhir and other senior leaders addressed Kisan Panchayat in villages.

The party is undertaking the programme to educate Delhi's farmers and dispel alleged propaganda against the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020. The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Act 2020, and The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act 2020.

Programme convener Kuljeet Singh Chahal said Grah Sampark Abhiyan will continue till October 15.

# 'Take action against officers for neglecting woman's complaint'

Police did not act upon her complaint to trace her daughter as they were "poor"

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH  
NEW DELHI



The Delhi High Court has ordered the Commissioner of Police here to take "serious and effective" action against its officers who neglected the complaint of a woman to trace her missing daughter as she was "poor".

"We are not only anguished but also disgusted at the manner in which the police carry out the investigation in such cases, particularly when it involves the poor," a Bench of Justice Vipin Sanghi and Justice Rajnish Bhatnagar noted.

"The petitioner [mother] works as a maid and her complaint/FIR was, therefore, neglected and not acted upon with the urgency that it deserves," the Bench said.

"The action taken against those found guilty of negligence and dereliction of duty should be such that it sends message to the entire

girl was verified from the school record, which shows that she is 16-years-old. Mr. Mehra said she got married to one Sandeep on the basis of the date of birth in her Aadhaar Card, which was incorrect.

The court had then opined that it was inclined to transfer the case to transfer the investigation to the Anti Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU), Crime Branch, as she is a minor and, has been missing for nearly four months.

### Girl found in Hathras

On September 29, when the court took the case again, the Delhi Police filed a status report stating that she has been recovered from Hathras in Uttar Pradesh. The girl was produced in court, where it was also revealed that she was three months pregnant.

The police said Sandeep is in judicial custody. Her mother said she wishes to

take the minor home but the latter refused. Considering the fact that the girl is a minor, the Bench said, "We cannot let her go anywhere according to her wish."

It directed that she should continue to be housed at Naresh Niketan where she should also be provided counselling so that she is able to take responsible decision with regard to the continuation or discontinuation of her pregnancy.

The court then noted that despite Sandeep being named in the FIR, no serious effort was made to locate her. It was only when the petition was filed and the court called for transfer of the investigation to AHTU (Crime) that the girl was recovered.

"This delay on the part of the police in carrying out effective investigation has ruined not only the life of the girl but also the accused and put in dark the future of the unborn child," the Bench said.

### Key factors

**Real-life considerations for court while deciding bail**

**Age of the minor victim:** The younger the victim, the more heinous the offence alleged

**Age of the accused:** The older the accused, the more heinous the offence alleged

**Comparative age of victim and accused:** The more their age difference, the more the element of perversions in the offence alleged



**Familial relationship:** The closer such relationship, the more odious the offence alleged

### WHAT DOES SECTION 29 OF THE POCSO ACT SAY

When a person is prosecuted for committing an offence of sexual assault against a minor, the special court trying the case "shall presume" the accused to be guilty

# Section 29 of POCSO Act applicable only after trial begins: HC

Question over presumption of guilt cropped up when the court was hearing bail plea of a man in a sexual assault case

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has ruled that the presumption of guilt engrafted in Section 29 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act gets triggered and applies only once trial begins, that is after charges are framed against the accused.

Section 29 of the POCSO Act says that when a person is prosecuted for committing an offence of sexual assault against a minor, the special

court trying the case "shall presume" the accused to be guilty.

### Proving innocence

This reverse burden on the accused to prove his innocence was incorporated in the POCSO Act keeping in view the low conviction rate of sexual offences against children.

The question of whether the presumption of guilt applies only at the stage of trial or does it also apply when a

bail plea is being considered cropped up while hearing the bail plea of a 24-year-old man arrested for alleged sexual assault of a minor.

Justice Anup Jairam Bhambhani clarified that if a bail plea is being considered before charges have been framed, Section 29 has no application.

"Trial" commences when charges are framed against an accused and not before that, Justice Bhambhani said.

Only at the stage when

charges are framed does the court apply its judicial mind to whether there is enough evidence on record to frame a precise allegation, which the accused must answer, Justice Bhambhani said.

### Disclosing one's defence

"Therefore, it is only once charges are framed that the accused knows exactly what he is alleged to be guilty of; and therefore, what guilt he is required to rebut," he said, adding an accused cannot be

asked to disprove his guilt even before the foundational allegations with supporting evidence that suggest guilt are placed by the prosecution before the court.

"It would be anathema to fundamental criminal jurisprudence to ask the accused to disclose his defence; or, worse still, to adduce evidence in his defence even before the prosecution has marshalled its evidence," the High Court said.

Justice Bhambhani also set

out fresh norms while deciding a bail plea at the post-charge stage. "In addition to the nature and quality of the evidence before it, the court would also factor in certain real-life considerations," Justice Bhambhani said.

This includes whether the offence alleged involved threat, intimidation, violence or brutality. Also the court, hearing the bail would consider, whether the offence was repeated against the victim.

## Four arrested for extortion, posing as BSES employees

'Accused were ex-workers of power firm'

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Four men have been arrested for allegedly posing as employees of a power distribution company to extort money from a man by telling him that there was a complaint against him for tampering with an electricity meter installed at his house in Uttam Nagar, the police said on Sunday.

The accused – Rohit (34), Lalit (30), Vinay Kumar (30) and Rahul Attri (27) – told the police that they used to work in BSES. After losing their jobs during the lockdown, they hatched a plan to extort money from people through fraudulent ways.

### Gold recovered

The police have recovered ₹3,000 and gold earrings, belonging to the victim's mother, from the accused. The incident happened on September 22 at 12.30 p.m. when the accused came to Sonu's house and introduced themselves as employees of the power distribution company.

Two of the accused started checking the electric meter and told Sonu about a 'tampering in the electricity meter'. They threatened him by saying that he will be punished if a police complaint is filed. Meanwhile, another accused told Sonu to pay ₹7 lakh to avoid consequences, said an officer.

When Sonu expressed his inability to pay the amount, they reduced the amount to ₹3 lakh. Sonu told them that was jobless and will not be able to pay



Accused in police custody  
• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

more than ₹30,000-₹40,000, the officer said.

One of the accused then demanded ornaments from Sonu's mother. When she denied, they took away her two gold earrings. The accused then took Sonu in their car and drove him to a nearby ATM from where they forced him to withdraw ₹25,000. They also took ₹6,000 cash from his pocket. He was also forced to transfer ₹8,000 via Paytm into the account of one of the accused, the officer added.

An FIR was registered under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code at Uttam Nagar police station. During the investigation, the driver of the alleged vehicle was traced and he revealed details of one of Vinay, said Deputy Commissioner of Police (Dwarka) Santosh Kumar Meena.

Vinay was apprehended and subsequently, all the remaining three accomplices were also arrested, he said. The police have seized the vehicle involved in the crime along with two BSES ID cards. Efforts are being made to ascertain their involvement in other criminal cases if any, the police said.



Several workers returning to Gurugram and Delhi from their home towns after the lockdown discover their employers have already filled their positions

ASHOK KUMAR  
SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH  
GURUGRAM/NEW DELHI

**V**ijay Mishra, a chhole-poori vendor on Jharsa Road in Gurugram, is the odd man out among a row of fruit sellers. The 38-year-old makes ₹200-₹300 daily, not even half of what he used to earn at his job in Maruti Suzuki India Limited before the lockdown.

Like thousands of workers and labourers in the Millennium City, Mr. Mishra left for his home town in Bihar along with his wife and two kids, aged five and seven, after the lockdown was imposed due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

"Being the breadwinner, I did not have enough savings to stay in the city without work. Besides, there was no certainty over the resumption of production at the company," he said.

### Little support

"I had left with a promise to myself not to return. I have no landholdings back in my village but was confident of finding some work to make ends meet. I also expected the government to help the migrants returning to Bihar to find jobs. But we got little support from the government except the sanctioned ration against ration cards," laments Mr. Mishra, while trying to poorsis for his customers.

Seeing hordes of workers returning to cities in search of jobs, Mr. Mishra too decided to come back to Gurugram in July in the hope that he could get back his factory job. But he was in for a rude shock.

"On reaching Gurugram, I found that the company had fixed a deadline for workers to join work. Those who could not make it, lost their jobs," said Mr. Mishra, who had been a contract worker with the company for eight years.

With no other option left, he decided to become a roadside vendor.

Maruti Udyog Kamgar Union general secretary Kuldeep Janghu said most of the automotive companies were granted permission to resume operations in May. The three original equipment manufacturers in the region – Maruti Suzuki, Honda Motorcycles and Hero Motocorp – and other automotive companies had asked their employees, both regular and contractual, to return to work by the first week of June.

Maruti Suzuki extended the deadline till June 23 following a request from the workers' union. The other companies too extended their deadlines by a few days or weeks. But many workers, mostly those on contract and hailing from far-off places like Bihar, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh, could not

make it in time and were not taken," said Mr. Janghu.

He claimed that hundreds of workers who returned to the city in July and August called him up seeking help in getting their jobs back, but he could do little to assist them. "The company had hired workers in their place before they returned," Mr. Janghu said, adding that the company's production is on a par with the corresponding period last year.



(Clockwise from top right) A group of migrant labourers from Bihar on their way to Haryana; workers having lunch with their children at a construction site in Patel Chowk; migrant families resting on a pavement near Kashmere Gate. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA/SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR



(Clockwise from top right) A group of migrant labourers from Bihar on their way to Haryana; workers having lunch with their children at a construction site in Patel Chowk; migrant families resting on a pavement near Kashmere Gate. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA/SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

# Woman gang-raped, beaten up in Gurugram; four held

Teenager raped in another case, accused on the run

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GURUGRAM

In two separate incidents, a 25-year-old woman was allegedly gangraped and beaten up by four men in upscale DLF Phase-II and a minor was raped in the Millennium City on Sunday. The woman sustained head injuries during the assault.

smashed her head against the wall causing injuries," said Assistant Commissioner of Police (DLP) Karan Goyal.

### Fled away

The four fled away leaving the woman behind on the road outside. After hearing the woman's cries, security guards in the area alerted a police patrolling team. A team from the local police station also reached and took her to a hospital.

Ranjan was arrested in the morning when he returned to office. The security guards informed the police when Ranjan returned around 6 a.m. He locked himself inside, but the police smashed the glass door to enter the office," said a resident of DLF Phase-II.

Rajan works at the office of a realtor and had the keys to it. The other three have been identified as Pawan, Pankaj and Gobind. All four are aged between 20-25 years.

In another case, the accused, Bablu Sheikh, a chauffeur, allegedly dragged a 15-year-old girl inside his room when she went to a washroom near her jhuggi in Sector 45 in the early hours of Sunday. The accused allegedly raped her and threatened to kill her if she told anyone about the incident. A case has been registered at Sector 40 police station.

### Claims over complaint

Haryana Shiv Sena spokesperson Ritu Raj said, "The family called the police control room in the morning, but the police 'persuaded' not to pursue the matter legally citing social ignominy. The case was registered after I took up the matter with the Police Commissioner," claimed Mr. Raj.

Station House Officer, Sector 40, Sunil Beniwal denied the allegations and said that the case was registered soon after the family gave a complaint in the evening.

# A shock awaits many

Babul Haq, an operator at Richa & Co., a garments unit based in Udyog Vihar Phase-III in Gurugram, had a rather pleasant experience. He returned to his home town in May after his mother died, but got a call from the company in August to join work. "The company had hired many new workers during the lockdown, but they are now being replaced by the old workers returning to their jobs. We have also got a raise of ₹500 per month," said Mr. Haq.

Munender Gautam, a resident of Lakhimpur Kheri in Uttar Pradesh, went back to his village in June. Though not keen to return, he came back after a call from his supervisor. "I did not have any work, so I decided to come back. The company called its old employees and also gave a raise of ₹1,000 per month," said Mr. Gautam, who works at a textile unit in Panipat. He added that most of the old employees had returned

to work.

Biju Rai from Raghopperi in Bihar returned to Delhi a fortnight ago but has been unable to find a job or earn two square meals a day. "Work is scarce but I hope things improve," he said, adding that he had gone back to his village in June when some restrictions were eased. The journey was an ordeal as Mr. Rai was unable to get a train ticket and had to take several buses as well as walk long distances intermittently to reach his home town.

### Tough phase

Another migrant worker, Asaram, said he returned to Delhi only some days back. He had left for his home town in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh, during the lockdown. Like most migrant workers returning to the city for work, the 24-year-old left his wife and two kids at home. "I share a room with others near Ambedkar College and cook my own food to save money," he said. The nature of his job has, however, changed. "I am a construction worker but currently doing road maintenance work," he said.

Brijesh, working with BLU Smart Mobility, an app-based cab company, said he got his job back after the lockdown but suffered a salary cut. A resident of Agra, Brijesh said that salary had been cut substantially but the expenditures remained intact.

"Though it is difficult to survive on the paltry income, I feel lucky to have a job at least. Job loss, salary cuts and dwindling incomes – this is the story all around," summed up Brijesh.

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Timings  
DELHI

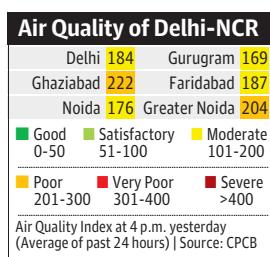
MONDAY, OCT. 05
RISE 06:16 SET 18:03
RISE 20:13 SET 09:01
TUESDAY, OCT. 06
RISE 06:17 SET 18:01
RISE 20:50 SET 09:55
WEDNESDAY, OCT. 07
RISE 06:18 SET 18:00
RISE 21:31 SET 10:50

**Delhi Weather** max min  
Delhi City 35 19  
Safdarjang 35 19  
Palam 35 21

**Delhi Palam Today**  
35°C Pleasant morning with dry warm day would prevail. Moderate gusty wind during day likely.

**Delhi Palam Tomorrow**  
36°C Pleasant morning and night. Warm day with moderate winds.

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**IN BRIEF**

**Nearly 8,000 patients discharged by LNJP**

**NEW DELHI**  
Around 8,000 COVID-19 patients have so far been discharged from Lok Nayak Hospital here after recovering from the infection, the highest in any government hospital across the country, said officials. As many as 331 women, who tested COVID-19 positive, have given birth at the hospital, also the highest in the country. Of these, 149 were cesarean deliveries, they said.

# With 2,683 cases, virus count touches 2,90,613

Active cases fall below 25,000 mark after almost 25 days

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI

As many as 2,683 new COVID-19 cases were reported in Delhi in the past 24 hours, taking the total number of cases to 2,90,613, according to a health bulletin released by the Delhi government on Sunday. Also, 38 more deaths have been reported and the death toll has touched 5,510.

Of the total cases, 2,60,350 people have recovered and there are 24,753 active cases. The number of active cases has fallen below the 25,000 mark after almost 25 days. Also, the number of

## Virus spread

Total number of COVID-19 cases	Total deaths
<b>2,90,613</b>	<b>5,510</b>
New cases in the past 24 hours	New deaths
<b>2,683</b>	<b>38</b>

SOURCE: DELHI GOVERNMENT HEALTH BULLETIN

beds available for treatment in the city, 62.7% are vacant, as per government data. But 59.8% of the ICU beds with ventilators have been occupied and 67.5% of the ICU beds without ventilators are full.

The positivity rate (percentage of people testing positive for every 100 tests done) was 5.2%, which is lower than September's average. The overall positivity rate till now is 8.8% while the number of containment zones have jumped to 2,696. Only 50,832 tests were done in the past 24 hours.

people admitted in hospitals decreased for the sixth consecutive day. So did the number of people under home quarantine, which came down for the third straight day on Sunday.

Out of the total 15,840



Schools and universities across the country have been closed since March 16. ■ FILE PHOTO: SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

## Delhi schools to remain shut till Oct. 31: Sisodia

Final decision rests with States or UTs

**STAFF REPORTER**  
NEW DELHI

Refuting reports of partial reopening of schools in Delhi in the wake of fresh guidelines by the Centre, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, who also holds the education portfolio, on Sunday tweeted that all schools in Delhi will remain shut till October 31 in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**C** The Directorate of Education has been directed to extend the ongoing closure of schools till October 31. Formal orders to this effect will be issued by it on Monday

OFFICIAL AT DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER'S OFFICE

As per the latest Unlock guidelines, schools, colleges and other educational institutions outside containment zones can reopen after October 15. However, the decision on whether to reopen educational institutions has been left with States and Union Territories.

The Delhi government had earlier said that schools will remain closed till October 5, though the Centre had permitted calling students of Classes IX to XII to schools on voluntary basis from September 21.

"The Directorate of Edu-

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cation [DoE] has been directed to extend the ongoing closure of schools till October 31. Formal orders to this effect will be issued by the DoE tomorrow [Monday]," an official at the Deputy Chief Minister's office said.

Universities and schools across the country have been closed since March 16 when the Centre had announced a nationwide classroom shutdown as part of measures to contain the spread of COVID-19. On March 25, the Centre announced a nation-wide lockdown.

The Delhi government had earlier said that schools will remain closed till October 5, though the Centre had permitted calling students of Classes IX to XII to schools on voluntary basis from September 21.

"The Directorate of Edu-

## Kejriwal to address global forum meet on climate change on Oct. 7

He will highlight measures taken in Delhi to tackle pollution

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal will be among the five urban leaders from around the world to speak at the prestigious 'Daring Cities 2020' conference on October 7, the Delhi government said here on Sunday.

The conference is being hosted by the ICLEI and the City of Bonn, Germany, with the support of the German government. 'Daring Cities' is a global forum on climate change for urban leaders tackling climate emergency, especially in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the statement said.

The plenary session, to be held at 7.30 p.m. through a



Arvind Kejriwal

virtual forum on Wednesday, will also include keynote addresses by António Guterres, UN Secretary General, and H.E. Svenja Schulze, Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), Germany.

### Multilevel action

"CM Kejriwal has been invited alongside urban leaders and decision-makers from

Mr. Kejriwal will speak on how Delhi has responded to the existing climate emergency, air pollution crisis, including recent innovative solutions such as the Pusa decomposer and the first-of-its-kind EV policy in India to tackle air pollution in the Capital.

### Hon'ble Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee



All the students who have excelled in Secondary, Higher Secondary, WB Joint Entrance, Alim, Fazil and High Madrasa examinations of 2020, including Scheduled Tribe and Scheduled Caste students, will be felicitated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee



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Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge  
Departments of School and Higher Education,  
Government of West Bengal



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## Silent protest march for man killed in accident

Mishap happened over a month ago

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
GURUGRAM

Nearly hundred people took out a silent protest march in Nirvana Country, a township in Sector 50 here, seeking justice for Alok Gupta, a 49-year-old senior executive with a multinational company killed in a road accident near DLF Phase-II Rapid Metro station over a month ago.

Alok died during treatment. He was a resident of Sector 57 and was the chief financial officer of an MNC.

Gupta's family has been demanding that Section 304 Part-II (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) be invoked and the father of the juvenile in conflict with the law be also booked.

**No legal liability**  
DLF Phase-II Station House Officer Aman Beniwal said the juvenile's parents had no legal liability in the matter since the vehicle involved in the accident didn't belong to them.

"The owner of the vehicle has already been arrested," said Mr. Beniwal. He refused to comment on invoking Section 304 Part-II saying that the matter was under investigation.

"The case has been registered under the relevant Sections," he added.

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DEV/KGD6/2020/4	Miscellaneous Services for MEG Reclamation Facilities
DEV/KGD6/2020/5	Supply of Equipment, Materials and bulks for MEG Reclamation Facilities, water management facilities and utilities
DEV/KGD6/2020/6	Detailed Engineering, Procurement, Construction and Commissioning services for integration of Additional MEG Reclamation Facilities on EPC basis
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DEV/KGD6/2020/8	Services related to surveys and studies
DEV/KGD6/2020/9	Construction services for OT modifications and water management facilities
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DEV/KGD6/2020/14	Supply, installation and commissioning of Offshore Radar Video Surveillance (RVS) System
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Interested Contractors/Vendors are requested to visit our website [www.ril.com](http://www.ril.com) for further details on the above and submit their EOI through e-mail on [deveoriresponse.eandp@ril.com](mailto:deveoriresponse.eandp@ril.com), on or before 26 October 2020. Subject of the mail should mention "RIL/E&P/EOI/2020/01" along with category number. For documents size beyond 10 MB, Contractors/Vendors should request RIL through e-mail to provide FTP link for uploading EOI documents. RIL will later ask Contractors/ Vendors to submit hard copies of their EOI in duplicate along with electronic copy on CD/ DVD/ Pen Drive with all details through courier / post.

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## Dalit leader shot dead in Bihar's Purnea district

It's a political killing, alleges his wife

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
PURNEA/PATNA

A 37-year-old Dalit leader was gunned down at his residence in Bihar's Purnea district on Sunday and his wife alleged that it was a political killing as her husband was preparing to contest the upcoming Assembly election as an independent candidate after he was expelled from the RJD.

After the killing, a video in which the deceased, Shakti Malik, accused RJD leader Tejashwi Prasad Yadav of seeking ₹50 lakh as donation to give him party ticket to contest the poll from Raniganj seat and threatening to eliminate him if he continues with his good work in the constituency, went viral.

The ruling JD(U) claimed that Leader of the Opposition Tejashwi Prasad Yadav has exposed his true colours before the nation. Repeated ef-

orts to reach senior RJD leaders for their reaction were unsuccessful.

Police said that three bike-borne men entered the house of Shakti Malik in Purnea in the morning and shot him in the head while he was sleeping, killing him on the spot, and fled.

A country-made pistol and an empty cartridge were found from the spot, K. Haat Station House Officer Sunil Kumar Mandal said. Superintendent of Police Vishal Sharma and Sadar Sub-Divisional Police Officer Anand Pandey visited the spot.

In the video that went viral, Malik claimed that he, along with the RJD's SC/ST Cell State unit president, met Tejashwi Prasad Yadav in Patna where the RJD leader sought ₹50 lakh as donation to give him party ticket to contest from Raniganj Assembly constituency, went viral.

The ruling JD(U) claimed that Leader of the Opposition Tejashwi Prasad Yadav has exposed his true colours before the nation. Repeated ef-

## Answer questions on farm laws or quit, Yadav tells Dushyant

Why is the Deputy CM clinging to the chair when crop is being sold below MSP?

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GURUGRAM



Swaraj India party chief  
Yogendra Yadav

Swaraj India national president Yogendra Yadav, also national working group member of All-India Kisan Sangharsh Coordination Committee (AIKSCC), on Sunday posed 10 questions to Haryana Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala on the three farm laws and asked him to either reply or step down.

Flanked by farmer leaders at a press conference in Chandigarh, Mr. Yadav also extended support to a call by 17 farmers' groups in Haryana on behalf of AIKSCC to lay siege to Mr. Chautala's residence in Sirsa on October 6 on the issue of farm laws.

In an obvious reference to the resignation of Shiromani Akali Dal leader Harsimrat

Kaur from the National Democratic Alliance government at the Centre over the controversial laws, Mr. Yadav said the farmers of Punjab had claimed a "wicket" in the very first over and now it was the turn of the Haryana farmers to take the second wicket.

Posing the questions, Mr. Yadav demanded to know whether Mr. Chautala or his

party had ever demanded any law or a change similar to the three farm laws and were they ever consulted by the Bharatiya Janata Party before or after the ordinances were brought in. He further asked whether the three laws were in any way connected to the lockdown and coronavirus, and if not, then why they were brought amid the pandemic through ordinances.

Referring to the demand of the farmers to guarantee Minimum Support Price, Mr. Yadav sought to know as to why the demand for MSP was not guaranteed through law if these laws posed no danger to it. "Does Mr. Chautala support the manner in which the laws were passed in the Rajya Sabha? How the farmers would be benefited by the amendment in the Essential

Commodities Act allowing hoarding? Have the companies been allowed to loot both – the farmers and the consumers?" asked Mr. Yadav.

**Stance questioned**  
Questioning the stance taken by the BJP over the three farm laws, Mr. Yadav demanded to know as to why the descendant of Chaudhary Devi Lal alone was defending the laws when none of the farmer leaders and organisations were ready to speak in their support.

Asking Mr. Chautala to reply to the questions on October 6 to the farmers, he demanded to know as to why the Deputy Chief Minister was clinging to the chair when crop was being sold at a price lower than the MSP right under his nose.

## Many hurt in Assam clash

Protest against visit of BJP leader

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NALBARI

Several persons, including police personnel, were injured when locals who were staging a protest against the entry of controversial BJP leader Satya Ranjan Borah from attending a meeting at Kadamtal village, they said.

As soon as the news of the leader's arrival spread, hundreds of locals blocked the road, leading to a clash between them and Mr. Borah's supporters.

Problem began in the morning when people blocked Dhamdhama-Kadamtal road at Garbhitor village to prevent Mr. Borah from attending a meeting at Kadamtal village, they said.

As soon as the news of the leader's arrival spread, hundreds of locals blocked the road, leading to a clash between them and Mr. Borah's supporters.

## NFR to restart train services in Tripura

CM Biplab Deb requests people to follow health protocol while travelling

SYED SAJJAD ALI  
AGARTALA

(diesel electric multiple unit) trains from Monday.

With COVID-19 lockdown restrictions relaxed in Tripura, the Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) is set to start limited train services in Tripura.

NFR's chief public relation officer Subhanan Chanda said they have decided to resume three pairs of DEMU

proposal from the State government.

The DEMU trains would run between Dharmanagar (North Tripura) and Agartala; and Sabroom (South Tripura) and Agartala. The trains would halt at all stations along the routes.

The official said the decision to resume train services was taken after receiving a

proposal to follow health protocol while travelling in DEMU trains.

**Thermal screening**  
Thermal screening of passengers will be done at stations. All regular passenger train services were suspended in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic in the last week of March.

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Public Notice

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■ SMARTHVEER SIDANA & RAJESH KHANNA

What are educators doing to ensure that students in Indian universities are ready to excel in the world outside college? The need of the hour is not only to focus on the intelligence quotient but also on the emotional quotient.

Most students are unable to capture the different philosophies that drive expectations for academic excellence and ideal career pathways. Isn't it the responsibility of educators to ensure that students receive the necessary resources to achieve what they are capable of?

This is where mentorship becomes important. Mentorship is an opportunity to provide a student with the necessary academic and emotional support. Most colleges don't have a platform to provide holistic mentorship to students. What does this involve?

#### Content for learners

Today, the resources that are part of classroom teaching are not enough for real-world requirements. One solution is to have a platform that gives access to

"quality" content by top faculty across universities. This will enable students from tier-2 and tier-3 colleges to get such content and also teach students various other skills that will also make them job ready.

#### Career guidance

How many actually know which

career path to pursue when they enter college? Some get some guidance from family members, others find mentors in seniors and teachers, but most are clueless. Career guidance should be mandatory and personalised to each student. It should help learners decide which career paths are most aligned to their interests

#### Psychological support

Students face many challenges including academic pressure, relationship issues, parental pressure, ragging, cyberbullying... all of which affect their mental health. Unfortunately, most people are not willing to seek help because of the stigma attached as well as the lack of psychological

support systems in schools and colleges. One way to resolve this is to have tech-enabled solutions since there will not be a need for the counsellor to be physically present and to maintain anonymity. Equally important is to conduct awareness drives to sensitise people towards mental health issues. Students need to know how important it is to seek help and not ignore their mental well-being.

#### Skills enhancement

The current job market needs people who have good leadership skills, enhanced soft skills and are capable of innovating. Universities provide opportunities in the form of clubs, activities and managing fests but soft skills training

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

## Influencing success

Adopting a holistic mentorship model in colleges can benefit both students, as well as the companies looking to recruit them

Career guidance should be mandatory and personalised to each student. It should help learners decide which career paths are most aligned to their interests.

also needs to focus on developing empathy. These skills can be mapped in the initial months of undergraduate study, and periodic checks conducted to see if it is developing as planned or if any amendments are required. This may take time and effort but will be an immense boost to the students' performance.

#### Connecting recruiters and candidates

Many colleges still do not have a formal placement process. Even in on-campus recruitment, students are generally not aware about all companies. Ideally, they should be made aware of all possible options to empower them to select the firm of their choice. What is required here is recruiter and candidate mapping. Technology can help with this and make the recruitment process easier and more effective, both for companies and students.

Colleges should invest in mentoring relationships so that all students benefit from it. It is time to develop customised solutions for students that cater not just to their academic requirements but also offer career guidance, psychological and emotional support, and soft skill enhancement. A complete mentorship approach should take the students' individual qualities and interests into account and help them grow in a holistic manner.

**Disclaimer:** The views expressed here are personal.

Smarthveer Sidana is an IIT Delhi alumnus and a Harvard HCONF Scholar.  
Rajesh Khanna is Dean of Student Affairs and Professor of Chemical Engineering, IIT Delhi.

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#### EXAM PREP

## Self-preparation kit

With the CAT exam round the corner, here are some tips to get ready

■ NERAJ NAIYAR

With the pandemic wreaking havoc across the globe, it seems that Darwin's philosophy of the survival of the fittest holds true. Those who can upgrade their knowledge and skills and explore new opportunities will keep the growth engine moving. This is the one of the reasons why many certification courses, professional degrees and skill development programmes are emerging in varied domains.

One professional degree that has not lost its sheen is the MBA programme. While the stream one is from doesn't matter, what is required to get into a top college is to crack the three-hour computer-based CAT and perform well in the second round. The CAT is more than just an exam; it is a test of one's persistence, composure, decision-making abilities,

temperament, knowledge and resilience.

Here are some tips for those planning to appear for CAT-20, apart from solving the previous years' papers.

**Prepare to score well**  
**Make a timetable and stick to it:** Create a schedule based on the number of hours at your disposal. Give yourself daily and weekly targets i.e. number of topics to be finished weekly and number of questions to be practised.

**Don't do selective studying:** CAT is about surprises. Any module can have more weightage in the exam. So, complete all the topics thoroughly; not just conceptual knowledge, but also application.

**Enroll in a test series:** Appearing for mock tests is crucial, as it streamlines your preparation and familiarises you with the test environment. It will help devise strategies

on maximising scores, identify weak and strong areas, understand concepts and their applications and keep the preparation grounded. One can also experiment with strategies to figure out what works best. Ideally, a candidate should take 30-40 full-length mock tests.

**Analyse mock tests:** A detailed analysis will help identify what went wrong and what areas need improvement. Keep track of the performance across the mock tests and also make a note of all the good questions encountered.

**Fitness is important:** Keep yourself physically fit and mentally active, as falling ill can derail both the preparation and the momentum built up. Make sure the preparation is consistent and that the pace can be sustained.

**Flexible approach:** Don't entertain preconceived notions or have a fixed mindset. A surprise element may throw you off track. The CAT is as much a test of character as of content.

The writer is an IIT-Roorkee alumnus and co-founder of Kitabee.

Keep track of the performance across the mock tests and also make a note of all the good questions encountered.



#### INITIATIVE

## Webinar series on Finland

The Government of Finland has launched 'Talenti Boost', a cross-administrative programme, aimed at making Finland an attractive place to work, study and do research. An upcoming initiative is the seven-part 'Future is Made in Finland: Webinar series'. The first episode, on October 14 at 2.30pm IST, will introduce the country, how it is building future tech, and also host a virtual tour of the participating universities. Open to anyone in the 18+ age group. To register, visit: <https://bit.ly/2EUexMk>

#### Math Olympiad

AhaGuru has announced the launch of a "Maths Olympiad" on October 11 from 9.00am onwards. Open to students upto Class 12. Registration fee is ₹299. The syllabus and details will be sent to those who register. All participants will be awarded participation certificate and the toppers will get certificates and exciting prizes. Register at: <https://bit.ly/3cKLBCQ> or call +91-9600100020.

#### Global partnership

IILM-Delhi recently entered into an agreement with Monroe College, New York, the U.S., by which Indian students who enrol for a Bachelor's in Business Management degree can take a transfer to the American college after one year. Alternatively, students can also continue to study in India and get the degree from the US college, as they will be registered at Monroe College and have access to its Learning Management System. For details, visit [www.monroe.iilm.edu](http://www.monroe.iilm.edu)

#### INITIATIVE

## 'Learning should not stop at any cost'

NeoStencil works to bridge the gap in access to education in smaller towns and rural India

■ JENNY VARGHESE

If there's anything the COVID-19 pandemic has taught us this year, it's that education should be accessible to all. Long before a pandemic was even on the horizon, NeoStencil (founded in 2014) set out to ensure that students from all walks of life could compete with the best in the exams like the UPSC, IES, GATE, NEET, and JEE among others.

Kush Beejal, the founder, said that his brother and he were lucky to have been able to attend top coaching institutes in different cities as students. However, they also witnessed a lack of similar opportunities for students in tier-2 and 3 cities and villages. "Many people's aspirations die because of lack of resources," says Kush. "This led us towards the idea of creating a platform that could be accessed by anyone, anywhere, without spending beyond his/her capabilities. The point was that learning should not stop at any cost."

Thus NeoStencil began as a way to level the playing field for students from across the country. Kush says that, while the tools and technology such as Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning are now key factors in online education, the content is even more important. The idea was to bring the excellence of top coaching centres and reputed teachers to the students. All that a student needs is an Internet connection and a computer or a smartphone. NeoStencil takes care of everything else – from study material to mock-exam



evaluation.

"We live-stream classes to ensure the student gets a high-quality current learning experience – identical to what they would get if they went to a classroom. There are also recorded classes that they can access at any time or go back to whenever it suits them. Students do not have to compromise on their jobs, the comfort of their home, or spend large amounts to relocate to 'coaching hubs'." Till date, NeoStencil has helped more than 400 people achieve their UPSC dream. Like Pradeep Singh from Tewari village in Sonipat, who topped the 2019 UPSC exams.

NeoStencil also digitises material from traditional coaching institutes they have partnered with. An added benefit is that teachers can now reach out to both their regular offline students and hundreds of others online. Not only is the content available 24/7 but assignments, mock examinations and evaluations are also the same for both sets of students.

**Challenges and trends**

While technology is im-

proving daily, what happens when Internet connections in more remote parts of the country are either non-existent or extremely slow? Kush says that, while an Internet connection is definitely needed, all videos are optimised for all forms of devices. To overcome issues with internet speed, buffering, data consumption and so on, they have begun to work with Edge Computing technology to help reduce buffering times and to allow users to watch high-definition videos at the same bandwidth they already have. Today, NeoStencil has about 11 lakh registered users from across the country.

During the pandemic, however, many regular institutes too began to go online. Did this pose a challenge? Kush says that NeoStencil's advantage is that they had already established them-

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## Until vaccine

Unlock moves should continue to protect the vulnerable, as the economy shifts gears

**I**ndia's fifth round of unlock regulations for October, allowing a further expansion of public activity mainly in education, entertainment and business conferences, comes at a time when COVID-19 transmission is steady in many cities. Nationally, though, the new infections being added everyday, at about 60,000, represent a decline in recent days, as per Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center data. The stringent March-April lockdown, and the subsequent measures to unlock the economy to prevent an equally debilitating crisis to livelihoods, have made India an uncommon case study. The decision to allow States to consider reopening schools and coaching centres after October 15, for students who wish to optionally attend, will prove a difficult one, considering new research evidence based on data from Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh pointing to high prevalence of infection among children who were contacts of virus cases in the same age group. Slowing community spread is bound to become more complicated, since governments blame careless attitudes for continued transmission – notably in Kerala and Tamil Nadu. While essential movement for economic reasons, including use of public transport, is unavoidable, indifference towards safe public behaviour is extracting a heavy social cost. Even in the face of a deadly pandemic, governments are taking a benign view of recalcitrant people who do not wear masks, even on buses and trains, spit in public, and crowd commercial locations. During the monsoon and winter months, and the festive season, polite, persuasive enforcement would be essential to reduce infection rates.

Among the relaxation measures in the October unlock phase is permission for cinemas and multiplexes to open at 50% capacity, but the risk surrounding enclosed spaces and transmission from asymptomatic individuals is real. Viewed against the enhanced risk of environments where masks are removed for eating and drinking, such as cinemas and restaurants, these entertainment options may not have wide appeal in the pre-vaccine phase. While the economy shifts gears in the activity phase, the Centre should be focusing on improving the understanding of the health impacts of COVID-19. Disappointingly, while it has emphasised massive recovery rates from the infection, it has failed to standardise testing and reporting methods among States, and publish fine-grained data on types of tests carried out in each State, anonymised patient histories, post-recovery status for complications and mortality. Repeated emphasis on a large number of recoveries, which were expected anyway, but without the necessary caveats, may be encouraging millions to lower their guard. Every effort to relieve the citizen's fatigue over COVID-19 should be made, but the goal is to preserve health until a medical breakthrough is made.

## Mixed signals

The latest GST data give cause for hope of a sustainable momentum in growth

**I**n these pandemic-hit times, when most economic news has been grim, the latest GST data give cause for some hope, albeit cautious, especially to policy makers overseeing beleaguered public finances. Gross revenue collections from GST scaled a six-month high of ₹95,480 crore in September, the first time in the current fiscal year when the tax receipts exceeded the year-earlier period's figure. Clearly, with lockdown restrictions having been significantly eased, economic activity appears to have regained some momentum as people strive to reclaim a semblance of normality and businesses rush to restock inventory ahead of the peak consumption season in festival-marked October and November. Other high-frequency indicators, including automobile wholesales and the survey-based Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for manufacturing, both for September, reflected this push to build up stocks. The IHS Markit Manufacturing PMI reading was at its highest in more than eight years as accelerated increases in new orders and production buoyed the sector's outlook. GST revenue from the import of goods was also marginally higher than in the year-earlier period, signifying that inward shipments of commodities used as inputs in manufacturing had inched up. Merchandise trade data from the Commerce Ministry show Indian purchases of metal ores and pharma products in September posted increases of almost 43% and 28%, respectively, appearing to correlate with the trend in GST.

However, the 3.88% year-on-year growth in gross GST revenue must be seen in the backdrop of the fact that GST receipts had slid to a six-month low in September 2019 – a 2.7% contraction – as overall economic momentum slowed considerably. The key concern now would be to gauge the durability of the trend in GST collections, especially considering that over the first six months of the current fiscal, the cumulative revenue receipts are 25% lower year-on-year. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's annual Budget for 2020-21, announced in February before the pandemic and lockdowns pushed the economy into a record contraction, had projected a 12.8% growth in GST receipts, a goal that now seems surely impossible to realise. With the GST Council expected to meet today and attempts to resolve the contentious issue of GST compensation shortfall, Finance Ministry officials have their task cut out in trying to assess if their earlier projections of a ₹3-lakh crore shortfall in GST compensation would need to be recalibrated in light of the uptick in receipts. A reasonably accurate prognosis for the tax collection trend for the second half may well hold the key to untangling this logjam over the ways to fund the shortfall and the Centre-State trust deficit it has created.

# Lost in the border crisis – political ownership

Using the defence forces as a shield may be politically profitable for the government but is damaging for India



SUSHANT SINGH

In October 2017, when India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar was the Foreign Secretary, he appeared before the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs to depose on the 73-day-long Doklam stand-off. In two separate depositions, he underlined to the committee that "the issue [on the Sino-India-Bhutan border] is more of attempting to alter the *status quo* on the ground... It is this aspect that transforms a transgression into a larger diplomatic and political issue, shifting the matter from the domain of the Armed Forces to that of Foreign Policy".

### Armed forces as the cover

Three years later, it is now clear that China has unilaterally altered the *status quo* on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh over the past five months – and at multiple points. As in Mr. Jaishankar's benchmark, it has become transformed into a larger diplomatic and political issue, but the armed forces are still fronting the issue, whether in bilateral talks or in public communication. Once the matter had moved away from the domain of the armed forces, attention should have shifted from the military to the government as the public face of the crisis. However, that has not been the case so far as the government has been keen to shield itself from public criticism by demanding unquestioning support for the armed forces. Tightly embracing the military and pushing it to the forefront of domestic public imagination is an insurance policy for political leadership when it is facing severe criticism.

Civil-military relations theorists have long warned against the participation of armed forces in dom-

estic political roles in democracies, especially in times of a crisis. Micromanagement of the type we have witnessed during the Ladakh crisis, where the precise agenda and specific arguments of the Indian military delegation during the talks have been decided at the highest levels of government in Delhi, has drawn the armed forces into the political debate.

If stark political divisions over this issue exacerbate, it could draw the military even deeper into the political slugfest, a situation best avoided. Peter D. Feaver's research shows that linking the prestige of the military to debatable political decisions, as the government has attempted, carries with it the potential for reduced overall public confidence in the military and increased doubts about the military's competence, truthfulness, and other dimensions of trustworthiness.

### Key men, mixed signals

The government is headed by a Prime Minister who is a master at public communication and not short of words on any issue. He regularly speaks directly to the people, either through his own radio show, by updates on social media platforms, through his public speeches broadcast on television channels, or his addresses to the nation. He has been, however, conspicuous either by his silence on the border crisis or by his laboured efforts to avoid mentioning China by name.

The one time he chose to speak in detail on the issue was during the all-party meeting, on June 19, called by the government to discuss the violence on the India-China border, where he said: "Na koi wahan hamari seema mein ghous aaya hai aur nahi koi ghousa hua hai, na hi hamari koi post kisi dusre ke kabze mein hain (No one has intruded and nor is anyone intruding, nor has any post been captured by someone)". His rather convoluted formulation, that needed an elaborate official clarification, handed the Chinese offi-



cials an argument they have gleefully used to embarrass the Indian interlocutors in all bilateral negotiations thereafter.

From his cabinet, the External Affairs Minister has not spoken at any great length about the border crisis, although he has held multiple events related to the launch of his new book, *The India Way: Strategies for an Uncertain World*. Only the Defence Minister, who was the first to confirm the border crisis in a news television interview, delivered a carefully prepared statement in Parliament on September 15 (<https://bit.ly/30wNVBU>). The statement was factually correct but did not leave anyone better informed at the end of it. He took no questions from Members of Parliament, denying the Indian citizen an opportunity to have authoritative information and form her own view about the government's decision-making. Compare this to the reality in the British Parliament, where some of the toughest questions on the most sensitive issues are thrown at the Prime Minister, who has to answer them as a measure of his accountability to the people.

The presiding officer of the Rajya Sabha asked the Defence Minister to brief the leaders of opposition separately but there has been no such briefing even two weeks later, and Parliament has been prorogued. The country still does not know whether the Cabinet Committee on Security, which is the highest authority in the country on matters of national security, has met and discussed the grave

border crisis in the past five months. In contrast, the previous National Democratic Alliance government had conducted official daily briefings during the 1999 Kargil War and senior Ministers were available to answer the media's questions.

The government's argument for not taking any questions in Parliament was the surmise that these were sensitive operational issues which cannot be discussed in public. It holds little credence going by the operational details shared by top armed forces officials in unofficial media briefings. It means that there are enough relevant aspects that can be made public without compromising military operations or national security.

A more viable argument in support of the government's stance is that every government needs a free hand during negotiations and making information public ties its hand for any give and take during parleys. For e.g., the government may have hypothetically wanted to ignore the territory China has ingressed in Ladakh after May, if it could have a firm commitment from Beijing on delineating the international boundary. That would not have been possible had the Prime Minister told the Indian public on June 19 that China now denies India access to more than 1,000 square kilometres of territory in Ladakh – he would be under pressure to publicly ask the military to throw the Chinese out. By stating that no Chinese soldier was in Indian territory, he retained the flexibility to clinch such a hypothetical deal.

### On public opinion

However, democratic governments can use public opinion to strengthen their hand during negotiations and to avoid making concessions to the other party. Pakistani leader Zulfikar Ali Bhutto did it during the 1972 Simla negotiations after Pakistan's loss in the 1971 Bangladesh war.

Nearer home, Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee nudged the

Opposition parties to hold public protests against plans to send Indian troops to Iraq in 2003, an idea his deputy, L.K. Advani had agreed to in Washington DC. The excuse of adverse public opinion allowed Vajpayee to pull back from Advani's assurance to the Americans.

### Wanted, official information

The lack of official information about the crisis has been damaging in other ways too. Not only are people uninformed; they are also misinformed by the gung-ho jingoistic, hyper-nationalist commentators and journalists who have hyped up the Indian military and diplomatic capabilities. Their desire to believe the most exaggerated version of events showing India in the greatest light, has put more pressure on this muscular government which cannot afford to be seen as weak. The gravest warning of keeping the people in the dark comes from neighbouring Pakistan – on the day its armed forces surrendered to India in Dhaka on December 1971, the Pakistani media was running reports of a glorious military win. A more honest dissemination of information prevents such situations from developing, which can have damaging consequences for the country going forward.

India is facing a grave crisis on its borders which shows no sign of ending. As an issue in the middle of a raging novel coronavirus pandemic and a plummeting economy, it needs a 'whole-of-government' approach directly under the visible leadership of the Prime Minister. But the government seems shy of taking ownership of the crisis, instead placing the armed forces as the public face of the challenge. Having the uniform as a shield to avoid democratic accountability may be politically profitable for the government but it carries the risk of aggravating the crisis and hurting India.

Sushant Singh is a journalist and a former Indian Army officer

# Transforming business and the insolvency system

Further streamlining of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code can instil more confidence in foreign and local investors



RAJIV KUMAR &  
DESH GAURAV SEKHRI

**T**he Prime Minister mentioned the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC 2016) as one of the key legislative reforms that would help aid India's path to self-reliance on a high growth trajectory. The IBC, along with the Goods and Services Tax regime, among other key reforms, were helping in significantly improving the ease of doing business in India and enabling it to emerge as a 'Make for World' platform. He also credited these reforms for a surge in Foreign Direct Investment into India in 2019-2020, to the tune of nearly \$74.5 billion, or a significant increase of 20 per cent from the previous year.

### A key reform step

The IBC has been a far-ranging and structurally significant reform that has transformed insolvency resolution in India. Replacing a rather inefficient bankruptcy law regime, the IBC has focused on time-bound resolution, rather than liquidation, as an empowering tool to support companies falling within its ambit. It has successfully instilled confidence in the corporate resolution methodology, and perhaps, more importantly, on creat-

ing a possibility for the creditors recouping some of their investments in firms being liquidated or going in for resolution. Its core implication has been to allow credit to flow more freely to and within India while promoting investor and investee confidence. Despite the suspension of the IBC for a limited duration due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in the short, medium and long term, it will prove to have been a timely reform. It will greatly streamline insolvency processes in a sustainable, efficient, and value retaining manner.

India, unfortunately, suffers from a serious backlog in court cases, to the tune of nearly four crore matters pending final judgment. The novel coronavirus pandemic is likely to exacerbate this. The enforceability of contracts has been a challenge. On average, it takes as many as 1,445 days for a contract to be enforced, and that too at a cost of nearly 31% of the claim value. This is simply unacceptable.

### Criminal penalties

Along with further streamlining and reinforcing the IBC, the Government of India is also working toward decriminalisation of minor offences. NITI Aayog is playing an active role in this exercise, which will significantly reduce the risk of imprisonment for actions or omissions that are not necessarily fraudulent or an outcome of *mala fide* intent. Criminal penalties including imprisonment for minor offences act as major deterrents for



investors. The government's intent is to help differentiate between good faith mistakes and intentional bad faith actions, so as to penalise the former, and criminalise the latter.

### Moves that will help

Other legislative measures that will further improve the investment climate, include the rolling out of the commercial courts, commercial divisions and the Commercial Appellate Divisions Act, 2015, to allow district court-level commercial courts, and the removing of over 1,500 obsolete and archaic laws. Together with the IBC, these highlight a major and multi-dimensional effort by the government to provide comfort, relief and reliability to the potential investors.

The IBC is both flexible and dynamic, which makes it impactful, given how forward thinking the concept of an omnibus legislation of its nature actually is. The IBC goes beyond other similar pieces of legislation across the world, and through the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI), it has established an unprecedented organisation that both regulates and develops insolvency policy, and assesses market realities.

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), in its year end summary press release (<https://bit.ly/2EXXEQH>), provided the context of India's rapid rise in the Ease of Doing Business rankings, and IBC's important role of the IBC in it. According to the Resolving Insolvency Index, India's ranking improved to 52 in 2019 from 108 in 2018, a leap of 56 places. Further, the recovery rate improved nearly threefold from 26.5% in 2018 to 71.6% in 2019. And, the overall time taken in recovery also improved nearly three times, coming down from 4.3 years in 2018 to 1.6 years in 2019.

Two key drivers for the IBC are relatively short time-bound processes, and the focus on prioritising resolution rather than liquidation. The report of the Bankruptcy Law Reforms Committee (<https://bit.ly/33uW4zj>) speaks of the critical need for speed in the working of the bankruptcy code. It is clear that the inability to make significant decisions without full clarity of ownership and control delays resolution. And, the longer the delay, the more likely that the entity in question would move towards liquidation rather than resolution. The delays result in low value liquidation due to a high economic rate of depreciation. Higher value stems from the firm being acquired as a going concern.

Going forward, there could perhaps be a look at institutionalising the introduction of a pre-packed insolvency resolution process, the need for which is highlighted by

the necessary suspension of the IBC proceedings. This will also help resolve matters expeditiously, outside of the formal court system, and allow resolution even during the COVID-19 altered reality.

### Helping MSMEs

The MCA along with IBBI are working diligently on putting in place a Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) and non-MSME framework to help expedite this process.

At the same time, given the need for social distancing and the suspension or limitation of physical hearings, a concerted effort should be made to enhance the role of digitally conducting all processes and hearings to achieve greater efficiency in the new normal. Bringing in technology would help ease of access to justice and greatly help ease of doing business from a process and efficiency standpoint as well. The IBC has provided a major stimulus to ease of doing business, enhanced investor confidence, and helped encourage entrepreneurship while also providing support to MSMEs. Its further streamlining and strengthening will surely instil greater confidence in both foreign and domestic investors as they look at India as an attractive investment destination.

Rajiv Kumar and Desh Gaurav Sekhri are, respectively, Vice Chairman and Officer on Special Duty, NITI Aayog. The views expressed are personal

## 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.

### Tunnel inauguration

The Prime Minister, true to his form, never misses an opportunity to ridicule the Congress for failures (Page 1, October 4). However, this is like flogging a dead horse – the Indian National Congress is facing an existential crisis and apportioning blame on it does not strike a chord with people. Despite the NDA being in the saddle for long, the country has not witnessed any conspicuous change on the political, social or economic fronts. Even ties with neighbouring countries are at all-time low. The government

gleefully cites 'acts of god' for its failures. The common man earnestly waits for the government to start delivering on its promises; sloganizing and punch lines are not helping.

DEEPAK SINGHAL,  
Noida

up initial work in such difficult terrain, there are hurdles to clear. The most challenging is excavation during heavy snowfall. There were other difficulties including disposal of huge quantities of excavated rock and soil and heavy ingress of water. There were also extreme natural events. Keeping the upcoming elections in mind, that the Prime Minister used the opportunity to inaugurate the project in person, instead of a virtual unveiling, shows narrow thinking.

N. NAGARAJAN,  
Secunderabad

### Crime and the politics

The recent incidents in Hathras and Balrampur are a shocking example of continuing apathy and deprivation that is heaped on certain deprived sections of society. What is appalling is the state apparatus actively working to thwart justice to the victim and her family. What is even more shocking in 21st century India is the apparent apathy by law makers as well as the enforcers. Delays in registering complaints, trying to browbeat so-called lower castes into withdrawing complaints, 'doctored' reports, etc.

ensure that these victims do not get justice (and in the Hathras case, not even decent final rites).

PRAHAKAR S.,  
Chennai

■ The sad reality is whatever the political party and their tussles, the fate of the hapless and the downtrodden continues to

### CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:

In a front-page story titled "SC refuses to shift civil services exam from Oct. 4" (Oct. 1, 2020, some editions) it was erroneously mentioned that as per the calendar of examinations for 2021 given in the UPSC website, the Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination, 2021 is scheduled to be held on July 27, 2021. It should have been June 27, 2021.

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be the same – sad. There are enough laws and constitutional organs such as the executive, legislature and judiciary need to work in tandem

# The future of GST hangs in the balance

The Centre is best positioned to raise additional resources to bridge the GST compensation gap



PRAVEEN CHAKRAVARTY

Today is the crucial meeting of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council. It may not be an exaggeration to claim that today's meeting could mark a milestone in the history of India's fiscal federalism and shape the future of Centre-State relations.

In 2017, the Centre made a promise to the States that a certain minimum amount of GST revenues will be guaranteed to every State for every year until 2022. GST was born in the cradle of this promise and hailed as a harbinger of 'cooperative federalism'. Now, there is not enough money in the GST kitty for the Centre to honour this obligation. The Centre has therefore proposed that the States should borrow money to bridge this gap and that it will act as a guarantor to facilitate this borrowing. Many States have accepted this proposal while many others have rejected it and implored the Centre to borrow. There is a bitter stand-off between the Centre and these protesting States.

#### Widening trust deficit

This is further complicated by the recent revelation of the Comptroller and Auditor General, and explained by Professor Govinda Rao in *The Hindu*, that in the last few years, the Centre deliberately mis-allocated nearly ₹3 lakh crore collected through various cesses, to reduce the States' share of tax revenues. The Centre's dishonesty has eroded its credibility with the States and widened the trust deficit. Amidst this background, the GST compensation issue could be put to vote in the GST Council meeting today.

The GST Council has 31 States and Union Territories represented. The Council was set up in 2017 as a new financial institution with the enormous economic responsibility of directing policy for half of all tax revenues of the country. Sadly, this vital institution, like many others, has dwindled rapidly into yet another avenue for political power play.

Twenty members of the GST Council that have agreed to the



"The credibility of the GST Council and the larger idea of cooperative federalism can still be salvaged if the Centre can shed its cussedness." Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman chairs the 41st GST Council meeting via video conferencing in New Delhi in August 2020. • PTI

Centre's proposal are governed by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) or a BJP alliance. The 11 States that have opposed the Centre's plan are all governed by the Opposition. The 11 opposing States account for a greater share of overall GST revenues than the 20 supporting States. But it does not matter since every State, large or small, has equal weight in the GST Council. Twelve votes can veto a proposal in the GST council.

The Centre has reiterated its commitment to fulfil the GST compensation obligation to the States. So, only the modus operandi of raising funds to fulfil this obligation is to be decided. This is primarily an economic issue and should be settled based on what makes the most economic sense for each State and for the nation overall.

Each State's economic realities are distinct. Just four States – Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka – account for nearly as much GST tax revenues as the remaining 27 States and Union Territories combined. But Gujarat and Karnataka support the Centre's proposal while Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu have opposed it. GST compensation constitutes a significant share of the revenues of Punjab and Himachal Pradesh, yet Himachal Pradesh supports the Centre's plan while Punjab is against it. Rajasthan and Haryana have similar sized fiscal deficits. Rajasthan is understandably apprehensive, but Haryana seems ready to indulge in more borrowing.

Naïve and clichéd as it may sound,

a State's decision to borrow or not should be based on its fiscal situation, not its political affiliation. State fiscal policies are complex matters and cannot be decided through a 'high command whip'. The GST compensation imbroglio has exposed the shallow rhetoric of 'cooperative federalism' and exacerbated the politicisation of the GST Council.

#### Alternative revenue sources

Economic logic suggests that the Centre, and not the States, is best positioned to raise additional resources to bridge the GST compensation gap. State governments don't have the powers to levy direct taxes or indirect taxes to earn additional revenues. A State's finances are not in the hands of the State government any more.

But the Centre has multiple alternative revenue streams. It is true that COVID-19 has ravaged the economy and strained government finances. But even in this severe economic slowdown, the Centre can find some new and creative options for tax revenues that are not available to the States.

Purely for illustrative purposes, one such revenue opportunity can be through increased taxation of capital market transactions. Between April and June, when economic activity in the nation had come to a complete standstill, India's stock markets experienced its highest activity levels in its history, with a 75% increase in transactions vis-a-vis last year. The stock market rose 30% in

this period and a minority few profited handsomely. In all likelihood, this buoyant stock market activity did not create one extra job in the real economy. The Centre can levy a higher tax on such speculative stock market trading to earn additional revenues during these difficult times, which will also not hurt the economy like an increase in GST rates or cess will do.

A five-fold increase in the securities transaction tax from its current minuscule levels of 0.025% can potentially generate an additional ₹50,000 crore of revenue for the Centre, which can be very handy in these times. Contrary to belief and fearmongering by stock market participants, 15 years of data show there is no evidence that, in India, raising securities transaction taxes adversely impacts stock market activity or the overall economy.

The larger point is that such options for new revenue generation are not available for the States. In these dire economic conditions, the Centre has many more avenues to raise additional resources than the States. A combination of additional revenues and borrowing by the Centre can help resolve the GST compensation issue amicably.

There is fear that the international ratings agencies may downgrade India's rating to "junk" status if the Centre's borrowings rise exorbitantly. It is understandable that no finance minister or bureaucrat wants the badge of a downgrade. But it is inane to believe that just offloading the borrowing to States can fool the ratings agencies.

The economic argument is crystal clear that it is more prudent for the Centre to use its much greater ammunition to raise additional tax revenues and/or to borrow to keep its GST promise. It makes no economic sense for the States, regardless of which party is in power, to increase their borrowing at the behest of the Centre. States will be forced to borrow anyway for their own expenditure. The credibility of the GST Council and the larger idea of cooperative federalism can still be salvaged if, in today's meeting, the Centre can shed its cussedness and end this impasse by committing to raise resources to plug the GST compensation gap.

*Praveen Chakravarty is a political economist and a senior office-bearer of the Congress party*

# English is an Indian language

The National Education Policy's refusal to consider English as an Indian language is a backhanded effort to impose Hindi



KARTI P CHIDAMBARAM

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 proposes a three-language formula under which schools must teach at least two languages that are "native to India". Conspicuous by its absence in this category is English, threatening access to English instruction in public schools. This has played into popular notions that English is no more than a "colonial imposition", not "native" to Indians. It is time to retire and reject these notions and recognise that English is very much an Indian language. Rather than trying to justify contentious historical criteria for "native", we must focus on what English is to India today: an aspirational, cosmopolitan, widely spoken language we have made our own.

#### An inclusive language

The history of language and learning in India has been fraught with problems. Education in traditional knowledge systems has been highly discriminatory, especially along caste lines. English education emerged as an emancipator and equaliser, allowing people across social groups to break away from exclusionary knowledge systems. Dialect and vocabulary in regional languages are still indicators of caste and community, and enable further exclusion.

English presents an opportunity to master a language that no one can exclusively claim as their own in India. This has helped sustain its appeal long after the British left. Middle-class Indians, many of whom have never studied English, want their children to attend English-medium schools, not just because of a promise of jobs, but of a respectability that English represents. This has made English a pathway to unique economic and sociocultural mobility that has given us a global advantage.

English is the global lingua franca; it is the world's preferred language of commerce, science, diplomacy and culture. Competence in English has enabled India to establish itself in these areas and its diaspora to thrive across the world, especially in the field of technology. The association between English and stable, well-paying careers is obvious and apparent.

Today, Indians give shape to new thought through English. Science has relied on it to pool the best minds of the country and create a strong base of research, innovation and teaching in the field. We have drafted a Constitution and given shape to essential

rights and ideals in English. Legal processes in India rely heavily on what has become the international language of the law. It is the language of our courts and some of our greatest legal minds such as H.M. Seervai, Nanabhai Palkhivala and Krishna Iyer. Indian authors have also produced enduring English literature. R.K. Narayan, Khushwant Singh, Vikram Seth, Shashi Tharoor (who has made big words cool), Aravind Adiga, Chetan Bhagat, Shobhaa De, Arundhati Roy and many others have given us a rich Indian English which is as much our own as any other "native" language.

#### Part of daily life

Our debates on language are often detached from practical reality; the truth is that in India, the usage of English is already much more pervasive than people acknowledge. Languages borrow from English with abandon. Whatever part of the country we are from, we talk on mobile phones and say "hello", "thank you" and "happy birthday". Whatever language one speaks, texting uses the Roman alphabet (in convenient Indian English keyboards), and emailing in any other script is unheard of. We have English words for many parts of daily life, and every Indian language relies on them. Would a car/cycle mechanic, electrician or postal worker be able to conduct tradecraft without some English? Do we have a well-developed and widely known vocabulary of medical jargon in any other Indian language? Every city has its own impressive English slang. How long can people hold a simple conversation on their own without using any English words? The convenience that even a passable knowledge of English lends to general communication is unparalleled.

English is most popular in parts of India where the opposition to the homogenising 'Hindi, Hindutva' agenda is strongest. The NEP's refusal to consider English as an Indian language is simply a backhanded effort to impose Hindi nationwide, restricting the autonomy of schools and States. In Tamil Nadu, a two-language policy has worked successfully for decades. Children have continued learning Tamil while also benefiting from the practical advantages of English. The NEP threatens this, and will not be acceptable to the people of Tamil Nadu.

The fact is that today, English has become essential to success in India. For an aspirational middle class, knowledge of English is a great emancipator – a path to a better future. In making rich contributions to the country and world through English, we have made it our own. The time has come to recognise it.

*Karti P Chidambaram is Member of Parliament for Sivaganga and Member, All India Congress Committee*

# A commission misguided

The national child rights body seems to be deriving its priorities from the political agenda of the day

VANDANA PRASAD & SHANTHA SINHA

son reportedly delved into whether the previously homeless children in the CCIs belonged to a particular community (Rohingya), and what religious practices they engaged with, even as the institutions are known to maintain a secular character.

#### A lot to be done

The pandemic has exacerbated existing issues of child malnutrition, child labour, child abuse, child marriage and mental illness. We would have expected the NCPCR to show concern for the gross violation of children's rights during the lockdown and in its aftermath. The NCPCR could have used its authority and power to issue recommendations to relieve these grave conditions by reiterating the need for strengthening all child-related institutions (government and non-government) through adequate funds, and appreciating the relief measures that many civil society organisations, including the ones being raided and instructed to close down, were engaged in.

As citizens concerned with the rights and welfare of children, we have also been appalled at the daily reports of Dalit children and young women being raped and murdered, with gross irregularities by the very institutions that are charged with their protection. We would have expected the NCPCR to exhibit its priorities better by taking suo motu cognisance of the rape and murder of a 14-year-old girl in Bhadohi in Uttar Pradesh, to make a test case of the lack of systems to fight crimes against children instead of moving to undermine and dismantle whatever little does exist for their protection. Undoubtedly, CCIs need monitoring and reforms; the Commission should be in the vanguard to ensure the support that would necessarily be required to implement these reforms. Yet, it seems to be deriving its priorities from the political agenda of the day rather than upholding a steadfast and fair commitment to the welfare of children.

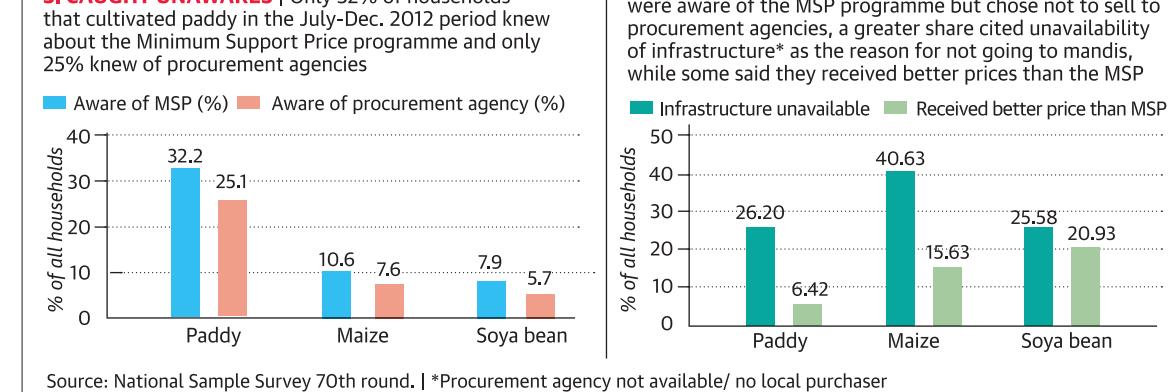
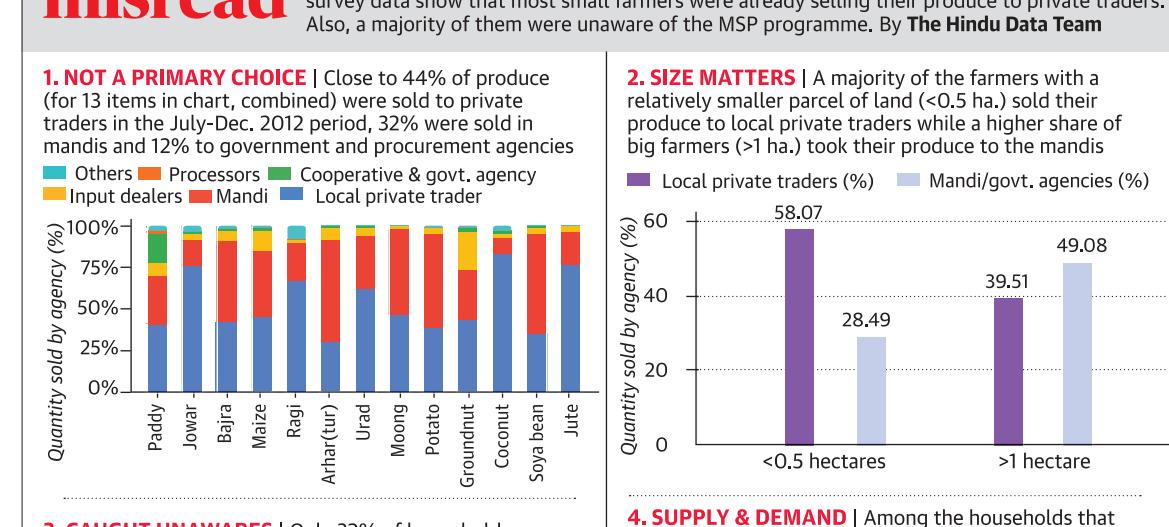
Vandana Prasad, a community pediatrician and public health professional, is former member, NCPCR; and Shantha Sinha is former Chairperson of the NCPCR



## DATA POINT

### Markets misread

One of the chief aims of The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020 is to unshackle farmers from notified markets. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that small and marginal farmers "for the first time, have got an alternative to bargain for the price of their produce. The earlier was to sell to mandis." However, latest available survey data show that most small farmers were already selling their produce to private traders. Also, a majority of them were unaware of the MSP programme. By *The Hindu Data Team*



## The Hindu

### FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO OCTOBER 5, 1970

Mao to become Head of State?

The official New China News Agency's description of Chairman Mao Tse-tung as the founder of the People's Republic of China in this week's report on national day celebrations in Peking has led to speculation here [Hong Kong, October 4] that the Chinese leader may soon take over the post of Head of State. The agency report also called Mao "the Supreme Commander of the whole nation and the whole army" and "the great leader of the people of all nationalities in China." Some observers here attached significance to the use of these titles at this time when preparations are said to be under way to convene the National People's Congress, which will formally have to approve of the new appointment. China has been without any functioning Head of State since the removal of Mao's arch enemy and one-time heir Liu Shao-chi. Liu's ouster from party and government posts was announced by the Central Committee of the Communist Party last year. But to meet constitutional requirements the removal from the Government job requires the approval of the National People's Congress.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO OCTOBER 5, 1920

Apotheosis of Co-operation

(From an Editorial)

The proceedings of the session of the Madras Legislative Council, the last under the old dispensation, which have just concluded convey lessons that he who runs may read. They suggest at once a criticism and an argument for Non-Co-operation. We have rarely in the history of the Councils come across a feebler and a more tame assemblage than that to which fell the onerous task of saying ditto to the bureaucracy in measures so important as the Elementary Education Bill and the Local Boards Bill. We doubt if a more complaisant legislature or one more ready to lose itself in ecstasies of joy at the condescending smiles of officialdom could be found anywhere else than in a country where gratitude is emphatically a lively anticipation of favours to come. We are accustomed to go into paroxysms of delight at a smile and fade into unobtrusiveness at a frown from the powers-that-be and so long as this mentality does not undergo radical alteration, so long will all talk of self-Government remain a hollow mockery. There is more than a little justice in Mr. Gandhi's argument that the Councils are debasing influences.

## FROM PAGE ONE

**'1 in 5 Indians may be vaccinated by July 2021'**

Though not confirmed, at least 50 million doses of these so far are likely to be available for India at about ₹250 per vaccination.

The other two candidates being tested by Zydus Cadila and Bharat Biotech are in pre-clinical trials.

Normally vaccines take years to be tested and released but governments and regulators worldwide have allowed accelerated procedures to expedite vaccine availability.

Dr. Vardhan has earlier said on multiple occasions that a vaccine is likely to be ready by "early next year."

The government was also

keeping an eye on immunity data with regard to COVID-19 disease while finalising plans on vaccine distribution.

A committee led by NITI Aayog member V.K. Paul was drawing up the entire process. Vaccine procurement was being done centrally and each consignment would be tracked real time until delivery to ensure it reached those who needed it most, the Minister said.

"Even if we have multiple vaccines available, they will all be safe and will elicit the requisite immune response against novel coronavirus," he added.

**FinMin says virus past peak, predicts growth**

"With India unlocking by the day, consequent demand resurgence is palpable in many sectors. Economic indicators allude to a steady recovery in almost all sectors, with some sectors shooting above their previous-year levels as well. This is despite headwinds of increasing COVID cases in non-metro cities and rural areas and rising food prices," the Ministry said in its economic review for September.

"Data from September 17 to 30 suggests that India may have crossed the peak of COVID-19 case-load. During this period, the seven-day moving average of daily positive cases has steadily declined from about 93,000 to 83,000, while the seven-day moving average of daily tests have risen from about 1,15,000 to 1,24,000," the review said.

Terming the partial re-

covery as proof of "positive results" from the AtmaNirbhar Bharat package, the review said the structural reforms by the government could combat the "downside risk to short-term and medium-term growth" posed by the spread of the virus.

Among signs of a recovery in industrial output and manufacturing, the Ministry listed the positive growth in exports, recorded in September for the first time since March and the Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index hitting the highest point since January 2012 in September.

Contraction in output of eight core sectors was lower in July and August than the 12.9% reported in June, and output prices rose for the first time in six months, reflecting an uptick in input costs, the Ministry pointed out.

**Upper caste group backs Hathras accused**

He also demanded that a police case be lodged against the family of the victim.

A delegation led by Samajwadi Party leader Dharmendra Yadav met the family of the victim and demanded that, as per the wishes of the kin, the case be probed by a sitting judge of the Supreme Court.

"The administration is being made a scapegoat. The people actually responsible are sitting in Lucknow," Mr. Yadav said.

**Action against DM**  
Bhujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati and Ms. Vadra also demanded action against the District Magistrate of Hathras and a probe into his role in the entire incident which culminated in the rushed late night cremation.

**Bihar poll: LJP to go it alone, but support BJP**

In the seat sharing formula under discussion among NDA allies, the LJP was being offered only 25 odd seats. An announcement on seats and candidates is expected once the BJP sorts out its seat arrangements with the JD(U) and Jitan Ram Manjhi's Hindustani Awam Morcha.

The LJP's decision is a culmination of many months of a belligerent campaign by Mr. Paswan against Bihar CM and JD(U) head Nitish Kumar. Mr. Paswan had accused Mr. Kumar of taking forward the *saat nischay* or "seven promises" agenda that was originally part of the RJD-JD(U) government in 2015. Mr. Paswan had start-

ed work on his party's own vision document – "Bihar First, Bihar First" – and at Sunday's meeting all leaders backed this document. The party has decided to base its campaign on this document.

Mr. Paswan had also accused Mr. Kumar of not listening to feedback from alliance partners, going to the extent of saying that for over a year he has not spoken to Bihar CM as the latter refused to reply to any of his letters or respond to phone calls.

The LJP chief was also severely critical of the Nitish government's handling of the migrant crisis during the pandemic.

**India-China talks on Oct. 12**

The Indian side will also have a representative from the Ministry of External Affairs.

After the 6th round of talks on September 21, both sides, for the first time,

sued a joint statement in which they agreed to "stop sending more troops to the frontline" and "refrain from unilaterally changing the situation on the ground".

**At over 10,000, Karnataka adds most new cases**

Transmission steady at 8,500-plus cases in Kerala; Bengaluru incidence double that of Telangana; 6,242 test positive in A.P.

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

In continuing vigorous transmission, Kerala registered 8,553 new cases of COVID-19 on Sunday, and conducted 58,727 tests in 24 hours.

The test positivity rate was steady at 14.5%. More testing was yielding more cases.

Critically ill patients in ICUs rose to 553, while patients on ventilator also

**COVID-19**

showed a spike at 140. The State added 23 deaths which occurred over the past several days to the "provisional" list. Eight deaths took place in Thiruvananthapuram, six in Malappuram, four in Alappuzha, two in Ernakulam, and one each in Kollam, Palakkad and Kannur.

The new infections reported included 99 health workers. In 716 new cases, no

specific infection source could be traced.

The infection tally in Andhra Pradesh included over one lakh from East Godavari district alone. On Sunday, the State reported 6,242 new infections and 40 deaths.

Krishna (1.59%) and Chittoor (1.03%) districts had over 1% death rate. The infection tally in East Godavari was 1,00,785 and West Godavari touched 70,133, the two districts accounting for 24% of the total.

In the last one day, 72,811 samples were tested.

Chittoor reported the highest number of new infections while Krishna reported the highest number of new deaths. Chittoor and Godavari districts accounted for 40% of new cases.

Karnataka battled high incidence in Bengaluru, where 4,340 new cases were reported.

Overall the State added

**Daily grind**

With no respite in the number of cases, health workers across States are fighting tooth and nail to curb the spread. The graphs show the spread of the pandemic in the southern States



No rest: A laboratory worker holding a swab sample collected for COVID-19 testing during a camp conducted by the Coimbatore Corporation at Kavundampalayam on Sunday. ■ S. SIVA SARAVANAN

10,145 new cases on Sunday.

There were 1.15 lakh active cases, 847 patients in ICUs and 67 more deaths.

The State government said

85,508 tests were done on

Sunday, including 43,313 rapid antigen tests, while the remaining were RT PCR and other methods.

Telangana recorded 1,949 cases on Saturday. The first

case was detected on March 2. While the first 50,000 cases were recorded in 144 days until July 23, the second 50,000 were detected in 29 days (July 24 to August 2).

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

The 1.5-lakh mark was crossed on September 9 and another 49,100 cases were added by October 3. From mid-September, around 50,000-55,000 samples were tested in a day except Sundays, leading to a rate of 2,000 to 2,400 cases a day.

On Saturday, 51,623 people underwent testing.

Another 5,489 persons tested positive for COVID-19 in Tamil Nadu on Sunday, taking the overall tally of cases to 6,19,996. While 5,558 persons were discharged after treatment, 66 persons succumbed to the infection in the State.

Of the fresh infections, Chennai's daily count continued to stay high as 1,348 persons tested positive for COVID-19. The city also accounted for 12 of the 66 fatalities.

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

**Two killed as Navy's glider crashes in Kochi**

The sailor and officer were on a routine training sortie; Navy orders probe

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
KOCHI

A glider of the Navy crashed near Mattancherry BOT bridge, located a stone's throw from the naval airport here on Sunday, resulting in the death of an officer and a sailor on board.

The power-hand glider, which was on a routine training sortie, crashed into the area opposite the walkway near the bridge around 7 a.m. There were not many people in the vicinity at the time, only those on morning walk and lorry drivers.

The crew were extracted from the debris and taken to INS Sanjivani, the hospital at the Southern Naval Command, official



Crash site: The glider crashed near a bridge, close to the naval airport. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

sources said. The deceased are Lieutenant Rajeev Jha, 39, a native of Dehradun in Uttarakhand, and Sunil Kumar, petty officer

(Electrical Air), 29, from Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh. They were declared brought dead to the naval hospital.

The glider was attached to INS Garuda, the naval air station

of the Southern Naval Command, Kochi. The crash occurred a while after take-off from the naval airport.

Mr. Sunil Kumar was an experienced glider pilot,

conducting an instructional sortie for Lt. Rajeev Jha. A board of inquiry has been ordered by the Southern Naval Command to probe the reasons for the crash.

Lt. Jha's wife and two children were staying with him in Kochi, while Mr. Sunil Kumar was unmarried.

**Case registered**

"The official statement of the Navy was recorded. The Harbour police registered a case under Section 174 (unnatural death) of the CrPC. An inquest was done and the bodies taken to the Ernakulam Medical College, Kalamassery, for post-mortem," said G.D. Vijayakumar, Mattancherry Assistant Commissioner of Police.

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

**5 lakh students enrolled in Kerala govt. schools'**

Focus is on modern facilities, says CM

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Five lakh new students have enrolled in government schools in Kerala in the last three years with the focus on upgrading them as "Centres of Excellence" with modern facilities, according to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

Though in the past there were discussions in society about the closure of government schools, now they were being improved, resulting in them attracting more students, he said.

Mr. Vijayan was speaking after dedicating 90 schools as "Centres of Excellence" and laying the foundation stone virtually for 54 school buildings on Saturday as part of the government's Public Education Rejuvenation Campaign to protect the public education system in the State.

He said the government



Changes are being made keeping in mind the next generation, the CM said.

was implementing changes in the field of school education, keeping in mind the next generation.

"In the past, society discussed the closure of government schools but now that they have become centres of excellence, the number of students coming to study has also increased. Five lakh new students have joined government schools in the last three years," he said.

He said the government

**Police teams raid five pubs in Bengaluru**

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU

The Central Crime Branch (CCB), which is probing the drug racket, carried out surprise checks in five pubs across Bengaluru on Saturday night. The raids were carried out by several teams simultaneously with the intention of busting drug dealers, but officials did not get any incriminating evidence.

The raids were carried out based on information provided by two peddlers, Varun and Vinod, who were arrested from their apartment in Sanjay Nagar on Saturday in connection with the case.

Varun reportedly told the police that he was supplying drugs to contacts for weekend parties. "He has given us names of his contacts, including actors, businessmen and realtors. We are verifying this information," said a CCB official.

When a patient with a complaint consults them, doctors check their background, lifestyle, information on vitals and ECG reports, to know if the patient is suffering from cardiac arrhythmia or heart problems, or if it was just a false alarm induced by stress and anxiety.

Consulting a doctor helps to know the reason behind the abnormality.

Job insecurity, uncertainty about the future, financial distress, fear of contracting COVID-19 and other issues associated with it are some of the problems building up stress in people. Dr. Rao sug-

**Karnataka Minister tenders resignation**

Difficult to manage two posts: C.T. Ravi

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**

BENGALURU

Karnataka Tourism Minister C.T. Ravi, who was appointed a BJP national general secretary recently, has submitted his resignation from the ministerial post.

While the resignation was tendered on Saturday to Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa, it has not been accepted yet, sources in the Chief Minister's Office said.

Mr. Yediyurappa is learnt to have told Mr. Ravi, who is leaving for Delhi to attend a two-day party office-bearers' meeting scheduled from Monday, to wait till the high command decides on the issue. Sources said Mr. Ravi met Mr. Yediyurappa on Saturday morning to hand over the resignation letter, and his decision has been conveyed to leaders in the national capital.

If the resignation is accepted, the number of vacancies in the Cabinet will go up to seven.



"I have tendered my resignation since it will be difficult to manage two posts simultaneously," he told presspersons on Sunday.

Soon after his elevation in the party, it was widely speculated that he would step down from the Cabinet considering the 'one man, one post' rule.

gested that counselling by trained psychologists will help those suffering from such anxiety-induced problems.

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**Post-pandemic stress mistaken for cardiac issues**

Counselling for heightened anxiety is the need of the hour, says Hyderabad-based cardiologist

**STAFF REPORTER**

HYDERABAD



Help required: Counselling by trained psychologists will help those who suffer from false alarms, say doctors. ■ NAGARA GOPAL

Will stage satyagraha today: Cong.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Continuing its campaign against the Yogi Adityanath government for the brutal gang rape and murder of a Dalit girl from Hathras, the Congress will hold satyagrahas in district headquarters across the country on Monday.

Party workers will stage silent sit-ins at the statues of Mahatma Gandhi or B.R. Ambedkar, it said.

In a statement, K.C. Venugopal, general secretary (organisation), said the incident had shaken the conscience of the nation. "The brazen inhumanity and high-handedness shown by the BJP government of U.P. in denying basic dignity to the victim even in death and afterwards towards the family has left everyone beyond shock," he said.

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi and State in-charge Priyanka Gandhi were stopped on the Delhi-U.P. border on Thursday when they first tried to meet the victim's family. They were allowed to meet the family on Saturday after another face-off with the police. "In our continued effort to provide justice to the victim's family, the party has decided to hold satyagrahas on Monday," Mr. Venugopal said.

## No signs of intercourse, says hospital report

It is based on forensic test done eight days after the assault

ANUJ KUMAR  
GHAZIABAD

In its final report on the Hathras victim, the Department of Forensic Medicine of the Aligarh Muslim University's Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College and Hospital (JNMCH) has said there were no signs suggestive of vaginal or anal intercourse. It, however, said there was evidence of physical assault (injuries over the neck and the back).

The forensic report prepared on Saturday and signed by Dr. Sadiya Saeed, chairman of the Department of Forensic Medicine, and assistant professor Faiz Ahmad, said it was in reference to the FSL report number 4807-Bio-2020, conducted at the government lab in Agra. The FSL report had stated that the investigation didn't find any sperm in the samples. It was on the basis of the FSL report that Additional Director General of Police Prashant Kumar made a statement denying rape in the case on October 1.

Hamza Malik, president of the AMU's Resident Doctors' Association, said the final opinion was based on the FSL report and denies intercourse, not rape. "The fo-



Samajwadi Party leaders meeting the family of the Dalit woman at Hathras on Sunday. ■ PTI

rensic examination was conducted on September 22, eight days after the incident. In cases of rape, according to government guidelines, the forensic samples should be collected within 72 hours of the incident. Sperm can't survive after more than 90 hours," he said.

He said if the observations in the medico-legal case (MLC) report are read with certain findings in the autopsy report in the light of the new anti-rape law passed after Nirbhaya's case, the picture would be different. "Besides, how could you discount her statement before the magistrate, which would be treated as the dying declaration of the victim

and is crucial in such cases?"

The victim was allegedly brutally assaulted on September 14 by four upper caste men when she went to collect fodder. After a long struggle in JNMCH, she was moved to the Safdarjung Hospital, where she passed away on September 29.

The report counters the MLC report prepared at the JNMCH on September 22, which noted "complete penetration" and "loss of consciousness at the time of the incident". In the MLC's opinion column, the doctor noted, "There are signs of use of force... opinion regarding penetrative intercourse is reserved pending availability of FSL reports."

It is based on forensic test done eight days after the assault

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**Former Assam CM Gogoi still in ICU**

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GUWAHATI

Former Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi continues to be in the intensive care unit of Gauhati Medical College and Hospital (GMCH), where he was admitted on September 24 following post-COVID-19 complications.

Mr. Gogoi, 85, had been admitted to GMCH on August 26 after testing positive for COVID-19 and was discharged over two weeks later. But his health deteriorated sharply 11 days ago.

"His oxygen level is above the 90 mark, which is not unusual for a person of his age. But he is experiencing weakness that has confined him to the bed," a doctor said, declining to be quoted.

**BJD MLA Maharathy passes away**

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
BHUBANESWAR

Former Odisha Minister and veteran Biju Janata Dal (BJD) MLA Pradeep Maharathy passed away on Sunday, weeks after he tested positive for COVID-19. He was 66.

He was undergoing treatment in a city-based private hospital and his health condition deteriorated in the past few days. He is survived by his wife, son and daughter.

Born in Khorapada village in Puri district in 1955, Mr. Maharathy started his career as a student leader.

He was elected to the Assembly from the Pipili constituency for seven consecutive times from 1985 till 2019.

Before joining the ruling Biju Janata Dal in 2000, he was in the Janata Dal and a staunch follower of former Chief Minister Biju Patnaik.

## 'We can't be selective in condemning violence'

J&K L-G visits militancy-infested Kulgam

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
SRINAGAR

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday visited the militancy-infested Kulgam and said violence and killings – whether of common people or security forces – should be condemned without being selective.

"We can't be selective in condemning violence. Violence, killings of innocents should be condemned, whether it's the killings of common people or security forces. I appeal to all to contribute towards peace," Mr. Sinha said during his visit to Ashthal in Kulgam as part of the ongoing "Back to Village-3" programme.

Referring to the ₹1,951 crore that had been earmarked for the development of villages, he said the agriculture and the horticulture sectors have been pro-

## Crucial GST Council meet today

Kerala to reject the two options presented by Centre on compensation

S. ANIL RADHAKRISHNAN  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM



Nirmala Sitharaman

ing from the pandemic.

Ten Opposition-ruled States, including Kerala, are yet to agree to the proposals which envision States raising ₹97,000 crore via a special borrowing window to be created by the central bank, or borrowing the entire ₹2.35-lakh crore shortfall in compensation cess collections from the market.

Kerala Finance Minister T.M. Thomas Isaac said there can be no bifurcation of revenue shortfall for compensation purposes as due to pandemic and due to implementation of GST. "The entire shortfall needs to be compensated and it is the constitutional right of

the States. The compensation cannot be linked to normal borrowing or additional borrowing limits allowed to them," he said.

Kerala, the first State to speak out against the Centre's proposals, will stick to the stance that both the options infringe upon the above two cardinal principles and are not acceptable. "We would outright reject all notions that States refusing to make the choice will lose their GST compensation till 2022," Dr. Isaac said.

Once the Centre accepts these two basic principles, the State is willing to discuss and arrive at a consensus regarding who borrows and in what proportion, what amount to be borrowed and what amounts need to be deferred to 2022. Extending the compensation cess levy from five years to facilitate repayments on borrowings can also be discussed.

There is a need to implement interim measures while the larger issues are discussed, as it is important that at least a part of the compensation to the States be paid immediately, given

the shortfall in the revenues of the States and financial crunch, he said.

If there is no consensus in the GST Council on the negotiable issues, Dr. Isaac said the legal provisions for a Dispute Resolution Mechanism within the Council should be activated without delay. The long-standing demand of the States to appoint a Vice-Chairperson to the GST Council should be considered and implemented at the earliest, he urged.

The CAG audit report findings about the Centre incorrectly parking compensation cess collections in the Consolidated Fund of India, over the first two years of GST implementation, are also likely to be raised by some Opposition-ruled States.

Dr. Isaac said the Central government's approach had pushed the economy to the brink of disaster. "The actions cannot be viewed in isolation. There is significant erosion of trust. Circumstances point to a situation where the Centre's actions are constricting the States' resources and their financial autonomy," he said.

## Jawan killed in Arunachal ambush

Security forces suspect role of NSCN-K and ULFA-Independent in the attack

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GUWAHATI

Suspected extremists on Sunday killed an Assam Rifles jawan in an ambush in Changlang district of Arunachal Pradesh.

Another jawan was injured seriously in the ambush around 9 a.m. near Hetlong village under the Jairampur police station limits.

No group has taken responsibility, but district officials and the security forces suspect that 30 to 35 members of the United Liberation Front of Asom-Independent, headed by Paresh Baruah, and the Khasi faction of

the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN-K) had carried out the attack.

"A water tanker of the 19

trate Devansh Yadav said. "We received reports that there was an explosion, but this cannot be confirmed until we receive the autopsy report. In all likelihood, the death was caused by bullet."

A defence spokesperson said the injured jawan was admitted to a government hospital in Changlang. It was not immediately known how many personnel were travelling in the water tanker.

In May 2019, suspected NSCN-K militants had carried out a similar attack on an Assam Rifles water tanker in Nagaland's Mon district in which two were killed.

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# The camera sees all

Ahead of World Sight Day on October 8, we speak to photographers with vision impairment who use the lens to interact with the world

SWETA AKUNDI

A strip of cloud cut across the sun, over a grand old dormant volcano in Mauritius – a beautiful setting for a picture, thought Pranav Lal, on honeymoon with his wife Sacheta. Being born blind has not stopped this Delhi-based cyber-security specialist from choosing photography as his hobby. Pranav is in fact one among a surprising number of amateur photographers with visual impairments in India.

"The thrill of taking photographs for me is my desire to perceive what I can't touch. Landscapes, the sky and its clouds, faraway hills and mountain peaks with snow," says Pranav.

He perceives beauty through the sense of sound, using a software, VOICE vision technology that facilitates an augmented reality on his pair of glasses. "It is like an artificial eye, and it works on two levels," explains Pranav. "First, it takes live camera views and translates them to a defined set of sounds." So images are converted into stereo sound by scanning them from left to right – the brighter the object, the louder the sound; the greater the elevation, the higher the pitch.

The second level uses neuroscience. The sound gets converted into electrical impulses in the brain. Your brain cells don't care where they are getting that data from. When it receives that data, the specialised neurons re-recruit themselves for vision," he says, explaining how he sees in illusory flashes. "Once I see what I like, I press click on my smartphone camera."

The contrast in light is why he loves taking pictures of land-



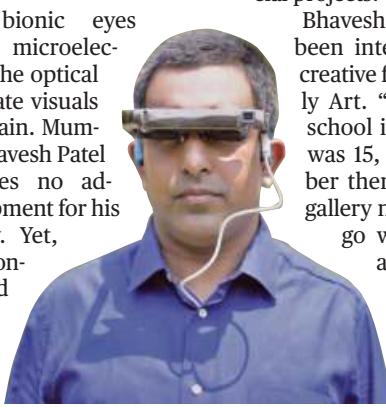
scapes and structures. "Water especially gives you a lot of scope to play with reflections. If the light falls on it differently, it will be an entirely different picture."

Current bionic eyes place such microelectrodes near the optical nerve to create visuals inside the brain. Mumbai-based Bhavesh Patel however uses no advanced equipment for his photography. Yet, he is India's only fully blind photographer to have shot commer-



cial projects.

Bhavesh has always been interested in the creative fields, especially Art. "I studied in a school in Worli until I was 15, and I remember there was this art gallery nearby. I would go with my uncle and he would visually describe what was there in those paintings."



In 2009, he had his first tryst with photography, thanks to a group Blind With Camera, helmed by photographer Partha Bhownick. "He introduced me to a basic Kodak camera. We clicked pictures of the pigeons in Dadar. Whenever they flapped their wings, we would point and shoot."

#### Capturing imagination

When Bhavesh had those developed pictures described to him, it took him back to his childhood memories with his uncle. "It captured my imagination," he says.

From that first photo of the pigeons taking flight, he moved on to take pictures of Katrina Kaif, and got paid for it. "That was mostly done with the help of other sighted photographers, who adjusted the lighting and the environment. I had to sense where she was positioned and what she was doing, and click according to that," he says. However, for Oppo, the shoot was more dynamic. "We travelled to different locations in Delhi to capture different scenarios with an Oppo smartphone."

Under Blind With Camera, many others like Bhavesh have been experimenting with photography as a hobby. Its founder, Partha, claims to have introduced the camera to over 1,500 Indians with visual disabilities. The group also raises awareness by holding workshops for the sighted in which they are blindfolded and taught to use the camera by people with vision impairments.

One such workshop held in Hyderabad was with Mercedes-Benz, for potential buyers. Vivek Yeralkar, from the group, acted as the mentor, instructing students to use their sense of sound to capture pictures of cars zooming on tracks at a speed of 90 kilometres per hour.

#### Staying focussed

Completely blind in one eye and with 10% vision in the other, Vivek used to be a photographer – he recalls the local awards he won with great joy – before he lost his vision due to retinal detachment in 1992.

"Back then I was in Thane, working as an engineer. I would use Vernier callipers and micrometers, but one day I couldn't see the readings properly." Several visits to the doctor and a surgery did not help, and he moved back to his parents' home in Pune.

After getting back on his feet with some computer training and learning to use screen readers, Vivek heard of a Blind With Camera workshop in Goa in 2010. Since then, he has been reacquainted with the lens.

His favourite memory is that of the Kaas Plateau in Satara, where he went two years ago with his son. "There were flowers of so many colours, yellow, violet, orange."

#### COULD IT BE THAT...

## Suicide has come home?



animal support and little empathy.

Suicide does not have a single cause – it is not about a girlfriend swindling you of some money, or a friend supplying you with drugs, or even a mental health condition alone. Sure, the careful contemplation of someone with depression, or the impulsive decision of someone with a personality disorder may be the ultimate cause of a person taking their life, but it is really an erosion of resilience over a long period, of not being heard, of a deep sense of loneliness.

Suicide is about you, me, our parents, children, teachers, governments, neighbours, friends, schools and colleges, workplaces, religious and financial institutions – the systems and relationships on which we build our lives. It is not about "fixing" anything. It is about listening, acknowledging, and simply asking the question: what can I do to change this reality, so no one is pushed to the edge?

It is not about saying, "Oh but he was always smiling." Because people – even those who contemplate suicide – have moments where they enjoy life, and many more where they wear masks.

It is about offering a friendly ear of course, but equally about acknowledging that each of us is a part of the problem. India, we have been told repeatedly, is a collectivist society, always offering support. It's time to live out our claims. Then, the 'solution' will take care of itself.

If you are in crisis please call the 24x7 helpline at Aasra 9820466726

#### CONVERSATIONS WITH SELF



## Becoming a child

When our faith is dented every day, it helps to remain as playful as children

TT SRINATH



The pandemic, the passing on of people we know or have heard about, the uncertainty that is gripping us, is surely beginning to dent our faith.

Yet the truth is we can do little to arrest the fear, but we can help ourselves and those around us through these 'dark days' with some amount of equanimity.

How can we do that?

When talking to a friend who has just lost his mother, as I have my mine, he said to me, quoting his young daughter, "Pa if God is alive so is Grandma, for she has gone to God." I was touched.

A saying from my childhood reminds me that 'To enter the kingdom of Heaven we must become little children'.

The realistic interpretation of this comment is not about being innocent; it is about the ability to play. Children seem to concentrate wholeheartedly and unselfconsciously on doing things for fun.

Being young at heart to me therefore does not mean a refusal to admit what is happening. It means being able to enter into the happy spirit of play. It means regaining light-heartedness which age and worry does not compel us to outgrow.

To cope or better still tide over what each of us is going through, it may be sensible to 'make good' what is around us, the little joys. For this we need faith, and faith is freely available if we choose to embrace it.

The writer is an organisational and behavioural consultant. He can be contacted at tttsrinath@gmail.com

#### EXERCISE AT HOME

## HOLD ON A MINUTE

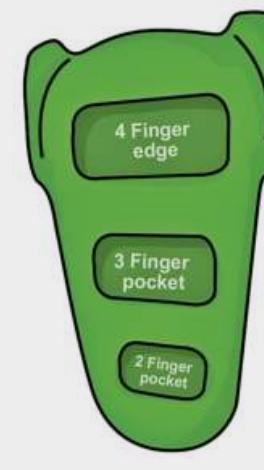
Rock rings, used to practise climbing, can be added to home workouts to enhance upper body and core strength

NISHA VARMA

Used to improve climbing skills, rock rings not only enhance finger grip but also add value to regular upper body and core strength workouts. Rock rings are inexpensive, portable and can be hung easily over bars, tree limbs or any surface which can take the load of your body. The ring is designed for different finger grips. From a full grip at the very top – also known as the jug – for four fingers and three- and two-finger grips at the bottom of the ring. The idea is for your body to be able

to pull its weight when climbing up a mountain, using just two fingers. Of course, this will be assisted by a strong core and the upper body muscles. The fingers can be partially or fully bent. They will be sore in the beginning but as the callouses form, the sensitivity will reduce as will the abrasions. Remember to keep the elbows slightly bent, scapulae (shoulder blades) retracted and all the upper body muscles actively engaged. This will prevent any strain on the joints of the elbows, on the neck and the upper back. The lower back should be neutral at all times. Keep the workout as simple and compact as possible – a few minutes, to begin with. And then progress according to your individual abilities and goals. As always, warm up. A 15-minute moderate to intense warm up should include full body movements like jogs with arms pumping, jumping jacks, spot jogs, burpees or anything that makes you sweat.

At the end, cool down. Include stretches for all the upper body and upper back muscles. Rolling is also a good option.



#### Straight arm hang

Use the four fingerhold to hang on, without bending the arms at the elbow.



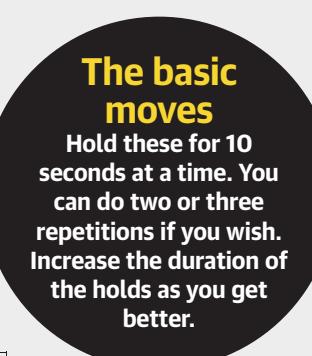
#### Bent arm hang

In a half-pull up position, with arms bent at the elbow.



#### L hang

Choose a grip you can work with. Maintaining all the posture guidelines, lift the legs to a 90 degree position and hold.



#### The basic moves

Hold these for 10 seconds at a time. You can do two or three repetitions if you wish. Increase the duration of the holds as you get better.



#### Offset hangs

Shift your bodyweight to one side, loading one arm at a time.



#### Pull ups

Pull yourself up until your shoulder is on the same level as the rings. Here, it is important that the lower body be totally silent (or inactive).



#### Offset pull ups

Shift your bodyweight to one side, performing one arm pull-up at a time.

#### Sample workout

This 10-minute workout is for advanced athletes; scale it down to half if you are a beginner, following all the posture and safety guidelines.

1. Pull ups using the uppermost edge of the rings for one minute.
2. Bent arm hang, followed by straight arm hang, using the three finger pocket.
3. Offset pull-ups or single arm pull-ups, using the upper edge.
4. Bend arms to do a hanging sit using the upper edge. Bring both knees towards the chest and hold.
5. Straight arm sit ups are the same exercise as above, but repeat the knee ups.
6. Straight arm hang using two or three finger pockets.
7. Sit hang using four finger pocket. Keep the legs straight ahead, without bending the knees.
8. Pull ups using the upper edge.
9. Straight arm hang, followed by single arm hang, using three finger pockets.

Rest in between each exercise. Take your time, progress slowly, don't lock the shoulders and elbows.

Nisha Varma is an ACSM-certified exercise physiologist. This is a monthly column with exercises for a home workout



**A unified journey** Zakir Hussain, John McLaughlin and Shankar Mahadevan from the video 'Sakhi'  
• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

one such piece which he worked on for one month and came up with something so astonishing that we then decided to do the whole album together. That's how *Is That So* was born last year." Apart from 'Sakhi', the other collaborative numbers in the album are 'Kabir', 'Tara', 'The Search', 'The Guru' and 'The Beloved'.

'Sakhi' was recorded via ISDN with artistes performing from their respective homes – Shankar in Mumbai, John from Monaco, Zakir from California. Despite recording from remote locations, 'Sakhi' wins with its seamless flow of spirit and the mood. Watching the video, viewers find nothing amiss. Shankar says it is very convenient to record from remote locations. "It's easier to collaborate with the artistes. When you are recording with great artistes like Zakir and John, why would you want to guide them, you know they simply play their best. And the project will see the light of day. Otherwise, you have to wait for schedules of the artistes to come together, especially when they are in different places."

On the flip side, Shankar admits there are disadvantages too. "There are two things we miss while recording from remote locations. While performing on stage we rely a lot on eye contact, a cue communicates what we are supposed to do in the next microsecond. So that gets missed. Of course, the hanging out before and after the concert, laughing at the crazy jokes, the beautiful lunches and dinners we used to order... the physical presence at the location is something we naturally miss. Otherwise execution-wise, we are not missing anything. I think the quality is pretty much the same."

*Released a week ago 'Sakhi' has recorded over 42 k views on YouTube to date.*

"It's a piece that developed slowly and we just went along with it," says Shankar.

**Creating music, virtually**  
*Is That So* is a result of a small experiment that Shankar and John attempted. "We started it as fun. I used to do an *alaap* and John would harmonise it and we would remove the root notes of the *alaap* and use different scales and pitches, which is normally not done in Indian classical music. So it was a fun thing we started during our tours. I sent him

was a piece that we used to perform regularly and we used to look forward to this because it's calm and peaceful. John ji's guitar riffs and lyrics by Zakir *bhai* makes it haunting and melodious too. This piece evolved organically."

'Sakhi', an interpretation of thumri, peaks to a 'question-answerer' exchange in between taking a different tempo and ascending like a storm and subsiding to become peaceful again.



SB VIJAYA MARY

The four-decade association between visionary guitarist John McLaughlin and percussionist Zakir Hussain is not just about a cross-cultural dialogue; their collaborations mark a unified journey to tap new terrains in music. Shankar Mahadevan grew up idolising these legends and as part of their band Shakti, he complements the geniuses' musical outputs.

The song 'Sakhi', a production created during lockdown, is part of an album *Is That So*. Speaking from Mumbai, Shankar says, "In our journey of 20 years that we've been together as Shakti the band, 'Sakhi'

## Collaborative incantation

Shankar Mahadevan teams up with Zakir Hussain and John McLaughlin in an innovative musical piece 'Sakhi'

Psychologist-turned-filmmaker Sujatha Balakrishnan talks about *I Am Enough* which deals with the need for internal validation

RUTH DHANARAJ

As children we are constantly compared to siblings and peers; as adults we tend to measure ourselves against others around us. The ill-effects of constant comparison, especially among children, forms the premise of *I Am Enough*, a short film scripted by Sujatha Balakrishnan.

In her experience as a psychologist for over two decades, Sujatha regularly comes across people dealing with issues of self-acceptance.

"I strongly believe our self-evaluation is highly influenced by the validation of

others. This in turn, affects our self-worth and self-esteem," says Balakrishnan.

"This is especially true amongst adolescents who are constantly facing questions such as, 'Who am I? What do people think of me?'

A particularly intense case where a teenager developed dislike towards a person she was being compared to, made Sujatha realise that greater awareness was needed on the issue.

American social psychologist Leon Festinger, known for his Social Comparison theory, has been an influence on Su-

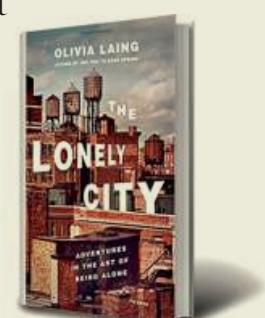
### HOMING IN

For this week's **Reading List**, *A Brush with Indian Art* author **Mamta Nainy** picks four books that are sensitive, warm and offer a sense of comfort

KRITHIKA REDDY

### Blue is Like Blue by Vinod Kumar Shukla

I have just finished reading this book and been struggling to find the suitable words to describe my experience. It is a short story collection that is deeply moving and strangely bewildering, all at the same time. Deceptively simple in their crafting and devoid of all embellishments, they focus on the minutiae of life, making even the most commonplace of events arresting.

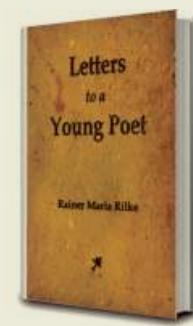


### The Lonely City: Adventures in the Art of Being Alone by Olivia Laing

Easily one of the best works I have read recently. Part memoir, part art history, part criticism, part biography...a neat description of this book is difficult to pull off. What it does though, with great subtlety and sensitivity, is to invite a deep meditation on loneliness. Laing deftly examines the connection between loneliness and creativity through the works of four great artists – Edward Hopper, Andy Warhol, David Wojnarowicz and Henry Darger.

### Letters to a Young Poet by Rainer Maria Rilke

It is a book I find myself going back to whenever I feel stuck. Replete with the invaluable wisdom on life and writing that Rilke bequeathed on a young military cadet and budding poet Franz Xaver Kappus through a series of stirring profound letters, this jewel of a volume has practical advice that is no less than poetry. The letters touch upon why must one write and what books do to our inner lives.



### This is a Poem that Heals Fish by Jean-Pierre Simeón

Picture books is what I turn to for a sense of comfort and security. There is something about reading and re-reading these wonderful stories that carry the most profound philosophies, distilled in the most unselfconscious language. These last few months I kept returning to this beautiful picture book about a little boy who worries that his pet fish may die of boredom and his mother suggests that he give the fish a poem. The boy has no idea what a poem is and so begins a story of what all a poem can be. The text is poetic and playful and the illustrations are tender, warm and vibrantly expressive.

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



**I am what I am** A still from the film; Sujatha Balakrishnan  
• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

## Beautifully imperfect

Psychologist-turned-filmmaker Sujatha Balakrishnan talks about *I Am Enough* which deals with the need for internal validation

RUTH DHANARAJ

As children we are constantly compared to siblings and peers; as adults we tend to measure ourselves against others around us. The ill-effects of constant comparison, especially among children, forms the premise of *I Am Enough*, a short film scripted by Sujatha Balakrishnan.

In her experience as a psychologist for over two decades, Sujatha regularly comes across people dealing with issues of self-acceptance.

"I strongly believe our self-evaluation is highly influenced by the validation of

others. This in turn, affects our self-worth and self-esteem," says Balakrishnan.

"This is especially true amongst adolescents who are constantly facing questions such as, 'Who am I? What do people think of me?'

A particularly intense case where a teenager developed dislike towards a person she was being compared to, made Sujatha realise that greater awareness was needed on the issue.

American social psychologist Leon Festinger, known for his Social Comparison theory, has been an influence on Su-

jatha's professional life. "Leon Festinger believed that we engage in this comparison process as a way of establishing a benchmark by which we can make accurate evaluations of ourselves," she says.

*I Am Enough* is the story of a promising young swimmer who is measured by the academic success of her best friend and the impact it has on their relationship as well as on the mental state of the protagonist.

It also sheds light on how parents, teachers and peers unknowingly aggravate a person's mental trauma by not being more supportive.

Sujatha wrote the story and screenplay of *I Am Enough* with Pooja Pandey Tripathi directing and Usha Rao handling the camera and editing. The short film took about two months to write and two weeks to film.

*Theatre for Change* which debuts in the film genre in association with Being Theatre will be presenting *I Am Enough* on YouTube on October 15.

### POOCHE CAFE



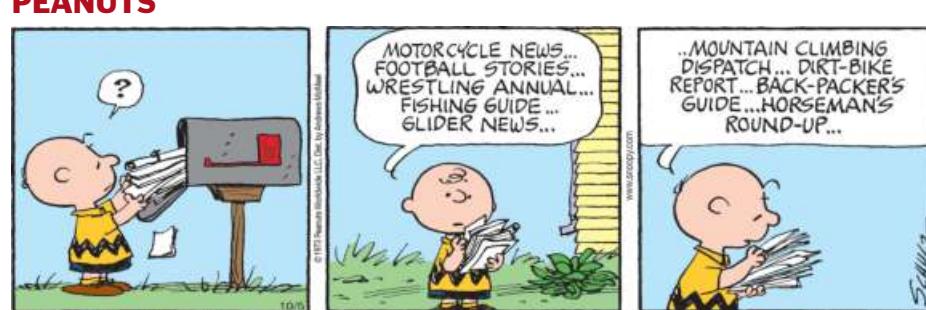
### HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



### TIGER



### PEANUTS



### CALVIN AND HOBBES



### PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



# Trump may return to White House today

President's oxygen levels dipped twice but his condition is improving, steroids administered: doctors

REUTERS  
WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump's condition is improving as he is being treated for COVID-19 at a military hospital, his medical team said on Sunday, as they provided more details of the toll the lung illness has taken on him.

Mr. Trump, 74, who was flown to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center on Friday, could return as early as Monday to the White House, where doctors would continue his five-day course of the intravenous antiviral drug Remdesivir.

White House doctor Sean P. Conley told reporters Mr. Trump had received supplemental oxygen on Thursday and Friday and is also being given the steroid dexamethasone. The briefing came the day after contradictory messages from the White House caused widespread confusion about the President's condition.

Mr. Trump spent much of the year downplaying the risks of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has infected 7.4 million Americans, killed more than 2,09,000, and caused an economic downturn that has thrown millions out of work.

His illness has upended his re-election campaign as it



On recovery path: Donald Trump at work in the presidential suite of the Walter Reed Military Hospital in Bethesda. **AFP**

seeks to fend off Democratic challenger Joe Biden in the final month of the race, and rattled financial markets.

Several members of his inner circle have also tested positive for the disease, including three Republican members of the U.S. Senate.

A Reuters/Ipsos poll published on Sunday found Mr. Biden had opened a 10 point lead over Mr. Trump nationally, slightly wider than it has been for the past two months.

Some 65% of Americans said Mr. Trump likely would not have been infected had he taken the virus more seriously – a view that half of registered Republicans polled supported. About 55% said they did not

believe Mr. Trump had been telling the truth about the virus.

Doctors said the President has not run a fever since Friday, though he had high fever on Friday morning, and that his liver and kidney function remained normal after the second dose of remdesivir.

#### Critical care

Dr. Brian Garibaldi said Mr. Trump was given the steroid dexamethasone in response to "transient low oxygen levels". "He received his first dose of yesterday and our plan is to continue that for the time being," Dr. Garibaldi said.

Dexamethasone is shown

in studies to improve survival for patients hospitalised with critical COVID-19 who need extra oxygen. But it should not be given in mild cases since it can limit the body's own ability to combat the virus, according to guidelines from the Infectious Disease Society of America.

Asked what tests had revealed about the condition of Mr. Trump's lungs, Dr. Conley replied, "There's some expected findings, but nothing of any major clinical concern."

Mr. Trump is also being given an experimental treatment, Regeneron's REGN-COV2, as well as zinc, Vitamin D, famotidine, melatonin and aspirin, his doctors have said.

"Today he feels well, he's been up and around. Our plan for today is to have him eat and drink, be up out of bed as much as possible, to be mobile," Dr. Garibaldi said. "And if he continues to look and feel as well as he does today our hope is that we can plan for a discharge as early as tomorrow to the White House, where he can continue his treatment course."

Mr. Trump released a four-minute video on Saturday, in which he said the "real test" of his condition

will come over the next few days.

"Over the next period of a few days, I guess that's the real test, so we'll be seeing what happens over those next couple of days," Mr. Trump said.

#### Campaign continues

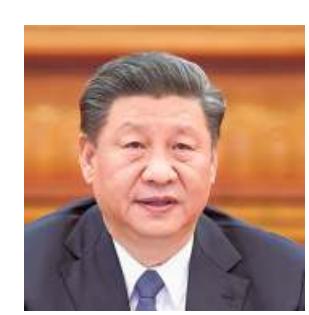
Mr. Trump's campaign vowed that Vice-President Mike Pence, who would assume the presidency if Mr. Trump were unable to carry out his duties, would have an "aggressive" campaign schedule this week, as would Mr. Trump's three oldest children.

Mr. Xi made the remarks on Sunday in an exchange of congratulatory messages with his Bangladeshi counterpart, Mohammad Abdul Hamid, on the 45th anniversary of the establishment of the bilateral diplomatic relationship.

"We can't stay in our basement or shut down the economy indefinitely. We have to take it head-on," Trump campaign senior adviser Jason Miller said on ABC's *This Week* on Sunday.

With Mr. Trump off the campaign trail indefinitely, his campaign announced "Operation MAGA," based on his slogan "Make America Great Again," which will see high-profile allies, including Mr. Pence and Trump's elder sons, Donald Jr. and Eric, take over in-person campaigning this week.

Mr. Pence is scheduled to debate Democratic vice presidential nominee Kamala Harris on Wednesday.



Xi Jinping

of the largest recipients of China's massive infrastructure project.

China has also offered zero-tariff treatment to 97% of Bangladesh's exports by adding 5,161 more items to the existing list of 3,095 duty-free products.

The BRI seeks to build rail, maritime and road links from Asia to Europe and Africa in a revival of ancient Silk Road trading routes.

#### India's concerns

The BRI has been a major bone of contention between India and China as one portion of the corridor passes through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

Besides Pakistan, where China initiated over \$60 billion dollars funding commitments, Bangladesh is one

(CPEC), China has stepped up its huge infrastructure investments in Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Maldives rising concerns of its growing influence in India's immediate neighbourhood.

The BRI is President Xi's top priority initiative, which aims up China's global influence.

#### Debt-diplomacy

The initiative has, however, attracted allegations, especially from the U.S., of debt-diplomacy after Sri Lanka handed over its Hambantota Port to a state-run Chinese firm in 2017 for a 99 years' lease in a debt swap amounting to \$1.2 billion. Malaysia has also deferred several projects under the BRI, citing cost revaluation.

Mr. Xi, in his message to Mr. Hamid, also said the two countries had worked jointly to fight against COVID-19.

Earlier, China had sent medical team to Bangladesh to share its experience of handling coronavirus, which had emerged first in Wuhan in December last year.

Bangladesh is also among a dozen countries where the clinical trials of Chinese vaccine are under way.

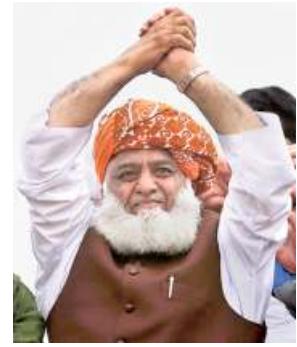
# Maulana to lead Pak. anti-govt. front

Decision comes a week before launch of a nationwide campaign against PM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's firebrand cleric-cum-politician Maulana Fazlur Rehman has been unanimously appointed as the first president of the Opposition's newly-formed anti-government alliance Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM), a media report said on Sunday.

The decision was taken on Saturday during a virtual meeting of the Opposition parties attended by Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo and former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, BNP chief Sardar Akhtar Mengal among other senior



Maulana Fazlur Rehman

politicians.

According to PDM's steering committee convenor Ahsan Iqbal, deposed Prime Minister Sharif proposed Rehman's name as the alliance president and it was endorsed by PPP chairman Bilawal and others, the

Dawn newspaper reported. There was an agreement among the leaders that Mr. Rehman should lead the PDM in the first phase as he had already led a demonstration, dubbed as Azadi March, against the present Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) government last year.

"Since the Maulana has already done a rehearsal and his party is more disciplined and has the ability to effectively mobilise the masses, therefore, in the first and decisive phase, he is the best choice," said one of the participants in the meeting.

Most of the participants were of the opinion that in order to maintain continuity, it was necessary that the tenure of key office-bearers,

including that of the PDM president, should not exceed four to six months.

#### No link to India'

The Maulana's nomination to lead the movement came only a week before the formal launch of the anti-government campaign by the opposition parties with PDM's first public meeting scheduled for October 11 in Quetta.

The opposition parties' heads in their meeting also passed a resolution. Through it, the PDM leaders condemned the PTI government's statement linking the alliance to India, stating that such a statement was a proof of the government's frustration.

The developments marked a sharp escalation of the clashes in the South Caucasus that broke out one week ago.

"Azerbaijan will destroy military targets directly inside Armenia from which shelling of its population centres is taking place," presidential aide Hikmet Hajiyev said.

# Azerbaijan says Armenia hit second city, threatens retaliation

'No end to fighting until Yerevan sets pullout timetable'

REUTERS  
BAKU/YEREVAN

Azerbaijan said on Sunday that Armenian forces had fired rockets at its second city of Ganja, killing one civilian and wounding 32, and threatened to retaliate by destroying military targets inside Armenia.

The developments marked a sharp escalation of the clashes in the South Caucasus that broke out one week ago.

"The Azerbaijani soldier is chasing them like a dog, the Azerbaijani soldier is standing at their posts, we have taken their weaponry, we are carrying out the mission of liberation," he declared.

Mr. Aliyev's message made clear that Azerbaijan would not entertain calls for an immediate ceasefire, as Russia, the U.S. and European Union have repeatedly urged.

"Azerbaijan has one condition, and that is the liberation of its territories," he said. "Nagorno-Karabakh is the territory of Azerbaijan. We must return and we shall return."

"The Azerbaijani soldier is chasing them like a dog, the Azerbaijani soldier is standing at their posts, we have taken their weaponry, we are carrying out the mission of liberation," he declared.

The content and tone of

# Mecca reopens for pilgrimage

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
MECCA

Muslim pilgrims circled Islam's holiest site Mecca on Sunday as Saudi authorities partially resumed the year-round *umrah* pilgrimage with extensive health precautions adopted after a seven-month COVID-19 hiatus.

It is being revived in three phases with 6,000 pilgrims being allowed per day during the first phase.

Under the second stage from October 18, the number of pilgrims will be increased to 15,000 per day.

Visitors from abroad will be permitted in the third stage from November 1, when capacity will be raised to 20,000.

## ELSEWHERE



U.K. can prosper under no-deal Brexit: Johnson

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said on Sunday that Britain "can prosper mightily" without a post-Brexit trade deal with the European Union, the day after agreeing to extend stalled talks with Brussels. London and Brussels had pinpointed a EU summit on October 15 as the latest an agreement could be reached for it to be ratified in time. **AFP**

## New Caledonia rejects freedom from France

The South Pacific territory of New Caledonia chose to remain French on Sunday, narrowly rejecting independence in a referendum. The vote rejecting a breakaway from France after almost 170 years came in at 53.26%, according to final results, down from 56.7% in a referendum two years ago. French President Emmanuel Macron said he was grateful to the voters. **AFP**

## Hackers steal Swiss university staff salaries

Unidentified hackers have managed to steal employee salary payments at several Swiss universities, officials said on Sunday. The hackers used information obtained by phishing – tricking a person into passing on their personal details – for their attacks on at least three universities, including the University of Basel. **AFP**

# Afghan woman leader makes it to Nobel front-runner list

Fawzia Koofi is a negotiator in Doha talks with the Taliban



Fawzia Koofi

she was also elected the Deputy Speaker of Parliament. Her bid to stand for President was thwarted after new age rules disqualified her, but she has been a strong votary for women's rights, piloting a Bill on the eradication of violence against women, and has campaigned for the inclusion of women in the reconciliation process. Ms. Koofi, whose father and brother were killed during the Taliban regime (1996-2001), also lost her husband who was repeatedly jailed by the Taliban, and died of an illness contracted there. She has been targeted by militants a number of times, including in 2010, when she was shot at, and again on August 16 this year, just weeks before the Doha talks began, when gunmen shot at her and her daughter, and a bullet injured her right arm. She attended the talks with her hand in a sling, nevertheless.

"I think this is a recognition of all the efforts that Afghan women have undergone in order to be included in the [reconciliation] process, to be heard," Ms. Koofi said, speaking to *The Hindu* from Doha, where she will participate in the next round of talks beginning Monday. And I think that the [Nobel nomination] gives me personally, much more power, along with my other three sisters (other women negotiators in the team) who are in this process of negotiation because we do have to try harder," she added.

## Votary of women's rights

Ms. Koofi, one of Afghanistan's most prominent politicians, was first elected to Parliament in 2005 when

## Tens of thousands rally in Minsk

REUTERS  
MOSCOW

want to be considered as representative of my country and as a politician, who have equal rights to sit across the table and discuss the future of her country, and therefore, if [the Taliban] want to really reconcile and if they want to pursue their political agendas, not through bullets, but through ballots, then they have to respect diversity and accept that we are part of the new Afghanistan."

The announcement of the winner will be made in Oslo by the Norwegian Nobel Committee on Friday. According to the committee's rules, the names of nominees are not disclosed for 50 years, and the frontrunner list is not "official". However, last week, the Norwegian Peace Council, an umbrella NGO of 20 Norwegian Peace organisations in Oslo released its list of five frontrunners for the Nobel Peace Prize, choosing Ms. Koofi as the top favourite, out of a total number of 318 candidates. The list of favourites included media freedom groups Reporters Without Borders & Committee to Protect Journalists, New Zealand PM Jacinda Ardern.

"The fact that we have come up to hear in the peace process, and had our voice heard is very important, and whether we win or not, this recognition itself is a big success for women and for all of Afghanistan," she said.

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## ASK US

VIDYA BALA

**Q.** I'm an MBBS graduate. I have saved ₹75,000 from my internship and want to invest the same for the long term (3-4 years), gain returns and use them to fund my higher studies. What would be my best investment option?

SUHAS G.

**A.** You have saved well. If you are unfamiliar with stock markets or equity mutual funds, you need to know that 3-4 years is not long term. It is short term. That essentially means that you cannot consider full exposure to equities believing it will deliver well, as equity investments need a minimum 5-7-year period and may still deliver single-digit returns. I would suggest that you invest 50-60% in short-term FDs and renew them at higher rates when interest rates move up. Try to invest in short-duration debt mutual funds for about 25% of the sum.

Please don't choose funds based on extremely high returns. Go for middle-order funds and check if the funds invest in only quality AAA-papers. Categories such as banking and PSU debt will fit this.

Try investing the remaining 15% or so in a Nifty-based equity index mutual fund. Please know that this component can go up and down. You need to hold on.

**Q.** My monthly income is about ₹35,000 and I want to invest in the equity markets. Where can I get adequate returns? What would be the best timing for investing and the precautions I must take before investing?

ABHIRANJAN MADHESHIYA

**A.** If you plan to invest directly into stock markets, you need to have the following qualities: one, invest for the long term and be patient. Two, do your homework thoroughly to pick stocks. Three, accept mistakes and make course correction instead of living with them.

If you are looking at short-term trading, then learning must be much more – almost full time and dedicated. You should set aside adequate income as buffer before you get into trading and make sure you can handle losses without any pressure of shortage of income or risk of taking debt.



If all the above seems too tough, take the mutual fund route, and invest in a simple equity index fund like the Nifty 50 or Nifty 500 through SIPs. Also, make sure you have debt exposure either through your provident fund or through simple, safe deposits and some 10-15% exposure to gold funds or Exchange traded funds.

This is needed to hedge the volatility arising from equity. Have a long-term outlook of at least 5-7 years and invest in a disciplined manner, whether the market falls or rises. There is no such time as the 'best time' to invest. SIPs are designed to ensure you do not need to time the market.

**Q.** I am a senior citizen and would like to invest in gold bonds. Is there a lock-in period? How safe is it? What's the interest rate?

SIVAKAMI THYAGARAJAN

**A.** If you are buying sovereign gold bonds (SGBs) to earn income, it is not a good idea. You may be better off choosing the RBI Floating Rate Bonds for income needs. SGBs earn 2.5% interest as of now.

They have a lock-in of 8 years, with an exit option in the fifth year. Although it is a government bond, its prices will keep fluctuating in line with gold prices and you will receive an amount close to the price of gold when it matures.

While they can be sold in the market, you can't be sure you get a good price or sell it at all, as many of these instruments are thinly traded. It may be simpler for you to buy a gold fund or gold ETF, although they don't carry interest rates, if your purpose is to just have some exposure to gold.

(The author is co-founder, Primeinvestor.in)

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

## LOOSE CHANGE

RAVIKANTH



"A great day at the office! I got my salary! As a bonus, I was also able to find an ATM that dispensed cash!"

# Returns tango with risk

Every investment carries an element of risk and an investor must be fully aware of the same

GAURAV MASHRUWALA

Most of us think that ROI means Return On Investment. This is true; but ROI can also mean Risk on Investment. Risk and return are two sides of the same coin.

When we say 'high risk, high returns,' the word 'returns' impacts our mind prominently. This is because we all want returns on our investment and rightly so. However, think quietly: should it be 'high risk, high return' or 'high return, high risk'?

When we say the former, we feel everyone who takes higher risk will get higher returns. The fact is all high-return investments also have a high risk component. Risk and returns are inseparable.

## MIND YOUR MONEY

Is it ever possible for a rose plant to grow without thorns on it? Can a butcher say, I will not see blood and flesh. What about a fisherman who is scared of water? Similarly, there cannot be returns on investment without risk attached to it. The very first risk we take is parting with our money.

There are many kinds of risk attached to different kinds of investments. Before investing, it is important to know about

them. A car driver ought to have complete knowledge of the brake and accelerator before starting the vehicle.

The suggestion, however, is not to stay away from investing. One of the biggest risks an individual takes in life is not investing. An equally huge risk is to invest without knowing the associated risks.

## Biggest risk

Mitali and Sudhir are a very young, newly-married couple. They wanted to purchase a home. Their landlord was willing to sell the property to them. He was also considerate towards structuring the deal in a manner which would be a win-win for both the sides.

For down payment, they needed ₹25 lakh. Most of the couple's funds were locked in tax-saving instruments and a plot of land purchased from the money received at the time of marriage. Funds were available but locked in.



This is the biggest risk that faces investors of today.

Investments are made without keeping in mind 'My GDP' - My Goals and Dreams Plan. Always keep an eye on 'My GDP' before investing.

## Types of risk

Apart from the above, the two important categories of risk associated with any kind of investment are (1) transparent and non-transparent risks (2) systematic and unsystematic risks.

When we invest in stock markets or gold, the risk is transparent. We can see the movement of prices and market value of our investments.

When we invest in bank fixed deposits, there is no way to find out how much we are losing to inflation on a daily or weekly basis. Therefore, investments in stock market and gold are transparent risks. On the other hand, investment in fixed deposit, and for that matter, even real estate to some extent, is a non-transparent risk.

Systematic risk is one which exists in the system. Inflation, for example, is a part of the economic sys-

tem. The moment we invest in any kind of instrument, we inherit inflation risk. Similar is the case with government policies, geo-political tensions and the like.

Unsystematic risk is attached to a particular investment. For example, if the investment is in an equity mutual fund and the government decides to tax investments in gold, our investment in equity will not be affected, but that in gold will be.

**G** When we say 'high risk, high returns,' the word 'returns' impacts our mind prominently. This is because we all want returns on our investment and rightly so. However, think quietly: should it be 'high risk, high return' or 'high return, high risk'?

Similarly, if we have shares of ABC Ltd. and if the MD of XYZ Ltd. resigns there will not be any impact on ABC Ltd. This is because tax on gold and the resignation of MD of XYZ Ltd. are not a part of the system and hence, will not affect all forms of investment.

We must invest to achieve our financial goals but keep an eye on 'My ROI' - My Risk On Investment.

(The author is a financial planner and the author of Yogi's Wealth)

## TECH TRAIL: PRECIOUS METALS

## In cooling-off mode

B. KRISHNAKUMAR

After a period of consolidation, the prices of precious metals saw a cool-off in September. The firm trend in the U.S. dollar along with a recovery in the equity market affected market sentiment.

Comex gold closed 4.4% lower in September to settle at \$1,890.9 an ounce. The fall in comex silver was dramatic with the metal losing 17.9% to settle at \$23.3 an ounce.

In the domestic market, MCX gold futures closed 3.2% lower to ₹50,334 per 10 gm. MCX silver futures closed 14.9% lower to ₹59,919 per kg.

Comex gold ruled weak with prices slipping below the lower end of the prior trading range at \$1,910-\$2,025. While the long-term outlook for Comex gold remains positive, there are no signs of completion of the recent price cool-off. A move above \$1,980 would indicate the resumption of the long-term uptrend.

Until \$1,980 is taken out, the premise would be that the short-term cool-off phase is at play. Comex gold may slip to the immediate target range of \$1,825-\$1,840 in the short term. A move past \$1,980 is required to invalidate this short-term weak outlook.

Comex silver, too, breached the prior support zone at \$25.5 resulting in a slide to \$21.2. The price has subsequently recovered in the past few trading sessions.

While the long-term outlook is positive, the price may drift lower in the near term. A fall below \$23 would be a sign of weakness and could push



silver price to \$21.21.5 an ounce.

MCX gold has been consolidating in the ₹49,500-54,500 range. This trend may persist until the price gets past the ₹55,000 per 10 gm level. A fall below ₹49,400 would impart weakness and price could then drift to the next target of ₹47,500-48,000. Until the price gets above ₹55,000, a slide to ₹48,000 would be the preferred short-term outlook.

The short-term trend is weak and a slide to ₹58,300 appears likely. The short-term trend could turn much weaker on a close below ₹57,500. Until the price moves above ₹64,000, resulting in a sharp crack thereafter.

The short-term trend is weak and a slide to ₹58,300 appears likely. The short-term trend could turn much weaker on a close below ₹57,500. Until the price moves above ₹64,000, resulting in a sharp crack thereafter.

To summarise, precious metals are in a short-term downturn while the long-term trend remains positive.

(The author is a Chennai-based analyst/trader. This is not meant to be trading or investment advice)



**Less taxing:** Tax-efficient investments will leave more money for current consumption. ■ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

## The principle in question

You should protect (shelter) from tax those investments in your portfolio that provide the lowest post-tax returns.

For any goal that you pursue, your investment portfolio will have equity and bonds. Your equity investments will be typically through mutual funds (MFs) while your bond investments will be in bank fixed deposits (FDs) and recurring deposits (RDs). So, your equity investments predominantly earn capital appreciation whereas your bond investments earn only income return. This sets the stage for applying the Sheltering Principle to create tax-efficient portfolios.

Typically, income returns are taxed at a higher rate than returns from capital appreciation. Note that your equity investments will typically attract long-term capital gains because you are likely to hold the investments for more than one year; this is because you are investing to achieve a life goal which will have a typical horizon of more than three years.

Therefore, your equity investments will be taxed at 10% whereas your income returns

will be taxed at your marginal tax rate (30% typically).

So, if your goal-based portfolio contains equity funds and bank FDs, your investments will suffer 10% tax on equity investments and 30% tax on bond investments. Therefore, it is logical to shelter bond investments (PF and PPF) from taxes. The arithmetic behind the Sheltering Principle is simple. Suppose you are planning to invest ₹1.5 lakh in PPF and your total investments for the year is, say, ₹4 lakh.

Suppose PPF pays 7% per annum, your portfolio's expected portfolio return will increase by 0.79% (7% times your

interest rate).

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interest rate).

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

## PERSONAL LOAN - RATES AND CHARGES

Name of Lender	Interest rate (%)	EMI (Rs) Loan amount 5 lakh Tenure 5 years	EMI (Rs) Loan amount 1 lakh Tenure 5 years	Processing fee (% of loan amount)
State Bank of India	9.60-13.85	10,525-11,595	2,105-2,319	Upto 1.5% (Maximum Rs 15,000)
Citi Bank	9.99-16.49	10,621-12,290	2,124-2,458	Upto 3%
HDFC Bank	10.75-21.30	10,809-13,611	2,162-2,722	Rs 2,999-25,000
Bank of Baroda	10.25-15.60	10,685-12,053	2,137-2,411	Rs 1,000-10,000
Axis Bank	12.00-24.00	11,122-14,384	2,224-2,877	1.5%-2%
ICICI Bank	11.25-21.00	10,934-13,527	2,187-2,705	Upto 2.25%
Indian Bank	9.20-13.65	10,428-11,544	2,086-2,309	As applicable time to time
Tata Capital	10.99 onwards	10,869 onwards	2,174 onwards	Upto 2.75%
Kotak Mahindra Bank	10.75-24.00	10,809-14,384	2,162-2,877	Upto 2.5%
Canara Bank	10.20-13.90	10,673-11,608	2,135-2,322	Upto 1% (Maximum Rs 5,000)
Punjab National Bank	8.95-11.80	10,367-11,072	2,073-2,214	Upto 1%
Federal Bank	11.49-17.99	10,994-12,694	2,199-2,539	Upto 3%
Bajaj Finserv	12.99 onwards	11,374 onwards	2,275 onwards	Upto 4.13%
Punjab & Sind Bank	11.10	10,896	2,179	1%

Rates and charges as on September 30

## NEW CAR LOAN-RATES AND CHARGES

Name of Bank	Interest rate (%)	EMI (Rs) Loan amount 5 lakh Tenure-5 years	Processing fee (% of loan amount)
</tbl\_header

# Watson, du Plessis put Kings to the sword

The duo's 181-run stand helps CSK snap a three-match losing streak; Rahul, Pooran's efforts in vain



Nimble feet: Chennai Super Kings openers Faf du Plessis and Shane Watson were simply unstoppable. ■ BCCI/IPL

## IPL 2020

### SPORTS BUREAU

Shane Watson (83 n.o., 53b, 11x3, 3x6) and the inform Faf du Plessis (87 n.o., 53b, 11x4, 1x6) pummelled Kings XI Punjab into submission to lead Chennai Super Kings to a thumping 10-wicket win at the Dubai International Stadium on Sunday.

Chasing Kings' competitive 179-run target, CSK emerged victorious with 14 balls to spare and snapped its three-match losing streak.

### Relief, finally

The three-time champion will finally be relieved to have Watson back in form after a sedate start to the tournament. The Australian looked in good touch from the beginning, leaning into drives and clearing the infield with ease.

At the other end, du Plessis cut loose when he went after Chris Jordan, hitting him for four boundaries to help CSK finish the PowerPlay with the score reading 60. The duo did not allow the left-arm spinner Harpreet Brar and leggie Ravi Bishnoi to settle, employing

the sweep shot effectively to find boundaries at will.

Watson then hit three boundaries and a six in quick succession to race towards his first half-century of the season. He welcomed Jordan back into the attack with two consecutive boundaries to get to the mark, while du Plessis got to his three balls later. They went on to stitch together a 181-run association – CSK's highest for any wicket in the IPL – to flatten the Kings.

Earlier, K.L. Rahul once again led from the front with a half-century (63, 52b, 7x4, 1x6) to help Kings XI Punjab post 178. He was assisted by some brutal hitting from Nicholas Pooran at the back end of the innings - a 33-run cameo off just 17 balls (1x4, 3x6).

**Laying the foundation**  
Electing to bat, Rahul and Mayank Agarwal laid the foundation for a challenging score with a 61-run opening-wicket stand. Rahul was not at his fluent best but still produced some glorious cuts and drives when allowed to free his arms.

After being watchful in the middle overs, Rahul



## Stat attack

**1** The unbeaten 181-run partnership between Watson and du Plessis is Super Kings' highest in the tournament, surpassing the 159 by Mike Hussey and M. Vijay – also for the first wicket against RCB in the 2011 final at Chennai

**184** - Adam Gilchrist-V.V.S. Laxman, Deccan Chargers vs MI, Mumbai, 2008

**181\*** - Shane Watson-Faf du Plessis, vs KXIP, Dubai, 2020

**163** - Sachin Tendulkar-Dwayne Smith, MI vs RR, Jaipur, 2012

launched into Shardul Thakur in the 15th over, scoring 14 off it to get to his half-century.

At the other end, Pooran went berserk, hitting a four and six off Jadeja's final over, before picking two more maximums of Curran and Bravo. Shardul, however, removed both Pooran and Rahul off successive deliveries at the start of the 18th over, helping keep the target within CSK's reach.

## Points table

Team	M	W	L	PTS	NRR
Mumbai Indians	5	3	2	<b>6</b>	1.214
Delhi Capitals	4	3	1	<b>6</b>	0.588
Royal Challengers	4	3	1	<b>6</b>	-0.954
Kolkata Knight Riders	4	2	2	<b>4</b>	-0.121
Rajasthan Royals	4	2	2	<b>4</b>	-0.317
Chennai Super Kings	5	2	3	<b>4</b>	-0.342
Sunrisers Hyderabad	5	2	3	<b>4</b>	-0.417
Kings XI Punjab	5	1	4	<b>2</b>	0.178

After the KXIP-CSK match on Oct. 4

## Kohli matches wits with Shreyas

Royal Challengers and Capitals both coming off good victories

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA DUBAI

Virat Kohli's tactical acumen will be put to test against Shreyas Iyer's unassuming but dynamic brand of captaincy when Royal Challengers Bangalore and Delhi Capitals face off here on Monday.

While Shreyas has displayed good batting form in all four matches, Kohli finally got his act together against Rajasthan Royals on Saturday. On Monday, both skippers

would look to lead from the front

While Prithvi Shaw has looked in control at the top of the order for Capitals, Shikhar Dhawan's form is concerning. Rishabh Pant seems to have shed his rustiness with a quick-fire 38 against Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR). On the bowling front, Kagiso Rabada will still be the go-to man despite leaking runs against KKR.

RCB, meanwhile, has been served well by the young Dev

dutt Padikkal at the top. The left-hander is fourth in the run-scorers' tally with 174 from four games, including three fifties. With Kohli finding his touch, RCB will be hoping for Aaron Finch to build on his starts to make the top-order more rounded.

Isuru Udana has been a welcome addition to RCB's bowling line-up alongside Navdeep Saini and the spin duo of Washington Sundar and Yuzvendra Chahal.

- Welcome addition: Isuru Udana has chipped in for the Royal Challengers with his skilful bowling. ■ BCCI/IPL
- 13 Burn, incinerate, at first, links to foundations (9)  
15 Bring back Stradivarius hiding missiles (5)  
16 Rope for fool within Lazio boundaries (5)  
18 Obstacle for gentle mixologist (9)  
22 Overlook crazy suitor (no saint) in U.S. state (8)  
23 Attacked senior finally helped (6)  
25 Tell workers about sources (10)  
26 Organism found in glacial gaps (4)  
27 Initially lacking blame? Make sure of it (6)  
28 Almost defame Turkish currency (6)

### ■ DOWN

- 1 Nurture our shin weirdly (7)  
2 Starts going homeward across northern African country (5)  
3 Intern to start off exam during disturbance (7)  
5 Hidden San Angelo pessimist runs off (6)  
6 Looks at series with asthenopia (9)  
7 Birdbrained alien in bushes (7)  
8 Newly made raincoats gone for people in their eighties (13)  
14 Electrical devices for those who oppose on the radio (9)  
17 Urge spectators to lose bit of disbelief (7)  
19 Drives in regular Utah rats (7)  
20 Finally, he teams up and proceeds (7)  
21 Season for principal seasoned singer, needing no introduction (6)  
24 Fuming at leader, incompetent judge (5)

### ■ ACROSS

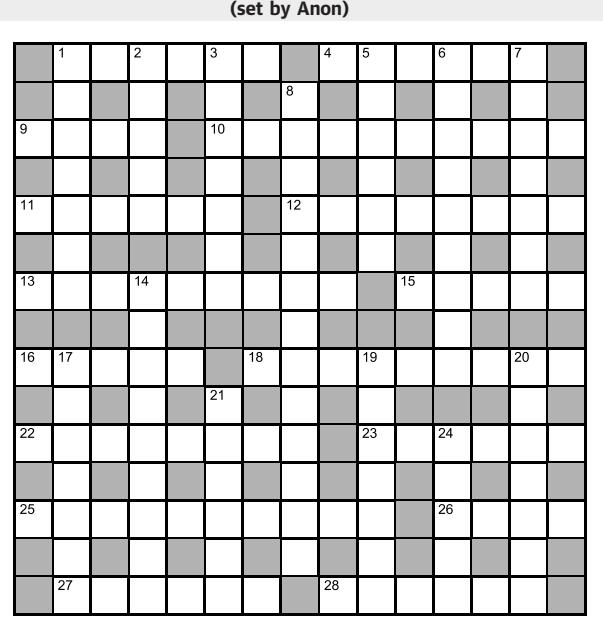
- 1 Reject need oddly at door (6)  
4 Show remorse at regular pier in lease (6)  
9 A maniac returns for a fish (4)  
10 I confused cronies in empty madrasa on Pacific island (10)  
11 Almost OK beer at the end (6)  
12 Pass peculiar looking oak tree with every second (8)

## CROSSWORD + 13058

(set by Anon)

Are you better with numbers or with words?  
Try our Crosswords site and find out!  
@ <https://qrqo.page.link/jjjTn>

SCAN TO PLAY



- 13 Burn, incinerate, at first, links to foundations (9)  
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## SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to puzzle 13058

P	R	O	B	L	E	M	S	Q	I	V	E	R
O	W	Y	E	N	E	E	E					
L	A	N	D	M	A	R	K	U	R	A	N	U
L	E	P	C	M	I	U	I					
E	A	R	T	H	U	N	A	D	V	I	S	E
X	S	R	R	A								
E	I	A	E	O								
E	J	A	E	O								
N	E	P	T	E								
P	E	T	U	N								
U	N	E	A	I								
S	A	T	U	R								
S	A	T	U	R								
T	I	E	E	I								
T	I	E	E	I								
S	A	L	A	R								

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

13057

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

## FAITH

### Yagna Varaha

The Lord takes the Varaha avatar to rescue the earth that is submerged in the depths of water. This happens when Swyambhu Manu, who is assigned the task to rule over the earth and propagate the race by Brahma, finds the earth missing. Brahma then meditates on the Lord who alone can solve this problem and sure enough the Lord appears as a small boar from Brahma's nostril and soon grows huge in size. Seeing the earth, Bhu, the support of all beings and whom He had sheltered in his abdomen at the time of deluge, now in Rasatala, the Lord enters

# Swiatek breezes past Halep

Bertens crashes out; Sinner ousts Zverev; Nadal waltzes but Thiem struggles

## FRENCH OPEN

REUTERS  
PARIS

Polish teenager Iga Swiatek booted top seed Simona Halep out of the French Open on Sunday with a crushing 6-1, 6-2 victory to make her maiden Grand Slam quarterfinal.

Halep came into the fourth round clash on a 17-match unbeaten streak having defeated the 19-year-old Swiatek, ranked 54th in the world, 6-1, 6-0 in 45 minutes at the same stage last year in the claycourt Grand Slam at Roland Garros.

Swiatek avenged that morale-sapping defeat and her victory under the closed roof of Court Philippe Chatrier in 68 minutes was no less impressive against the 2018 French Open champion, ranked No. 2 in the world.

Halep watched in disbelief as Swiatek started with aggression and painted the red clay with winners, often leaving the Romanian rooted to the spot on the court.

Swiatek hit 30 winners as opposed to the 12 managed by Halep, while the Polish player did not face a single breakpoint on her service games.

The former Wimbledon junior champion will next



**Interesting clash:** Sinner took out sixth seed Zverev to set up a quarterfinal showdown with Nadal. ■ GETTY IMAGES

meet Italian qualifier Martina Trevisan, who also scripted an upset by defeating fifth-seeded Dutch Kiki Bertens 6-4, 6-4.

**Podoroska in last eight**  
Trevisan was then joined in the last eight by Argentine Nadia Podoroska, who beat Czech Barbora Krejčíková 2-6, 6-2, 6-3, making it only the second time since tennis turned professional in 1968 that two qualifiers have progressed to that stage of the competition.

Third seed Elina Svitolina ended the run of local hope Caroline Garcia with a 6-1, 6-3 to move into her third quarterfinal here.

Svitolina, who reached the last eight in 2015 and 2017, put in a solid performance to be the highest-ranked women's player remaining in the last Slam of the year.

In the men's section, Rafael Nadal blew away American qualifier Sebastian Korda 6-1, 6-1, 6-2 to romp into the quarterfinals, where the 12-time champion will take on Jannik Sinner.

**Setting new marks**  
Italian teenager Sinner became the first debutant to reach the quarterfinals since Nadal in 2005 when he downed German sixth seed Alexander Zverev 6-3, 6-3, 4-6, 6-3.

## THE RESULTS

**Men: Fourth round:** 2-Rafael Nadal (Esp) bt Sebastian Korda (USA) 6-1, 6-1, 6-2; 3-Dominic Thiem (Aut) bt Hugo Gaston (Fra) 6-4, 6-4, 5-7, 3-6, 6-3; Jannik Sinner (Ita) bt 6-Alexander Zverev (Ger) 6-3, 6-3, 4-6, 6-3; 12-Diego Schwartzman (Arg) bt Lorenzo Sonego (Ita) 6-1, 6-3, 6-4.

**Women: Fourth round:** Iga Swiatek (Pol) bt 1-Simona Halep (Rou) 6-1, 6-2; 3-Elena Svitolina (Ukr) bt Caroline Garcia (Fra) 6-1, 6-3; Martina Trevisan (Ita) bt 5-Kiki Bertens (Ned) 6-4, 6-4; Nadia Podoroska (Arg) bt Barbora Krejčíková (Cze) 2-6, 6-2, 6-3.

**Third round:** Danielle Collins (USA) bt 11-Garbine Muguruza (Esp) 7-5, 2-6, 6-4.  
**Women: Fourth round:** Iga Swiatek (Pol) bt 1-Simona Halep (Rou) 6-1, 6-2; 3-Elena Svitolina (Ukr) bt Caroline Garcia (Fra) 6-1, 6-3; Martina Trevisan (Ita) bt 5-Kiki Bertens (Ned) 6-4, 6-4; Nadia Podoroska (Arg) bt Barbora Krejčíková (Cze) 2-6, 6-2, 6-3.

**1** Maiden Grand Slam quarterfinal appearance for 19-year-old Swiatek, the 2018 junior Wimbledon champion

**1** No. 159 Trevisan and No. 131 Podoroska are the first women qualifiers to make the last eight at the French Open since Shvedova in 2012. The first time since 1978 that two qualifiers have reached the quarterfinals

**1** Sinner is the first player to reach a Roland Garros quarterfinal on main draw debut since Nadal in 2005

**4** Halep's earliest exit in four years from the clay-court Major (last: fourth round, 2016)

**8** Eighth time Nadal is through to the quarterfinal in Paris without losing a set

## MONDAY'S PICKS

### Men

1 - Djokovic vs. 15 - Khachanov  
5 - Tsitsipas vs. 18 - Dimitrov  
13 - Rublev vs. Fucsovics

### Women

4 - Kenin vs. Ferro  
7 - Kvítová vs. Zhang  
30 - Jabeur vs. Collins

Play starts at 2.30 p.m. IST

Live on Star Sports 2

## Quoteside

I am, I think stunned! I don't know what happened actually. I felt like I was playing perfectly. I was so focused the whole match, even I am surprised that I can do that

SWIATEK, AFTER HER VICTORY OVER HALEP



I'm not going to ruin the whole year just for a match. Of course, it's not easy to take it, but I'm used to some tough moments in this career. So, I will have a chocolate and I will be better tomorrow

HALEP, AFTER HER LOSS IN THE FOURTH ROUND

Replace officials with machines: Djokovic



A line judge. ■ FILE PHOTO: REUTERS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE PARIS

Novak Djokovic on Saturday demanded that the officials be replaced by machines.

"The technology is so advanced right now, there is absolutely no reason why you should keep line umpires on the court."

"Of course I understand technology is expensive, so it's an economic issue and a question mark."

"But I feel like we are all moving towards that, and sooner or later there is no reason to keep line umpires."

## Tripathi holds out hope: Morgan

All praise for his Russell-like approach

## IPL 2020

Y.B. SARANGI  
KOLKATA



Rahul Tripathi... presenting his credentials. ■ BCCI/IPL

being behind the eight ball, because Delhi bowled well, to a position of strength and looking like winning it," he said.

"When he (Tripathi) bats down the order and produces something like that, it is a huge positive," Morgan said. "To score at a strike rate of 250-300, it's almost Andre Russell-like. The argument would be, why wouldn't you keep him where he is when he does such a positive job."

Morgan downplayed 'impact' player Sunil Narine's failures as an opener.

Morgan, who scored an 18-ball 44 batting at No. 6, defended the decision to send him behind Russell. "When he (Russell) comes up, everybody shifts down. We went from a position of

## Playing hard and smart is Shreyas' mantra

Nortje enjoys bowling in tandem with Rabada

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
SHARJAH

Delhi Capitals skipper Shreyas Iyer doesn't consider himself a "gifted player" and has attributed all those big sixes against Kolkata Knight Riders to the "hard and smart work" that he has put in.

Shreyas hit 88 off 38 balls with six 6s and seven 4s in Delhi's 18-run win over KKR here on Saturday.

"I know the hard work and the smart work I have put in through my gym sessions, so I wouldn't say I am a very gifted player," Shreyas said at the post-match presentation.

### Satisfied

"It was the right time for me to take on the bowlers and then rotate strike. Luckily, it worked. Really satisfied with the way everyone stepped up."

Capitals seamer Anrich Nortje (3/33) said they tried to exploit the conditions and focused on mixing up the deliveries.

"We wanted to use the conditions to the best of our



**Brawn and brain:** Shreyas Iyer's ability to take on the bowlers as well as astutely rotate the strike paid off. ■ BCCI/IPL

ability. There was a little bit of dew. Myself and KG (Kagiso Rabada) tried to get a few to go through.

"It's great bowling with him (Rabada), really enjoying the time we spend together. Trying to feed off each other," he said.

The 26-year-old from South Africa said they worked on their death-bowling skills ahead of the match in Sharjah.

"We worked on our yorkers, we can still improve a little bit, but we were hitting them in the nets."

## 'Stokes will change Royals' formation'

Coach McDonald says that Lomror did a fantastic job against RCB

P.K. AJITH KUMAR  
ROZHAKODE

Rajasthan Royals won its first two matches and lost the next two. The successive defeats, at the hands of Kolkata Knight Riders and Royal Challengers Bangalore, have put Steve Smith's men on the backfoot.

The addition of arguably the world's best allrounder – Ben Stokes – could well lift the team's morale. The Englishman, who is already in the UAE, is expected to be available for Royals' match against Sunrisers Hyderabad on October 11 after he completed his quarantine.

"Stokes will change the formation of our eleven," Royals coach Andrew McDonald said. "We have to pick the right team at the right time. That's the real challenge."

McDonald, however, ruled out changes in the top-order. "(We have) Jos Buttler and Steve at the top and Sanju (Samson) coming in at three," he said. "The best players getting the most number of balls gives the best opportunity to win



games." McDonald said the side's fielding needed to improve.

"Just when we were building pressure against RCB, it was released by some poor fielding."

He said the players were putting in their best. "Sometimes there are errors and we have to minimise them in all three departments."

The Royals coach said Mahipal Lomror did a fantastic job against Kohli's men. "We backed him to bat in the middle-order and it worked."

## Tottenham wallops shambolic United by tennis scoreline

Wins 6-1; West Ham halts Leicester's winning start to the season; Atalanta crushes Cagliari

## EURO LEAGUES

AGENCIES  
LONDON



**Completing the rout:** Harry Kane coolly slots home Tottenham's sixth goal from the penalty spot against Manchester United. ■ REUTERS

1957 – also to Spurs. Serge Aurier made it 5-1 in the 51st before Kane completed the rout from the penalty spot.

Earlier, West Ham shattered Leicester's unbeaten start with a surprise 3-0 win. In Saturday's late night match, Leeds United fought back to earn a 1-1 draw against Manchester City.

Son added his second shortly before the break as United conceded four goals in the first half of a league game for the first time since

Goals from Michail Antonio, Pablo Fornals and Jarrod Bowen ruined Leicester's bid to win its opening four league games for the first time in its history.

**Scoring streak**  
Papu Gómez extended his scoring streak as Atalanta crushed Cagliari 5-2 for a

third consecutive win.

### The result: Premier League

Leicester 0 lost to West Ham 3

(Antonio 14, Fornals 34, Bowen 83); Southampton 2 (Djeneba 41, Romeo 69) bt West Brom 0;

Arsenal 2 (Saka 61, Pepe 64) bt Sheffield United 1 (McGoldrick 83).

Wolves 1 (Neto 56) bt Fulham 0; Manchester United 1 (Fernandes 2-pen) lost to Tot-

tenham 6 (Ndombele 4, Son 7, 37, Kane 31, 79-pen, Aurier 51).

**Serie A:** Atalanta 5 (Muriel 7, Gomez 29, Pasalic 37, Zapata 42, Lammers 81) bt Cagliari 2 (Godin 24, Joro Pedro 53); Benevento 1 (Lapadula 66) bt Bologna 0; Parma 1 (Kurtic 1) bt Hellas Verona 0; Lazio 1 (Milinkovic-Savic 55) drew with Inter Milan 1 (Martinez 20).

**LaLiga:** Osasuna 2 (Roncaglia 23, Calleri 76) bt Celta Vigo 0; Levante 0 lost to Real Madrid 2 (Vinicius 16, Benzema 90+5); Alaves 1 (Ely 74) bt Athletic Bilbao 0.

**Bundesliga:** VfL Wolfsburg 0 drew with Augsburg 0; Bayern Munich 4 (Lewandowski 40, 51, 85, Lewandowski 90+3-pen) bt Hertha Berlin 3 (Curdo 59, Cunha 71, Ngangam 88).

**Saturday:** Premier League: Leeds 1 (Rodriguez 59) drew with Manchester City 1 (Sterling 17); Newcastle 3 (Saint-Maximin 14, Wilson 65, 77-pen) bt Burnley 1 (Westwood 61).

**Serie A:** Sassuolo 4 (Berardi 19, Caputo 58-pen, 85, Locatelli 90+3) bt Crotone 1 (Simy 49-pen); Udinese 0 lost to Roma 1 (Pedro Rodriguez 55).

**LaLiga:** Real Sociedad 3 (Oyarzabal 28-pen, Merino 79, Portu 81) bt Getafe 0; Valencia 0 lost to Real Betis 2 (Canales 19, Telio 74).

## Kitata, Kosgei triumph

Kipchoge suffers first defeat since 2013

## LONDON MARATHON

REUTERS  
LONDON

Ethiopian Shura Kitata out-sprinted Kenya's Vincent Kipchumba to win a thrilling London Marathon on Sunday as a stunned World record holder Eliud Kipchoge faded late in the race to suffer his first defeat since 2013.

In cold, wet conditions, 24-year-old Kitata edged clear in the final metres to win by one second over Kipchumba in a relatively slow two hours, 05.41 minutes.

Sisay Lemma of Ethiopia was third in 2:5.35, with Kip-

