



Ensure oxygen supply,
Amarinder Singh
urges Centre
page 4



PM reviews COVID-19
situation, says CMs
can call lockdowns
page 10



Wounded Kings take on
upbeat Royal Challengers
in Dubai today
page 15

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NEARBY



3,714 new cases take
Delhi's tally to 2.56 lakh

NEW DELHI

As many as 3,714 new COVID-19 cases were reported in the Capital in the past 24 hours, taking the total to 2,56,789, said a health bulletin released by the Delhi government on Wednesday. Also, 36 fresh fatalities have been reported in a single day, pushing the toll to 5,087.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

Iltija files fresh plea in SC against Mufti's detention

SRINAGAR

Iltija Mufti, daughter of incarcerated PDP president Mehbooba Mufti, on Wednesday filed a fresh plea before the Supreme Court, challenging her mother's detention under the Public Safety Act. The plea argued that "several grounds of detention are vague and violate the provisions of Section 8(3)(b) of the PSA".

NEWS ▶ PAGE 9

Show-cause notice issued to Sudarshan TV

NEW DELHI

The Union government on Wednesday informed the Supreme Court that a show-cause notice had been issued to Sudarshan TV under the Cable TV Network Act against its programme 'Bindas Bol', which accuses the Muslims of "infiltrating" the civil services.

NEWS ▶ PAGE 10

CAG: Rafale vendors yet to confirm tech transfer

DRDO was to receive assistance for developing LCA engine

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

French aerospace major Dassault Aviation and European missile maker MBDA have till date "not confirmed" the transfer of technology for the indigenous development of engine for the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), under the offset contract relating to the ₹60,000 crore deal for 36 Rafale fighter jets, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) said in a report tabled in Parliament on Wednesday.

The report on offset clauses in defence deals observed that in October 2019, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) informed that the vendor had not yet been able to confirm their capability for doing the requisite upgradation. "Thus, it is not clear if this technology transfer will take place, and there is need for MoD/DRDO to identify and acquire the right technologies in order to comply with the directions of Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) given in September 2016," the report said on the offsets in the Rafale deal.

In September 2015, Dassault Aviation and MBDA initially proposed to discharge 30% of their offset obligation



Fire power: A Rafale jet seen over Leh on Wednesday. ■ ANI

Centre retained cess receipts'

The Centre retained in the Consolidated Fund of India more than ₹1 lakh crore out of the almost ₹2.75 lakh crore collected in 2018-19 through various cesses,

instead of transferring the receipts to the specified Reserve Funds that Parliament had approved for such levies, the CAG said. ▶ PAGE 14

in the Rafale deal by offering high technology to the DRDO, and as per the contract, acquisition of technology by the DRDO is envisaged, subject to discussions between the vendor and the DRDO, the report said.

Six new technologies
In April 2016, the DRDO identified six new technologies to be obtained from the firms under the offset obligations, but the vendors "did not agree on transfer of five technologies as most of them were not within the vendor's core competence".

The sixth proposal of the DRDO was to obtain technical assistance for the indigenous development of an engine (Kaveri) for the LCA, which also has not been confirmed so far.

"In many cases, it was found that the foreign vendors made various offset commitments to qualify for the main supply contract but later were not earnest about fulfilling these commitments," the CAG observed, giving the Rafale deal as an example.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

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Brakes on Mumbai



Life hit: People wading through a flooded road at Null Bazaar in south Mumbai on Wednesday after heavy rain the previous evening. The showers caused waterlogging and disrupted traffic in several parts of the city. ■ VIVEK BENDRE (REPORT ON PAGE 5)

+ Union Minister Suresh Angadi dies of COVID

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI/BELAGAVI

Minister of State for Railways Suresh Channabasappa Angadi passed away at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi, on Wednesday. He was admitted there earlier this month after he contracted COVID-19.

He leaves behind his mother, wife, and two daughters.

The 65-year-old BJP leader, a four-time MP, tested positive on September 11. A lawyer by training, he was first elected to the Lok Sabha in 2004 and won continuously from Belgaum.

DETAILS ON ▶ PAGE 8

A Kolkata streetcar for book lovers

A book-laden air-conditioned tram offers a glimpse of the city's academic corner

SHIV SAHAY SINGH

KOLKATA

The Kolkata tram may be a pale shadow of its glorious days, but it is still an iconic image of the city. College Street happens to be the prestigious address of some of the oldest educational institutions in the country, and also boasts rows of bookshops on either side.

Now, a tram is set to recreate the academic ambience. It is built like a library and will roll down College Street, giving passengers a glimpse of the University of Calcutta, Presidency University and the hundreds of book stalls.

From Thursday, people can ride the tram library, an air-conditioned car converted into a library on wheels. It will make six trips on the recently restored Esplanade-Shyambazar route.

West Bengal Transport



Time travel: A tramcar transformed into an air-conditioned service. The route will cover College Street.

Corporation (WBTC), which oversees India's only functional tramway, has introduced the service to rekindle the love for trams and reading. The initiative brings together unique aspects of the city's cultural heritage: trams, which form an intrinsic part of the colonial legacy and its love for books on College Street, which is called 'Boi Para' (street of books) by many.

Kapur, MD of WBTC. In addition to the titles housed within, the tram library will provide readers access to online books. There will be no additional charge, the ticket provides passengers access. There will be 25 stops along the 5 km route, five of them on College Street.

The library is just a beginning this winter, says an official. It could be the venue of book launches and book readings this season. Kolkata hosts a number of literary festivals and there is a search on for new venues. There are plans to have a Literary Festival around the tram library in the next two months, in November 2020.

Cyclone Amphan, which battered the city on May 20 severely damaged tram infrastructure. After restoration, four routes have been opened. The library will be on the fifth route.

Attracting students
"The idea is to make the tram the mode of choice for Kolkata's students once again," said Rajanvir Singh

Speaking to reporters here, Mr. Singh said: "Wrong information has been sent to the Vidhan Sabha. It will be inquired into and corrected."

Mr. Patel, during a single-day Assembly session on Monday, had made a written admission in reply to questions by former Congress Ministers Jaivardhan Singh and Bala Bachchan, stating that farm loans of nearly 27 lakh farmers had been waived since December 2018, effectively during the Congress government. The reply had

embarrassed the BJP, which had often assailed the Congress claiming it had reneged on its election promise of waiving farm loans within 10 days of coming to power.

In his replies the Agriculture Minister had stated that under the 'Jai Kisan Crop Loan Waiver Scheme', ₹7,10,896 lakh (₹7,10,96 crore) for 20,23,136 cases had been approved in the first phase before October 17 last year, while ₹4,53,802 lakh (₹4,53,82 crore) had been approved for 6,72,245 cases in the second phase.

'Truth has prevailed'

Reacting to Mr. Patel's admission in the Assembly, State Congress working president Jitu Patwari said, "Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has several times stated that the BJD toppled our government as we did not waive loans... Despite our clarifications with proof, their lies and hypocrisy didn't stop. Now, the truth has prevailed, while the lies have been exposed."

Congress MP and former party president Rahul Gandhi tweeted: "Congress - it fulfilled what it promised. BJP - only false promises."

Earlier, several BJP leaders, including Jyotiraditya Scindia, had flagged the reported non-fulfilment of loan waivers, while Mr. Patel had described it as a "fraud".

Calling upon both Mr. Chouhan and Mr. Scindia to apologise to the public as they had "betrayed farmers", former Chief Minister Kamal Nath said Mr. Patel's admission affirmed his avowal of keeping the election promise. "After this admission, the government should immediately begin waiving loans of the remaining farmers," he said.

NCB summons Deepika, five others in drugs case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) issued summons on Wednesday to actors Deepika Padukone, Sara Ali Khan, Shraddha Kapoor and Rakul Preet Singh in the Bollywood drugs nexus case that emerged after the death of Sushant Singh Rajput.

The agency also summoned designer Simone Khambatta and Sushant's manager Shruti Modi for questioning. "Ms. Modi, Ms. Khambatta and Ms. Singh have been summoned on September 24. Ms. Padukone has been summoned on September 25 and Ms. Kapoor and Ms. Khan on September 26," said K.P.S. Malhotra, NCB Deputy Director (Operations).

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

that the Committee had deferred the meeting.

The court asked the Assembly to not fix any meeting with Ajit Mohan for now.



Ajit Mohan counter, putting the clarifications on record.

The clarification came in a petition filed jointly by Mr. Mohan and Facebook, represented by senior advocates Harish Salve and Mukul Rohatgi respectively, accused the Assembly of threatening him with "breach of privilege" if he did not appear before the Committee and testify. They said the Committee had no authority to compel him to testify.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

SC grants relief to Facebook official

Court asks Delhi Assembly panel to not fix any meeting with Ajit Mohan for now

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Delhi Legislative Assembly clarified in the Supreme Court on Wednesday that "no coercive steps" were intended against Ajit Mohan, vice-president and managing director of Facebook India Online Services Private Limited, when he was summoned to appear before it as a "witness" in connection with "allegations" linked to the Delhi riots.

"The person was only called as a witness. No coerc-

tion was intended. We wanted to get some safeguard suggestions from Facebook. We wanted to find out how Facebook was misused and did not say Facebook misused," senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, for the Assembly, submitted in court.

Justice S.K. Kaul, heading a three-judge Bench, pointed out that there is a disparity in what Mr. Singhvi is submitting in court about the nature of the summons and what is actually said in them.

Issuing notice, the court asked Mr. Singhvi to file its

ditions Code, 2020; and the Social Security Code, 2020 – while the Opposition continued its boycott that started on Tuesday over the passage of the three agriculture Bills.

Last-ditch attempt
Opposition parties made a last-ditch attempt, writing a joint letter to the Vice-President and Chairman of the Rajya Sabha M. Venkaiah Naidu. Naming the three labour Bills, the parties said the Bills were passed in the absence of the Opposition parties. "It will be a great blot on our democracy to have these Bills passed un-

ilaterally today," they said.

Opposition parties also had two rounds of meetings to chalk out a strategy to continue the campaign against the three farms Bills aimed at liberalising the agriculture sector.

According to sources, the Opposition parties are exploring the possibility of holding an all-party meeting in the next few days. The parties also decided that each of them, at their levels, would hold campaigns in their respective States.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

MORE REPORTS ON ▶ PAGE 9

Monsoon session ends in a flurry of protests

On last day, MPs from Oppn. parties held three rounds of agitation in Parliament

SOBHANA K. NAIR

NEW DELHI

Opposition parties held three rounds of protests in Parliament on the last day of the monsoon session, and Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad met President Ram Nath Kovind, urging him not to give his assent to the three farm Bills passed by both the Houses.

At noon, in a silent protest, over 75 Rajya Sabha MPs belonging to the Congress, Trinamool Congress, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS), Communist Party of

India, Communist Party of India (Marxist), Rashtriya Janata Dal, Aam Aadmi Party, Samajwadi Party and Nationalist Congress Party marched from the Gandhi statue within the Parliament complex. A few hours later, another group of lawmakers from the TRS and Trinamool held a short dharna. In the evening, a set of Opposition MPs from the Lok Sabha took out a march.

On Wednesday, Parliament

passed three Bills – the Industrial Relations Code, 2020; the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Con-

tions Code, 2020; and the Social Security Code, 2020 – while the Opposition continued its boycott that started on Tuesday over the passage of the three agriculture Bills.

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MORE REPORTS ON ▶ PAGE 9

Cong. leaders detained at Panipat

They were taking part in a tractor rally against the farm Bills

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

GURUGRAM

Several Congress

Air Quality of Delhi-NCR			
Delhi 115	Gurugram 139		
Ghaziabad 118	Faridabad 136		
Noida 118	Greater Noida 119		
Good 0-50	Satisfactory 51-100	Moderate 101-200	
Poor 201-300	Very Poor 301-400	Severe >400	
Air Quality Index at 4 p.m. yesterday (Average of past 24 hours) Source: CPCB			

How easy is it to get tested for COVID-19?

Of 330 COVID test centres in the city, only 226 mentioned on govt. site; not all mohalla clinics are testing

SHINJINI GHOSH
NIKHIL M BABU
NEW DELHI

To check the ease of getting a COVID-19 test done in the city, *The Hindu* visited a government dispensary and a mohalla clinic in Delhi and found that around 150 people were tested at the dispensary daily, while the particular mohalla clinic was not testing for COVID-19.

At the dispensary, most of the people were satisfied with the facilities, but some complained that the waiting time was long.

Details missing
The information of government testing centres is available on a government website "www.delhifightscorona.in", if a person wants to find out where they can get a COVID-19 test done.

However, the list is incomplete as it has details of only nine of the total 11 districts. Even for these centres there is no Google Map location, phone number, or timing of the centres.

Also, there are a total of around 330 testing centres in the city, but only 226 were mentioned on the website. Though selected mohalla clinics are doing COVID-19 tests, almost all of them, with an exception of a few, were not mentioned on the list. Of



People line up outside a mohalla clinic in New Delhi. ■ FILE PHOTO: R.V. MOORTHY

the 400 functional mohalla clinics, over 50-60 have been conducting COVID-19 tests after OPD consultation is over, according to the Delhi government. A government spokesperson did not respond to queries.

The government following a High Court is expected to come out with a map with locations of all testing centres later this week, officials said.

With virus cases on the rise and private diagnostic centres taking at least 24 hours to provide available slots, many people are now lining up outside mohalla clinics to get themselves tested.

Ayan Khan of a private diagnostic centre in South Delhi said, "We provide a facility for home collection of

samples. However, one needs to make an appointment at least a day prior to the testing. The results are then available usually between 24-48 hours. Most requests that we have been getting are from people who want to get themselves tested before a scheduled trip outside the city."

Ground reality

At a New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) dispensary in Sarojini Nagar in central Delhi, the in-charge said that around 150 people are tested every day. At 1.30 p.m., there were around 25 people either waiting for results or to get tested.

"We have been testing from June 18 and we function from 9.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m.

People will have to come with a photo ID card and take a token and wait their turn for testing," Mohammad Salamuddin, in-charge of the centre said.

As a woman asked whether she could take the token and come back later, he replied, "You can't take a token and go home, you'll have to wait here. People get angry over these things. We had to call the police thrice to control the crowd."

While Nitin Kumar, 32, who came to an office in the same complex to get a birth certificate for his brother's newborn son, decided to test for the virus just to know whether he is safe, another person waiting for the result said that he wanted the report to submit at a five-star

hotel he was working.

Meanwhile, in south Delhi, Sudhir Kumar, a private sector employee, however, found himself in need for an alternative mohalla clinic as the one he reached in Kalkaji was not a testing centre.

The 35-year-old said, "For the last few days some of my family members were showing a few symptoms. To be on the safe side, I thought of getting tested myself as well. However, I was unaware that all mohalla clinics are not COVID-19 testing centres and now I will have to look for another one. I came to this particular one as it was the most conveniently located for me."

Staff unavailability

A staff member at the mohalla clinic said that due to unavailability of required mohalla clinic assistants, testing for COVID-19 had not begun at the clinic yet.

"Due to a few logistical issues, COVID-19 testing has not started yet in this particular clinic. However, there are several others, including ones in Govindpuri and Girija Nagar, where people can go and get themselves tested. All that they need is an Aadhaar card and they can walk in and get a rapid antigen test done," the mohalla clinic worker said.

Petition seeks action against Twitter India

Plea claims it promoted anti-India tweets

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A petition before the Delhi High Court on Wednesday sought action against Twitter India and its representative under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act for being allegedly involved in the conspiracy to promote the Khalistan Movement.

A Bench of Chief Justice D.N. Patel and Justice Prateek Jalan refused from hearing the case and directed it to be heard by another Bench of the High Court. The case is now listed for hearing on September 30.

The petition by Delhi resident Sangeeta Sharma has claimed that Twitter India "deliberately and knowingly, in order to create rift in society, promoted the prohibited content of the SFJ [Sikhs For Justice]."

Sought NIA probe

"The Khalistan Movement is supported by many Sikhs who are not residents of India. This issue needs to be probed by an Indian agency that is capable of investigating it," the plea stated, while asking for the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to look into the case.

The petition also asked for action to be taken against



The Khalistan Movement is supported by many Sikhs who are not residents of India. This issue needs to be probed by an Indian agency that is capable of investigating it
PETITION

Twitter India and its representative in India "for wilfully abetting and promoting anti-India tweets and penalise them and relevant authorities according to the law of the land".

Taxation laws
It also asked for direction to ensure that the "revenue generated from India by the social media platform should be taxed and come within Indian Taxation laws".

Bar Council summons Bhushan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Bar Council of Delhi (BCD) has asked activist-lawyer Prashant Bhushan to appear before it on October 23, following his conviction by the Supreme Court, which imposed a token fine of ₹1 on him in a contempt case.

The BCD move comes in pursuance of the resolution of September 6 of the Bar Council of India (BCI), asking its Delhi chapter to take a legally mandated decision in this matter keeping in mind the conviction of Mr. Bhushan.

The Bar Council of Delhi has sought Mr. Bhushan's response as to why proceedings should not be initiated to revoke his enrolment as a lawyer in view of the conviction for his alleged contemptuous tweets against the judiciary. Mr. Bhushan acknowledged receiving the notice on Wednesday.

Decide on complaint against media house: HC

Plea says shows aired by it on 'Palghar mob lynching' intended to incite violence

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday asked the Centre to take a decision within four weeks on a plea seeking action on a complaint against a media house for broadcasting shows related to 'Palghar mob lynching'

ing' in Maharashtra.

Justice Navin Chawla directed the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to consider the complaint filed by the petitioner, advocate Amrit Ranjan Pandey, and take a decision on it.

Advocate Pandey has alleged that the shows aired

on the incident by the media house "tried to promote communal attitudes in the country. The shows were offensive against good taste or decency. It was intended to encourage or incite violence," the petition claimed.

The petition filed through advocate Joby P Varghese,

contended that the shows/programmes on these incidents were in absolute violation of the rules of programme code prescribed under the cable television regulations and also the uplinking and downlinking guidelines issued by the Ministry.

APPLICATIONS INVITED FOR CELEBRATION OF MAHARISHI VALMIKI JAYANTI

Government of NCT of Delhi is inviting applications for Celebration of Maharishi Valmiki Jayanti on 31-10-2020 under "Scheme for Celebration of Birth/Death Anniversary of Eminent personalities"

Government of NCT of Delhi will provide assistance through empanelled agencies to the desirous Organizations in the form of arrangement for tentage, sound system, lighting, banners etc.

Eligibility:-

The following are eligible to apply for assistance under the scheme:-

- i) NGOs, registered under Societies Registration Act.
- ii) Only those NGOs which are registered under Society Registration Act and having audited accounts are eligible.

List of the items for providing assistance to the desirous NGOs are as follows:-

- a. Tentage.
- b. Chairs.
- c. Sofa.
- d. Tables.
- e. Curtains, Mat etc.
- f. Sound System.
- g. Light System.
- h. Generator.
- i. Banners/Hoardings.

Procedure for applying:

The Organizations interested to apply may submit a detailed proposal, containing:-

- i) Details of such celebrations / activities organized by them in the past.
- ii) The duly filed in applications & recommended by area MLA along with copies of Registration Certificate and audited accounts should be submitted by the registered NGOs/Organization to the Department for the welfare of SC/ST/OBC, GNCT of Delhi, B Block, 2nd floor, Vikas Bhawan, I.P. Estate, New Delhi-02, by 15-10-2020 positively. **Applications received thereafter will not be considered.**

Selected NGOs have to provide photographs of the event organized by them and abide by stipulations of the department for proper organization of event. Organizers will also be required to submit a declaration to the effect that Govt. guidelines/SOP applicable for organizing religious/cultural functions will be followed scrupulously to prevent spread of Covid-19.

For full details, please visit Department website:- scstwelfare.delhigovt.nic.in

DEPARTMENT FOR THE WELFARE OF SC/ST/OBC
GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI,

B-BLOCK, VIKAS BHAWAN, I.P.ESTATE, NEW DELHI-02

DIP/Shabdarth/0321/20-21

Choppy waters



Boys fishing in the Yamuna on a hot Wednesday afternoon. There has been no rain in Delhi for two weeks, and the city has recorded only three rainy days this September — the lowest since 2016. The India Meteorological Department has forecast that precipitation is unlikely in the Capital till the withdrawal of the monsoon at the end of the month. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

CITY UNION BANK LTD.

Administrative Office : No 24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001.
Phone : 0435-2402322, 2401622 Fax : 0435-2431746

POSSESSION NOTICE (Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of City Union Bank Ltd., having its Administrative Office at No 24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001 and one of the Branch Offices at 5E/10, BP Railway Road, Near Neelam Chowk, NIT Faridabad, Haryana - 121 001 under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(2) & (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated 27-01-2020 calling upon the borrowers No.1 Mrs. Khushi Trading Co., 335/A, Gali No-06, SGM Nagar, Faridabad, Haryana - 121 001, No.2 Mr. Sachin Virmani, Slo. Mr. Ashok Kumar Virmani, House No-3183, Block No-A, Gali-04, SGM Nagar, Faridabad, Haryana - 121 001, No.3 Mrs. Pooja Verma, Slo. Mr. Sachin Virmani, House No-3183, Block No-A, Gali-04, SGM Nagar, Faridabad, Haryana - 121 001 to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice being Rs.94,98,955/- (Rupees Ninety Four Lakh Ninety Eight Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty Five only) within 60 days from the date of the said Notice with subsequent interest thereon from 21-01-2020 with monthly interest.

The borrowers above named having failed to repay the amount despite the receipt of the above referred statutory notice, NOTICE is hereby given to the borrowers above named and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the Property described herein below in exercise of the powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this 19th day of September 2020.

The borrowers above named in Particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the Property and any dealings with the Property will be subject to the charge of City Union Bank Ltd., for an amount of Rs.94,98,955/- (Rupees Ninety Four Lakh Ninety Eight Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty Five only) and interest thereon from 21-01-2020 till the repayment of entire dues.

Note : That our 511-Faridabad Branch has also extended Financial Assistance (CUB OSL SPECIAL BR- 501812080056574) dated 27-09-2019 requested by No.1 of you represented by No.2 of you as Proprietor for which No.2 & 3 of you stand as Co-Obligants and No.3 of you stood as guarantor for the facility for a total amount of Rs. 24,00,000/- at a ROI of 14.25%. The same has been also classified as NPA on 29-12-2019 and the outstanding balance as on 20-01-2020 is Rs.25,15,763/- plus further interest and penal interest of 2.00% with monthly rents to be charged from 21-01-2020 till the date of realization.

Inmoveable Property Mortgaged to our Bank
(Property Owned by Mr. Sachin Virmani, Slo. Mr. Ashok Kumar Virmani)

House No.3183 (Old Plot No.14) Measuring 233 Sq. yards (30 x 70) ft. forming part of Rec. No.119, Kila No.11, 12, 13, 14/1 situated at Block A, Gali No.4, Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Nagar, Near Vaishno Mandir, Mauza Badkhal, Tehsil Badkhal, District Faridabad, Pin - 121 001 and is bounded as under : North - Rasta 25 ft. Wide, South - Other Property, East - Plot No.13, West - Plot No.15.

Place : Faridabad, Date: 19-09-2020 Authorised Officer

Residents raise upkeep concerns at DDA meet

It is part of MPD-2041 consultations

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

In an online meeting conducted on Wednesday by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA), residents of group housing societies raised issues over maintenance and security of shared spaces, practices adopted for solid waste management and demand for solar panel installation and underground cabling of electricity.

The meeting was a part of a series of consultations being undertaken by the DDA for the preparation of the Master Plan for Delhi (MPD) 2041. Suggestions to create specific redevelopment policies for group housing colonies, with planned densification and the need for a robust implementation framework for MPD-2041 were also put forth by the residents, officials said.

The urban body said, "Main concerns shared by the participants were those related to access and maintenance of shared common spaces like terraces, parks, common toilets and so on." Participants expressed

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE						
SR. NO.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / END (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL

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Timings

DELHI

THURSDAY, SEP. 24
RISE 06:11 SET 18:15
RISE 13:26 SET 23:54
FRIDAY, SEP. 25
RISE 06:11 SET 18:14
RISE 14:22 SET 00:00
SATURDAY, SEP. 26
RISE 06:12 SET 18:13
RISE 15:12 SET 00:52

Delhi Weather max min
Delhi City 37 28
Safdarjung 37 28
Palam 35 28

Delhi Palam Today
37°C Weather would be warm and dry with partly cloudy sky and gentle winds.

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

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THE HINDU

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IN BRIEF

₹10 lakh compensation to kin of corona warriors

NEW DELHI Families of deceased corona warriors were awarded financial aid of ₹10 lakh, South Delhi Municipal Corporation Mayor Anamika said on Wednesday. Families of Selva Raj, a contractual labourer, and Mahinder Singh, a sanitation worker – both of whom were deployed in the South Zone of the SDMC – contracted the virus in the course of duty and lost their lives, the Mayor said. Apart from the compensation, families of the deceased would also be provided employment.

CAIT writes to PM, seeks package for traders

NEW DELHI Traders' body CAIT on Wednesday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi calling for an economic package for traders and restructuring of retail trade, which, it argued, would be beneficial to traders and help widen the tax net. Expressing disappointment that traders were not included in relief measures announced as part of the ₹20 lakh crore package, CAIT, in a memorandum to the Prime Minister, put forth multiple suggestions for easing retail trade. They called for a high-level committee to be set up to look into various laws involved in setting up retail trade etc.

IIT-Delhi launches new BTech programme

Applied mechanics dept. to run course

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, on Wednesday announced that students qualifying JEE Advanced 2020, will have a new programme to choose from as the institute has launched a BTech in engineering and computational mechanics this year. The new course will be run by the department of applied mechanics.

Head of Department of Applied mechanics, Sanjeev Sanghi, said that the graduates of this programme are likely to find the best technical jobs in core engineering and will also be very apt for candidates for higher studies like masters and PhD in IIT-Delhi as well as other leading national and international educational institutions.

"Design, analysis and research jobs in sectors such as defence, aerospace, automotive, shipping, biomechanics and biomedical devices, off-shore structures etc. will be open to students doing this programme, which has been designed based on consul-

Centre says labs in Delhi can do 27,000 RT-PCR tests a day

Delhi govt. officials say figure too high, likely capacity around 15,000-20,000

NIKHIL M BABU

NEW DELHI

The Centre informed the Delhi government earlier this week that the latter has the capacity to do about 27,000 RT-PCR test daily to detect COVID-19, said officials.

"The Centre informed the Delhi government two days back that labs in the city have a capacity to conduct 27,016 RT-PCR tests per day. But the figure is too high and the Delhi government is reviewing it," a Delhi government official told *The Hindu*.

The Delhi government has maintained the city labs have a capacity to do around 14,000 RT-PCR tests a day.

Two types of tests are done to test for COVID-19 in the city: RT-PCR and Rapid Antigen Test (RAT). RT-PCR test is considered the gold standard and gives more accurate results compared to



The Delhi government has been heavily dependent on rapid antigen tests to increase testing in Delhi. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

RAT. Results of RT-PCR usually come the next day, while RAT takes only 30 minutes to give a result.

Rapid antigen test

The Delhi government has been heavily dependent on RAT to increase testing in the city. Earlier this week, the Delhi High Court took note of this and ordered an expert committee to convene a

government to increase RT-PCR testing.

"Having regard to the fact that results of RAT are only 60% accurate... we are of the firm view that RT-PCR should be the way forward. Delhi govt. ought to focus on shortening up RT-PCR testing capacity," the Bench had said. The court also directed an expert committee to convene a

meeting on "priority" to consider the extent to which capacity building for RT-PCR testing is required in the current scenario.

Over the last two days, the Delhi government has been contacting labs to assess capacity, and it is less than 27,000, said officials.

"In many cases, the actual capacity of the labs mentioned in the list is less. The process is still under way, but the actual total capacity could be between 15,000 and 20,000," the official said.

A second official, confirming the development, said the Centre may have calculated capacity based on machines in labs. "We also need staff to do the work and it cannot be done 24*7. All these things have to be taken into consideration," the official said.

3,714 new cases take city's tally to 2,56,789

Manish Sisodia admitted to hospital

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

As many as 3,714 new COVID-19 cases were reported in Delhi in the past 24 hours taking the total number of cases to 2,56,789, according to a health bulletin released by the Delhi government on Wednesday.

Also, 36 fresh fatalities have been reported in a single day, taking the total number of deaths to 5,087.

30,836 active cases

Of the total cases, 2,20,866 people have recovered and there are 30,836 active cases here at present.

The positivity rate was 6.2% – the lowest in over a month – on Wednesday.

Out of the 15,810 beds available for COVID-19 treatment in the city, 55.73% were vacant, as per government data on Wednesday. Meanwhile, 62.2% ICU beds with ventilators have been

occupied and 71.3% of ones without ventilators are full.

The number of containment zones in the city on Wednesday jumped to 1,987 – the highest so far.

Meanwhile, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, who had tested positive on September 14, was admitted at the Delhi government-run Lok Nayak Hospital on Wednesday evening.

"The Minister had fever and his oxygen level was low when he was admitted. But he is better now," an AAP source said.

The Minister was under home isolation since he had tested positive for the virus.

Addressing the media, Health Minister Satyendar Jain on Wednesday said that the positivity rate plateaued a bit, but there would be a downward trend in one-two weeks. He also said that there was no shortage of oxygen in the city.

Shaheen Bagh 'dadi' Bilkis in TIME's most influential list

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Eighty-two-year-old Bilkis, who shot into the limelight last year during the months-long anti-citizenship law protest at Shaheen Bagh here, has been recognised by TIME magazine as one of the 100 most influential people of 2020.

During the protest, which began in December, the octogenarian sat under a tent with hundreds of women and children, braving icy winds. She emerged as the face of the protest against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and National Register of Citizens.

The protest ended in March this year in view of the COVID-19 outbreak and subsequent lockdown.

Also on the TIME magazine's list from India are Bollywood actor Ayushmann Khurana and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

'Govt. keeping eye on price of essential goods'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

Food and Civil Supplies Minister Imran Hussain on Wednesday said that the Delhi government was keeping a close watch on the prices of essential commodities and intervention would be made wherever possible, to stabilise the rates.

The Minister directed the Food and Civil Supplies Commissioner to convene weekly meetings with departments and agencies to ensure that the prices of essential commodities were kept under control.

Rape victim was called to hotel on pretext of loan under MSME relief

Accused was operating from an MP's bungalow in New Delhi

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The 27-year-old woman who was allegedly gangraped by five men in a room at a luxury hotel on Lutyens' Delhi, was called on the pretext of disbursement of loan amount, said a senior police officer on Wednesday.

The officer added that Manoj had taken ₹1 lakh from the victim to get her a loan of ₹10 lakh from MSME under scheme of government to provide loan to small business houses that suffered losses during the lockdown.

He used to take commission to arrange loan for business-

pries (MSME). "Manoj used to help businessmen to get loan disbursement certificate from MSME that help them to get loan easily. He was operating from a bungalow of a Member of Parliament," said the officer.

The officer added that Manoj had taken ₹1 lakh from the victim to get her a loan of ₹10 lakh from MSME under scheme of government to provide loan to small business houses that suffered losses during the lockdown.

He used to take commission to arrange loan for business-

men from MSME for the past three months.

"He had promised the victim to get a sanction loan of ₹10 lakh from the MSME and for that he had demanded ₹2.6 lakh as commission. He had called the victim in the hotel room to hand over her ₹10 lakh loan check," said the officer.

On Tuesday, the police arrested accused identified as Anushka, Sanjay Chaudhary, Manoj Sharma and Jagdeep Singh. Two more accused who were from Andhra Pradesh are absconding.

At the time of the incident, she was at her home with her family, when she heard firing outside her home. She opened the door and saw Tomar with a pistol in his hand. Later, he ran away.

The victim found that a portion of the main gate was broken. Empty cartridge and bullet lead were found on the spot, the police said. "The police conducted a raid

in Aali Vihar jungle and Tomar was arrested," DCP (South-East) R.P. Meena said.

On interrogation, he said he wanted to marry her, but due to some reasons, he married the other girl. He could not tolerate after the victim's marriage was fixed and she started ignoring him. He decided to take revenge from her, the police said.

The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Pro-

tively deal with 4-5 tonnes of raw straw per acre.

IARI research in Punjab and Haryana farms over the past four years has shown that the technique not only reduces the need for stubble burning but also cuts down fertiliser consumption and increases farm productivity, the government said.

Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai had recently said the government would bear the cost of spraying the mixture in the fields so that there is no financial burden on farmers in the city.

Farmers to benefit from Bills passed by Centre

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly, Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, met and thanked Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar and Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Kailash Choudhary, here on Wednesday.

The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Pro-

motion and Facilitation) Bill 2020 and the Farmers' (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill 2020 were passed in the interest of farmers by the BJP government at the Centre, Mr. Bidhuri said.

Lakhs of farmers in Delhi, who were now free to sell their produce on MSP or open market, would benefit from the Bills, he said.

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What started as a casual hobby, has transformed how Anurag spends his time over the weekend.

"I have been playing games for the last 2 years now and the journey has been thrilling. As I transitioned from playing games occasionally, to casual gaming, to religious serious gaming over the weekends, my wants and expectations from my laptop changed," says Anurag.

This gamer, who also has a corporate job during the week, felt the need of a new laptop that focuses on gaming performance and is tuned in to the evolving gaming scenario.

"Games have evolved," he says. They get more demanding each year, with massive improvements in computing requirements, graphics, storage, etc. "Feeling the realism and immersion that are at the heart of gaming experience is must for every gamer."

"Hence, lately I bought a laptop with 10th Gen Intel® Core™ processor.

Anurag adds, "With solid state storage integrates Optane™ memory. This feature helps in accelerating game launching and level loading."

"Both are needed to stay ahead during a game," according to Anurag.

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Bihar DGP Pandey takes voluntary retirement

Likely to contest Assembly election

AMARNATH TEWARY

PATNA

Bihar DGP Gupteswar Pandey, a 1987-batch IPS officer, on Tuesday took voluntary retirement from service. He is likely to contest the upcoming Assembly election as a ruling NDA candidate either from Buxar or Shahpur constituency.

Mr. Pandey, who was appointed as DGP on January 31, 2019, was to retire from service on February 28, 2021.

Earlier in 2009 too, Mr. Pandey had opted for voluntary retirement to contest the Lok Sabha poll but when he failed to get ticket, rejoined after a few months.

Late on Saturday evening, the Home department issued the notification granting voluntary retirement for Mr. Pandey effective from September 22 afternoon under the provisions of the All India Services (Death-cum-Retirement Benefits) Rules, 1958.



Gupteswar Pandey

DGP (home guard and fire services) S.K. Singhal was given additional charge of DGP.

A day after his VRS, Mr. Pandey on a social media post said he might take a plunge into politics and will do "politics of principle". "I may join politics...is it a sin? Is it crime? Is it unconstitutional?...is it unethical?...can't a poor farmer's son contest an election after 34 years of unblemished career in police force?" asked Mr. Pandey in his post.

Punjab govt. approves rules for police complaints authority

It was set up to probe allegations against top police officers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHANDIGARH

The Punjab Cabinet on Wednesday approved the rules for governing the conduct of business of the Punjab State Police Complaints Authority, 2020, set up earlier this year to probe allegations of serious misconduct against police officers of the rank of Senior Superintendent of Police, Deputy Commissioner of Police and above.

It may be noted that Section 54-F of the amended Punjab Police Act, 2007, stipulates that the State police complaints authority shall make rules for the conduct of its business and that of the divisional police complaints authorities, with the approval of the State government,

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given on behalf of Axis Bank Ltd, that Mr. Vikas Kumar and Mrs. Poonam Goel who intend to mortgage the Entire Ground Floor without roof rights built on Western Half Portion (Front Portion) of Prop. no. 28, Road no. 42, Situated at Punjabi Bagh (West) New Delhi with our client Axis Bank Ltd against the financial assistance. Whereas Mrs. Prem Lata Goyal w/o Suresh Goyal and Mrs. Poonam Goel w/o Vikas Goel have acquired the above said property by way of Partition Deed dt. 12.04.2006 and after the death of Prem Lata Goyal her son/sole legal heir Mr. Vikash Kumar became the co-owner of the said floor.

If any person(s) having objection regarding ownership of above-mentioned claimants or regarding mortgage of the said property is/are requested to intimate in writing to undersigned within 07 days from the date of issue of this notice at below address. In the event no information is received within 07 days from date hereof, our Client i.e. Axis Bank Ltd. will proceed with the mortgage process.

DEEJPYOT SINGH, ADVOCATE

A-13, LGF, South Extn-II, New Delhi-49 # 011-26262610, 11, 12

Notice is hereby given on behalf of Axis Bank Limited, that Mrs. Geeta Devi & Mr. Markandey Mishra, intend to mortgage the Property bearing No. 76, admeasuring 420 sq. mts, in Block-C, situated at South City-II, Sohna Road, Gurgaon, Tehsil and Distt. Gurgaon, Haryana with our client Axis Bank Ltd. against the financial assistance. Whereas, Mrs. Geeta Devi & Mr. Markandey Mishra have acquired the above-mentioned property by way of Conveyance Deed dt. 04.02.2016. As informed Original Buyer Agreement dt 04.10.2012 of above said property was lost/misplaced, in this regard NCR/FIR registered on 17.09.2020.

If any person(s) having the above-mentioned document or having objection regarding mortgage of the said property is/are requested to intimate in writing to undersigned within 15 days from the date of issue of this notice at below address. In the event no information is received within 15 days from date hereof, our Client i.e. Axis Bank Ltd. will proceed with the mortgage process.

RISHI KAPOOR, ADVOCATE

A-13, LGF, South Extn-II, New Delhi-49 # 011-26262610, 11, 12

Public Notice

This is to inform, Mr. Shashi Chopra was employed with our company in the year 2018. All the concerned are informed to verify the transactions entered by him on our company's behalf within 15 days of this notice, otherwise our company will not be responsible for anything.

Director

Maple Leaf India Pvt Ltd.
LG 6-87, Acharya Nikant
Mayur Vihar Phase-I, Delhi-91

Email:kumar.ravinder110@gmail.com

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, KANJANA Malla D/O Shri Rakesh Kumar Malla born on 04/04/1986 residing at 2/25 Janakpal, 1st, Opp. Govt. School, A-Block, West Delhi, Delhi-110058, have changed my name to Kanik Malla and also changed my gender from male to female via affidavit dated 21/09/2020 at Delhi

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Sd/- MD, Capt

Ensure oxygen supply, Amarinder urges PM

'Punjab may face shortage amid rise in COVID-19 cases'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Amid apprehension of shortages, including oxygen, with rising COVID-19 cases in Punjab, Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Wednesday urged the Prime Minister for urgent steps to ensure adequate supplies from other States and also sought expeditious release of ₹200 crore that the State government had requested as the next tranche of Central aid for virus management.

Stubble management

With experts suggesting possible aggravation of COVID-19 scenario due to stubble burning, the Chief Minister also reiterated his demand for fiscal aid by the Centre to farmers for defraining the cost on management



Punjab CM Amarinder Singh

of paddy straw.

During a virtual meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Captain Amarinder urged him to direct the Chief Controllers of Explosives, Nagpur, to clear the license request for establishment of a liquid medical oxygen plant in Punjab, under the PM Swasthya Surksha Yojna.

Noting that the State government and private hospitals in Punjab could end up facing shortage of oxygen supply due to the late surge in virus cases, Capt. Amarinder informed the Prime Minister that with no manufacturer of medical oxygen, the State was largely dependent on three big manufacturers from outside.

No adequate supply'

He said the Dehradun and Panipat plants are not supplying oxygen as per the State's demand, adding that the Panipat plant can supply more oxygen if supply to Panipat Refinery is curtailed.

Capt. Amarinder said his government, on its part, was in talks with industry to convert industrial oxygen to medical oxygen.

High Court restores powers of village headman in U.P.

His powers were ceased by administration over charges of fraud

OMAR RASHID

LUCKNOW

A village headman in Etawah district whose administrative and financial powers were ceased by the administration over allegations of misappropriation of funds in building toilets and rural homes has got his powers restored by the Allahabad High Court.

The pradhan alleged that he was targeted by the administration and BJP leaders as he was affiliated with the Samajwadi Party.

The administrative and financial powers of Sunil Kumar Yadav, pradhan of the Asafpur gram panchayat,

were ceased by an order of the District Magistrate under Section 95 (1) (g) of the Uttar Pradesh Panchayat Raj Act, 1947, on August 20. Charges against Mr. Yadav were proved in the preliminary enquiry, recorded the DM's order.

The pradhan challenged the order, arguing that the procedure laid down in the Uttar Pradesh Panchayat Raj (Removal of Pradhans, Up-Pradhans and Members) Enquiry Rules, 1997, was not followed.

Mr. Yadav also contended that he was neither issued any show-cause notice nor did the DM record satisfaction justifying invocation of power under Section 95 (1) (g) of the Uttar Pradesh Panchayat Raj Act, 1947.

While putting a stay on the DM's order till the next hearing, a Bench of Justice Ashwani Kumar Mishra al-

lowed the pradhan to continue in his post and exercise his administrative and financial powers.

A perusal of the DM's order does not reveal that any show-cause notice was issued to the petitioner nor his version was considered, said the court.

Political vendetta'

Mr. Yadav alleged that the administration took action against him at the behest of BJP leaders as part of a "political vendetta". He said the administration ceased his powers after recommendations for conducting an inquiry were made by BJP MP Ram Shankar Katheria, BJP MLA from Barathana Savitri Katheria and BJP district president Ajay Pratap Singh Dhakre.

The court granted the State four weeks to file a counter-affidavit.

Absence of antibodies in M.P. survivors'

STAFF REPORTER
BHOPAL

Between 4 to 20% of adults in Indore who had recovered from COVID-19 in the past four months and came forward to donate plasma had either no or very low level of antibodies, two city-based hospitals have found.

studied in the same inter college and knew each other well. Hailing from a Thakur family, the girl studies in 9th standard while the boy, a Gurjar, was in 12th. As the college was closed, perhaps, they were desperate to meet, said a source, ruling out caste animosity as the reason behind the incident.

'Bid to abduct girl'

The relatives of the girl's family alleged that Sahib Singh's activities were suspicious. "He came during the night when the girl's mother was in hospital and her father was not at home. It seems he wanted to abduct her as he came along with two friends. The girl's grandfather raised an alarm and the villagers rushed," a relative could be heard saying in a video recorded by local reporters.

At the privately-owned Sri Aurobindo Institute of Medical Sciences, the largest COVID-19 facility in Indore, samples of 17 of the 378 prospective donors had either no or very low levels. Whereas, 25 of 130 prospective donors at the government-run Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Medical College reported such similarly low levels, thereby rendering them as ineligible.

Mathura villages tense after boy's death

Sahib Singh was assaulted when he went to meet his alleged love interest

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GHAZIABAD

Two villages in Mathura turned tense on Tuesday after a boy was beaten to death late on Monday night when he went to meet his alleged love interest in the neighbouring village. His friend was also beaten up, police said. Four persons have been arrested in connection with the murder. Police presence has been increased and at least a dozen personnel of the Provincial Armed Constabulary have been stationed in the villages.

The incident took place at Bhartiya village in the Vrindavan area of Mathura. According to SSP Gaurav Grover, police got a call on Monday night that two persons have been attacked by villagers in Bhartiya village. "When the police reached the spot, they found



Police deployed in Bhartiya village in Mathura after the incident. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sahib Singh from Parkham village in a serious condition. He was taken to the government hospital where he died during treatment. His friend was also assaulted and confined by the villagers."

Mr. Grover said the police has registered an FIR against seven persons on the complaint of the deceased's family.

"The father of the boy has said that his son went to meet his friend in Bhartiya village but he was confined and beaten to death. We are investigating the case from all possible angles," said Arvind Singh, chowki in-charge, Jaint. "He said the boy was 22 while the girl is a minor," he added.

Local sources said the two

Akhil Gogoi's group to float party

Move likely by month-end after talks with 70 anti-CAA groups

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Jailed peasant rights activist Akhil Gogoi's group Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti (KMSS) is expected to form a political party by the end of September after consultations with 70 other groups that had protested the Citizenship (Amendment) Act together.

The move follows the launch of the regional Assam Jatiya Parishad (AJP) by the All Assam Students' Union and Assam Jatiyatabadi Yuva Chhatra Parishad, two major students' organisations in the State.

"We have asked all our associate organisations to nominate a representative for a coordination committee by September 25. Mem-

bers of this committee are expected to meet within the next two days to draw up the plan for the political party," KMSS president Bhasco de Saikia told *The Hindu* on Wednesday.

The 70 organisations include All Assam Muslim Yuva Parishad, All Tai-Ahom Students' Union, Scheduled Caste Yuba Chhatra Parishad, Asom Sena and Cha Mukti Sangram Parishad.

Mr. Saikia said the regional parties in Assam should have ideally joined hands to take on the Bharatiya Janata Party in the 2021 Assembly polls. The AJP did not respond to an appeal by the KMSS to respond to their unity appeal by September 20.

"We

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD; POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 14.30 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places Assam, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Konkan & Goa. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Uttarakhand, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	18.2	30.8	25.8	Kozhikode	6.5...	30.4...	24.0
Ahmedabad	-	33.8	28.2	Kurnool	0.2...	32.5...	23.7
Aizawl	13	28.3	19.8	Lucknow	-	29.2...	27.2
Allahabad	1.2	32.0	27.0	Madurai	-	37.6...	24.6
Bengaluru	27.6	18.6	-	Mangaluru	2.5...	30.4...	23.4
Bhopal	29.4	26.9	24.2	Mumbai	286.4...	26.7...	24.6
Bhubaneswar	-	32.6	25.4	Mysuru	-	29.0...	19.5
Chandigarh	-	34.4	27.3	New Delhi	-	36.5...	27.6
Chennai	-	35.4	26.6	Patna	13.8...	33.2...	26.0
Coimbatore	-	33.0	22.4	Pond Blair	-	32.1...	25.4
Dehradoon	-	30.5	22.4	Puducherry	-	37.8...	25.4
Gangtok	38.6	-	17.0	Pune	-	28.3...	22.4
Goa	22.8	30.5	24.0	Raipur	-	32.2...	24.6
Guwahati	49.5	30.4	23.2	Ranchi	-	31.8...	23.1
Hubballi	-	27.0	21.0	Shillong	53...	23.8...	18.0
Hyderabad	-	29.6	23.4	Shimla	-	26.0...	19.8
Imphal	47.5	28.1	20.2	Srinagar	-	30.2...	10.2
Jaipur	-	36.0	26.6	Thiruvananthapuram	25.3...	30.4...	23.3
Kochi	12.8	30.2	24.0	Tiruchi	-	36.8...	25.3
Kohima	8.2	26.0	17.2	Vijayawada	1.8...	34.0...	25.6
Kolkata	10.7	29.2	25.8	Visakhapatnam	24.2...	32.4...	26.7

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

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CITIES	SO ₂	NO _x	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	19	.61	45	99	99	GREEN
Bengaluru	10	23	62	-	86	GREEN
Chennai	-	14	40	106	-	ORANGE
Delhi	31	109	86	25	65	ORANGE
Hyderabad	6	45	10	24	26	GREEN
Kolkata	5	22	53	17	24	GREEN
Lucknow	6	35	37	61	106	ORANGE
Mumbai	17	15	26	19	125	RED
Pune	-	-	-	-	-	GREEN
Visakhapatnam	12	50	23	40	77	GREEN

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

SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

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

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m. at Vatva, Gujarat recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 124 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 10

Downpour leaves hospitals, stations flooded in Mumbai

Five NDRF companies on standby; two security guards die after being stuck in lift

STAFF REPORTER
MUMBAI

Heavy rainfall since Tuesday night left many parts of Mumbai, including railway stations and hospitals, waterlogged on Wednesday.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted "enhanced rainfall activity along the west coast, including Mumbai".

"Monsoon remained vigorous over the entire Konkan belt, including Mumbai, with heavy to very heavy rainfall over many places and isolated extremely heavy falls yesterday (Tuesday)," said the IMD press release. It has advised fishermen to not venture into the sea for next 24 hours.

Maharashtra's Relief and Rehabilitation Minister Vijay Wadettiwar said that five companies of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) are ready to be deployed. From 8 p.m. on September 22 to 8 a.m. on September 23, the Mumbai city area received 256 mm rainfall while western and eastern suburbs received 237 mm and 158 mm rainfall respectively, said the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation. At some places, the rain intensity was as much as 70 mm per hour. Dadar and Dharavi in central Mumbai witnessed rainfall of 332 mm in 12 hours, said the BMC statement.

According to IMD data, Santacruz recorded 286.4 mm rainfall in 24 hours. Nair Hospital, dedicated to COVID-19 care, was flooded after water rushed into the out-patient section. "This has been happening due to adjacent Metro construction work. Earlier, we never used to face such problem," one of the medical personnel working at the hospital said, requesting anonymity.

Areas in central Mumbai such as Chunabhatti, Parel, King Circle and Hindmata were inundated. Due to continuous heavy rain and wa-



People wade through a waterlogged road at Null Bazar in Mumbai after heavy rain lashed the city on Tuesday. ■ FILE PHOTO

Villages near proposed Navi Mumbai airport worst-hit

RAINA ASSAINAR
NAVI MUMBAI

With Panvel taluka receiving 306 mm rain, its second highest single-day rainfall of the year, the villages – Kombadbhuje, Dungi and Pargaon – adjoining the Navi Mumbai International Airport have been flooded.

While Dungi and Pargaon are on the outskirts of the proposed airport, Kombadbhuje is one of the 10 villages acquired by the City and Industrial Development Corporation (CIDCO) to construct the airport. Some of the project affected persons who have not vacated the

village yet, owing to non-fulfilment of demands by the CIDCO, are affected. The villagers claim that the land filling for the airport work had led to filling of the storm water drains which has caused the flooding of their houses.

"Kombadbhuje never gets flooded to this level. The rain started by Tuesday night and by 3 a.m. on Wednesday, we had water till window. Talathi office workers started pumping the water by around 8 a.m. but by evening, the water level remained same," Bhushan Koli, a villager, said.

terlogging at Parel-Currey Road on the Main line and Vadala Road on Harbour line, suburban rail services were suspended between CSMT-Dadar and CSMT-Vashi. Shuttle services were running between Dadar-Kalyan and beyond and Vashi and Panvel. Around 30 BEST

buses were trapped in water for some time.

Municipal Commissioner

Iqbal Singh Chahal on Wednesday appealed to residents

not to venture out unless in case of emergency. Government and private offices

were given a holiday, keeping only emergency services on.

HC suspends all hearings

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Wednesday suspended all hearings for the day after heavy rain caused waterlogging and commuting issues that led to acute shortage of court staff.

A notice signed by proto-notary and senior master high court of original side, M.W. Chandwani, and Registrar High Court, Appellate Side, V.R. Kachare, read, "Due to the acute shortage of staff because of heavy rain on Wednesday, the Benches are unable to take up the matters on their respective boards. Judicial proceedings for the day, thus, stand suspended."

Two security guards died after getting stuck in a flooded lift in the basement of a building in central Mumbai on Wednesday morning, the police said. The incident occurred at Nathani Residency, a high-rise near Kala Pani junction of Aripada area. (With PTI inputs)

The death toll in the Bhiwandi building collapse

rose to 39 on Wednesday,

with the recovery of 14 more bodies overnight, the police said.

The dead include 18 children in the age group of two to 15, including three toddlers, an official said. Twenty-five people have been pulled out of the debris

to 1,196. As many as 472 cases took its total case tally to 40,005 of whom 7,994 are active.

Sangli reported 690 cases to take the district's total case tally to 33,595 of whom 10,515 are active. With 36 deaths, the death toll has risen to 1,020.

Satara reported 28 fatalities to take its death toll to 787. As many as 604 fresh cases saw the total case tally rise to 32,005 of whom 8,991 are active.

In north Maharashtra, Nashik district reported a spike of more than 1,800 cases as its total tally reached 67,831 of whom 14,894 are active. With 13 deaths, the district's total deaths have climbed to 1,179.

Jalgaon reported more than 500 cases and five deaths. The district's total case tally has risen to 44,742 of whom 8,353 are active ones, while the death toll has now climbed to 1,167.

Ahmednagar reported a surge of 846 cases as its total case tally rose to 37,529 of whom 7,979 are active ones. As many as 16 deaths took its death toll to 613.

In the Mumbai Metropolitan Region, Thane reported 20 deaths as its fatality count rose to 1,782. As many as 791 new cases saw its total case tally cross the 63,000 mark.

The Navi Mumbai civic body recorded 11 deaths and 480 cases to take its death toll to 838 and its total case tally to 37,256.

Dr. Awate said that currently, 18,75,424 people across the State were in home quarantine and 34,457 were in institutional quarantine facilities.

21,029 fresh COVID-19 cases push Maharashtra's total tally past 12.50 lakh

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

Maharashtra reported 21,029 new COVID-19 cases on Wednesday as its total case tally breached the 12.50 lakh mark to reach 12,63,799 of whom 2,73,477 are active. As many as 479 more deaths pushed the State's fatality toll to 33,886.

However, the case spike was nearly matched by the recoveries, with 19,476 patients being discharged to take the cumulative recoveries till date to 9,56,030.

"Of a total 61,06,787 laboratory samples tested thus far, 12,63,799 (20.69%) have returned positive with more than 89,000 samples across the State being tested in the last 24 hours. The State's recovery rate has risen to 75.65%," State Surveillance Officer Dr. Pradeep Awate said, adding that the State's case fatality rate was currently 2.68%.

Pune reported more than 3,000 cases to take its total case tally to 2,70,866 while 61 deaths saw its mortality count climb to 5,429. As per the Pune district administration, the number of active cases is less than 42,000 with the district's recovery rate exceeding 81%.

Mumbai reported 2,360 cases to take its total case tally to 1,90,264 of whom 27,186 are active. As many as 49 fatalities saw the city's death toll rise to 8,604.

Nagpur district reported 58 more deaths to take the death toll to 1,827. A big jump of nearly 1,900 cases took the district's total case tally to 68,843 of whom 19,247 are active.

In western Maharashtra, Kolhapur reported 63 deaths as its fatality toll rose

Sushant was the only consumer, Rhea says in bail plea before HC

'Brother, I'm being targeted in a witch hunt'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

In her bail application filed before the Bombay High Court on Tuesday, actor Rhea Chakraborty, arrested in connection with a drugs case, has said that Sushant Singh Rajput was the only consumer of drugs and he used others around him to facilitate his habit.

The said documents clearly indicate that



A light touch

Problematic content abounds in the digital space, but regulation must be sagacious

The Government has, in recent days, twice signalled that more rules to tackle the problems of unlawful content and harm-causing disinformation in the digital media space are in the offing. On Monday, in an affidavit filed in the case involving Sudarshan TV, responding to the Supreme Court's call for suggestions to improve the self-regulatory mechanism for electronic media, the Centre said that the regulation of web-based digital media is the need of the hour, instead. Without any checks, it told the Court, digital media can spread "venomous hatred", terror and violence. On the same day, the Minister of State for Electronics and IT Sanjay Dhotre said in a written reply to the Lok Sabha that his ministry is working to amend the Information Technology (Intermediaries Guidelines) Rules, 2011, to make intermediaries more responsive and accountable. It is difficult to disagree with the view that the Internet is a space where finding truthful facts can be often challenging, and that polarising opinions, hate speech, and disinformation abound. Many lives have been lost to such disinformation-fuelled violence in India in recent years. But it is also difficult to agree with the view that more rules are an answer to an age-old problem, only, now amplified by technology-based platforms. That more regulation will solve this is a fanciful idea.

For one, the laws to tackle incendiary content and hate speech that fuels violence are already in place. What is seen lacking is a will to uniformly apply these rules, irrespective of political affiliations. The flip side is that the net is a place where there is a free sharing of information and ideas. So, the question worth asking is if it is possible to ever regulate the Internet without throttling it, like China has done. The fear that bringing more rules is a euphemism for censorship cannot be brushed away. These questions are all the more important because there has been a wave of investments in the digital news media space in recent years. A large number of these media sites and magazines pursue legitimate journalism initiatives, which not only have the proper mechanisms to deliver quality but also operate with a high degree of accountability. Attempts at making new rules for intermediaries such as Google and Facebook need to be well thought-out and measured. Earlier attempts at imposing a high degree of liability on them for content posted on their platforms have not survived legal scrutiny, with Section 79(1) of the IT Act, 2000, giving them some immunity in this regard. An intervention that is light and well considered is what will work.

Unlocking campuses

A surge in cases in schools and colleges should be prevented using a 'test-trace-isolate' model

The University Grants Commission has published a revised academic calendar for 2020-21, under which classes can be started for first year undergraduate and postgraduate students from November 1, but the prospects of a normalised regime of education remain far from clear. In a circular that factors in the uncertainties surrounding COVID-19, the UGC has offered institutions the option of offline, online or blended modes of instruction. For school education, many States have allowed reopening for Classes 9 and above from September 21, based on the Centre's instructions for the unlock phase. These measures, with their semblance of normality, may bring some relief to parents, but their outcomes are not predictable. That becomes clear from the experience of the U.S. and the U.K.: there is apprehension among parents, teachers and staff that they may get infected, and governments are under greater pressure to test, trace and isolate in communities with schools and colleges. A U.S. study in pre-print, conducted by four educational institutions after students returned to in-person classes, showed that infections for counties with campuses rose by 3,000 a day over the median value. Another estimate for virus cases linked to school reopening, made by other researchers, put the figure at over 21,000; college cases in the U.S. exceeded 88,000. In Britain, teachers' unions voiced deep concern over poor preparedness ahead of school reopening in September. The government's guidance there included a rotation system for students, and compulsory face masks in contact areas.

India's move to unlock education coincides with a reported reduction in overall daily incidence of infection, although absolute numbers are frighteningly high. If the UGC's campus calendar is implemented as planned, it would require a high level of commitment among States to do what countries such as Germany, Denmark and Norway have done: provide free RT-PCR testing and pursue contact tracing where students test positive. Yet, some State governments seem to be focused on managing the numbers rather than the pandemic, slashing overall testing rates, and inflating test numbers using less reliable rapid antigen tests to reduce positivity rates. This approach is fraught, and the consequences of statistical illusions could prove disastrous. Students have, no doubt, experienced a long summer of discontent, with just the option of online classes; the examination schedule and admissions systems were severely disrupted. But it is also true that many of them live in multi-generational households, potentially bringing home the risk of infection to older, at-risk individuals. Unlock for schools and colleges can, therefore, be seen only as a work in progress, requiring constant vigil, strict adherence to masking and distancing, and full access to testing and treatment. The government's messaging cannot carry conviction if it cautions the public about the pandemic on the one hand, while relaxing norms for campus activity on the other.

Seeing dystopia in India's democracy

The state's attachment to the procedures of democracy has not been matched by concern for a fulfilling life for Indians



PULAPRE BALAKRISHNAN

The United Nations has declared September 15 'International Day of Democracy'. An entry on its website states that this "provides an opportunity to review the state of democracy in the world". To review the state of democracy in India would be timely given the times we are living through. Indeed by now, as India meets fresh challenges almost daily, for us to do so is arguably more important than to celebrate independence from colonial rule, which we do out of habit annually. But to review the state of democracy in India we would need to adopt a suitable criteria.

A partial evaluation

Formally, India is a democracy alright. There are multi-party elections with universal suffrage subject only to an age restriction. In evaluations of democracy in India it is often observed, to its credit, that it is the world's largest democracy. Further plaudits are given for the smooth changeover in government after elections, the existence of an independent press and judiciary, and the guarantee of civil liberties justiciable in courts of law. While these are valid observations, the assessment is based on a partial evaluation. To an extent it amounts to admiring a form of government for its own sake without concern for the socioeconomic outcomes that are produced. It is like admiring the architecture of a building without pausing to enquire whether its inhabitants are

happy to be living in it.

Outcomes differ among countries that are democracies. Take for instance the life satisfaction that citizens report. First, it should be noted that this is potentially an important metric as it is based on people's perceptions on what matters most, including the responsiveness of the government to their needs. In the UN's World Happiness Report for 2020 (<https://bit.ly/32UcJMe> and <https://bit.ly/2HqdN2l>), the list of top 10 countries is heavily loaded with the democracies of western Europe. The U.S. barely edges into the top 20. India, on the other hand, is ranked 144 out of the 153 countries evaluated.

Further, its ranking has dropped in recent years. We should be giving serious thought to both the fact of India's low ranking on the happiness index and its slide. To my mind, the criterion that in a democracy the people must be satisfied with their life is given very little thought these days. It was not so in the early days of our republic.

Built by the people

Two leaders who had recognised this criterion in their engagements with the public were Jawaharlal Nehru and Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan. Nehru was explicit in his speech on August 15, 1947 when he stated that the goal of independence was to create institutions which will ensure justice and fullness of life to every man and woman. Note that Nehru had not promised that the government will create these institutions. He was far too aware that democracy is not synonymous with statism; it is about the people. Ultimately, the institutions that enable persons to lead fulfilling lives are built by the people themselves. Let me give



you three examples, all from the United States. In the 1960s, that country saw movements for black empowerment, women's emancipation and sexual liberation. These movements were remarkably successful in the outcomes they achieved, while receiving no support from the U.S. state. This is the sense in which it may be said that it is the people who build the institutions that matter. That said, however, the state has a role in their building. Laws must not constrain liberty when it is self-affirming and must change when it is realised that they do.

On development

The role of the state does not end with removing restraints though. It extends to the endowment of individuals with capabilities in the sense of Amartya Sen. Prof. Sen had thought of capabilities as the endowments that allow individuals to undertake the functioning, or do the things, that they value. We can think of a person's health and education as among the most important inputs into the capabilities that they end up possessing. While radical approaches to empowerment rightly emphasise the importance of self-help, it is not sufficiently recognised that individuals cannot easily equip themselves with capabilities, requiring the state to intervene.

Think of a person born into poverty or a woman born into wealth but into a world with social sanction against education for women. Similarly, historically, the caste system in India had excluded a large section from education. While private initiative should not be de-legitimised, it has had only a limited impact on building capabilities in India as it has focused on those with the ability to pay. In a move to measure the capabilities of a population, the UN devised the Human Development Index. The main elements of this are health and education. As with the UN's Happiness Index, India fares very poorly in the UN's Human Development Index too. In 2019, India ranked 129th out of 189 countries. Judged in terms of human development – and one would be hard put to defend any other sense in which development is to be understood – Indian democracy is severely challenged.

Pointing to the incongruence between India's low level of human development and its status as a democracy evokes the response that this is to see the latter in instrumental terms. Democracy it is asserted is a form of government, namely government by discussion. The answer to this deflection is that democracy may be a form of government but surely the people have come to adopt this particular form of government with a goal in mind. We may safely assume a fulfilling life is that goal. Authoritarianism is not compatible with such a life, only democracy, which at least in principle grants individuals a voice in governance. Second, people adopt democracy so that they can participate in their own governance. They cannot but have foreseen that they must be endowed with capabilities if this is to be possible at all. Thus, liberty

and capability are conjoined as the ultimate aspiration in a democracy.

Neglect and repression

In India, the state's ritualistic attachment with the procedures of democracy has not been matched by an awareness of its implicit goal of a fulfilling life for Indians. By the 1950s, freedom of speech had been restricted by the First Amendment to the Constitution and the Directive Principles, that had enjoined upon the state to promote health and education, had been all but forgotten. Inevitably, the consequential under-investment in a public health system has left the country severely unprepared for the emergency when COVID-19 struck. After reading of bodies left lying in their wards, we now read of an emerging shortage of something so basic as oxygen supply in metropolitan hospitals. COVID-19 affects the human respiratory system and oxygen is vital to avert the loss of life. Those who have survived thus far live with foreshadowing of a gruesome end. Not only has the state neglected its responsibility but it has resorted to repression when its inaction is questioned. Recently, an agency reported that a representative of the State in southern Andhra Pradesh publicly threatened with arrest a government doctor who had dared to mention at a review meeting that there were not enough beds in the primary health centre that he was responsible for.

Dystopia was imagined as a place where the people experience great suffering as they fend for themselves under the watchful eyes of an authoritarian state. Is it so far from where we live today?

Pulapre Balakrishnan is Professor of Economics at Ashoka University, Sonipat

Weighing in on the efficacy of female leadership

It is necessary to get rid of inherent biases and perceptions about the effectiveness of women in roles of authority



BHASKAR DUTTA

What do Germany, Taiwan and New Zealand have in common? These are all countries that have women heading their governments. And although they are located in three different continents, the three countries seem to have managed the pandemic much better than their neighbours. Much along the same lines, a detailed recent study by researchers in the United States reports that States which have female governors had fewer COVID-19 related deaths, perhaps partly because female governors acted more decisively by issuing earlier stay-at-home orders. The authors of the study conclude that women leaders are more effective than their male counterparts in times of crises. There will be several critics (no need to guess their gender) who will question the reliability of this conclusion by pointing out deficiencies in the data – admittedly somewhat limited – or the econometric rigour of the analysis. Many will also point out that it is dangerous to make sweeping generalisations based on one study.

The point about the danger of making sweeping generalisations is valid. Of course, studies such as these do not establish the superiority of all female leaders over their male counterparts. All female leaders are not necessarily efficient, and there are many men who have proved to be most effective and charismatic leaders. The important takeaway from the re-

cent experience and such studies is the necessity of getting rid of inherent biases and perceptions about female effectiveness in leadership roles.

India's gram panchayats

Importantly, female leaders also bring something quite different to the table. In particular, they perform significantly better than men in implementing policies that promote the interests of women. This was demonstrated in another study conducted by Nobel Laureate Esther Duflo and co-author Raghavendra Chattopadhyay, who used the system of mandated reservations of *pradhans* in gram panchayats to test the effectiveness of female leadership. Their study was made possible by the 1993 amendment of the Indian Constitution, which mandated that all States had to reserve one-third of all positions of *pradhan* for women. Since villages chosen for the mandated reservations were randomly selected, subsequent differences in investment decisions made by gram panchayats could be attributed to the differences in gender of the *pradhans*. Chattopadhyay and Duflo concluded that *pradhans* invested more in rural infrastructure that served better the needs of their own gender. For instance, women *pradhans* were more likely to invest in providing easy access to drinking water since the collection of drinking water is primarily, if not solely, the responsibility of women.

In addition to the instrumental importance of promoting more space for women in public policy, this is also an important goal from the perspective of gender equality. The right to vote is arguably the most important dimension of participation in public life. There are others. What proportion of wo-



men stand for election to the various State and central legislatures? How many are elected? Perhaps more important, how many women occupy important positions in the executive branch of government?

About suffrage

Independent India can rightly be proud of its achievement in so far as women's suffrage is concerned. Women were allowed to vote from 1950 onwards and so could participate on an equal footing with men from the first general election of 1951-52. This is in striking contrast to the experience in the so-called "mature democracies" of western Europe and the United States. In the U.S., it took several decades of struggle before women were allowed to vote in 1920. Most countries in Europe also achieved universal suffrage during the inter-war period. Since most able-bodied men went away to the battlefields during the First World War, increasing numbers of women had the opportunity to show that they were adequate substitutes in activities that were earlier the sole preserve of men. This, it is suggested, mitigated the anti-female bias and earned women the right to vote in European countries.

We have had and have charismatic female leaders like Indira Gandhi, Jayalalitha, Mayawati, Sushma Swaraj and Mamata Ba-

nerjee among several others. Interestingly, a glaring example of gender stereotyping was the labelling of Indira Gandhi as the "only man in the cabinet". Apart from these stalwarts, the overall figures are depressing. The female representation in the current National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government at the Centre is probably not very far from the typical gender composition in Indian central and State governments. Female members make up only about 10% of the total ministerial strength. The underrepresentation of female Ministers in India is also reflected in the fact that Ms. Banerjee is currently the only female Chief Minister.

The underrepresentation of women in Indian legislatures is even more striking. For instance, the 2019 election sent the largest number of women to the Lok Sabha. Despite this, women constitute just over 14% of the total strength of the Lok Sabha. This gives us the dismal rank of 143 out of 192 countries for which data are reported by the Inter-Parliamentary Union. Tiny Rwanda comes out on top with a staggering 60% of seats in its lower house occupied by women.

The women's Bill languishes

Since women running for elections face numerous challenges, it is essential to create a level-playing field through appropriate legal measures. The establishment of quotas for women is an obvious answer. I have mentioned earlier that mandated reservation for women in gram panchayats was established in all major States since the mid-1990s. Attempts have also been made to extend quotas for women in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies through a Women's Reservation Bill. Unfortunately,

the fate of this Bill represents a blot on the functioning of the Indian Parliament. The Bill was first presented to the Lok Sabha by the H.D. Deve Gowda government in 1996. Male members from several parties opposed the Bill on various pretexts. Subsequently, both the NDA and United Progressive Alliance governments have reintroduced the Bill in successive Parliaments, but without any success. Although the Rajya Sabha did pass the bill in 2010, the Lok Sabha and the State legislatures are yet to give their approval – despite the 24 years that have passed since it was first presented in the Lok Sabha.

Steps to reducing prejudice
Of course, there is a simple fix to the problem. The major party constituents of the NDA and UPA alliances can sidestep the logjam in Parliament by reserving say a third of party nominations for women. This will surely result in increasing numbers of women in legislatures and subsequently in cabinets. The importance of this cannot be overstated. There is substantial evidence showing that increased female representation in policy making goes a long way in improving perceptions about female effectiveness in leadership roles. This decreases the bias among voters against women candidates, and results in a subsequent increase in the percentage of female politicians contesting and winning elections. So, such quotas have both a short-term and long-term impact. Indeed, voter perceptions about the efficacy of female leadership may change so drastically in the long run that quotas may no longer be necessary!

Bhaskar Dutta is Professor, Ashoka University. The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Parley in Parliament
It is sad that the quality of parliamentary events is deteriorating with each session. It is true that the present BJP government enjoys a majority that bestows on it the right to decide on the course of governance and also bring in policy changes in the interest of the nation. However, the entire fulcrum of parliamentary democracy rests on the majesty of acceding a proportional share of opinion to the other political parties. The party in power has a

larger responsibility vested in it to ensure that it makes sincere efforts to strive for political consensus and accommodation on major policies. Political and strategic differences may not pave the way for a smooth course, but that should not come in the way of attempting to transact governance, and by muting the Opposition. People expect a government with a majority and confident of its governance to display better valour in upholding parliamentary traditions.

N. SEKAR,
Salem, Tamil Nadu

■ The Opposition has all the rights to oppose and defend Bills, but not in a violent manner. There are ways and means to register its protest in a dignified manner. Given the short monsoon session, the Opposition should have debated the issues in an established way.

VAISHNAVI R. PATIL,
Kalaburagi, Karnataka

FCI's grain preservation

The cartoon (OpEd page,

September 22) conveys a

very misleading picture

about the Food Corporation of India (FCI). The FCI, as the central nodal agency

responsible for the procurement, storage and distribution of foodgrains across India, does so maintaining the highest level of standards in maintenance and preservation. The cartoon gives the impression that the FCI's preservation and maintenance of food grain stocks are of very low standards, leaving valuable foodgrains at the mercy of rodents. Damage of foodgrains in the FCI's storage during 2020-21 (as on August 2020) was hardly 0.004% against the total quantity of 338 lakh metric tonnes foodgrains. In the pandemic period, the

distributed by the FCI. Even this meagre quantity happened because of natural calamities such as floods, and not rodents. Despite the FCI's voluminous operations and multi-level handling, the losses in storage are currently zero; the losses in transit, while transporting foodgrains across thousands of kilometres, from procuring centres to consuming centres, have also been very low during the past few years as a result of focused operations and scientific preservation techniques. In the pandemic period, the

FCI has made foodgrains available to fair price shops not only under the Public Distribution System but also under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKY). The FCI has moved 9,637 rakes (train loads), transporting almost 270 LMT foodgrains (since March 2020), which is way higher than its operations in normal times.

R.D. NAZEM,

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (SOUTH),

FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA,

Chennai



To read more letters online, scan the QR code

The mental health needs of the homeless

An integrated approach that is in place in Tamil Nadu will ensure that the lives of those on the fringes matter



VANDANA GOPIKUMAR & J. RADHAKRISHNAN

As many as 66.1% of those worst affected in India during the Spanish Flu belonged to oppressed classes and suffered the consequences of multidimensional poverty. Similar trends persist today. The inability to adhere to public health protocols that prescribe distancing and use of hygienic products, the absence of private toilets and basic amenities, and the lack of adequate nutrition are all realities in lower- and middle-income countries. Amongst those most affected are homeless persons and the ultra-poor, many of whom are employed in the informal sector. They are exposed to greater adversity against the backdrop of intergenerational social disadvantage and lack of social security.

Health shocks could precipitate a downward spiral into a state of not just homelessness, but also hopelessness. Globally, unpreparedness to handle the pandemic and near collapse of the health systems denied our ability to focus on health. Many countries have attempted to make amends for the unjustifiable perpetuation of structural barriers and inequities. However, are we awakened to the needs of our poor only during a disaster? The pandemic has made a sound case for increased investments in the health and social sectors. States must also re-examine the role of social determinants of health in perpetuating unjust structures that normalise deprivation. A person's social context and health intersect to help achieve a better quality of life. Relative poverty and its correlation to stress, mental health and well-being have been evidenced. While distress cannot always be pathologised, data suggest that deaths by suicide and common mental disorders have also been on the rise during the pandemic.

Distinctly deprived
Within this context, distinctly deprived are homeless persons living with a mental illness. They are at risk



Patients of the Institute of Mental Health visit the Marina Beach in Chennai in 2019. ■ M. VEDHAN

of violent victimisation, assault and long-term incarceration. In India, close to two million individuals sleep rough; 35% of them live with one or the other mental health concern.

The presence of homeless persons with mental illness elicits a range of responses from a desire to help, triggered by evocation of pity or sympathy, to wilfully wishing them away or shunning them from mainstream society. Historically, in a limited context of religiosity associated with renunciation and hearing voices (considered unique to the saint), a few were deified; however, the majority were feared, found to be repulsive and often treated as objects of ridicule. This has resulted in their occupying a lowly place in society's hierarchical structure even today.

Pathways into homelessness include abject poverty, conflict, natural or man-made disasters, lack of access to health and mental health care, social hardships, disruptions in care-giving and domestic violence. In India, homeless persons with mental illness are also the largest number of long-stay patients in State mental hospitals. Besides a few exceptions, services for this under-served group are scarce globally. As they are susceptible to physical co-morbidities and co-occurring substance misuse, and unshielded against the consequences of homelessness, malnutrition, sexual violation, loss of support networks and kinship, homeless persons find their longevity impacted. Further, their experience of loneliness and hyper-segregation contributes to their low sense of self-worth and shrunken group identity, wea-

kening their collective ability to influence change. Additionally, we unfortunately inherited a legacy of name-calling and large and unwieldy lunatic asylums and poor houses from the colonial era which got off to an altruistic start but were later ridden with inadequacies and often deployed as punitive measures to initiate 'reform'. Inadequate care staff resulted in a grossly overwhelming caregiving climate. Fortunately, strong resistance has been built against parochial practices which are giving way to newer dimensions of therapeutic and social care. However, much remains to be done.

A person-centric action plan
UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres's call to "step up for the vulnerable" cannot be more timely. The UN set up a fund of \$2 billion to alleviate the distress of the ultra-vulnerable, including those living with disability or chronic illness. Along similar lines, the Tamil Nadu government, taking cognisance of the mental health needs of homeless persons, will take to scale Emergency Care and Recovery Centres (ECRC) that will support the treatment and community inclusion of this vulnerable section in 10 districts (in addition to the five districts where ECRCs were set up in 2018). The Department of Health, the National Health Mission, the Institute of Mental Health in Chennai, and The Banyan, a mental health care establishment, in partnership with multi-sectoral service providers, will together pursue the goal of improving mental health access and mitigating social and oppor-

tunity losses.

Three hundred bed spaces will be earmarked for homeless persons in psychosocial distress, with a capacity to service more than 1,000 people a year, in smaller and integrated care units in district hospitals and/or social care centres. Early enrolment into care may result in reduction of exposure to harm, injury and starvation, and better prognosis. An integrated approach may also help address stigma associated with this group. Additionally, facilitation of social needs care and livelihoods may reduce the recurrence of episodic homelessness, critical to sustaining and enhancing well-being gains. Three sectors – the government, development and corporate sectors – will partner to ensure that the lives of those who live on the fringes matter. The mental health team that anchors the Centre may also lend further support to the District Mental Health Programme, and offer counselling support to address mental health issues in the context of the pandemic.

However, we must remember that issues of homelessness and mental ill health even independently present intractable problems; in combination, one may confront ethical dilemmas and emerging constraints and challenges. We realise that the ECRCs are not a panacea to all distress undergone by homeless individuals, and that we cannot frame the problem within a restrictive and normative orientation. Incorporation of heterogeneity of experiences and multi-modal approaches to care, which are embedded in values of accountability and integrity and take into account variegated distress markers, maybe critical for the evolution of newer meaning-making around social and psychiatric phenomenology. More importantly, these care paradigms have to be informed by the long overdue voice of the 'subject in distress'. While this is a powerful start to acknowledge the need to focus on minority mental health, we also hope to benefit from feedback to further build on care plans and mental health systems for the vulnerable.

Vandana Gopikumar is Co-founder, The Banyan and The Banyan Academy of Leadership in Mental Health, and J. Radhakrishnan is Principal Secretary, Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Tamil Nadu

The BJP's widening social base

Securing largely upper caste-OBC alliances has propelled the BJP to great heights and has also impacted Dalit politics



VIKAS PATHAK

against 'Brahmanical' Hindutva, evoking the discourse of Bahujan (the majority), they would win.

In 1993, the SP and the BSP defeated the BJP soon after the demolition of the Babri Masjid on the strength of the Bahujan discourse. However, that alliance came apart within two years. When the two parties came together again in 2019, the BJP defeated them on its own, securing the support of the upper castes and large sections of the OBCs and thus creating a new Bahujan, as it were. The non-Yadav OBCs felt that the Yadavs were reaping the fruits of social justice and wanted to vote for the BJP. The BJP seems to no longer need alliances in the State.

In U.P., the BJP portrays the Muslims primarily, and then the Yadavs, as the 'other'. In Haryana, the Jats, who are the dominant caste, are projected as the 'other'. In Maharashtra, the Marathas are the 'other'. The BJP is thus able to attract many upper castes, OBCs and even some Dalits.

Impact on Dalit politics

These models of largely upper caste-OBC alliances have propelled the BJP to great heights. They have also impacted Dalit politics. A prime driver of Dalit politics since the 1980s was the need for greater representation. Power, it was believed, was crucial for Dalit uplift as Dalits lacked the resources to be able to rise without representation.

The sudden widening of the BJP's social base under Prime Minister Narendra Modi has convinced established Dalit leaders that the BJP is here to stay. They believe that transacting with the party is now a necessity. In Bihar, Mr. Paswan has supported the BJP for some years now. Jitan Ram Manjhi, a symbol of non-Dusadh Dalit politics, also supports the party. In U.P., Ms. Mayawati has softened her approach towards the BJP. In 2019, Ramdas Athawale told Parliament that he supported the BJP as he had seen which way the wind was blowing. The message is thus clear: unless there is a serious challenge to the BJP at the Centre, Dalit leaders have to be open to supporting the BJP on many issues.

The belief that a Dalit-Muslim alliance can defeat the BJP is a romantic one held by some liberals. The fact is that prominent Dalit faces like Mr. Paswan are with the NDA today. And strident Dalit critics of the regime like Chandrashekhar Azad are electorally untested.

Vikas Pathak teaches at Asian College of Journalism, Chennai

The people of nowhere

Those excluded from the NRC in Assam are left with no forum to even assert their 'right to have rights'

TANISHK GOYAL

In 1943, Hannah Arendt began a narrative that had the potential to confer a sense of identity on millions of people who faced the misfortune of not only having lost a home, but also the impossibility of having to find a new one. She challenged the framework that made access to citizenship the sole prerogative of the state. Through this framework, the ideas of ethical and racial homogeneity were propagated. This subsequently linked the idea of being a rights-bearing individual to the concept of citizenship. More specifically, the narrative of citizenship being the sole prerogative of the nation state linked the idea of a rights-bearing individual to the idea of belongingness to a particular formalised political community.

Inclusion, a precondition
The predicaments that such an idea brought with itself were acknowledged by Arendt, when she recognised the inefficacy of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. She said that in order to be entitled even to basic human rights, a person is required to be something more than just a human being. The person is required to be a member of a political community which can enforce her other civil, economic and political rights. Arendt emphasised on this right to inclusion in a political community which prece

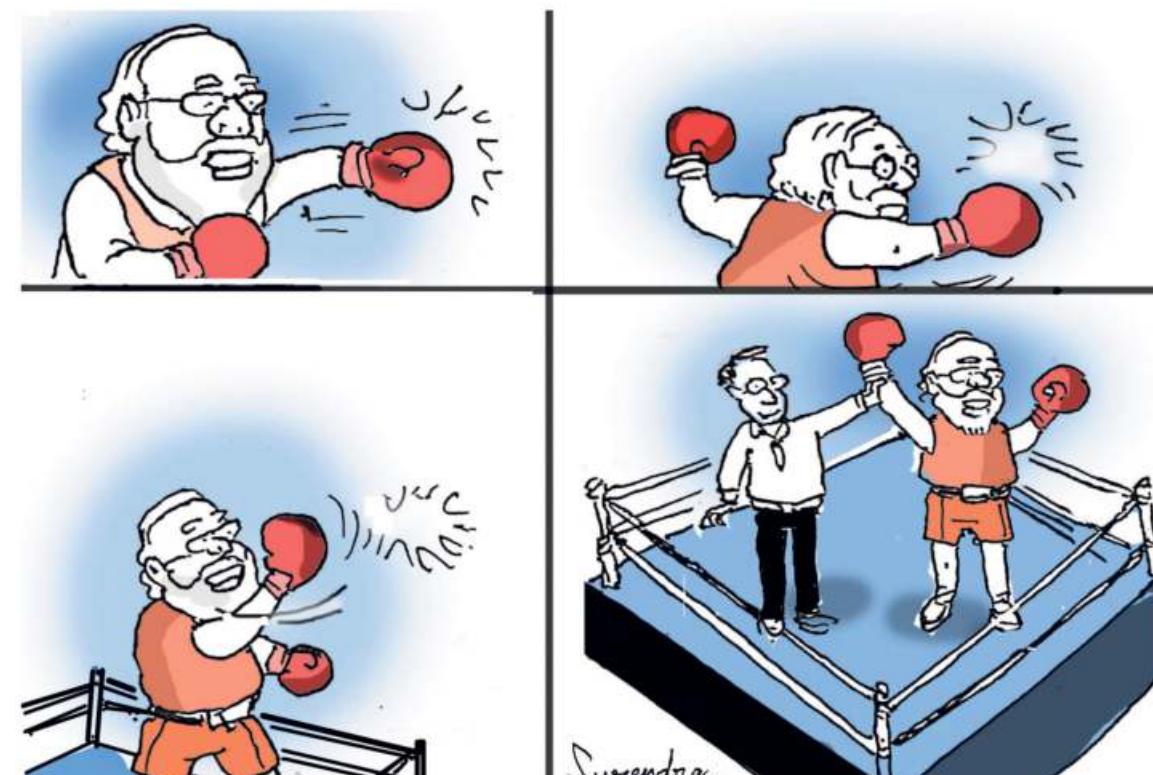
des even the most basic of human rights and phrased it as the "right to have rights". This premise stemmed from the fact that a right without a corresponding remedy or means of enforcement is practically meaningless. Against this backdrop, she apprised the world of the plight of the stateless who have been denationalised or denaturalised, and whose very need for a validating community or the right of inclusion has inclusion as its precondition.

This is problematic as it reinforces Arendt's argument that it is possible for humans to exist in a place called nowhere. This is due to the twin effects of the lack of a validating community which will accept these individuals (unless there is an agreement to the effect with the alleged country of origin) and the sheer impracticality of the rightless laying claim to a community from which they have been wilfully excluded. To add on to this, the flawed determination procedures of the Foreigners Tribunal have also ensured that such individuals are also precluded from the ostensible protection of a social order.

Natural rights theorists assert that basic rights should be available even if only a single human being remains on earth, but history demonstrates that resistance and political mobilisation are the first steps towards asserting such rights. This asymmetry is neither new nor unprecedented. It is just a constant reminder of the world order we live in, where the "rightlessness of the stateless is assumed, rather than asserted, let alone argued."



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DATA POINT

A drop in testing

The number of new COVID-19 cases in India recorded a significant fall in the five days after consistently breaching the 90,000 mark on several days earlier this month. The drop in cases could be due to a significant decrease in the number of tests conducted. In at least 10 States, there was a sharp fall in the number of tests conducted in the last 10 days despite an increase in the share of people testing positive.

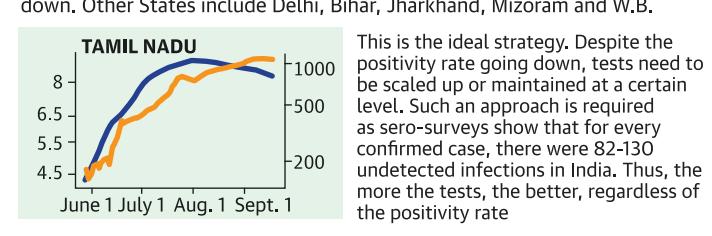
By Sumanth Sen, Naresh Singaravelu and Vignesh Radhakrishnan

1. RAPID FALL IN TESTS | Over the last 10 days, the number of new COVID-19 tests conducted per million people in India has been declining rapidly. While the share of people testing positive (positivity rate) has remained high and even increased a little over the last five days, the number of tests per million people dropped from 811 to 722 over the last 10 days. The share of positive tests is hovering around the 8.5% mark.

2. AMONG STATES | Not all States recorded a decline in tests. They can be classified into three types based on their recent testing levels

THE BAD | In Maharashtra and Assam, tests are going down, while the share of positive cases is going up. Using such a strategy would mean missing a lot of positive cases. Other States in this category include Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, M.P., Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, Chhattisgarh and Karnataka

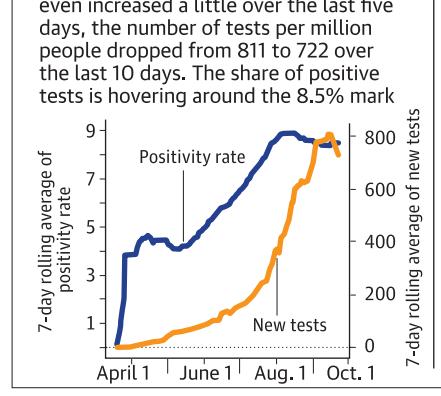
THE GOOD | In T.N., tests are going up, while the positivity rate is going down. Other States include Delhi, Bihar, Jharkhand, Mizoram and W.B.



MIDDLING STATES | In Gujarat and Telangana, tests are dropping, but the share of positives is also going down. In these States, tests should be maintained at a certain level, if not increased, to ensure that the share of positives does not necessarily go down due to decreasing testing levels

■ In Andhra Pradesh, tests as well as the share of positives are rising. Such States need to increase their testing levels to capture more positives. Nine other States are following this trend: Haryana, J&K, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, U.P. and Kerala

LAST WORD | The positivity rate varies widely based on the method of testing. For instance, over the past seven days, 81% of tests in Delhi were Rapid Antigen Detection Tests (RADT), which are not as reliable as RT-PCR tests. RADTs can register as many as 50% 'false negatives'. In Tamil Nadu, RADTs are not used. Thus, while the positivity rate in T.N. may be closest to the actual rate, the same cannot be said about Delhi. The share of RADTs in select States is as follows: A.P. (54%), Chhattisgarh (68%), Karnataka (42%), W.B. (55%), Mizoram (25%), Nagaland (7%)



The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 24, 1970

Selection basis unconstitutional

A Division Bench of the Supreme Court has unanimously held that the unit-wise system of selection, adopted by the Tamil Nadu Government in regard to admissions to the first year integrated M.B.B.S. course in the State medical colleges for the year 1970-71, is unconstitutional, being violative of the fundamental rights under Articles 14 and 15. The court further held that the impugned selections were not validly made, and that the interviews conducted by the selection committees constituted for the purpose were not held in accordance with the relevant rules. The Bench also held that the interviews were invalid for the reason that the committees took into consideration irrelevant matters, and at the same time failed to take into consideration matters required to be taken into consideration (prescribed under the relevant rules governing the interviews).

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPT. 24, 1920

Imperial Secretariat

(From an editorial)

In view of the coming changes in the administration of India, the reorganisation of the Imperial Secretariat is a subject of some interest to the public. The Government of India have considered the proposals of the Committee which recently investigated the question and accepted the major part of its recommendations, some for immediate execution, some for tentative examination and the rest for eventual adoption. The Committee's proposals begin with a scheme for the readjustment of departments and a new allocation of business. It is proposed, for instance, to amalgamate the civil agencies dealing with public health under the Education Department; education and public health will thus be two sections of one department, each section under the charge of an expert, with the connecting link providing in a common Secretary. Each of the two sections will be assisted by an Advisory Board which is to have the privilege of addressing and interviewing the Viceroy and will be represented, at the Viceroy's discretion, in meetings of the Executive Council that deal with the respective questions of each section. Another recommendation of the Committee relates to the reunion of the allied subjects of Commerce and Industry and the creation of a separate Department of Ways and Communications to co-ordinate the duties of the Postal, Telegraphic and Transport departments.

FROM PAGE ONE

CAG: Rafale vendors yet to confirm tech transfer

To develop the Indian defence industry and bring in high technologies, the offset policy was adopted in 2005 for all defence capital imports above ₹300 crore under which the foreign vendor is required to invest at least 30% of the value of the contract in India.

The Rafale deal signed in September 2016 has a 50% offset clause to be discharged by the four French partners – Dassault Aviation, MBDA, Safran and Thales. Dassault Aviation has set up a joint venture with Anil Ambani's Reliance Defence – Dassault Reliance Aerospace Limited – in Nagpur to manufacture components for the former's civil jets. The MoD informed the CAG that the offset obligations of the vendor are to start from September 23, 2019 and the first annual commitment would have to be completed by September 23, 2020.

Auditing the offset policy in defence deals, the CAG said that from 2005 till March 2018, 46 offset contracts were signed with fo-

reign vendors, valued at ₹66,427 crore, of which, by December 2018, ₹19,223 crore worth of offsets should have been discharged by the vendors.

"However, the offsets claimed to have been discharged by them was only ₹11,396 crore, which was only 59% of the commitment," the report said.

Further, only 48%, or ₹5,457 crore, of these offset claims submitted by the vendors were accepted by the Ministry. "The rest were largely rejected as they were not compliant to the contractual conditions and the Defence Procurement Procedure," the CAG said.

The remaining offset commitments of about ₹55,000 crore would be due to be completed by 2024 but the rate at which the foreign vendors have been fulfilling their offset commitments was about ₹1,300 crore per year. "Given this situation, fulfilling the commitment of ₹55,000 crore by the vendors in the next six years remains a major challenge," the federal auditor stated.

SC grants relief to Facebook official

"I have a right to remain silent. The right to free speech under [Article 19] includes the right to not speak. I work for an American company. I am an outsider and I do not interfere with your [Assembly's] working... You cannot compel me to come. There is a serious threat here in breach of privilege," Mr. Salve argued Mr. Mohan's brief.

Justice Aniruddha Bose, on the Bench, addressed Mr. Singhvi saying Mr. Mohan could raise his rights under Article 19 to keep silent "because you [Assembly] are compelling him to say something".

Mr. Mohan and Facebook have challenged the jurisdiction of the Assembly to summon him. The petition said the issue comes within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Union. It has asked

whether the privileges of the Assembly "include the power to compel the appearance of non-members to express their views or subject them to examination".

The petition has said a larger Bench should hear and decide whether a Committee of the Delhi Assembly can compel testimonies in issues of public order and police which are within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Centre under Articles 239 and 239AA(3)(a) of the Constitution.

It has contended that the Chairman of the Committee had held a press conference announcing that "Facebook should be treated as a co-accused" in the Delhi riots and that there was a "premeditated conspiracy between Facebook, rioters and anti-social elements" shortly before the first summons was issued.

NCB summons Deepika, five others in drugs case

Some allegedly incriminating WhatsApp conversations involving Ms. Padukone and her manager and employee of Kwan talent management company, Karishma Prakash, had come in the public domain recently. On Tuesday, the agency summoned Ms. Prakash and Kwan's CEO Dhruv Chitgopkar for questioning.

Actor Rhea Chakraborty's talent manager Jaya Saha was questioned by the NCB earlier on September

21. Ms. Saha is also an employee of Kwan. In a statement to the NCB, a boater, Jagdish Das, had said that Sushant used to party at his Lonavla farmhouse with Ms. Chakraborty, Ms. Khan and others, where cannabis and alcohol were common.

The NCB has so far arrested 16 accused in this case, including Ms. Chakraborty, her brother Showik, Sushant's house manager Samuel Miranda and domestic help Dipesh Sawant.

Monsoon session ends in a flurry of protests

The parties had sent a common memorandum to President Kovind, urging him to return the Bills, arguing that their passage in the Rajya Sabha was flawed.

Sources said that Opposition parties were divided over whether to move the Supreme Court on the subject.

'Govt. to be blamed'
After meeting with President Kovind, Mr. Azad told presspersons that it was wrong to blame the Opposition for the pandemonium witnessed on Sunday in the Upper House.

"The government is to be blamed. They should have gone with the consensus," he said, referring to demands from 18 parties to not extend the time of the Rajya Sabha beyond 1 p.m.

Opposition parties' floor leaders in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday morning had decided to nominate Mr. Azad alone to meet the President. The President House had conveyed that only five leaders could meet him, owing to the physical distancing norms because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Opposition had moved five resolutions, two of which were asking to send the legislations – the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020; and the Farmers' Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill; and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, cleared by Parliament, calling it detrimental to the interests of farmers. The State has also objected to the manner in

which the Centre moved to enact them.

On Sunday, Agriculture Minister V.S. Sunil Kumar indicated that Kerala would associate with other like-minded States to oppose the Centre's decision.

Meanwhile, several farmer outfits in the State have announced support for the September 25 nationwide stir against the Bills.

Three Maoists killed in exchange of fire in Telangana

Shootout triggers tension in tribal-dominated district

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BHADRADRI-KOTHAGUDU

Maoists suffered yet another blow in Telangana's Bhadrachalam Agency as three Maoists, including two women cadres, were killed in an alleged exchange of fire with the police at the Chennapuram forest area in Charla mandal on Wednesday night.

The incident coincided with the ongoing CPI (Maoist) Foundation Week.

Two separate incidents of exchange of fire between the Maoists and the police – one in Palvancha mandal and another in Charla – took place in a span of less than five hours on Wednesday, sparking tension in the

VID-19 cases remained largely unchanged from recent trends on Tuesday at 2,296. Ten more patients died. While 55,892 people underwent tests, results of 1,388 were awaited.

The new cases included 321 from Greater Hyderabad, 217 from Rangareddy, 173 from Medchal-Malkajgiri, 155 from Nalgonda, 136 from Karimnagar, 99 from Warangal Urban and 92 from Siddipet.

Of the total, 29,873 were active cases, the Health department said.

Andhra Pradesh reported 7,228 new cases and 45 deaths on Wednesday, the Health Department said.

East and West Godavari districts accounted for 23.41% of the State tally. Chittoor, Kurnool and Anantapur, with 8.80%, 8.50% and 8.43% cases respectively, accounted for another 25.73%.

For the first time in two months, the daily death toll

COVID heroes

Despite the risk of infections, frontline workers are not being provided the equipment they need to fight the virus. The graph shows the spread of the pandemic in the southern States.



was less than 50. The daily positivity rate of tests was 9.92% as 72,838 samples were tested.

East Godavari reported 1,112 new infections and four

new deaths while West Godavari reported 962 cases and four deaths.

Karnataka on Wednesday reported 6,997 cases. The number of deaths also

dropped to 38.

Bengaluru Urban reported 3,547 cases, taking the city tally to 2,04,275 and 23 deaths. Testing stood at 56,398 samples, including

21,394 rapid antigen tests.

Tamil Nadu achieved a milestone on Wednesday with over five lakh persons being discharged after treatment from various health facilities. As many as 5,363 persons were discharged taking the total number of those cured from the infection to 5,02,404.

On the same day 5,325 persons were newly diagnosed with COVID-19 infection. The tally of those who have tested positive for the infection now is 5,57,999. The number of deaths rose to 9,010 with 63 more deaths being recorded in the State in a day. As many as eight deaths were recorded in the city's hospitals. As on date 9,868 persons are under treatment, either at home or in hospitals.

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

Fish eye



Big catch: Huge inflows into the Prakasam Barrage bring cheer to fishermen (not in picture) as they lift a net full of fish from Krishna river in Vijayawada on Wednesday. ■ V.S. GIRI

May move SC against farm Bills: Pinarayi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala government is exploring the possibility of moving the Supreme Court against the controversial farm Bills introduced by the Centre, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said on Wednesday.

The matter had come up in the Cabinet and the Law Department was looking into it, Mr. Vijayan said.

Kerala had opposed the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill; the Farmers' Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill; and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, cleared by Parliament, calling it detrimental to the interests of farmers. The State has also objected to the manner in



Pinarayi Vijayan

which the Centre moved to enact them.

On Sunday, Agriculture Minister V.S. Sunil Kumar indicated that Kerala would associate with other like-minded States to oppose the Centre's decision.

Meanwhile, several farmer outfits in the State have announced support for the September 25 nationwide stir against the Bills.

Kerala govt. orders probe into foreign-funded housing scheme

Oppn. leader wants CBI probe, quits Life Mission task force

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Wednesday announced an inquiry into the allegations of corruption in the Life Mission-UAE Red Crescent agreement to construct 140 dwellings for the poor in Thrissur entirely on foreign aid of ₹20 crore.

Life Mission is a housing project initiated by the State government for the homeless.

The Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau (VACB) would conduct a preliminary inquiry to find out if the facts of the case revealed a cognisable offence. It would also probe whether the public exchequer suffered any

loss and examine if Life Mission had violated any laws that govern the transaction with a foreign entity.

Bribery allegations

The deal had come under a cloud after a court filing revealed that the UAE consulate-linked gold-smuggling case suspect Swapna Suresh had received ₹1 crore as brokerage for nudging the contract in the direction of a particular builder. Later, two Ministers alleged that the builder had bribed the smuggling case suspects to get the contract. Life Mission had said the UAE Red Crescent had contracted the builder. The government had no say in it.

BJP leader K. Surendran said that with this probe, the government wanted to sabotage the investigation by three Central agencies into the deal. The move came in the backdrop of the allegation that Mr. Vijayan's family had illegally benefited from the deal, he said.

Mr. Vijayan had repeatedly turned down his request for a copy of the MoU. Hence, he had quit the Life Mission Task Force where he was a special invitee, he said.

Mr. Vijayan had quitted the task force on Wednesday, taking the blame for the probe.

Seeking a CBI probe, Leader of the Opposition Ramesh Chennithala said the VACB had no competency to inquire a case that involved a foreign charity and spanned international borders.

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Opposition leader wants CBI probe, quits Life Mission task force

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
TIRUMALA

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy donated a pair of 'silk vastrams' to Lord Venkateswara on behalf of the State government on Wednesday in connection with the annual Brahmotsavams currently under way at the shrine.

Syllabus reduction not official yet, says BIE
HYDERABAD
After reducing the syllabus by 30% for this academic year and officially releasing it, the Board of Intermediate Education (BIE) has decided to put the decision on hold stating that the competent authorities were yet to ratify.

In a statement here, the BIE Secretary said that no lessons related to national heroes, social reformers and prominent personalities were removed.

Minister Sunil Kumar tests positive for COVID-19
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Agriculture Minister V.S. Sunil Kumar was admitted to the Government Medical College Hospital here after he tested positive for COVID-19, according to his office. Mr. Kumar is the third Minister in the Kerala Cabinet - after Finance Minister T.M. Thomas Isaac and Industries Minister E.P. Jayarajan - to be diagnosed with COVID-19.

the APMCs. The Bill would enable farmers to sell their harvest anywhere without the intervention of the APMCs. Companies too can directly from farmers.

A debate on the Bill is expected in the House on Thursday, amid protests by farmers.

Three Maoists killed in exchange of fire in Telangana

Shootout triggers tension in tribal-dominated district

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BHADRADRI-KOTHAGUDU

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The incident coincided with the ongoing CPI (Maoist) Foundation Week.

Two separate incidents of exchange of fire between the Maoists and the police – one in Palvancha mandal and another in Charla – took place in a span of less than five hours on Wednesday, sparking tension in the

State's tribal-dominated district.

Continuous setbacks

The outlawed outfit had suffered major setback earlier this month when three of its cadres were killed in separate "exchange of fire" in the district. Since then, tensions have escalated in the Agency areas of the district.

On Wednesday, Maoists opened fire on a police team during an operation in the reserve forest area in Palvancha mandal at 1.45 p.m., the police said. After a brief exchange of fire, the ultras escaped into the forest leaving one SBL gun, kit bags, a solar plate and other materials at the spot, the police added.

An intensive search is under way for the Maoists.

Not convinced: Police detaining farmers during a protest in Bengaluru on Wednesday. ■ K. MURALI KUMAR

APMC Bill tabled in Karnataka Assembly

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

INTERVIEW | GAJENDRA SHEKHAWAT

'Govt's intent and success in terms of delivering has to be taken on board'

Jal Shakti Minister advises the Opposition 'to read the farm Bills before stoking fears that farmers will suffer through these much-needed reforms'

NISTULA HEBBAR

Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Shekhawat speaks on the three farm Bills that have elicited protests from the Opposition and farmers' groups, and some reservations in bodies affiliated to the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).

What was the spur for bringing in these farm Bills first as ordinances and later as Bills?

■ These policies have been thought through. The National Farmers Commission was set up when Atalji [former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee] was Prime Minister; the first report came around 2004; the fourth [report] in 2006. Not only the recommendations of this Commission but also that of the Swaminathan Commission were gone through threadbare and, since I was Minister of State for Agriculture in the last government, I can say this with responsibility that I myself went through all these recommen-

ations. The recommendations were in multiple stages, to reflect the change in India's status from a food deficit to a food surplus nation. Right from land reforms, which we worked on first with the Assured Income Purchase Bill and Farmer Producers Organisations, were all part of it.

We have to plan ahead, what we can do today with conviction, tomorrow we may have to do under compulsion. The Bills are based on recommendations of Commissions set up by successive governments and I would advise the Opposition to read the Bill before stoking fears that farmers will suffer through these much-needed reforms. The assured in-



What can be done with conviction today, tomorrow we may have to do under compulsion

MSP cannot be seen in isolation.

When I was the Agriculture Minister, the guarantee given by the government to NAFED [National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited] for the procurement of pulses was ₹9,000 crore, now it is up to ₹75,000 crore. The procurement was of ₹3,000

crore in 2013-14, now it is at ₹75,000 crore.

The Congress is playing the same game it played during the Citizenship Amendment Act issue – which is to misguide our minority citizens that this Act had anything to do with them or their citizenship.

But what about the reservations from SJM and BKS?

■ I don't think these are huge obstacles, the BKS has a few apprehensions but we have tried to resolve their issues.

The system in the RSS verticals is that the feedback is filtered from the ground up, and when farmer groups were being roused by the Opposition parties, this is filtered to the leadership of the BKS. I myself have spoken to Dinesh Kulkarni and have said that I am ready to speak to everyone. Just now I spoke to the mandi representatives

of entire Rajasthan and I can tell you that they are satisfied with what I have explained to them about the Bill. Why is this unrest mainly in Punjab? I can tell you of my personal experience as a farmer – I have some land in Jodhpur and some in Gangangan bordering Punjab. The land in Gangangan gives a better yield obviously due to assured irrigation, better practices etc., but the homestead there is always in some debt, whereas with less yield my lands in Jodhpur are debt free. This is the situation in entire Punjab. This is because of the ecosystem of the adhatiya [trader] attached to the mandi, he is both the financier of farmers and also the facilitator – there is a circle of soft credit, settled against these high-yield crops, which the adhatiya extends to you for not just farm related but non-farm related expenses at interest rates as high as 24%.

Credit is extended because the land is fertile, for things not strictly farm-related either, and binds the farmer to one adhatiya for decades. The protests reflect the anxieties of the adhatiyas rather than the farmers.

The farm Bills will break such circles of credit, of farmers being indebted to one adhatiya in the area, and the ecosystem of being chained to one market, one trader or one area. It will mean liberation for not just the farmers but also the traders, who can now look beyond local mandis.

But why not send the Bills to a Select Committee to build consensus?

■ Let me tell you my experience. I brought the Dam Safety Bill and the Inter River Water Dispute Bill – these were earlier in process for 20 years – it was tabled thrice in Parliament, it went once to

the Departmental Committee, once to a Select Committee, and the third time the Lok Sabha term had ended. It was cleared unanimously in the Lok Sabha, but just before it was to be taken up by the Rajya Sabha, Punjab objected. Till now, it's hanging fire.

There are some things that require a lot of deliberations and discussions, there are some that [have] proven to be good measures. When the National Farmers Commission with such a vast consultation has come up with recommendations, to ask for it to go Select Committee, etc., is nothing but a time-killing exercise.

Lastly, the Modi government backtracked and scrapped the Land Acquisition Ordinance in its first term after push back. Do you see that happening this time?

■ No way. No way.

Constitution of J&K still in force, says MP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

SRINAGAR

National Conference (NC) MP and former judge Hasnain Masoodi on Wednesday said the J&K Official Languages Bill, 2020 was against the constitutional propriety because it was a consequence of the J&K State Reorganisation Bill, which is under the scrutiny of the Supreme Court.

"Parliament is not competent to abrogate the Constitution of the State by bifurcating it into UTs," Mr. Masoodi said. The Constitution of J&K was still in force and Urdu, the official language under the Section 145, "is still the official language". "The constitutional propriety demands that the J&K Official Languages Bill be taken back as a mark of respect for the country's judiciary and principles of parliamentary democracy," he stated.

The Bill, which was passed by both Houses, has included Kashmiri, Dogri and Hindi in the list of official languages of J&K in addition to Urdu and English.

Labour Bills passed amid boycott

Changes meant to help workers, industries and other stakeholders, says govt.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI



Near empty: Proceedings under way in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday in the absence of Opposition members. ■PTI

The three Bills that merge 25 laws were passed by the Lok Sabha on Tuesday. The first of the four codes, the Code on Wages, was passed by Parliament in 2019.

Speaking in the Rajya Sabha, Labour and Employment Minister Santosh Kumar Gangwar said the passage of the Bills would balance the needs of workers, industry and other stakeholders. Referring to the empty Opposi-

tion benches, Mr. Gangwar said it wasn't a new thing that the Congress was absent, adding that the party had not worried about workers in the past.

Responding to concern that the Industrial Relations Code had imposed a 14-day notice period for strikes, Mr. Gangwar said: "The government has not taken away the workers' right to strike."

The notice period gave

the two parties a chance to resolve the dispute, he added.

The Minister said the changes in the labour laws were needed for the welfare of workers and promotion of industries. He said for the first time, 50 crore workers of the organised and unorganised sectors as well as the self-employed were covered under minimum wage and social security laws. Plat-

form and gig workers were covered under the Social Security Code as well, giving the government the power to formulate social security schemes for them.

The IR Code will allow companies with under 300 workers to decide on termination and other service conditions of employees without prior approval, as opposed to companies with less than 100 staff as of now.

Eight Bills passed on last day of Rajya Sabha

Upper House adjourned sine die; Bills passed amid Opposition boycott

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Rajya Sabha was adjourned sine die on Wednesday, clocking a productivity rate of over 100%, even though it was one of the shortest monsoon sessions with only 10 sittings held.

On Wednesday, the House passed eight Bills in less than four hours as the Opposition boycotted the proceedings over the manner in which two farm Bills were passed on Sunday. Chairman M.

Venkaiah Naidu said the session was being concluded eight sittings ahead of the 18 planned sittings, as the COVID-19 pandemic continued. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was present in the House when Mr. Naidu made the concluding remarks.

"In the 10 sittings, 25 bills were passed and six bills introduced. The productivity of the House during this session has been 100.47%. As against the scheduled available time of 38 hours and 30

minutes, the actual functional time of the House has been 38 hours and 41 minutes," Mr. Naidu said.

There were some areas of concern, Mr. Naidu said. He appealed to all members, "from the depth of his heart", to ensure that such unseemly behaviour was not repeated. "To protest is the right of the Opposition... The floor of the House is the most effective way, and not through boycott".

During the day, the House

passed the following legislation – the Foreign Contribution Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2020; the Jammu and Kashmir Official Languages Bill, 2020; the Bilateral Netting of Qualified Financial Contracts Bill, 2020; the Occupational Safety Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020; the Industrial Relations Code, 2020; the Code on Social Security, 2020; the Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2020; and the Appropriation (No.4) Bill, 2020.

'Mehbooba denied access to leaders, phone'

Iltija Mufti files fresh plea in SC, says key Opposition leader jailed for over a year

PEERZADA ASHIQ

SRINAGAR



Mehbooba Mufti was arrested on August 5 last year. ■

The plea argued that "several grounds of detention, including the dossier, are stale, vague and that they suffer from non-application of mind, malice in law and violate the provisions of Section 8(3)(b) of the PSA".

Booked under PSA

"We have decided to challenge both the PSA order and the extensions. My mother's detention is illegal and ques-

tional in a democracy. A key Opposition leader has been jailed for over a year without recourse to trial," Ms. Iltija told *The Hindu*.

Ms. Mufti was arrested on August 5 last year and booked under the PSA in February this year.

On the SC's earlier notice to the J&K administration on

Ms. Mufti's detention, Ms. Iltija said the J&K government "is yet to even file a reply and shows the respect it has for the courts and the SC".

The plea highlighted the treatment meted out to Ms. Mufti. "She has been deliberately kept out of bounds for party people," Ms. Iltija said.

The plea said Ms. Mufti's Gupkar Road residence has been converted into a subsidiary jail and "she has not been allowed any visits by her close relatives barring a solitary visit by her brother and her sister's husband on August 19 this year despite multiple requests".

It also claimed that Ms. Mufti's sister Rubiya Sayeed "has been treated like an anti-social element, in being disallowed to stay at the resi-

dence of Ms. Mufti and her mother".

"Ms. Mufti has not been accorded a chance to attend to her duties as the president of the PDP. Even party officials and cadre who had applied to visit her on several occasions have not been granted permission."

The plea also claimed that the treatment meted out to Ms. Mufti continued "to have little access to the world outside and even her access to the landline telephone and Internet has been illegally and unreasonably disconnected".

The plea also claimed that Ms. Mufti continued "to have little access to the world outside and even her access to the landline telephone and Internet has been illegally and unreasonably disconnected".

Tenders are invited from reputed manufacturers / authorized dealers for supply of the following materials through e-Procurement Portal. The details are as mentioned below:

e-Tender No:MPVL/MAT/2020-21/IND443 - e-Tender Notification for supply of Silver Nitrate, 1 item and Estimated value Rs.2.67 Crore.

Interested parties may visit www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in for participating in the tender. Last date for submission of Tender/Bids is 05.10.2020 at 17:00:00 hrs.

Technical Bid Opening on 09.10.2020 at 15:00:00 hrs. For Mysore Paints and Varnish Ltd.,

DIPR/DDMYS/MCA/500/2020-21

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40% toilets in govt. schools non-existent, unused: CAG

Over 1.4 lakh of them were built by 53 CPSEs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI
Public sector units claimed to have constructed 1.4 lakh toilets in government schools as part of a Right to Education project, but almost 40% of those surveyed by the Comptroller and Auditor-General were found to be non-existent, partially constructed, or unused.

In an audit report presented in Parliament on Wednesday, the CAG said over 70% did not have running water facilities in the toilets, while 75% were not being maintained hygienically.

The Swachh Vidyalya Abhiyan was launched by the Human Resource Development Ministry in September 2014 to meet the Right to Education Act's mandate that all schools must have separate toilets for boys and

girls. Lack of dedicated funds, poor maintenance and poor water availability in toilets were identified as major challenges, and central public sector enterprises (CPSEs) were roped in to bridge the gap over a one-year period.

Physical survey

There are 10.8 lakh government schools in the country. Overall, more than 1.4 lakh toilets were built by 53 CPSEs, with significant support coming from power, coal and oil companies.

The CAG audit conducted a physical survey of a sample of 2,695 toilets built by these companies in 15 States.

Out of that sample, CPSEs identified but did not construct 83. Another 200 toilets were reported to be constructed, but were

non-existent, while 86 toilets were only partially constructed.

Another 691 toilets "were found not in use mainly due to lack of running water, lack of cleaning arrangements, damages to the toilets and other reasons like use of toilets for other purposes, toilets locked up, etc," said the audit report.

Thus, almost 40% of toilets were non-existent, partially completed or unused.

No functional toilets

Out of the 1,967 coeducational schools surveyed, 99 schools had no functional toilets while 436 had only one functional toilet, meaning that the objective of providing separate toilets for boys and girls was not fulfilled in 27% of the schools, said the CAG.

CMs can call lockdowns: Modi

PM says micro containment is the way to go, with minimum disruption to life

NISTULA HEBBAR

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday told Chief Ministers of seven States most affected by COVID-19 that imposing local lockdowns for a day or two and their efficacy was entirely their call, while urging them to intensively monitor, at block level, 60 districts with the highest infection rates.

The Chief Ministers of Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, New Delhi, and Uttar Pradesh attended the video meet as did Home Minister Amit Shah and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

"The lockdown that was imposed across the country has helped in gaining some measure of control over infection rates and boosting capacity. But from now on, micro containment is the way to go, with minimum disruption to everyday activity. State governments should take a call on their own whether local lockdowns for a day or two have been efficacious," said Prime Minister Modi.

He also informed the Chief Ministers that the go-

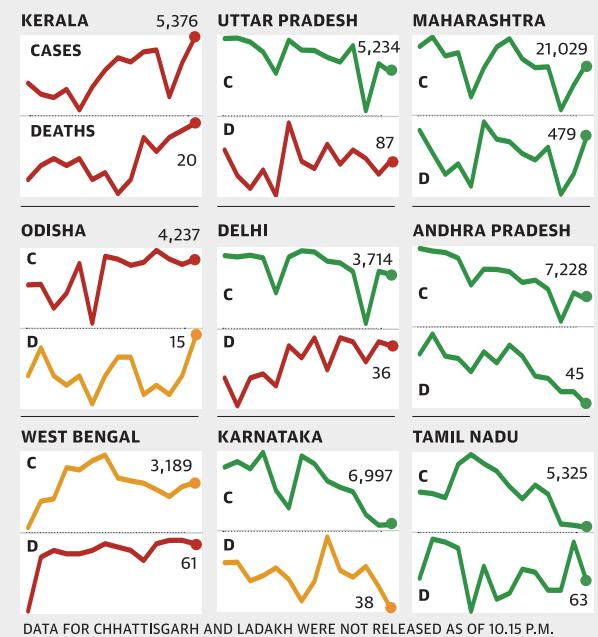
Viral tracker

With 84,200 COVID-19 cases recorded on Wednesday, India's tally stood at 57,27,660. As many as 1,113 new deaths were registered, taking the toll to 91,188. The graphs depict new cases and deaths in the last 14 days in select States. The States are classified based on where cases/deaths are rising red; falling green; or showing a mixed trend orange.

NEW CASES AND DEATHS

CASES	84,200
7 DAY-CHANGE	-9.7%
DEATHS	1,113
7 DAY-CHANGE	-3.2%

DATA FOR CHHATTISGARH AND LADAKH WERE NOT RELEASED AS OF 10.15 PM. ON WEDNESDAY



vernment had raised the amount that State governments can use out of the State Disaster Relief Fund (SDRF) on combating COVID-19 from 35% to 50%.

He said there was no shortage of oxygen in the country, but States needed to pool resources to make up for shortfalls in certain areas through supply from others.

"Inter-State movement of goods and services needs to be streamlined further," he said.

"In all, there are 60 districts spread across these seven States that have a disproportionately high burden of the disease. I feel that if Chief Ministers, for a period of seven days, intensively track the strategy to deal with the

disease from the block level upwards, it will go a long way in gaining the upper hand," he said.

He emphasised that the use of masks was very important and needed to be pushed through aggressive messaging. "I know it is difficult to make it a part of everyday living, but we must push this," he said.

CBI books former Visva-Bharati Vice-Chancellor on graft charges

FIR has been registered following a preliminary inquiry

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI
The Central Bureau of Investigation has booked a former Vice-Chancellor of Visva-Bharati University, Santiniketan, in West Bengal's Birbhum on multiple charges of corruption.

The FIR has been registered following a preliminary inquiry into three complaints, lodged with the Central Vigilance Commission in 2012-13, alleging financial irregularities by Prof. Sushanta Dattagupta, the then Vice-Chancellor of Visva-Bharati University. He was removed from the post

in 2016.

The CBI inquiry, started in July 2018, revealed that Prof. Dattagupta allegedly received excess payment of more than ₹13.38 lakh by suppressing the information that he was receiving pension from his earlier employment with the Jawaharlal Nehru University in Delhi.

The Executive Committee headed by him wrongly fixed his basic pay at ₹80,000 per month and he was, therefore, paid an excess amount of over ₹2.38 lakh.

A private law firm in the name of Sinha & Co. was en-

gaged to handle the university's legal matters. It charged "excessive" legal fees in comparison to the firm/counsel engaged earlier. The subordinate hierarchy of the university brought it on record again and again that the rates quoted by the firm were very high and the university did not have the commensurate budget allocation. However, it is alleged, the rates quoted were ultimately approved by Prof. Dattagupta.

From April 2012 to February 2015, the university paid over ₹77.93 lakh as legal fees, said the agency.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

With oxygen shortage reported from several parts of the country in the wake of rising COVID-19 cases, the government has allowed the domestic movement of liquid oxygen and last week, a virtual control room was set up to coordinate with the State governments on oxygen supplies.

Citing the urgent need to move sufficient oxygen at short notice from surplus areas to deficit areas, the Commerce and Industry Mi-

to deal with regional disparities in availability. On September 11, it advised the States to refrain from posing restrictions on inter-State movement of liquid oxygen and last week, a virtual control room was set up to coordinate with the State governments on oxygen supplies.

In a recent hearing in the case, the court observed that a message should go out to the media that it cannot make a religious minority the target of its attacks. The dignity of a community was as important as journalistic freedom.

"We want a cohesive nation. We as citizens and judges are concerned about national security but we are also equally concerned about protecting human dignity... We as a court know what happened in the Emergency. So, we want a free flow of ideas. But we are also equally conscious about the right to dignity of a community", Justice Chandrachud had observed orally.

nistry on Wednesday allowed the Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation to grant online permits for deploying ISO tank containers to move liquid oxygen.

ISO tank containers are built to standards specified by the International Organisation for Standardisation for Standardisation, and are designed to carry liquids in bulk. The stainless steel tankers have several protective layers and an ISO tanker can carry 20 tonnes

Show-cause notice issued to Sudarshan TV

Content of its programme 'Bindas Bol' accuses Muslims of 'infiltrating' civil services: govt.

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Union government on Wednesday informed the Supreme Court that a show-cause notice had been issued to Sudarshan TV under the Cable TV Network Act against the content of its programme 'Bindas Bol', which accuses Muslims of "infiltrating" the civil services with the help of funding from terror-linked organisations abroad.

On September 15, a three-judge Bench led by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud stayed the further telecast of the programme episodes. Four episodes had been telecast by the time the court issued the injunction.

"Had the court not intervened, the programme would have been over by now," Justice Chandrachud told Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who in-

formed the court about the notice issued to the Hindi channel on September 23.

Mr. Mehta said the court's intervention is usually seen as a last resort. The court agreed to the law officer's submission to defer further hearings in the case. The channel has been given time till September 28 to respond to the show cause notice.

The court directed the go-

Had the court not intervened, the programme would have been over by now

D.Y. CHANDRACHUD
Supreme Court judge

overnment to submit a report on the outcome of the notice. However, it said "further steps in pursuance of the notice shall be subject to the result of proceedings and orders of this court".

Meanwhile, the September 15 injunction on the telecast of the programme would continue. The Bench is examining questions, including the point beyond which free speech in the media crosses the Rubicon to breach the dignity of a community.

The court is also examining the larger aspect of strengthening the self-regulatory mechan-

ism for electronic media. It had observed that the manner of portrayal of the Muslim community in 'Bindas Bol' was "plainly hurtful".

In a recent hearing in the case, the court observed that a message should go out to the media that it cannot make a religious minority the target of its attacks. The dignity of a community was as important as journalistic freedom.

"We want a cohesive nation. We as citizens and judges are concerned about national security but we are also equally concerned about protecting human dignity... We as a court know what happened in the Emergency. So, we want a free flow of ideas. But we are also equally conscious about the right to dignity of a community", Justice Chandrachud had observed orally.

The court is also examining the larger aspect of strengthening the self-regulatory mechan-

Don't allow hate speech in media, says Sashi Kumar

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Hate speech in media should not be allowed to be disguised as free speech or religious freedom by majoritarian forces, veteran journalist Sashi Kumar said in an intervention application in the Supreme Court.

Creating communal disharmony and hatred is an offence under Section 153A of the Indian Penal Code. A crime cannot be camouflaged as the right to free speech, Mr. Kumar, represented by advocate Kaleswaram Raj, argued.

Mr. Kumar said it was "important to guard against the State not only when it curtails the freedom of speech but also when it encourages hate speech in the guise of freedom of expression which is against the ideology of the Constitution".

of liquid oxygen. "This permission has been given for one year initially to expediently deal with the emergency situation. Amid the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the movement of oxygen within the country through the ISO containers shall greatly enhance the translocation of safe and fast movement of oxygen through road network," the Commerce and Industry Ministry said in a statement.

(Under Ministry of Labour & Employment Govt. of India)
Plot No. 1, 5th Main, Yeshwanthpur Industrial Suburb,
PEENYA, BENGALURU-560 022
Phone: 080-23579467, E-mail: ms-peenya.kag@esic.in

NOTIFICATION OF WALK-IN INTERVIEW

Walk-in Interview on 06.10.2020 for engagement of Senior Residents (On Contract) at ESIC Hospital, Peenya, Bengaluru.

The details are available on our official website site

www.esickar.gov.in, www.esic.nic.in and

www.esichospitals.gov.in

Sd/- Medical Superintendent

Notice inviting E-tender

Guruvayur Municipal office
South Nada,
Guruvayur, P.O, Pin - 680101
EL-1697/20 Construction of Street shopping complex - 5,41,41,000/- Window No. M13547/2020,

E-5-1094/3/20 Townhall extension (MLA Fund) - 95,00,000/- Window No. M13532/2020

For more information visit

www.guruvayurmunicipality.lsgkerala.gov.in, www.tenderskerala.gov.in, www.lsgkerala.gov.in

22.09.2020 sd/- SECRETARY

TIRUNELVELI CITY MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

E.Tender and Sealed Two cover system
Tender Notice No. 24/2020-21

1	Tender Inviting Authority Designation, Address	Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Tirunelveli.
2	Name of Work:	Integrated Urban Development Mission 2020-21 (Road Works) Package I : Rs.4.40 Crores
	Estimate Cost & EMD	Package I Total Estimate Cost : Rs.4.40 Crores EMD : Rs.4.40 Lakhs
3.	Website Address	https://tenders.lsgkerala.gov.in (Tender document available from the above website at free of cost)
4	Date and Time for the Bid document available	From 28.09.2020 to 28.10.2020, upto 3.00 PM
5	Due date and time for submission of bids	28.10.2020 upto 3.00 PM
6	Place, Date and time of opening of bids	Tirunelveli Corporation main office : 29.10.2020 at 3.30 pm

DIPR/3595/TENDER/2020 Commissioner, Tirunelveli Corporation

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT PROJECTS CIRCLE, THANJAVUR

TENDER NOTICE (ONLINE ONLY)

Tender Notice No.04/2020-21/SDO/ Dated: 21.09.2020.

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu Percentage Tender (Two Cover System) will be received by the Superintending Engineer (H) Projects Circle, Thanjavur for the Construction of Bridge work under CRIDP 2018-19 scheme in respect of Trichy (H) Projects Division upto 3.00 pm on 28.10.2020 through online only.

Details of work, Approximate value of work, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details are available from 24.09.2020 3.00 pm onwards in the Government website <http://tntenders.gov.in>. If any changes / corrections etc in the tender, it will be published on the above website only.

Superintending Engineer (H) Projects Circle, Thanjavur.

DIPR/3565/Tender/2020

TAMIL N

With intrepid surfers and a curious new set trying their hand at the sport, the surf shacks along Tamil Nadu's East Coast Road, have just about time to capitalise on what is left of the surf season this year

Surfing over troubled waters

PRIYADARSHINI PAITANDY

Trust a surfer to know how to navigate through troubled waters. At a time when the pandemic had forced surf schools across India to temporarily shut down, Palani, from Covelong village, seized this opportunity to set up his own school.

Bidding goodbye to his job as head instructor at Surf Turf, he launched Soul Mate in April. This new addition takes the tally of surf schools along the East Coast Road that runs from Chennai to Mamallapuram, to six.

"People wonder why I launched in the middle of Corona," says Palani. "I felt a surge of confidence. Starting this school had been my dream for three years," he says. For now, he stocks equipment at his

home and commutes to two nearby beaches to teach. Starting with two students in April, the numbers have risen to 30 over the past few months. On some days it is a 13-hour shift: 5 am to 6 pm. But the waters are therapeutic, he says.

Just like Palani, the pandemic could not put a brake on Murthy Megavan's plans either. The fisherman-turned-surfer, who is one of the catalysts of Chennai's surf scene, now runs Covelong Point Surf School independently. He has 10 instructors – nine from his fishing village and a new recruit from Tiruppur. Along with surfing lessons, the enterprising Murthy also serves breakfast. "During lockdown, the nearby restaurants were shut. The surfers were hungry. I discussed this idea with my wife. She makes *idlis* and prawn curry or *dal* and chutneys. The day I started, 12 people booked a surf-and-breakfast-on-the-beach package," he says and adds, "In a way Corona altered my life. I will build a formal structure for my school on a piece of land I bought. For now, my house doubles up as the storage unit."

Murthy's regulars are trickling back, averaging around 50-60 a week. During lockdown he taught his sons – aged seven and 12, his wife and a number of children from Covelong village to surf. The sport has be-



From waves to net surfing (Top)
Surfers work by the beach at Surf Turf; (below) kids learning the sport at Ocean Delight

• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

come a community activity. "Village kids know the ocean well because they are from fishing families. Over the years they have observed the other surfers here. I just give them tips."

Ever since surfing picked up in 2012, this is the first time that the East Coast has seen a lull during surf season: April to September. November is usually a slow month but it picks up in December, says Appu, a former fisherman, who in 2015 started Ocean Delight Surf School in Covelong, along with his friend Vicky. With lockdown now lifted, he is thrilled to have his clients back, but is careful about how many he takes at a time. "It's three per-

ople in one session," says Appu.

The good thing about surfing, he says, is even though the trainer is with the student in the water, they are positioned behind the student. The surfboard is around nine feet, so that ensures there is distancing too. "Even if it is 20 people in the water, they can spread out. The ocean is vast. And in this sport, you don't have to physically engage with each other."

Till early March, Ocean Delight received nearly 50 clients every month. Now it is limited to 25. Appu has also noticed a surge in new clients. There are families, entrepreneurs, and professionals in their twenties. Among his regulars is a French family that turns up every Thursday. "With work from home (WFH), people have more time to explore activities they hadn't earlier thought of," says Appu.

During lockdown, Appu's student Madhumita Rangarajan, a freelance photographer, unlocked an achievement. That of balancing on the board, without falling, for about 700 metres into the sea. The last two months have made her a better surfer, she says, adding "I see a remarkable difference." Twice a week, she drives from her home in Chennai to ECR, with her younger brothers to partake in what they describe as a wholesome family activity. "After all these years of being born and raised in this city, I am finally using the beach," she says.

For a lot of people, any sport in a closed room is still not an option, given the threat of COVID-19. Plus,

there is the added pressure of wearing a mask. "The view that confined spaces and air-conditioning may not be good, is helping us," says Arun Vasu, managing director, Surf Turf. After a temporary closure of almost four months, Arun reopened the school in July and the bay view restaurant in August. Many of his clients, after surfing, now settle down with their laptops in the open air restaurant and work.

The team at Surf Turf has been tested for COVID-19 and the management plans to keep testing every month. Clients are taken through bookings. "The ideal number is three per instructor and five if it is a family," says Arun.

Covelong village's homestays are normally bustling with guests from Mumbai to Melbourne, this time of the year. Though 2020 is quiet, Murthy and his neighbours are not disheartened. "It is better for them to come after the vaccine arrives," says Murthy. Besides, the coast is gradually filling up with local surfers, mostly from Chennai. "We've also got people driving down from Coimbatore and along the Madurai belt," says Arun.

Murali Panjanathan of Mumu Surf School in Mamallapuram says locals from surrounding villages kept the surf scene buzzing last month. His regulars also include doctors from Christian Medical College, Vellore, who drive down 135-odd kilometres on weekends just to surf. "This is de-stressing for them," he smiles, adding "And they need to do this now more than ever."



A shared sense of Tamil pride and resistance to language imposition has driven the demand for the 'Hindi Theriyathu Poda' T-shirts manifold



It's tee time (Clockwise from left)
Yuvan Shankar Raja and Shirish, Kanimozhi with her team and Prakash Raj • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

And that's the bottomline

SRINIVASA RAMANUJAM

In Tamil, 'Po da' is slang for telling someone to 'go away,' and not very politely at that. When this word, prefixed with 'Hindi Theriyathu,' was printed on a T-shirt recently, it quickly went viral.

Politician and DMK Member of Parliament, Kanimozhi Karuna-nidhi, says that when she printed a few T-shirts with the phrase and distributed it to friends earlier this month, she had no idea that it would become a phenomenon.

Film celebrities like Shanthu Bhagyaraj and Aishwarya Rajesh posted pictures wearing the T-shirt on social media. In Wisconsin, USA, a TikTok user (*thunder_cat21*) posted a video where he asks, 'Do you know Hindi?' to Walmart employees, only to get resounding, accented replies that went: 'Theriyathu, Poda!'

The movement is also spreading to other States; actor Prakash Raj recently posted a photo on social

there is no hesitation to learn Hindi. But it should not be imposed. What we are against is the notion that you are Indian only if you speak Hindi," she adds.

Face of resistance

Tamil Nadu's history with resisting Hindi imposition is well documented, and dates back to pre-independence days. In June last year, a clause recommending mandatory Hindi teaching in all schools was dropped from the draft National Educational Policy following backlash from Tamil Nadu.

I knew that people wanted to say the same thing, but I did not expect so many of them, especially youngsters, to support it. What people should understand is that this is not against any language... nobody minds learning a language when there is a necessity. When students go to Russia to study Medicine, they learn Russian. Likewise, if someone has to work in the North,

media sporting a similar T-shirt with Kannada lettering: 'Nange Hindi Baralla, Hogappa' (I don't know Hindi, Go!). "It was just an expression, that's all," says Kanimozhi, over a phone call.

The unexpected spurt in demand for

these T-shirts is spreading cheer in Tiruppur, Tamil Nadu's textile hub. B Karthikeyan's manufacturing unit in the district shut down when lockdown was imposed. He now finds new hope with the 'Hindi Theriyathu Poda' T-shirts.

"I worked with a buying agent and Kanimozhi's office to create a few T-shirts at first. Word started spreading and my number was circulated as the man behind the creation," says Karthikeyan. He has completed manufacturing 12,000 pieces so far, priced at ₹200 each.

Karthikeyan, who coordinates through WhatsApp and Google Pay for his orders, adds, "I've heard that there are people who buy from me and sell it for ₹500."

Over the last couple of weeks, more T-shirt designs inspired by the catchphrase have started popping up. "We are trying out other designs: one is a white T-shirt that says, 'I am a Tamizh Pesum Indian'. We tried out one with Periyar's face that says 'Jaathi Illai Poda' (There is no caste, go away), and another that said 'Ban NEET',

says Karthikeyan. However, the slogan that has caught everyone's fancy seems to be the one that is most direct. Karthikeyan speaks with disbelief as he says, "I just delivered 250 pieces of 'Hindi Theriyathu Poda' T-shirts to a client in California. The demand is unreal."



Oh, to be young again

'Kahaani' is the third single in When Chai Met Toast's debut album that is an ode to all the things that make us relive our youth, whatever our age

SWETA AKUNDI

What makes us feel young? It is a question that Kochi-based band When Chai Met Toast is exploring through its debut album, three years since they began dominating the Indian indie/folk pop scene in the country.

Recently released 'Kahaani', the third single in *When We Feel Young*, lets a gentle acoustic guitar and banjo fill in each other's silences. The sound is endearingly familiar to listeners of indie folk, but what's different this time around is that the lyrics are entirely in Hindi. Penned by Ankur Tewari – another favourite among Hindi-speaking crowds with a liking for quiet acoustics – 'Kahaani' is about "two nice people who just met at the wrong time," as vocalist Ashwin Gopakumar puts it.

"We felt the tune suited Hindi lyrics and once we had decided that, there was no better person than Ankur to pen the song," he says, adding, "In February, Ankur wrote the song on a napkin, during a flight, and sent us a picture of it. That's it; it didn't need many iterations."

A look at the song's comment section on YouTube – full of people claiming to call their exes after listening to this song – would make it seem that recognising 'the one that got away' (despite the vaguely abductor-like phrasing) is a rite of passage into adulthood.

And this throwback to youth is the overarching theme of the album; it is not so much about being young as it is the vagaries of moods that make us relive our youth. "Those emotions you have when you're young can come back to you even

Old and new The album has been over a year in the making • ATHUL PRASAD



if you're 20, 40, 50..." says Ashwin.

'Kahaani's restrained melody was preceded by an all out celebration in the form of the band's second song, 'Maybe I Can Fly'. Palee Francis's use of the synth and Pai Sailesh's drums evoke the rush of heady confidence in one's future.

The first song of the album is the eponymous 'When We feel Young' which has Ashwin singing of an ageless love. "That song was actually us looking at our parents and realising how good they are with each other," he says. This hit deeper especially after the pandemic, when they returned to live with their families after five years of gigs – Ashwin in Thiruvananthapuram and Palee, Sailesh and guitarist Achyuth Jaigopal in Kochi.

"I have seen how my parents got through the lockdown together," he says adding, "My father has retired but my mother hasn't. So he drops her to her work and picks her up every day, and in the evenings they share a drink and play Scrabble. If you have love like that, whatever be your age, you feel young."

The album has been a year-and-a-half in the making, reveals Ashwin. If not for the pandemic, the band would have headed to the US for recording and aimed at a June release. "Before the lockdown began, we already had three songs ready to be released."

And then, after a brief hiatus of staying at home, once travelling became easier again, the band met and decided to release the album anyway. "It was a bad time for everyone and we thought releasing new songs would make us all feel better." There are five more upcoming songs from the album and they are all being mixed and mastered currently; "The next one is called 'Ocean Tide,'" he adds.

CM YK

China vows to go carbon neutral by 2060

Beijing renews support for Paris accord, blames U.S. for 'obstructing' the global fight against emissions

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

BEIJING

The U.S. is guilty of "obstructing" the global fight against emissions, China said on Wednesday, as Beijing seized the climate agenda by vowing to go carbon neutral by 2060, a target welcomed by environmentalists despite its patchy detail.

The goals, which include a pledge to reach peak emissions in 2030, are the most concrete ones yet announced by China, which is the world's biggest polluter and accounts for a quarter of the planet's greenhouse gas emissions. They also open a new divergence in relations with the U.S., which are already pinched by squabbles over trade, tech, defence and human rights.

Speaking to the United Nations (UN) General Assembly, Chinese President Xi Jinping on Tuesday renewed his support for the Paris climate accord and called for a



Climate action: Xi Jinping's pre-recorded message playing at the UN General Assembly session on Tuesday. ■ AP

'green focus' as the world recovers from the COVID-19 crisis.

Under President Donald Trump, the United States, the world's second-largest polluter, pulled out of the agreement, blaming China for the stalled momentum on tackling global emissions.

"This clearly ... seriously obstructs the progress of reducing global emissions," China's Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said in a statement on Wednes-

day. "What qualifications does such a country have to criticise China," he asked, citing U.S.'s hunger for plastics and its export of waste.

In his speech to the UN, Mr. Xi said China aims to have "CO2 emissions peak before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060".

'Nuanced picture'

In addition to its embrace of global emissions-busting deals, China already feeds nearly 15% of its energy de-

mands with non-fossil fuels, Mr. Wang added. China's "installation of renewable energy stands at 30% of the world total," he said.

But experts say the picture is more nuanced, with massive investments continuing at home and overseas in coal and other fossil fuels.

China currently has 135 gigawatts of coal-power capacity either permitted or under construction, according to Global Energy Monitor, a San Francisco-based environmental group. This equates to about half the total coal-power capacity in the United States.

Welcoming China's pledge, EU commission president Ursula von der Leyen tweeted "a lot of work remains to be done".

The 2060 objective is still a decade later than the date set by dozens of small states as well as European powers. But it was applauded by experts as a significant step to

inject momentum into the Paris accords. Joeri Rogelj, a climate expert at Imperial College London's Grantham Institute, called Mr. Xi's pledge "unexpected and eye-opening".

Trump's criticism

Mr. Xi's tone at the UN contrasted sharply with that of Mr. Trump, who called the Paris accord unfair to the United States.

Mr. Trump said he is standing up for U.S. constituencies such as coal miners, and has loosened environmental rules, although individual States such as California have insisted on fighting climate change on their own.

"Those who attack America's exceptional environmental record while ignoring China's rampant pollution are not interested in the environment," the U.S. President said in his UN speech shortly before Mr. Xi spoke.

U.S. House panel holds hearing on rights in Asia

NRC and CAA were discussed in the session

SIRRAM LAKSHMAN

WASHINGTON

The restrictions in Kashmir, National Register of Citizens (NRC) and Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) were discussed at a U.S. House of Representatives subcommittee hearing on human rights in Asia. The Committee on Asia and the Pacific and Nonproliferation held, as it did last year, a hearing on the topic titled: *Stemming a Receding Tide: Human Rights and Democratic Values in Asia*.



Talking points: The dilution of Article 370 and terrorism in Kashmir figured in the talks. ■ FILE PHOTO

peal and undermined our ability to urge others to live up to the highest ideals,"

"Human rights and democratic governance have not only been central to the concerns of Congress, they've traditionally been core to the conduct of American foreign policy," said Chairman of the subcommittee, Ami Bera, who is an Indian American physician and Democratic lawmaker from California.

"The U.S. has its own faults and shortcomings when it comes to living up to our own values disparate treatment of communities of colour and immigrants to institutions increasingly influenced more by ideology than the rule of law," Mr. Bera said.

He said the U.S. recognises and welcomes feedback and suggested that countries in the region also welcome feedback and criticism.

"This is what part of being a mature democracy is," Mr. Bera said, echoing a sentiment he had expressed last year when he said India

should be allowing of criticism as it assumed a leadership role in the world.

"Although this hearing focuses on Asia, I cannot help but observe that the problems here on the home front have tarnished our ap-

also documented history of Pakistan trying to change the *status quo* through force and Pakistan-based terrorists active in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Terrorism has undermined every effort at peace in the last two decades, and continues to create insecurity," she said, acknowledging the "long-standing suffering" of Kashmiri Pandits.

On Sri Lanka, she said the country after a five year period of improvement (in terms of human rights and democratic values) was moving in the opposite direction with the return of the Rajapaksa government.

"Pakistan has struggled with democracy for much of its existence," Ms. Ayres said. Nepal and the Maldives, though facing challenges, were on an upward trajectory as regards human rights and democracy, she said, noting that the Nepalese government nonetheless faced pressures from China on the issue of Tibetan refugees.

The other two witnesses at the hearing were former U.S. Ambassador to Myanmar Derek Mitchell and former U.S. government trade and foreign policy official Daniel Twining.

G4 seeks time-bound reform of Security Council

India, Brazil, Japan and Germany agree to work with like-minded countries for 'concrete outcomes'

SIRRAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON

Foreign Ministers from the Group of 4 – India, Brazil, Japan and Germany – a group that is seeking permanent membership of the UN Security Council (UNSC), met virtually on Wednesday to further their objective. The four countries stressed delivering concrete outcomes, in writing and within a time frame.

"Participated in #G4 Foreign Ministers Meeting that called for a decisive push for UNSC reforms during #UN75.

Unanimous call for text-based negotiations in a fixed time frame. Reformed Multilateralism guides India's approach to the United Nations," External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar tweeted.

His counterparts at the G4 meeting were Motegi Toshimitsu (Japan), Niels Annen, (Minister of State representing German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas) and Ernesto Araújo (Brazil).

The Ministers reaffirmed their common resolve to "finally take decisive steps to-

wards the early and comprehensive reform of the Security Council that was envisaged by Heads of State and Government in the 2005 World Summit," as per a joint press statement released by the Ministry of External Affairs.

The G4 will work with "other reform-minded countries and groups" to start text-based negotiations (TBN) without delay and seek "concrete outcomes" during the 75th session of the UN General Assembly, which has just begun and

lasts until next September. "G4 Ministers reiterated support for each other's membership to the UNSC given the capacity and willingness to take on major responsibilities with regard to the maintenance of international peace and security", the statement said.

India, which, in January, will commence a two-year non-permanent term on the UNSC, has long sought a permanent seat at the Council and is a proponent of other UNSC reforms – such as increasing the number of per-

manent (currently five) and non-permanent (currently 10) seats and ensuring greater representation for Africa.

"Africa needs to be represented in both the permanent and non-permanent categories of membership of a reformed and expanded Security Council to correct the historical injustice against this continent with regard to its under-representation in the Security Council," the G4 countries said.

India is a proponent of text-based negotiations at the UN.

allyes following the August general election.

In introducing the 20th Amendment Bill, the government, led by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, is seeking to keep its poll promise to repeal the 19th Amendment, introduced by the former government in 2015, that clipped the President's executive powers, while empowering Parliament.

Reversing the 19th Amendment, its replacement envisions a more powerful executive, even as it reduces the Prime Minister's role to a ceremonial one, legal experts here have remarked.

India has been in turmoil since an alliance that swept to power in 2018, which was headed by Mahathir Mohamad and included Anwar, collapsed in February amid infighting.

In his response, Mr. Muhyiddin said, "Until proven otherwise, the... government still stands firm and I am the legitimate prime minister."

ciary are sought to be made subservient to the executive. That is unacceptable," TNA leader R. Sampanthan told *The Hindu*.

"Each arm of the government should be able to function independently, without

bias undermining each other," he added.

Leader of Opposition and SJB leader Sajith Premadasa earlier said tabling the Bill marked a "dark day for democracy".

Referendum needed' The thrust of the petitions, according to legal sources, is that the 20th Amendment Bill cannot be enacted without a national referendum since it impacts the "sovereignty of the people".

The Attorney General earlier ruled out the need for a referendum and said it could be passed with a two-thirds majority in Parliament. The government secured a comfortable two-thirds with its

nation has been in turmoil since an alliance that swept to power in 2018, which was headed by Mahathir Mohamad and included Anwar, collapsed in February amid infighting.

In his response, Mr. Muhyiddin said, "Until proven otherwise, the... government still stands firm and I am the legitimate prime minister."

For all tenders, e-Tender document for participation is available on www.tenderwizard.com/DAE.

Government of India DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY NUCLEAR FUEL COMPLEX Civil Engineering Division, 2nd Floor, Sarathi Building, ECIL Post, Hyderabad-500 062 (an ISO 9001, ISO 14001 & OHSAS 18001 Organization).							
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS/TENDER NOTICE (T.N.) NO.C/123/2020 & C/1234/2020							
Online item rate e-tenders in single/two envelope system are invited on behalf of the President of India by Dy. Chief Engineer (CED.PD&P) address mentioned above Phone No. 040-27184296 from eligible contractors for the following works.							

S. Tender No/Notice No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost (EC) (Rs. in Lakhs)	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (Rs. in Lakhs)	Dates for tender request up-to 2100 hrs	Last Date online submission of bids up-to 2100 hrs	Date of submission of hard copies at 14.00 hrs	Time of completion (months)
Two Envelope System							
1 C/123/2020	Construction of Security Barracks – Civil, Structural Steel, PH and other allied works for the construction of Security Barracks in CISF colony at NFC, Hyderabad	1160.00	21.60	28.09.2020 to 19.10.2020	28.10.2020	05.11.2020	18
Single Envelope System							
2 C/1234/2020	NUOFP Change Room – Civil, Structural Steel, PH and other allied works for construction of change room in NUOFP at NFC, Hyderabad	47.90	0.958	24.09.2020 to 08.10.2020	15.10.2020	20.10.2020	08

Detailed NIT is available on website www.nfc.gov.in. Bidders have to register for e-tendering which is compulsory for participating in tendering. For e-Tender details contact Sri Ramesh Kumar Cell No. 08971299009. For work at SJ no 1, Site Visit will be on 20.10.2020 & 21.10.2020. Tenders will be opened on the same day of date of submission of hard copies at 15.00 hrs, for S.No. 1 date for opening financial bid will be intimated subsequently to the qualified bidders.

M.P. WAREHOUSING AND LOGISTICS CORPORATION

Head Office : Office Complex, Block-A, Gautam Nagar, Bhopal-462023

Phone No. : 0755-2600148, 2600524, 2600518, 2600503

Website : www.mpwarehousing.com, E-mail : mpwlc.ho@mp.gov.in

Bhopal, Dated : 23 Sept., 2020

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

For

Invitation of Expression of Interest for Establishing Center for Perishable Cargo at Devi Ahilya Bai Holkar Airport, Indore in the State of Madhya Pradesh.

MPWLC has ambitious plans to set up Centers for Perishable Cargo at various airports in the State as an extension of its larger plan of establishing multi-modal logistics parks in the State and Logistics Hub of the Nation.

MPWLC now intends to establish the first Center for Perishable Cargo at Indore maximizing its unique locational advantage, well connected road, rail and air connectivity and a booming agro, pharmaceutical and manufacturing industry.

MPWLC therefore invites online proposals from competent and experienced Firms/Companies desirous of establishing Center for Perishable Cargo at Indore. The bid documents can be viewed from the website of MPWLC (www.mpwarehousing.com) and downloadable from e-procurement portal <http://mpntenders.gov.in> for a fee of Rs. 5,000.00 (Rs. Five Thousand only) from 24 Sept. 2020. All further details/revisions/amendments in context of this Bid Document will be available only thru above portals.

Bidders are requested to note the following important dates :-

- Pre-Bid Meeting
 - Last date and time for EOI submission
 - Date and time of EOI opening
 - Presentations on EOI by shortlisted Bidders
- a. 06th October, 2020 (Tuesday) at 11.00 hrs through video conferencing only. (VC details shall be uploaded at www.mpwarehousing.com and <http://mpntenders.gov.in>)
- b. Interested Bidders are requested to mail their queries on or before 03rd October, 2020 by e-mail to mpwlc.ho@mp.gov.in and bhanu.bitra@mp.gov.in
- On or before 27th October, 2020 (Tuesday), 11.00 hrs.
- On 28th October, 2020 (Wednesday), 14.00 hrs.
- Dates will be posted on MPWLC website and intimated individually to shortlisted Bidders.

M.P. Madhyam/98551/2020

MANAGING DIRECTOR

Navalny out of German hospital

He was being treated for poisoning



Alexei Navalny

Russian Opposition leader Alexei Navalny has been released from a Berlin hospital after over a month's treatment for poisoning, with doctors now believing that

MARKET WATCH

	PRICE	CHANGE
Sensex	37,668	-0.17
US Dollar	73.57	0.00
Gold	50,750	-1.13
Brent oil	42.13	0.50

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	324.60	-7.70
Asian Paints	1946.55	9.05
Axis Bank	419.75	7.75
Bajaj Auto	2986.20	0.35
Bajaj Finserv	5646.65	-35.65
Bajaj Finance	3243.85	-59.15
Bharti Airtel	433.80	-37.15
BPCL	387.65	-4.50
Britannia Ind	3624.90	36.90
Cipla	767.40	-10.25
Coal India	121.05	1.50
Dr Reddys Lab	5107.75	-60.20
Eicher Motors	2076.80	12.45
GAIL (India)	85.70	1.55
Grafix Ind	718.40	-10.70
HCL Tech	814.10	-6.90
HDFC	1667.10	-7.75
HDPC Bank	1047.25	11.85
HDLC Life	580.25	0.85
Hero MotoCorp	2956.75	-43.40
Hindalco	165.45	2.00
Hind Unilever	2052.55	25.75
ICICI Bank	351.85	-2.55
IndusInd Bank	528.05	-15.95
Bharti InfraNet	166.95	-13.45
Infosys	1019.75	12.25
Indian Oil Corp	75.95	-0.20
ITC	172.50	-1.70
JSW Steel	268.20	-3.70
Kotak Bank	1275.40	4.85
L&T	860.60	4.10
M&M	612.60	-3.20
Maruti Suzuki	6501.30	60.75
Nestle India Ltd.	15366.05	166.80
NTPC	85.10	-2.60
ONGC	67.65	-1.85
PowerGrid Corp	163.90	-4.90
Reliance Ind	2230.80	19.65
State Bank	183.80	-2.40
Shree Cement	18951.85	-30.60
Sun Pharma	502.90	-5.95
Tata Motors	131.40	-1.70
Tata Steel	361.30	-12.85
TCS	2467.45	-55.50
Tech Mahindra	793.05	-7.40
Titan	1117.20	12.75
UltraTech Cement	3869.15	-14.00
UPL	532.40	3.25
Wipro	314.85	2.60
Zee Entertainment	191.80	-5.30

EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
Euro	85.92	86.3
British Pound	93.37	93.78
Japanese Yen (100)	69.88	70.19
Chinese Yuan	10.81	10.86
Swiss Franc	79.79	80.15
Singapore Dollar	53.74	53.98
Canadian Dollar	55.09	55.33
Malaysian Ringgit	17.65	17.75

Source: Indian Bank

IN BRIEF

Toyota unveils compact SUV Urban Cruiser		
NEW DELHI		
Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) introduced its first compact sports utility vehicle (SUV) Urban Cruiser at a price range of ₹8.4-₹11.3 lakh (ex-showroom Delhi). The model promises a fuel efficiency of 17.03 kmpl for manual transmission and 18.76 kmpl for automatic transmission "Our entry into compact SUVs has come at a time when the segment has gained much popularity," said Masakazu Yoshimura, MD, TKM.		
Servify raises \$23 mn to boost global operations		
NEW DELHI		
Device after-sales management platform Servify said it has raised \$23 million in Series C funding round led by existing investor Iron Pillar. The funds will be used to scale up global operations and enhance its technology platform. Other investors who took part included Blume and Beenext. With this round, the total funding raised by the company is about \$46 million.		
Kotak gets extension as chairman of IL&FS		
MUMBAI		
The Centre extended the tenure of banker Uday Kotak as chairman of the scam-hit IL&FS till October 2, 2021. The union government took over the entity in 2018. A spokesperson for IL&FS said, "This extension is a step towards fulfilling the duty entrusted on the new IL&FS board to resolve one of India's largest financial sector challenges – comprising over 300 companies in the group."		
Mercedes-Benz unveils SUV coupe at ₹1.2 crore		
MUMBAI		
German luxury carmaker Mercedes-Benz introduced the all-new performance SUV AMG GLE 53 4MATIC+ Coupe at an all India ex-showroom price of ₹1.2 crore. Introduced for the first time in India, its offers more power and performance and replaces the AMG 43 Coupe in India. "The vehicle combines sporty elegance and powerful performance with good off-road capabilities," the firm said.		

'Centre retained ₹1.1 lakh cr. of cess receipts'

CAG points to shortfall in transfer to reserve funds from almost ₹2.75 lakh crore collected in 2018-19

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Centre retained in the Consolidated Fund of India (CFI) more than ₹1 lakh crore out of the almost ₹2.75 lakh crore collected in 2018-19 through various cesses, instead of transferring the receipts to the specified Reserve Funds that Parliament had approved for such levies, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India observed in a report.

Moreover, ₹1,24,399 crore collected as cess on crude oil over the last decade had not been transferred to the designated Reserve Fund – the Oil Industry Development Board – and had been retained in the Centre's coffers, the CAG reckoned.

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Compensation Cess, which has become a bone of contention between



States short changed: The GST compensation cess was also 'short-credited' by ₹40,806 crore in 2018-19, CAG said. •PTI

the States and the Centre, was also 'short-credited' to the relevant reserve fund to the extent of ₹40,806 crore in 2018-19.

'IGST accounting flawed' Separately, the CAG noted that erroneous Integrated GST (IGST) accounting also led to States receiving less

funds from the Centre. A sum of ₹1,001 crore collected as IGST was erroneously transferred and accounted as States' share of net proceeds of IGST instead of being apportioned between Centre and States. A balance of ₹13,944 crore was also left 'unapportioned' and retained in the CFI, 'even

though the amended IGST Act now provides for ad-hoc apportionment of IGST,' the CAG stated. "As a result, States received overall less funds on account of IGST," the audit concluded.

Designated funds

"The Union Government collected ₹2,74,592 crore from 35 cesses and levies in 2018-19. Under the scheme, such cesses and levies are required to be first transferred to designated Reserve Funds and utilised for the specific purposes intended by Parliament. However, only ₹1,64,322 crore was transferred to Reserve Funds/Boards and the rest was retained in the Consolidated Fund," the CAG noted in an audit report on Union Government accounts tabled in Parliament on Wednesday. In at least one case, no dedi-

cated fund was created for the surcharge levied on taxpayers. For instance, a 'Social Welfare Surcharge' on customs duties yielded ₹8,871.19 crore, but no dedicated fund was found for it.

As much as ₹1,015 crore of the Road and Infrastructure Cess collected during the year was neither transferred to the related Reserve Fund nor utilised for the purpose for which the cess was collected. Separately, the CAG said that a journal entry after the close of the year was used to transfer ₹10,250 crore from the Central Road Fund, recording the same as a non-tax receipt in violation of accounting procedures.

Similarly, ₹2,123 crore of Universal Service levy and ₹79 crore collected as National Mineral Trust levy was not transferred to the relevant funds.

'India must focus on reforms as high growth is not a given'

Growth needs continued action, says Warburg Pincus CEO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MUMBAI

India has tailwinds, such as its demographic advantage, to make it a high-growth economy, but the same cannot be considered foreordained and requires continued action, global private equity major Warburg Pincus CEO Charles Kaye said on Wednesday.

Implementing the reforms vision is the "principal challenge" for India, he said, specifying that both the challenges and opportunities for the country are domestic in nature. Warburg Pincus has invested \$5 billion in India since 1995. Its bets include HDFC, Kotak Mahindra

The challenges and opportunities for the country are domestic in nature, says Charles Kaye

Bank and Bharti Airtel, where it made handsome returns, setting a milestone for risk capital investing.

"India has all the powerful tailwinds of demography and so much else, but that's not destiny; it's not foreordained and requires continued vigilance and significant action to continue to take advantage of that opportunity," he emphasised.

Speaking at a business summit via video, he said In-

TTK Prestige forays into dining tableware market

Firm eyes ₹50-crore sales in two years

MINI TEJASWI

BENGALURU

TTK Prestige, a kitchenware company, is now stepping into the dining room for a bite of the ₹1,000-crore organised dining tableware market in the country.

"The dining tableware market is a very huge space and it complements our manufacturing capability as well," T.T. Jagannathan, chairman, TTK Group, told *The Hindu*.

"To test the market, we just launched stainless steel casseroles. We are expecting sales of ₹50 crore from this space in the next couple of years," he said.

Despite the disruptions caused by COVID-19, the kitchenware market had remained quite stable and the company witnessed a 5% increase in demand from



T.T. Jagannathan

MPL to triple propylene glycol output capacity

Firm will invest ₹150 cr., says Muthiah

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

Manali Petrochemicals Ltd. is setting up a ₹150-crore brownfield project to more than triple its annual production capacity of propylene glycol (PG), said a top official.

"We have drawn up an expansion plan to more than triple the annual production capacity of PG, from 22,000 tonnes to 70,000 tonnes, in two phases at an investment of about ₹150 crore," said Ashwin Muthiah, chairman, Manali Petrochemicals Ltd.

"The funding will be met through internal resources," he said

The board of MPL approved the proposal on Wednesday, which entails an investment of about ₹60 crore in the first phase that

will be completed in 18 to 21 months. Initially, the capacity will be expanded to 46,000 tonnes and later, by another 24,000 tonnes, taking the total volume to 70,000 tonnes.

Stating the additional capacity would increase the domestic market share of MPL, he said the expansion was meant to build local capacity, reduce import content and save foreign exchange outgo.

"We see this as a sustainable model, going forward," he added. The primary focus of the project will be to supply to two sectors viz. pharmaceuticals and food.

The growth in demand expected in future in these two sectors will help MPL meet its sales target post the expansion, according to M. Ravi, MD, MPL.

Railways dressed up FY19 figures

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Railways had resorted to 'window dressing' for presenting the working expense and operating ratio for 2018-19 in a better light, the CAG said in a report tabled in Parliament on Wednesday.

On responses of the public, LocalCircles said, 27% said they would never want to share their anonymised data, while 35% said they would be willing to do so only in a law and order or investigation situation. Only 30% said they could share the data with the government for general purposes.

"[About] 80% MSMEs and start-ups oppose non-personal data policy in its current form," the community social media platform said, sharing the findings.

"[They] believe permitting large businesses and



platforms to sell aggregate data for a price will not help them."

Over 31,000 responses – about 17,

Rohit, bowlers help Mumbai Indians open its account in the UAE

The team blows away Knight Riders to record its first win in the Gulf in seven attempts; Suryakumar chips in with the bat while Bumrah accounts for Russell, Morgan



A study in contrast: While Rohit Sharma is on the go during his knock of 80, Andre Russell is gone, bowled by a Jasprit Bumrah special. ■ BCCI/IPL



SCOREBOARD

MUMBAI INDIANS

Quinton de Kock c Naik b Mavi 1 (3b), Rohit Sharma c Cummins b Mavi 80 (54b, 3x4, 6x6), Suryakumar Yadav run out 47 (28b, 6x4, 1x6), Saurabh Tiwary c Cummins b Narine 21 (13b, 1x4, 1x6), Hardik Pandya hit wicket b Russell 18 (13b, 2x4, 1x6), Kieron Pollard (not out) 13 (7b, 1x4), Krunal Pandya (not out) 1 (3b); Extras (lb-2, w-11, nb-1): 14; Total (for five wkts. in 20 overs): 195.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-14 (de Kock, 1.2 overs), 2-25 (Narine, 4.5), 3-71 (Karthik, 10.1), 4-77 (Rana, 11.4), 5-100 (Russell, 15.1), 6-101 (Morgan, 15.4), 7-103 (Naik, 16.3), 8-141 (Cummins, 18.2), 9-146 (Mavi, 19.6).

KNIGHT RIDERS BOWLING

Warrier 3-0-34-0, Mavi 4-1-32-2, Cummins 3-0-49-0, Narine 4-0-22-1, Russell 2-0-17-1, Kuldeep 4-0-39-0.

KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS

Shubman Gill c Pollard b Boult 7 (1b, 1x4), Sunil Narine c de Kock b Pattinson 9 (10b, 1x6), Dinesh Karthik lbw b Chahar 30

rance – effectively with the ball. In fact, Pollard picked up his first IPL wicket since 2015 when southpaw Nitish Rana was caught well in the deep by Hardik Pandya.

With the run-rate mounting to almost 20 an over with five overs remaining, Knight Riders looked to Andre Russell and Eoin Morgan to pull off a miracle. But Jasprit Bumrah, running in at full steam, saw the back of both the dangermen in the 16th over to seal the deal.



Oh, no! Hardik Pandya is dismissed hit wicket by Andre Russell. ■ BCCI/IPL

Hit wickets in IPL

- Musavir Khote (MI) vs. KXIP, 2008
- Misbah-ul-Haq (RCB) vs. KXIP, 2008
- Swapnil Asnodkar (RR) vs. CSK, 2009
- Ravindra Jadeja (CSK) vs. Deccan Chargers, 2012
- Saurabh Tiwary (RCB) vs. MI, 2012
- Yuvraj Singh (SRH) vs. MI, 2016
- Deepak Hooda (SRH) vs. Delhi Daredevils, 2016
- David Warner (SRH) vs. KXIP, 2016
- Sheldon Jackson (KKR) vs. Rising Pune Supergiant, 2017
- Riyan Parag (RR) vs. KKR, 2019
- Hardik Pandya (MI) vs. KKR, 2020

Innings scan

MI	Dots	KKR
36	57	57
13	13	13
9	7	7
59/1	33/2	33/2
9.75	7.30	7.30

Next assignment

KKR: Sept. 26 vs. SRH
Abu Dhabi, 7.30 p.m. IST

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

IPL 2020
SPORTS BUREAU
Kolkata Knight Riders has been a favourite opponent for Rohit Sharma and his Mumbai Indians teammates. Once the captain continued his form against the Knight Riders, it became easier for the Mumbai outfit to continue its domination against the Kolkata side in the IPL at Abu Dhabi's Sheikh Zayed Stadium on Wednesday.

The comprehensive 49-run victory, set up by Rohit's rampaging 80 (54b, 3x4, 6x6) – his seventh 50-plus score versus KKR – and his quickfire 90-run second-wicket association with Suryakumar Yadav (47, 28b, 6x4, 1x6) – gave the defending champion not only its first win in the 13th edition, but also its maiden victory in seven outings in the Emirates.

Having won nine of the

previous 10 encounters, MI couldn't have asked for a better opponent than KKR to overcome a disappointing opening loss against Chennai Super Kings. Once KKR skipper Dinesh Karthik erred by persisting with pace for the first five overs, Rohit forced the Knight Riders to play catch-up.

Barring the wicket-maiden bowled early on by Shivam Mavi, the young pacer who was the pick of the KKR bowlers, nothing went the Kolka-

ta side's way. Suryakumar caressed Sandeep Warrier for four fours in the third over before Rohit welcomed Pat Cummins with two sixes in the fifth.

That set the platform for a leather-hunt and even after Suryakumar's needless run out in the 11th over, Rohit continued to clear the boundary at will. With most of the big-hitters chipping in with cameos, MI amassed a mammoth 195. Mumbai's Trent Boult started off with a mai-

den to Shubman Gill, showing that Rohit's men were on the money from the get-go. Where the Knight Riders had earlier persisted with bowling in the arc, the MI bowlers knew exactly what to do, especially bowling in the deep by Hardik Pandya.

Boult and James Pattinson not only stuck in the PowerPlay but never offered freebies, helping Mumbai tighten the screws. That enabled the side use Kieron Pollard – making his 150th IPL appear-

ance – effectively with the ball. In fact, Pollard picked up his first IPL wicket since 2015 when southpaw Nitish Rana was caught well in the deep by Hardik Pandya.

With the run-rate mounting to almost 20 an over with five overs remaining, Knight Riders looked to Andre Russell and Eoin Morgan to pull off a miracle. But Jasprit Bumrah, running in at full steam, saw the back of both the dangermen in the 16th over to seal the deal.

Kings XI will be keen to bounce back against upbeat RCB

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DUBAI

Kings XI Punjab will look to put behind it the controversial 'short run' decision in its IPL opener and start afresh when it takes on Virat Kohli's buoyant Royal Challengers Bangalore here on Thursday.

In Kings XI's opening game against Delhi Capitals, the square-leg umpire erroneously called the Punjab team's Chris Jordan for a 'short run' off the third ball of the 19th over, effectively costing his team the closely fought game.

KXIP went on to lodge an appeal to the match referee over the incident but, on Thursday, K.L. Rahul & Co. would like to forget the incident and focus on the task ahead.

Winning note

In contrast, RCB opened its campaign on a winning note, defeating Sunrisers Hyderabad by 10 runs.

Devdutt Padikkal started his IPL career on a classy note, hitting a sublime half-century and will once again be in focus, while A.B. de Villiers will also look to continue in the same vein following a crucial half-century.



Ravi Bishnoi. ■ BCCI/IPL



Yuzvendra Chahal. ■ BCCI/IPL

TODAY'S MATCH
KINGS XI PUNJAB vs. ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE
DUBAI, 7.30 P.M. IST
HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 24
RCB 12 | KXIP 12
In 2019
Played 2 | RCB 2 | KXIP 0
STAR SPORTS 1, 2 & SELECT 1 (SD & HD)

Yuzvendra Chahal, as always, will be the key man in the RCB bowling attack. The leg-spinner was instrumental in his team's victory over SRH on Monday, triggering a batting collapse.

For KXIP, leggie Ravi Bishnoi impressed against DC while Mayank Agarwal looked in imperious touch but was gutted as he couldn't get his team over the line.

Rahul, Glenn Maxwell and Nicholas Pooran will be expected to step up. Big-hitter Chris Gayle, who was left out of the opener for better

balance in the eleven, could be back and batting all-rounder Jimmy Neesham could also be given a chance.

Can play whatever role the team needs, says Finch

Aussie captain happy to be on the same side as Kohli, praises Padikkal for his show against SRH

ASHWIN ACHAL BENGALURU

These are early days, but in Aaron Finch and Devdutt Padikkal, Royal Challengers Bangalore seems to have found a solid opening combination.

In its IPL opener against Sunrisers Hyderabad, Finch and Padikkal put on a 90-run stand in quick time. The normally explosive Finch played second fiddle to debutant Padikkal, who took on the attacking role with aplomb.

"I can play whatever role the team needs. Dev (Devdutt) got off to a great start,

so it was my job to give him strike. On some days, that role might be reversed," Finch said in a media interaction on Wednesday.

Impressive

The Australian was full of praise for Padikkal, who impressed with a 42-ball 56. "Dev's composure under pressure was very important. At the start, he was a bit nervous, but he played his natural game. That was very impressive. Once the innings developed, he grew in confidence.

"He's an attacking bat-



Showing intent: Finch, in the company of Padikkal, gave RCB a flying start against SRH in its opening game. ■ BCCI/IPL

sman who has done well in domestic and under-19 cricket. In the middle, we spoke

about the game scenario, who we were matching up against, and what areas we

will look to target each bowler," he said.

Finch, the Australian captain, is happy to be on the same team as India skipper Virat Kohli.

"I have always had huge respect for how Virat goes about the game. He is very aggressive on the field in terms of his captaincy. His body language is great. Playing against him is a great challenge, because you have to be 100% committed all the time. Virat has got the better of teams I've played with in the past, so it's good to be playing with him for once."

Rayudu likely to miss one more game

CHENNAI: Ambati Rayudu, grappling with a hamstring strain, is likely to miss at least one more CSK game after not figuring in Tuesday's clash against Rajasthan Royals.

Rayudu will undergo assessment by the side's physio on Thursday morning.

SUDOKU
CHENNAI: The franchise's CEO K.S. Viswanathan was optimistic Rayudu would recover soon.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DUBAI

Marsh ruled out of IPL, Jason Holder included

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DUBAI

Sunrisers Hyderabad all-rounder Mitchell Marsh was on Wednesday ruled out of the IPL with an ankle injury he suffered in the team's opener against Royal Challengers Bangalore.

West Indies captain Jason Holder has been named as Marsh's replacement and is expected to join the Sunrisers

squad soon in the UAE.

This is the second time that Marsh has been ruled out of the IPL due to injury. The injury-prone cricketer had to pull out of the 2017 edition with a shoulder injury.

Holder, who played for Sunrisers in the 2014-15 season, last featured in the IPL for Kolkata Knight Riders in 2016.



Holder. ■ FILE PHOTO

13 Question a rising traitor in an Arabian land (5)

14 Alternate winter place with police chief missing (9)

16 For which an aspiring politician may want a party ticket (5,4)

19 Holy man depressed with hovel broken (5)

21 Can girl with light be excited? (7)

23 English aura is spread around a huge landmass (7)

24 Breakaway choir master leaving one male group of musicians (9)

25 I moan about a biblical character (5)

26 The old strenuously stay zestful (6)

27 It offers cold comfort, perhaps (7)

■ DOWN

1 What an enquiring person would do to get an answer (5,1,8)

2 If Turkish, it's sweet? (7)

3 Boast endlessly about ace singer such as Kishore (7)

4 Big electoral victory is ground-breaking (9)

5 Proud walk in support? (5)

6 Non-professional in a mature turn-out (7)

7 Fancy ring given to artist (7)

8 Fella gesturing could do with controlling own behaviour (4-10)

15 Little birdie and servant capture the French part of book (5,4)

17 Badly review American revolutionary's flair (7)

18 Son picks up response about eastern criers (7)

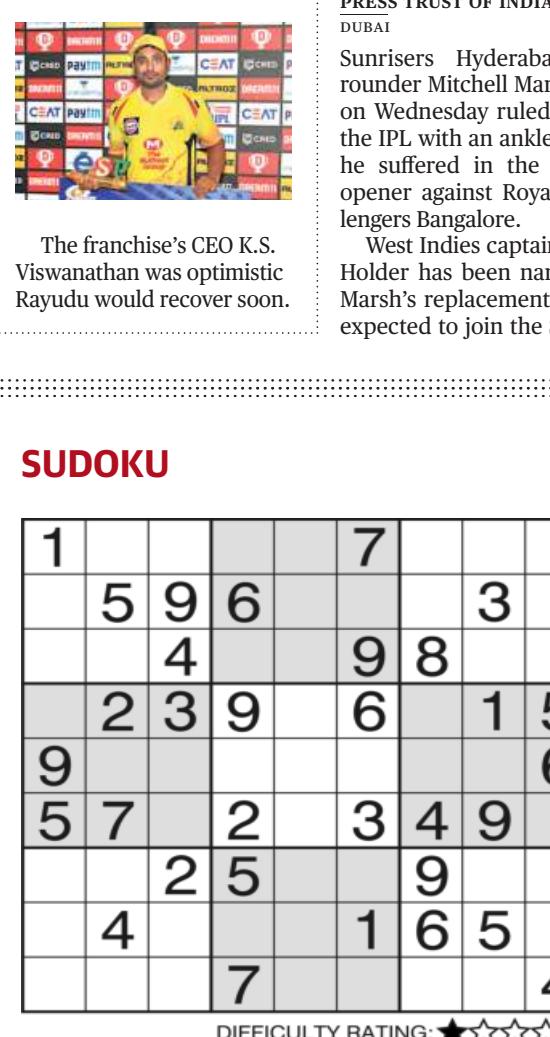
19 More calm visionary grabbing short French boy (7)

20 Rob uttered a falsehood accepting old afterword coming up (7)

22 Spotted cuckoo (5)

ACROSS
1 Revolutionary spoke about Chennai leader (7)
5 Seek clever incomplete group first (6)
9 One good bathroom in a summer house (5)
10 Sailor hurried back – I have the story (9)
11 Being noncommittal, not using capital, getting small fringes (7)
12 Felt uneasy holding cool, certain booty (3,4)

Clue 8 Down of puzzle 13048 by Gridman (run on 23/9/20) should have read 'Lectures by one in exchanges (7)'. Visit crossword.thehindu.com.



TV PICKS

NBA: Sony Six (SD & HD), 6 a.m.
Hamburg Open: Sony Six (SD & HD), 4 p.m.
PGA Tour: Eurosport (SD & HD), 12.30 a.m. (Friday)

IN BRIEF



Nuggets hold off Lakers

ORLANDO
Jamal Murray scored 28 points as the Denver Nuggets held off a ferocious late fightback from the Los Angeles Lakers to roar back into contention in the Western Conference finals series on Tuesday. Murray nailed two crucial late three-pointers in the closing minutes as Denver held on for a 114-106 victory in game three to reduce the Lakers lead in the best-of-seven series to 2-1.

The result: Western Conference finals: Denver 114 bt Los Angeles Lakers 106. Lakers lead 2-1.



Billy Donovan is new NBA Chicago Bulls head coach
LOS ANGELES
The Chicago Bulls named Billy Donovan as the team's new head coach on Tuesday, replacing Jim Boylen who was fired last month after the franchise's latest failure to make the playoffs. Donovan, 55, joins the Bulls after parting company with the Oklahoma City Thunder by mutual agreement earlier this month after his team was eliminated from the post-season. AFP



Thomas and Woods win in course exhibition
RIDGEWOOD (USA)
Justin Thomas won his six-hole singles match and was closest to the pin on the decisive final hole as he and Tiger Woods won an exhibition match that served as the grand opening of the Woods-designed Payne's Valley Golf Course. It was the first public course in the United States for Tiger Woods Design. PTI

Sudeva FC appoints Dorji as head coach

NEW DELHI
Bracing up for its maiden I-League appearance, Sudeva FC on Wednesday appointed Bhutan's Chencho Dorji as the head coach. Dorji is the first Bhutanese coach at the helm of any club in the history of the I-League. PTI



Wolves signs Barcelona defender Semedo
LONDON
Wolves announced the signing of Portugal right-back Nelson Semedo from Barcelona on Wednesday for a fee that could rise to £37 million. The Premier League club said the 26-year-old had signed a three-year deal at Molineux, with an option to extend it until 2025. The Portugal international, who made 124 appearances for Barcelona, joins Nuno Espirito Santo's side after three seasons at the Nou Camp. AFP

Pakistan to host Zimbabwe

KARACHI
Pakistan cricket authorities confirmed on Wednesday they would host Zimbabwe for a series of three ODIs and three Twenty20s starting next month. The tour will take place under "bio-secure" conditions to prevent the risk of spreading the coronavirus, officials said.

'Worked on fitness and power-hitting'

It's very important to have the intent to hit the ball if it's there to be hit, says Sanju Samson



Into the stands: Sanju Samson's clean and elegant shots earned praise from one and all.

• BCCI/IPL

IPL 2020

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SHARJAH

Convinced that possessing an array of shots is a must along with power-hitting, wicketkeeper-batsman Sanju Samson said he worked on these aspects during the COVID-19-enforced break.

The result was there to see as Samson pulverised the Chennai Super Kings bowlers in the IPL on Tuesday, setting up a victory for Rajasthan Royals with a blistering 32-ball 74, studded with nine sixes and a boundary.

Impact player

That he is an impact player is a known fact but his clean and elegant hitting earned praise from one and all.

"I think range-hitting is what the game demands in this generation. I had time to work out in these five months, and I think I've increased that ability," Samson said at the post-match presentation. "I've been working hard on my fitness, diet

and training, and on my strength, because my game relies a lot on power hitting," he added.

Samson, who was adjudged the Man-of-the-Match, said his plan is to hit all deliveries in his arc.

Stand and deliver

"My gameplan is stand and deliver. If it's in the arc I go for it, and it's very important to have the intent to hit the ball if it's there to be hit."

With Robin Uthappa and Jos Buttler also in the squad, Royals are spoilt for choice in the wicketkeeping department.

However, Samson, who executed two stumpings and as many catches against CSK, said he was happy to play any role the captain and coach deemed fit for him.

"Everyone likes to keep wickets and no one likes running around, but it's up to the coach. We are happy to bring smiles on the faces of the fans and we hope to continue doing so."

'Everything Samson hit was going for six'

P.K. AJITH KUMAR

Steve Smith led Rajasthan Royals from the front on Tuesday. He was at the wicket for all but 10 balls of the Royals' innings, ensuring his team posted a score that would prove too much to chase down even for M.S. Dhoni-led Chennai Super Kings.



Steve Smith. • BCCI/IPL

day it felt like everything he was hitting was going for six."

Samson wasn't just taking over the aggressive role of Jos Buttler in the top-order but the Englishman's 'keeping gloves as well. He had two stumpings and as many catches, including one that flew high off the bat of Kedar Jadhav.

The Australian, playing his first game after being hit on the head during a training session in England earlier this month, made 69 off 47 balls. He was overshadowed though by Sanju Samson. Not that he has any complaints.

Playing second fiddle

About the blistering knock by Sanju (74, 32b, 1x4, 9x6), Smith said his role, in their 121-run partnership for the second wicket, was to get him on strike.

"The way he was going, I was trying to get to the other end and let him do his thing; fortunately that worked well," the skipper said. "He played incredibly well. To-

+ them

Quarantine time didn't help: Dhoni

The last surge from Archer was an incredible bit of hitting, says Smith

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SHARJAH

The extended two-week quarantine of Chennai Super Kings hampered his preparations as he did not get enough time for batting practice, said captain M.S. Dhoni after his side lost to Rajasthan Royals by 16 runs, on Tuesday.

Dhoni came in to bat at No. 7, sending the likes of Sam Curran and Kedar Jadhav ahead of him in a mammoth 217-run chase on Tuesday.

Asked why he came so low in the order, the CSK captain said, "I haven't batted for a long time. The fourteen-day quarantine doesn't help."

Extra one week
Dhoni's reference was to CSK's extra one-week quarantine after 13 people in the contingent tested positive for COVID-19, resulting in



Swing factor: Jofra Archer hammered four sixes in the final over off Lungi Ngidi. • BCCI/IPL

missing out on important training sessions. He was not out on 29 off 17 balls with three sixes in the last over.

Although he didn't name M. Vijay, the veteran opener's run-a-ball 21 was one of

the reasons for CSK falling short besides an off-day from his spin duo of Ravindra Jadeja and Piyush Chawla.

"With 217 on the board, we needed a very good start which was not the case.

Jofra loves his batting. He actually kicked me out of the nets yesterday [Monday], said I was in there for too long, and asked me to give him a hit

STEVE SMITH
Royals skipper

Steve (Smith) and (Sanju) Samson batted very well. We need to give credit to their bowlers."

Game-changer

His rival captain Steve Smith praised Jofra Archer's big hits in the last over that eventually changed the game.

"I think the last surge from Jofra was an incredible bit of hitting. Sanju Samson... looked like everything he hit went for six. MS smacked a few in the end, and Faf got going too, but nice to get a win," Smith said.

Fleming defends MSD's approach

'It is going to take time to see him back at his best'

S. DIPAK RAGAV
CHENNAI

Chennai Super Kings coach Stephen Fleming defended M.S. Dhoni's sedate approach, saying that time away from the game means that the former Indian skipper will need more matches to be back at his best.

"MS (Dhoni) is a specialist towards the end of the innings and has always been," said Fleming when asked whether he came a bit too late at No. 7 after the likes of Sam Curran and Ruturaj Gaikwad.

Good hitting

"He came in the 12th over [sic: 14th over], which is his optimal time and batted accordingly. He is coming back from not playing a huge amount of cricket. So the expectation to see him at his best is going to take time but his hitting towards the end was very good. Curran was



Waiting game: M.S. Dhoni attributed the lack of batting time in training as the reason for him coming in at No. 7. • BCCI/IPL

there to keep us ahead in the game because we were falling behind. He has good hitting power and Ritu, it was his first game," he added.

The former New Zealand captain thought felt it was bowling not the team's cautious approach to the chase that was the problem area on Tuesday.

"We were slow to adjust and too full. We overpitched

and were slow on that track. There was intent to adjust but the execution was poor. We came close to pulling it back to a manageable score but that last burst (from Archer) put it out of reach."

Fleming also added that there could be changes to the batting order with the option to open with Faf du Plessis who has scored back-to-back fifties.

Bayern eager to stop Super Cup becoming virus hotbed

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BERLIN

Rummenigge. • AFP

Bayern Munich boss Karl-Heinz Rummenigge insists the German giant is eager to stop Thursday's UEFA Super Cup showdown in Budapest turning into a super spreader event due to a high infection rate of the coronavirus there.

On Monday, Bavaria's premier minister Markus Soeder warned against the match in Budapest becoming a "football-Ischgl", referring to the Austrian ski resort where thousands of holidaymakers were infected with the virus at the beginning of the pandemic in Europe.

Soeder added that amid the pandemic "I really get a

'Don't play tennis just for making money'

Father Wolfgang recalls Dominic Thiem's journey to the top

TENNIS

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI

The new hero of world tennis, Dominic Thiem, is sure to challenge the dominant trio – Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer – and their stranglehold on Grand Slam titles.

The 27-year-old Thiem has been in the top-10 from 2016, and thus it was no surprise that he has stepped it up to the next level after joining hands with coach Nicolas Massu, owner of two Olympic gold medals.

Sharing an insight on Thiem's growth on toptennis.com/in, his father Wolfgang revealed that the target was not about professional tennis when the kid was hitting for hours on the garage door and on the wall. "Don't play tennis be-



Steady climb: Thiem has stepped it up to the next level after joining hands with coach Nicolas Massu. • FILE PHOTO: AFP

cause you can make money. We never had a goal that Dominic should become professional," Wolfgang said.

He recalled how as a 10-year-old, Thiem had won a tournament which fetched him a ticket to the USA, and how he started playing international events like Orange Bowl when he was 12.

It was at this stage Thiem

was made to change to the classic one-handed backhand.

"When he was under-14, he was about top-30 in Europe. By 15, he grew up equal and competed with really good players."

Breakthrough year

Thiem's breakthrough was in 2010, when he won two

Lewandowski, Neuer and de Bruyne nominated for UEFA player prize

FOOTBALL

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
PARIS

Year – on October 1, when UEFA holds the draw for this season's Champions League group stage at its headquarters in Nyon, Switzerland.

Lewandowski and Neuer starred as Bayern won the Champions League. He scored an astonishing 55 goals in 47 games as Bayern won the treble of Champions League, Bundesliga and German Cup. He topped scored in the Champions League with 15 goals.

The winner will be announced – along with the UEFA Women's Player of the

while Belgian playmaker De Bruyne scored or set up 33 goals in the English Premier League.

England star Lucy Bronze is a contender to win the women's prize for the second year running after helping Lyon win the Champions League for the fifth season in a row.

Her Lyon colleague, the France defender Wendie Renard, is also shortlisted alongside the Danish striker Pernille Harder, who helped Wolfsburg get to the Champions League final.



Robert Lewandowski. • AP

Motivated Bhullar back in action

Joins Shubhankar for the Irish Open

GOLF

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BALLYMENA (NORTHERN IRELAND)

Indian golfer Gaganjeet Bhullar is set to return to action after more than six months as he tees up at the Dubai Duty Free Irish Open this week.

The nine-time winner on Asian Tour, and one-time winner on European Tour, Bhullar last played on the Tour in March at the Malaysia Open.

Also in the field is Shubhankar Sharma, who got back to action with the Hero



Gaganjeet Bhullar. • FILE PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

Open, the second event on the UK swing after the European Tour re-started in June.

Bhullar, whose sole win

on European Tour came at the Fiji International in 2018, plays with Englishmen Ashley Chesters and Steve Brown.

Shubhankar plays with Dane Joachim Hansen and England's David Law at the Galgorm Spa & Golf Resort in Northern Ireland.

Excited
Bhullar, who reached Europe earlier this week, said, "I am really excited to get back on tour."

"But I think this break was very much needed for me. I am feeling more motivated and ready for the tour."