



Pinarayi Vijayan under quarantine after several officials test positive
page 8



Air India sends termination letters to 48 pilots
page 10



INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878



Rizwan stands firm, but England chips away on a damp second day
page 16

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NEARBY



Social distancing norms in place for I-Day
NEW DELHI
Multilayered security arrangements and a mandatory adherence to social distancing norms are in place for the 74th Independence Day celebrations at Red Fort on Saturday, a police officer said.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

Congress seeks another trust vote in Manipur

GUWAHATI/IMPHAL
The Opposition Congress in Manipur has demanded a fresh trust vote in the State Assembly, rejecting the "inconclusive and procedurally illegal" vote of confidence on August 10.

NORTH & EAST ▶ PAGE 4

Hapur child rape accused arrested

GAZIABAD
The Uttar Pradesh police on Friday arrested Dalpat Singh, who allegedly raped a six-year-old in the Garh area of Hapur on August 6. He had tried to mislead the police by leaving his clothes and a note on the banks of the Ganga, said Sarvesh Mishra, Additional Superintendent of Police, Hapur.

NORTH & EAST ▶ PAGE 4

Now, NIA summons two DU teachers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI
The National Investigation Agency (NIA) summoned two Delhi University teachers regarding the investigation into the 2018 Bhima-Koregaon case.

Prem Kumar Vijayan, who teaches English at Hindu College in Delhi, and Rakesh Ranjan, another teacher, were asked by the NIA to appear before it on Friday.

Earlier, the NIA had arrested Hany Babu M.T., associate professor of Delhi University, for allegedly promoting "Naxal activities and Maoist ideology".

The Pune police filed a chargesheet and a supplementary chargesheet in this case on November 15, 2018, and February 21, 2019, respectively.

The case was transferred from the Pune police to the NIA in January 2020. In April, the investigating agency arrested civil rights campaigner Gautam Navlakha and Anand Teltumbde, an engineer and IIM graduate who taught at IIT-Kharagpur.

COVID-19 tally crosses 1.5 lakh mark in Delhi

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI
The COVID-19 tally in Delhi crossed the 1.5 lakh mark on Friday with 1,192 fresh cases recorded in the last 24 hours, while 11 new fatalities during the same period pushed the death toll to 4,178.

The total number of cases is now 1,50,652.

There are also 11,366 active cases in the city. For the third day in a row it has shown an upward trend.

The number of people in home isolation has also increased.

DETAILS ON ▶ PAGE 2

SC finds Bhushan guilty of contempt for tweets

Lawyer's posts amount to scandalising the court, it says

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday found civil rights lawyer Prashant Bhushan guilty of criminal contempt by "scandalising the court".

A three-judge Bench said his tweet on a photograph of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sharad A. Bobde astride a bike and another on the court's role in the past six years scandalised the Supreme Court as an institution.

The tweets had the effect of attempting to destabilise Indian democracy. Such malice should be dealt with an iron hand in the larger public interest. The magnanimity of courts should not extend to weakness, the top court said in its 108-page judgment.

The Bench, headed by Justice Arun Mishra, said when a "scheme" was on to damage public confidence in the judiciary, those interested in fearless justice should stand firmly. The court could not ignore the disrespect and disaffection created by the "scurrilous" tweets.

The Bench fixed the sentence hearing on August 20. The Contempt of Court Act

Course of justice

A look at what the SC said in the Prashant Bhushan case

Judiciary is the central pillar of Indian democracy. An attempt to shake the very foundation of constitutional democracy has to be dealt with an iron hand

Critics are instruments of reform but not those actuated by malice... hostile criticism of judges or judiciary would amount to scandalising the court

If such an attack is not dealt with requisite degree of firmness, it may affect the national honour and prestige in the comity of nations

Extreme measure?

The judgment said punishing a lawyer was an extreme measure but nevertheless necessary to keep the "streams of justice pure, serene and undefiled". Judiciary was the central pillar of Indian democracy. It was the duty of the court to punish to preserve its dignity, the judgment emphasised.

"If such an attack is not dealt with requisite degree of firmness, it may affect national honour and prestige in the comity of nations," the judgment, written by Justice

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

WHAT WAS THE HURRY, ASKS JUSTICE LODHA ▶ PAGE 9

B.R. Gavai, pointed out. The Bench, also comprising Justice Krishna Murari, dismissed Mr. Bhushan's defence that criticism was not contempt.

Mr. Bhushan termed the tweets expressions of his anguish that "everything is not hukm-dory". Justice Gavai differed with him, saying, "Critics are instruments of reform, but not those actuated by malice but those who are inspired by public weal... Hostile criticism of judges as judges or judiciary would amount to scandalising the court."

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

WHAT WAS THE HURRY, ASKS JUSTICE LODHA ▶ PAGE 9

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Gehlot govt. wins Rajasthan trust vote

Congress MLAs close ranks in three-hour debate

MOHAMMED IQBAL
JAIPUR

The Ashok Gehlot-led Congress government on Friday won a confidence vote on the floor of the Rajasthan Assembly, bringing down the curtains on the month-long uncertainty created by the rebellion of former Deputy Chief Minister Sachin Pilot and 18 MLAs supporting him. The motion of confidence was passed by voice vote after a three-hour debate.

Parliamentary Affairs Mi-



United effort: Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot, left, and Sachin Pilot speaking to mediapersons in Jaipur on Friday. ■ ANI

nister Shanti Dhariwal moved the motion, saying that though the Congress had numerical strength in the Assembly, the BJP tried to topple the government af-

ter using money and power in States such as Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Goa and Karnataka.

Speaker C.P. Joshi accept-

ed the motion and allotted a three-hour slot for the debate on the opening day of the special session.

The session was convened after repeated requests to Governor Kalraj Mishra, who thrice returned the State government's proposal for an Assembly sitting.

The MLAs supporting Mr. Gehlot and Mr. Pilot put up a united front during the debate.

The House, which also condoned the deaths of political leaders in the intervening period since the previous session, was adjourned till August 21 after the confidence motion was passed.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Two policemen killed in militant attack in Srinagar

Jaish offshoot admits to terror strike

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

of Police Dilbagh Singh. According to the police, the militants appeared from a bylane and fired indiscriminately on the personnel manning the Srinagar-Baramulla Highway at Nowgam.

The police were busy with the extended deployment in Srinagar and on the city outskirts. The militants found a chance to attack a joint party of the SSB and the police at Nowgam. The attackers are being identified," said Director General

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

India believes in peace, says President Kovind

'But is capable of giving befitting reply'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

President Ram Nath Kovind on Friday said while India believes in peace, it is also capable of giving a befitting response to any attempt of aggression as was displayed by its soldiers during the Galwan Valley clashes when "some in our neighbourhood tried to carry out the misadventure of expansion".

A little-known militant outfit, the People's Anti-Fascist Front (PAFF), said it had carried out the attack.

PAFF is an offshoot of

the Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM), Inspector General of Police Vijay Kumar said.

The attackers are being identified," said Director General

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Ram Nath Kovind hailed Indian soldiers who sacrificed their lives fighting for "national pride".

He said the COVID-19 pandemic had demolished the illusion that humans are the masters of nature.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

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IN BRIEF

North Delhi Mayor inspects landfill site

NEW DELHI A day after a portion of the Bhalswa landfill collapsed, North Delhi Mayor Jai Prakash inspected the site. Three people engaged in rag-picking and cattle rearing had been reportedly buried under a portion of the landfill. The Mayor said the situation is now under control.

Landfill collapse: AAP attacks civic bodies

NEW DELHI The AAP on Friday attacked the BJP-run municipal corporations for the three landfills in the city, in light of the collapse of a portion of Bhalswa landfill, in which three people were injured. The party said these were the "Taj Mahals" of garbage gifted by the BJP to the people of Delhi and said they will go door-to-door to take this matter to the people.

Gupta adjudged most efficient legislator

NEW DELHI BJP Rohini MLA Vijender Gupta has been judged the most efficient legislator in a survey on 3,958 MLAs from 30 State Assemblies across the country in addition to finding space among the top 50 MLAs from the country by Fame India Asia, a ratings-based publication.

COVID-19 cases cross 1.5 lakh mark in Delhi

Only 6,472 RT-PCR tests conducted in the past 24 hours

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

As many as 1,192 new COVID-19 cases were reported in Delhi in the past 24 hours, taking the total number of cases to 1,50,652, according to a health bulletin released by the government on Friday.

Also, 11 more deaths have been reported, taking the total number of deaths to 4,178. Of the total cases, 1,35,108 people have recovered and there are 11,366 active cases.

The active cases and also COVID-19 positive people under home isolation have slightly gone up over the past three and two consecutive days respectively. While the active cases increased from 10,868 to 11,366, the people under home isolation increased from 5,598 to 5,882.

The number of active cases, which was 27,007 on July 1, had fallen to 9,897 – below the 10,000 mark in months – on August 4, but since then it has remained above that mark.



Migrants return to the city from U.P. and Bihar at the Anand Vihar Bus Terminal in New Delhi on Friday. ■ R.V. MOORTHY

Virus spread

Total number of COVID-19 cases	Total deaths
1,50,652	4,178
New cases in the past 24 hours	New deaths
1,192	11

SOURCE: DELHI GOVERNMENT HEALTH BULLETIN

been dropping.

Though Delhi has a capacity to do around 11,000 RT-PCR tests in a day only 6,472 such tests were done in the past 24 hours.

Of the total 15,045 tests done in the past 24 hours, over 61.9% of the tests were rapid antigen tests, which have shown a low positivity in the city compared to RT-PCR tests. The positivity rate, which is the percentage of people who test positive, has also dropped from 12.2% to 7.9% compared to July 1. The number of containment zones in the city was 523 as on Friday.

Neighbour rapes teen in Sarita Vihar

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A Class IX student was allegedly raped by a neighbour near a public toilet in south-east Delhi's Sarita Vihar on Friday night, the police said.

An officer said they received a PCR call at 11 p.m. from a 40-year-old resident of a camp in Madanpur Khadar stating that his 13-year-old daughter had been raped.

The police took the girl to a hospital for medical examination.

The father said his daughter, a student of a government school,

had gone outside the jhuggi

to the public toilet to relieve

herself when the incident

took place. "Her 18-year-old

neighbour and his friend

took her behind the bushes

and the former raped her,"

the officer said. He added

that the accused then fled

from the spot, leaving the

girl semi-conscious. The vic-

tim later went home and

told her parents. Based on

the complaint, a case under

Section 376 of the IPC and

Sections of Prevention of

Children from Sexual Of-

fences Act has been regis-

tered. Hunt is on for the ac-

DU e-mails incorrect paper to students during open book exam

University uploads main examination paper on portal later

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

portal for the open book ex-

am," she alleged.

"I had already started

writing the mock paper

when I found out there was a

different paper from our

class WhatsApp group," said

Ms. Msihra.

Re-writing papers'

Tseyang, another student in

her class, ended up attempt-

ing the first paper and had to

re-write the second paper la-

ter in the evening.

While the test was sche-

duled at 11.30 a.m., the ini-

tal mock test paper was

mailed to students at 11.00

a.m. and the final question

paper was mailed at 11.40 a.m., the students said.

Complaints raised

Several students took to so-

cial media to complain

about the issue with Sharanya Jha, a third-year student,

saying that her professors

called her up to inform that

the paper had been changed.

"I was already done writ-

ing one answer and then had

to start all over again. I can

only imagine the number

and plight of students who

didn't find out about this

new paper at all or not in

time," she said.

Man drowns during idol immersion

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

fied as Amit, a resident of Ok-

hla Phase-II.

A 23-year-old man drowned in the Yamuna during idol immersion in south-east Delhi's Kalindi Kunj on Thursday, the police said.

Two of his friends have been rescued, they said. De-

puty Commissioner of Police (South-East) R.P. Meena said

the deceased has been identi-

help of private divers," Mr. Meena said. The three were identified as Rahul (24), Jaspal (15) and Amit. While Ra-

hul and Jaspal were fine, Amit was unconscious and was

rushed to a private hospital where he was declared

brought dead. Mr. Meena said a further enquiry is under

way and a case under Section 174 CrPC has been registered.

40-year-old AIIMS doctor found dead in Hauz Khas

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 40-year-old AIIMS doctor was found dead inside his rented accommodation in south Delhi's Hauz Khas on Friday afternoon, the police said.

They said no note has been recovered. The police said they received information that a foul smell was emanating from a house in Gautam Nagar.

"After reaching the spot, the police found the decomposed body inside a room on the second floor. The room was locked from the inside," said Deputy Commissioner of Police (South) Atul Kumar Thakur.

It was revealed that he was doing research in the department of paediatrics in AIIMS Hospital here and last attended office on Tuesday, the DCP said. He had been residing in the room alone since 2006. Inquest proceedings have been initiated.

Recently, a 22-year-old student at AIIMS, who was upset, jumped to death. On July 10, a 25-year-old junior doctor also jumped to death.

Suicide prevention helpline: Sanjivini, Society for Mental Health, Telephone: 011-4076 9002, Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-7.30 p.m.

SDMC waives off fine for vehicles without RFID tags

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The South Delhi Municipal Corporation on Friday said it has decided to waive off penalty imposed on commuters for not having an RFID tag or for inadequate balance in it till October 15 in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The decision was taken at a review meeting on the working of the system and implementation of remaining RFID systems along with members of the Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority. So far, commercial vehicles not carrying the tag or having inadequate balance were being charged a penalty of double the amount of toll. Currently, RFID systems have been installed at 13 locations on the city's borders. Installation of the remaining 111 RFID systems will be completed by January of next year, the SDMC said. Until then, toll plaza employees will be given handheld devices starting in November 2020.

BJP lashes out at govt. on women's safety in the city

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The BJP Opposition on Friday attacked the Delhi government on the issue of women's safety. Delhi BJP president Adesh Gupta demanded why the party had not taken any action against a leader arrested on charges of sexual assault despite having pitched the issue of women's safety among its priorities in its election manifesto.

"It was the prominent issue in the manifesto of AAP. But today when the leaders, karyakartas of their own party are involved in crime against women then all the senior leaders and CM Kejriwal are silent," Mr. Gupta alleged.

The Delhi BJP demanded that action be taken against all AAP leaders involved in crime against women and Mukesh Tokas be expelled, he added.

In response, the AAP stated the "BJP doesn't care" about women's rights and there were position holders and elected members in the BJP who had "serious allegations" of harassment, assault and other serious crimes against them. "If any evidence is found against any AAP member, we will not only expel them from the party but also demand double the punishment for them," the AAP said.

एतिहासिक निर्णय

- भराड़ीसैंप (गैरसैंप) बनी उत्तराखण्ड की ग्रीष्मकालीन राजधानी।
- श्रद्धालुओं की सुविधाओं और चारधाम के विकास की दृष्टि से "चारधाम देवस्थानम् बोड़" का गठन।

क्रिकेट एवं स्वास्थ्य कल्याण

- कोविड-19 संक्रमण के दृष्टिगत 400 से अधिक चिकित्सकों की नियुक्ति।
- देहरादून, श्रीनगर, अल्मोड़ा, हल्द्वानी, रुद्रपुर के बाद अब हरिद्वार और पिण्डियागढ़ में भी होगा मेडिकल कॉलेज।
- आशा कार्यक्रमों तथा आशा फेसिलिटेटर को 2-2 हजार रुपये की सम्पादन राशि देने का नियर्णय।
- अटल आयुषान योजना में राज्य के सभी परिवारों को 5 लाख रुपये वार्षिक की निःशुल्क चिकित्सा सुविधा।
- आयुषान योजना में 39 लाख लोगों के गोल्डन कार्ड बनाए गए। अभी तक 1 लाख 87 हजार मरीजों का निःशुल्क उपचार तथा 176 करोड़ रुपये इलाज पर व्यय।
- राज्य के सरकारी कार्मिकों और पेशनरों को भी अटल आयुषान योजना में किया गया शामिल। देशभर के 22 हजार से अधिक अस्पताल इलाज हेतु सूचीबद्ध।

समाज कल्याण

- वृद्धावस्था, विधवा और दिव्यांगजन पेशन की राशि तथा ग्राम प्रहरियों के मानदेय में की गई बढ़ोत्तरी।
- आंगनबाड़ी कार्यक्रमी, आंगनबाड़ी सहायिका, मिनी आंगनबाड़ी कार्यक्रमी के मानदेय में बढ़ोत्तरी।
- प्रदेश के लोक कलाकारों का मानदेय किया दोगुना।

किसान कल्याण

- किसानों को तीन लाख रुपये और महिला स्वयं सहायता समूह को पाच लाख रुपये तक का ऋण बिना व्याज के उपलब्ध।
- प्रधान

Timings

DELHI

SATURDAY, AUG. 15	RISE 05:51 SET 19:01
	RISE 01:45 SET 16:06
SUNDAY, AUG. 16	RISE 05:52 SET 19:00
	RISE 02:38 SET 17:02
MONDAY, AUG. 17	RISE 05:52 SET 18:59
	RISE 03:38 SET 17:55

Delhi Weather max min
Delhi City 33 25
Safdarjung 33 25
Palam 31 26

Delhi Pilm Today
35°C Few spells of light rain and thunderstorm are likely at some places with gentle breeze.

Delhi Pilm Tomorrow
35°C Few spells of light rain and thundershower with cloudy sky would affect the area.

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IN BRIEF

AAP chief to address party volunteers

NEW DELHI
AAP national convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal will virtually address party volunteers at 4 p.m. on Independence Day. It will be live on his Facebook page.

Capital turns into a fortress for Independence Day celebrations

Borders have been sealed and multilayered security arrangements are in place

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A day before the Independence Day celebration, the city has been turned into a fortress with multiple layers of security. Due to the pandemic all the necessary safety guidelines will be enforced and arrangements have been made on the rampart for only 100 VVIPs as per social distancing norms.

A senior police officer said that Delhi Police has made multilayered arrangements in connection with the Independence Day celebrations. Necessary coordination has been made with agencies like the NSG, SPG and ITBP. All the agencies will work in close coordination with each other to cater to all kinds of threat inputs. SWAT teams and 'Parakram' vans have been strategically stationed and the borders have been sealed.

"Deployment of security



Security personnel keeping vigil at Red Fort on the eve of Independence Day. ■ SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

personnel is being made both in plain clothes and uniform. Facial Recognition System has also been set up at vantage points for suspect identification. There will be elaborate traffic arrangements with optimal deployment of staff, and signages for public convenience," added the officer.

"All security personnel, who will be part of marching contingent or will be at the

rampart, were tested for COVID-19 on Thursday. A team of doctors is examining them. The personnel who will be part of marching contingent and guard of honour ceremony and will come close to the PM are already in quarantine," added the officer.

A set of instructions on social distancing has been made to the corona warriors, who will be attending

the event, as this year the event is restricted for general public, said the officer.

Apart from securing the main venue at Red Fort, adequate security arrangements for 'At Home' function at Rashtrapati Bhavan have also been made. City wide alert is being exercised by all district Deputy Commissioners of Police, added the officer.

Security personnel have been deployed at railway stations and along the tracks. There will be no movement of trains from 6.45 a.m. to 8.45 a.m. on Independence Day on particular tracks near the Red Fort due to VVIP movement," said DCP (Railways) Harendra Kumar Singh.

Police have also been carrying out anti-sabotage checks and visiting hotels in the vicinity in search of suspicious elements, added the officer.

Seven 'corona warriors' to be invitees at Secretariat event

They belong to fields such as administration and medicine

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Delhi government has issued special invites to seven 'corona warriors' who have risked their lives in the line of helping virus-infected patients at an event to be held at the Delhi Secretariat on Independence Day.

The corona warriors will represent the people working in their fields during the event to be held on Independence Day

DELHI GOVERNMENT

to fields of administration, medicine, nursing, police, civil defence and sanitation, the government said,

According to the government, the invitees include Rajeev Singh Parihar, ADM of the Central District, and the Nodal Officer on COVID duty. Dr. Hirdesh Kumar, a resident of Dwarka, who was posted at the Rajiv Gandhi Super Specialty Hospital (RGSSH).

Among the other invitees are Sonu, a nursing officer at the Lok Nayak hospital, Delhi Police constable Pradeep Chauhan, a CATS ambulance driver at GTB Hospital Tej Bahadur, Civil Defence Volunteer Dina Nath Yadav, and supervisor of sanitation workers with the South Delhi Municipal Corporation Ashok Kumar.

Low-key affair
Independence Day celebrations will be held at the Delhi Secretariat instead of the Chhatrasal Stadium this year in accordance with social distancing norms in the wake of pandemic, General Administration Minister Gopal Rai announced here on Wednesday.

A small function will be organised at the players building with 100 dignitaries, including Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, Cabinet Ministers, and the Delhi High Court Chief Justice among the main invitees. Besides them, 70 MLAs, seven Lok Sabha MPs and three Rajya Sabha MPs, and the three MCD Mayors have also been invited.

₹170 cr. to set up tech innovation hub at IIT

NEW DELHI
Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi on Friday said that the Department of Science of Technology, Govt. of India, has sanctioned ₹170 crore under the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber Physical Systems to set up a Technology Innovation Hub on Cobotics at the institute. The focus will be the technologies where robots should be able to work together with humans.

Mohan Chand Sharma to be awarded gallantry medal posthumously for 7th time

35 Delhi Police personnel to be honoured

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Inspector Mohan Chand Sharma, who was killed during the 2008 Batla House encounter, is among the 35 Delhi Police personnel to be conferred police medal for their services on the occasion of Independence Day. Sharma has been awarded a gallantry medal posthumously for the seventh time.

In an affidavit, RBI stated that PMC Bank's reported financial position as on March 31, 2020 (unaudited) continues to be "precarious". It said against the total deposit liability of approx ₹10,000 crore as on March 26, 2020, liquid assets available with the PMC bank were to the tune of ₹2,955 crore. This, RBI said, was "grossly insufficient to fully pay all its depositors considering the position that approx 78% of the advances (where 56.33% of its deposits were deployed) are non-performing and therefore cash flows are constrained".

A statement released by Delhi Police said that 16 personnel will be awarded Police Medal for Gallantry, three for President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service and 16 for Police Medal for Meritorious Service.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Manishi Chandra, ACP Govind Sharma, Inspector Vinay Kumar, In-

spector Sanjay Gupta, Inspector Rajesh Kumar, late Inspector Mohan Chand Sharma (posthumously), Sub Inspector Banay Singh and Assistant Sub Inspector Shiv Mangal Yadav will be awarded Police Medal for Gallantry.

Special Commissioner of Police (Intelligence) Rajesh Khurana, ASI Mahesh Singh Yadav and ASI Bhupender Singh will be awarded President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service.

DCP Amit Roy, DCP Anil Kumar Lall, DCP Mohamad Irshad Haider, ACP Niraj Mal Devi, Inspector Narendra Kumar, SI Manju Chauhan, ASI Rakesh Kumar Sharma and Head Constable Mukesh Kumar are among those who will be awarded Police Medal for Meritorious Service.

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Mr. N SELVA KUMAR

PH: 9820350726

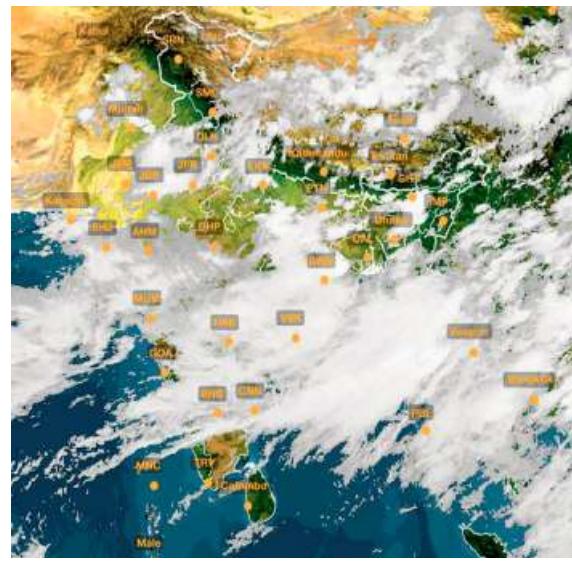
selvakumar.n@thehindu.co.in

THE HINDU

India's National Newspaper

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD; POLLUTION DATA: CPCB; MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 16.00 HRS)
Forecast for Saturday: Heavy/very rainfall likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Nagaland, Tripura, Gangetic West Bengal, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, central Maharashtra, Marathwada, Konkan & Goa, coastal Karnataka and coastal Andhra Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	1.1	30.7	27.2	Kozhikode	—	31.8	26.5
Ahmedabad	7.8	30.8	24.8	Kurnool	3	26.2	23.3
Aizawl	8	27.6	19.1	Lucknow	—	31.2	27.2
Allahabad	—	33.4	26.8	Madurai	—	39.6	26.0
Bengaluru	—	25.6	20.2	Mangaluru	5.6	30.3	23.8
Bhopal	12.2	30.3	25.7	Mumbai	41.4	27.5	24.8
Bhubaneswar	13	30.1	25.0	Mysuru	—	27.0	21.1
Chandigarh	—	29.0	29.0	Patna	16.3	32.5	24.6
Chennai	—	32.4	27.5	Pondicherry	—	34.8	26.8
Coimbatore	—	30.6	23.4	Pune	17	26.9	21.8
Dehradoon	39.1	32.7	24.8	Raipur	—	30.2	25.4
Gangtok	—	23.2	18.7	Ranchi	—	31.2	24.1
Goa	0.4	30.7	25.3	Shillong	—	25.4	17.5
Guwahati	96.4	32.8	23.5	Shimla	—	24.5	20.0
Hubballi	—	26.0	21.0	Srinagar	—	34.5	20.7
Hyderabad	35.3	25.4	21.0	Thiruvananthapuram	—	31.9	24.3
Imphal	—	30.3	23.6	Tiruchi	—	34.7	26.5
Jaipur	102.7	27.8	25.4	Vijayawada	6	28.8	24.2
Kochi	0.8	31.0	26.0	Visakhapatnam	25	25.5	24.6
Kohima	12.4	27.2	18.6				
Kolkata	0.8	34.0	27.6				

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

Yesterday

CITIES	SO ₂	NO _x	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	15	.36	.36	.29	.50	■■■■■
Bengaluru	10	.48	.38	—	.94	■■■■■
Chennai	—	.13	.83	.87	—	■■■■■
Delhi	—	7	.18	.145	.39	■■■■■
Hyderabad	.7	.44	.82	.17	.23	■■■■■
Kolkata	.2	.18	.54	.11	.37	■■■■■
Lucknow	.5	.34	.74	.43	.78	■■■■■
Mumbai	59	.12	.79	.19	.28	■■■■■
Pune	16	.6	.47	.15	.16	■■■■■
Visakhapatnam	19	.32	.13	.32	.37	■■■■■

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

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- Do not touch the kite or thread stuck in electrically charged wires
- Never use Metallic Manza

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जारखण्ड सरकार

कर्जा विभाग

जारखण्ड रिज्युएब्ल इन्जी डेवलपमेंट एजेन्सी (जेडा)
तृतीय तला, एसएलओडीपी अवन, कुसई कॉलोनी, डोरेंडा, रोंची-834002
फोन संख्या-0651-2491161, फैक्स संख्या-0651-2491165, email: info@jreda.com

निवाद संख्या: 12/JREDA/GCRT/RC/19-20-ग्रिड कनेक्टेड सोलर पावर

ज्लाट से संबंधित एकरानामा करने के सब्बे में सुनवा।

एतद द्वारा सुनिश्चित किया जाता है कि निवाद संख्या: 12/JREDA/GCRT/RC/19-20 के अन्तर्गत जेडा द्वारा विभिन्न संवेदकों को ग्रिड कनेक्टेड सोलर रुफटॉप पावर ज्लाट की आपूर्वि एवं अधिष्ठानान हेतु कार्यादेश निर्माण किया गया उपकारण में निहित प्रावाहनों के तहत संबंधित संवेदकों के द्वारा जमानत की राशि का बैंक ड्राइवर अथवा बैंक गारंटी के रूप में समर्पित करते हुए एकरानामा दिनांक 05.08.2020 तक किया जाना था, लेकिन निम्नलिखित संवेदकों द्वारा दिनांक 10.08.2020 तक इस कार्यालय में एकरानामा नहीं किया गया है।-

Sl. No.	Name of agency	Issued Work Order No. & Date	Capacity (kWp)
1	M/s Alfa Projects And Services Pvt. Ltd., Bhubaneshwar	74/2019-20 Dt.11.03.2020	50
2	M/s Adarsh Solar Power Solution, Chennai	40/2019-20 Dt.05.03.2020	100
3	M/s BNK Energy Alternatives Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi	49/2019-20 Dt.05.03.2020	100
4	M/s Durgesh Solar Agency, Ambikapur, Chhattisgarh	63/2019-20 Dt.05.03.2020	100
5	M/s Krishna Aditya Solar Shop, Chhattisgarh	73/2019-20 Dt.11.03.2020	50
6	M/s Lukrative Solar Solutions, Raipur, Chhattisgarh	34/2019-20 Dt.05.03.2020	195
7	M/s Shanks Energies, Chhattisgarh	51/2019-20 Dt.05.03.2020	90
8	M/s Multi Services Inc., Jamshedpur	37/2019-20 Dt.05.03.2020	200
9	M/s Rich Photocare (P) Ltd., Chennai	30/2019-20 Dt.05.03.2020	290
10	M/s Sahu Electrical, Chhattisgarh	75/2019-20 Dt.11.03.2020	50
11	M/s Statcon Energia Pvt. Ltd., Noida	36/2019-20 Dt.05.03.2020	265
12	M/s Sungreace Energy Solutions Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad	50/2019-20 Dt.05.03.2020	195

उपरोक्त संवेदकों को निवाद दिया जाता है कि अंतिम रूप से दिनांक 25.08.2020 तक उत्तर कार्यादेश में निर्वित प्रावधानों के तहत इस कार्यालय में जानत की राशि का बैंक ड्राइवर अथवा बैंक गारंटी के रूप में समर्पित करते हुए एकरानामा अंतिम रूप से करना सुनिश्चित किया जाय अन्यथा उक्त निवाद एवं संबंधित निगम कार्यादेश के अनुसुप्र प्रयोक्त संवेदक को निर्वित कार्यादेश स्वतः निरस्त माना जाएगा एवं जेडा द्वारा चयनित संवेदक को कार्याहत में कार्यावाहित करते हुए कार्य पूरा कराया जाएगा।

PR.NO.231738 Energy(20-21):D



GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR,
SHER-I-KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, SOURA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL
E-Mail :mechanicalskims@gmail.com

SHORT TERM TENDERS NOTICE

Gist of e-NIT NO. 31 OF 2020-21 Dated, 13.08.2020

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir U.T. of Jammu and Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Mechanical, SKIMS, Soura, Srinagar, Invites e-bids in Two (02) cover system from Registered / reputed / experienced Firms having experience in supply, installation, testing and commissioning of HOT Water recirculation Pumps as detailed in the tender document for the following works:-

S.No.	Name of the Work :-	Estimated Cost (in Lacs)
1	Providing & fitting of main Water Supply Line and Allied Works at State Cancer Institute SKIMS, Soura.	18.91

The complete tender document is available at website <http://jtktenders.gov.in>. Interested Bidders/tenders may view, download the e-bid document, seek clarifications and submit their bids online upto the date and time mentioned in the table below. Tender Document contains qualifying criteria for bidders. Specifications, Bills of Quantities, & Terms and conditions of the contract and other relevant details.

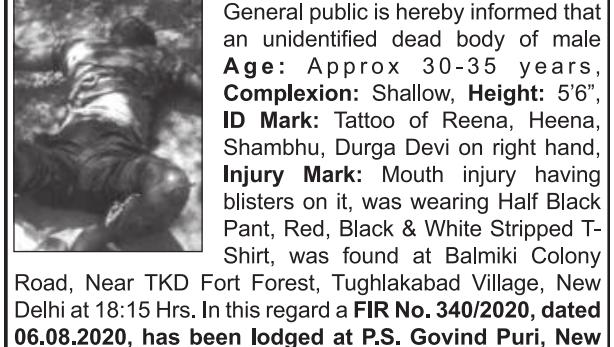
i)	Date and time of downloading/Sale of tender documents (Starting Date).	14. 08. 2020 from 11:00 Hours.
ii)	Date & Time of Bidding Queries/clarification/Pre-bid meet	17.08.2020 at 11:00 Hours.
iii)	Last Date & Time of Bid Uploading	20.08.2020 upto 16:00 Hours
iv)	Date of Submission of hard copies (Original EMD/FDR/DD only)	21.08.2020 upto 14:00 Hours
v)	Date & Time of Commercial/technical Bid (Cover-I) opening	22.08.2020 14:00 Hours (or next convenient day).
vi)	Date & Time of Financial Bid(Cover-II) Opening	Shall be intimated separately.
vii)	Cost of e-bid Document	Rs.1000/- (Rupees One Thousand only).
viii)	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit(CDR/FDR)	Rs. 38.000/- (Rupees Thirty Eight Thousand only)
ix)	Completion Time	Seven (07) Days
x)	Budget Head	Centre sponsored scheme

No-SIMS 139 EX.511/20-1725-35-5149-52,Dated:- 13.08.2020

No-SIMS 5151

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Mechanical, SKIMS

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

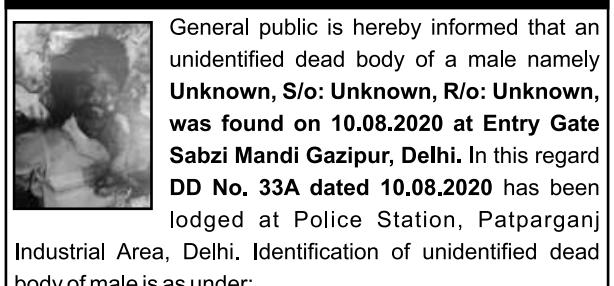


General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male
Age: Approx 30-35 years, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Height:** 5'6", **ID Mark:** Tattoo of Reena, Heena, Shambhu, Durga Devi on right hand, **Injury Mark:** Mouth injury having blisters on it, was wearing Half Black Pant, Red, Black & White Stripped T-Shirt, was found at Balmiki Colony Road, Near TKD Fort Forest, Tughlakabad Village, New Delhi at 18:15 Hrs. In this regard a FIR No. 340/2020, dated 06.08.2020, has been lodged at P.S. Govind Puri, New Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

SHO
P.S. Govindpuri, New Delhi
DP/187/SE/2020
Ph.: 011-29986050, 8750870932

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a male namely **Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown,** was found on 10.08.2020 at Entry Gate Sabzi Mandi Gazipur, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 33A dated 10.08.2020 has been lodged at Police Station, Patparganj Industrial Area, Delhi. Identification of unidentified dead body of male is as under:

Name: Unknown, Age: 35 Years, Height: 5'5", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, Built: Thin, Wearing: White and Blue T-Shirt and Brown Pant.

If anyone have any information or clue about this male deceased may kindly be inform undersigned.

SHO
Police Station, Patparganj Industrial Area, Delhi
DP/163/ED/2020
Ph.: 011-22146491, 8750870626

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(See Section 82 Cr. P.C.)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Nasruddin** S/o Raja Hasan Khan R/o Mukesh Ka Makan, in front of Monu Parchun Shop, North Gonda, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case F.I.R. No. 637/2019 u/s 376 IPC registered at P.S. Bhajanpura, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon that the said Nasruddin could not be found and where it has been shown to my satisfaction that the accused Nasruddin has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Nasruddin is required to appear before the court to answer the said complaint on or before 15.09.2020.

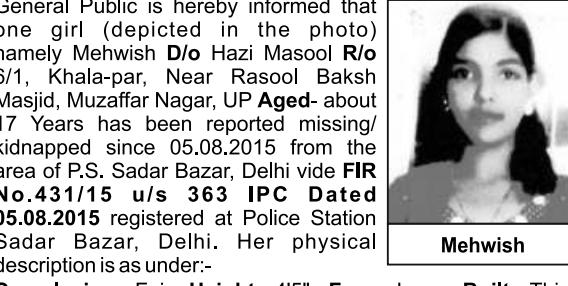
By Order

Ms. Richa Manchanda,
Ld. Metropolitan Magistrate,
Karkardooma Court, Shahdara, Delhi
DP/237/NE/2020

(Court Notice)

Ms. Richa Manchanda,
Ld. Metropolitan Magistrate,
Karkardooma Court, Shahdara, Delhi
DP/188/SE/2020

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED GIRL



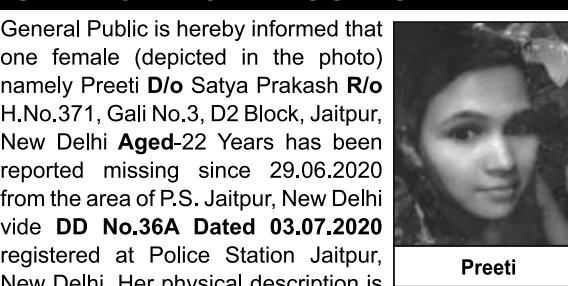
General Public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo) namely Mehwish D/o Hazi Masool R/o 6/1, Khala-par, Near Rasool Baksh Masjid, Muzaffar Nagar, UP **Aged:** about 17 Years has been reported missing/kidnapped since 05.08.2015 from the area of P.S. Sadar Bazar, Delhi vide FIR No. 431/15 u/s 363 IPC Dated 05.08.2015 registered at Police Station Sadar Bazar, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

Complexion: Fair, **Height:** 4'5", **Face:** Long, **Built:** Thin, **Clothing:** Black coloured jeans pant, Purple coloured top and White coloured sandal in feet.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing/kidnapped girl, may inform SHO, Sadar Bazar, Delhi at E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in or website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

Tele No. : 011-23014046 (Direct), 011-23015229 & 23015218 Extn. 210, Sd/-
FAX No. : 011-23011334 SHO, Sadar Bazar, Delhi
DP/435/N/2020 Tel.: 011-23512411, 23512412

SEARCH FOR MISSING FEMALE



General Public is hereby informed that one female (depicted in the photo) namely Preeti D/o Satya Prakash R/o H.No.371, Gali No.3, D2 Block, Jaitpur, New Delhi **Aged:** 22 Years has been reported missing since 29.06.2020 from the area of P.S. Jaitpur, New Delhi vide DD No.36A Dated 03.07.2020 registered at Police Station Jaitpur, New Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

Complexion: Fair, **Height:** 5', **Face:** Round, **Built:** Normal, **Clothing:** Blue coloured suit with Cream coloured leggings.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing female, may inform SHO, Jaitpur, New Delhi at E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in or website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

Tele No. : 011-24366388 or 24366841 Sd/-
FAX No. : 011-24366399 SHO, Jaitpur, New Delhi
DP/115/SE/2020 Tel.: 011-26666410, 26666412

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General Public is hereby informed that a male Namely Unknown S/o Unknown R/o Unknown **Age:** 35 years, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Height:** 5'6", **ID Mark:** Mark of old Injury over the right eye, **Wearing:** Blue coloured pant and shirt, was found dead on 05.08.2020 at 13:48 PM at Bikander Sweets T-Point, Tughlakabad Extn. Okhla State Road, Govind Puri, New Delhi. In this regard a DD No. 43A dated 05.08.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Govind Puri, New Delhi.

If any one having any clue about deceased male may kindly inform the undersigned and contact on following numbers.

SHO
P.S. Govind Puri, New Delhi
Ph.No.: 011-29986050, 29980049
Mob.: 8750870932

DP/188/SE/2020

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PUBLIC NOTICE



“On this auspicious day, let's revive the memories of the valiant martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the Nation. Taking inspiration from them, let's all contribute to create a self-reliant India following the ideas of harmony, brotherhood & equality.”

- Manohar Lal, Chief Minister, Haryana

Information, Public Relations & Languages Department, Haryana | www.prharyana.gov.in | @Cmohry | @DiprHaryana

सबका साथ—सबका विकास—सबका विश्वास

**शान से लहराये तिरंगा प्यारा
आत्मनिर्भर भारत संकल्प हमारा**

सरकारी संसदीय संस्थान

स्वतंत्रता दिवस

देश व प्रदेशवासियों को स्वतंत्रता और एकता के पावन उत्सव

**स्वतंत्रता दिवस
की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं**

आज पूरी दुनिया कोविड-19 महामारी से ब्रह्म है, ऐसे में हमारी जिम्मेदारी और भी बढ़ जाती है। देशभक्ति का अर्थ केवल तिरंगे को लहराना ही नहीं, बल्कि अपने देश को आत्मनिर्भर और सशक्त बनाना भी है। इस अदृश्य संकट से आप सुरक्षित रहें एवं दूसरों को भी सुरक्षित रखें और देश को आत्मनिर्भर बनाने में यथासम्भव अपना योगदान दें।

योगी आदित्यनाथ
मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश

आत्मनिर्भर भारत की ओर बढ़ते कदम

- प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी द्वारा 'आत्मनिर्भर उत्तर प्रदेश रोजगार कार्यक्रम' के माध्यम से 4.03 लाख एम.एस.एम.ई. इकाइयों को 10,600 करोड़ रु. से अधिक के ऋण का ऑनलाइन वितरण
- 50 लाख से अधिक लोगों को वृहद एवं एम.एस.एम.ई. इकाइयों में रोजगार
- 38 लाख से अधिक श्रमिकों/कामगारों की सुरक्षित घर वापसी की निःशुल्क व्यवस्था
- 53 लाख से अधिक श्रमिकों/दिहाड़ी मजदूरों एवं कामगारों को एक-एक हजार रुपये का वितरण
- 1 लाख 51 हजार से अधिक कोविड केयर बेड की व्यवस्था
- 50 लाख से अधिक श्रमिकों/कामगारों को एक-एक हजार रुपये का वितरण
- 35.49 लाख श्रमिकों की रिकल मैरिंग कर रोजगार का प्रबंध
- 37 कोविड टेस्टिंग लैब की स्थापना
- सभी जननपदों में ट्रॉट मशीनें, वेन्टीलेटर, पल्स ऑपसीमीटर, इन्फ्रारेड थर्मोसीमीटर की व्यवस्था

आत्मनिर्भर भारत की ओर बढ़ते कदम

- 1.25 करोड़ से अधिक कामगारों व श्रमिकों को रोजगार
- 2.71 लाख उद्यमियों को 8679 करोड़ रु. ऋण वितरण
- 35.49 लाख श्रमिकों की रिकल मैरिंग कर रोजगार का प्रबंध
- 15 करोड़ से अधिक लोगों को 6 बार में 45 लाख मीट्रिक टन से अधिक खाद्यान्न वितरित
- हर जिले में इण्टीग्रेटेड कोविड कंट्रोल एवं कमाण्ड सेंटर की स्थापना
- प्रतिदिन 1 लाख से अधिक कोविड टेस्टिंग।

सोशल डिस्टेंसिंग का पालन करें

फेस कवर/मास्क अवश्य लगाएं

हाथों को साफ रखने हेतु साबुन/सैनेटाइजर का प्रयोग करें

छोंकते और खांसते समय अपना मुंह व नाक रुमाल से ढकें

सूचना एवं जनसम्पर्क विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश

Aarogya Setu

मुख्यमंत्री अरोग्य सेतु एवं आयुष कवच का प्रयोग करें



Talking tough

The Centre must re-engage with NSCN (I-M) without giving in to its arbitrary demands

Five years since the signing of a framework agreement between the Indian government and the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Isak-Muivah), the deadlock in the talks that came about in October 2019 persists with the emergence of bottlenecks. The NSCN (I-M) has demanded that Nagaland Governor R.N. Ravi should be removed as the interlocutor for talks on the Naga accord. Talks were expanded in 2017 by including other Naga groups under the banner, the Naga National Political Groups (NNPGs). Clearly, the Governor's letter in June addressed to Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, alleging the collapse of law and order and that armed gangs "who question the sovereignty and integrity of the nation" were engaging in "blatant extortion", touched a sore spot for the NSCN (I-M). While the group defended the practice by terming it "tax collection", the letter was not entirely off the mark. Yet, this has become an issue for the peace process with the NSCN (I-M) going on to release details of the 2015 framework agreement that has not been shared in the public domain so far. While the other Naga groups also took exception to the Governor's remarks to the Chief Minister, they have differed with the NSCN (I-M) on the demand for Mr. Ravi's removal as interlocutor.

Since 2015, the engagement with other Naga groups has increased, even if the NSCN (I-M) is perceived as the major rebel organisation. The differences between the NNPGs and the NSCN (I-M) are not insignificant. The NSCN (I-M) still insists on a "Greater Nagaland" beyond the boundaries of Nagaland State besides seeking a flag and constitution. Most of the NNPGs based in Nagaland on the other hand have sought to settle the issue without disturbing the State boundaries while keeping the "Greater Nagaland" question in abeyance. Any moves to alter boundaries will intensify ethnic conflicts and insurrections beyond Nagaland, especially in Manipur. The increasing support in Nagaland for a solution without affecting boundaries should have compelled the NSCN (I-M) to move away from its intransigent position. Instead, the rebel group has sought to redefine the talks process by expressing its lack of confidence in Mr. Ravi. The NNPGs, political parties and other civil society organisations also took exception to the Governor's stern letter that went beyond raising concerns over law and order; Mr. Ravi wrote that functions such as the "transfer and posting of officials" in charge of law and order above the district level would be done with his approval. But they have delineated clear differences with the NSCN (I-M) on the peace talks issue. The Central government needs to take their concerns on board and reiterate its commitment to finalising the Naga accord while seeking to re-engage with the NSCN (I-M) without giving in to its arbitrary demands.

Limited peace

If the UAE does not push Israel to withdraw from occupied areas, their deal is of little value. The peace agreement reached between Israel and the United Arab Emirates has formalised the thaw in Arab-Israeli relations that has been under way for a few years. As part of the deal announced by U.S. President Trump on Thursday, the UAE would recognise the state of Israel and establish formal diplomatic relations, while Israel would halt its controversial plan to annex swathes of the Palestinian West Bank. It is a landmark agreement given that the UAE is only the third Arab country and the first in the Gulf recognising Israel. It could pave the way for the region's Sunni Arab kingdoms and the Jewish-majority Israel enhancing regional cooperation against their common foe, Shia Iran. Israel has said it would focus on "expanding ties with other countries in the Arab and Muslim world", while the U.S. has expressed hope that more Arab countries would follow the UAE's lead – Arab-Israeli relations have largely been conflict-ridden ever since the state of Israel was declared in 1948. For Mr. Trump who played a critical role, it is a rare diplomatic victory just months before he seeks re-election. His other foreign policy bets – Iran, North Korea or Afghanistan – were either disastrous or inconclusive. But in the case of Israel and the UAE, both allies of the U.S., quiet diplomacy worked. The U.S. had arranged several meetings between Israeli and Emirati officials last year, which probably laid the foundations for the agreement.

While the deal has the potential to change Arab-Israeli relations for good, it also shows how the Arab countries are gradually decoupling themselves from the Palestine question. The UAE offered full diplomatic recognition in return for Israel's suspension of a planned annexation, not for any relaxation of the actual occupation. As Prime Minister Netanyahu said, Israel made peace with an Arab country without "our returning to the 1967 borders". The Arab Peace Initiative, a Saudi Arabia initiative endorsed by the Arab League, offered recognition to Israel in exchange for its full withdrawal from the occupied territories. Ironically, the UAE's peace agreement comes close on the heels of the Trump administration's back-to-back decisions to recognise Jerusalem as Israel's capital and its sovereignty over the Syrian Golan Heights. Clearly, the UAE has moved away from the Arab initiative. The question now is whether the Emiratis would be able to press the Jewish state to relax its inhuman and illegal occupation of the Palestinian territories and start talks between the occupier and the occupied. If it cannot, the UAE-Israel deal would be of little significance for the Palestinians. The Palestinian leadership, on its part, should understand the emerging reality in West Asia – the Arab-Israel conflict is coming to a close, but the Palestine-Israel conflict is to continue without any respite.

Gaps in the casting of India's foreign policy

Key questions are being asked about the strategic depth of the country's international relations, and with good reason



T.P. SREENIVASAN

for the guidance of spokespersons of the government, while the third is a more rosy picture for the general public who should feel comfortable that the government they have elected is doing well. The fairy tales are created by the official and friendly press and commentators and are lapped up by public opinion, with a sense that all is well with the world.

The dream world gets disturbed occasionally when the reality pierces through the carefully created layers of positive impressions and the surprise turns into concern and even panic. Fire-fighting follows to reset relations and to bring back a sense of comfort and normalcy. The fundamental issues remain dormant, but a few high-level conversations, some business deals and carefully crafted joint statements take care of concerns, which disappear as public memory is proverbially short. This is a game that all governments play, not only in India but around the world.

Dealing with China

The most recent example of a relationship clouded by fairy tales is the one with China. With all the investments made by the Prime Minister and our large galaxy of China experts, we had no inkling of the Chinese perfidy as we had romanticised the 'Wuhan Spirit' and the 'Chennai Connect' in Mamallapuram, Tamil Nadu. The Prime Minister who alone knew what transpired at these informal summits, said nothing, but his body language and enthusiasm lulled us into thinking that these leaders would never fight a war. It came as a complete surprise that the Chinese amassed troops on the LAC and the Prime Minister characterised the Chinese action as expan-



sionist. But strangely, apart from calling for a reset of relations, we have begun to create a legend that China has committed a "Himalayan blunder" by its military adventure on the border. Even before the promised disengagement has taken place, we have concluded that China lost the battle, which it had begun after careful planning and preparations. We have declared victory in a battle that has not ended.

Russian ties

We were surprised in 1962 that the erstwhile Soviet Union refused to intervene in the India-China conflict on the plea that "one was a brother and the other was a friend". Even with that experience, we had taken the support of Russia for granted this time, obviously because of the new relationship which has been established after the Prime Minister's visits to Sochi and Vladivostok. We now know that the rose-tinted glasses of reliability through which the general public sees Russia are unreal. A President of India had remarked that Russia is an exception to the rule that there are no permanent friends. Russia's quasi-alignment with China is a reality, while our perception of Russia has the veil of a fairy tale. Our close defence relationship, with 60% of our arms supply coming from Russia is explicable, but not sustaina-

ble. A ministerial meeting of India, China and Russia a week after the loss of 20 Indian soldiers at the LAC was intriguing to say the least.

UNSC high table and NSG

The most celebrated fairy tale is the impression created that the UN Security Council will be expanded soon, and that India will be a permanent member. The impression is widespread even in informed circles because of the occasional optimistic reports emanating from New York. We have been campaigning for a reform of the Security Council since 1979 and there has been really no progress on the issue of new permanent members. Many reports have been written, but as of today there is no formula which can enjoy two-thirds majority of the General Assembly and the unanimous support of the permanent members. The vast majority of the members of the UN would want to abolish the veto rather than give it to more countries. To maintain the myth that India is likely to get a place on the high table with veto power is to keep an illusion alive. A former Foreign Secretary has recently clarified that there was no offer of a permanent seat to India during the days of Jawaharlal Nehru, hopefully ending the speculation on that score.

Membership of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) is another mirage that the public believes is a reality. India joining the NSG is like Russia joining the North Atlantic Treaty Organization because the NSG was set up originally to deny India any nuclear material following India's nuclear tests in 1974.

Every member of the NSG is a signatory to the NPT and the best it could do was to give us an unconditional waiver, which we al-

ready have.

The civil liability law

We hear about six American nuclear reactors being set up in Andhra Pradesh every time there is a discussion on bilateral relations. Here again, the presumption is that the hurdle of our Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Bill, placing the responsibility of any damages being on the supplier, will wither away. Many formulae are being suggested, but a senior nuclear scientist admitted a couple of years ago that the United States was using the Liability Law as a smokescreen not to transfer nuclear technology to India. The Clinton White House was of the view that India could use the India-U.S. Agreement on Civil Nuclear Cooperation for acquiring technology and material from other countries, and the U.S. should refrain from strengthening India's nuclear capability. This position does not seem to have changed.

There could be instances of other unsubstantiated expectations among the public because of repeated expressions of optimism which are considered harmless. The exaggerated faith in the value of soft power as an instrument of foreign policy and the theory that there is no point in nursing constituencies such as the Non-Aligned Movement may be some of them. But the danger of disillusionment when hopes are belied is greater than removing the cobwebs of fairy tales that shroud key foreign policy questions.

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Democracy needs an Internet ombudsman

There must be a gatekeeper to balance appetites for technology, security and privacy



ABHISHEK SINGHVI &
JAIVEER SHERGILL

In any triangle of relationship, trust is the first casualty. In the interplay between government, companies and citizens for big data, information asymmetry has become so skewed that it has eroded the very spirit of democracy by limiting the unbiased communication of ideas. Governments and private companies are using the Internet as a means of control and surveillance, extending from cases of fraud detection, storage and exchange of criminal and financial records to those of political surveillance and control'. Citizens who receive a flood of unfiltered information, information with colour but no patterns, information with images that can never add up to the real picture, recirculate the same back into the infantile world for greater chaos. Resultantly, "Information Superhighways" (coined by the U.S.'s "almost" President Al Gore) in democracy are leading to "re-tribalisation" of politics in cabals and cocoons while deliberations are fast transforming into 'consultations among computer systems' where trust and security are illusions.

At a time when the Internet is the new jazz and a tool as also a venue for all political hues, it is im-

portant to understand how government, political parties and citizens are responding to this new triangular interplay between data protection, privacy and a flow of information. When the Government of India banned 59 Chinese apps on the ground of transgressing Indian security, the question as to why in the first instance were they allowed into India did not get sufficient importance. Was there no security or privacy audit? While Facebook and Amazon are facing scrutiny on their own soil for their data mining policies, how did we allow so many apps without any check? Government policy on national security should be based on advance strategic assessment rather than on a reactive basis.

'Control' and also data theft
On the privacy front, even after the Supreme Court of India had declared privacy as a fundamental right, the government insisted on affidavit in the top court that informational privacy or data privacy cannot be a fundamental right. The Aadhar Act diluted the notion of 'privacy' and the standard of proportionality test set up by the Supreme Court. In an ongoing dilemma, even the 'Aarogya Setu' app is battling to satisfy the conscience of privacy overseers. The clear impression is that the government is more interested in 'control' than 'protection' of data. A national policy on data privacy of individuals is still a non-starter. People continue to suffer because of the regular incidents of data



theft. India's cybersecurity watchdog, CERT-In, last year reported huge data theft of Facebook and Twitter users by malicious third party apps. Reportedly, more than 1.3 million credit and debit card details from Indian banks and the data of 6.8 million users from an Indian health-care website were stolen in the same year.

Private firms and elections
Private data analytics companies have emerged to exploit the electoral process with the sole objective of customising political messaging. While the customisation of political messaging is not *per se* illegal, it certainly is unlawful to indulge in unauthorised data mining and collection by the industry. According to a report by Omnidata Network India and Monitor Deloitte, many private enterprises routinely share the personal data of individuals with third parties including political organisations. The fact that there are dedicated IT cells which carry out a digital form of warfare with propaganda and fake news being two powerful weapons is making things more complicated. The present legal fra-

mework leaves these menaces outside the ambit of election laws as they were framed in a time and space that was primitive when compared to contemporary technological advancements.

For citizens, digital media are carriers of images and sounds, rather than words and thoughts, and the system where images run faster than thoughts is suitable for the spread of fake news. Times of fear and uncertainty also provide a fertile ground for disinformation to grow. The fake WhatsApp forwards that triggered the primitive "Us v/s Them" group mentality and is manifested in Delhi riots reports, and the forwards on the novel coronavirus which declare COVID-19 a bacteria and the World Health Organization stating that vegetarians cannot be infected with COVID-19, are all reminders of the potency of data, true or false, in a democracy.

Regulation and independence
Should there be a gatekeeper to balance appetites for technology, security and privacy? The answer is yes, so long as the gate keeper is for regulation, not surveillance, and so long as it is completely and genuinely independent. Otherwise it will perform an unacceptable legitimisation function. The Personal Data Protection Bill, struggling to be born in Parliament despite conception in 2018, is more about control and surveillance than about promoting privacy and protection of data. Far-reaching exemptions, in large measure swallowing the rule, have

been carved out where personal data can be processed. Section 35, which provides the government with unfettered access to personal data, negates the three tests of legality, necessity and proportionality given by the Supreme Court in *Justice K.S. Puttaswamy (Retd.) vs Union Of India*. The Bill also allows State and private parties to process personal data without obtaining consent and such broad exemptions would not only open the floodgates for misuse but also reduce India's prospects of entering into bilateral arrangements for law enforcement access. Selection committees, terms of appointment and of removal establish beyond doubt that the Authority is likely to be like a rehabilitation centre for retired bureaucrats, yet a sinecure wholly controlled by the government. It is a classic case of rolling up judge, jury and executioner. Only an Internet ombudsman with experts on cyber and Internet laws, IT, data management, data science, data security, public administration and national security, and consciously involving eminent sections of civil society, can be an effective antidote to unregulated technological disruptions.

Abhishek Singhvi is an MP, former Chairman, Parliamentary Standing Committee; former Additional Solicitor General, India; senior National Spokesperson, the Congress party, and eminent jurist. Jaiveer Shergill is a Supreme Court lawyer and National Spokesperson, the Congress party. The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Historic handshake

An encouraging fall-out from the U.S.-brokered diplomatic deal struck between the United Arab Emirates and Israel is that Israel will be suspending its plans to annex parts of West Bank ('World' page, "UAE, Israel reach agreement to establish diplomatic ties", August 14). While the Palestinians have reasons to be frustrated and unhappy with the accord, U.S. President Donald Trump can flaunt it as a major foreign policy win in his election campaign. The shared worries of the UAE and Israel over Iran might have been a clinching factor for the accord. The onus and moral duty rest with Arab countries such as Egypt, Jordan and the UAE having diplomatic ties with Israel to ensure that Israel

agrees to conduct meaningful negotiations for the establishment of a viable future Palestine state.

C.G. KURIAKOSE,
Malippara, Kerala

■ The development will be a watershed moment in the present West Asian political scenario. Though unofficial contacts existed between the Gulf Arab monarchies and the Jewish state for some time, this is the first time that a member of the Gulf Cooperation Council has gone in for open embrace with a state that many in the Arab and Islamic world view as "occupier", "coloniser", and to some even as "racist". As the UAE has now ensured a major breakthrough, a change of mind could be expected among the other Arab Gulf monarchies in the

coming years. While the Trump administration had played a major role in this diplomatic breakthrough, the common factor that worries Israel, the UAE and the United States is the role of Iran in West Asia. The territorial disputes with Iran may have also prompted the Emiratis to take a positive step in the opening up of diplomatic relations with Israel. Though the opening of diplomatic ties would temporarily halt the West Bank annexation, it would help in materialising the creation of a sovereign, independent state of Palestine with secured borders?

ASHOK ALEX LUKE,
Kottayam, Kerala

State of schools

The writer's observation (Editorial page, "Schools

without freedom", August 14) comes after the die has almost been cast in the form of the NEP 2020, further tightening the central hold on Indian educational systems. As a teacher for more than 20 years in government schools, I can say that I had time only to cover the syllabus and to maintain a minimum of 80% pass in my subject in all classes. As a State-level officer of the Matriculation Education Department, I have seen teachers having the same compulsions. Principals of private schools have freedom only in ways of 'driving' teachers to achieve 100% results and, if possible, grab a few State or district ranks in the Board Examinations. So naturally, teachers, heads of schools and their managements failed miserably and

continue to fail in nurturing students to have free and thoughtful minds. The NEP-2020 has nothing to free schools from the shackles of rule books, and department and management orders and circulars. The bondage of teachers shall continue.

C. JEYAPAL,
Chennai

UPA and environment

The Congress President Sonia Gandhi's article (Editorial page, "Stop the dismantling of environmental rules", August 13) appears to be a case of the hollow sermons on environmental protection. A Minister in the United Progressive Alliance was shown the door after he became one of the most visible Environment Ministers in the country. For this, one has to read the



book, *The Vanishing: India's Wildlife Crisis*, by the environmental conservationist, Preerna Singh Bindra. There was no doubt that while the Minister brought in transparency, was accessible, and involved with varied stakeholders, he also refused to give the nod to a few big-ticket projects which would have had grave ecological impacts or had grossly violated environment norms. He raised the hackles of powerful interests. The Congress President has left unanswered why as the Chairperson of the NAC of the UPA (Ms. Gandhi), the Prime Minister was not advised to back a Minister who was really trying to protect the environment.

SUKUMARAN C.V.,
Palakkad, Kerala

The life and death of a 'gangster' in exile

Angoda Lokka alias Pradeep Singh alias Maddumage Lasantha Chandana Perera, an underworld operative from Sri Lanka, who mysteriously landed on Indian shores, has died just as mysteriously leaving several questions unanswered. **Wilson Thomas** reports on the investigation

Brindavanam runs an eatery in a shack in Balaji Nagar in Coimbatore, a calm residential area less than five km from the airport. Normally he is busy selling hot dosas to customers, but now Brindavanam unwittingly finds himself in the spotlight. He is now a witness in a case involving a gangster and two nations.

On August 2, Brindavanam's sedate routine was disrupted when news channels flashed the photo of a well-built man, a customer who used to buy dosas at his eatery, with the 'breaking news' tag that he was dead. News channels said the taciturn man in his thirties was Maddumage Lasantha Chandana Perera alias Angoda Lokka, an underworld operative from Sri Lanka.

Watching the news, it struck Brindavanam that the two-storeyed house close to his eatery had been swarming with men in khaki and plain clothes a day before, and that the police had been on the trail already. It was the first time he was hearing the name Angoda Lokka. Brindavanam had a feeling that this was just the beginning of a long story.

"He used to walk past my shop to the nearest garbage bin to dump waste once or twice a week, mostly after sunset," Brindavanam said. "While walking back to his home, he would stop to place an order for dosa or ghee roast, and take the parcel home. He would not speak an extra word." One of his employees added: "The police came by and showed us the photo of a man with a large tattoo on his biceps, which we recognised." Brindavanam's employees told the police that on some days, a woman also accompanied Lokka. The police later identified her as Amani Thanji, a 27-year-old Sri Lankan.

Soon, every person who was a part of the gangster's limited life outside his home was interrogated. Lokka also used to frequent a grocery store to buy cigarettes. "At times, he spoke in broken Tamil. The conversation was mostly limited to the brand of cigarette he wanted," said shopkeeper Velmurugan who did not know his regular customer's name.

Prabhu, an instructor of a gym, where Lokka was a regular visitor since August 2019, was also questioned. He too painted what had become a familiar picture: that of a man who just minded his own business. Investigators also tried to find footage of Lokka from the surveillance camera at the gym, at a nearby locality called Cheran Ma Nagar, but they drew a blank.

From Sri Lanka to India

Though his was an unfamiliar name in India, in Sri Lanka, Angoda Lokka's name popped up in the media every now and then over the last few years. Whenever the police arrested suspects in connection with narcotics smuggling cases, news reports would refer to some arrested men as associates of "underworld gangster Angoda Lokka".

It was not just alleged drug traffickers who came under the police radar because of their suspected links to Lokka. On July 30, the local media reported that the police seized an eagle "suspected to have been used by underworld kingpin Angoda Lokka" in his alleged drug trafficking ring. The police intelligence unit also arrested two others at the time, while raiding a farm in the Western Province. The white bellied sea eagle, that the police suspected was "imported", joined a growing list of "associates" of the wanted suspect.

Angoda Lokka, who took his name from the locality 'Angoda', 12 km from Colombo, was wanted in connection with several crimes in Sri Lanka, including murder, illegal sand mining, land reclamation, extortion and drug smuggling, local media reports in the country indicate. Notably, he was a key suspect in the February 2017 attack on a prison bus, in which notorious underworld leader 'Samayan', among others, was killed. The Sri Lankan police believe Lokka fled the country days after the incident and considered him to be "absconding" since.

"As per investigations at the time, he left Sri Lanka on March 1, 2017, by boat from Mannar," Police Spokesman Senior Superintendent of Police Jaliya Senaratne said. Located on the western tip of the island's Northern Province, Mannar is the closest point to India, separated only by the narrow Palk Strait.

On whether the Sri Lankan police sought any information from their Indian counterparts after Lokka reportedly fled the country, Senaratne said: "It was only suspected that he could have fled to India. Since we had no confirmation of that, we had not sought any information from India at the time."

Lokka's case coincided with Sri Lanka's heightened war on the growing "drug menace" in the country. Vowing to hang offenders, former Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena instructed the police to step up action. Last year, the police made huge hauls of heroin worth millions.

At the time, there was speculation



The photo from August 4 shows a policeman posted outside the house in Coimbatore where Angoda Lokka stayed for several months. (Below): The photo of a man suspected to be Angoda Lokka taken by a hospital at R.S. Puram in Coimbatore before he underwent a nose job in February this year. ■ M. PERIASAMY | SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



that Lokka may have fled to Dubai, to meet 'Makandure Madush', Sri Lanka's most wanted underworld drug kingpin, whom the Dubai police subsequently arrested along with his associates and deported. "There was no evidence, but some of us suspected that Lokka had left for Dubai from India," said a senior official source, requesting anonymity. While Madush's arrest in Dubai made top headlines in Sri Lanka, there was relatively less media coverage of the possible whereabouts of Lokka at that time.

In March 2018, the state-run *Sunday Observer* weekend newspaper reported that two underworld figures, Lokka and his aide Athurugiriya Ladiya, had escaped from their detention facility in Chennai. The report, quoting police sources, said the two were part of an "underworld gang war". Lokka and Madush, the report said, were suspected to have played a role from abroad, in executing a spate of killings in Sri Lanka from 2017 to 2018, of several individuals including a police officer.

Death and a fake Aadhaar card

In the days that followed the startling revelation of Lokka's death, on August 2, local police personnel and 'Q' Branch, CID officials sweated to sketch the portrait of a man who had kept an extremely low profile. It emerged that he had lived in Coimbatore since October 2018. Apart from Balaji Nagar, he had also lived in Saravanampatti, only five km away.

There had been speculative reports by the Sri Lankan media that the wanted criminal had been killed in India early this July, and the August investigation revealed that he had lived under an assumed name and had died on July 3.

The police arrested D. Sivakamasundari, 36, an advocate from Madurai district; her law college junior S. Dyaneswaran, 32, a native of Erode district; and Lokka's companion Thanji on various charges including criminal conspiracy, furnishing false documents, harbouring an offender, personation and

forgery of records.

The First Information Report initially registered by the Peelamedu police after the suspect's death, under Section 174 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, said Thanji took the help of two neighbours to rush Lokka, who had suddenly collapsed after complaining of chest pain, to a private hospital close by at around 9.30 p.m. on July 3. The doctors at the hospital declared him brought dead and asked those accompanying him to take the body to the Coimbatore Medical College Hospital (CMCH). Thanji sought the help of Sivakamasundari who arrived from Madurai and approached the police on July 5 to complete formalities for the post-mortem.

The FIR said Sivakamasundari, who posed as a relative, submitted a copy of the Aadhaar card of the deceased which bore the name Pradeep Singh with a Madurai address. After the post-mortem was completed on July 5, she took the body to Madurai where it was cremated, according to the police.

Some Sri Lankan media reported that a video of the last rites at Madurai was shown to a family member in the island nation. Once this intelligence reached Tamil Nadu, the police rechecked the background of the deceased and found that the Aadhaar card, a copy of which the woman advocate submitted at the station, had been obtained through forged documents. The police altered the FIR on August 2. Based on that, Sivakamasundari, Dyaneswaran and Thanji were arrested the same day.

"Had the local police checked the background of the deceased and the Sri Lankan woman who lived with him, soon after the death, these details would have emerged earlier," said a senior police officer, on condition of anonymity. CB-CID investigators said Lokka was booked by the police in Chennai in 2017 for illegal arrival in India. Though

he had obtained bail, the police were not sure whether he had been deported to Sri Lanka or had continued to stay in India.

"As per the information available to us, he had lived in many parts of India," said a 'Q' Branch official. Local police and the CB-CID found that the Aadhaar card in the name of Pradeep Singh was actually obtained in West Bengal, and the address had later been changed to Madurai.

Cause of death

The CB-CID, which formed seven special teams to handle the investigation, is clear about its priority: "It is to confirm the identity of the individual (who died in Coimbatore)," said K. Shankar, Inspector General of Police, CB-CID.

Though the available evidence and the confessions of Sivakamasundari, Dyaneswaran and Thanji established the identity of the deceased as Lokka, based on which the local police said the deceased was the Sri Lankan fugitive, the CB-CID wants to prove this scientifically so that it will stand judicial scrutiny.

Efforts are on to confirm the identity of the deceased by matching his DNA with the DNA of Lokka's blood relatives in Sri Lanka. The CB-CID is also trying to match the fingerprints found at the Balaji Nagar house with the fingerprints of Lokka collected by the police in Chennai in 2017.

The investigators are not yet ready to buy the information floating in the public domain that Lokka could have been killed by a rival gang by employing Thanji, whose husband had reportedly been killed in a gang rivalry battle in Sri Lanka in 2017. They feel that the need to probe this aspect will arise only if the post-mortem report finds that the death was unnatural as against the claim of the three accused that he died of a car-

diac arrest.

The post-mortem certificate issued by the Department of Forensic Medicine at CMCH, which *The Hindu* has seen, does not make mention of any unnatural findings. However, one senior civil assistant surgeon who performed the autopsy observed that the "finger and toenails of the deceased were bluish in colour". Though this was recorded, a forensic surgeon said that kind of discolouration can occur due to a number of factors such as low levels of oxygen when a person dies of heart attack and strangulation, and not just in a case of poisoning. Also, since the deceased did not have any external and internal injuries, there was no ground for suspecting foul play. There was no suspicion of poisoning at the time of post-mortem to commission a detailed visceral analysis.

The viscera collected during the autopsy was later sent for chemical analysis while the heart was preserved and sent for histopathological examination. The results of these are awaited. "We have requested the team to expedite the test," said T. Jeyasingh, Head of the Department of Forensic Medicine at CMCH.

A nose job

It was Dyaneswaran who found the houses for Lokka in Coimbatore, said the police and a person close to the house owner. "Dyaneswaran took the house at Balaji Nagar on rent in February this year. He told us that a friend who was going to get married would stay at the house for a brief period before leaving for Dubai," a woman neighbour said.

The FIR registered by the police said Thanji arrived at Madurai airport in early March this year and later moved to Lokka's house in Coimbatore with the help of Sivakamasundari. She told the police that she could not go back to Sri Lanka as India by then was under a lockdown and had cancelled regular international flights.

Initial investigation by the police and the CB-CID found that Dyaneswaran and Sivakamasundari had helped Lokka several times. They had even helped him get a rhinoplasty surgery at a hospital in R.S. Puram in Coimbatore in February this year. Lokka told the doctors that he wanted to pursue a career in acting, and thus wanted to get the nose job done. "They initially approached a clinic doing cosmetic surgeries at Peelamedu in Coimbatore. We are not sure why he got the procedure done, because the before and after pictures did not show much of a change in his appearance," said a 'Q' Branch official.

CB-CID, 'Q' Branch and sleuths from the Research and Analysis Wing are also investigating whether Lokka got help from sympathisers of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam to hide in India.

Digging into the antecedents of his accomplices yielded more proof of a shady past. Sivakamasundari's father Dinakaran had a case registered against him at the Manamadurai police station in 2006 in connection with the transportation of explosive materials, allegedly meant to be despatched to Sri Lanka. Investigations found that Sivakamasundari had unusual transactions through her multiple bank accounts which, according to the Inspector General of the CB-CID, were under scrutiny.

No phone found

While the reason behind Lokka's death is yet to be concluded, investigators are probing several other aspects too. Among them is the fact that Lokka's phone and other possible digital devices used by him are missing.

The Peelamedu police, who investigated the case before the CB-CID, had seized mobile phones, a tablet, a laptop and multiple SIM cards belonging to Thanji, Dyaneswaran and Sivakamasundari. However, no digital device used by Lokka was found, said G. Stalin, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Coimbatore City Police.

Did he not own a mobile phone? Neighbours said Lokka used to order food through food delivery applications. For this, he would have needed a mobile phone, a tablet or a computer. The police recovered a cache of dinars and Singapore and American dollars from the house. All the materials collected by the police were handed over to the CB-CID when the latter took over the investigation.

Meanwhile, the Sri Lankan police has sent photographs and fingerprints to the Indian authorities. "We have also collected DNA samples," Senaratne told *The Hindu*. Further, the spotlight appears to have returned to neighbourhoods around Angoda, going by developments this week. On Tuesday night, police shot dead a man identified as Lokka's "ally", after he tried "hurling a grenade at the police." Local media also reported the arrest of the "finance manager of Angoda Lokka", based on Lokka's money trail.

As the investigations span two countries, sleuths are trying to go back and establish if the deceased was indeed Lokka, when and how he had come to India, and how the presence of a foreign 'gangster' completely escaped the attention of the authorities in India. Police hope that as the investigation progresses, they will be able to tie up all the loose ends, and explain the mysterious last few years of the life and the death of Pradeep Singh alias Angoda Lokka alias Maddumage Lasantha Chandana Perera.

Mera Srinivasan contributed to reporting from Sri Lanka



FROM PAGE ONE

SC finds Bhushan guilty of contempt for tweets

The court said Mr. Bhushan's tweet gave an impression that "the CJI is enjoying his ride on a motorbike worth ₹50 lakh belonging to a BJP leader, at a time when he has kept the Supreme Court in lockdown mode denying citizens their fundamental right to access justice". The court said the tweet was a "wild allegation" based on "distorted facts". It was scandalous.

The court acknowledged that its contempt powers could be used only to uphold the majesty of law and not to vindicate an individual judge.

However, it reasoned that "any caricature of a judge calculated to lower the dignity of the court would destroy, undermine or tend to undermine public confidence in the administration of justice". A defamatory publication concerning "the judge is a serious impediment to justice", the court added.

The judgment said contempt, if not criminal contempt, was attracted if free speech was used to scandalise judges and the institution of administration of justice or undermine the authority or dignity of the Supreme Court or to shake public confidence in the judiciary.

Thiruvananthapuram was

Gehlot government wins Rajasthan trust vote

The 19 dissident MLAs led by Mr. Pilot had returned to the party fold earlier this week. Following the expected win, Mr. Gehlot said the Congress' victory was a message to the forces which were trying to destabilise elected governments.

"Their every tactic failed in Rajasthan. It is the people's unwavering trust in us and unity of our Congress MLAs that has brought this victory," he said.

Mr. Gehlot told reporters that the BJP's "conspiracy" had failed and the Opposition leaders had been exposed during the debate in the Assembly.

Repeating to the debate, Mr. Gehlot said in the House that the BJP's role was dubious during the political crisis and alleged that Home

Minister Amit Shah had gone all out to topple his government.

"As the conspiracy failed and all the Congress members came together, the BJP is startled," Mr. Gehlot said, insisting that he would not let the government be toppled at any cost even if the BJP made all attempts. He also questioned the role of central investigating agencies, stating that they were being misused.

Leader of Opposition Gulab Chand Kataria accused the Congress of blaming the BJP for the infighting within the party. Deputy Leader of Opposition Rajendra Rathore said the State government had misused Special Operations Group and Anti-Corruption Bureau and illegally tapped telephones.

Two policemen killed in militant attack in Srinagar

He said security forces immediately cordoned off the area to nab the attackers.

The deceased policemen were identified as Fayaz Ahmed and Ishfaq Ayoub of the Indian Reserve Police (IRP).

Speaking at a wreath-laying ceremony for the deceased policemen, DGP Singh said such attacks were usually carried when the situation in Kashmir showed improvement. "Our neighbour can't tolerate peace prevailing in the Valley."

He said anti-militancy operations would be further intensified in the days ahead. "Militants will not be allowed to sabotage the peaceful atmosphere," DGP Singh said.

Meanwhile, security was tightened across the Valley

ahead of Independence Day.

Dozens of checkpoints have been set up and many stretches closed for traffic in capital Srinagar, where the main 1-Day function will take place. Mobile bunkers have been deployed to patrol the streets of the capital.

There was thin traffic on the roads due to the security arrangements.

Attack condemned

Regional parties, including J&K Apni Party (J&KP), Congress and the National Conference have condemned the attack on the policemen in Srinagar.

"Police must track down the militants and punish them. This attack is an act of frustration," said BJP spokesman Altaf Thakur.

India believes in peace, says President Kovind

He noted that Independence Day celebrations would be restrained this year but complimented the Narendra Modi government in "anticipating the tremendous challenge, responding effectively and well in time".

Commenting on the construction of the temple at Shri Ram Janmabhoomi in Ayodhya, he said it was "a moment of pride for all" and complimented citizens for their "patience, restraint and the unflinching trust in the judiciary".

On self-reliance
Speaking about the self-reliance or 'Atmanirbhara Bharat' initiative, Mr. Kovind said India's self-reliance means being self-sufficient

without alienating or creating distance from the world.

"The world now realises what our sages had said long ago: the global community is but one family: *Vasudeva Kutumbakam*. However, even while the world community needs to fight together against the greatest challenge before humanity [COVID-19], some in our neighbourhood tried to carry out their misadventure of expansion," he said, without naming China.

"Our brave soldiers laid down their lives defending our borders. Those worthy sons of Bharat Mata lived and died for national pride. The entire nation salutes the martyrs of Galwan Valley," he said.

Five States add 26,000-plus cases in a day

A.P. leads with 8,743 cases, Karnataka records 7,908, Telangana 1,921, Kerala 1,569 and T.N. 5,890

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

COVID-19 cases in Karnataka soared on Friday, with as many as 7,908 cases reported, as well as 104 more deaths. Kerala's case graph also continued to rise, with 1,569 fresh cases, marking another new high. Andhra Pradesh reported 97 deaths, while 8,743 people tested positive. Telangana saw as many as

still reporting the highest number of cases with 310 cases. The number of samples tested in 24 hours stood at 31,738.

Telangana's fresh cases on Thursday raised its tally to 88,396. There were nine fatalities, taking the toll to 674.

The Directorate of Public Health and Family Welfare said on Friday that the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation continued to record the highest number of cases - a spike of 58 cases over the previous day - at 356 on Thursday. Cases in Medchal-Malkajgiri stood at 168, Rangareddy 134, Sangareddy 90, Warangal Urban 74, Warangal Rural 54, Karimnagar 73, Khammam 71, and Nizamabad 63. The number of recoveries on Thursday stood at 1,210. The number of active cases was 23,438 and 16,439 were in isolation.

The State tested 22,046 samples, achieving per million population tests of 19,156. Gender-wise, COVID-19 cases were split into

Crucial post

Checking the temperature of visitors in all public places has been made mandatory to contain the spread of the virus. The graph shows the spread of the pandemic in the southern States



Thorough check: A person undergoing a temperature check at the Vellore Head Post Office in Tamil Nadu on Friday. ■ C. VENKATACHALAPATHY

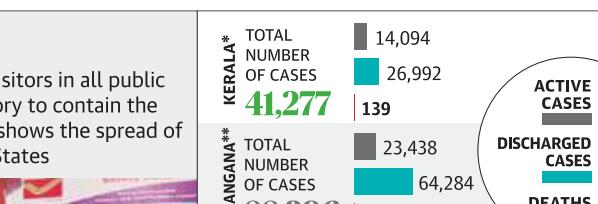
*Kerala has a mismatch of 52 cases due to unaccounted deaths, missing persons | **Telangana numbers are as of 8 p.m. on Thursday

***Karnataka has 8 non-COVID deaths

65.10% male and 34.90% female.

Andhra Pradesh reported total deaths of 2,475 and tally of 2,73,085. The State said 9,779 patients tested negative after treatment. Total recoveries stood at 1,80,703.

There were 89,907 active pa-



tients. The positivity rate also rose to 9.90% for 27,548 tests conducted till date. Of these, 53,026 samples were tested in 24 hours.

The daily positivity rate was not less than 15% in the past two weeks as more people were tested daily. The

State's tests per million at 51,657 was the highest among States, it was claimed.

East Godavari had a spike of 1,46 cases, Chittoor (987) Kurnool (956) and Visakhapatnam district 885.

Among new cases in Kar-

Karnataka Cabinet meet may seek ban on SDPI over riots

Outfit says it will go to court if government takes such a step

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Claiming the involvement of the Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) in the rioting in two police station limits of Bengaluru on Tuesday night, the Karnataka government has renewed its proposal to ban the SDPI and it will recommend the same to the Centre.

A State Cabinet meeting called for August 20 is likely to take a decision on making the recommendation.

Speaking to presspersons here on Friday, Revenue Minister R. Ashok said the government was collecting information about the involvement of members of the SDPI and the Popular Front of India (PFI) in various incidents in different parts of the State. Since 2008, members of both the organisations had been involved in the killing of activists of the BJP and its affiliate organisations in 17 incidents in Mangalore,

Bantwal, Moodbidri, Hunsur and Bengaluru, he alleged. Meanwhile, the SDPI said it would take legal recourse if the government went ahead with the proposal. SDPI State president Ilyas Mohammed Tumbe demanded to know by what logic the SDPI ban was being contemplated while there was no such

move on Sangh Parivar organisations and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. "The same rule must apply for both Sangh Parivar and other organisations," he said.

In January, the State BJP had demanded a ban on the two organisations, accusing them of being offshoots of the banned Student Islamic Movement of India (SIMI).

Agriculture Minister V.S. Sunil Kumar, Ports Minister Kadannappally Ramachandran, Transport Minister A.K. Saseendran, Local Self-Government Minister A.C. Moideen, Higher Education Minister K.T. Jaleel, Excise Minister T.P. Ramakrishnan, Chief Secretary Mr. Vishwas Mehta, and State police chief Loknath Behera had accompanied Mr. Vijayan to the crash site. Mr. Vijayan had visited the dis-

Coronil: Patanjali gets respite for two weeks

HC suspends order passed by single judge

MOHAMMED IMRANULLAH S.
CHENNAI

A Division Bench of the Madras High Court on Friday suspended for two weeks the operation of an order passed by a single judge on August 6 restraining Patanjali Ayurved Limited and Divya Yog Mandir Trust from using the term 'Coronil' for their tablets and imposing a cost of ₹10 lakh on them for commercial exploitation of the fear around COVID-19. Justice R. Subbiah and C. Saravanan suspended the single judge order following a joint appeal preferred by the trust which manufactures the tablets and gets them marketed through Patanjali.

The decision was taken after hearing senior counsel C. Aryama Sundaram and Satish Parasaran who insisted on an interim stay until

their appeals were heard finally.

The single judge had granted the injunction on a trademark infringement suit filed by Chennai-based Arudra Engineers Limited, which had been reportedly using registered trademarks 'Coronil-92B' and 'Coronil-213SLP' for more than 20 years for marketing its chemical agents used to clean heavy industrial machinery and keeping them free from corrosion.

Referring to absence of any connection between the plaintiff's products and the ayurvedic tablets marketed by Patanjali, Mr. Sundaram said: "The learned single judge's order needs a strong second look. Otherwise tomorrow, LG Asafoetida powder company can file a case against LG Electronics."

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NIA arrests 4 more in Kerala gold smuggling case

Searches conducted in six locations in Kozhikode and Malappuram

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

raids in six locations in Kozhikode and Malappuram.

The agency arrested Mohamed Anwar T.M., Hamzath Abdu Salam, and Hamjad Ali, all from Malappuram district, and Samju T.M. from Kozhikode district. The NIA said in

terrogation of the suspects it had revealed that they had

Kerala CM goes into self-quarantine

He will skip Independence Day parade

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and several key members of his Cabinet went into self-quarantine on Friday after several senior officers, including the Malappuram District Collector and the District police chief, who led the rescue operations at the site of air crash at the Karipur airport in Kozhikode tested positive for SARS-CoV-2. Mr. Vijayan will work from official residence now.

Agriculture Minister V.S. Sunil Kumar, Ports Minister Kadannappally Ramachandran, Transport Minister A.K. Saseendran, Local Self-Government Minister A.C. Moideen, Higher Education Minister K.T. Jaleel, Excise Minister T.P. Ramakrishnan, Chief Secretary Mr. Vishwas Mehta, and State police chief Loknath Behera had accompanied Mr. Vijayan to the crash site. Mr. Vijayan had visited the dis-

aster site in the company of Revenue Minister E. Chandrasekharan, Health Minister K.K. Shylaja, and Mr. Moideen.

Mr. Vijayan and Health Minister K.K. Shylaja have since submitted themselves to antigen tests and have been declared COVID-19 negative.

The Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said Mr. Vijayan would skip the Independence Day parade. Tourism Minister Kadakkampally Surendran would hoist the national flag in his stead.

Singer S.P. Balasubrahmanyam critical, under observation

There has been a major setback to the singer's condition'



S.P. Balasubrahmanyam

monitored.

After he was admitted to the hospital, the veteran singer had put out a video message, saying he had chest congestion for a few days, along with cold and fever, which prompted him to get himself tested for the infection. He had tested positive for a 'mild' case of COVID-19. In the video, Mr. Balasubrahmanyam assured his friends and fans that he was doing well, and that nobody needed to worry about him.

Messages to public
As news about the singer's health circulated on social media, his son, S.P. Charan, and his long-time associate, music composer Illaiyaraaja, sent out messages to the public. "He is in the ICU and his condition is stable. We will keep you updated," said Mr. Charan.

"Please get up and come soon. I'm waiting for you," Mr. Illaiyaraaja said, addressing Mr. Balasubrahmanyam in a video message. He spoke about their friendship and how it started much before their association in cinema.

"Music can't part ways with swarams, and our friendship is like that - we can never be apart," he said.

IN BRIEF



Police grill Ramesh Hospitals staff, doctors

VIJAYAWADA
The police team probing the fire accident in the Ramesh Hospitals COVID-19 care centre at Hotel Swarna Palace here have questioned the hospital's administrative staff and doctors on running such centres with poor safety and infrastructure. The police on Friday summoned Dr. Mamata, chief operating officer of Ramesh Hospitals, and grilled her for about five hours. Eight police teams are still searching for MD of the hospital P. Ramesh Babu.

Court extends status quo on A.P. capital shifting

VIJAYAWADA
A full Bench of the Andhra Pradesh High



Pranab's condition unchanged

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Former President Pranab Mukherjee's health condition remains unchanged and his vital parameters are presently stable, the Army's Research and Referral (R&R) Hospital said on Friday morning.

On Monday, Mr. Mukherjee underwent a life-saving emergency surgery for a brain clot and had been on ventilator support.

He has also tested positive for COVID-19.

Everything came apart in a nano second: flight attendant

Akshay Pal Singh looks back on the Kerala plane crash

JAGRITI CHANDRA
NEW DELHI

"When I close my eyes, I am reminded of a mother-son duo seated before me, wailing, crying for help until their breathing became shallow, slow and a silence fell over them."

Akshay Pal Singh, 25, a cabin crew member on board Air India Express flight IX 1344 which crashed at the Calicut International airport in Karipur on August 7, is unable to come to terms with the tragedy. "Nearly everyone in the first four rows in front of me died on the spot," he said.

Mr. Pal was the "RI" cabin crew and was assigned to the right side of the front section of the aircraft. This part of the plane, including the nose, cockpit and the first three rows of passenger seats



Fatal flight: The wreckage of the Air India aircraft that crashed at the Karipur airport on August 7. ■ FILE PHOTO/REUTERS

bore the brunt of the crash as it broke away from the rest of the plane following the accident.

The crash resulted in the death of 19 persons, including the two pilots.

"We had no inkling of anything untoward during

landing. Before the aircraft started its descent, the First Officer mentioned to me that it was raining heavily in Calicut. Then the plane made an attempt to land, but there was a missed approach. They did a go-around, and we felt the plane landed normally.

Probe team downloads black box data

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A week after the Air India Express flight IX 1344 crashed at the Calicut International Airport, the investigation team has downloaded data from the two "black boxes", according to the Director General of Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB), Group Captain Aurobindo Handa.

"Raw data from the flight data recorder and cockpit voice recorder has been

downloaded and is being processed. If any requirement is felt at any stage of investigation, necessary assistance from specialised agencies in India or abroad would be sought," the DG wrote in an e-mail in response to a specific question on whether the data recorders were intact necessitating help from aircraft manufacturer, Boeing. The aircraft involved in last week's crash was a Boeing 737-800 Next Generation (NG)

The AAIB has constituted a five member team to investigate the accident within five months. The team will "investigate, determine the probable cause(s), contributory factor(s) leading to the accident and make recommendation(s) to avoid recurrence of such incident in future," the DG explained.

The team comprises officials from safety regulatory body DGCA, AAIB as well as the Indian Air Force.

ised I had a fracture. I limped to the right door to open it, but it was jammed. My colleague tried the same with the left door, but was unable to move it. The cockpit door was slightly ajar, but it would not open either. We could neither move, nor rescue the passengers. So my colleague and I gave oral instructions to a passenger to find an escape. While we were unable to see anything because of the debris, we knew that the fuselage (aircraft belly) had broken and there was a way out," recalls Mr. Pal.

Mr. Pal said the efforts of the first responders and local residents who came to their rescue were "praiseworthy". "We were still gathering our senses when help arrived. It was raining heavily, yet they didn't think of themselves. It was difficult to make their way into the aircraft – there were bags lying everywhere, seats were smashed against each other. But nothing stopped them," he said.

Opposition questions Bhushan's conviction

Parties cite freedom of speech, pending cases against abrogation of Article 370 for over a year

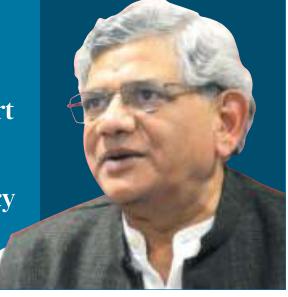
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Opposition parties questioned the alacrity with which the Supreme Court (SC) convicted senior lawyer Prashant Bhushan for contempt of court, while cases against the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution and *habeas corpus* petitions filed for political leaders in Kashmir have been pending for more than a year.

Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) general secretary, Sitaram Yechury, in a series of tweets said that whether one agrees with the precise formulation of Mr. Bhushan's tweets or not – he was convicted for his tweets – the Supreme Court judgment convicting him of contempt is "alarming".

C The judgment will prevent open and free discussion on the role of the Supreme Court in India's democracy. This weakens India's Constitutional democracy

SITARAM YECHURY,
General secretary, CPI-M



"It brings into the ambit of Contempt, bona-fide criticism of the role played by the Supreme Court as a Constitutional authority. It also brings within its scope, genuine criticism of its present day functioning and approach. Hitherto, such statements were protected speech under Article 19 (1)(a) under the Constitution and

were not considered contemptuous," he said, adding that the judgment would prevent open and free discussion on the role of the Supreme Court in India's democracy. This, he said, weakens India's Constitutional democracy.

'Revisit contempt laws'

Dissent and having a differ-

ence of opinion is part of a democracy, CPI general secretary D. Raja said, calling for revisiting the contempt laws.

"When four Supreme Court judges held a press conference questioning the working of the apex court, was that also contempt? When there were large-scale protests after a Supreme Court judgment diluting the reservation laws, was that contempt?" Mr. Raja questioned.

Nationalist Congress Party leader and a senior lawyer Majeed Memon tweeted: "Contempt of Courts Act 1971 is in place to prevent the courts and judges from being scandalised. Supreme Court is supreme because it is the highest and final court,

not because it is infallible or does not err."

Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra through a series of tweets directed towards the 'First Court of our land' said, "If you have the law and truth behind you why is your skin so thin?"

The MP from Krishnanagar constituency in West Bengal added: "How are perceived affronts to your power & self worthy of such speedy disposal when issues like CAA, 370 & *Habeas Corpus* petitions perish for months?"

Ms. Moitra also said, "Remember you are the standard for millions of poor who even today say 'I will go to Court' - brute display of power does not become you. It shames us all."

'Centre is like a deer caught in the headlights'

Cong. flays differing growth estimates

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Former Union Ministers P. Chidambaram and Anand Sharma on Friday took a dig at the Union government over 'contradictory' growth projections by experts who are a part of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council (PMEAC), and asked who is in charge of India's economy.

While Mr. Sharma said the country needed "economic and not headline management", Mr. Chidambaram said the government was "paralysed and unable to move in any direction". In interviews to the same media outlet (*The Wire*) two economists of the PM's Economic Advisory Council reached diametrically opposite conclusions on growth in 2020-21. One said that the economy will contract between 5 and 7 per cent. The other said the economy could grow up to 1 per cent! No wonder, the government is like a deer caught between the headlights - paralysed and unable to move in either direction", Mr. Chidambaram said in a tweet.

"The government has decided to 'do nothing'. Whether it be the economy or the pandemic, the government has left the fate of 138 crore people to the gods!" added the former Finance Minister.

On "scandalising of court" as a ground for contempt, he noted that this law, as long as it remained in the country, should not be applied in a routine manner.

"Scandalising the court or lowering the dignity of the court are not stereotypical phrases. They are impregnated with a lot of meaning and substance that requires deeper reflection," Justice Lodha said.

P. Chidambaram

Who is in charge- Prime Minister or Finance Minister? Govt is clueless on economic revival. Confusion prevails in the PM's Economic Advisory Council itself with Sajid Chinoy warning of 5-7% GDP contraction and Ashima Goyal forecasting 1% growth", he asked in a tweet.

Chinoy's comment

On Thursday, in an interview to a news portal, JPMorgan's Chief India Economist, Sajid Chinoy, who is also a member of the PMEAC, said various estimates indicated the Indian economy contracting between 5% and 7%. He, however, said the views were his own and not that of the Council.

But his position was very different from another member of the PMEAC, Professor Ashima Goyal of the Mumbai-based Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research. He had predicted a growth of 1%.

Speaking to *The Hindu* separately, Mr. Sharma talked of a specific road map for economic recovery and cautioned the government against dipping into the reserves of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to meet the shortfall in revenue collections.

'India won't comment on U.S. election'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India will not comment on the U.S.'s Presidential elections, said the government, days after Kamala Harris was nominated to be Democratic Party front-runner Joseph Biden's Vice-Presidential running-mate. Ms. Harris is the first person of Indian extraction, born to a Jamaican-born father and Indian mother, to be on a U.S. Presidential ticket.

Jamaican Foreign Minister Kamina Smith had wished Ms. Harris on her "historic selection" in a tweet. Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam had also tweeted on the announcement, calling it a "moment of pride for Indians, especially for the people of Tamil Nadu", as Ms. Harris's mother belonged to Chennai.

However, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said the government would not make any statement on the development, as it could be seen as an interference in the U.S.'s internal politics.

In September last year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi ran into a controversy over comments at the joint rally in Houston. When PM Modi in his speech quoted U.S. President Donald Trump's 2016 campaign slogan – "Abki baar Trump sarkar" – aimed at the Indian-American population, it was reported in U.S. newspapers as an endorsement for Mr. Trump. However, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar later clarified that Mr. Modi had only referenced the previous election, not the upcoming one.

What was the hurry, asks Justice Lodha

Bhushan case could have waited till court resumed physical hearings, says the former CJI

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

Former Chief Justice of India (CJI) R.M. Lodha wondered why the Supreme Court moved quickly to hear the suo motu criminal contempt case against noted civil rights lawyer Prashant Bhushan via a virtual court hearing amid a pandemic.

"Heavens were not falling," Justice Lodha said in a telephonic interview with *The Hindu* on Friday. The virtual court system initiated to urgently hear and protect personal liberty, was "actually impairing somebody's liberty," he said.

"It is really surprising that a matter like this has been taken up during a pandemic and when the court is not

having physical hearings. This case could have been taken up as soon as the court resumed physical hearings. This is a little disturbing for me," the former top judge said.

Mr. Bhushan was convicted of contempt on Friday for two of his tweets in June.

'Disheartening act'

Senior advocate Raju Ramachandran said the court ought to have leaned on the side of freedom of speech. "Considering the contribution which Mr. Bhushan has made in public interest litigation, it is disheartening that the court acted on two tweets which in the very nature of the medium is not capable of nuance," he said.



PUCL disappointed

NEW DELHI

The People's Union For Civil Liberties on Friday expressed disappointment at the Supreme Court's decision holding advocate Prashant Bhushan guilty. In a statement, the organisation said the verdict lent substance to the view that the court was acting in a manner silencing democratic voices using the draconian power of "contempt of court".

Senior advocate Sanjay Hegde noted that the court should also ensure its authority was not further undermined while exercising the power of contempt. "The court has scheduled his sentence hearing on August 20.

Justice Lodha also said, "A criminal contempt matter is between the court and the contemnor. No third party is involved. So, the contemnor should be fully assured that he is being provided procedural fairness and a full hearing. A virtual court does not meet these parameters."

On "scandalising of court" as a ground for contempt, he noted that this law, as long as it remained in the country, should not be applied in a routine manner.

"Scandalising the court or lowering the dignity of the court are not stereotypical phrases. They are impregnated with a lot of meaning and substance that requires deeper reflection," Justice Lodha said.

Mr. Sharma said India's economy was sharply declining before the pandemic and the lockdown due to erratic decisions, flawed policies and monumental mismanagement. "Now [the economy] is staring at a prolonged recession and massive youth unemployment.

Speaking to *The Hindu* separately, Mr. Sharma talked of a specific road map for economic recovery and cautioned the government against dipping into the reserves of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to meet the shortfall in revenue collections.

Patriotism a key virtue for all citizens, says Hamid Ansari

Former V-P addresses webinar organised by Unacademy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Former Vice-President (V-P) Hamid Ansari said on Friday that in a democratic polity, governed by the Constitution and the principle of rule of law, the supremacy of the legally constituted civilian authority had to prevail.

"This basic principle remains the bedrock of civil-military relations," he stated.

Mr. Ansari was addressing a webinar organised by Unacademy, an education technology platform, in association with *The Hindu*.

"Patriotism and love for the motherland is an essential virtue for all citizens. Strident nationalism on the other hand should be eschewed since it tends to



wards jingoism. An instance of it was cited last week by an eminent scientist who cautioned against what she called 'vaccine nationalism'." Mr. Ansari told the online audience interested in appearing for the defence services examinations. "A career in the armed forces had a charm of its own,

Prime Minister Vajpayee's but also marks a departure from what the former achieved. Prime Minister Modi is the most presidential of Prime Ministers India has ever had in his combination of legislative and executive power and his leadership of the party," Professor Kumar said.

Into the second year of his second tenure, he is poised to take over Dr. Manmohan Singh's record too, of serving two full terms in a row and a decade at the helm.

'Child of destiny' Ashwani Kumar, political scientist at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, terms Prime Minister Modi a "child of destiny" and a product of the nearly 100 years of the RSS's existence.

"As such, his tenure has not just surpassed former

ward Classes, he has completely changed the nature of the reservation debate in India," Professor Kumar added.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Rahul Verma of the Centre for Policy Research (CPR) adds that the continued electoral dominance of Mr. Modi and the unprecedented expansion of the party, BJP, under his stewardship is also a departure from Mr. Vajpayee's tenure.

"Mr. Modi's tenure is not just about any non-Congress leader etc.; it is about the expansion of the BJP as well in areas where they were never present and among communities where they were not a political option," he said.

He added that Mr. Modi's unabashed advocacy of ideo-

logical imperatives of Hindutva has percolated to new economic institutions and socio-cultural institutions as well.

'Second Republic'

"The increase in the BJP's dominance is different from the last thirty years of coalition politics because it has also decimated the opposition, whereas earlier we were in a competitive political system. It has led to the inauguration of what many political scientists are now saying is the Second Republic in India, with new rules of engagement and a new democratic project based on ideological polarisation," Mr. Verma added.

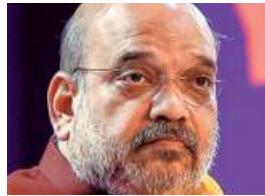
Mr. Modi has been heading one government or the other (State and Centre) uninterrupted for the past 18 years.



Narendra Modi

"Another remarkable thing about this is that he has not made any fundamental changes to the Constitution of India in realising this. The biggest example is the quota for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) for government jobs. By tinkering with quotas without any reworking of the central premise of reservations for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and the Other Back-

IN BRIEF



Amit Shah recovers from COVID-19

NEW DELHI
Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Friday that he had tested negative for COVID-19. Mr. Shah, who tested positive on August 2, was admitted in Medanta Hospital, Gurugram. "I thank God and extend my gratitude to all those who wished me well and lent strength to me and my family in these tough times. On the advice of doctors I will stay in home isolation for a few days," he tweeted. He also thanked the doctors and paramedics.

Health Ministry Joint Secretary tests positive

NEW DELHI
Lav Aggarwal, Joint Secretary of the Union Health Ministry, on Friday tested positive for COVID-19. The officer has been part of the Ministry's press briefing team. "Just to inform that I have tested positive for Covid 19 and initiating home isolation as per guidelines. Requesting all my friends, colleagues for self monitoring. Contact tracing will be done by Health Team. Hoping to see everyone soon," Mr. Aggarwal tweeted.

We can't go on a roving inquiry, says SC

NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court on Friday indicated that it cannot embark on a "roving inquiry" into the "gross mismanagement" of the COVID-19 pandemic by the government. The petition was filed by six former bureaucrats saying that mismanagement occurred at multiple levels, from not stocking enough medical equipment to lack of early screening of international passengers to the handling the exodus of migrant workers during the lockdown.

Flights available, SC tells NEET aspirants abroad

NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court on Friday told NEET candidates abroad that Vande Bharat flights are available during the COVID-19 pandemic. Parents of children abroad have approached the court to either open exam centres abroad or cancel the exam amid the health crisis. The National Testing Agency, which conducts the exam, informed the court that NEET has to be held in India "in a single shift at the same time". The court listed the case for hearing on Friday next.

Nagas' sovereignty recognised in 2015 pact, says Muivah

Nagas will coexist but not merge with India, he reiterates

VIJAITA SINGH
NEW DELHI
National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Isak-Muivah) (NSCN-IM) leader Thuingaleng Muivah on Friday said the Government of India recognised the Nagas' sovereignty when it signed the 2015 framework agreement and that the Nagas would coexist but not merge with India.

The 86-year-old leader said they were not asking the government for a Naga flag and a separate constitution, as "recognise them or not, we have our own flag and constitution." Mr. Muivah said in a speech: "the Nagas will coexist with India, shar-

LAC disengagement calls for reciprocal actions, says MEA

Five rounds of Corps Commander-level talks have been held so far

ANANTH KRISHNAN
CHENNAI

India's Ambassador to China Vikram Misri held talks with China's top military body, the Central Military Commission (CMC), in Beijing on Friday, amid an acknowledgement from Delhi that completing the stalled disengagement process along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) would require "reciprocal actions" from both sides.

While it is unclear what "actions" the People's Liberation Army (PLA) has demanded from India, the Chinese side has so far rebuffed India's demand for a return to the *status quo ante* prior to this summer's tensions that saw multiple transgressions and the Chinese military establishing positions on India's side of the LAC.

The PLA remains present on India's side of the LAC on the north bank of Pangong Lake, has continued to obstruct India's patrols in the Depsang plains, and has not diluted its build-up in several other areas, according to officials.

Five rounds of Corps Commander-level talks have been held so far, while the situation in Depsang was discussed at Major General-level talks on August 8.

On Friday, Mr. Misri met with PLA Major General Ci Guowei, who is Director of the Central Military Commission's (CMC) Office of International Military Cooperation, and "briefed him on India's stance vis-à-vis the situation on the borders in eastern Ladakh", according



Dialogue on: Indian Ambassador to China Vikram Misri with Major General Ci Guowei from China in Beijing on Friday. • PTI

"briefed him on India's stance vis-à-vis the situation on the borders in eastern Ladakh".

The outreach to the CMC and the Party's foreign affairs commission – the Foreign Ministry in Beijing is the usual interlocutor for foreign diplomats – came against the backdrop of the five rounds of Corps Commander-level talks failing to break the stalemate, with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) saying on Friday further meetings were likely in the near future to take forward a "complex" process.

MEA spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said both sides "have agreement on broad principles of disengagement and based on it, some progress had been earlier made". "I must add that translating these principles on ground is a complex process that requires re-deployment of troops by each side towards their regular posts on their respective sides of the LAC," he said.

India hails UAE-Israel pact, reiterates Palestine cause

New Delhi will continue to push for a two-state solution

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

India on Friday welcomed the normalisation of ties between Israel and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), calling them both "key strategic partners".

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar received a call from UAE Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan to explain the decision to establish full ties with Israel, becoming the first Gulf country, and the third Arab country, after Egypt and Jordan, to do so.

The trilateral agreement called the "Abraham Accords", signed along with the U.S. on Thursday, also commits Israel to suspend its plans for annexation of Palestine majority areas.

"India has consistently supported peace, stability and development in West Asia, which is its extended neighbourhood. In that context, we welcome the full normalisation of ties between UAE and Israel," said MEA spokesperson Anurag



S. Jaishankar

Srivastava, briefing journalists on Friday.

Mr. Jaishankar tweeted that he "deeply appreciated" the call from the UAE Minister, and said they "discussed the full normalisation of relations between UAE and Israel."

While the announcement of the agreement has been welcomed by India, it will also mean continuing to walk a balance on West Asian politics.

According to experts, the normalisation of ties between Israel and the UAE could be followed by similar actions by other Gulf countries, including the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and strong reactions from other countries in a region India has deep stakes in terms of energy supplies and expatriate populations. New Delhi will also need to watch ties with Iran, which has slammed the agreement and will see Arab-Israeli tie-ups as a direct threat to its security.

Call for talks

Officials said New Delhi would also continue to push for a two-state solution as part of a negotiated settlement between Israel and Palestine. Reaffirming its "traditional support" for the Palestinian cause, the MEA on Friday called for the early resumption of talks for a "two-state" solution.

Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas has rejected the agreement, calling it "betrayal".

Former Ambassador to Israel and the U.S., Navtej Sarna, said the agreement was a "good development" for India, given its strong ties with both countries.

Rahul seeks inclusive vaccine access policy

'Govt. should ensure fair disbursal'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Friday said the Union government must formulate a clearly-defined policy to ensure equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines.



A scientist at work at Serum Institute in Pune. • REUTERS

Dr. Vardhan said in view of the COVID-19 pandemic, restrictions due to lockdown and apprehension about hospital environments, the number of voluntary donations and blood donation camps saw a significant decline.

Blood donation declines

At the inauguration of a voluntary blood donation campaign at All India Institute of Medical Sciences on Friday, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said, "In view of the COVID-19 pandemic, restrictions due to lockdown and apprehension about hospital environments, the number of voluntary donations and blood donation camps saw a significant decline."

Dr. Vardhan noted that India is registering a continuous rise in the recovery rate from COVID-19 and progressive fall in case fatality rate.

"We have ramped up our testing capacity which has crossed more than 8.4 lakh tests on Friday, with more than 1,450 testing labs spread across the country," he said.

3 vaccines under trial

Presently, three vaccines are under trial and studies are being conducted about their safety on humans. However, there are concerns

over access to such vaccines once they are mass produced as most nations are competing with each other to vaccinate their citizens.

On Wednesday, National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for COVID-19, under the chairmanship of V. K. Paul of Niti Ayog, met for the first time to discuss about creating an infrastructure as well as guiding principles for prioritisation of population groups for vaccination.

Fadnavis gets a role in Bihar campaign

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Former Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has set off a flurry of speculation over a special role in the BJP's Bihar campaign after he participated in a State committee meeting via video link from Mumbai.

Sources say Bihar BJP leaders have been instructed to keep Mr. Fadnavis in the loop with regard to any political developments in the State, a clear signal that he is likely to be appointed to a "co-prabhu" (in charge) position. "We have also been instructed to ask him to attend every important meeting with regard to the preparations for Bihar polls," said a source.

Government of India
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY
NUCLEAR FUEL COMPLEX
Civil Engineering Division,
CIVIL post, Hyderabad 500 062.
PHONE Nos. 040-27184296, FAX: 040-27125523
CORRIGENDUM

Dates for Tender Notice No. C/1225/2020 for the work "Storm Water Reservoir 1, 2 & 3 – Civil, Structural steel and other allied works for construction of Storm Water Reservoir 1, 2 & 3 at NFC-K, Rawatbhata, Kota, Rajasthan are extended - Tender request: 21.08.2020 (up to 21.00 hrs). Online submission: 28.08.2020 (up to 21.00 hrs). Hard copy submission: 08.09.2020 (at 10.00 hrs). Tender Opening: 08.09.2020 at 15.00 hrs. All other conditions remain unaltered. Detailed NIT available in Dy. Chief Engineer(CED, PD & EP)

O/o. Secretary
SOCIAL JUSTICE DEPARTMENT
Government of Kerala

No. 7/D3/2020/SJD

NOTICE

Last date of receipt of the application for the appointment of State Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities is extended upto 22.8.2020.

For further details, please visit the following websites:

1. www.kerala.gov.in

2. www.sjd.kerala.gov.in

Date: 13.8.2020

BIJU PRABHAKAR, IAS,
Secretary, Social Justice Department

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY - e-Tender Notice

Tender No : SE/PHC/MPM/09/2020-21 KIIFB_Improvements to Kondotty Municipality- Phase II- Package II- Construction of OHSRs and supplying and laying of transmission and distribution mains EMD : Rs. 500000 Tender fee : Rs. 16800 Last Date for submitting Tender : 15-09-2020 , 03:00 pm Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in www.etenders.kerala.gov.in

KWA-JB-GL-6-143-2020-21 Phone : 0483-2734871

Supervising Engineer
PH Circle, Malappuram

RAJIV GANDHI UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES, KARNATAKA

4th T' Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru-560 041,
Ph: 080-26961928, Fax: 080-26961929
No.RGU/PROC/Molecular/77/2020-21 Dated:14.08.2020

E- TENDER NOTIFICATION (RFP)

The Registrar Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences invites tender for Supply of Equipments/Instruments to Molecular Biology Laboratory at Affiliated Government Medical Colleges. More details on the Services are provided in the attached Terms of Reference. (1) Tender document available for download: 12.08.2020 15.36 Hrs. (2) Pre-bid meeting: 24.09.2020 11.30 Hrs (3) Last date for receipt of Tender: 12.10.2020, 17.30 Hrs. (4) Opening of Technical bid: 14.10.2020, 11.00 Hrs. (5) Place of Opening of Tender: Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Bengaluru. More details can be fetched from <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/- Registrar, RGUHS, Bengaluru

Karnataka Sheep and Wool Development Corporation Ltd.

"Kuri Bhavana", Veterinary College Campus, Hebbal, Bangalore - 560 024 Ph: 080-23413294, 23413294 Fax: 080-23413294 e-mail:kswdcl@gmail.com

No: KSWDCL/WPUTender/2020-21 Date: 06.08.2020

Re-Tender Notification

(Through e-procurement Mode Only)

Karnataka Sheep and Wool Development Corporation Limited, hereby invites tenders through e-procurement (Website: <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in>) from eligible tenderers, for Supply and Installation of Machineries for Sheep Wool Processing Unit at Hospet and Ranebennur for the year 2020-21.

Interested eligible tenderers may obtain further information from the Office of the Managing Director, Karnataka Sheep and Wool Development Corporation Limited, "Kuri Bhavana", Veterinary College, Hebbal, Bengaluru- 560024 (Ph. No. 080-23413294, 9880582473). Complete tender documents can be viewed by visiting website: <https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in> from Date : 10.08.2020.

Tenderers can upload all the necessary documents accompanied by Earnest Money Deposit through e-procurement portal from 10.08.2020 to 09.10.2020 till 4.00 p.m.

Sd/-
Chairman and Deputy Director
Tender Inviting Authority.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Air India has sent termination letters to 48 pilots, weeks after the airline asserted on social media that no employees would be laid off.

It is reliably learnt that Air India tendered termination letters to several pilots on Thursday evening.

The termination comes into immediate effect and "you will stand

released from the services of the company w.e.f close of office of August 13," the carrier has said.

A copy of one such letter was reviewed by *The Hindu*.

Pilots have been given an equivalent of one month's salary, according to sources.

Financial strain'

"You would appreciate that the company is already severely strained fi-

nancially. Further, the global pandemic COVID-19 has resulted in extraordinary and exceptional circumstances by gravely reducing the commercial functioning of the company, leading to redundancies. The company is incurring huge net losses and doesn't have the financial ability to pay," the letter informed the pilots.

In other cases, the pilots had submitted their resignation letters six months back, but their resignations had not been accepted by the Chairman and Managing Director.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, NORTHERN CIRCLE, RURAL WORKS, ANGUL
No. 1299 //

e-Procurement Notice for Maintenance works in Odisha

- Name of the Work : Maintenance work
- Total No. of Work : 03 Nos.
- Estimated Cost : Rs.203.00 to 288.00 Lakhs
- Class of Contractor : 'B' & 'A' Class
- Period of Completion : 04 (Four) Calendar Months
- Other details :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding	Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender	
		From	To	Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6

IN BRIEF



U.P. MLA Vijay Mishra detained in M.P.

LUCKNOW
MLA Vijay Mishra of Bhadohi in Uttar Pradesh was on Friday detained by the Madhya Pradesh police in connection with an FIR lodged against him in his home State for allegedly taking his relative's house and extorting money from him. Mr. Mishra was detained from Agar Malwa a day after he released a video on social media expressing the fear that he "could be murdered" or arrested by the U.P. police.

Jharkhand govt. unveils new logo for State

BHUBANESWAR
The Hemant Soren government in Jharkhand on Friday unveiled the new State logo at Ranchi on the eve of Independence Day. The circular logo has the national emblem at the centre. The emblem is enclosed in concentric circles depicting Jharkhand's culture and its abundant natural resources. The logo was launched in the presence of Jharkhand Governor Draupadi Murmu and Chief Minister Mr. Soren.

Legislators can head coop. societies in M.P.

BHOPAL
Madhya Pradesh Home Minister Narottam Mishra said on Friday that the Cabinet had decided to allow legislators to now be part of cooperative societies. This is seen as a move to accommodate rebels from the Congress. In March, 22 Congress MLAs resigned and joined the BJP. While 14 of them have been appointed Ministers, one was accorded a Cabinet rank as chairman of the M.P. State Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd.

Anti-drug campaign planned in 272 districts

NEW DELHI
A seven-month-long anti-drug campaign in 272 districts identified as "vulnerable" by the Union Ministry of Social Justice would be launched on Saturday. Union Minister Thawarchand Gehlot said on Friday. The Minister addressed District Collectors and officials of the State governments as well as doctors, NGOs and Narcotics Control Bureau officers through videoconferencing. The campaign will include awareness generation, focus on schools and colleges, community outreach and capacity-building for service providers.

Correction

In the report "NSEL scam: CBI seeks Finance Ministry view" published on Friday in some editions, the strapline was incorrect as P. Chidambaram does not face any charges in the scam.

Three Army personnel to get Shaurya Chakra

An IAF officer is also among the nine chosen for the award

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Three Army personnel and an Indian Air Force officer were among the nine names announced for Shaurya Chakra on Friday, the eve of Independence Day.

"President Ram Nath Kovind, who is also the Supreme Commander of the armed forces, has approved 84 awards and decorations to the armed forces personnel and members of the paramilitary forces," the Defence Ministry said in a statement. The awards comprise one Kirti Chakra, nine Shaurya Chakras and 65 Sena, four Nao Sena and five Vayu Sena medals (gallantry).

The President approved 19 mention-in-despatches to Army personnel, eight of them posthumous for Operation Meghdoot and Operation Rakshak.

The Shaurya Chakra win-



Honour roll: Lt. Col. Krishan Singh Rawat; Major Anil Urs and havildar Alok Kumar Dubey. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ners are Lt. Col. K.S. Rawat from the Para Special Forces, Major Anil Urs from the Maratha Light Infantry and havildar Alok Kumar Dubey from the Rajput Regiment and with 44 Rashtriya Rifles and Wing Commander Vishak Nair. Lt. Col. Rawat and Major Urs were awarded for their actions in foiling infiltration on the Line of Control.

Havildar Dubey was awarded for his actions during counter-insurgency operations in the Kashmir Valley on June 22, 2019. A cordon-and-search opera-

tion was launched in an orchard near a village when with tactical proficiency, he assisted the Company Commander, the Army said.

"His courageous action prevented the escape of the terrorists and eventual elimination of all the four terrorists," the Army added.

Captain Mirgank Sheokand, a MiG-29 pilot, was awarded the Nao Sena Medal (gallantry) for saving numerous civilian lives on the ground by steering his aircraft that suffered a bird hit to a barren land before ejecting with the trainee pilot.

CBI bags 32 service medals

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has bagged 32 President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service and Police Medal for Meritorious Service on Independence Day this year.

Among the awardees for the President's Police Medals for Distinguished Service are Additional Superintendent of Police Prasenjit Roy, Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Surinder Pandit, Pradeep Kumar

Singh Bhullar, and head constables Vijay Goswami, Vazir Singh, S. Ravi and Shyambar Singh.

The medal for meritorious service has been conferred on DSPs Divas Kumar and K. Lokho Moses; Inspectors Ashok Kumar Jha, Manoj Kumar and Rajesh Bhonsle; Assistant Sub-Inspector Mahesh Vasant Patil; and head constables Brijesh Kumar Tripathi, Chandra Shekhar Pandey, Kanwal Krishan

Pandit, Pradeep Kumar Dash, Ram Ratan Gurjar, Sanjiti Kumar Roy, Santosh Pralhad Mahajan, Shyam Chandra, Supriya Kumar Dutta, T. Thirusarvanan, Uttramrao Nagarao Aagle and Budhdeo Oraon. Constables Ajeet Kumar Singh, Bhaiya Ranjan Kumar Singh, Dalbir Singh, Hem Chander Tiwari, Joginder Singh, Rayapa Raju Mantena, Pop Singh, and Personal Secretary Vasantha Rangachari have also been awarded the medal for meritorious service.

Meerut bounty announcer arrested

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GAZIABAD

A Meerut man was arrested on Friday evening for allegedly disturbing communal harmony after a video went viral where he purportedly announces a bounty of ₹51 lakh on the head of the nephew of Karnataka MLA R. Akhanda Srinivasa Murthy for a post on social media that allegedly hurt Muslims' religious sentiments.

Avinash Pandey, Superintendent of Police (Rural), Meerut, said Shahzeb Rizvi, of Rasoolpur village of Meerut, has been booked under Sections 153A (promoting enmity between religious groups) and 505(2) (intent to incite one community against the other) of the IPC. "We had taken note of the video. He has been charged with disturbing communal harmony."

India believes in winning hearts, not land: Rajnath

If attacked, we will give a befitting reply, Minister says

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India has never attacked anywhere to capture the land of others and India believes in winning hearts, not land, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Friday.

"Whatever we do in national security, we always do it for self defence, not for attacking others. If an enemy country ever attacked us, like every time, we will give a befitting reply," Mr. Singh said in the customary address to the armed forces ahead of Independence Day.

The Minister's comments come amid the ongoing stand-off with China along the border in Eastern Ladakh, which has now gone on for over 100 days. Chinese troops continue to remain in



Indian-held territory in several places despite several rounds of military and diplomatic talks aimed at disengagement and de-escalation.

Mr. Singh stressed that the government is doing everything necessary to keep the morale of the Armed Forces high and to fulfil all their operational requirements.

81 gallantry awards for J&K police

215 police and CAPF personnel honoured ahead of Independence Day

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A total of 215 policemen and paramilitary personnel have been named for police medals for gallantry announced on the eve of Independence Day.

At 81, Jammu and Kashmir will get the highest number of medals, followed by 23 for the Uttar Pradesh police and 16 for the Delhi police.

55 medals for CRPF

Among the Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) or paramilitary forces, 55 such medals have gone to the CRPF received the PMGs.

Seven policemen from Uttar Pradesh including In-



Atul Kumar Goel

spector General Asim Arun received the PMG for the 2017 operation at Lucknow when an Islamic State terrorist Saifullah was killed.

Delhi Police Inspector Mohan Chand Sharma, killed

during the 2008 Batla House encounter, has been awarded a gallantry medal posthumously for the seventh time.

CRPF Assistant Commandant Naresh Kumar also won the bravery medal for the seventh time for undertaking counter-terrorist operations in the Kashmir valley.

BSF Assistant Commandant Vinay Prasad has been awarded a bravery medal posthumously. Vinay Prasad was killed in unprovoked firing by Pakistan when he was out on an operational task with his patrol team in Samba sector of Jammu and Kashmir in January last year.

ITBP men tipped for medals for LAC action

They have been recommended gallantry medals for role in eastern Ladakh

VIIJITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) has recommended gallantry medals for 21 personnel who faced Chinese troops in multiple skirmishes that occurred in eastern Ladakh in May and June. It said that due to the force's "befitting response", many "hypersensitive" locations were safeguarded from Chinese troops.

This is the first time the ITBP, deployed with the Army along the undefined Line of Actual Control (LAC), has confirmed the violent face-offs with Chinese troops in sectors other than the Galwan Valley, where 20 Army personnel were killed on June 15.

The recommendations for medals are not for the Galwan incident, where the



The ITBP said that its troops safeguarded many locations from the Chinese troops.

ITBP trekked a long distance to retrieve the bodies of the jawans who had fallen into the Galwan river following the clash.

"The ITBP troops not only effectively used shield to protect themselves but also responded fiercely to PLA

[People's Liberation Army] advancing troops and

brought the situation under control. With highest order of professional skills, ITBP personnel fought shoulder to shoulder and also brought the injured Indian Army troops to the rear," an ITBP statement issued on Friday said.

A senior government official said that before the Galwan clash, there was a massive build-up by Chinese troops along the LAC beginning April last week.

The ITBP statement said that "even when the ITBP troops fought whole night, they received minimum casualties by giving befitting reply to the stone pelters of the PLA.

At places, they gave determined stand-off about 17 to 20 hours throughout the intervening nights."

Other than the 21 recom-

mendations, 294 other ITBP personnel received the Director General Gallantry Commendations "for displaying raw courage and bravery during face-offs and skirmishes in Eastern Ladakh in May-June 2020."

The recommendations for gallantry medals, announced twice on the occasions of Republic Day and Independence Day each year, are scrutinised and cleared by the Home Ministry. None of the 21 recommendations received a medal on the eve of Independence Day this year. The ITBP also recommended the names of 318 personnel and 40 other Central armed Police Force personnel for award of Union Home Minister Special Operation Medals for their dedicated services in fight against the COVID-19.

Scholarships in Mushirul Hasan's name

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Jamia Millia Islamia on Friday announced the establishment of the "Mushirul Hasan Endowment", through which annual post-doctoral fellowship and two post-graduate merit-cum-means scholarships would be given. An annual seminar on contemporary history, society and politics in India would also be organised.

"As a mark of respect for Professor Mushirul Hasan's commitment to Jamia Millia Islamia and to the pursuit of academic excellence,

Prof. Zoya Hasan — wife of late Prof. Mushirul Hasan, former Vice-Chancellor

Najma Akhtar told *The Hindu* on Friday.

Jamia first in Central University scores

It should be linked to incentives: V-C

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Jamia Millia Islamia on Friday announced the results of the internal assessment exercise, based on annual targets set by each university under performance parameters determined by the Centre.

The assessment should be linked to financial incentives to make it more effective, Jamia's Vice-Chancellor Najma Akhtar told *The Hindu* on Friday.

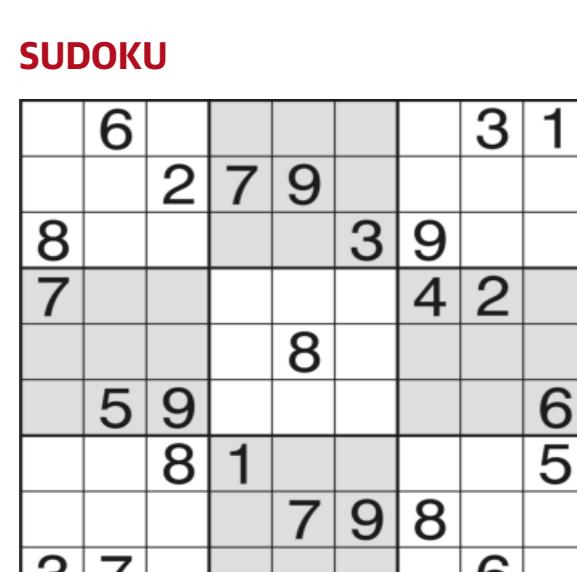
Jamia, which has been in the spotlight for police violence and riots on campus last December, achieved the highest score for 2019-20, followed by Rajiv Gandhi University in Arunachal Pradesh, and Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi. However, the Education Ministry (formerly the Ministry of

Human Resource Development or MHRD) notes that this is an internal assessment, not a ranking, as the targets are self-determined and not comparable across universities.

"MHRD does the internal assessment of Central Universities regularly based on yearly MoU signed with MHRD, UGC [University Grants Commission] and universities. Jamia University is on the top in the internal assessment," said a Ministry spokesperson. "The word rankings should be avoided."

At the beginning of each year, universities set their targets on various parameters, including student intake and diversity, faculty strength, research, patents and financial management.

SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to puzzle 13014

APOSTLE BETROTHTWRLAIDUIMANIAORCHESTRAOLEMPKSRSTIRIPTEASETABTSOSLTSNSLEADARTICLEAPINGSUESPARTNERSHIPEEAREVBEARINMINDDIJIEAADNDHTESTTUBESOUTREIQOULLTUEERFESTIVEABSOLVE

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

547612389283947516196583724659321478318764952724895163831456297465279831972138645

FAITH

Acts of charity

Giving to others – daana – is a means to get rid of our sins. When a person awakes in the morning, he should spend time contemplating what acts of charity he should perform that day. We usually draw up a schedule for the day's activities, but we hardly fit in daana in this schedule. But this is the first thing we should be thinking of. We should think of what we gave the previous day and what we are going to give today. Why is daana important? Do you draw in breath and not release it at all? In the same way, is it right to earn money, but not give it away? Accumulating wealth, without giving to others, is akin to drawing in your breath and not breathing out, said Velukkudi Krishnan, in a discourse.

Plants take in carbon dioxide and give out oxygen, which sustains life. So even plants do not take selfishly, but do something for others. Should not human beings give to fellow human beings? Lord Krishna tells Yudhishtira that when a person gives daana, his ancestors in pitru loka are delighted. One can give according to one's capacity. A person can give gold (hiranya daana); one can give cows (go daana) or land (prithvi daana).

We give gifts to rich men with a lot of fanfare, because this brings us attention. But the aim of daana is not attention seeking. It is wrong to give to a rich man. The receiver must be one who needs it. The recipient must also be a good person. One should give only for noble purposes. One can contribute towards the education of others, one can provide food to the hungry; one can donate towards the wedding expenses of a poor girl. We accumulate many sins unknowingly. As we keep giving to worthy people, our sins gradually disappear, without our knowing it. Just as they came to us silently, they leave just as silently.

TH CROSSWORD + 13015

(set by Hypatia)

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27				28		

ACROSS

- Incorporating many things exotic, diverse area overlooking South East (6)
- Nomenclature of multiple beliefs and Gods in place (around 51) (8)
- Dr. No is oddly disrupting power at this late hour (8)
- Initially, all executive committee members on a plane (6)
-

#ChangeAgents
AUG 15, 2020**Meera Goradia**

Co-Founder, Creative Dignity



Goradia is happily surprised at how the Covid crisis has brought out the best in some human beings. The Creative Dignity (CD) movement, which provides relief and rehabilitation to artisans left stranded by the pandemic, started with 25 volunteer members on May 1 and has grown to 250 since then. While CD has provided relief to approximately 2,000 artisans, of which 60% are from the handloom sector, Goradia says doles are not the solution. The aim is to get artisans back in their workshops, she says, adding, "Covid has provided an opportunity to reimagine, restructure and reconfigure Indian craft." And so management firm Kearney offered *pro bono* strategic guidance, Industrie Foundation volunteered its secretariat for administrative support for a year. Northwest Venture Partners and its campaign Gratitude for Covid promised to match the funds raised by CD. Design schools including IICD, NIFT and Srishti are imparting digital literacy to the artisans. They are helping them create catalogues, take product photos and upload them. FICCI FLO is promoting their stock sales campaigns at a national level, while e-commerce platforms such as Jaypore, Okhai, GoCoop, iTokri and Gaatha are also partnering for sales. An app that will help weavers manage inventory and work as a virtual storefront is also in the works. Details: creativedignity.org



The new indie craft helpers

Meet the individuals who began working with weaving communities during the lockdown to help them tide the pandemic and beyond

PANKAJA SRINIVASAN

With the recently-concluded National Handloom Day celebrations on social media and shopping portals, concerns were raised about how weavers were faring during the pandemic. Perilously, say those in the sector, with markets closing down, spending power greatly reduced and no exhibitions in sight. However, NGOs like Dastkar, Ekibeki, Raah Foundation, Sanatkada and several more, along with design schools, co-operatives and corporates have stepped in to help them sustain their livelihood during this lockdown period and beyond.

And over the past few months, at the grassroots, individuals have begun working with artisans in their community to help reach clients and rethink their sales strategy. Weavers are now experimenting with new designs and textures, and learning to use online platforms to their advantage. They all have one dream, to be woven into the Great Indian Handloom narrative.

**Asomee Dutta Baruah**

Director, Natural Collective Producer Company

"Did you know that 95% of handloom weavers are from the Northeast? If there is a village of 100 people, at least 80 will be engaged in weaving. Every second home is a small industry. Yet our voices have not reached anywhere," rues Baruah. In addition to the virus, floods and landslides have hit the weavers hard and hundreds have lost their looms. And while rations and funds are helpful in the short-term, she hopes that the support will evolve into a more meaningful engagement with the weavers, so that they can start weaving again. "We are now weaving triple-layered masks out of Eri silk that is dyed in turmeric and neem, a practice that has been in existence for generations. People now look out for products that are sustainable, long lasting and eco-friendly. All of those notions are woven into our handlooms." The website will be ready in a while, promises Baruah. As soon as the crisis tides over.

Details: ssmngohy@rediffmail.com**Poludas Nagendra Satish**

Founder, Kora Design Collaborative



Working with designers, technicians and craftspeople, Satish's aim was to impart skills to new weavers, encourage women to weave and introduce affordable technology at the grassroots level. "With so much time on their hands, weavers are weaving more," he says of the immediate problem that they are facing. While the finished products have piled up, there are no takers. Even the bigger and better-managed societies with their personal contacts, a good network and smart marketing have managed to sell only 5% to 8% of their stocks, says Satish.

Across Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Jharkhand, Orissa and Bihar, Kora is creating ecosystems to make the handloom communities self-sufficient. It is encouraging the cultivation of indigenous cotton, innovating simpler spinning techniques and setting up structures that do not cause disruption in their daily routine.

Details: [@satish_kora](https://www.instagram.com/satish_kora) on Instagram**Kevisedenuo Margaret Zinyu**

Woven Threads (Studio Predilection)

"Our weavers traditionally live on very little. They grow their own food and [in that sense] have not been severely affected by the virus. The current challenge is that they have their hands full tending to the family that is now home all the time," says Zinyu, proprietor of Woven Threads, a design initiative that supports women weavers of Nagaland to preserve their traditions. She works with 20 weavers in the districts of Kohima, Phek and the far-flung Noklak. They work with single ply cotton, making home textiles such as cushion covers, table runners, etc. The Home Collection is available in stores such as Canvas in New Delhi, Jaipur Modern in Jaipur, Artisans Gallery in Mumbai, People Tree, Goa and Cult Modern, Kochi. "The lull in demand has given us an opportunity to try out different textures and designs keeping in mind client specifications," she says.

Details: woventhreads.in**Shashank Gupta**

@therandomdelhi



In Khurja, Uttar Pradesh, the last of the *khes* weavers got some reprieve thanks to 22-year-old history student Shashank Gupta. "During the lockdown, I found them struggling to survive. The [powerloomed] cotton blankets are sold only through hawkers, and obviously, the demand for them is next to nothing now," he says. The weavers earn roughly ₹15 for every *khes* they make and have no co-operatives. Gupta began using his popular Instagram handle, @therandomdelhi, to garner support. "I first posted about them on June 25 and we managed to get about 100 orders in a month." He hopes this has bought them some time as, otherwise, he fears that the weaving tradition – which originated in Mughal times and travelled to Khurja about 150 years ago – will go extinct.

Details: [@therandomdelhi](https://www.instagram.com/therandomdelhi) on Instagram

In real life: 5 designers unmasked

When some of our leading designers, a magazine publisher and a fashion e-tailer unite for a cause

ROSELLA STEPHEN

The humble face mask has powered dozens of charity drives this year. *Behind the Mask* is the latest in this category, uniting five of the country's leading designers, a global magazine publisher and a fashion e-tailer. "Years from now, we will agree that the mask was the metaphor for our times...for 2020," begins Alex Kuruvilla, MD of Conde Nast India on a Zoom call.

Kuruvilla's lockdown project began by getting a few fashion designers on the phone. Would they allow an intimate look at their lives during the pandemic, as they address isolation and being locked in with their fears and conquests? The first five he reached out to for the web-series – Manish Malhotra, Anita Dongre, Tarun Tahiliani, Gaurav Gupta and Rahul Mishra – agreed almost instantly. Each of them was also expected to create a prototype of a mask, to then inspire 20 different designs made in cotton. Retailed on Myntra, the profits would reach Indian *karigars* (craftspersons) through online donation platform, GiveIndia. But Kuruvilla, former chief at MTV Networks India, wasn't



done with the planning. "We needed something that was broadcast quality and not just for a website," he says.

Homemade, with backup

Having worked on Long-form Originals at the company and on shows like *Vogue BFFs*, Anita Horam, director of Video at Conde India, knew they would have to improvise. With everyone housebound, the five designers had to use their own smartphones for video. Horam sent a tool-kit that included thumbnails as reference to shoot like a pro, tips on exposure as per device, etc. "We did not want a staged piece, so no PR lines, no standard answers. There is a realness that is endearing," she adds.

In the series' promos, Rahul Mishra, who presented at Paris Haute Couture Week in July, is caught stressing

over camera angles, while Manish Malhotra stumbles over the pronunciation of 'masks' (we've all been there, really). Tarun Tahiliani is self-possessed as usual, while Anita Dongre thinks long and hard before responding to a question (note that hers is the most successful Indian designer brand with a retail turnover of ₹800 crore in 2019-2020). Dongre was also the only one with a ring light, that blogger and YouTuber essential, during production.

No stone unturned
At a time when publishing houses are pulling out all the stops to engage audiences, will this 'unmasking' translate into sales? Kuruvilla, 60, is not taking any chances. The masks have been shipped to over a 100 top influencers. And for Instagrammers not keen to splash out ₹499 on a mask, avataar.me, a Bengaluru-based AR advertising platform, has created a filter with the 20 designs.

The episodes will be streamed on the Myntara app and aired on TLC and TLC HD and streamed on Discovery + on August 17/18, 2020

Read the full story on weekend.thehindu.com

Vaishali S
Khum Shorts
Karnataka's *khun* fabric was traditionally used for sari blouses. But designer Vaishali Shadangule worked with weavers to increase the size of their looms and the width of the yardage to give it versatility. The magenta fabric used in these chino shorts was woven by a family in Gudlegudda. Make it a co-ord set with a matching bralet or top. ₹5,500, on vaishali-s.com



Grassroot by Anita Dongre
Cotton Dress
Casual chic is in and the simple silhouette of this fitted, sleeveless grey handwoven cotton dress is ideal. Accented with mirror work detailing in three parallel lines, pick it up as an everyday basic. ₹10,990 on anitadongre.com



House of Three
Arirai
We've seen silk saris made into suits and skirts, but for their Spring/Resort 2020 collection, titled Kumarakandam, this Bengaluru design house went further. The black-and-white number features handwoven kanjeevaram crafted into a corset. The yellow-and-pink asymmetrical hemline, with a thigh-high slit and peplum, adds to the drama. At ₹27,500 on houseofthreestudio.com

#ChangeAgents
AUG 15, 2020

LUST LIST

Indian fabrics take on international silhouettes as bomber jackets and peplum dresses

Khun shorts, kanjeevaram corset

Indian fabrics are versatile and have often gone beyond their original uses and interpretations. Banarsi sari brocade has made its way on to gowns and khadi blazers replace linen as summer casuals. On Independence Day, we look at how weaves that are at the heart of our handloom traditions are adapting to international silhouettes.

Compiled by Susanna Myrtle Lazarus



Advani London
Sari Bomber
This jacket would not look out of place at a wedding, alongside heavy silk saris. Made with brocade from India, the gender-neutral bomber is handcrafted in London. Available in navy, pink and gold, with matching sari pants (sold separately), it replaces the elasticated cuffs and ribbing with hidden push buttons. Approximately ₹1.32 lakh, on aashniandco.com



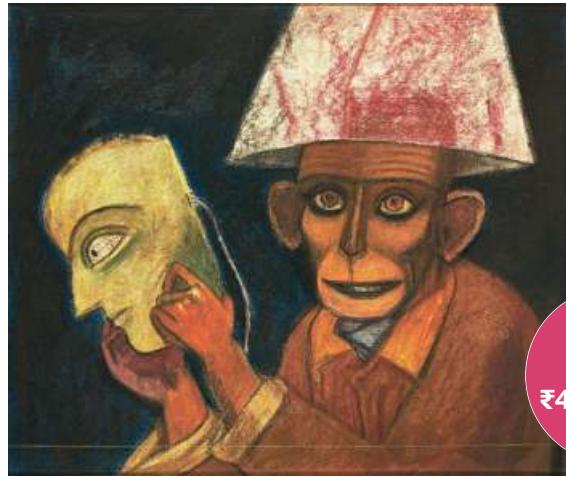
Kshitij Jalori
Broadway Mashru Trench Coat
A staple of European winters, the trench coat is increasingly making its presence felt in the country. The Delhi-based brand has adapted the garment's construction without extra insulating layers, in this emerald green Banarsi trench. ₹44,900, on aashniandco.com



No holds barred (Top)
Gaurav Gupta in a still from *Behind the Mask* and (above) masks inspired by Tarun Tahiliani

CM

How art survives a crisis



GAYATRI RANGACHARI SHAH

A torrential downpour, howling winds and even a pandemic couldn't dampen the spirit of enthusiastic buyers at Pundole's Fine Art Sale last week. The Mumbai-based auction house sold 98% of its 64 lots, at a hammer price of ₹14.78 crore or \$1.9 million (inclusive of 15% buyers' premium).

The sale included world record auction prices for six artists, including Krishen Khanna, Piraji Sagar, Mehli Gobhai, Navjot Altaf and works

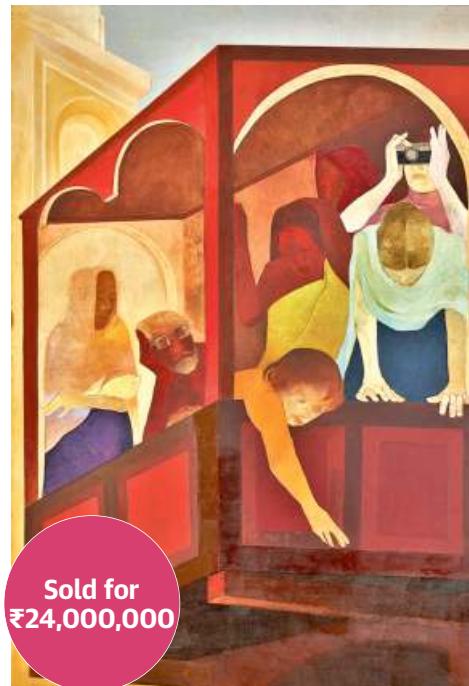
on paper by Sudhir Patwardhan and Homi Patel. "There were works for every budget, beginning at ₹20,000 and they were a combination of good quality, superb provenance and hard to find subjects, which created the perfect storm – no pun intended," says auctioneer and fine art specialist Mallika Sagar.

The lack of buzz of a live room notwithstanding, technology enabled frenzied bidding. Many works were on the market for the first time, from two private collections – that of

Pundole's Fine Art Sale last week is one of many virtual auctions to find success during the pandemic. Is there an explanation?



Sold for ₹12,000,000



Sold for ₹24,000,000

FOOD SPOT



RAHUL VERMA

My sister called on Rakhi and asked if we'd like some *ghevar*. With a heavy heart, I had to say no. I love *ghevar*, and it is a monsoon special that was a part of my childhood. But it is one of those sweets that I can't have enough of, so I end up eating too much of it. But the talk of *ghevar* got me thinking of my go-to place for the honey-comb-like sweet. Kaleva, in Gol Market, was where I went regularly to pick up the sweet – and a lot more.

I think I am among the sweet-and-savoury shop's first customers. I landed up there within a week after it opened more than three decades ago, and went regularly for years after that. There was a time when I was there twice a week for puri and aloo (a spicy potato curry), and on Sunday mornings, for *bedmi* (puris stuffed with a lentil paste) and *gatteki sabzi*, a delicious dish of steamed lentils in gravy. Another favourite was the *dahi bhalla*. There was a sweet called *chak-a-chak* (a kind of saffron-tinted ras malai) that we all loved.

All that nostalgia triggered a yearning for some of these. I found out that Kaleva was delivering food through Zomato to our neighbourhood.

I went through the menu and zeroed in on a few of the old favourites: *puri-sabzi* (₹69), *dahi bhalla* (₹88), *chholey bhaturey* (₹115), and *gol gappey* (₹50). I couldn't find *chaka-a-chak* on the menu, so asked for some milk cake (₹330 for 500g).

The food arrived and, as they say in impolite circles, all hell broke. I loved the *puri* and *alo* – the potato curry was tart but only mildly spicy, and I could get the heavenly flavour of the desi ghee that it had been tempered with. I only had a bit of the *bhatura* with the *chholey*, which had been mixed with pieces of paneer. The *chholey*, in thick gravy, was spicy, as it usually is. I managed to get just one *gol gappa* –



The taste of MEMORY



How the sweet *ghevar* led the author back to Kaleva, or rather, brought Kaleva back to him

Food for all time (Top) Puri-aloo, (above) gol gappey ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

which disappeared in front of my eyes before I could say "thoda aur paani dena" – but was happy to find that it had all the right flavours: sweet, tart, and hot.

The *dahi bhalla*, however, was not the way I remembered it. It may have been the weather, but I found the curd a bit sour. The milk cake was alright, but, of course, couldn't come anywhere near the one I have had at a non-descript little shop in Kucha Gharam in Chandni Chowk.

I am glad Kaleva is getting its food delivered across the city. When I lived in central Delhi it

was a part of my life, and I remember spending hours there talking to the gentleman who ran it, and later with his sons. They are a family from Bikaner, and their great-grandfather started the food business with the sale of *rasgulla*. There is, incidentally, one school of thought that believes the *chhena* sweet originated neither in Bengal nor in Odisha – but in Rajasthan.

This was also where I had my first fruit kulf – kulf stuffed in a mango. It was sublime. And then, for several years, I would go there whenever it rained, for a big and sweet chunk of *ghevar* (without malai on top, if I had a choice).

The author is a seasoned food critic



Sold for ₹9,500,000



Sold for ₹1.3 crore

Sotheby's modern and contemporary South Asian art sale netted ₹35.7 crore. In June, Saffronart's auction totalled ₹17.5 crore. Last month, Christie's July sale yielded ₹35.7 crore and Asita Guru's ₹51.4 crore. (All figures include buyers' premium ranging from 15-30%).

During the lockdown, Saffronart has conducted numerous smaller, no reserve auctions, such as Absolute Tuesdays and Friday Fives, with a mix of art and other collectibles. Minal Vazirani, President and co-founder of the company, says these too have been very successful. "These auctions have taken on a life of their own during this time," she says. The company's 20-year-old bet on online sales has distinguished it, as it holds just under 40% market share of the Indian art auction market globally.

With discretionary spending on leisure activities, be it travel or shopping trips, coming to a halt, even casual art buyers are willing to spend more. After all, how many people will shop for high-end bags on the Internet, and more importantly, where will they wear them?

"The world over, art seems to be holding its value because of easy liquidity conditions and because people have more time at home to look at art," says businessman and art collector Dara Mehta. Staying indoors has clearly had an effect on the art

Digital sales (clockwise from far left) Paintings by Ganesh Pyne, Akbar Padamsee, MF Hussain, SH Raza and Krishen Khanna ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

market. As Udit Bhambri, another prolific collector puts it: "You're spending so much time at home but you can't really redesign your house right now. Art is an easy way to look at your space differently."

Digital activity driving sales

"People imagine that the art world is suffering, which is not the case at all," says Roshini Vadhera, director of Delhi-based Vadhera Art Gallery. "In terms of sheer volume, our sales in the past two months have been higher than in recent years because everyone is in India and not distracted by holidays." When the pandemic hit, the gallery pivoted to stepping up its digital outreach, via a weekly newsletter and an online store. Vadhera has also sold to NRIs based in Chicago, Boston and Atlanta, in the range of \$30,000 or higher, using apps such as Art Placer (which lets you preview art on your wall).

Meanwhile, Prateek Raja, co-director of Experimenter in Kolkata, says the gallery is engaging with young collectors who have returned to Kolkata during this time. "We meet our collectors at art fairs where there's literally a five-minute window to talk, but in the past few months we've had several in-depth conversations with collectors from around the world that last much longer than a rushed chat," he says about their Zoom presentations with clients.

Also, there is more cooperation among art sellers. Saffronart has begun a partner gallery program to enable local galleries to access a wider global network. "If we collaborate, it fosters a greater level of engagement and helps bring in more people into the arts ecosystem," Vazirani concludes.

Hanging by a thread

The sudden scrapping of the Handloom and Handicrafts Boards deprives artisans their sole official forum to voice concerns



#NationalHandloomDay

nistry under which it falls; in this case, the Ministry of Textiles.

Beyond digital campaigns

Three days before Handloom Day, industry leaders, Bollywood stars, designers, media, and other influencers were sent letters urging them to support a digital campaign by sharing pictures wearing handloom, using the official Ministry of Textiles' hashtag. Handloom Day, however, is not just about wearing pretty saris and posting selfies on social media. It needs to actively promote the stories and professional skills of the makers, and ensure that they receive recognition. What weavers need today is not rhetoric or pats on the back, but practical assistance to work through these hard times. A reconstituted and active All India Handlooms & Handicrafts Board, with grassroots experience, youth and energy, could be the first reassuring step forward.

Priyanka Chopra is chairperson of Dastkar, an NGO that works to support traditional Indian craftspeople

Read the full story on weekend.thehindu.com

How Biden chose Kamala Harris as candidate for Vice-President

She was among the four on the list, including Elizabeth Warren and Susan Rice

ALEXANDER BURNS
JONATHAN MARTIN

It was early in Joe Biden's vice-presidential search when he asked his advisers a sensitive question about Sen. Kamala Harris. He kept hearing so much private criticism of her from other California Democrats, he wanted to know: Is she simply unpopular in her home State?

Advisers assured Mr. Biden that was not the case: Ms. Harris had her share of Democratic rivals and detractors in the factional world of California politics, but among regular voters, her standing was solid.

Mr. Biden's query, and the quiet attacks that prompted it, helped begin a delicate audition for Ms. Harris that has never before been revealed in depth. She faced daunting obstacles, including an array of strong competitors, unease about her within the Biden family, and bitter feuds from California and the 2020 primary season that exploded anew.

Though Ms. Harris was seen from the start as a frontrunner, Mr. Biden did not begin the process with a favorite in mind, and he settled on Ms. Harris only after an exhaustive review that forged new political alliances, deepened existing rivalries and further elevated a cohort of women as leaders in their party.

Ms. Harris was one of four finalists for the job, along with Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer of Michigan and Susan E. Rice, the former National Security Adviser. But in the eyes of Mr. Biden and his advisers, Ms.



Presumptive nominees: Kamala Harris and Joe Biden during a briefing from public health experts about COVID-19 in Wilmington on Thursday. ■ NYT

Harris alone covered every one of their essential political needs.

Ms. Rice had sterling foreign-policy credentials and a history of working with Mr. Biden, but was inexperienced as a candidate. Ms. Warren had an enthusiastic following and became a trusted adviser to Mr. Biden on economic matters, but she represented neither generational nor racial diversity. Ms. Whitmer, a moderate, appealed to Mr. Biden's political and ideological instincts, but selecting her also would have yielded an all-white ticket.

Other candidates rose and faded in the process: Sen. Tammy Duckworth of Illinois powerfully impressed Mr. Biden's search team, but his lawyers feared she would face challenges to her eligibility because of the circumstances of her birth overseas.

Rep. Karen Bass of California emerged as a favorite among elected officials and progressives — Speaker Nancy Pelosi spoke glowingly of her to Mr. Biden — but the relationship-focused Mr. Biden barely knew her.

Pragmatic and personal

In the end, Mr. Biden embraced Ms. Harris as a partner for reasons that were both pragmatic and personal — a sign of how the former Vice-President, who is oriented toward seeking consensus and building broad coalitions, might be expected to govern. Indeed, Mr. Biden has already told allies he hopes a number of the other vice-presidential contenders will join his administration in other roles.

This account of Mr. Biden's decision is based on interviews with more than three dozen people involved in the process, including advisers to Mr. Biden and Ms. Harris, allies of other vice-presidential prospects and Democratic leaders deeply invested in the outcome of

the search. Mr. Biden's instincts were not destined to lead him to Ms. Harris: He and members of his family had long expressed discomfort with the way she attacked him at a Democratic primary debate, and his political advisers remembered well the seemingly constant dysfunction of her presidential campaign.

There was a particular distrust in the Biden camp for the sharp-elbowed California operatives with whom Ms. Harris has long surrounded herself, fearing that they might seek to undermine Mr. Biden in office to clear the way for Ms. Harris in 2024.

Yet no other candidate scored as highly with Mr. Biden's selection committee or so many of their core criteria for choosing a running mate, including her ability to help Mr. Biden win in November, her strength as a debater, her qualifications for governing and the racial diversity she would bring to the ticket. No other candidate seemed to match the political moment better.

Harry Reid, the former Senate majority leader, said race had been essential to Mr. Biden's decision. "I think he came to the conclusion that he should pick a Black woman," Mr. Reid said.

Ms. Harris worked to soothe misgivings in the Biden family, including from Jill Biden and Valerie Biden Owens, Mr. Biden's sister and longtime adviser. But Ms. Harris also drew upon a family link unmatched by any other candidate: her friendship with Mr. Biden's elder son, Beau, who died from cancer in 2015. ■ NY TIMES

Trump stokes false 'birther' claim

An article claimed that Harris was ineligible to serve as U.S. Vice-President

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Thursday that he had heard Democratic vice-presidential running mate Kamala Harris was not eligible to serve, stoking a false claim echoing the baseless "birther" theory he had promoted about former President Barack Obama.

"But that's a very serious — you're saying that — they're saying that she doesn't qualify because she wasn't born in this country."

At a White House news conference, Mr. Trump was asked about "claims circulating on social media" that Ms. Harris was not eligible and whether he could say she met the legal requirements for Vice-President.

"I heard it today that she doesn't meet the requirements. And, by the way, the lawyer that wrote that piece

is a very highly qualified, very talented lawyer. I have no idea if that's right," said Mr. Trump.

"I would have assumed the Democrats would have checked that out before she gets chosen to run for Vice-President," he said.

"But that's a very serious — you're saying that — they're saying that she doesn't qualify because she wasn't born in this country."

The reporter replied that Ms. Harris was born in the United States but her parents might not have been permanent residents at the time.

"I heard it today that she doesn't meet the requirements. And, by the way, the lawyer that wrote that piece

California Senator was not eligible to serve as Vice-President or President because of the immigration status of her parents when she was born.

Ms. Harris was born in Oakland, California in 1964 to a father from Jamaica and a mother from India.

Claims against Obama

Mr. Trump earned national political prominence by promoting the "birther" lie that Mr. Obama, America's first black President, was not born in the United States.

He grudgingly acknowledged late in his 2016 presidential campaign that Mr. Obama was born in the United States. In his *Newsweek* op-ed, Chapman University

law professor John Eastman claimed some "commentators" said Ms. Harris was ineligible as she was not a "natural born citizen" as her parents were not naturalised U.S. citizens at the time of her birth. According to the Constitution, any natural born U.S. citizen over the age of 35 is eligible to be President or Vice-President.

Constitutional law expert Erwin Chemerinsky told CBS News the claim about Ms. Harris is a truly silly argument.

Mr. Eastman's op-ed was published a day after Democratic challenger Joe Biden announced Ms. Harris as his running mate, the first woman of colour tapped by a major party for the post.

Iran, Turkey lash out at UAE over Israel deal

A dagger has been struck in the backs of the Palestinian people, says Tehran

ASSOCIATED PRESS
JERUSALEM

Iran and Turkey lashed out at their regional rival the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Friday over its decision to normalise diplomatic relations with Israel, accusing it of betraying the Palestinian cause, even as much of the international community welcomed the move.

Iran's Foreign Ministry called the U.S.-brokered deal a "dagger that was unjustly struck by the UAE in the backs of the Palestinian people and all Muslims." Turkey said the peoples of the region "will never forget and will never forgive this hypocritical behavior" by the UAE.

The UAE, which has never fought Israel and has quietly been improving ties for years, said the agreement put a hold on Israel's plans to



In anger: Palestinians in Nablus protesting on Friday against the UAE's deal with Israel. ■ REUTERS

unilaterally annex parts of the occupied West Bank, which the Palestinians view as the heartland of their future state.

But the Turkish Foreign Ministry said the UAE had no authority to negotiate with Israel on behalf of the Palestini

The Palestinians say the deal amounts to "treason" and have called on Arab and Muslim countries to oppose it. Later on Friday, Turkish President Recep Erdogan said he was considering downgrading Turkey's relations with the UAE and recalling its Ambassador.

Oman welcomes move

Oman, a Gulf country that has cultivated closer ties with Israel in recent years, even hosting a visit by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu last year, meanwhile welcomed the agreement.

Germany's Foreign Minister Heiko Maas welcomed both the agreement and the decision to suspend annexation, and called to congratulate his Israeli counterpart Gabi Ashkenazi on "this historic step."

Judge named to lead Beirut blast probe

Identification of those dead begins

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BEIRUT

Ten days after the deadly Beirut explosion, rescue workers recovered the remains of firefighters killed while battling the initial blaze, as authorities appointed a well-respected judge to lead the investigation.

Authorities named judge Fadi Sawan, known, according to judicial sources, for his independence and integrity, to lead investigations into the explosion.

But he will not himself question current and former Ministers on the ammonium nitrate that was stocked at the port. They will instead be referred to a special

judicial body specialised in questioning government officials. Mohammad Javad Zarif, Foreign Minister of Iran was set to meet officials in the capital on Friday.

At the now-devastated port, rescue workers continued to recover the remains of those killed by the ignition of a huge shipment of ammonium nitrate fertiliser left unsecured in a warehouse for six years.

Relatives of three firefighters from the same family, who had been at the port attempting to put out the fire thought to have ignited the blast, were informed that the remains of two of them had been identified by DNA analysis.

A group of 80 prisoners had been released on Thursday, National Security Council spokesman Javid Faisal

ELSEWHERE



Belarus Oppn. leader urges fresh protests

MINSK
Belarus Opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya on Friday called for new protests and an election recount, piling pressure on President Alexander Lukashenko. In a video posted on YouTube from Lithuania, Ms. Tsikhanouskaya asked supporters to demand an official investigation into allegations that Mr. Lukashenko had rigged the presidential election. ■ AFP

Pak. defeated terrorism despite heavy odds: Alvi

ISLAMABAD
Pakistan on Friday said that it has "defeated" terrorism and has "come a long way" despite battling "heavy odds" both at "external as well as internal fronts", as the country celebrated its 74th Independence Day. President Arif Alvi urged the people to stay united in order to meet the country's challenges. ■ PTI

Turkey hits out at France over sea stand-off

Ankara has sent fleet to Mediterranean

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ISTANBUL

Turkey accused France on Friday of acting like a bully and stepped up its own charm offensive as EU Foreign Ministers met to address an emerging crisis in the energy-rich eastern Mediterranean.

The search for oil and gas in disputed waters not far from Cyprus has pitted Turkey against its uneasy NATO ally Greece and the entire EU bloc.

Turkey's decision to send a seismic vessel accompanied by a small Navy fleet into the increasingly volatile region on Monday prompted Greece to dispatch its own military assets to observe what was going on.

France on Thursday also announced it was "temporarily reinforcing" its military presence in the eastern Mediterranean in support of Turkey. That decision only further worsened France's tensions with Turkey — al-



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. ■ AP

ready high because of opposing approaches to the Libya conflict and other parts of the region — and saw the diplomatic rhetoric rise another notch.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Thursday underscored the fraught nature of the stand-off by warning of a "heavy price"

to pay for those who threaten Turkey's *Oruc Reis* research ship.

The Greek Defence Ministry denied being involved in any incident with the ship.

Afghan govt. frees 'dangerous' militants

80 Taliban prisoners released; Ghani warns they could pose a danger to the U.S.



Cost of peace: Taliban prisoners being released from Pul-e-Charkhi jail in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Thursday. ■ AP

said, tweeting that it would "speed up efforts for direct talks and a lasting, nationwide ceasefire".

Starting peace talks

The release of 400 militants was approved at the weekend by a gathering of thousands of prominent Afghans

who said they wanted to pave the way for talks to begin in Doha, Qatar, and a possible ceasefire.

But the decision has caused heartache for the families of those killed by the insurgents. "If (the Taliban) can't bring peace and they attack again, thousands of

people will be killed and their families will be tormented," said Bashir Naqeeb, whose brother was killed in a 2017 truck bombing near the German embassy in Kabul, an attack involving one of the militants due to be released. "But if the real peace comes, we won't have any problems because... our big dream is peace," he said.

The prisoners include at least 44 insurgents of particular concern to the United States and other countries for their role in high-profile attacks, according to an official list. Mr. Ghani warned on Thursday that the hardened criminals were "likely to pose a danger both to us and to (America) and to the world".

Thai police arrest student leader over protest

Parit accused of causing unrest

REUTERS
BANGKOK

Thai authorities arrested a student leader on Friday over an anti-government protest last month, police said, just a few days before a big demonstration scheduled for Sunday.

Parit "Penguin" Chiwarak, 22, was arrested on the outskirts of Bangkok while travelling to a protest, a video posted on his Facebook page showed.

The video was apparently shot by a friend of Mr. Parit and posted to his page. "We can hold him for 48 hours for questioning," Police Major General Somprason Yentuam, deputy Bangkok police chief, told reporters.

Mr. Somprason said Mr. Parit will be charged for breaching internal security by "raising unrest and disaffection," as well as for breaching COVID-19 regulations banning public gatherings by helping organise a demonstration on July 18.

Thai activist Parit Chiwarak. ■ AFP

Saudi ex-spy's lawsuit makes explosive claims

Aljabri, whose children are in the kingdom's custody, says Crown Prince tried to get him killed



Spy in exile: Saad Aljabri and, right, his children Omar and Sarah. ■ AFP

government campaign to snare overseas rivals and critics. "There is virtually no one (Prince Mohammed) wants dead more than Dr. Saad," the suit said, claiming a hit team was sent after him just two weeks after members of the same squad murdered journalist Jamal Khashoggi. Mr. Aljabri, exiled in Canada, is a former intelligence chief and top aide to Prince Mohammed bin Nayef, who was deposed as heir to the throne by Prince Mohammed in a 2017 palace coup.



Releasing what it says are WhatsApp exchanges with Prince Mohammed, the suit accuses him of strong arm tactics to induce Mr. Aljabri to return to the kingdom after Mr. Nayef's downfall prompted him to flee. They range from trying to entice Mr. Aljabri with a job offer to an unsuccessful attempt to have him extradited through Interpol, and the detention in March of his two children as a bargaining chip.

Then in October 2018, the suit alleges, the Prince sent "Tiger Squad" assassins

helped thwart multiple attacks on U.S. interests.

It is unclear how the lawsuit will play out in the United States, where neither Mr. Aljabri nor the Crown Prince is based. But it could still worry Riyadh as it emphasizes that Mr. Aljabri possesses "sensitive, humiliating and damning information" on the Crown Prince, including recordings that will be made public if he is killed.

Offering a foretaste of the secrets Mr. Aljabri harbours was an explosive claim buried in the lawsuit — that in 2015, Prince Mohammed secretly encouraged Russia to intervene in the Syrian conflict, a move that infuriated the CIA.

Two months later, Russian forces launched their intervention, effectively eliminating any chance of a military victory for the Syrian opposition, which the kingdom claimed to support.

Neither Moscow nor Riyadh have addressed the claim.

An ally to CIA

Former CIA

MARKET WATCH

	14-08-2020	% CHANGE
Sensex	37,877	-1.13
US Dollar	74.90	-0.08
Gold	53,691	1.05
Brent oil	44.86	-0.88

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	348.10	0.45
Asian Paints	1802.55	0.00
Axis Bank	435.85	-12.25
Bajaj Auto	2987.55	-30.40
Bajaj Finserv	6246.70	-10.30
Bajaj Finance	3331.10	-88.55
Bharti Airtel	528.60	-6.75
BPCL	413.25	-7.90
Britannia Ind	3801.35	-6.90
Cipla	771.80	11.55
Coal India	131.85	2.90
Dr Reddys Lab	4519.40	17.15
Eicher Motors	20144.15	-1528.80
GAIL (India)	95.95	-1.45
Grasim Ind	628.95	-2.90
HCL Tech	709.10	-15.50
ICICI Bank	1791.70	-13.15
HDFC Bank	1034.45	-24.60
HDFC Life	587.75	-12.00
Hero MotoCorp	2803.80	-5.85
Hindustan	184.95	1.40
Hind Unilever	2173.90	-24.75
ICICI Bank	361.40	-6.65
IndusInd Bank	507.20	-11.55
Bharti Infratel	199.25	-2.15
Infosys	953.60	2.40
Indian Oil Corp	84.80	-2.05
ITC	196.40	-5.05
JSW Steel	265.35	6.75
Kotak Bank	1307.45	-28.80
L&T	982.80	-7.90
M&M	614.45	-17.00
Maruti Suzuki	6588.20	-143.45
Nestle India Ltd.	16354.70	-119.50
NTPC	88.40	1.15
ONGC	77.10	-1.50
PowerGrid Corp	175.40	-3.35
Reliance Ind	2113.80	-8.25
State Bank	196.50	-5.40
Shree Cement	21458.25	221.25
Sun Pharma	531.35	10.55
Tata Motors	124.60	-6.55
Tata Steel	418.50	5.40
TCS	2242.15	-12.30
Tech Mahindra	695.90	-1.15
Titan	1104.15	6.50
UltraTech Cement	4010.10	-37.20
UPL	485.65	-3.50
Wipro	276.50	-0.50
Zee Entertainment	161.20	-1.10

EXCHANGE RATES		
Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on August 14		
CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	74.70	75.02
Euro	88.22	88.60
British Pound	97.87	98.33
Japanese Yen (100)	70.00	70.34
Chinese Yuan	10.75	10.79
Swiss Franc	82.07	82.43
Singapore Dollar	54.43	54.67
Canadian Dollar	56.43	56.67
Malaysian Ringgit	17.80	17.90
Australian Dollar	53.39	53.62

Source: Indian Bank

IN BRIEF



Ramco Cements Q1 net profit declines 43%

CHENNAI
The Ramco Cements Ltd. standalone net profit for the first quarter ended June dropped 43% to ₹110 crore on lower sales. Total income declined to ₹1,052 crore (₹1,392 crore). Cement sales fell 28% to 1.94 million tonnes due to the lockdown.

Rane Holdings Q1 net profit plunges 93%

CHENNAI
Rane Holdings Ltd.'s standalone net profit plunged 93% to ₹48 lakh for the first quarter ended June due to a truncated period of operations. Total revenue almost halved to ₹9.13 crore. All of April and half of May were lost owing to the COVID-19 related lockdown, the company said in a statement. "Q1 FY21 was not a typical quarter due to COVID-19-related shutdown of operations," said CMD L. Ganesh.

Price Waterhouse to resign as GVK's auditors

HYDERABAD
GVK Power & Infrastructure on Friday said Price Waterhouse Chartered Accountants LLP had proposed to resign as statutory auditors of the company. In its resignation letter to the Audit Committee of the company, Price Waterhouse said it was awaiting information and explanations to be in a position to conclude its audit of the financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2020.

Govt. to cut cruise ship port rates by up to 70%

NEW DELHI
To support the cruise industry hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, the government has rationalised tariff rates for cruise vessels that would reduce port charges by 60-70%, the Ministry of Shipping said on Friday. The move is also aimed at boosting the pandemic-hit economy. Shipping Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said it would be a 'huge boost' to cruise tourism in India, providing an opportunity to earn foreign exchange and to generate sizeable onshore employment in the sector. PTI

July sees trade back in deficit as gold, pharma imports rise

Exports rise in 16 of 30 major products; petro products, gems and jewellery drag

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

India returned in July to a trade deficit, of \$4.83 billion, after posting a monthly trade surplus for the first time in 18 years in June.

The flip was propelled by year-on-year growth in imports of gold, fertilisers, edible oil and medicinal and pharmaceutical products, according to data released by the Commerce Ministry on Friday. Overall, merchandise imports declined more than 28%, a recovery from the June decline of 48%.

Exports fell for the fifth straight month, but the contraction narrowed to 10%, supported by growth in 16 out of 30 selected major



Inching back: Non-oil, non-gold imports, a signal for demand, dipped 29%, narrowing from June's 41% fall. ■ FILE PHOTO

commodities, especially in rice and other cereals, iron ore and oil seeds. Several employment-generating sectors such as cotton yarn and handloom, jute, carpets, ceramics and glassware also saw expansions. Exports of

petroleum products and gems and jewellery, however, posted sharp declines of about 50% each.

"In an encouraging trend, exports excluding petroleum products and gems and jewellery recorded a YoY rise

Indian Bank Q1 profit drops on provisions

To focus on retail, corporate segments

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

Indian Bank posted a drop in standalone net profit to ₹369 crore for the first quarter of FY21 on higher provisioning, from ₹492 crore a year earlier.

Total income rose 8% to ₹11,447 crore, net interest income, 17% to ₹3,874 crore and other income grew 19% to ₹1,327 crore. Gross non-performing assets (NPAs) stood at 10.9% (12%) and net NPAs were at 3.76% (4.68%).

"Overall, it was a satisfying quarter, with the combined entity (Indian Bank and Allahabad Bank) meeting all key parameters of income, cost-efficiency and profitability," said Padmaja

Chunduru, MD & CEO, Indian Bank.

She said the bank made upfront provisions of ₹800 crore towards two accounts and contingency provisions for COVID-19. The bank was planning to grow both the corporate and retail portfolios, she added.

Goyal warns of 'equal' trade retaliation

'Social distancing norms expected to spur vehicle purchases'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

India will take "equal and proportional measures" to protect domestic manufacturing if other countries continue imposing restrictions on Indian goods, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said.

He also said that if some countries continue exporting low-quality goods or routing exports through India's free trade agreement partners, India would take action. "Many FTA countries do not allow access to Indian goods, even though they are part of FTA protocols. They put non-tariff barriers. Gone are the days India is going to sit and lie back," he warned.

Passenger vehicle and two-wheeler exports are expected to return to growth in FY21, following a marginal improvement in the global economic environment, the company said in the report.

Growth in light commercial vehicle segment will continue to outpace that in medium and heavy commercial vehicles, supported by improved demand from the rural segment, improve-

RBI to transfer ₹57,128 crore surplus to Centre for FY20

Central bank maintains Contingency Risk Buffer at 5.5%

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

The board of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the transfer of ₹57,128 crore as surplus to the government for the accounting year 2019-20, while deciding to maintain the Contingency Risk Buffer at 5.5%, the RBI said in a statement on Friday.

July's growth in gold im-

ports may signal that investors are looking for a safe haven amid the continuing economic uncertainty due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as expectations of a pick up in retail demand in the upcoming festive season.

Non-oil, non-gold imports – which can be a signal of domestic demand – fell 29%, but the contraction nar-



cepts as both tax revenue and capital proceeds from planned disinvestments are set to suffer setbacks with the economy poised to shrink this fiscal in the wake of the national and regional lockdowns to contain the spread of the coronavirus.

The Board discussed a proposal for setting up an Innovation Hub and also approved the Annual Report, the RBI added.

RBI's financial year runs from July-June at present and is scheduled to be harmonised with the government's April-March fiscal starting FY22, Press Trust of India reported. In the current year, the RBI will have a nine-month financial year, ending in March.

Hindalco posts Q1 net loss of ₹709 cr.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Hindalco Industries Ltd. on Friday reported a first-quarter consolidated net loss of ₹709 crore, compared with net profit of ₹1,063 crore in the year-earlier period.

Amid shortening life cycle of passenger vehicle models, new model launches play a key role in driving demand.

Production of BS-VI vehicles, which may get streamlined in Q2 of FY21, is expected to gather momentum in the second half. However, there will be an increase in the cost of four-wheelers following the implementation

in last-mile transportation and exponential growth in the e-commerce segment.

On account of certain special items, including charitable contributions towards COVID relief, ex-

gratia paid to employees for their contribution during COVID, and Aleris acquisition costs, the reported PAT was impacted," the company said in a filing to the stock exchanges.

MRF Q1 profit skids 94%

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

Tyremaker MRF Ltd.'s standalone net profit for the first quarter ended June plunged 94% to ₹17 crore on account of the pandemic.

Revenue from operations almost halved to ₹2,431 crore from ₹4,410 crore. Other income stood at ₹3 crore (₹105 crore) and operating profit at ₹28 crore (₹412 crore), said the company in a regulatory filing.

Total income plunged by almost a third to ₹1,209 crore compared with the March quarter and ₹2,041 crore, or almost a 45% drop, compared with the June 2019 quarter.

As on date, MRF has strong net worth and serviced all its debt obligations in a timely manner, the company said.

SBI's Kisan card clients can revise limit via YONO

HDFC Bank offers loan card for forces

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

The State Bank of India (SBI) had introduced Kisan Credit Card (KCC) review option for YONO Krishi, the recently-unveiled platform that caters to farmers' needs.

With this, farmers would no longer need to visit the branch to apply for a revision in their KCC limit.

"KCC review option on YONO Krishi will help farmers apply for the same in just four clicks from the comfort of their homes without any paperwork," SBI said. This facility is expected to benefit over 75 lakh farmers.

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Mohd. Rizwan stands firm

England pacers strike regularly as bad light hampers play



Gritty: Mohd. Rizwan played steadily while notching up a half-century. ■ AP

PAK. IN ENGLAND

REUTERS
SOUTHAMPTON

Pakistan's wicket-keeper Mohammad Rizwan hit a defiant half century on a difficult batting pitch to guide his side past the 200-mark in its first innings and frustrate England in the second Test on Friday.

Having resumed on 126 for five, Pakistan reached 215 for eight at tea on the second day with Rizwan, who was dropped by Jos Buttler on 14, on 53 and Mohammad Abbas on two.

Earlier, Stuart Broad accounted for Babar Azam (47), while James Anderson picked up Yasir Shah (5).

Shaheen Afridi was run out without scoring.

SCOREBOARD

Pakistan – 1st innings: Shan Masood lbw b Anderson 1, Abid Ali c Burns b Sam Curran 60, Azhar Ali c Burns b Anderson 20, Babar Azam c Buttler b Broad 47, Asad Shafiq c Sibley b Broad 5, Fawad Alam lbw b Woakes 0, Mohd. Rizwan (batting) 53, Yasir Shah c Buttler b Anderson 5, Shaheen Afridi run out 0, Mohd. Abbas (batting) 2; Extras (b-9, lb-11, nb-1, w-1); 22; Total (for eight wkts. in 84.3 overs, at tea): 215.

Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-78, 3-102, 4-117, 5-120, 6-158, 7-171, 8-176.

England bowling: Anderson 24-5-48-3, Broad 24-7-48-2, Sam Curran 18-3-44-1, Woakes 18.3-5-55-1.

Swadhantra Divas!



daCunha/AB/705

Australia's England tour to go ahead

Detailed biosecurity plans put in place

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE SYDNEY

Australia's limited-overs tour of England will go ahead this month at bio-secure venues, officials said on Friday, after its players were given government clearance to travel.

Glenn Maxwell, Nathan Lyon and Marcus Stoinis were recalled to the squad, while Usman Khawaja and Travis Head missed out.

IPL takes a hit

With this tour on, IPL teams will likely be without those selected for the tour for at least a week. The latest the players can arrive in the UAE is September 18 and as

per the IPL SOP, will be quarantined for six days with RT-PCR tests on day 1, 3 and 6. On the seventh day, they will enter the bio-bubble provided they test negative all three times.

The schedule: T20Is: Sept. 4, 6 and 8 (all at Southampton).

ODIs: Sept. 11, 13 and 16 (all at Manchester).

The squad: Aaron Finch (Capt.), Sean Abbott, Ashton Agar, Alex Carey, Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood, Marnus Labuschagne, Nathan Lyon, Mitchell Marsh, Glenn Maxwell, Riley Meredith, Josh Philippe, Daniel Sams, Kane Richardson, Steven Smith, Mitchell Starc, Marcus Stoinis, Andrew Tye, Matthew Wade, David Warner, Adam Zampa.

Nakamura, Carlsen open with a draw

CHESS

RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI

Magnus Carlsen and Hikaru Nakamura played out a well-fought 49-move draw to kick-start the best-of-seven-set title clash of the \$300,000 Magnus Carlsen

Chess Tour Finals on Friday.

Nakamura showed he was not intimidated by the favourite and came out a briefly worrying position to prove equal.

The result: Final: (Set One, Game One): Hikaru Nakamura (USA) drew with Magnus Carlsen (Nor.).

Leipzig shocks Atletico

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

REUTERS
LISBON

RB Leipzig stunned Atletico Madrid, with a 2-1 victory in their Champions League quarterfinal on Thursday, to reach the competition's last four for the first time in the club's short history.

Five minutes after the interval, Leipzig found a way through – Marcel Sabitzer's cross from the right was met by Dani Olmo, the Spaniard's angled header flashing past Jan Oblak and into

The result: RB Leipzig 2 (Olmo 50, Adams 88) bt Atletico Madrid 1 (Joao Felix 71-pen).

the far, bottom corner.

The goal prompted Atletico boss Diego Simeone to introduce Joao Felix in the 58th minute.

The move paid off when Felix was brought down in the box and he buried the spot kick.

With two minutes of normal time remaining, American midfielder Tyler Adams snatched victory with a deflected shot from outside the box.

In Brief

Lillard helps Blazers keep playoff bid alive

Miami: Damian Lillard scored 42 points as Portland Trail Blazers edged Brooklyn Nets 134-133 on Thursday to keep its NBA playoff hopes alive.

The results: Portland Trail Blazers bt Brooklyn Nets 134-133; Memphis Grizzlies bt Milwaukee Bucks 119-106; Phoenix Suns bt Dallas Mavericks 128-102; Utah Jazz bt San Antonio Spurs 118-112; Sacramento Kings bt LA Lakers 136-122. AFP

Mercedes dominates practice

Barcelona: Lewis Hamilton went fastest in second practice for the Spanish Grand Prix on Friday with Mercedes again looking dominant. Hamilton had a best time of one minute 16.883 seconds.

I-League to be held in West Bengal

Kolkata: The All India Football Federation has decided to have the Hero I-League and the Second Division League qualifiers in West Bengal. The decision was made in a meeting of the National federation's league committee which came together via video conferencing on Friday. The schedule and date for the Second Division qualifiers, which will be held first, and the I-League will be finalised once the guidelines from the Central government are issued.

Inspire Institute happy to play its part

KAMESH SRINIVASAN

NEW DELHI

On the eve of its second anniversary, the Inspire Institute of Sport in Vijayanagar, was happy to play its part supporting the athletes during the pandemic.

Addressing a media conference, the CEO of IIS, Rushdee Warley said that it was a fantastic journey, with many memorable moments, both in terms of medals won by the athletes, as well as their 100% success in education. "It is great for the young athletes to be training with Bajrang Punia, Vikas Krishan and Pooja Dhanda," said Warley.

Looking at the athletes development, especially in the light of the Tokyo Olympics, Manisha Malhotra, the head of sports excellence, said that it was an opportunity for the elite athletes to take a step back and re-group themselves.

Stating that about 100 athletes were training at the institute, Warley was categorical that the best efforts were made for sanitisation, especially of the high contact areas like the gym, dormitories, and physio room.

He also said that the non-essential service staff were working from home.

"We have asked the athletes to look after the hostel themselves to minimise the entry of outsiders. We have a good medical system. We have arrangements for isolation rooms," said Warley.

It was mentioned that there was scope for having an archery centre and that work had started for the swimming pool, at the institute spread over 42 acres.

Manisha said that athletes like Rohit Yadav and Praveen Chitravel had good chances for medals as and when the World Junior Athletics Championships was held.

"For the young athletes preparing for the 2024 Olympics, not much has changed. We have good prospects for Paris in judo," she said.

For the elite athletes Bajrang, Vikas and Pooja, it was a great opportunity to train, particularly with their coaches, and enthusiastic young athletes, as it served as a win-win situation for all. (With inputs from Uthra Ganeshan)



74^{वां} स्वतंत्रता दिवस

हिमाचलवासियों को स्वतंत्रता दिवस के पावन अवसर पर हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं

असंख्य शहीदों के सर्वोच्च बलिदान को हिमाचलवासियों का नमन! आईए हम स्वाधीनता सेनानियों के अथक प्रयासों से हासिल आज़ादी का मूल्य समझें देश की आन-बान और शान बनाएं रखें

- जय राम ठाकुर
मुख्यमंत्री, हिमाचल प्रदेश

सुचना एवं जन सम्पर्क विभाग, हि.प्र. द्वारा जारी