



Government is ready to meet farmers' groups: Rajnath Singh  
 page 10



J&K L-G Manoj Sinha meets family of slain advocate Babar Qadri  
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Djokovic advances, Ostapenko stuns Pliskova at French Open  
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Rohit, Pollard, Hardik and bowlers take MI to the top  
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## NEARBY



Rai seeks action against 11 thermal plants, kilns

NEW DELHI  
 Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Thursday said he has requested Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar to take action against brick kilns and 11 thermal power plants in States close to Delhi in order to reduce air pollution during winter. He has also asked the Environment Department officials of Punjab and Haryana to use a "bio-decomposer" developed by the PUSA Institute that decomposes crop stubble.

CITY ▶ PAGE 4

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# Rahul, Priyanka held on way to Hathras

Congress leaders, who were going to meet kin of rape victim, released later

ANUJ KUMAR  
 GHAZIABAD

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi and general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra were arrested by the Uttar Pradesh police on the Yamuna Expressway in Greater Noida on Thursday when they, along with hundreds of Congress workers, were going to Hathras to meet the family members of the gang-rape victim.

They were taken to the guest house of the Buddha International Circuit for violating Section 144 and later released on personal bonds.

Mr. Gandhi said he agreed to go alone if his visit violated Section 144. "But still they didn't allow me and we were pushed around," he said.

When Mr. Gandhi started walking on foot, he was stopped by the Gautam Buddh Nagar police. In the pushing and shoving that ensued, Mr. Gandhi fell down

and sustained bruises on his arm.

"Just now the police pushed me, lathi charged me and threw me to the ground. I want to ask if only the BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party) and RSS (Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh) can walk in this country? Can't a normal person walk? Can only Modi [Prime Minister Narendra Modi] walk in this country? Can't a normal person walk?" Mr. Gandhi said.

After that, he sat down on a dharna on the Expressway.

Ajay Kumar Lallu, president of the State unit of the party, who continued the sit-in with party workers after the Gandhis were taken away by the police, was also detained.

Reacting to the police action, Ms. Vadra told media persons that the government was insensitive and did not follow the rule of law. "The government has to take res-



Road block: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi being stopped by Uttar Pradesh police personnel in Noida on Thursday. ■ PTI

ponsibility for the protection of women. You would remember that last year around this time, we were protesting against the Unnao rape victim," she said.

She further said, "[The government] portrays itself as the saviour of Hinduism but what kind of religion is this that could not allow a father to perform the last rites of his daughter?"

Lovkumar, Additional Commissioner (Law and Order), Gautam Buddh Nagar,

first told *The Hindu* that the Congress leaders had been detained but later in the day clarified that technically it was an arrest for violating Section 144. "They were released after signing personal bonds. No witnesses were called for bail. So practically, it was detention," he said.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8  
**ADGP SAYS HATHRAS VICTIM WAS NOT RAPED** ▶ PAGE 9  
**ALLAHABAD HC ISSUES NOTICE TO U.P. GOVT.** ▶ PAGE 9

## Two held for rape, murder

The police in Balrampur, Uttar Pradesh, said they had arrested two persons for allegedly raping and murdering a 22-year-old Dalit woman. The accused were identified as Shahid and Sahil. While local reports claimed that the body was battered, the police denied this. ▶ PAGE 9

## Body of minor found

A 14-year-old Dalit girl is suspected to have been raped before being murdered in Bhadohi district of U.P. Her head was smashed with bricks. While the family suspects that she was raped, the police are waiting for the autopsy report to issue a confirmation. ▶ PAGE 9

## On the rise

GST collections recorded a 3.9% year-on-year rise in September. The ₹95,480 crore collected last month was the highest in FY21



## GST collections cross ₹95,000 cr. in Sept.

Highest mop-up so far in current fiscal

### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Revenue collections from the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in September hit ₹95,480 crore, the highest in this financial year so far, indicating that economic activity is picking up steam in tandem with the gradual easing of lockdown restrictions necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

September's indirect tax collections were over 10% higher than those in August, 4% higher than the GST kitty in the corresponding month a year ago and marked only the second time that the ₹90,000 crore mark was crossed this financial year.

GST collections had been sliding after January 2020, when nearly ₹11 lakh crore came in. March, by the end of which the national lockdown was imposed, recorded GST inflows of ₹97,597 crore.

April and May were the worst hit, bringing in a little over ₹32,000 crore and ₹62,000 crore respectively.

"The gross GST revenue

collected in the month of September 2020 is ₹95,480 crore, of which Central GST is ₹17,741 crore, State GST is ₹23,131 crore, Integrated GST is ₹47,484 crore [including ₹22,442 crore collected on import of goods] and cess is ₹7,124 crore [including ₹788 crore collected on import of goods]," the Finance Ministry said in a statement on Thursday.

### Experts cautious

Economists were cautious about reading the healthier numbers as a sign of a sustainable rebound from the sharp 23.9% contraction in the country's gross domestic product in the first quarter of 2020-21.

Principal economist at rating agency ICRA Aditi Nayar said the uptick in GST collections had come as a relief, although it was likely driven by "a combination of pent up demand and inventory restocking, and thus its sustainability remains unclear".

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

# 3 soldiers killed, 5 injured in firing by Pakistan along LoC

Two fatalities in Kupwara, another in Poonch district

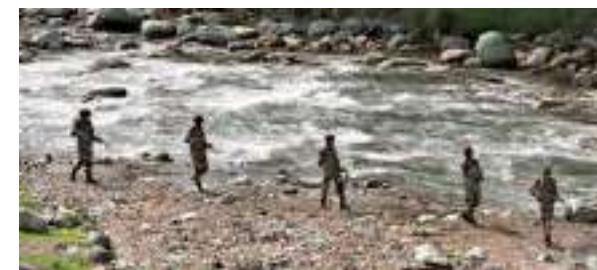
### SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

SRINAGAR

Three soldiers were killed and five others injured in "unprovoked ceasefire violations" by the Pakistan Army along the Line of Control in J&K's Kupwara and Poonch districts in the past 24 hours.

A Srinagar-based defence spokesperson said the ceasefire violations in Naogaon Sector, Kupwara, began on Thursday morning.

"The Pakistan Army resorted to firing mortars and



Keeping watch: A file photo of BSF personnel patrolling near the Line of Control in Poonch district. ■ REUTERS

other weapons. Two soldiers sustained fatal injuries," he said, adding that four others had been evacuated to hospital.

"A befitting response is being given," the Army said.

In a separate incident in

the Pir Panjal Valley's Poonch district on Wednesday night, Pakistani troops resorted to "firing and shellshelling", which left one soldier dead and another injured.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

## NCRB: most counterfeits ₹2,000 notes

### VIJAYA SINGH

NEW DELHI

Four years after demonetisation, the highest number of all counterfeit notes seized last year was in the denomination of ₹2,000, according to the National Crime Records Bureau's annual Crime in India report.

The data on seizures of counterfeit notes also show there is a surge in seizure of fake Indian currency notes in 2019 compared to 2018.

The government had claimed that the ₹2,000 notes had several high-security features.

DETAILS ON ▶ PAGE 10

## Shifting burden

About 6.4% of India's COVID-19 cases in the second half (SH) of September came from Kerala, a more than twofold jump from its share in the first half (FH). Maharashtra too, after a brief dip in the case share in August, recorded a rise in September. While Kerala's share in total fatalities continues to remain low, as death is a lag indicator, a spurt in fatalities may follow in the coming weeks. The tables list the % share of new cases/deaths in each period. By *The Hindu Data Team*

| Share of cases (in %) | June FH | June SH | July FH | July SH | Aug. FH | Aug. SH | Sept. FH | Sept. SH |
|-----------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------|----------|
| Maharashtra           | 28.5    | 26.4    | 25.9    | 20.1    | 18.2    | 18.9    | 23       | 22.3     |
| Karnataka             | 2.6     | 3.3     | 8.2     | 10.6    | 10.7    | 11.1    | 10       | 9.8      |
| A.P.                  | 1.9     | 3.4     | 5.3     | 14.5    | 15.8    | 13.9    | 11.2     | 8.5      |
| Tamil Nadu            | 16      | 18      | 15.8    | 12.9    | 9.7     | 8.7     | 6.5      | 6.5      |
| Kerala                | 0.8     | 0.8     | 1.3     | 1.9     | 2.2     | 3       | 2.9      | 6.4      |
| U.P.                  | 4       | 3.9     | 4.6     | 1.1     | 7.2     | 7.3     | 7.1      | 5.8      |
| Odisha                | 1.4     | 1.2     | 2       | 2.3     | 2.8     | 4.2     | 4.1      | 4.7      |
| Delhi                 | 15.2    | 18.3    | 7.6     | 2.6     | 1.8     | 2.1     | 3.8      | 4.2      |

| Share of deaths (in %) | June FH | June SH | July FH | July SH | Aug. FH | Aug. SH | Sept. FH | Sept. SH |
|------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------|----------|
| Maharashtra            | 40.8    | 49.8    | 40.8    | 35      | 35.1    | 31.5    | 35       | 37.6     |
| Karnataka              | 0.8     | 2.1     | 9.1     | 11.9    | 11.3    | 12.3    | 10.7     | 8.3      |
| U.P.                   | 4.4     | 3.7     | 4.2     | 5.3     | 5.6     | 7.1     | 6.7      | 7.1      |
| Tamil Nadu             | 6.8     | 9.6     | 12.8    | 15.2    | 10.6    | 10.9    | 7.1      | 6.1      |
| A.P.                   | 0.5     | 1.3     | 3.5     | 7.7     | 9       | 9.2     | 6.4      | 4.7      |
| Delhi                  | 20.5    | 17.9    | 9.9     | 4.1     | 1.7     | 1.7     | 2.2      | 3.3      |
| Kerala                 | 0.2     | 0.1     | 0.1     | 0.4     | 0.5     | 1       | 1        | 1.7      |
| Odisha                 | 0.1     | 0.2     | 1       | 1       | 1.3     | 1       | 0.9      | 1.2      |

statement given by the public prosecutor was not "strictly correct".

### Name not in FIR

Aadil is accused of facilitating the escape of a Jodhpur-based alleged accomplice of Sakib Ansari, arrested in a joint operation of Jodhpur and Delhi police in March 2014. He was booked under Section 43D(5) of the UAPA for allegedly indulging in terror activities. It is practically impossible to get bail under this provision. It allows a court to reject bail even if police documents or the prosecutor suggests the allegations are "prima facie" true.

**PATRACHAR VIDYALAYA**  
DIRECTORATE OF EDUCATION  
BL-BLOCK SHALIMAR BAGH, NEW DELHI - 110088  
CBSE Affiliation Number: 2758042  
(website : [www.edudel.nic.in](http://www.edudel.nic.in))

No. F.10(30)/PV/Adv/19  
Dated 01.10.2020  
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| Sl. No. | Criteria   | Class IX  | Class X  | Class XI                   | Class XII  |
|---------|--|---|--|----------------------------|--|
| 1.      | Eligibility Criteria<br>• A Valid date of birth proof is mandatory | i) Student who have passed or failed in any class from a recognized school are eligible for admission.<br>ii) Students who have studied privately at home are eligible on submission of affidavit by parents/guardians. | i) Students who have passed or failed in any class from a recognized school are eligible for admission.<br>ii) Students who have studied privately at home are eligible on submission of affidavit by parents/guardians. | Class X pass-out students  | Class XI Passed/failed or after a gap of one year of passing class-X |
| 2.      | Minimum age required   | 13 years as on 31st March 2020  | 14 years as on 31st March 2020   | ----                       | ----   |
| 3.      | Maximum age  | No maximum age restriction  | No maximum age restriction   | No maximum age restriction | No maximum age restriction   |
| 4.      | Date of admission without late fee (Phase-I)                       | 23.09.2020-10.10.2020   | 23.09.2020-10.10.2020  | 23.09.2020 - 10.10.2020    | 23.09.2020 - 10.10.2020  |
| 5.      | Date of admission without late fee (Phase-II)                      | 16.10.2020-25.10.2020   | 16.10.2020-25.10.2020  | 16.10.2020 - 25.10.2020    | 16.10.2020 - 25.10.2020  |

Note: Patrachar Vidyalaya, BL Block, Shalimar Bagh is the only Patrachar Institution working under the Directorate of Education GNCT Delhi and affiliated to CBSE. It has no branch or Institutions or Agents. Students should be careful with the institutions having similar names.

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## Theatres await govt. nod to resume shows

With precautions in place, owners say they are ready for cine-goers

JAIDEEP DEO BHANJ  
NEW DELHI

Welcoming the Centre's decision to permit cinema halls to function with 50% capacity from October 15, associations and management of the theatres urged State governments to take a decision on the same.

The Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), however, said in the Capital, "status-quo" would be maintained on cinema halls till October 31 or until further orders.

The Multiplex Association of India (MAI) said permissions on an urgent basis from the State governments to re-open cinemas would go a substantial distance in ensuring that the cinema exhibition sector is able to quickly recover from the economic impact.

Most of the theaters in Delhi are run by large multiplex chains that have a presence across the country and are planning for a pan India opening. However, a few remaining single-screen theaters like Delite Cinema said



Food counters being sanitised at a movie theatre in Promenade Mall, Vasant Kunj. ■ FILE PHOTO

they were ready to open but they do not know about the "status-quo".

"We have refurbished our halls during the lockdown. We have upgraded our air conditioning unit and installed a UV chamber for sanitising the air that is being circulated," said the manager of Delite.

Managing Director, Carnival Cinemas, P.V. Sunil said this was the right time to open halls with Diwali around the corner but a couple of State governments are yet to give the nod.

"As of now, our software is being modified in accor-

dance with 50% seating so that the audience have a seamless experience while booking tickets online. Two weeks is sufficient time for our preparations," Mr. Sunil said.

Alok Tandon, CEO, INOX Leisure, said preparations on the hygiene and disinfection front will set new benchmarks for any public premises, whether inside the auditorium or in our lobbies and F&B counters. "We are positively hopeful that the State governments will now give us the green signal," Mr. Tandon said.

## 'Capital ranks first in crimes against women'

It accounts for 28% of total cases: NCRB

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Delhi is ranked first among 19 metropolitan cities in India in recording the highest number of crimes against women, according to data released by the National Crime Records Bureau.

The data further reveals that the Capital accounted for nearly a third of the total number of such crimes. The data states that Delhi accounted for 28% of the total figure, followed by Mumbai at 14.3% and Bengaluru at 7.7%.

It says 1,231 cases of rape were reported in the Capital in 2019 followed by 517 in Jaipur and 344 cases in Mumbai. Molestation cases stood at 2,311 in Delhi followed by 2,069 in Mumbai and 748 in Jaipur.

According to the data, Delhi accounted for nearly half the total number of crimes reported in cities, recording 48.7% followed by Mumbai at 6.7%. The maximum number of theft cases recorded across metro cities was reported in Delhi (2,42,642 cases). The Capital saw a 30.39% increase in reported crimes in 2019 with 2,94,653 cases as compared to 2,25,977 in 2018.

### Safety at stake

| Rape                            | 1,231 |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| Molestation                     | 2,311 |
| Murder with rape                | 5     |
| Dowry deaths                    | 115   |
| Cruelty by husband or relatives | 3,697 |
| Kidnapping and abduction        | 3,398 |
| Cybercrime against women        | 10    |

SOURCE: NCRB

marriage, where Patna took the lead. Delhi recorded seven such cases.

The Capital was also not at the forefront of cybercrimes against women.

Delhi also recorded five cases of murder with rape, 115 dowry deaths, 3,697 cases of cruelty by husband or relatives and 3,398 cases of kidnapping and abduction.

Some of the few areas where the Capital didn't record the highest number of cases were kidnapping and abduction to compel for

## DMRC asks people to stagger travel timings

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) on Thursday issued an advisory urging commuters to "Break the Peak" by staggering their travel timings, decongesting peak hours and following social distancing norms.

The advisory came after a few sections, including Escorts Mujesar-Badarpur, Kirti Nagar-Mandi House, and Dilshad Garden-Shastri Park, saw almost 100% footfall during peak hours.

DMRC spokesperson Anuj Dayal said: "The public is once again requested to "Break the Peak" by staggering their travel timings to decongest peak hours. They can avail additional capacity during off-peak hours for their own convenience and safety amidst the pandemic. In the recent days, it has been observed that certain sections of the metro network are showing a trend where occupancy is touching the 100% mark during morning and evening peak hours. If the pattern continues, there may be long queues outside stations."

Govt. using NCPCR to defame me: Harsh Mander

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Activist and former IAS officer Harsh Mander said on Thursday that the National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) had raided two children's homes in Delhi that he had been associated with in the past with the main aim of finding out if any of the residents had participated in the protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act.

Mr. Mander said the NCPCR raid on Thursday at Ummeed Aman Ghar and Khushi Rainbow Home was led by the NCPCR chairperson.

### Anti-CAA protests

"I am no longer formally associated with these homes... I visit them [the children] when I can, to assure myself about their welfare," he said.

The raid was also to find out if there was any foreign funding and if any Rohingya children were living at the homes, he alleged. Mr. Mander said the Centre was using its agencies to carry out a campaign against those who participated in the anti-CAA protests from December 2019 till March this year. "It has been made amply clear by the actions of the state machinery that I am one of those targeted," he said.

AAP spent ₹ 21.06 crore on 2020 Delhi election campaign

DAMINI NATH  
NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) spent a total of ₹21.06 crore on its campaign for the 2020 Delhi Assembly election, in which it won 62 out of 70 seats, according to its expenditure report submitted to the Election Commission (EC) on September 14.

While submitting the report, AAP national treasurer and Rajya Sabha MP Narain Dass Gupta wrote that the election expenditure report could not be submitted by the deadline of April 28 due to the COVID-19-induced lockdown and the auditor's office being in a containment zone.

The report, which was made public by the EC on Wednesday, showed that the party had spent a total of ₹21,06,36,705, of which ₹17,80,85,490 was spent on "general party propaganda" and ₹3,25,51,215 on candidates, including payments to candidates, expenditure on publishing criminal antecedents of contenders and publicity.

**“ एक राष्ट्र की संरक्षिति, उसमें रहने वाले लोगों के दिलों में और आत्मा में रहती है। ”**

- महात्मा गांधी

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| RISE 06:15 SET 18:05 |
| RISE 19:10 SET 07:16 |
| SUNDAY, OCT. 04      |
| RISE 06:16 SET 18:04 |
| RISE 19:41 SET 08:08 |

| Delhi Weather | max | min |
|---------------|-----|-----|
| Delhi City    | 37  | 22  |
| Safdarjung    | 37  | 22  |
| Palam         | 36  | 23  |

**Delhi Palam Today**  
36°C Warm afternoon likely.  
Dry weather with mainly sunny sky.

**Delhi Palam Tomorrow**  
36°C Pleasant morning and  
warm day with gentle breeze.

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THE HINDU

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# Bypoll will be referendum on govt's show, says Hooda

Result of Baroda bypoll to decide course of future politics'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GURUGRAM



Former Haryana Chief Minister and Leader of the Opposition Bhupinder Singh Hooda on Thursday said that Baroda bypoll was no ordinary election, but would be a referendum on the performance of the State government. He added that the result of the bypoll would decide the course of future politics in the State and a win for Congress shake the foundation of the BJP-JJP government in Haryana.

Mr. Hooda, flanked by several senior party leaders, was addressing a press conference at Sonipat's Gohana, a day after the Election Commission announced the schedule for the bypoll necessitated due to the demise of Congress MLA Sri Krishan Hooda.

The septuagenarian leader once again challenged Chief Minister Manohar Lal to contest against him in the

bypoll.

**Challenges CM**

"Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattry claims to have done many development works in Baroda during six years. If he is so confident, he should accept the challenge of contesting from Baroda," he said.

Mr. Hooda, referring to the fallout of the Mehman bypoll, said that a single election could overthrow the govern-

ment. "Just as the Chautala government was ousted from power after Mehman, the BJP-JJP government would meet a similar fate after Baroda bypoll," he said.

The two-time Chief Minister said that the BJP government had ruined Haryana in six years as it had come crashing down from the number one position in investment and development indicators to being number one in crime and unemployment..

Mr. Hooda said that farmers and youth were the two segments hit hard by the policies of the government. While farmers were out on the streets, the condition of the youth was no different because of high rate of unemployment. He also announced to launch a State-wide tour, after winning the Baroda bypoll, against anti-farmer laws passed by the government.

## Footballer moves HC against AIFF decision

20-year-old was barred from practising

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH  
NEW DELHI

"Punjab policemen told that they were in the security of Punjab Youth Congress (PYC) president Brinder Dhillon, who brought them to Delhi to attend a political event. They were unaware of the protest at India Gate. The policemen also didn't follow protocol and never informed Delhi Police about their entry into Delhi," said the officer. He added that they have enough evidences on the presence of Punjab policemen during the protest.

Kolkata directing it to not allow him to train with the team.

This, Mr. Ali, said was in violation of his fundamental right to earn his livelihood and practise his profession due to the diagnosis of a congenital heart condition called apical hypercardio myopathy. In his plea, Mr. Ali said he is a highly rated footballer, who has represented India at the U-15, U-17 and U-19 level and was part of India's squad at the FIFA Under 17 World Cup.

## Delhi Police seek action against 4 Punjab policemen

They escorted Cong. leader during stir

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Delhi Police have written to Punjab Police to take action against four policemen, who were deployed as security of Punjab Youth Congress president, said a senior police officer on Thursday.

The officer said that during the investigation, it was found that vehicles of Indian Youth Congress (IYC) members and the truck loaded with tractor that was later set on fire near India Gate, was escorted by a vehicle carry-



### अटल टनल रोहतांग की विशेषताएं

9 कि.मी. लम्बी सुरंग से मनाली एवं  
लेह के मध्य 46 कि.मी. की दूरी  
कम होने से यात्रा में 5 घंटे का समय बचेगा

6 माह तक देश के शेष भाग से कटे रहने वाले  
क्षेत्र अब साल भर सड़क मार्ग से जुड़े रहेंगे

स्थानीय उत्पादों को देश और विदेश का बाजार  
उपलब्ध होगा, पर्यटन और अन्य  
आर्थिक गतिविधियों को बढ़ावा मिलेगा

यात्रियों की सुरक्षा के लिए प्रति 150 मीटर  
पर आपातकालीन टेलीफोन,  
75 मीटर पर अग्नि हाईड्रेंट, 1 कि.मी. पर  
वायु गुणवत्ता अनुश्रवण तथा 500 मीटर पर  
आपातकालीन निकास सुविधा उपलब्ध

### अटल इरादों से सपना हुआ साकार

10 हजार फुट की ऊँचाई पर बनी  
दुनिया की सबसे लम्बी राजमार्ग सुरंग

### अटल टनल रोहतांग का

राष्ट्र को समर्पण

प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी द्वारा

3 अक्टूबर, 2020 को प्रातः 10 बजे



कार्यक्रम का संचार प्रशासन देखिये  
<https://www.facebook.com/CMOFFICEHP>  
<http://www.youtube.com/c/JairamThakurbjp>

सूचना एवं जल सम्पर्क प्रियांग, हिमाचल प्रदेश सरकार

## Remembering Arutchelvar Dr. N. Mahalingam

21 March 1923 - 02 October 2014

The Legend. The Legacy.



'To walk the path of righteousness needs courage and conviction, not power or position.'

Dr. N. Mahalingam

'Dr. Mahalingam had vision for a strong and vibrant India since childhood and worked hard to translate his dreams into reality. In 1969, he left active politics and started devoting his life towards upliftment of the society through education and industrial growth.'

Padma Bhushan Citation - 2007

YOUR LIFE. OUR MISSION.

ABT Limited | ABT Industries Limited  
NIA Transports | Sakthi Sugars Limited  
Sakthi Finance Limited | Sakthi Soyas Limited  
Sri Chamundeswari Sugars Limited  
Sakthi Auto Components Limited  
N. Mahalingam & Co. | Anmolias Engineering  
Sakthi Coffee Estates Pvt. Limited  
ARC Retreading Company (P) Limited  
Mahalingam Manmoolam Mukundha Charitable Trust Institutions



Dr. Mahalingam College of Engineering & Technology  
Nachmuttu Polytechnic College | NGM College  
Dr. Mahalingam Paramedical College  
Kumarguru College of Technology  
Sakthi Polytechnic College  
Kumarguru Institute of Agriculture  
Sri Chum Sugar Education Society  
Kumarguru College of Liberal Arts and Science  
Vanavayalar Institute of Agriculture | NIA Schools  
Mahalingam Manmoolam Mukundha Charitable Trust Institutions | Nachmuttu Gounder Pulankulam Higher Secondary School

Delhi records  
3,037 new  
virus cases

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

As many as 3,037 new COVID-19 cases were reported in Delhi in the past 24 hours, taking the total number of cases to 2,82,752, according to a health bulletin released by the Delhi government on Thursday.

Also, 40 more deaths have been reported, taking the total number of deaths to 5,401. There are 26,738 active cases at present.

Out of the total 15,843 beds available for COVID-19 treatment in the city, 61.2% were vacant, government data stated. However, 61.06% of ICU beds with ventilators are occupied and 69.85% such beds without ventilators are full.

The positivity rate was 5.4% - the lowest in a month. The number of containment zones on Thursday jumped to 2,615.

## Rai seeks action against thermal plants, brick kilns

Minister recommends bio-decomposer to arrest pollution

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Thursday said that he has requested Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar to take action against 11 thermal power plants in States close to Delhi and brick kilns in these areas to reduce air pollution during winter.

Mr. Rai recommended Environment Department officials of Punjab and Haryana to use "bio-decomposer" developed by the PUSA Institute in Delhi to decompose crop stubble, which can be later used as fertiliser, instead of burning it.

"Last year, there was zero stubble burning inside Delhi. However, in Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Western U.P., massive stubble burning took place last year which



Gopal Rai ■ SHIV KUMAR  
PUSHPAKAR

overnment to intervene and make a timeline within which the thermal power plants of the NCR should obtain new technology and stop the old technology. We have also requested the Central government and the States to push for new technology in the brick kilns of the NCR."

**Centre to test it**  
Mr. Javadekar said that the Centre will test the technology this year. "This year we will test it in all States, in thousands of hectares, and based on the results we will expand it next year," he said.

"We have given machines worth ₹1,700 crore to farmers in Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. Teams of the Central Pollution Control Board will be closely monitoring instances of violation," said Javadekar.

Mr. Rai said: "We have also requested the Central go-

vernment to intervene and make a timeline within which the thermal power plants of the NCR should obtain new technology and stop the old technology. We have also requested the Central government and the States to push for new technology in the brick kilns of the NCR."

Mr. Rai made the recommendations during a meeting Mr. Javadekar held with Environment Ministers and other officials of Delhi, Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan via videoconference on Thursday.

Mr. Rai said: "We have also requested the Central go-

## Delhi riots: Umar Khalid arrested in second FIR

His lawyers were unaware of development'

STAFF REPORTER  
NEW DELHI

Former JNU student Umar Khalid has been formally arrested in a second FIR in connection with communal riots that broke out in Delhi in February, his friend Banojotsna Lahiri said.

The arrest was made by the Crime Branch on Wednesday, she said.

Crime Branch officials could not be reached for a comment.

Ms. Lahiri said the arrest was made in FIR number 101 registered at Khajuri Khas police station under Sections of rioting, mischief by fire, criminal conspiracy, among others, that was being probed by a Crime Branch SIT.

Mr. Khalid was interrogated in connection with this case in the first week of September by the Crime Branch.

Ms. Lahiri claimed that

the lawyers were unaware of the development.

"Today, just hours before his legal *mulaqat*, he was whisked away for an appearance before a 'duty magistrate' after the arrest in jail. He was told that they would provide him a 'legal aid counsel' when he insisted that his 'legal *mulaqat*' was due in a short while. He even named his lawyers and wanted to talk to them via videoconferencing or over the phone. However, he was not provided the facility and nor was his lawyers informed. His remand hearing was done hurriedly with the aim of denying him access to counsel and his family, friends and lawyers and then presented a fait accompli," she said.

Mr. Khalid was in judicial custody after being arrested by the Special Cell on charges of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

## WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



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

**Forecast for Friday:** Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Gangetic West Bengal and Odisha. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, West Bengal, Sikkim, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, central Maharashtra and north interior Karnataka

CITY RAIN MAX MIN CITY RAIN MAX MIN

Agartala ... ... 34.8 ... 25.2 Kozhikode ... 34.3 ... 31.6 ... 24.4

Ahmedabad ... 0.5 ... 35.4 ... 25.2 Kurnool ... 73.4 ... 29.8 ... 22.2

Aizawl ... 11 ... 27.0 ... 18.9 Lucknow ... ... 34.8 ... 21.7

Allahabad ... ... 34.0 ... 23.5 Madurai ... 0.4 ... 36.8 ... 24.8

Bengaluru ... ... 28.0 ... 19.5 Mangalore ... 2.8 ... 30.7 ... 23.4

Bhopal ... ... 33.4 ... 22.9 Mumbai ... ... 32.3 ... 24.6

Bhubaneswar ... 8.2 ... 27.8 ... 24.9 Mysuru ... ... 30 ... 20.8

Chandigarh ... ... 36.3 ... 21.4 New Delhi ... ... 36.7 ... 21.9

Chennai ... 1.4 ... 33.6 ... 24.0 Patna ... ... 34.2 ... 26.2

Coimbatore ... ... 32.8 ... 23.0 Port Blair ... 49.3 ... 31.1 ... 23.8

Dehradun ... ... 33.0 ... 20.1 Puducherry ... 50.4 ... 32.6 ... 22.4

Gangtok ... 1 ... 22.2 ... 20.0 Pune ... ... 31.1 ... 22.1

Goa ... 6.3 ... 31.5 ... 24.1 Raipur ... ... 32.5 ... 25.5

Guwahati ... ... 35.4 ... 24.1 Ranchi ... 1.6 ... 29.6 ... 22.7

Hubballi ... ... 28.0 ... 23.0 ... 16.9 Shillong ... ... 23.0 ... 16.9

Hyderabad ... 3.3 ... 31.6 ... 22.2 Shimla ... ... 28.0 ... 17.3

Imphal ... ... 31.3 ... 21.6 Srinagar ... ... 26.2 ... 7.0

Jaipur ... ... 36.6 ... 25.7 Thiruvananthapuram ... 11.8 ... 31.4 ... 23.5

Kochi ... 3.2 ... 30.6 ... 24.0 Tiruchi ... 0.8 ... 35.1 ... 25.4

Kohima ... 4.2 ... 24.2 ... 20.0 Vijayawada ... 2.6 ... 32.3 ... 24.2

Kolkata ... ... 33.9 ... 26.3 Visakhapatnam ... 8.4 ... 29.2 ... 25.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Yesterday

## Leopard killed in accident on highway

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
GURUGRAM

A male leopard, aged around eight, was killed in a road accident on Gurugram-Faridabad State highway on Wednesday.

A first information report has been registered by the Forest Department in connection with the incident.

The death of the leopard has again put focus on the lack of safety measures on the three highways, including National Highway-48 and Kundli-Manesar-Palwal Expressway, bisecting the corridor used by the wildlife to traverse from Asola Wildlife Sanctuary in Delhi to Sariska in Rajasthan passing through Gurugram (Mangar-Bandhwari).

"A leopard had died in a similar manner at the same spot in January last year, while another lost his life in October," said Vaishali Rana, a wildlife activist.

secretaries.

Siddharthan has retained the post of general secretary (organisation) of Delhi BJP.

The eight vice presidents include Rajiv Babbar, Virendra Sachdeva, Rekha Gupta, Ashok Goel and Sunil Yadav.

## Delhi BJP names new team

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI

Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta on Thursday announced his new team and appointed Kuljeet Chahal, Dipti Pratap Singh and Harsh Malhotra as general

## OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

### DEATH



**RESPECTFUL HOMAGE**  
**M. Gopalakrishnan**  
1935 - 2020  
Former CMD, Indian Bank  
Passed away on 30.09.2020  
A Visionary with a  
humane approach. A colossus.  
Dearly missed by Forum of  
Indian Bank Retired Executives  
FIBRE

**Jharkhand Urja Sancharan Nigam Ltd.**  
(CIN: U40108JH2013SGC001704)  
Regd. Office: 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, JUSNL (SLDC) Building Kusai Colony, Doranda, Ranchi - 834002 Fax No.: 0651-2400123 (E-mail: cejusnl@gmail.com)

**NOTICE TO VENDORS**  
NOTICE NO. -93/PR/JSNL/2020-21

Application for vendor registration is invited from reputed manufacturers to get their firms registered in the Vendor list of JSNL to supply materials / equipment's to the contractors awarded with turnkey projects. Interested Manufacturers would be required to apply as per the details available at JUSNL's official web site <http://www.jusnl.in> / <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>. RFP Document will be available w.e.f. 05.10.2020. The closing date of receipt of applications in the requisite format is 27.10.2020.

**N.B:-** All subsequent addendums/corrigendum to this notice shall be hosted in the JUSNL's official web site <http://www.jusnl.in> / <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>.

Note: All applications will be received through e-tendering portal <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> only (Please select tenders by organization and organization name JSB to find out relevant notice in <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in>) and original application fee is to be submitted to :- General Manager, Contract & Materials (Non W.B. Project), JHARKHAND URJA SANCHARAN NIGAM LIMITED Regd. Office - 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, JUSNL (SLDC), Building, Kusai Colony, Doranda, Ranchi - 834002 (Jharkhand) Phone: 9431747672, 8340599939, Email: cejusnl@gmail.com Only e-application through <http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in> will be entertained.

Last date of submission of registration fee - 30.10.2020 upto 04:00 PM

Sadस्मित एवं शक्तिहीन में कँड़ा रखावें। कृपया अपनी  
शिक्षा को 18003456670(फ्री सेल्स) पर रखें। कर्म का।

PR.NO.233660 Jharkhand Urja Sancharan Nigam Ltd(20-21):D

**SANJAY GANDHI POST GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES**  
RAEBARELI ROAD, LUCKNOW-226014 (U.P.), INDIA  
Phone Nos. 0522-2668004-8, 2668000-800-900 Fax: 91-0522-2668017, 2668078

**CANCELLATION OF NIT**  
(Tender Ref No.-Advt.no. I/17/Contract/2020-21 dated 06.08.2020)  
The tender is cancelled due to Administrative Reasons.

Advt No.:I/35/Contract/2020-21 DIRECTOR

**Government of Himachal Pradesh**  
Department of Forest  
Integrated Development Project of Source Sustainability and Climate Resilient Rain Fed Agriculture.  
Forest Road, Solan-173212, H.P.

**INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**  
IDP, Solan H.P. invites Request for Expression of Interest (REoI) from Indian consulting agencies for Selection of a Consultant (Firm) to carry out Value chain scoping study under the Project.

The REoI Document containing the details of qualification criteria, submission requirement, brief objective & scope of work and evaluation criteria etc. can be downloaded from the project website [www.hpidp.org](http://www.hpidp.org)

Last date for submission of REoI is 26/10/2020 upto 11:00 hrs Executive Director Integrated Development Project, Forest Road, Solan-173212 (H.P.)

**Tender Notice**  
Government of Punjab

Executive Engineer, DWSS Division Rajpura on behalf of Chairman of concerned GPWSs, invite online bids for the following works under Sub Component 2A(ii), in District Patiala:-

| Sr. No. | Name of work  | App. Cost (In lacs) | Bid Security (In lacs) |
|---------|---|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1.      | PROVIDING IMPROVED ACCESS TO WATER, THROUGH HOUSE CONNECTIONS TO WATER SUPPLY SCHEMES:- | 7.00                | 0.14                   |
| 2.      | Kheri Mandian Block Ghanour   | 4.73                | 0.09                   |
| 3.      | Kutha Kheri Block Ghanour   | 20.5                | 0.41                   |
| 4.      | Madanpur Block Ghanour  | 14.50               | 0.29                   |
| 5.      | Naraingarh Block Ghanour  | 5.59                | 0.11                   |
| 6.      | Nogawan Block Ghanour   | 6.91                | 0.14                   |
| 7.      | Rajpur Nanheri Block Ghanour  | 7.26                | 0.15                   |
| 8.      | Sarala Khurd Block Ghanour  | 6.48                | 0.13                   |
| 9.      | Ali Majra Block Ghanour   | 7.73                | 0.15                   |
| 10.     | Ghanour Kheri Block Ghanour   | 7.43                | 0.15                   |
| 11.     | Jabro Majra Block Ghanour   | 9.55                | 0.19                   |
| 12.     | Gounspur Block Sanour   | 8.26                | 0.17                   |
| 13.     | Jogipur Block Sanour  | 5.99                | 0.12                   |
| 14.     | Mohabatpur Block Sanour   | 9.17                | 0.18                   |
| 15.     | Nasirpur Block Sanour   | 5.01                | 0.10                   |
| 16.     | Sehri Block Rajpura   | 3.57                | 0.07                   |
| 17.     | Jhansi Block Rajpura  | 4.40                | 0.09                   |
| 18.     | Jandoli Block Rajpura   | 18.96               | 0.38                   |
| 19.     | Manakpur Block Rajpura  | 25.75               | 0.52                   |
| 20.     | Thuda Block Rajpura   | 35.80               | 0.72                   |

Date & time of start of Bid document: 06.10.2020 at 09:00 Hrs.  
Date & time for submission of Bid document: 19.10.2020 upto 17:00 Hrs.  
Date & time of opening of Technical Bid : 20.10.2020 at 11:00 Hrs.  
Bid submission fee: As per Website. For detail log onto: <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>  
Note: Any corrigendum(s) to the Tender Notice shall be published on above website only.

Ph: 01762-241169  
Email-wss\_xenrajpura@yahoo.in  
DPRB-054781

Executive Engineer  
W/S & Sanitation Division, Rajpura

Date & time of opening of Technical Bid : 20.10.2020 at 11:00 Hrs.

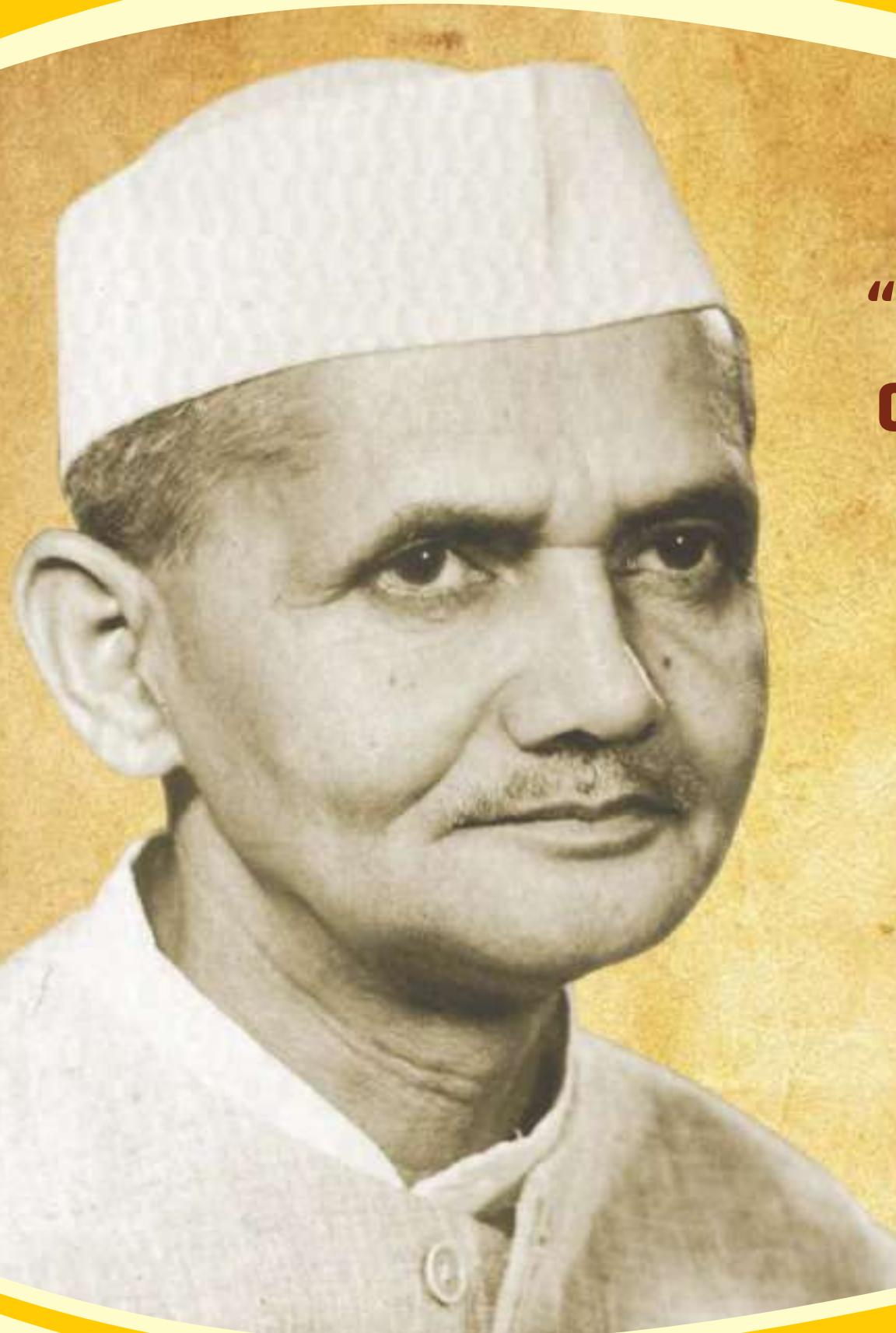
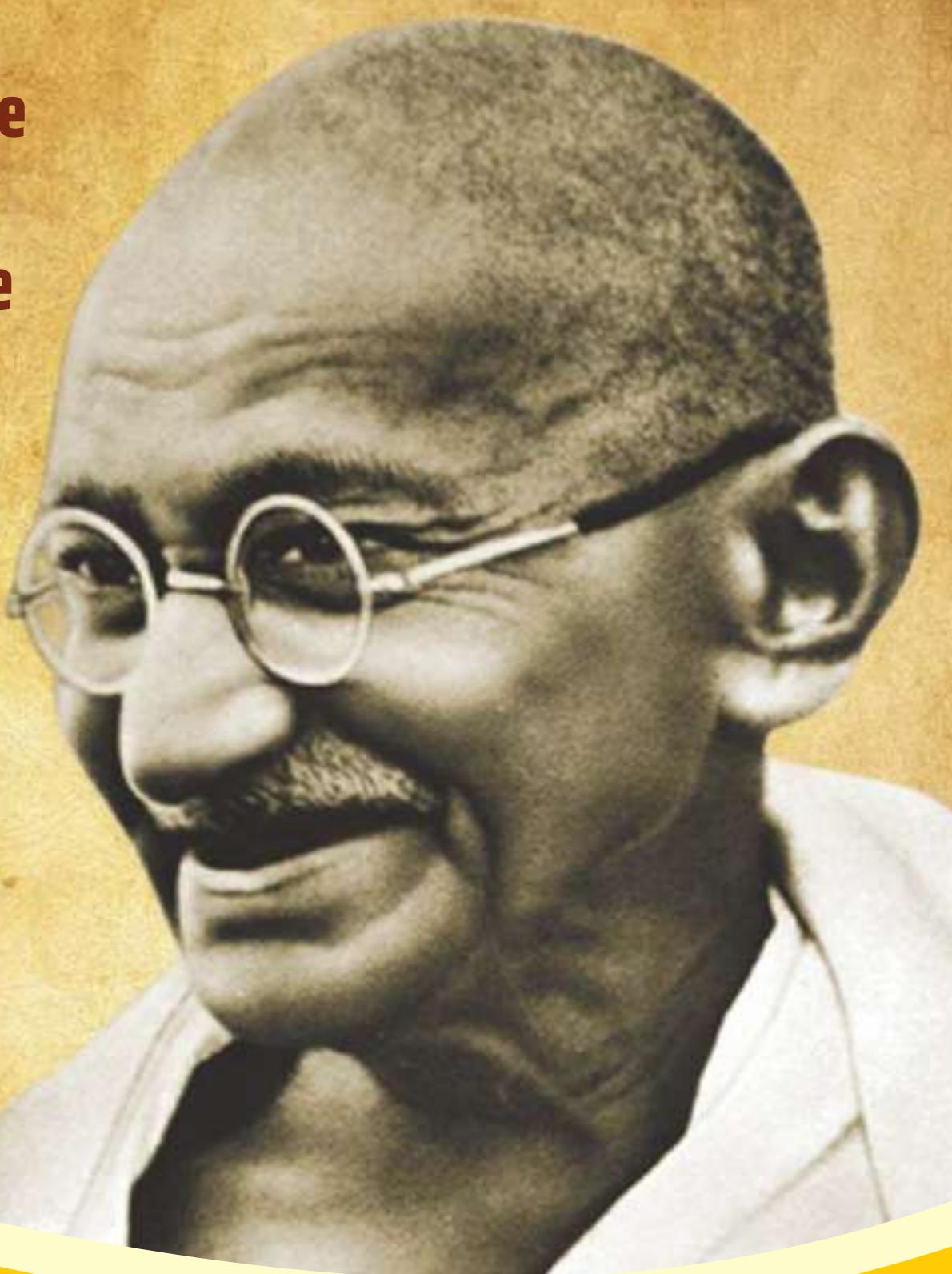
Bid submission fee: As per Website. For detail log onto: <a

**"I shall work for an India in which the poorest shall feel that it is their country, in whose making they have an effective voice"**

-Mahatma Gandhi

### Gandhi Jayanti, 2nd October

Today on Gandhi Jayanti, come let us take the vow to follow the principles laid down by Gandhi Ji. Salute him silently on the birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi.



**"True democracy or the swaraj of the masses can never come through untruthful and violent means."**

-Lal Bahadur Shastri

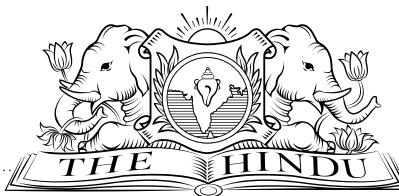
### Lal Bahadur Shastri Jayanti, 2nd October

Heartfelt salute on the Jayanti of the former prime minister of India, Lal Bahadur Shastri Ji, the symbol of strong determination, simplicity.

#### Venue

Vijay Ghat  
2nd October, 2020  
Time: 7:45am to 8:45am





## Undying embers

Increasing gender sensitivity is crucial to enhancing women's safety

The bleak image of a burning pyre illuminating a ghastly night while policemen stood guard will be forever etched in India's collective memory. A 19-year-old Dalit girl, who had been allegedly raped and assaulted at Hathras village in Uttar Pradesh on September 14, succumbed to her injuries on September 29. She was cremated in the dead of night with the family claiming they had been kept away from her last rites. This was another unconscionable atrocity committed in Uttar Pradesh. The girl was brutally assaulted when she was doing her chores, collecting fodder in the fields along with her mother. Her spinal cord was fractured and tongue slashed. This inhuman act which follows a string of sexual violence cases in Uttar Pradesh and elsewhere in India highlights some grim truths, primarily that the safety of women is not a guarantee despite the stringent laws in place. After the Nirbhaya rape in Delhi in 2012, the government set up a committee led by Justice J.S. Verma. On its recommendations, the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act was amended in 2013, bringing in changes to the Indian Penal Code and other laws. This March, the four convicted of the gangrape of Nirbhaya were hanged to death.

The Uttar Pradesh government has set up a Special Investigation Team to look into the allegations levelled by the family; the Chief Minister has promised a compensation of ₹25 lakh and "safety". That the Chief Minister had to pledge protection is a tacit admission that the administration has failed its most vulnerable citizens. Caste tension continues to simmer on the ground with its inevitable cycle of humiliation, violence and inequities. The girl had been forced to drop out of school years ago. The use of sexual violence to oppress lower castes has been on the rise. On the question of protecting women, Uttar Pradesh has slipped terribly. The latest National Crime Records Bureau data show that Uttar Pradesh registered the highest number of crimes against women in 2019, accounting for 14.7% of India's total. Fast-tracking the investigation and ensuring justice is the least authorities can do. But the challenge is to ensure that these tragedies are not forgotten. Together with increasing gender-sensitivity, the Uttar Pradesh government – and other State governments – must use the law to enhance women's safety. Else, those embers on a sordid night may not be the last ones.

## Constraining critique

Amnesty's decision to close shop in India is unfortunate

The role played by human rights organisations in documenting and questioning state functioning and excesses is a necessary component of civil society activism, which enhances democracy by securing accountability. The fact that Amnesty International, which won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1977, had to halt operations in India because of the freezing of its bank accounts and intrusive scrutiny from state agencies is therefore unfortunate. The government's response to Amnesty's decision, that it will not allow "interference in domestic political debates by entities funded by foreign donations", suggests that this denouement is linked to the group's critical reporting of decisions such as the abrogation of special status for Jammu and Kashmir in 2019. The group has maintained that it has raised financial resources lawfully. Amnesty has taken up human rights causes such as minority rights, ending torture, abolition of the death penalty and refugee rights, globally. Advocacy of these causes has led to the group being at loggerheads with regimes of various types – from the democratic to the authoritarian – across countries. India now joins the ranks of countries such as Russia where the group has stopped operations. There is no doubt that the pursuit of these objectives, even if it is not uniform across a lopsided world, has only enhanced and furthered the cause of human rights and their awareness for global citizens. Democratic regimes that are bound by constitutionalism should not consider critical activism by groups such as Amnesty as being adversarial, but instead view it as constructive critique of their functioning. If the critique is not reasoned, the state can rebut it through communiqués and responses, but should not restrict freedom of expression through intimidation or restraining actions.

Central governments in India have consistently registered discomfort with critical civil society organisations over the years, but the National Democratic Alliance-led government has taken steps to constrain groups even more, especially those that are trans-national in their functioning. This was exemplified in the monsoon session where amendments to the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Act drafted without consulting stakeholders were rushed through Parliament with little discussion. For India to aspire to become a developed and a just nation, it must build on its strengths such as its demographic dividend and the procedural institutions that have been built over decades. For it to reap benefits from these advantages, entrepreneurship, governmental actions and other economic tools would be necessary but not sufficient. The country needs to allow for a vibrant civil society that has spearheaded several reforms related to accountability (the Right to Information Act), welfare (the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act), privacy rights, gender equality and rights of sexual minorities, environmental activism among others. Non-governmental organisations will continue to have a role to play in this. It is to be hoped Amnesty's decision to halt operations is therefore temporary and that it would be able to function within India's regulatory framework.

# The Prime Minister India almost forgot

Lal Bahadur Shastri's political life has lessons, but it is his sudden passing that vitiates his public recall and his history



RAKESH ANKIT

**S**haring his birthday with Gandhi and coming from the province of Jawaharlal Nehru, Lal Bahadur Shastri was the self-facing layman who became India's second Prime Minister (1964–66). His climb atop the greasy pole of politics was preceded by nearly 40 years of participation in the freedom movements of the Indian National Congress and independent governments. However, his seemingly unlikely ascent to that office and his untimely demise led him to be overshadowed by his long-serving predecessor and successor.

Consequently, in the political game current of historical appropriation from colonial and post-colonial India, both his life and death have found an echo in print and on screen. Thus, first enlarged, Shastri's prime ministership and its major preoccupations of the language movement, the lack of food, war and peace and economic crises are easy to either forget or fabricate.

### Setting the bar

Before that, as the Minister who resigned twice, assuming moral responsibility for railway accidents in 1956 (Mahabubnagar, Andhra Pradesh and Ariyalur, Tamil Nadu) and setting an early standard, Shastri was one of six who left their cabinet posts in 1963 to work in the party organisation under the Kamaraj Plan. He was the only one though who was recalled by an ailing Prime Minister in January 1964 in a roving capacity, and, within six months, was unani-

mously elevated as Nehru's successor, upon his death. In between, in a poll conducted by the Indian Institute of Public Opinion, he had received almost half the votes to fill the role. These instances make him more and not less likely an answer to that question After Nehru, Who? His matter-of-fact conduct in office was in the face of not just testing circumstances but also the individual challenge of stepping out of the shadow of his predecessor.

### Quiet change on many fronts

Revisiting Shastri's premiership repays an attempt to put things in perspective, as arguably his tenure was one of quiet change on most fronts. It began amid a renewed bout of food scarcity and resultant price rise which can be taken back, albeit in a broken line, to the days of the Second World War and placed in a wider frame of similar problems across the decolonised world. More prosaically, it caused a forex crisis from food procurement and a provincial friction between surplus and deficit zones, and saw piecemeal rationing as well as the construction of the Food Corporation of India on the way to an eventual 'Green Revolution'. Such systemic challenges and the structural response to them require organisational consensus and federal cooperation as much as prime ministerial control.

This was more so in the mid-1960s when the monopolising days of the Congress' clientele 'system' were on their last legs, afflicted by a generational churn among its regional satraps. Shastri's selection as Prime Minister was itself an affirmation of the party's organisation and self-correcting mechanism, notwithstanding its moral ambiguities and patronage politics. In his own unflashy ways, Shastri would put his imprimatur to weigh down on the corruption-induced departures of

stalwarts such as Punjab's Chief Minister Partap Singh Kairon, Orissa's Chief Minister Biren Mitra and Union Finance Minister T.T. Krishnamachari. Equally, he also had a mentorship side to him, exhibited in his encouragement of the party's Bureau of Parliamentary Research, as a former beneficiary. A third domain was the party's factionalism and its contrasting framing of him as either a leader of too much discussion and indecision, or of too little consultation and consensus. Indeed, clichés abound, when it comes to Shastri's past and present: small man, stopgap, original accidental premier, cardboard nationalist.

### Many challenges

As a report card of Shastri's first year of premiership highlighted, the language violence in Tamil Nadu, youth challenges in Orissa, returning President's rule in Kerala, persisting feuds in Uttar Pradesh, enduring demand for a Punjabi *suba* and continuing farce in Kashmir, were some of the question marks at the cross-section of nation, region and institution for the Prime Minister. In the international arena too, Shastri had to navigate between a subdued Non-Aligned Movement, the now-nuclear challenge of China, a change in the Soviet leadership, a new leader in Pakistan, President Ayub Khan and an Anglo-American

Commonwealth combine distracted with varied issues such as Vietnam and Southern Rhodesia. Fittingly, for a person whose first foray in foreign affairs had been to Nepal, the first fruit of Shastri's diplomacy was the agreement with then-Ceylon on persons of Indian origin there – an endorsement of the importance of neighbourhood.

### Handling Pakistan

If this attention to the neighbour

nearby than an ally far was a virtue initially, it became a necessity in the year of war(s), i.e., 1965. First, in spring-summer was the Rann of Kutch dispute with Pakistan, where a combination of its remoteness, reciprocal military situation on the ground, a relatively straightforward question of overdue boundary determination, and successful British mediation meant that Shastri was content with a reasonable reference to an international tribunal, which eventually gave India the lion's share of the demarcated territory.

However, it was in August, 18 years from their Independence and Partition, that India and Pakistan came to their first, declared war over that unfinished business from 1947: Jammu and Kashmir. As it followed, familiar tropes of infiltration and mopping up, crossover and confrontation, critical calculations of cooperation from the one side and suspicions of collaboration from the other, failed to materialise.

Instead,

clashes around the

then-Ceasefire Line broadened to

battles across the

international border in Punjab in the first week

of September 1965, for which

Shastri was then and now hailed

for his resolve. Prepared for a pro-

longed war, he resisted indiscriminate international intercession,

restrained internal war fever espe-

cially its potential to deteriorate in

communal outbreaks, remained

firm through the retreats in one sector and the advances in another in the war's widening arc, and rallied the country with his call of 'Jai Jawan Jai Kisan' to become his epitaph.

In the end, he accepted the Soviet offer for mediation and set about the road to Tashkent, where an agreement was signed with his Pakistani counterpart, President Muhammad Ayub Khan in January 1966, more or less restoring the *status quo*. It was there that he died, within hours of their declared denouement to war. The image of a sombre Ayub carrying the coffin of Shastri was a big symbolic testimony to his short but substantial stature.

Among the highlights of Shastri's heritage is the shift from personalised to institutionalised government; the laying of stress from industry to agriculture, and a move from command to economy, all overtaken by the march of time. His quiet ascent to prime ministership and his loud actions as Prime Minister fell through the cracks between the Nehruvian era and Indira's India. His motivated resurrection, in an outsized opposition to these narratives, by those whose grandiose rhetoric sits oddly with his dignified reality, is his current fate. His political life has lessons but, unfortunately, it is his sudden death that has caused conspiracies and vitiates his public recall, doing little justice to his history.

Like most in his time, he rose humbly from the provinces in national politics, and carried his convictions from his faith in people, their constitution and representation. Crucially, he remained modest in both his personal probity and policy making and was not invested solely in his occupancy of his office.

Rakesh Ankit is Lecturer in history at Loughborough University, U.K.

## The Mahatma as an intercultural Indian

His proximity to the East and the West proved to be fruitful; his intellectual openness helped him to live up to his ideals



RAMIN JAHANBEGLOO

**T**here is a tendency in today's world to think and to say that Gandhi's ideal of non-violence is a noble idea but impractical and unrealistic. The odd thing about this affirmation is that it tends to sanctify Gandhi while rejecting his principles. However, Gandhi was not a saint; nor was he a religious leader. He was, first and foremost, an original thinker and an acute political strategist, who believed profoundly in the possibility of introducing humanity to the principle of non-violence.

### A realistic hope

Gandhi's idea of non-violence was not a dream; it was a realistic hope, armed with a dose of practical idealism; that of the global awakening of the law of love. By saying this, he presented himself, at the same time, as an Asian who was influenced by Hinduism, Jainism and Buddhism, and as a person who was deeply influenced by the teachings of Jesus Christ, Socrates, Tolstoy, Ruskin and Thoreau. Thomas Merton once wrote that Mahatma Gandhi was an "alienated Asian". Maybe so, but it is not because Gandhi learnt many things from the West that he had necessarily become a stranger to his own culture and to the traditions of the East. On the contrary, his proximity to the East and the West proved to be very fruitful and made of him, what we can call, "an intercultural Indian". Gandhi was endowed with an intellectual openness, which helped him to

learn from others, and, as a result, live up to his ideals. As such, he was not only an Indian political and moral leader but also the founding father of modern non-violence as it has been practised for the past 100 years around the globe.

### Ethical mode of conduct

As such, with Gandhi, the philosophy of non-violence turned into an instrument of public dissent and a pragmatic tool of the powerless against the powerful. However, in the eyes of Gandhi, while being an instrument of conflict resolution and universal harmony, non-violence was also an essentially moral exercise. What Gandhi called the "soul force" was actually an ethical mode of conduct. As a matter of fact, he viewed non-violence essentially as an ethical commitment and a constructive political action. For Gandhi, the ethical and the political were the same. Therefore, for him, the struggle against violence and fanaticism was at the same moral level as disobeying unjust laws: it was expressed by the soul force and the pursuit of truth to uplift others. Gandhi had a profoundly ethical view of life: he recognised neither the infallible authority of texts nor the sanctity of religious traditions, but he was also the foremost critic of modern politics and its authoritarian practices. That is why, reading Gandhi today is unavoidably to rethink modern politics as a new relation between power and violence and as a way of transcending the conventional distinction between citizens and the state. It is also a move towards an inter-cultural democracy, where solidarity of differences is not compromised by mere nationalism, and democratic action is not limited by mere constitutionalism and representation.

before addressing the courts.

N.G.R. PRASAD,  
Chennai

■ The skewed judgment will set a dangerous precedent, where emboldened religious fanatics will indulge in more such acts of sectarianism with impunity. The judgment leaves one wondering whether the judiciary has become subservient to the executive.  
K.P. RAVI,  
Chennai



Working in this perspective, the Gandhian philosophy of non-violence finds the conventional meaning of politics as incomplete, while problematising democratic politics as a way of assigning a duty to citizens to be vigilant about the abuses of power by the state and to struggle against the "Sultanzation" of political power in our contemporary societies.

### Establishing a just society

On the social level, Gandhi envisioned an ideal society where social justice is done, including for the last person. This is a common world in which institutions aim to get the best out of the individual. The entire Gandhian thought in the realm of citizenship and democracy revolves around the establishment of a just society. As such, Gandhi's idea of democracy hinges on moral growth in humankind, where an undisciplined and unrestrained individualism gives its place to an empathetic humanism. Moreover, while speaking on non-violence and democracy, Gandhi believed that humanity had to develop certain qualities such as fearlessness, non-possession and humility. The main aim was to restructure humans to suit to an inter-cultural and pluri-dimensional democracy. Gandhi's repeated emphasis on service to all human beings from all tradi-

tions of thought was the essence of his non-violent democratic theory.

### An approach ahead of its time

In this pluralistic approach to the dialogue of cultures and faiths, Gandhi was far ahead of his time. Indeed, his non-violent democratic theory as a philosophy of intercultural dialogue is still far ahead of our time, several generations after his death. Gandhi was not a dogmatic nationalist but essentially a pathfinder towards a common ground among different cultures and diverse mentalities. Therefore, his philosophy of democracy remains neither mono-cultural nor essentialist. It is essentially pluralistic and empathetic. More importantly, his attachment to politics is more ethical than religious. Consequently, religion for him is identified with ethics rather than theology. Therefore, his concept of democracy and modes and methods of achieving it, including Satyagraha and Swaraj, are not theological concepts. Gandhi believes that human destiny has constantly been on the move towards a non-theological truth. And he was a person who pursued truth in all aspects of life, not only spirituality, and encouraged others to join him in this pursuit.

Gandhi considered democracy as a dynamic element in the ethical becoming of human civilisation. His effort to bridge different views of life was matched in many ways by his approach to the many-sidedness of truth. That is why he did not reject different traditions of social life; he simply affirmed what he considered to be authentic in them and thought of bringing them together in the realisation of an ethical common ground. This enabled him to maintain that it would not be possible to understand the concept of democracy

without having some understanding of the philosophical tradition of a critique of violence in which it is nurtured. Gandhi, therefore, speaks of democracy and non-violence as two sides of the same reality.

### Idea of 'Indianness'

He defined his mission of promoting non-violence and democracy in India beyond all political and philosophical sources of hatred, exclusion, suspicion and war. He was well aware of the fact that politics is a fragile concept and is vulnerable to nationalist justifications of violence and war. That is the reason why he refused to define India in terms of ethnic purity or linguistic unity or some other unifying religious attribute. More than rallying Indians to combat various "others," Gandhi's philosophy of democracy introduced an anti-monistic and pluralistic dimension into a primarily territorial rootedness of Indianess. In this sense, it could be argued that for Gandhi, there was no sentiment of loving one's country (namely India) without loving the culture of the other. Gandhi's appeal to planetary companionship was based on an inclusive and dialogical idea of living together which disapproved all forms of national or religious self-centredness. As he pointed out: "The golden way is to be friends with the world and to regard the whole human family as one. He who distinguishes between the votaries of one's own religion and those of another miss-educates the members of his own and opens the way for discord and irreligion."

Ramin Jahanbegloo is Director of the Mahatma Gandhi Centre for Nonviolence and Peace Studies at O.P. Jindal Global University, Sonipat, Haryana



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

### Court acquittal

The judgment in the Babri Masjid case is as heinous as the demolition itself (Page 1, "Advani, 31 others acquitted in Babri case", October 1). It would be no exaggeration to say that the verdict has only demolished people's belief in courts as an impartial and fair institution. To say that there is no evidence of conspiracy leaves one stunned in cynical disbelief that the demolition was indeed part of a larger

conspiracy. It is noteworthy that of late, almost all judgments on crucial matters have created the perception of being in favour of the ruling party – which is not a good sign. Courts have to remind themselves that they are constitutional functionaries and not constituted functionaries. Finally, the only answer to a *rath yatra* is a *pada yatra*; to bring about systemic change, one has to start addressing the people

before addressing the courts.

N.G.R. PRASAD,  
Chennai

■ The skewed judgment will set a dangerous precedent, where emboldened religious fanatics will indulge in more such acts of sectarianism with impunity. The judgment leaves one wondering whether the judiciary has become subservient to the executive.  
K.P. RAVI,  
Chennai

■ No member of civilised society can ignore the stream of violence being perpetrated against women.

K.P. RAVI,  
Chennai

**Dark hour**

The reported incident at Hathras (Page 1, October 1) exposes the disgusting manner in which crimes against women are being approached and dealt with by the State police. The disconcerting question arises: are women safe at all?  
A. MOHAN,  
Chennai

■ Not only was it outrageous to have cremated the young woman without the family's

Establishment of special fast track courts with a dedicated law and machinery in place is a must. Enough is enough.  
RETTAVAYAL S. KRISHNASWAMY,  
Chennai

■ Not only was it outrageous to have cremated the young woman without the family's

CHRISTINE BRILLS,  
Bengaluru

# Should online gambling in India be regulated?

PARLEY

Regulation, rather than a ban, could bring with it several benefits as seen in other countries

A few weeks ago, Google pulled Paytm from the Play Store for violating its gambling policies. The growing popularity of gaming platforms like Dream11 and Paytm First Games raise questions about whether they are proxies for online gambling as they can involve financial transactions but are currently classified as 'games of skill'. In a conversation moderated by Jayant Srinivasan, Jay Sayta and Vidushpat Singhania discuss the current legal position in India on games of skill versus games of chance, the size of the gambling industry, and issues of regulation. Edited excerpts:

**We'll start the discussion with Paytm First Games and Dream11, both of which, I think, most people are familiar with now. The current legal position is that though they are transaction-based, various courts have held that they are games of skill rather than games of chance. Is this settled law now or is there still some grey area?**

**Jay Sayta:** As you said, games of skill are exempt from the ambit of gambling. Gambling and betting are a State subject. Every State has its own legislation on gambling, and most States have an exemption for games of skill. However, these statutes are pretty old, and they do not clearly define or enumerate which games fall within this skill category. Nagaland, for instance, has a separate legislation which details what are games of skill. But for the most part, most States do not have that kind of clarity. So, it falls within the judiciary's ambit to interpret whether a particular game falls within the ambit of skill or not.

Now, with regards to Dream11 and daily fantasy sports, the matter has gone to multiple High Courts starting from 2017. In 2017, the Punjab and Haryana High Court ruled that the format of Dream11, which involves picking 11 players from a real-life match from both sides and allocating points based on their real-life performance, is a game of skill and does not fall within the definition of gambling. Following that, in 2019, the Bombay High Court also

passed a similar ruling. The Rajasthan High Court gave a similar ruling earlier this year. However, on March 6 this year, the Supreme Court, while hearing the appeals from the Maharashtra government against the Bombay High Court's order on Dream11, issued notice to all parties and stayed the operation of the Bombay order, which means that they will go into the merits of the matter in detail and adjudicate finally on whether it is a game of skill or not.

**Vidushpat Singhania:** The State Acts largely don't define what is a game of skill. What you go by is the interpretation given by the Supreme Court in various judgments starting from *Satyanarayana* (pertaining to the card game Rummy), where it said skill predominates over chance. It's still open to interpretation for a range of other games. The Rajasthan High Court, Punjab and Haryana High Court, and then the Bombay High Court all held that in the format being offered currently, Dream11 is a game of skill. There have been several appeals filed and dismissed against these judgments. But earlier this year, in another petition that is pending, the Supreme Court looked at it and stayed the order of the Bombay High Court and is looking to hear the matter afresh.

What this means is, if the Supreme Court says that daily fantasy sports are games of chance, then the entire industry shuts down and the issue goes back to the States in a sense. State governments can issue licenses for these games. If the Supreme Court says it is a game of skill, then the industry is open all over India.

**The user base has grown phenomenally for online gaming, especially in this lockdown period. Are most of these transaction-based in some way? What is the size of the industry we are talking about in monetary terms?**

**VS:** It's a very tricky question because the gaming industry has legal as well as illegal components. And not everything is about paid gaming; there is also a lot of free gaming, casual gaming, gaming just for en-



tertainment. Some parts of it are regulated. Betting on horse racing is regulated, casinos in Sikkim and Goa are regulated, certain games of skill are also regulated in States like Nagaland. According to companies like KPMG, the gaming industry in India would be worth about \$150 billion.

**JS:** Within that, the category of skill-based games is a complicated one because while these games can involve monetary transactions, they are largely offered for free. These skill-based games themselves could cross a billion dollars in value, the KPMG report states, and are growing at around 30% annually. Now that's the skill part, but if you're looking generically at gaming, both skill or chance, it is a very high number. Largely it is unregulated and in the grey space.

**Let's get to the issue of regulation and what that might look like within each of these categories. Let's start first with illegal gambling.**

**JS:** Just taking a step back from how to go about regulation or legalisation, the question we need to ask is whether this is desirable or not; whether a ban or more stringent laws are the answer; or whether we need to take a more nuanced perspective and recognise that even if we pass new laws, this would still continue in some manner or shape.

In my view, regulation, rather than a ban, has certain benefits.

**I don't think we need the government to step in to regulate everything. Maybe a basic level of licensing regime can come in, but the operational regulation should always be with the industry.**

**VS:** One is the revenue argument. Since it's happening largely underground, it's a huge source of black money. So, if it is legalised and taxed in a realistic and reasonable manner, it can be a huge source of revenue for the government. The second is with regard to sports betting where there are a lot of allegations of match-fixing. Now, regulated and licensed betting regimes, as in the U.K. and many European countries, have a strong mechanism to monitor each of the betting websites, track suspicious patterns if there is a sudden spike in betting for certain events, and investigate them. And there are, of course, other ancillary benefits like employment.

**JS:** By way of a legal framework, we have regulations in Goa and Sikkim, where there is a licensing regime to allow certain types of casino games. So, you could expand that kind of legislation itself. Or you could look at international examples like the U.K., which has the Gambling Act of 2005. The Act has four or five categories, and they regulate it based on those categories. So, they have casual gaming, mid-level gaming, se-

rious gaming, high-stake gaming. They've divided the games into four or five categories, and then based on that, they have a licensing regime. This applies across all games, whether skill or chance. That is the closest we could also go, where we divide various games into various categories and have a different licensing fee for each. Now, whether that can be pan-India or State by State is the issue.

**Games of skill seem to exist in a legal grey area. How is this nascent industry being regulated?**

**VS:** Games of skill are largely self-regulated. There are bodies such as the All India Gaming Federation, FIFS [Federation of Indian Fantasy Sports] and The Rummy Federation which have developed self-regulation codes for advertisements, the way of playing, taxation... The only State where gaming or skill gaming has been regulated is Nagaland. Otherwise, games of skill are generally self-regulated by these industry bodies, which is not bad. I don't think we need the government to step in to regulate everything. Maybe a basic level of licensing regime can come in, but the operational regulation, I think, should always be with the industry.

**JS:** I have a bit of a different opinion because self-regulation, be it in gaming or in broadcasting or anywhere else, has always been less than satisfactory. There are no sanctions or penal measures that can be invoked against any erring operators. While it is great that these guidelines or charters are there, there are various operators out there who don't follow them and there is nothing that can be done against them apart from naming and shaming them. A lot of people must have also seen advertisements about skill gaming companies. Some of them are misleading and give false assurances.

The Consumer Protection Ministry has issued certain guidelines on advertising. Perhaps these real money games can be included in that ambit and certain dos and don'ts [can be specified]. For example, I don't think it is appropriate to give the message that during the lockdown, you can play day and night on these platforms and use them as instruments to solve your social or

financial problems. So, the government should step in.

**One issue that immediately stands out is whether there should be a cap on the amount of money people can play with. Is there regulation on this aspect?**

**VS:** This is an issue that the Law Commission of India has also gone into. It has said we will have to demarcate serious gaming and casual gaming limits. If somebody is putting up ₹100 or ₹200 a day, you can allow it as a kind of social gaming, because the prizes will also be limited in that sense and you don't really need a licence. But where the stakes are bigger, say you are allowed to put ₹5,000 and you can win up to a crore, that goes into the serious gaming or gambling aspect and that will definitely need complete regulation.

**What is the revenue possibility for the government? And how does that tie into the question of regulation?**

**VS:** GST [Goods and Services Tax] and income tax are still applicable to these games. It's only a licensing fee which may not be applicable at this point of time. Dream11, for instance, is paying GST, and the winners will end up paying income tax as well. So, if it is regulated as a game of skill, and the court allows it, then there will be an exponential growth in this game and the collection of GST will increase.

**JS:** The activity is already being taxed. The only aspect is the category of tax. Right now, the argument is that it has legal basis as a game of skill and so it does not fall within the sin category of, say, gambling and casinos. So they are paying a lower amount of tax. That is one aspect which needs to be thought through – whether there needs to be a slightly higher rate of tax for these kinds of activities.

The revenue potential has also been weighed in. If taxed in a rational and reasonable manner, games of skill or chance could lead to tens of thousands of crores in revenue. For instance, the Maharashtra government is already looking at the aspect of regulating sports betting, as per reports.



**Jay Sayta**  
has extensively tracked issues pertaining to the gaming industry and gaming laws over the last decade and now advises several gaming companies on policy, regulatory, tax and legal issues



**Vidushpat Singhania**  
is the Managing Partner of Krida Legal and specialises in sports and gaming laws



Scan the QR code to listen to the full interview online

## A strategic dealing with China

India must engage with China economically even as it confronts it militarily

UDAY BALAKRISHNAN

car and battery plants are coming up in China and American farmers still sell soya to China, though U.S. soybean exports to China have fallen.

The European Union, China's second largest trading partner, continues to be robustly engaged with China. A recent report by the Norwegian logistics firm Tschudi bared the surprising extent of overland trade facilitated by rail links established with Europe by China as part of its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). On this, a report of the China Railway Corporation, cited by Tschudi, makes a telling point that "in the first half of 2017 more than 3,000 container trains" ran "between the two continents since the start of 2017 exceeding the total for the previous six years combined and serving 35 cities in China, with 34 destinations in Europe".

Consider this: Chinese venture capitalists have poured in more than \$8 billion into some of India's most successful startups. China supplies many goods and services that India needs, and will continue to need. While India relies heavily on imports from China, a smaller portion of China's imports are from India.

Unlike India, which has been talking for years about establishing road and rail connectivity with its immediate neighbours and even Southeast Asia but doing little about it, China's ambitious BRI is a vision that is being realised in quick time. This has now reached India's doorstep and is bad news for abating. The situation is not going to get any better over the next few quarters unless India takes pragmatic steps to overcome these challenges.

On the economic front, India must re-engage with China economically even as it confronts it militarily.

### Lessons from China

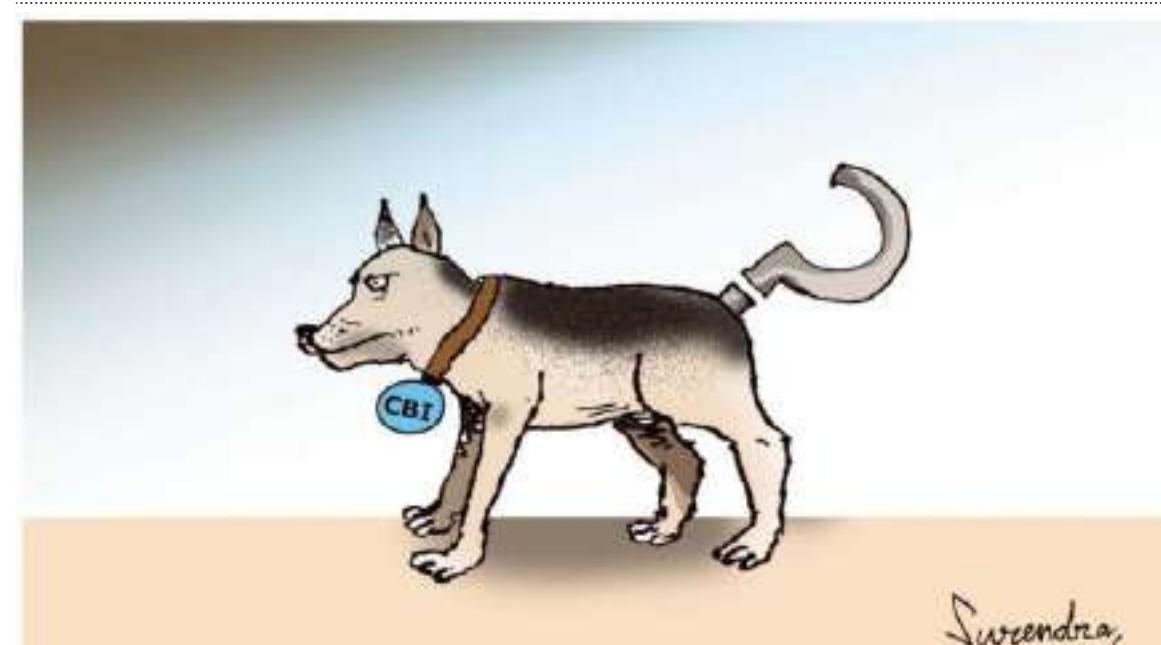
In fact, China itself provides lessons on this strategy. China claims Taiwan as its own territory and sometimes threatens invasion. In August, a top official from Taiwan said that Taiwan faces an increasingly difficult position as China pressures it to accept conditions that would turn it into the next Hong Kong. But China remains the top destination for Taiwan's exports and outbound investment.

Trade between the China and Taiwan has remained strong over the past four years. The Taiwanese firm Foxconn, for instance, makes almost all the iPhones that the world buys from factories in China.

Similarly, tensions simmer between China and its largest trading partner, the U.S., but that doesn't stop China from continuing to do business with the U.S. Tesla's massive

China under President Xi Jinping is strategic. Mark Leonard, the Director of the European Council on Foreign Relations, elaborated on the depth of debate and discussion that goes into Chinese policymaking in his 2008 book *What Does China Think*. The Chinese American economist, Yukon Huang, makes the same point in far greater detail in *Cracking the China Conundrum*. India should listen to these voices and not react in a knee-jerk manner with China.

*Uday Balakrishnan, a former visiting fellow at NIAS, CEU Budapest and CCS-IISc has taught at IISc Bengaluru*



### NOTEBOOK

#### Being witness to the Babri Masjid demolition

No court judgment can erase what journalists recorded in Ayodhya in 1992

SEEMA CHISHTI

The FIR carefully written out in Hindi at Thana Ramjanambhoomi, Ayodhya on December 11, 1992 mentioned two U-matic tapes, one camera battery, one Hanimex still camera and a still film roll. I was reporting back then on television for a monthly video news magazine, *Eyewitness*. But writing for FIRs was certainly first for someone two and a half years into the trade. A photocopy remains with me of the ruled sheet – now Exhibit 'K-139 in the AP' (Ayodhya Prakan) Lucknow Court.

Reporters like me, rushing to capture the beautiful town of Ayodhya on the banks of the river Sarayu, ended up scrambling between recording the social and political tensions that brewed away from the grandeur of the Sarayu and the story that silent Ayodhya told of living with juxtaposed centuries-old truths. How I landed the assign-

ment was a question I was asked later. I attribute that to my Executive Producer Karan Thapar's faith in my fluency in Hindi and familiarity with U.P. then. In addition, I was born to a Hindu-Muslim couple, which meant I was familiar with the customs, traditions and prejudices of both sides. What was clear in our monthly news meetings was that something important was bound to occur on December 6, given that thousands had been allowed to gather there by the Bharatiya Janata Party-led State government headed by Chief Minister Kalyan Singh. There was a court order permitting "symbolic construction" outside the Babri Masjid. The State government gave a sworn assurance to the apex court that no harm would be allowed to fall on the 16th century mosque, the epicentre of massive turmoil whipped up by a country-wide rath yatra two years earlier and campaigns for

years preceding it, making it a symbol of hate.

The age of the journalist foregrounding herself was still a few decades away. But as the focussed demolition was captured by cameras and pens, reporters and camerapersons did end up as part of the story. After ensuring that their devices stopped recording the demolition that started taking place shortly before noon, reporters were evicted from the site of the "symbolic kar seva".

But the first draft of history was recorded faithfully then and it will hold good against all attempts to rewrite the events of that fateful day. No court judgment can erase or overturn what a bunch of journalists saw, recorded and wrote from Ayodhya on December 6, 1992.

This reporting assignment lasted a long time. Reporters were turned into witnesses in courts and an inquiry commission always managed to bring the as-

signment back to life. All 'ground' stints are excellent teachers; this one more so. Tracking the story of the nation from then on made the reporter's notebook a really thick and much thumbed one. The one disturbing question after this week's Central Bureau of Investigation court order is whether vandals attacking journalists to ensure that no evidence survived from the site of the "symbolic kar seva".

But the first draft of history was recorded faithfully then and it will hold good against all attempts to rewrite the events of that fateful day. No court judgment can erase or overturn what a bunch of journalists saw, recorded and wrote from Ayodhya on December 6, 1992.

Seema Chishti was reporting from Ayodhya for *Eyewitness*, HTV's video news magazine on December 6, 1992. She is an independent journalist/writer based in Delhi.

### The Hindu

#### FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO OCTOBER 2, 1970

#### Changes in Catholic worship

Novel practices having a bearing on Indian culture are progressively being adapted in Catholic worship in Bangalore and other parts of the country. The progressive 'Indianisation' of Catholic religious practices is said to be in conformity with the new policy blessed by the Vatican Council of adopting the way of worship conforming to the traditional culture of the land. Early this month thousands of people of all communities had gathered at the ancient St. Mary's Church in Shivajinagar, (Bangalore), for the feast of Our Lady of Health. There was a reverential hush as the Archbishop of Bangalore arrived at the church. The head of the church garlanded him and an 'aarti' was performed. The non-Catholics in the large congregation wore an inquisitive look at the departure from the usual practice in the church. There was nothing amiss and the new style adopted in the feast was said to be another significant step in the adaptation of Roman Catholic worship to the mainstream of Indian culture. Among the new features noticed at the feast were the veneration of the altar by 'Anjali hasta' and the offering of sandalwood incense in the Indian style instead of the traditional incense in thuribles.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO OCT 2, 1920

#### The Madras Presidency Muslim League

Mir Asad Ali has addressed the following letter to the Honourable Secretary, the Madras Presidency Muslim League, Madras: Dear Sir, The Turkish question with the Khilafat agitation and the Punjab tragedy have produced great disquietude in the minds of the people. The dismemberment of Turkey has touched me to the quick, as in the case of many a Muslim. The humiliating terms of the Turkish Peace Treaty have caused deep resentment to the whole Muslim world. Nor am I less mindful of the scanty justice rendered to the wrong-doers in the lamentable Punjab affairs. The recent disallowance by H.E. Lord Chelmsford of the Hon'ble Mr. V.S. Shastri's resolution on the Punjab affair, has only added insult to injury. I have given vent to my feelings on more than one occasion. While fully aware of the incompetence of the present bureaucratic administration to cope with the growing political situation in the country, I should certainly hesitate to advise the adoption of any unconstitutional or impracticable programme of public action to mark the deep resentment felt particularly by the educated classes all over India.

## FROM PAGE ONE

## Rahul, Priyanka held on way to Hathras

Mr. Kumar said around 150 Congress party workers were also arrested under Section 188 of the IPC for violating orders of a public official.

On the behaviour of the police, Mr. Kumar said they had to use mild force when party members were not allowing the car of the leaders to move.

He said the leaders were stopped after the Hathras District Magistrate issued an order whereby he asked the District Magistrates of U.P. to not allow any person to enter Hathras in view of the delicate law and order situation. "It is a kind of preventive measure. It meant that no political person could be allowed. So in this case, the number doesn't matter," he said. BJP spokesperson Siddharth Nath Singh described the Congress protest as a "photo-op" by Mr. Gandhi and said nobody could be allowed to roam around on an expressway.

The Hathras administration also blocked the entry of the media to the Boolagarhi village on Thursday. Vikrant Vir, Superintendent of Police, Hathras, said Section 144 was already in place in the district and only the media was allowed entry inside the village on Wednesday. "Now that the three-member SIT (Special Investigation Team) is working in the village and there is COVID-19 scare in the area, we have blocked media entry to the village as well," he

added.

Mr. Vir said Hathras was a congested village, and with people not adhering to social distancing and other protocols, there was a real possibility of the virus spreading in the area. "Already two of our men have tested positive," he told *The Hindu*.

The police used force to stop members of the Samajwadi Party, who tried to cross the police barricades and enter the village.

The incident led to protests in Aligarh, Agra and Moradabad, where sanitary workers came out on the streets and protested against the State government.

Several senior Congress leaders criticised the U.P. police for not allowing the Congress leaders to proceed to Hathras.

"UP police is a law into itself. None of the laws of the country seem to apply to it. What is wrong if the leaders of a political party protest against a gruesome crime and wish to visit the victim's family?" asked former Union Minister P. Chidambaram.

"History will not be forgiving if we were to remain indifferent to onslaughts upon our hardwon freedom and dignity, including our right to protest against injustice. The Hathras tragedy should become the rallying point for political change," said former Law Minister Ashwani Kumar.

## GST collections cross ₹95,000 crore in Sept.

"Overall, the high frequency data available for the month of September 2020 confirms that a fragmented recovery is under way. We continue to expect the GDP contraction to narrow appreciably to 12.4% in the second quarter," Ms. Nayar said.

"With a significant part of the economy resuming operations and international trade as well resuming pace, the collections have shown decent growth," said Abhishek Jain, EY tax partner. Revenues from import of goods were at 102% and re-

venues from domestic transactions which include import of services were at 105% of the revenues from these sources during September 2019.

Among the larger States, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu saw the highest growth in GST inflows at 17% and 15%, respectively, compared to September 2019.

Andhra Pradesh saw a 8% growth, Gujarat 6%, while Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh saw a flat trend and collections in Karnataka dropped 5%, from a year ago.

## 3 soldiers killed, 5 injured in Pak. firing along LoC

An official said Pakistan opened fire "both from small arms as well as mortars" on Wednesday night in the Krishna Ghati Sector in Poonch.

Officials identified the deceased soldier as sepoy Karan Singh. Another soldier, rifleman Virender Singh, was shifted to a hospital and is being treated.

On Thursday afternoon, ceasefire violations by Pakistan spread to other parts of north Kashmir.

Pakistan also initiated an unprovoked ceasefire violation along the LoC in Keran and Machil sectors,

Kupwara, in the afternoon. Pakistan fired from artillery guns, mortars and other weapons," the Army spokesman said.

The latest ceasefire violations have come as a major escalation between the two countries in J&K, after months of frequent but minor incidents of ceasefire violations.

According to data from the Ministry of Home Affairs, J&K till July 2020 witnessed 2,952 ceasefire violations from the Pakistani side, which left 15 civilians and eight security forces personnel dead.

The rest is history. On his

## Poll to select national butterfly takes wing

Seven winged beauties are on the final list chosen by nature lovers in country

SARATH BABU GEORGE

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A citizen campaign to drum up support for identifying a national butterfly has gained momentum with close to half a lakh people joining the movement from across the country.

Spearheaded by butterfly researchers, scientists and enthusiasts, the National Butterfly Campaign has revived focus on the relevance of the charming, scaly winged insects in enhancing biodiversity.

Kalesh Sadasivan, research associate, Travancore Nature History Society,



points out that India is yet to designate a national butterfly despite being home to over 1,300 species belonging to six butterfly families.

Several countries, including Malaysia, Taiwan, Indonesia and Bhutan, have na-

tional butterflies.

As part of identifying butterfly species that could make it to the coveted status, the National Butterfly Campaign Consortium prepared a long-list of 50 butterflies that was further trimmed to seven.

### Key contenders

Krishna Peacock (*Papilio krishna*), Indian Jezebel or Common Jezebel (*Delias eucharis*), Orange Oakleaf (*Kallima inachus*), Five-bar Swordtail (*Graphium antiphates*), Indian Nawab, Yellow Gorgon and Northern Junglequeen (*Stichophthal-*

*ma camadeva*) are the contenders for the premier position. A country-wide online poll that commenced on September 11 to identify the most-favoured butterfly species has currently generated 42,090 votes, with Maharashtra recording the highest number – 16,210. Several people have also cast their votes in West Bengal (3,029) and Karnataka (2,435), while 786 from Kerala have also joined the campaign.

The public poll, which can be accessed on <https://forms.gle/u7WgCuuG-SYC9AgLG6>, will continue till October 8.

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The suture material uses nanofibers woven as yarn using certain specific techniques, and the strength can be varied depending on the target tissue (skin, muscle, cartilage), explains Rama S. Verma of the Stem Cell and Molecular Biology laboratory, Department of Biotech-

ology, IIT Madras. Each strand has a good tensile strength, besides degrading rapidly and mimics the collagen fibrils of body tissues, he adds.

Several innovations glo-

bally in suture material have advanced infection control and achieved in some cases, better recovery among patients, even as other options such as staples, glues and strips have become available.

Nanofiber yarns are thread-like structures formed by twisting together hundreds of nanofibers, Prof. Verma explains. The way the nanofibers mimicked the collagen fibril sparked the idea in a lab that primarily works on scaffold-based tissue engineering to create thread like structures by twisting nanofibers to-

gether using custom-made machinery.

Arti Sunil Richard, Research Scholar, Department of Biotechnology, IIT Madras, also worked on the project that won the 'SI-TARE-Gandian Young Technological Innovation (GYTI) Award 2020' recently.

"Several experiments were done to prove its compatibility, mechanical strength, stem cell interaction, immune responses, and antibacterial property, and they were compatible with prescribed norms in surgical procedure," Prof. Verma claims.

## Virus spreads steadily in Karnataka, Kerala

Fresh infections exceed 10,000 and 8,000 in the two States; A.P. claims highest tests per million; Telangana adds 2,214 cases

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The steady spread of COVID-19 continued in Kerala, with 8,135 new cases being added on Thursday, from 59,157 samples. The test positivity rate was also steady at 13.7%.

There were 72,339 patients under treatment in hospitals. Of these, 481 were in ICUs, with another 115 on

ventilator support.

The State's COVID-19 toll was 771, as 29 more deaths which occurred between September 1 and 30 were added to the official list on Thursday.

Of Thursday's new cases, 7,850 cases (96.4%) were locally acquired infec-

tion.

Andhra Pradesh added

6,751 new infections and 41

deaths on Thursday. It became the second State to see over seven lakh cases after Maharashtra. Karnataka and Tamil Nadu with 6.01 lakh

### Crowd without control

Despite the norms announced by the government, people in many cities do not follow social distancing. The graph shows the spread of the pandemic in the southern States



**Jostling for space:** Beneficiaries of the Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas scheme waiting outside a bank branch at Kanuru, Vijayawada, on Thursday to get their cheques cleared. ■ K.V.S. GIRI

| TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES | ACTIVE CASES | RECOVERED CASES | DEATHS |
|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------|--------|
| <b>1,93,600</b>       | 1,135        | 1,63,407        | 29,058 |
| <b>2,04,241</b>       | 771          | 1,31,052        | 72,339 |
| <b>6,03,290</b>       | 9,586        | 5,47,335        | 46,369 |
| <b>6,11,837</b>       | 8,994        | 4,92,412        | 10,412 |
| <b>7,00,235</b>       | 5,869        | 6,36,508        | 57,858 |

\*Telangana numbers are as of 8 p.m. on Wednesday | \*\*Kerala has a mismatch of 79 cases due to unaccounted deaths, missing persons | \*\*\*Karnataka has 19 non-COVID deaths

new cases on Wednesday and eight more patients died. While 54,443 people underwent tests, results of 1,393 were awaited. New cases included 305 from Greater Hyderabad.

### T.N. crosses 6 lakh-mark

Tamil Nadu's overall COVID-19 tally breached the six lakh-mark on Thursday as another 5,688 persons tested positive for the infection.

In less than a month of surpassing the five lakh-mark (September 13), the State added another one lakh cases, taking its overall count to 6,03,290. The State reported its first case of COVID-19 on March 7.

Tamil Nadu's toll climbed to 9,586 as another 66 persons succumbed to the infection.

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

## Let CBI probe LIFE Mission case: HC

CEO asked to cooperate with probe

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOCHI

The Kerala High Court on Thursday orally observed that the investigation by the Central Bureau of Investigation into the alleged irregularities in the LIFE Mission housing project in Wadakkancherry, Thrissur, could not be stopped.

Justice V.G. Arun made

the observation during the hearing on a petition filed by LIFE Mission chief executive officer U.V. Jose seeking to quash the First Information Report registered by the CBI at a magistrate court here in connection with the alleged irregularities in the project.

Observing that there were certain grey areas in the issue, the judge said, "Let the investigation go on." The court also asked the CEO to cooperate with the probe.

Counsel for the CBI submitted that the investigation is in an embryonic stage.

It had to be taken forward to find out whether the companies were acting as proxies for government officers or the agency for receiving kickbacks.

He contended that the petition was not maintainable as the CEO had no locus standi to file the petition. In fact, the CEO had not been named in the FIR.

The court adjourned to October 8 the petition for further hearing.

### IN BRIEF



**Letters by Mahatma to go under the hammer**

BENGALURU A handwritten letter of Mahatma Gandhi to the secretary of the Congress, another handwritten letter in Gujarati and a rare black-and-white photograph of the Mahatma with an undated signature in Hindi will be going under the hammer in Bengaluru on his birth anniversary on Friday.

### Forest Service officer from A.P. ends life

HYDERABAD A senior Indian Forest Service officer allotted to the Andhra Pradesh cadre was found dead in his apartment complex in Nagole on Thursday. V. Bhaskara Ramana Murthy, 59, ended his life by jumping from the ninth floor of his apartment in the early hours, police said. Contact Roshni to overcome emotional breakdowns at +91466202000.

### Cochin Customs takes councillor into custody

KOZHIKODE The diplomatic baggage gold smuggling case assumed a new dimension with the Cochin Customs taking into custody Karat Faizal, a LDF-backed Independent councillor of the Koduvally municipality in Kozhikode district, on Thursday. It was on the basis of the statements of some of the accused that Mr. Faizal was taken into custody.

### Festival duty



**Chosen ones:** The five elephants selected to participate in the Dasara festivities in Mysuru getting ready to leave Veeranahosahalli, a village near Nagarhole, on Thursday. ■ M.A. SRIRAM

## In Kerala, fans, locals join hands to preserve legendary snakeboat

return to New Delhi, Nehru donated a silver trophy, a replica of a snakeboat and paved the way for the renowned Nehru Trophy Boat Race.

As time passed, the legendary snakeboat ceased competing and the Nadubhagam Boat Club (NBC) retired the snakeboat in 2013. They replaced it with a brand new boat with the same name. Since its retirement, the snakeboat has been kept in a

crumbled shed, a piece of history left to decay. But not any more.

Although the Kerala Tourism Department's promise to set up a museum and shift the snakeboat there remains unfulfilled, the NBC, the Nadubhagam Chundan Fans Club (NCFC) and locals have now joined hands to preserve it. As part of protecting it, the snakeboat will be reconditioned under the guidance of craftsman Sabu Na-

rayanan Achary, who built the new boat a few years ago.

The project is expected to cost ₹10 lakh. While the NCFC members will bear a major share of the cost, the rest will be raised from the public.

"The chundan has great historical significance. We have taken on ourselves the task of conserving it. We hope to complete the work in six months," says K.S. George, president, NBC.



**Returning it to glory:** Preliminary work to conserve the Nadubhagam Chundan started in Alappuzha last week.

## Poll to select national butterfly takes wing

Seven winged beauties are on the final list chosen by nature lovers in country

# Autopsy shows strangulation, fracture

Hathras victim's post-mortem report confirms injury to neck; U.P. ADGP says she wasn't raped

ANUJ KUMAR  
GAZIABAD

The autopsy report of the Hathras gang rape victim confirms injury to the cervical spine (neck) produced by indirect blunt trauma, and its resultant sequelae.

Mentioning fracture in C6 cervical vertebra, the report, signed by three doctors of the Safdarjung Hospital, says the ligature mark over the neck is consistent with attempted strangulation but did not contribute to death.

The woman was brutally assaulted by four upper caste men on September 14 in Boolegarhi village of Hathras. After struggling for life in Aligarh's JN Medical College and Hospital, she passed away in Safdarjung Hospital on Tuesday morning.

The final diagnosis says "alleged post strangulation with cervical spine injury with sepsis and cardiopulmonary arrest". The death



**Street fight:** Congress workers stopping police vehicles after Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and Rahul Gandhi were detained on their way to Hathras on Thursday. • PTI

summary notes "no vomiting and seizure".

The report says the viscera has been preserved, along with pre-vaginal swab and smear, swab and smear from

the right upper thigh, and nail clippings from both hands.

Later in the day, Prashant Kumar, Additional Director-General of Police (Law & Or-

der), said the forensic report from the government lab in Agra had confirmed that the victim was not raped. He also cited the autopsy report to corroborate his point.

"The lab report clearly says that no sperm was found in the sample," he said. However, he went on to add that the girl first mentioned rape on September 22 and the samples were sent to the FSL on September 25.

#### Sample collection

Dr. Haris Khan, medical superintendent, JNMCH, told *The Hindu*, "the gynaecological and forensic examinations were conducted on September 22".

Dr. Hamza Malik, president, JN Medical College Resident Doctors' Association, said that if the samples were collected eight days after the incident, there was little chance for spermatozoa to show up. "In such cases, sample collection is done within 72 to 90 hours of the incident, and that too when the survivor has not passed urine, changed clothes or taken bath," he said.

L-G Sinha spoke to Babar's father, Mohammad Yaseen Qadri, and brother Zafar Qadri. Besides expressing his condolences, the L-G assured the Qadri family that the killers would soon be identified. Director General of Police Dilbagh Singh, Inspector General of Police Vijay Kumar and Senior Superintendent of Police, Srinagar, Dr. Haseeb Mughal, accompanied the L-G. According to the police,

they have found "vital clues to establish the identity of the killers and their outfit".

Meanwhile, the L-G chaired a meeting of all the deputy commissioners across the Union Territory through video conferencing, a day before the launch of the 'Back to Village' programme.

He said the 'Jan Abhiyan' and the 'Back to Village' schemes "will be monitored very closely at the highest level to assess the ground level situation".

## Two held in Balrampur rape and murder case

Police deny family's allegation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
LUCKNOW

The police in Balrampur said on Thursday that they had arrested two persons for allegedly raping and murdering a 22-year-old Dalit woman.

While local reports claimed that the woman's body was battered, the police denied this. "Some media channels are playing the news that her back and hands and legs were broken. This has not been ascertained in the post-mortem," said Balrampur SP Dev Ranjan Verma. However, a further probe into the matter was on, he said.

The woman's mother also claimed that her back and legs were broken. "She didn't have energy left even to stand or talk," she told local reporters.

According to the police, the woman's family said she did not return from her

## Girl found dead, family alleges rape

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
LUCKNOW

A 14-year-old Dalit girl is suspected to have been raped before being murdered in Bhadohi district of Uttar Pradesh, police said on Thursday.

"Her head had been smashed with bricks," said Superintendent of Police, Bhadohi, Ram Badan Singh.

**Report awaited**  
While the family suspect that she was raped, the police are waiting for the autopsy report to issue a confirmation.

"It could be rape. Because there could not be any other reason for killing her. She could not have had animosity with anyone. But final confirmation would be done after autopsy," said the officer.

A case of gang rape and murder has been filed, and both the persons named as accused by the girl's brother have been arrested, said Mr. Verma. They were identified as Shahid and Sahil.

## Hathras incident shocked our conscience, says HC

It takes *suo motu* cognisance of case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
LUCKNOW

The Allahabad High Court (HC) on Thursday took *suo motu* cognisance of the Hathras incident and the events leading up to the creation of the victim in the alleged rape and murder case and issued notices to the Uttar Pradesh government.

The incidents which took place after the death of the victim on 29.09.2020 leading up to her cremation, as alleged, have shocked our conscience, therefore, we are taking *suo moto* cognizance of the same," the Lucknow Bench said.

**Immense importance**  
Justices Rajan Roy and Jaspreet Singh said the matter was of "immense public importance and public interest as it involves allegation of high handedness by the State authorities resulting in

#### In video, victim says she was raped

GHAZIABAD

A purported video of the Hathras gang-rape victim has gone viral on social media. In the video, she could be heard saying that she was raped by two men, while the other two ran away when they saw her mother coming. She could be heard saying that the accused tried to rape her earlier as well but she escaped. She named Ravi, one of the four arrested.

violation of the basic human and fundamental rights not only of the deceased victim but also of her family members".

The court directed the Senior Registrar to register a *suo motu* public interest litigation (PIL) with the title, "In Re : Right to decent and dignified last rites/cremation".

The court listed the case for October 12.

## L-G Sinha visits Qadri's family

The advocate was killed on Sept. 24

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
SRINAGAR

Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) Lieutenant Governor (L-G) Manoj Sinha visited the volatile locality of Hawal in Srinagar's old city on Thursday to meet the family of advocate and TV analyst Babar Qadri, who was killed by unknown gunmen on September 24 at his residence.

Manoj Sinha

they have found "vital clues to establish the identity of the killers and their outfit".

Meanwhile, the L-G chaired a meeting of all the deputy commissioners across the Union Territory through video conferencing, a day before the launch of the 'Back to Village' programme.

He said the 'Jan Abhiyan' and the 'Back to Village' schemes "will be monitored very closely at the highest level to assess the ground level situation".

## 9 BJP workers resign ahead of Leh polls

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
SRINAGAR

Nine leaders and workers of the BJP have resigned from the party in Ladakh's Leh district in the past two days, after the party selected ten new faces to contest the upcoming polls to the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council-Leh (LAHDC-Leh).

"The party has chosen candidates on the basis of their winnability and report card from the ground," said Dr. Skalzang Dorje, Leh BJP's political affairs in-charge.

The polls are scheduled for October 16. "The BJP has done favouritism by not choosing the right candidate for Chuchot seat. The BJP chose a candidate who can't spell the LAHDC correctly," two workers, Manzoor Hussain and Mumtaz Hussain, wrote in a joint resignation letter.

Police deny family's allegation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
LUCKNOW

A 14-year-old Dalit girl is suspected to have been raped before being murdered in Bhadohi district of Uttar Pradesh, police said on Thursday.

"Her head had been smashed with bricks," said Superintendent of Police, Bhadohi, Ram Badan Singh.

**Report awaited**  
While the family suspect that she was raped, the police are waiting for the autopsy report to issue a confirmation.

"It could be rape. Because there could not be any other reason for killing her. She could not have had animosity with anyone. But final confirmation would be done after autopsy," said the officer.

A case of gang rape and murder has been filed, and both the persons named as accused by the girl's brother have been arrested, said Mr. Verma. They were identified as Shahid and Sahil.

## Bhushan files review plea against fine

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Advocate Prashant Bhushan has filed a review petition in the Supreme Court against its decision to fine him a nominal ₹1 as punishment for committing criminal contempt by 'scandalising the court' with his tweet on a picture of the Chief Justice of India on a heavy bike, and another about the role of the court in the past six years.

Mr. Bhushan urged the court to recall the punishment. He said the tweets were criticism, and argued that dissent and criticism of an institution did not amount to criminal contempt. The senior lawyer asked the court to look into whether its power to initiate *suo motu* contempt was subject to the fundamental rights of a person.

Dissent and fearless exchange of ideas were the central pillars of democracy, he said.

## Chargesheet against Hafiz Saeed, others

ED probe reveals 'hawala' channels



Hafiz Saeed through the "hawala" channel.

DEVESH K. PANDEY  
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) filed a chargesheet against Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) chief Hafiz Saeed, the Pakistan-based terrorist who is also the founder of the Jamaat-ud-Dawah (JuD) and the Falah-i-Insaniyat Foundation (FIF), and others in a terror-funding case.

Among those arraigned are Hafiz Saeed's deputy Shahid Mahmood, one Salman, Dubai-based Pakistan national Mohammed Kamran, and Mohammed Salim, an alleged "hawala" operator from Delhi.

The ED probe is based on a chargesheet filed by the NIA under various sections of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, against Salman, Salim and Kamran.

It is alleged that Salman received funds from FIF operators and his associates

| KERALA WATER AUTHORITY<br>e-Tender Notice   |  |
|---|--|
| Tender No : 56a/2020-21/SE/PHC/ALP, JJM-Augmentation of ARWSS to Nonorand, Chunakkara, Palamal and Thamarakulam Panchayaths - Renovation to 5 mln LTP Pattoor, Construction of 6 LTP-HSK Pattoor WTP compound in Nonorandu Panchayath, Supply and Laying of Distribution lines and giving House connections, Chunakkara, Chunakkara, Palamal Thamarakulam Panchayaths and providing FHTC, EMD: Rs. 5,00,000/-, Tender fee: Rs. 16,800/- Last Date for submitting Tender : 02-11-2020 03:00:pm |  |
| Phone : 0477-2237954 Superintending Engineer Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in KWA-JB-GL-6-434-2020-21  |  |
| work in a private firm till late in the evening on September 29. Then, around 7 p.m. she came home in a rickshaw. She had a 'vigo' installed on her wrist for administering glucose. She was in a pretty bad condition, said Mr. Verma.   |  |
| The family rushed her to a hospital, but she died on the way, said the officer.   |  |
| The family said the two accused took their daughter to a doctor for treatment and then raped her, said the officer. Why she was taken to the doctor is not clear.   |  |
| In his complaint, the victim's brother alleged that she was "kidnapped" by the accused, taken to their room and gang-raped.   |  |
| A case of gang rape and murder has been filed, and both the persons named as accused by the girl's brother have been arrested, said Mr. Verma. They were identified as Shahid and Sahil.  |  |

| GREATER CHENNAI CORPORATION<br>Bus Route Roads Department  |         |  |                      |           |  |
|--|---------|--|----------------------|-----------|--|
| BRR.C.No.B1/3143/2020 Short - TENDER NOTICE  |         |  |                      |           |  |
| e-tenders are invited for the following works in Two Cover System as per details furnished below.            |         |  |                      |           |  |
| Chennai Mega City Development Mission 2020-21 (CMCDM)  |         |  |                      |           |  |
| Name of the work No. of Package Approx. Value of work Rs. E.M.D. Rs. Eligible Class                          |         |  |                      |           |  |
| Improvements to the Interior BT roads in various zones   | 1 to 19 | Lowest work value Rs.229.00 Lakhs Highest work value Rs.362.00 Lakhs | 1% of the work value | Class - 1 |  |
| 1) Tender last date and time of submission: 20.10.2020 upto 3.00 p.m.  |         |  |                      |           |  |
| 2) Bid document will be available in website <a href="https://tntenders.gov.in">https://tntenders.gov.in</a> |         |  |                      |           |  |
| 3) Tender open date and time: 21.10.2020 at 3.30 p.m.  |         |  |                      |           |  |
| DIPR/3705/Tender/2020 Superintending Engineer (BRR)  |         |  |                      |           |  |

| GREATER CHENNAI CORPORATION<br>Bus Route Roads Department  |                         |
|--|-------------------------|
| BRR.C.No.B3/2848/2020  |                         |
| BRR.C.No.B3/2849/2020  |                         |
| <b>Notice for Tender Cancellation</b>  |                         |
| e-tender were invited to the following works published in daily tamil News paper "Namadhu Amma" and English daily News Paper "New Indian Express" & "The Hindu" dt. 18.09.2020 and GCC Bulletin. Due to administrative reasons the following works have been cancelled |                         |
| S.No. Name of the work Already Published Last Date and Time of Submission  |                         |
| 1 BRR.C.No.B3/2848/2020 Improvements to the Interior BT Roads in Various Zones (Packages 1 to 21)  | 06.10.2020 Upto 3.00 pm |
| 2 BRR.C.No.B3/2849/2020 Improvements to the Interior CC Roads in Various Zones (Packages 1 & 2)  | 06.10.2020 Upto 3.00 pm |
| DIPR/3701/Tender/2020 Superintending Engineer (BRR)  |                         |



# So many flavours of ilish

The waters of Bengal are not the hilsa's only abode. We explore how connoisseurs in Telangana and Assam have their own, traditional take on this fish, which has a loyal following

PRABALIKA M BORAH

Hilsa or ilish is an expensive seasonal fish. When it is in season (September and October), hilsa lovers tend to loosen their purse strings at least once. Starting at ₹1,200 a kilogram, the variety, depending on where it is sourced from, can go up to ₹3,000 to ₹4,000. The price, however, is not a concern for those who love this fish: to them, after all, it is a yearly, special occasion splurge.

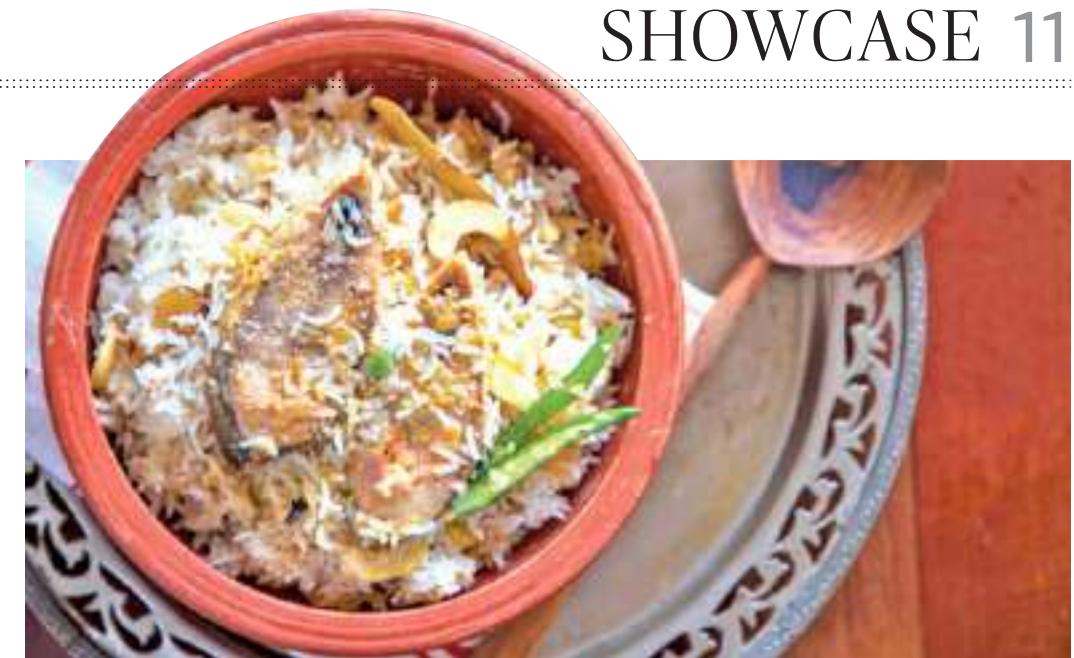
Full of bones and with a distinctive sweetish flavour, the fish is tricky to eat, which contributes to its allure.

#### The season's choice

Pulasa from the Godavari belt in Andhra Pradesh is relished by Telugu fish lovers. The very mention of the fish on the menu, can draw diners lining up to savour a piece or two. Hyderabad-based restaurateur Kuchipudi Venkat says, given the opportunity, he drives from Telangana to Dowleswaram barrage at Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh for the best catch.

"This is the oldest barrage and the catchment area for pulasa. The price is decided through an auction; it usually starts at ₹1,000 and can go up to ₹4,000. The fish from this area is the sweetest. The next thing to do is simmer it in tangy *pulusu* made of tamarind paste," he says.

Thummala Sampath, who owns Spicy Venue in Hyderabad and Vizag, quotes a popular saying in Telugu: "Pustelu ammukunaina, pulasa tinnali (One just has to eat pulasa even if it is at the cost of selling the *mangalsutra*). The fish is slow-cooked for several hours so that the bones melt in your mouth; nothing is wasted."



#### In the East

Discussing hilsa without mentioning hilsa with *sorshe bata* (mustard paste) or *bhap-pa hilsa* is akin to a food crime. With many people spending more time at home this year, because of COVID-19, traditional dishes are making a comeback.

Kolkata-based recipe developer Sayantani Mahapatra Mudi says, "Since our roots lie in coastal Bengal – Midnapore district, to be precise – we prepare a lot of dis-

hes with a souring agent. So every time Baba (father) bought ilish, it had to be cooked two ways. *Sorshe ilish* and *ilish macher tawk* with aged tamarind paste, pumpkin, and ladies finger. Unlike other homes where only the head or tail of the fish is cooked that way, ours was cooked with the best *gada* (back) and *peti* (stomach) pieces. It's a slow-cooked dish full of aroma."

She adds, "Maa also made *Medini-puri amda* ilish, another sour curry, made with hog plums that are seasonal with the ilish. I loved Maa's doi ilish (ilish with curd), that smooth velvety gravy was her speciality. And the head always ended up in *kochur saag* (taro stems) with some black chickpeas and fresh coconut."

Sayantani also recollects ilish *Hara Gouri*, where the whole fish is cooked, one side in a tamarind gravy and the other side in mustard gravy, so it has two different tastes. "Later, Maa learnt to make a spicy and sour curry from my aunt whose roots are in Bangladesh. That curry used hog plum, cucumber and mustard," she says.

For the Assamese, ilish season is one of celebration; but for a change, this is one fish that is not put in the *masor tenga jul* (fish sour curry). Incorporating mustard paste is common practice in the region, but some homes love to make ilish curry with raw banana and generous amounts of freshly pounded pepper.

Guhwati-based food blogger Sanjukta Dutta says, "We call the raw ba-

**The celebratory fish** Ilish, hilsa or pulasa is the talk of the town for the season and the connoisseurs of the fish are busy making their favourites with it. Laupata ilish (ilish wrapped in pumpkin leaf) and ilish pulao are Chandrima Sarkar's top pick in her blog

▪ VASUNDHARA CHAUHAN, CHANDRIMA SARKAR

▪ GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

nana ilish curry *kaskolor jul*. Also, the roe of the ilish is a delicacy and is best eaten fried with a little salt."

#### Pro tips

Bringing something completely different to the table is Chandrima Sarkar. Active on social media as Notoutofthebox, Chandrima loves traditional ilish dishes, especially the leaf-wrapped preparations from her childhood.

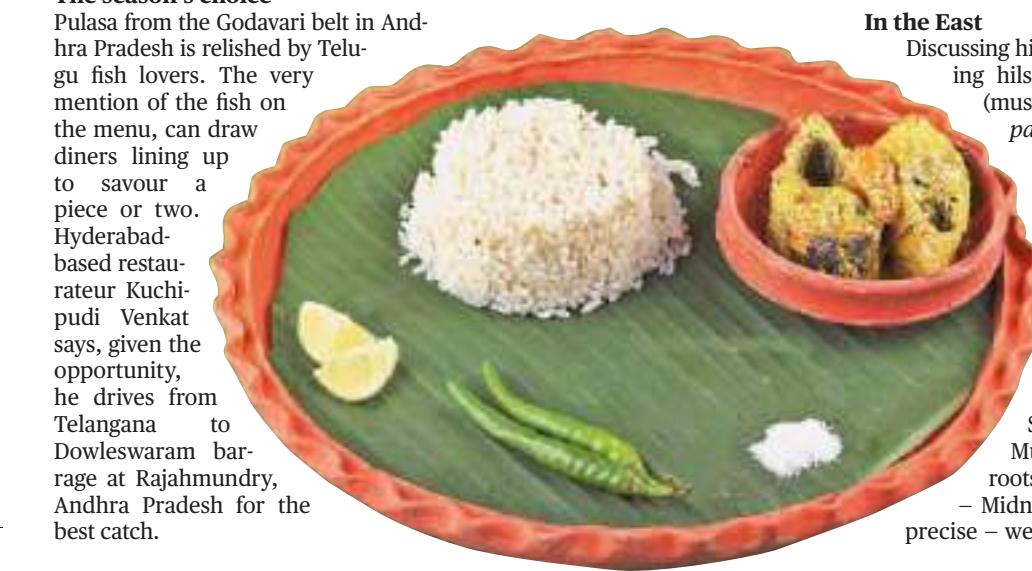
Although she takes great pride in her ilish *pulao*, Chandrima says, "While marinated and steamed ilish in banana leaf is well-known, at home, marinated ilish was wrapped in pumpkin and colocasia leaves as well. The steamed leaves were to be eaten with the rice; a flavour to savour."

Chandrima is not alone in giving the ilish dish a twist. Sayantani says, "Once I started cooking and experimenting, people loved *daab* ilish (hilsa cooked inside a tender coconut with the coconut flesh)."

Irrespective of these variations, one factor remains constant: "The oil in which ilish is fried is special. Most people love rice mixed with this oil, with a green chilli to go on the side," says Kolkata-based Debjani Ghatak.

Sayantani's suggestions: "A good ilish for me is the one with roe in it. The taste is somehow not as good without roe. So I always check the belly. If it is bulged and soft, I buy it."

Size matters when buying hilsa. The bigger, the better, she adds. "The natural oils of hilsa fish need to mature for some time after it is cooked; it tastes even better a day old."



to Surdas *bhajans* while slicing cashew nuts. He remained as enthused about his work in his later years, as when he was starting out."

#### Bite-sized inspiration

Since 1949, Bombay Sweets (named so by Sharma Senior because the city symbolised sophistication and novelty to him, even though he had never actually been there), is a favourite snack food destination for both local residents and tourists in Thanjavur. While the original menu has expanded from North Indian snacks to include southern Indian tiffin items and fast food, its best-sellers are the sweets *chandrakala* and *suryakala*, a Guru Dayal innovation that combines the best of North and South festive cuisines.

These are little fried pastry parcels filled with *khoa* or *mawa* (whole dried milk) mixed with nuts and seasoned delicately with saffron and cardamom powder, then dipped in a light sugar syrup.

"For this recipe, my father was inspired by the *gujiya*, a dry fried pastry that is commonly prepared for festivals like Holi in the North. *Chandrakala* and *suryakala*, both of which have the same filling, get a southern Indian twist with a brief dip in hot sugar syrup at the very end," says Subramani.

Around 250 kilos of *chandrakala* are made per day during lockdown.

Workers then sit in assembly-line fashion to break down the task of rolling out, filling, and then delicately folding the edges of the pastry discs by hand. Another team of cooks supervising huge oil-filled pans is on hand to fry the *chandrakala*.

The flame is kept on medium heat,

to ensure even cooking of the casing and filling. Once drained of excess oil, the fried pastry is passed on to the next team overseeing the sugar syrup.

The *chandrakala* pockets are removed as soon as the fluted edges look glazed. "If this step gets delayed, you can end up with soggy *chandrakala*, so the cooks have to be very careful," says Subramani.

We get to sample a *chandrakala* fresh from the kitchen. The crisp pastry and soft filling get a low sugar kick from the syrup, making it an ideal teatime snack.

#### Going online

With footfalls at restaurants reducing due to lockdown, Bombay Sweets has started offering pre-packaged snack combinations for both online and offline sales.

"As the festive season is set to begin, and due to the improvement in delivery logistics, we have decided to reach out to customers across the country through our website. We also get many orders from Thanjavur residents living abroad," says Subramani.

The demand for *chandrakala* and *suryakala* has grown with the new mini versions that are ideal for gifting. Subramani Sharma has catalogued all the recipes that are being used by Bombay Sweets, and hopes the family's forthcoming generations will develop the patriarch Guru Dayal Sharma's vision further.

"Even at the age of 52, I miss my father, who passed away in 1991. His career in Thanjavur lasted 50 years. Though the branches have grown since his demise, at the end of the day, Bombay Sweets is the tree that he planted. And *chandrakala* and *suryakala* are fine examples of his creativity," he says.

## HORS D'OEUVRES



#### There's no bread in that

Real news has been inching closer and closer to the bizarre these past few months. In the world of food, a recent court ruling in Ireland has had everyone scratching their heads over what even defines the word "bread". The Ireland Supreme Court recently ruled that Subway's breads contained too much sugar to even fall under their legal definition of "bread".

According to reports, Subway's breads' sugar-to-flour content was deemed roughly five times too high to qualify. What was the Supreme Court doing looking into bread recipes, you ask? That leads us to an even funnier aspect of the case. The reason for Subway's presence at the court was because a franchise owner of the multinational food chain corporation tried to get a tax break by arguing that the sandwiches – because they contain bread – should fall under the category of "staple food" that is exempt from VAT (value added tax). Needless to say, the five-judge bench was not impressed.

#### A chocolate telescope

Need we say more? Actually, we do. It is five feet tall, can be moved around, and was constructed last week out of chocolate leaves, by a pastry chef. LA-based chef and Pastry Academy owner Amaury Guichon, has for years been wowing his millions of Instagram viewers with his detailed videos of the intricate process of making desserts with multiple layers, effects, designs, and flavours. He has created everything from a Chinese dragon and an old-school telephone to a

detailed compass. However, his most recent treat takes the cake, with Guichon himself describing it as possibly "the most technical chocolate creation I have ever made". The over 13-minute long video accompanying his post has gone viral, as have images of the final product being used by the chef himself.

# The moon dipped in sugar syrup

A little sweet, a little savoury, and a whole lot of relish has gone into Thanjavur's iconic Bombay Sweets that took generations to grow from a small tuck shop to an e-commerce savvy business

NAHLA NAINAR

BG Subramani Sharma, managing director of Bombay Sweets, smiles when asked about the time he entered the business in Thanjavur.

"I started assisting my father Guru Dayal Sharma when I was in Class XI, mainly with measuring out the ingredients and learning how to knead the dough for *samosa*. I was nicknamed *maida maavu* by my classmates because I would come to school straight from the kitchen with flour on my hands," he says.

There is a hum of activity at this 10,000 square-feet industrial kitchen complex in Thanjavur, even though lockdown restrictions have mandated a reduced staff strength. Teams of men and women are seen preparing a host of snacks and sa-



**Sweet innovation**  
*Chandrakala* being prepared at Bombay Sweets in Thanjavur  
▪ NAHLA NAINAR

vouries that will be displayed and sold at the store's 14 branches in Thanjavur and Pattukkottai.

Clearly, it has been a long journey, from a small tuck shop opposite Tanjore railway station in 1949 to an e-commerce savvy business today.

"My father was a traditional

sweet maker in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh, who migrated to the South in the 1940s, and after working for a short while in Madras, settled down in Thanjavur. He was a master chef who believed in using the best ingredients," says Subramani.

"He loved every step of cooking – he would begin his day listening

to Surdas *bhajans* while slicing cashew nuts. He remained as enthused about his work in his later years, as when he was starting out."

Where possible, machines help

**No magic pill**  
Moderation is key  
• M GOVARTHAN, KK  
MUSTAFAH AND GETTY  
IMAGES/ISTOCK

# When turmeric turns toxic

SWETA AKUNDI AND PADMAJA JAYARAMAN

**1. Turmeric**

Curcumin is the active ingredient which is responsible for its antiviral and anti-inflammatory properties. Freshly ground turmeric works better than store-bought powders, and should be consumed within three weeks. To maximise its benefit, have it with pepper.

**Stop if...** you feel bloated or experience cramps. Eat no more than three grams (half a teaspoon) a day if taking in a concoction.

"Yesterday my patient on the operating table bled buckets. He wasn't on blood thinners – no explanations... After surgery, he told me he was taking a herbal concoction of ginger, garlic, turmeric and asafoetida thrice daily to prevent Covid." A consultant at Manipal Hospitals and an ophthalmic surgeon, Dr Raghuraj Hegde's viral tweet has started a conversation on natural 'immunity boosters'. So far considered harmless, their copious use, especially by those who have co-morbidities, has actually turned dangerous.

With COVID-19 causing panic and fear, suddenly our WhatsApp group chats are full of recipes for homemade kitchen concoctions – *kashayams* or *kadhas* – to 'boost immunity'. The supplements market also boomed. Vitamin C and D flew off shelves, and advertisements for turmeric pills popped up on social media.

Fear of hospitals, combined with the reluctance to make digital appointments with doctors, kept people at home, self-medicating on ingredients they believed to be safe, and hoping for the best. An Indian wellness juice company that claims to be 'powered by Ayurveda' says that in the past six months, one of its most popular products has been a 'body defence drink', which is a concoction of *ashwagandha*, amla, moringa, turmeric, *gotu kola* and coconut water. "We have seen a 300% growth in the past six months," says a company representative.

Chennai resident, B Adhiban, 20, suffered an aggravation of his dormant ulcer last month. "I drank a long pepper concoction everyday for two weeks to prevent a cold. My mouth started burning, and my ulcer started acting up again."

Doctors are worried. "During consultation, I get patients who try to get a prescription for zinc

tablets, or vitamin C in the hope that these will protect them against COVID-19," reveals Dr S Krishnamoorthy, senior consultant physician at Apollo Speciality Hospitals, Chennai. "And most of these are sold as health or herbal supplements, so they are not regulated. Anybody can sell them over the counter."

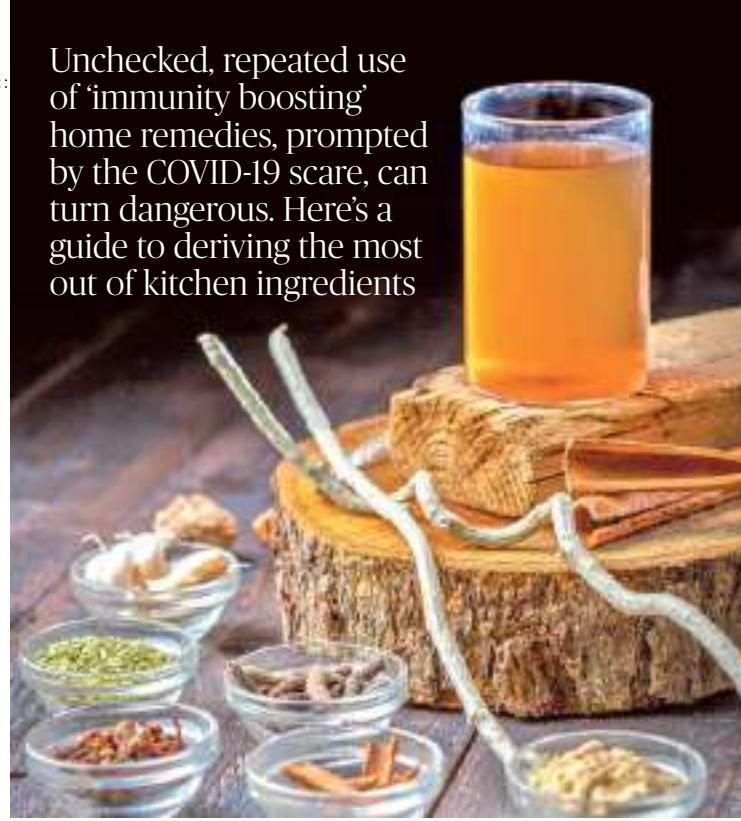
Dr P Mohanvel, MS, Villupuram Government Hospital points out the result of this kind of self-medication. "At least 15% of the patients we get are those that have overdosed on such concoctions. They are treated for stomach problems, and sometimes, in severe cases, an endoscopy is done." As much as our concern for immunity has risen, health practitioners remind us that there is no magic pill.

The very concept of boosting immunity is wrong to start with. Your immunity is a reflection of your own health. It is not like we should be consciously working on our immune system; work on your overall health, specifically gut health, and your immunity will automatically improve," says Delhi-based dietitian Manjari Chandra, adding that about 70% of our immunity depends on our gut health, "And then it is the environment, the state in which you eat." Exercise, sleep, and hydration are other equally important cornerstones, adds Dr Krishnamoorthy.

"I am not against herbal concoctions and natural remedies, but there is a dosage that must be followed," says Dr Mohanvel. When eaten as a part of our meals (like turmeric in dal), it is good for us, also because the spice is used in balance,

"But many people are taking one cup of such concoctions like coffee and tea in the morning and evening," he adds.

Dietitian Preethi Raj gives us some pointers on popular home remedies, what each does, and how much is too much.

**2. Ginger**

The physiological action of ginger is due to gingerol. Fresh ginger helps maintain the health of the digestive tract by stabilising gut bacteria. Dried ginger detoxifies the lung. For optimal effect, have as ginger lime juice.

**Stop if...** you experience gastrointestinal discomfort. Eat no more than 10 ml (two teaspoons) of fresh ginger juice or four to five grams (one teaspoon) per day.

**3. Black pepper**

The piperine in black pepper helps in lung detoxification and improves production of T-cells that help fight infections. Apart from being anti-inflammatory, it also helps in the initial stages of phagocytosis (where cells engulf bacteria, which in turn helps strengthen immunity). It improves the absorption of curcumin and beta carotene, so it can be combined with vitamin A rich foods, such as in a carrot salad.

**Stop if...** you face gastrointestinal issues, mild acid increase or heart burns. Eat less than four grams of pepper kernels over a day.

**5. Garlic**

Allicin, disulphide and thiosulphate in garlic detoxify the lung from micro-organisms and oxidants, and induce good digestion for healthy adults. Best eaten with fish as the Omega-3 fatty acids in the latter, increasing the allicin component. Vegetarians can replace fish with flax seeds, like in the Bihari *teesi ki chutney*.

**Stop if...** you develop a bad odour in the mouth, feel bloated or weak in any way (it could be a sign of low blood pressure). Eat no more than seven grams a day (a teaspoon and a half at most) or 300 mg of dry garlic powder.

**THE MOST ABUSED OTC SUPPLEMENTS**

Vitamin C. "Vitamin C supplements work better in ascorbic form than in ascorbic acid form, which is the most common type sold," says Manjari Chandra.

Zinc, another popular supplement, in excess induces a deficiency in copper levels in the body and may also cause lethargy, according to a 2010 study, *The Essential Toxin: Impact of Zinc on Human Health*, published in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health.

Ayurvedic and herbal medicines such as *ashwagandha*, '*kapasura kudineer*' and '*nilavembu kashayam*' too see heavy demand OTC.

**6. Cumin and coriander seeds**

Best had together, cumin contains cuminaldehyde and phytochemicals that aid in gut motility (bowel movement). Being rich in minerals like selenium, calcium, magnesium and potassium, it helps build immunity. Cumin can also be had with salmon, and for vegetarians, with lentils and eggplant.

**Be careful if...** You have low blood pressure – do not exceed 600 mg of cumin and one gm (a few seeds) of coriander per day.

**4. Fenugreek**

Fenugreek is anti-inflammatory, lowers blood sugar and cholesterol, thanks to its active ingredients, mainly flavonoids, which work as antioxidants, and alkaloids and coumarin, which have antiviral properties. Sprouted fenugreek has a lot of antioxidants and when taken on an empty stomach, its absorption will be maximum. It also goes well with fermented food like *idli* and *dosa*, as the fermentation process feeds the good bacteria in the gut. So use it in a curry to eat with these.

**Stop if...** you feel intestinal distress. Have less than five grams (one teaspoon) a day, as more may cause liver toxicity which could lead to a fatty liver or even cirrhosis.

## History remains intrigued



October 2 marks 151 years of Gandhi. While Gandhian thought continues to be debated, what is undeniable is his appeal among auction houses and collectors of historic artefacts

ANASUYA MENON

Seventy-two years after his death, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi is still a subject of intrigue. Recently, when a pair of his glasses was auctioned for a whopping £26,000 in Britain, it created a buzz among collectors the world over.

**Forever young**

"It is because Gandhi is still and will be relevant forever," says S Kulandaivelu, honorary secretary of the Gandhi Peace Foundation, Chennai. "But are we relevant to his ideals and thought?" he asks.

October 2 marks 151 years of the Mahatma, and followers of Gandhian thought say he would continue to be discussed and debated.

While the auction house in Bristol that stumbled upon this pair of gold-plated glasses calls it "a find of international historical importance," collectors such as Bengaluru-based Jayaprakash Sarda say that Gandhi has always had



**Remembering the Mahatma** (Left to right) Gandhi on one of his morning walks; sculptor K S Selvaraj working on a sculpture; Jayaprakash Sarda with a charkha used by Gandhi • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT AND THE HINDU ARCHIVES

ed with requests for valuations on Gandhi-related memorabilia. "Sometimes these were just old coins with his face on them, or magazines. Other items were a little more special, and whilst I can't say too much, I'm quite certain these glasses won't be the last time we sell something Gandhi-related," says Andy Stowe, auctioneer, East Bristol Auctions, in an email interaction.

According to Jayaprakash, it is the strange, yet exhilarating feeling of owning a tangible piece of history that keeps him going. He



has been collecting Gandhi memorabilia since the 1990s and has everything from stamps to 8,000 pre-Independence newspaper articles, and over 1,000 magazines.

His collection also includes 250 to 300 rare photographs, 30-40 letters written by Gandhi, a set of crockery (with 63 items) issued for VIP delegates of the All India Congress Committee in 1937-38 and a one-kilogram Gandhi silver coin issued by the Republic of Malta.

"The crockery carries the Indian flag with the imprint of the *charkha* on it," says Jayaprakash. These form only 2% of his collection. A wholesale sari dealer, he keeps track of auctions and collectors and is always on the lookout for a collectible. He gets each item verified by experts.

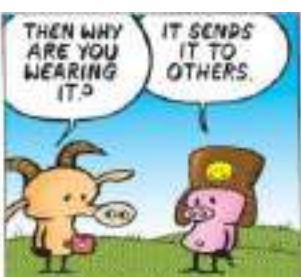
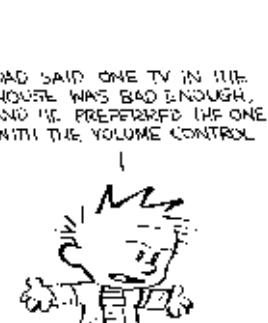
As part of his work for the Gandhi Peace Foundation, a service organisation that develops Gandhian thought, Kulandaivelu says it is important to spread the Gandhian spirit, especially among younger people today. "Gandhiji

was often accused of being a bundle of inconsistencies. But that is because he only saw the truth and truth has an evolving nature," says the 67-year-old, who has published 45 books of Gandhian stories for children and adults.

**Shape of history**

Kochi-based sculptor KS Selvaraj, who is currently working on an eight-foot-tall copper sculpture of Gandhi for the National Gandhi Foundation, says he has to imbibe the essence of Gandhi in his physical form as well. Selvaraj says it is the flexibility of Gandhi's body that he is trying to recreate in his work. "Gandhiji's body language is very unique and that is what appeals to me as a sculptor," he says. Three Gandhi sculptures of his are in different parts of Kochi.

Gandhi will live on, especially in these times of unrest and turmoil, says Stowe: "Whether one agrees with his politics or not, no one can deny his enduring image – including his spectacles, loin cloth and sandals."

**POOCH CAFE****PEARLS BEFORE SWINE****HAGAR THE HORRIBLE****PEANUTS****TIGER**

# Navalny blames Putin for poison attack

He vows to return to Russia to press on with his campaign; Kremlin alleges that he works for CIA

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
BERLIN

Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny accused President Vladimir Putin of being behind his poisoning on Thursday, as he vowed to return to Russia to press on with his opposition campaign.

In the first media interview since his poisoning, Mr. Navalny gave harrowing details of his collapse on a flight from Tomsk to Moscow after he was poisoned by what the West identified as the Soviet-era nerve agent Novichok.

The 44-year-old anti-corruption campaigner also said he would not be cowed by the experience, pledging to get fit as soon as possible to continue his fight.

#### 'Not afraid'

"Not returning would mean that Putin has achieved his aim. And my job now is to stay the guy who's not afraid," he told the *Spiegel* weekly.

"I will not give Putin the gift of not returning to Russia," he said, adding that for him "Putin is behind this act, I don't see any other



Blame game: Alexei Navalny, left, and Vladimir Putin, in this combination of file photos. • AFP

explanation."

The Kremlin immediately hit back at Mr. Navalny's statements, calling them "groundless and unacceptable".

Mr. Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov also claimed that Mr. Navalny was working with the CIA, while the head of Russia's lower house of Parliament, Vyacheslav Volodin, said Mr. Putin had helped save his life.

The Kremlin critic was evacuated to Berlin for treat-

ment after he collapsed in August following a campaign trip to support opposition candidates in local elections in Siberia.

He was discharged just over a week ago and his first comments to the press came as European leaders were holding a summit during which the question of a response to Russia may be raised over his case.

Germany, which holds the presidency of the EU, has said toxicology tests show he

was poisoned by the Soviet-era nerve agent Novichok.

Laboratories in France and Sweden have independently corroborated Germany's findings.

The Kremlin has firmly denied allegations of involvement and accused Western leaders of launching a disinformation campaign over the opposition leader's illness.

Instead, it pointed to tests carried out by Russian doctors who first treated Mr. Navalny which it says showed no toxic substances.

Mr. Navalny had arrived in Berlin in a coma and on mechanical ventilation. He was finally discharged on September 22 after spending 32 days in the Charite hospital in the German capital, including 24 days in intensive care.

#### German pressure

In a sign of how seriously Ms. Merkel was taking the case, the German leader paid a visit to Mr. Navalny in the hospital.

Ms. Merkel has also stressed repeatedly that "only Russia can and must answer"

"questions on the case.

Putting responsibility for the poisoning squarely on Mr. Putin, Mr. Navalny said the "most important fact is Novichok".

Only the leaders of Russia's secret services can make the call to deploy the poison, he said.

In the interview, Mr. Navalny gave details of the moments when the poison took effect, leaving him breaking out in a cold sweat.

He described telling cabin crew that he had been poisoned before he fell on the floor.

"Then I heard voices that were getting softer, a woman calling 'Don't leave us!'. Then that was it. I knew I was dead. Only later did I realise that I was wrong."

Despite the close call, he said he will press on with his activities when he returns to Russia.

"I will keep travelling through Russia's regions, stay in hotels and drink water that's in the rooms. What can I do otherwise? One cannot do much to counter Putin's invisible murderers."

# 'No decision yet on Australia's participation in Malabar drills'

Quad countries will hold a ministerial meeting this month

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN  
WASHINGTON

The inclusion of Australia in the Malabar Exercise – the trilateral naval exercises between India, the U.S. and Japan – was still being discussed,

a senior U.S. State Department official told reporters on a briefing call on Wednesday. The official's remarks also included India-U.S. interactions at multilateral forums, Amnesty International India halting its activities and the India-China border standoff.



Maritime supremacy: A file photo of the trilateral naval exercises between India, the U.S. and Japan. • PTI

and Foreign Affairs Ministers of both countries) is currently being worked out and is expected to be "comprehensive, wide-ranging and strategic," the official said. It will include defence topics, diplomatic cooperation, cooperation at multilateral forums,

economic cooperation, space and technology and people to people cooperation, as per the official.

The U.S. has supported India's quest for a permanent seat on the Security Council. This was reiterated on Wednesday.

"The United States welcomes India joining the UN Security Council in 2021 for a two-year term, and supports a reformed UN Security Council that includes India as a permanent member," the official said in response to questions on how the U.S. would support India's bid for a permanent seat at the Council.

#### Opposed to incursions

Responding to a question on whether the U.S. would take a stand on the location of the disputed border between India and China and support India's position, the official said: "We strongly oppose any unilateral attempts to advance territorial claims by incursions (by military or civilian incursions) across the border, or across the established line of actual control."

"And the disputed boundaries: all we can say is that we encourage India and China to use their existing bilateral channels to discuss those and not resort to military force."

# Toll rises to 130 as Armenia-Azerbaijan clashes continue

Civilians among the injured as countries intensify shelling, defy international calls for a ceasefire

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
AZERBAIJAN

Armenian and Azerbaijani forces intensified their shelling on Thursday despite fresh calls from world leaders for an end to days of fighting over the disputed Nagorno Karabakh region that have left nearly 130 dead.

Police also deployed in large numbers in the streets of Stepanakert, the capital of the breakaway province, after two explosions, as drones buzzed overhead and sirens

sounded during the night.

The rival Caucasus nations have been locked in a bitter stalemate over the Karabakh region since the collapse of the Soviet Union when the ethnic Armenian region broke away from Azerbaijan.

The fiercest clashes between Armenian and Azerbaijani forces in years over the region ignited on Sunday and confirmed deaths neared 130 as fighting raged for a fifth day.

The two sides have ac-

cused the other of shelling civilian areas.

Armenia has recorded the deaths of 104 soldiers and eight civilians. Azerbaijan hasn't reported any military casualties but said 17 civilians were killed as a result of Armenian shelling.

#### Journalists injured

A reporter and photographer working for the French daily *Le Monde* have been wounded in the fighting.

Armenian Defence Minis-

tary spokesman Artyun Hov-

annisan said fighting had "intensified" in the morning following fewer exchanges at night and that its troops had repelled Azerbaijani attacks.

He claimed that Armenian forces inflicted "enormous losses" over the night and into the morning, killing 350-360 Azerbaijani troops, downing three helicopters and destroying 15 armoured vehicles as well as drones.

Azerbaijan's Defence Ministry, in turn, said its forces had carried out "crushing artillery strikes against Arme-

nian forces' positions in the occupied territories" during the night.

It denied claims by Yerevan that one of its helicopters had been downed, crashing in Iran and said that fighters on the Armenian side had been "forced to retreat from previously held positions along the entire stretch of the frontline."

Russian President Vladimir Putin and his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron issued the most recent call for a halt to fighting.

The official said discussions were still ongoing on whether or not Australia would join the other three countries in the exercises, to be held in November in the Bay of Bengal.

The agenda for the U.S.-India 2+2 ministerial dialogue in October (Defence Council reform).

# Trump backtracks after racist group row, Biden steps up attack

President urges White supremacists to 'stand down'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
WASHINGTON



Donald Trump

U.S. President Donald Trump scrambled on Wednesday to quell an uproar over his failure to explicitly denounce White supremacist groups during his debate debacle with Joe Biden, who branded his election rival a "national embarrassment."

The bitter adversaries returned to the campaign trail one day after their off-the-rails showdown in Cleveland made headlines less for the substance than for its untrained chaos.

The toxic shout fest – with Mr. Trump constantly interrupting and Mr. Biden launching personal attacks – even prompted the overseeing Commission on Presidential Debates to announce it would be imposing new

measures to help moderators "maintain order" at the upcoming two debates.

After his assertive performance, Mr. Biden launched a train tour on Wednesday through battleground states Ohio and Pennsylvania.

He fiercely attacked Mr. Trump's failure to clearly denounce White supremacist groups. "My message to the

Proud Boys and every other white supremacist group is: cease and desist," Mr. Biden said. "This is not who we are as Americans."

Mr. Trump, in an apparent attempt to tamp down outrage over his comments, called on the group to "stand down."

"I don't know who Proud Boys are but whoever they are they have to stand down," Mr. Trump told reporters. "Stand down, let law enforcement do their work."

Mr. Trump's backpedaling came after multiple Republicans distanced themselves from the President's debate remark, with Senator Tim Scott, the only black Republican in the U.S. Senate, saying Mr. Trump "needs to correct" his comments.

# EU launches legal action over U.K. Brexit Bill

Move comes after MPs approve Bill

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
BRUSSELS

The European Union took legal action against Britain on Thursday over its plans to pass legislation that would breach parts of the legally binding divorce agreement the two sides reached late last year.

The EU move underscored the worsening relations with Britain, which was a member of the bloc until January 31. Both sides are trying to forge a rudimentary free trade agreement before the end of the year, but the fight over the controversial U.K. Internal Market Bill has soured relations this month.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said that the British

plan "by its very nature is a breach of the obligation of good faith laid down in the Withdrawal Agreement."

"If adopted as is, it will be in full contradiction to the protocol of Ireland-Northern Ireland" in the withdrawal agreement," she said.

EU leaders fear that if the U.K. Bill becomes law, it could lead to the reimposition of a hard land border between Northern Ireland, which is part of Britain, and EU member Ireland, and erode the stability that has underpinned peace since the 1998 Good Friday accord.

British lawmakers voted 340-256 on Tuesday to push the legislation past its last major hurdle in the House of Commons.

# China's military exercises could hurt talks: Vietnam

Discussion on maritime code delayed

REUTERS  
HANOI

Vietnam said on Thursday that military drills conducted this week by Beijing in the South China Sea will hurt negotiations on a regional maritime code of conduct (COC) for the disputed waters.

The exercises could complicate efforts to restart talks on a long-awaited code between China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Le Thi Thu Hang told a regular briefing.

China on Monday began five military exercises simultaneously along different parts of its coast, including two exercises near Paracel Islands also claimed by Viet-

nam. "The resumption of code of conduct (COC) negotiations after a long pause because of the (coronavirus) pandemic is the priority of ASEAN countries and China," Ms. Hang said.

Vietnam shared that priority and "looks forward to concluding the COC in an effective, comprehensive way", in line with international law, Ms. Hang said.

China, which has for years been locked in maritime disputes with other coastal states in the South China Sea, has in recent months boosted its presence and held exercises in disputed parts of the strategic waterway, at a time when other claimants are battling coronavirus outbreaks.

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## MARKET WATCH

|           | 01-10-2020 | % CHANGE |
|-----------|------------|----------|
| Sensex    | 38,697     | 1.65     |
| US Dollar | 73.13      | 0.85     |
| Gold      | 51,389     | 0.03     |
| Brent oil | 40.05      | -1.69    |

## NIFTY 50

|                   | PRICE    | CHANGE |
|-------------------|----------|--------|
| Adani Ports       | 353.30   | 11.55  |
| Asian Paints      | 2040.45  | 54.05  |
| Axis Bank         | 443.70   | 19.05  |
| Bajaj Auto        | 2985.40  | 104.30 |
| Bajaj Finserv     | 6053.60  | 201.25 |
| Bajaj Finance     | 3442.80  | 164.20 |
| Bharti Airtel     | 432.35   | 11.40  |
| BPCL              | 353.30   | 0.25   |
| Britannia Ind     | 3808.60  | 10.45  |
| Cipla             | 773.00   | -1.70  |
| Coal India        | 117.25   | 1.25   |
| Divis Lab         | 3064.90  | 16.95  |
| Dr Reddys Lab     | 5112.05  | -75.75 |
| Eicher Motors     | 2197.65  | -5.15  |
| GAIL (India)      | 88.40    | 1.60   |
| Grasim Ind        | 754.55   | 10.35  |
| HCL Tech          | 812.95   | 1.35   |
| HDFC              | 1790.65  | 50.60  |
| HDFC Bank         | 1106.95  | 28.35  |
| HDFC Life         | 569.20   | 9.80   |
| Hero MotoCorp     | 3151.45  | 4.15   |
| Hindalco          | 174.10   | -1.15  |
| Hind Unilever     | 2095.00  | 26.75  |
| ICICI Bank        | 369.20   | 14.45  |
| IndusInd Bank     | 592.20   | 64.80  |
| Infosys           | 1017.65  | 9.40   |
| Indian Oil Corp   | 74.10    | 0.20   |
| ITC               | 170.85   | -0.85  |
| JSW Steel         | 282.05   | 4.30   |
| Kotak Bank        | 1305.05  | 36.85  |
| L&T               | 902.80   | 1.20   |
| M&M               | 610.15   | 2.25   |
| Maruti Suzuki     | 6796.30  | 52.85  |
| Nestle India Ltd. | 16000.50 | 81.85  |
| NTPC              | 84.90    | -0.20  |
| ONGC              | 69.15    | -0.10  |
| PowerGrid Corp    | 164.60   | 2.15   |
| Reliance Ind      | 2225.25  | -9.10  |
| SBI Life          | 818.90   | 7.45   |
| State Bank        | 190.30   | 4.90   |
| Shree Cement      | 20611.00 | 354.05 |
| Sun Pharma        | 506.90   | 6.45   |
| Suzuki Motors     | 133.50   | 0.20   |
| Tata Steel        | 364.95   | 5.20   |
| TCS               | 2523.45  | 31.15  |
| Tech Mahindra     | 822.50   | 30.75  |
| Titan             | 1198.65  | -2.70  |
| UltraTech Cement  | 4097.75  | 48.20  |
| UPL               | 505.65   | 2.75   |
| Wipro             | 313.05   | -0.50  |

## EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on October 01

CURRENCY TT BUY TT SELL

US Dollar..... 72.95 73.27

Euro..... 85.53 85.93

British Pound..... 93.67 94.09

Japanese Yen (100)..... 69.08 69.42

Chinese Yuan..... 10.74 10.79

Swiss Franc..... 79.36 79.73

Singapore Dollar..... 53.49 53.74

Canadian Dollar..... 54.81 55.08

Malaysian Ringgit..... 17.57 17.67

Australian Dollar..... 52.37 52.65

Source: Indian Bank

REUTERS

CHENNAI

India's electricity generation rose for the first time in seven months in September, government data showed,

as the removal of most COVID-19-related restrictions boosted power demand in three-quarters of the States.

Activity in India's factories expanded at its fastest pace in over eight years in September as a relaxation in lockdowns drove a surge in demand and output, a survey showed on Thursday.

A Reuters analysis of daily load despatch data from federal grid operator POSOCO showed that power generation rose 4.9% in Septem-

ber, the first monthly increase since February.

Still, India's economy is forecast to contract by up to 10% in the fiscal year, which would be its weakest performance since 1979, and analysts expect annual power demand to fall for the first time in almost four decades.

"That's because credit profiles were cushioned by proactive regulatory measures by RBI and SEBI," the ratings agency added.

Finished steel production also fell over 30% during April-August to 30 million tonnes, data showed.

Steel producers, however, continued to ride out the domestic slump by focussing on exports, with China emerging as the top buyer, shipping in a record 1.7 million tonnes during April-August.

Despite strong growth of order book volumes, Indian

+ MS. LIMA SAID.

## IN BRIEF

MUMBAI

State Bank of India (SBI) and Hindustan Unilever Ltd.

(HUL) have unveiled a joint pilot project in Mumbai and Bengaluru to provide digital payment and financing solutions to small retailers.

Under this collaboration, the bank will offer an instant, paperless overdraft facility of up to ₹50,000 to retailers for their billings with distributors as well as financing facilities to HUL's distributors, the SBI said.

## DRL unveils generic of Sensipar tablets in U.S.

HYDERABAD

Dr. Reddy's Laboratories has unveiled Cinacalcet Tablets, a therapeutic equivalent generic version of Sensipar (cinacalcet) tablets, in the U.S. market. Sensipar is indicated for Secondary Hyperparathyroidism (HPT) in adult patients with chronic kidney disease and on dialysis. The Sensipar brand and generic market had U.S. sales of about \$312 million MAT for the most recent 12 months ended in July 2020.

SEBI fines NSE ₹6 cr. for buying stakes sans nod

NEW DELHI

Markets regulator SEBI imposed ₹6 crore penalty on NSE for picking up stakes in six entities, including CAMS and Power Exchange India Ltd. (PXIL), without

obtaining the regulator's approval. Apart from CAMS and PXIL, the NSE had also acquired stakes in NSEIT Ltd., NSL E-Governance Infrastructure Ltd., Market Simplified India Ltd. and Receivables Exchange of India Ltd. PTI

+ D.R. REDDY'S

SBI, HUL in pact for financing small retailers

+ FINANCIAL

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## NABARD to refinance ₹800-cr. loans

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Almost 90% of gig workers in India have lost income during the pandemic, according to a survey by Flourish Ventures, a global fintech venture capital fund.

The survey, conducted among 770 ride-sharing drivers, delivery workers and house cleaners in August, found incomes had collapsed since the lockdown with almost nine out of ten gig workers earning less than ₹15,000 a month in August compared with more than ₹25,000 a month before the pandemic.

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## IN BRIEF



## Barca signs defender Dest from Ajax

Madrid  
Barcelona has completed the signing of Ajax defender Sergino Dest on Thursday. The deal will include Barca paying €21 million for the 19-year-old, with a further five million euros in variables. AFP

## Spanish tennis player banned for 'court-siding'

LONDON  
Spanish tennis player Gerard Joseph Platero Rodriguez has been suspended for four years and fined \$15,000 after being convicted of 'court-siding', the first player to be charged with the offence. The Tennis Integrity Unit said an investigation established that Rodriguez had acted as a court-sider at an ITF tournament in Pittsburgh, USA in July 2019. Court-siding involves transmission of live scoring data from a match to a third party for betting purposes. AP



## Racism charge: Neymar, Gonzales avoid sanction

Paris Saint-German's Neymar and Marseille's Alvaro Gonzalez have avoided punishment after allegedly making racist and homophobic remarks in a match between the teams earlier this month, the French league announced on Wednesday. "The disciplinary commission states that it does not have sufficient proof to allow it to establish the substance of the facts concerning discriminatory language," the French league said. AFP

## Genoa vs Torino postponed due to COVID

MILAN  
Genoa's match against Torino on Saturday has been postponed after 15 team and staff members at the Ligurean club tested positive for coronavirus, the Serie A confirmed on Thursday. The third-round match is the first in Serie A to be postponed because of the coronavirus pandemic since the championship started on September 19. AFP

## Lewandowski is UEFA men's player of the year

NYON  
Robert Lewandowski was named UEFA Men's Player of the Year on Thursday following a superb season in which he won the treble with Bayern Munich. The Pole, who received the award at the UEFA HQ here, scored 55 goals for Bayern. AFP

## Two players test positive

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA  
KOLKATA  
Two players tested positive of COVID-19 as the city geared up to host the I-League Qualifiers.

A statement from the All India Football Federation (AIFF) said that a player each from FC Bengaluru United and Bhawanipore FC

## SAI approves, but NRAI puts off camp

KAMESH SRINIVASAN  
NEW DELHI  
The Sports Authority of India (SAI) has agreed in principle for the coaching camp for core Olympic probables at the Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range here. However, the camp which was scheduled to start on October 5 for rifle and pistol shooters has been postponed by the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI).

Since the shooting range was already in operation, and some of the shooters including the Olympic probables were using it, it was a matter of procedural sanction for the camp.

The SAI, national federation and the other stakeholders are reportedly in dis-

## Ostapenko cuts short Pliskova's stay

Kenin struggles; Djokovic puts on a masterclass but Shapovalov bundled out

## THE DAY IN PARIS



1 2017 champion Ostapenko's first top-10 win at Majors since beating Svitolina at Wimbledon 2017

6 Zverev has won all six of his five-set matches at French Open

15 Djokovic has made it to the third round at Roland Garros 15 straight times

Overall, I'm really happy how I handled it. It wasn't really easy. I was broken a few times, and I really had to put something else in those important points

KVITOVA, AFTER HER SECOND-ROUND VICTORY OVER PAOLINI

**OSTAPENKO, COMPARING HER CURRENT TENNIS TO 2017 WHEN SHE WON THE TROPHY**

## FRIDAY'S PICKS

## MEN

2-Nadal vs. Travaglia  
3-Thiem vs. 28-Ruud  
6-Zverev vs. Cecchinato

## WOMEN

1-Halep vs. 25-Anisimova  
3-Svitolina vs. 27-Alexandrova  
16-Mertens vs. Garcia

PLAY STARTS AT 2.30 P.M. IST  
LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 2

## FRENCH OPEN

REUTERS  
PARIS

Former champion Jelena Ostapenko ousted second seed Karolina Pliskova from the French Open with a 6-4, 6-2 win in the second round on Thursday after an error-ridden performance from the Czech.

The Latvian, who won the 2017 title, played aggressively and hit 27 winners as Pliskova struggled to rein in her unforced errors.

The 23-year-old Ostapenko broke her opponent's serve three times in the first set and twice in the second to seal her victory and ensure Pliskova remained the only active former World No.1 who has not won a Grand Slam.

American fourth seed Sofia Kenin ran into a spot of bother before reaching the

## Fallen seeds

■ Men: 9-Denis Shapovalov; 23-Benoit Paire; 30-Jan-Lennard Struff

■ Women: 2-Karolina Pliskova; 29-Sloane Stephens; 32-Barbara Strycova

third round with a 3-6, 6-3, 6-2 victory against Romanian Anna Bogdan.

Top seed Simona Halep had put in a disciplined performance to tame Irina-Camelia Begu 6-3, 6-4 on Wednesday, to extend her winning run to 16 matches.

In the men's section, Novak Djokovic barely broke

## IMPORTANT RESULTS

**Second round:** Men: 1-Novak Djokovic (Srb) bt Ricardas Berankis (Lit) 6-1, 6-2, 6-2; 5-Stefanos Tsitsipas (Gre) bt Pablo Cuevas (Uru) 6-1, 6-4, 6-2; Roberto Carballes Baena (Esp) bt 9-Denis Shapovalov (Can) 7-5, 6-7(5), 6-3, 3-6, 8-6; 15-Karen Khachanov (Rus) bt Jiri Vesely (Cze) 6-1, 6-7(4), 7-6(7), 7-6(2); 17-Pablo Carreno Busta (Esp) bt Guido Pella (Arg) 6-3, 6-2, 6-1.

18-Grigor Dimitrov (Bul) bt Andrej Martin (Svk) 6-4, 7-6(5), 6-1; 20-Christian Garin (Chi) bt Marc Polmans (Aus) 6-7(5), 6-2, 7-6(3), 6-4; Daniel Altmaier (Ger) bt 30-Jan-Lennard Struff (Ger) 6-3, 7-6(4), 6-3, 28-Casper Ruud (Nor) bt Tommy Paul (USA) 6-1, 1-6, 6-3, 1-6, 6-3; 6-Alexander Zverev (Ger) bt Pierre-Hugues Herbert (Fra) 2-6, 6-4, 7-6(5), 6-4, 6-4; Federico Coria (Arg) bt 23-Benoit Paire (Fra) 7-6(3), 4-6, 6-3, 6-1; **Doubles:** First round: 16-Fran-

ko Skugor (Cro) & Austin Krajicek (USA) bt Divij Sharan (Ind) & Kwon Soon-woo (Kor) 6-2, 4-6, 6-4.

**Women:** Jelena Ostapenko (Lat) bt 2-Karolina Pliskova (Cze) 6-4, 6-2; 4-Sofia Kenin (USA) bt Anna Bogdan (Rou) 3-6, 6-3, 6-2; 7-Petra Kvitova (Cze) bt Jasmine Paolini (Ita) 6-3, 6-3; 8-Aryna Sabalenka (Blr) bt Darya Kasatkina (Rus) 7-6(6), 6-1.

11-Garbine Muguruza (Esp) bt Kristyna Pliskova (Cze) 6-3, 6-2; Paula Badosa (Esp) bt 29-Sloane Stephens (USA) 6-4, 4-6, 6-2; 30-Ons Jabeur (Tun) bt Nao Hibino (Jpn) 7-6(4), 6-4.

1-Simona Halep (Rou) bt Irina Begu (Rou) 6-3, 6-4; Eugenie Bouchard (Can) bt Daria Gavrilova (Aus) 5-7, 6-4, 6-3; Martina Trevisan (Ita) bt Coco Gauff (USA) 4-6, 6-2, 7-5; Barbara Krejicikova (Cze) bt 32-Barbara Strycova (Cze) 6-4, 3-6, 6-3.

## Lakers douse the Heat in Game 1

Davis and James rack it up as Miami struggles with injuries

## NBA FINALS

REUTERS  
ORLANDO

Heavy favourite Los Angeles Lakers dismantled the Miami Heat 116-98 in Game 1 of the NBA Finals on Wednesday, as its opponent struggled with injuries after making a fast start.

Heat got a 13-point leg up in the first quarter but the lead was short-lived, as Lakers drained 11 three-pointers to complete a 30-point turnaround and close out the first half, while Miami's de-



Charged up: LA Lakers' Anthony Davis and LeBron James bump shoulders during their game-winning show. AP

## Goal glut for Inter and Atalanta in Serie A

Real Madrid huffs and puffs to victory; Atletico stumbles at Huesca

## EURO LEAGUES

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
MADRID



**Easy as it comes:** Romelu Lukaku turns the ball in from close range for Inter Milan's third goal against Benevento. AP

a maximum of six points from two games.

Real Madrid missed the creativity of the injured Eden Hazard as only a fortuitous

followed up its 6-1 thrashing of Granada on Saturday with a much less spectacular goal-less draw away at Huesca.

## The results:

**LaLiga:** Villarreal 3 (Paco Alcacer 13, 67, Gerard 45+1-pen) bt Alaves 1 (Edgar 36); Huesca 0 drew with Atletico Madrid 0; Real Madrid 1 (Vinicius Junior 65) bt Valladolid 0; Eibar 0 lost to Elche 1 (Boye 37).

**Serie A:** Benevento 2 (Capri 34, 76) lost to Inter Milan 5 (Lukaku 1, 28, Gagliardini 25, Hakimi 42, Martine 71); Udinese 0 lost to Spezia 2 (Galabinov 29, 90+4); Lazio 1 (F. Caicedo 57) lost to Atalanta 4 (Gosens 10, Hateboer 32, Gómez 41, 61).

Holder Bayern will face Atletico Madrid and will also have a short trip across the border to Austria to take on Salzburg in Group A.

The group stage starts on October 20, and all six rounds of games will be crammed into eight weeks in a schedule that is even more packed than usual.

**The groups:** A: Bayern Munich, Atletico Madrid, Salzburg, Lokomotiv Moscow.

B: Real Madrid, Shakhtar Doneck, Inter Milan, Borussia Monchengladbach.

C: Porto, Manchester City, Olympiacos, Olympique de Marseille.

D: Liverpool, Ajax, Atalanta, FC Midtjylland.

E: Sevilla, Chelsea, Krasnodar, Rennes.

F: Zenit St. Petersburg, Borussia Dortmund, Lazio, Club Brugge.

G: Juventus, Barcelona, Dynamo Kiev, Ferencvaros.

H: Paris St. Germain, Manchester United, RB Leipzig, Istanbul Basaksehir.

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## Mavi and Nagarkoti thriving in Cummins' company

Skipper Karthik delighted with Aussie pacer's influence

## IPL 2020

Y.B. SARANGI  
KOLKATA

Captain Dinesh Karthik is happy that experienced Australia speedster Pat Cummins is taking active interest in guiding the young Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) pacers.

While praising Shivam Mavi and Kamlash Nagarkoti, who took two wickets apiece against Rajasthan Royals in KKR's second consecutive victory on Wednesday, Karthik spoke about "extraordinary role model" Cummins' influence on them.

"The fact that a player like



Young talent: Nagarkoti and Mavi made an impression with the ball for KKR. BCCI/IPL

## ADVERTISEMENT

ENTERTAINMENT  
LIKE NEVER  
BEFORE WITH IRIS PLUS  
GRAPHICS, WIFI 6 LIGHTNING FAST CONNECTIONS,  
AND BATTERY LIFE THAT IS MEANT FOR BINGE WATCHING – WHAT MORE CAN YOU EXPECT? READ ON...

INTEL WI-FI 6 ENABLES ULTRA-FAST, ULTRA-DYNAMIC CONNECTIONS FOR BROWSING, ONLINE SHOPPING, VIRTUAL PARTIES, STREAMING, GAMING OR WORKING EVEN IN ENVIRONMENTS WITH MANY CONNECTED DEVICES

If there is one thing that we cannot do without now, it is the – laptop. Currently, we are at home a lot more. Hence, we use our laptop frequently to stay productive, binge watch, to shop online and to connect with friends.

"Indeed, I have been turning to my laptop a lot more than usual. Especially for binge watching.

However, entertainment on a laptop is fun when it has stunning display options", says Arahant from Gurugram. "I need my laptop regularly for office work, to shop online, gaming and a whole lot of other activities. But here's the truth – The battery of my old laptop loses power quickly. The visuals and graphics are not HD quality. And connectivity and performance of course are issues due to older specifications," he adds. But here's how Arahant found solutions.

"Recently, I bought a thin and light laptop with 10th Gen Intel Core processor. It gives me a powerful combination of performance, entertainment and connectivity. These are the capabilities you want in a thin and light laptop," Arahant explains.

## CONNECTIVITY OPTIMIZED

When connected to the home network, streaming movies or virtual get-togethers with friends may not be always smooth. But that is not a problem for Arahant.

"Oh yes, my laptop offers lightning fast connections. Intel Wi-Fi 6 enables best in class Wi-Fi 6 performance for browsing, streaming, gaming, or working," he says excitedly.

Not just that, Intel 10th Gen laptops use Thunderbolt 3™ Technology - currently the fastest USB interface that I have experienced, Arahant shares.

You can connect and supply power to various peripheral devices, docking stations and displays using a single, lightning-fast cable. "Isn't that great?" he asks.

## BATTERY LIFE &amp; MORE

Most of us do not prefer watching a movie with the battery charger connected. With Intel 10th Gen laptops, expect more than 8 hours of battery life on one charge.

"My new laptop packs battery life optimized for marathon movie watching and play sessions," shares Arahant.

Stunning entertainment isn't