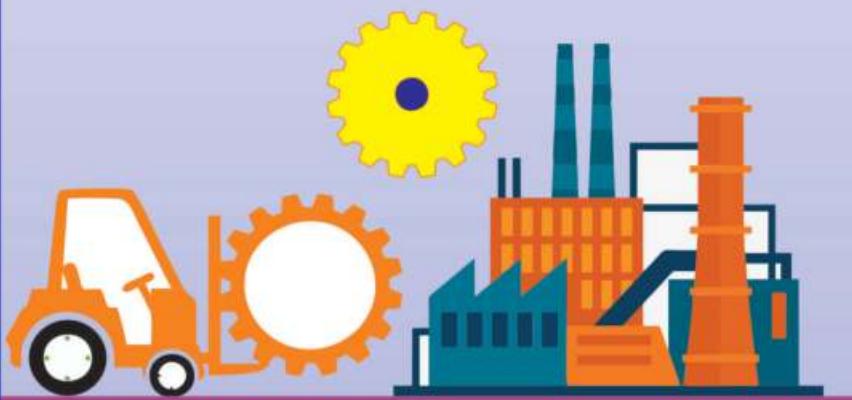




Accelerating Growth Pacing Development



Sh. Manohar Lal
Chief Minister, Haryana

Haryane Ka Badhiya Haal Chokkha Bitya Pehla Saal



Haryana ahead in
Startup India program
More than
**4,000 youth
startups registered**



'MSME' Department
constituted to promote
micro, small and
medium scale industries



Under
'Mudra Loan-Shishu Yojana'
2% of total interest
on loan amount of up to
Rs. 50,000 will be **borne**
by Haryana Govt.

Investment of
Rs. 2409.38 Crore
in the last one year



53 large & medium
with **14,804** micro and
small industries set-up
**97,623 people got
employment**



Haryana Orbital Rail
Corridor project of
Rs. 5,500 Crore
approved to promote
the industrial sector



Do Gaj Ki Duri, Mask Hai Jaroori



Information, Public Relations and Languages Department, Haryana



www.prharyana.gov.in



@Cmohry @DiprHaryana



J&K Gupkar alliance announces candidates for district council polls
page 9



ICMR, SII complete enrolment for Phase 3 trials of Covishield
page 10



NEARBY



Gujar protesters vacate rail tracks in Rajasthan
JAIPUR
Gujar protesters demanding reservation in jobs and education vacated the railway tracks at Peelpura in Rajasthan's Bharatpur district on Thursday after having occupied them for 11 days. The agitation was called off late on Wednesday night following an agreement signed with the State government in Jaipur.

NORTH & EAST ▶ PAGE 4

Vivekananda's statue unveiled on JNU campus

NEW DELHI
Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday unveiled a life-size statue of Swami Vivekananda on JNU campus through videoconferencing. Addressing the students, he said it was of utmost importance that individual ideologies are aligned with national interests and that giving priority to one's ideology over the nation's interests is harmful to the democratic system.

CITY ▶ PAGE 2



Govt. rolls out ₹1.19 lakh crore stimulus

Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan 3.0 includes scheme to incentivise job creation, re-employment

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday announced a fresh set of relief and stimulus measures for the economy worth ₹1.19 lakh crore, including a scheme to boost re-employment chances of formal sector employees who lost their jobs amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

The measures, announced a day after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said the country had entered into a technical recession in the first half of 2020-21, include a ₹65,000 crore additional outlay for providing fertilizer subsidies to farmers.

Ms. Sitharaman said the economy's rebound as per recent indicators was not just driven by pent-up demand but reflected strong economic growth.

"The RBI's latest monthly report predicts a strong return to proper growth for the economy, and there could be strong growth in the third quarter itself that could bring us to positive terrain.

The expectation earlier was that growth would be seen in fourth quarter, but the RBI feels it could happen as early as Q3," the Minister said, adding that even ratings agency Moody's Investor Service had revised its GDP projections for India upwards.

"Even these assessments by agencies indicate that a correction is happening in

Booster dose |

A look at the fresh stimulus steps announced by the Finance Minister to spur job creation

- Govt. to foot two years' EPF dues (24% of wages) for new employees hired between Oct. 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021
- People earning less than ₹15,000 per month who lost jobs between March 1 and Sept. 30 to be covered if re-employed
- Firms with more than 50 employees must hire at least 5 more to be covered

Farmers

Govt. to provide ₹65,000 crore as fertilizer subsidy to ensure adequate availability in view of the expected rise in sown area

Additional ₹10,000 crore announced for the PM Garib Kalyan Rozgar Yojana which could be used for MGNREGS or PM Gram Sadak Yojana

Free up infrastructure contractors' capital by reducing performance security charges, and scrapping earnest money deposits for bidding on government projects

• ₹6,000 crore equity infusion in debt platform of National Infrastructure Investment Fund, which will be used to raise ₹1.1 lakh crore for infra projects by 2025

• ₹10,200 crore additional funding for capital and industrial expenditure

Infrastructure

₹18,000 crore allocated to PM Awas Yojana to build urban housing, over the ₹8,000 crore allotted in the Budget

• Govt. expects this would create 78 lakh new jobs and drive

Stressed sectors

Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme extended till March 31, 2021

• New scheme to provide credit to firms in the healthcare sector and 26 other sectors identified as 'stressed'

If you take all the packages and the RBI measures announced so far, a total of ₹29,87,641 crore has been given so far as stimulus. A total of 15% of GDP. The Central government on its own has provided 9% of GDP as stimulus

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN

the positive direction," she said, before unveiling 12 measures that she said may be referred to as Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan 3.0.

The measures included the production-linked incentive scheme for 10 sectors with a proposed expenditure of ₹1.46 lakh crore over five years, announced on Wednesday.

The other measures add up to a proposed outgo of ₹1.19,100 crore. Experts pegged the fiscal cost of Thursday's announcement at about 1.2% of the GDP, if

the PLI scheme was included. However, the Minister said, "If you take all the packages announced so far, and the RBI measures announced so far, a total of ₹29,87,641 crore has been given so far as stimulus. A total of 15% of GDP. The Central government on its own has provided 9% of GDP as stimulus."

Ms. Sitharaman allocated ₹900 crore for research and development towards the COVID-19 vaccine, and said the government was ready to provide for the actual cost of

the vaccine and the logistics for its distribution. "Whatever is required for that (the vaccine cost and distribution logistics), as and when it is required, will be provided."

MGNREGA boost

To spur rural employment, an additional ₹10,000 crore has been provided for spending through the MGNREGS and PM's rural roads scheme. Effectively, this takes the total allocations for MGNREGA in the year close to ₹1.1 lakh crore, with Ms. Sitharaman stating that

₹73,504 crore had already been spent to generate 251 crore person days of employment.

To boost formal sector employment, a new Atmanirbhar Rozgar Yojana has been launched, under which the government will bear the entire Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) contributions for two years of all new employees hired between October 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021, in firms with fewer than 1,000 employees.

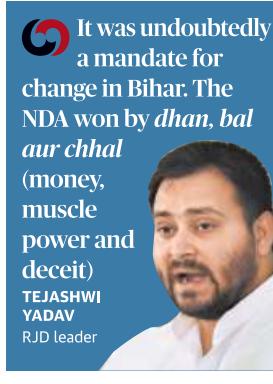
CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

The mandate is in our favour, says Tejashwi

NDA won by deceit, RJD leader claims

AMARNATH TEWARY
PATNA

After being elected leader of Bihar's Mahagathbandhan (Grand Alliance), Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Tejashwi Yadav asked the Election Commission on Thursday to release videos and other documentary evidence on counting of postal ballots in 20 seats where the alliance candidates lost by a wafer-thin margin.



Eleven seats were decided by a margin of fewer than 1,000 votes – five won by the NDA, four by the Grand Alliance and one each by an Independent and the Lok Janshakti Party. In three seats, the margin was fewer than 200 – Barbigha where the Congress lost by 113 votes to the JD(U), Hilsa where the RJD lost by 12 votes to the JD(U), and Ramgarh where the RJD defeated the BSP by 189 votes.

Mr. Yadav asked why postal ballots were not counted in the beginning as per the EC guidelines. "In many seats, postal ballots were invalidated... I demand that the ballots declared invalid be produced," he said. "We are once again sending our demand to the EC today."

"The NDA achieved victory through dhan, bal aur chhal [money, muscle power and deceit]," he alleged. "It got only 12,270 votes more than what the Grand Alliance did and that turned into 15 seats for the NDA."

The RJD leader took a jibe at the JD(U) winning only 43 seats. "Nitish Kumar's party has been relegated to the third position... if he has any conscience left, he must give up the CM's chair."

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Delhi govt. gets leeway on ICU beds for COVID patients

HC vacates order staying 80% reservation in 33 hospitals



A person undergoing COVID test in New Delhi. ■ FILE PHOTO

said that the situation in Delhi is "fairly dynamic as regards spread of COVID-19 infection and hospitalisation of patients critically suffering from COVID-19 infection".

It justified vacating the single-judge Bench order on account of the fact that "there has been a sea change in the ground reality" as when the earlier order was issued, the number of daily COVID-19 cases in Delhi was hovering around the 3,000-4,000 mark. "The said figure has more than doubled as on date and it was expected of Delhi government to have kept abreast of the situation and monitor the same closely," the court said.

The High Court also said that the 33 nodal officers, appointed by the Delhi government to co-ordinate with each of the 33 hospitals, ought to have been empowered to relax the norm of 80% blocking of ICU beds in the case of each hospital so as to deal with any situation pertaining to a non-COVID patient needing an ICU bed.

The High Court, however, ed that the COVID-19 situation in Delhi has become critical in recent days though it may not have been as bad when the single-judge Bench passed stay the order in September. He reminded the court about fresh infections touching a daily high in Delhi of 8,573 on Wednesday.

Senior advocate Maninder Singh, appearing for the AHP, submitted that out of 1,742 ICU beds actually available, the 33 private hospitals have on their own dedicated 1,238 ICU beds for COVID-19 patients.

The High Court, however,

Light fest



Deepavali shopping: A woman shopping for decorative lanterns ahead of Deepavali in Ahmedabad on Thursday. ■ VIJAY SONEJI

Bypolls a vote of confidence in BJP: Scindia

VARGHESE K. GEORGE
NEW DELHI

The people of Madhya Pradesh have repudiated their faith in the Shivraj Singh Chouhan government in the bypolls to 28 Assembly constituencies in the State, BJP leader and Rajya Sabha member Jyotiraditya M. Scindia said. The BJP won 19 seats.

"Twenty seven of the 28 seats that went to polls were held by the Congress... It is a thumping vote of confidence for the BJP government," Mr. Scindia told *The Hindu*.

Mr. Scindia had left the Congress for the BJP in March, along with 22 MLAs, resulting in a change of government in the State.

Three more MLAs followed suit later.

FULL INTERVIEW ON ▶ PAGE 9

Judge orders day-to-day hearing in Nikita case

Proceedings in special fast-track court

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
FARIDABAD

Faridabad Sessions Judge Deepak Gupta has directed day-to-day hearing by the special court for heinous crime against women in the Nikita Tomar murder case.

The area magistrate has been ordered to complete the commitment proceedings in the case at the earliest.

In reply to a letter from the Faridabad police seeking hearing of the case in a fast-track court, the Sessions Judge said an exclusive court to fast-track cases of heinous crime against women was already set up in the district in 2013 in view of the instructions of the Punjab and Haryana High Court. The court is presided over by Additional District and Sessions Judge Sartaj Baswana.

Letter to police chief
Mr. Gupta, in the letter to Police Commissioner O.P. Singh, said the proceedings of the murder case would be

conducted by the exclusive fast-track court on day-to-day basis as mandated under Section 309 of the Code of Criminal Procedure and as per the instructions of the High Court.

"The Illaqua Magistrate is also being asked to complete the commitment proceedings as early as possible," Mr. Gupta said in the letter.

Nikita, 20, was shot point-blank allegedly by her former schoolmate Tausif outside Aggarwal college on October 26. She died during treatment. The case is registered under Section 302, 34, 364, 120B of the Indian Penal Code and Section 25, 54 and 59 under the Arms Act at City Ballabgarh police station. Three persons have been arrested in the case so far.

The Faridabad police had filed a 700-page chargesheet in the case in the local court on November 6. The report was prepared and submitted in a record time of 11 days and has listed 60 witnesses.

A-G clears contempt action against Kunal Kamra

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI
Attorney-General K.K. Venugopal on Thursday gave his consent to initiate criminal contempt action in the Supreme Court against stand-up comedian Kunal Kamra for a series of tweets which "clearly cross the line between humour and contempt of court".

"I find that today people believe that they can boldly and brazenly condemn the Supreme Court of India and its judges by exercising what they believe is their freedom of speech. But under the Constitution, the freedom of speech is subject to the law of contempt... I believe it is time people understand that attacking the Supreme Court unjustified and brazenly will attract punishment under the Contempt of Court Act," Mr. Venugopal observed in his consent letter.

A resident of Aurangabad, Shrirang Katneshwar, had sought Mr. Venugopal's permission to initiate contempt proceedings against Mr. Kamra. The A-G has issued identical consent letters to other separate requests.

'Gross insinuation'
The tweets were based on the Supreme Court order granting interim bail to Republic TV editor-in-chief Arnab Goswami. One of the tweets shows a picture of the court building swathed in saffron colour with the BJP flag flying atop it. The A-G said this tweet was a "gross insinuation against the entirety of the Supreme Court of India". It insinuated that "the Supreme Court is not an independent and impartial institution and so too its judges, but on the other hand is a court of the ruling party, the BJP, existing for the BJP's benefit".

Artists told to vacate govt. houses by Dec. 31

Cabinet Committee on Accommodation waives damage charges for overstaying

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI

Eminent artists who were allotted government accommodation in Delhi over the past four decades have been asked to vacate the houses by December 31, but the "damage charges" that they had racked up for overstaying have been waived by the Cabinet Committee on Accommodation, according to officials.

A total of 27 artists, including painter Jatin Das, Kathak dancer Pandit Birju Maharaj and Santoor player Pt. Bhajan Sopori, had accumulated ₹32,09 crore in damage

charges from 2014, when their allotment period had ended, till September 30 this year, according to government sources. Out of those, six artists or their family members after their death have vacated the houses since then, with the latest being Kuchipudi dancer Raja Reddy, who vacated his Kaka Nagar residence in August this year.

Licence fee charged
At a meeting on November 8, the CCA decided to regularise the allotments that had ceased to have its approval in 2014, government officials

said. With that decision, the damage charges that had accumulated would no longer be charged. However, the licence fee that would amount to around ₹2 crore would still be collected.

Speaking about the decision taken on the Culture Ministry's proposal, Union Culture Minister Prahpal Singh Patel said the artists would be asked to vacate by December 31 or pay market rent. The licence fee charged by the Directorate of Estates is far lower than the market rate. Mr. Patel said the criteria for selection would be revisited once the houses are

vacated.
Under the artists' quota for the General Pool Residential Accommodation, houses are allotted on the recommendation of the Union Culture Ministry to a maximum of 40 artists. According to the guidelines, artists must be between 40 and 60 years of age and earn up to ₹20,000 a month.

Among those allotted houses are Mr. Das, who has been staying at the Asian Games Village residence allotted to him since 1988, and Pt. Birju Maharaj, who was allotted a house on Shahjahan Road in 1978.

FULL INTERVIEW ON ▶ PAGE 9

Vivekananda's statue unveiled on JNU campus

PM Modi addresses students virtually

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday unveiled a life-size statue of Swami Vivekananda on JNU campus through videoconferencing.

Addressing the students, he said it was of utmost importance that individual ideologies are aligned with the national interests and that giving priority to one's ideology over the nation's interests is harmful to the democratic system. He also cited instances from the Emergency period to state how people with opposing ideologies came together for a common cause.

Referring to the current reforms that are taking place, Mr. Modi said that earlier, good reforms were thought as bad policies while now they are viewed as good policies because the government has created a "protective shield" around the poor while bringing in changes.

"Earlier there was never an effort to connect the farmers and the poor to the system. But now the poor are getting the same benefits - housing, toilets, affordable



Narendra Modi addressing a gathering in New Delhi on Thursday. ■ PTI

internet connectivity and water facilities - just like all other citizens," Mr. Modi said.

Referring to debates and discussions that take place at the varsity's famed Sabarmati Dhaba, Mr. Modi said that with the statue, the JNU community will now have another prominent place to carry out the same. However, he advised the youth to follow Swami Vivekananda's path and not accept any kind of status quo without healthy debates and discussion.

Speaking at the event, JNU Vice-Chancellor M. Jagadesh Kumar, said, "It [the statue] is a symbol but symbols play a huge role in our societies. When we see and think of the statue, it reminds us to work for the welfare of our country."

Capital reports highest COVID deaths in months

Thursday saw 7,053 new virus cases and 104 more deaths

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Capital on Thursday witnessed 7,053 new COVID-19 cases, taking the total number of cases in the city to 4,67,028, according to a health bulletin released by the Delhi government.

Also, 104 more deaths have been reported - highest in months - taking the total number of deaths to 7,332.

Of the total cases, 4,16,580 people have recovered and there are 43,116 active cases.

Out of the total 16,511 beds available for COVID-19 treatment in the city, 51.7% were occupied, as per government data. Also, 86.4% of ICU beds with ventilators have been occupied and 82.2% of such beds without ventilators are full.

The positivity rate was 11.7% and the overall positivity rate till now is 8.7%.

The number of containment zones in the city increased to 4,141 on Thursday.



A healthcare worker collects swab sample of a woman in New Delhi. ■ SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Health Minister Satyendar Jain on Thursday said that currently the city is at a peak of the infection and cases will soon come down. "Right now, we are on a peak. It is difficult to make an exact prediction, but if you talk in terms of weeks, the average [positivity] is around 13% over the past one week and is the highest in three-four months. So definitely, in a week it should start decreasing," Mr. Jain said.

The Minister also launched 'Jeevan Seva' app to help COVID-19 patients to commute to hospitals and avail of healthcare facilities. The app will use electric vehicles as an ambulance to transfer non-critical patients to healthcare facilities within Delhi free of cost.

"From health check-ups, ambulance requirements to admission in hospitals, health amenities are now just a click away. With this app, you will get access to an e-vehicle which will provide free pick-up and drop services. Each vehicle will be properly sanitised after every ride," he said.

Car thief dies in judicial custody after being thrashed by people

His brother has demanded an investigation into the matter

HEMANI BHANDARI
NEW DELHI

A 24-year-old man died in judicial custody in the early hours of Thursday. He was allegedly caught stealing a car and was beaten up by the public, the police said.

The police said that the deceased has been identified as Mesar alias Salman, who hailed from Badarpur and was a resident of Badarpur.

The police said they received a call around 3 a.m. on Wednesday and were informed that a vehicle thief has been caught in Welcome's Kabir Nagar area. "When a police team reached the spot, complainant Hira Lal produced Mesar and said that he was caught stealing his tempo and was beaten up by the public," the officer said.

The police claimed that Mesar had sustained injuries and was taken to Jag Parvesh Chander Hospital. A medical examination was conducted after which a case on charges of theft was registered. Thereafter, the police said,

If he [Mesar] was so badly beaten up by the public, then why was he not provided treatment?

DANISH
Mesar's brother

about his brother, but officers allegedly dodged his questions. He said he was not told anything about his brother or allowed to meet him. Danish alleged that a police officer also asked him for bribe if he did not want any case registered against his brother. "I waited till 8 p.m. at the police station and they finally told me that they had sent him to jail," he said.

Around 3 a.m. on Thursday, Danish said, he received a call from the police and was told that his brother was in Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital and he should bring Mesar's wife around 6 a.m. to the hospital. When they reached, they were informed that Mesar was dead.

"If he was so badly beaten up by the public, then why was he not provided treatment? Why was he sent to jail in that condition?" Danish asked and demanded a probe into the matter.

A judicial inquiry into the matter is being conducted, the police said.

Delhi Assembly panel examines former Facebook employee Luckie

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Continuing its previous proceedings, the Delhi Legislative Assembly's Peace and Harmony Committee, chaired by AAP legislator Raghav Chadha, examined former Facebook employee Mark S. Luckie here on Thursday.

In a statement, the Committee said Mr. Luckie, who had actively worked with various core teams at the social media giant, made "extremely scathing revelations" on the internal functioning of Facebook.

"Mr. Luckie affirmed that there has been a repeated interference by top officials of Facebook teams, including their policy heads at the instance of the political parties upon the content moderation teams that caused eventual compromise in the execution of their own community standards," the Committee stated.

"He has affirmed that Facebook has been creating policies with respect to efficient content moderation which are not consistent or even transparent and are developed in a manner that it suits Facebook and its business model rather than the persons who have been victimised by its inefficient policies," it said.

According to the Committee, Mr. Luckie sought to affirm that Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg partakes in "various liaisons with different political parties across the globe" in order to earn "special benefits or favours". Mr. Luckie, the Committee said, spoke about the recruitment process of the top heads of the company where for an "extremely important post like that of Public Policy Head" persons with "cordial government relations" or having "special political affiliations" and those with "strong hold on lobbying within the government" were "preferred".

According to the Committee, Mr. Luckie mentioned that the intention behind recruiting those with "governmental influence" was because Facebook wants "an eventual and effectual change in existing laws and governmental policies" to accommodate the platform in a manner that it can "generate maximum business."

He, the Committee stated, also asserted that events like the Delhi communal clashes, Myanmar genocide and Sri Lanka communal violence "could have been easily averted" had Facebook acted in a "more proactive and prompt manner".

Reply to plea on regulation of online pathological labs: HC

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Thursday asked the Delhi government to respond to a plea for initiating contempt proceedings against its top officials for alleged non-compliance of an order directing regulation of online pathological labs.

The court asked the Delhi government's counsel to take instructions and listed the case for further hearing on January 29 next year.

Petitioner Rohit Jain sought contempt action against Delhi Chief Secretary, Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Director General of Health Service and the ICMR for allegedly failing to comply with the High Court's August 6 order.

The plea stated that the government has failed to take action against illegal online health service aggregators operating in Delhi and to regulate online pathological labs. It said the online aggregators like 'healthian' and '1 mg' are operating illegally in Delhi and playing with the lives of the common people and must be banned.



Divya Deepotsav Ayodhya
12-14 November, 2020



दीपञ्चोत्तिः परब्रह्म दीपञ्चोत्तिर्जनार्दनः।
दीपो हरतु मे पापं दीपञ्चोत्तिर्नमोऽस्तुते॥




Grandeur of Treta Yug to come alive in Ayodhya

5.51 lakh earthen lamps to be lit at Ram Ki Paidi

- ♦ Symbolic homecoming of Lord Ram and Sita in Ram Katha park
- ♦ Saryu Aarti amid chanting of prayers
- ♦ Mesmerising laser light and sound show
- ♦ Symbolic coronation of Lord Ram and Sita
- ♦ Cultural programmes on Ram Ki Paidi
- ♦ Re-enactment of Ram Lila
- ♦ Virtual Deepotsav in Ram Lalla's temple

in the august presence of

Anandiben Patel
Governor, Uttar Pradesh

Keshav Prasad Maurya
Deputy Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

Dr. Neelkanth Tiwari
Minister of State, Tourism, Culture and Religious Affairs (Independent Charge) Protocol (MOS), Uttar Pradesh

Rishikesh Upadhyay
Mayor, Ayodhya

Yogi Adityanath
Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

Dr. Dinesh Sharma
Deputy Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

Lallu Singh
Member of Parliament
Ayodhya

Ved Prakash Gupta
Member of the Legislative Assembly, Ayodhya

Date : 13th November, 2020 | Venue : Ayodhya

Light a Virtual Diya with one click : <http://virtualdeepotsav.com>

Timings

DEHLI		
FRIDAY, NOV. 13		
RISE 06:42	SET 17:29	
RISE 04:16	SET 16:19	
SATURDAY, NOV. 14		
RISE 06:43	SET 17:29	
RISE 05:24	SET 17:00	
SUNDAY, NOV. 15		
RISE 06:44	SET 17:28	
RISE 06:34	SET 17:45	

Delhi Weather

max min

Delhi City 29 12

Safdarjung 29 12

Palam 27 15

Delhi Palam Today

30°C Cool hazy/misty morning with light winds. Pollution condition would remain comparatively better.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow

31°C Cool morning with smog and clear sky. Pollution level would deteriorate. Few clouds likely.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2019
All rights reserved.

IN BRIEF

Tamil Nadu CM unveils 8th branch of DTEA

NEW DELHI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister E. Palanisamy on Thursday virtually inaugurated the Delhi Tamil Education Association's (DTEA) 8th branch at east Delhi's Mayur Vihar Phase III from his office in Chennai. Association Secretary R. Raju thanked the CM for inaugurating the building which will cater to children from east Delhi and is a state-of-the-art five storied structure with all modern amenities.

₹4.39-crore aid given to 77 sportspersons

NEW DELHI
Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal felicitated 77 sportspersons under the 'Mission Excellence Scheme' here on Thursday. The scheme provides financial aid to players for training. Mr. Kejriwal and Deputy CM Manish Sisodia provided assistance of ₹4.39 crore to 77 players from Delhi.

Delhi's air quality improves slightly

+ It is expected to deteriorate to 'very poor' by Saturday

STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI

The air quality of Delhi and Noida improved slightly but remained in the "very poor" category on Thursday. At the same time, Gurugram's AQI was in the "poor" category, according to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data.

The air quality of the Capital is expected to deteriorate to the higher end of the "very poor" category by Saturday.

"Air quality is predicted to deteriorate and remain in higher-end of very poor levels in the absence of any additional emissions due to

CPWD launches design competition for 'iconic structure' near Purana Qila

It could be a tower or sculpture built at a height of 134m

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI
The Central Public Works Department (CPWD) on Thursday launched a design competition for an "iconic structure" at the proposed New India Garden along the Yamuna near Purana Qila as a part of the Central Vista re-development project.

The structure could be a tower or sculpture with a maximum height of 134 metres, according to the project brief released by the CPWD.

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs said the competition would be held to "crowd-source implementable ideas for the conceptual architectural and structural design of the iconic structure at New Bharat Udyam [New India Garden], New Delhi to commemorate 75th year of Indian Independence". As a part of the re-development of the Central Vista, the existing 2.9-km-long Central Vista Axis from Rashtrapati Bhavan till India

Gate would be extended till the garden spread over 20.22 acre, the statement said. An official said a pathway connecting the existing Central Vista to the new garden could be part of the plan.

The Central Vista Master Plan envisages developing/redeveloping Central Vista as a world class public space, restoring its grandeur as an architectural icon, housing modern facilities for efficient functioning of administration, strengthening cultural institutions and commemorating 75th year of Indian independence... Spread over 20.22 acres, New Bharat Udyam will be open to the public and is being designed to have an iconic structure and infotainment facilities," the Ministry said.

The features in the garden would showcase historical and cultural heritage and "symbolise unity in diversity and aspirations of the New India", it said.

Among the requirements

for the design, the CPWD asked: "The structure should be iconic in design and represent the national capital city. For example, at present India Gate erected by the British in the Central Vista in the early 20th century prominently signifies Delhi. The proposed iconic structure being built in the independent India should now become a new symbol of the Capital."

The structure should be built to last, like the Iron Pillar in Qutub Minar, it said, adding that it should use indigenous materials in keeping with the government's vision of "Atmanirbhar Bharat" or self-reliant India. The project is expected to be completed by August 15, 2022 to commemorate 75 years of Independence.

Indian citizens and organisations would be able to apply for the competition, which will have a prize of ₹5 lakh for the winning entry. The deadline for entries would be December 11.

Among the requirements

for the design, the CPWD asked: "The structure should be iconic in design and represent the national capital city. For example, at present India Gate erected by the British in the Central Vista in the early 20th century prominently signifies Delhi. The proposed iconic structure being built in the independent India should now become a new symbol of the Capital."

The structure should be built to last, like the Iron Pillar in Qutub Minar, it said, adding that it should use indigenous materials in keeping with the government's vision of "Atmanirbhar Bharat" or self-reliant India. The project is expected to be completed by August 15, 2022 to commemorate 75 years of Independence.

Indian citizens and organisations would be able to apply for the competition, which will have a prize of ₹5 lakh for the winning entry. The deadline for entries would be December 11.

Among the requirements

for the design, the CPWD asked: "The structure should be iconic in design and represent the national capital city. For example, at present India Gate erected by the British in the Central Vista in the early 20th century prominently signifies Delhi. The proposed iconic structure being built in the independent India should now become a new symbol of the Capital."

The structure should be built to last, like the Iron Pillar in Qutub Minar, it said, adding that it should use indigenous materials in keeping with the government's vision of "Atmanirbhar Bharat" or self-reliant India. The project is expected to be completed by August 15, 2022 to commemorate 75 years of Independence.

Indian citizens and organisations would be able to apply for the competition, which will have a prize of ₹5 lakh for the winning entry. The deadline for entries would be December 11.

Among the requirements

for the design, the CPWD asked: "The structure should be iconic in design and represent the national capital city. For example, at present India Gate erected by the British in the Central Vista in the early 20th century prominently signifies Delhi. The proposed iconic structure being built in the independent India should now become a new symbol of the Capital."

The structure should be built to last, like the Iron Pillar in Qutub Minar, it said, adding that it should use indigenous materials in keeping with the government's vision of "Atmanirbhar Bharat" or self-reliant India. The project is expected to be completed by August 15, 2022 to commemorate 75 years of Independence.

Indian citizens and organisations would be able to apply for the competition, which will have a prize of ₹5 lakh for the winning entry. The deadline for entries would be December 11.

Among the requirements

for the design, the CPWD asked: "The structure should be iconic in design and represent the national capital city. For example, at present India Gate erected by the British in the Central Vista in the early 20th century prominently signifies Delhi. The proposed iconic structure being built in the independent India should now become a new symbol of the Capital."

The structure should be built to last, like the Iron Pillar in Qutub Minar, it said, adding that it should use indigenous materials in keeping with the government's vision of "Atmanirbhar Bharat" or self-reliant India. The project is expected to be completed by August 15, 2022 to commemorate 75 years of Independence.

Indian citizens and organisations would be able to apply for the competition, which will have a prize of ₹5 lakh for the winning entry. The deadline for entries would be December 11.

Among the requirements

for the design, the CPWD asked: "The structure should be iconic in design and represent the national capital city. For example, at present India Gate erected by the British in the Central Vista in the early 20th century prominently signifies Delhi. The proposed iconic structure being built in the independent India should now become a new symbol of the Capital."

The structure should be built to last, like the Iron Pillar in Qutub Minar, it said, adding that it should use indigenous materials in keeping with the government's vision of "Atmanirbhar Bharat" or self-reliant India. The project is expected to be completed by August 15, 2022 to commemorate 75 years of Independence.

Indian citizens and organisations would be able to apply for the competition, which will have a prize of ₹5 lakh for the winning entry. The deadline for entries would be December 11.

Among the requirements

for the design, the CPWD asked: "The structure should be iconic in design and represent the national capital city. For example, at present India Gate erected by the British in the Central Vista in the early 20th century prominently signifies Delhi. The proposed iconic structure being built in the independent India should now become a new symbol of the Capital."

The structure should be built to last, like the Iron Pillar in Qutub Minar, it said, adding that it should use indigenous materials in keeping with the government's vision of "Atmanirbhar Bharat" or self-reliant India. The project is expected to be completed by August 15, 2022 to commemorate 75 years of Independence.

Indian citizens and organisations would be able to apply for the competition, which will have a prize of ₹5 lakh for the winning entry. The deadline for entries would be December 11.

Among the requirements

for the design, the CPWD asked: "The structure should be iconic in design and represent the national capital city. For example, at present India Gate erected by the British in the Central Vista in the early 20th century prominently signifies Delhi. The proposed iconic structure being built in the independent India should now become a new symbol of the Capital."

The structure should be built to last, like the Iron Pillar in Qutub Minar, it said, adding that it should use indigenous materials in keeping with the government's vision of "Atmanirbhar Bharat" or self-reliant India. The project is expected to be completed by August 15, 2022 to commemorate 75 years of Independence.

Indian citizens and organisations would be able to apply for the competition, which will have a prize of ₹5 lakh for the winning entry. The deadline for entries would be December 11.

Among the requirements

for the design, the CPWD asked: "The structure should be iconic in design and represent the national capital city. For example, at present India Gate erected by the British in the Central Vista in the early 20th century prominently signifies Delhi. The proposed iconic structure being built in the independent India should now become a new symbol of the Capital."

The structure should be built to last, like the Iron Pillar in Qutub Minar, it said, adding that it should use indigenous materials in keeping with the government's vision of "Atmanirbhar Bharat" or self-reliant India. The project is expected to be completed by August 15, 2022 to commemorate 75 years of Independence.

Indian citizens and organisations would be able to apply for the competition, which will have a prize of ₹5 lakh for the winning entry. The deadline for entries would be December 11.

Among the requirements

for the design, the CPWD asked: "The structure should be iconic in design and represent the national capital city. For example, at present India Gate erected by the British in the Central Vista in the early 20th century prominently signifies Delhi. The proposed iconic structure being built in the independent India should now become a new symbol of the Capital."

The structure should be built to last, like the Iron Pillar in Qutub Minar, it said, adding that it should use indigenous materials in keeping with the government's vision of "Atmanirbhar Bharat" or self-reliant India. The project is expected to be completed by August 15, 2022 to commemorate 75 years of Independence.

Indian citizens and organisations would be able to apply for the competition, which will have a prize of ₹5 lakh for the winning entry. The deadline for entries would be December 11.

Among the requirements

for the design, the CPWD asked: "The structure should be iconic in design and represent the national capital city. For example, at present India Gate erected by the British in the Central Vista in the early 20th century prominently signifies Delhi. The proposed iconic structure being built in the independent India should now become a new symbol of the Capital."

The structure should be built to last, like the Iron Pillar in Qutub Minar, it said, adding that it should use indigenous materials in keeping with the government's vision of "Atmanirbhar Bharat" or self-reliant India. The project is expected to be completed by August 15, 2022 to commemorate 75 years of Independence.

Indian citizens and organisations would be able to apply for the competition, which will have a prize of ₹5 lakh for the winning entry. The deadline for entries would be December 11.

Among the requirements

for the design, the CPWD asked: "The structure should be iconic in design and represent the national capital city. For example, at present India Gate erected by the British in the Central Vista in the early 20th century prominently signifies Delhi. The proposed iconic structure being built in the independent India should now become a new symbol of the Capital."

The structure should be built to last, like the Iron Pillar in Qutub Minar, it said, adding that it should use indigenous materials in keeping with the government's vision of "Atmanirbhar Bharat" or self-reliant India. The project is expected to be completed by August 15, 2022 to commemorate 75 years of Independence.

Indian citizens and organisations would be able to apply for the competition, which will have a prize of ₹5 lakh for the winning entry. The deadline for entries would be December 11.

Among the requirements

for the design, the CPWD asked: "The structure should be iconic in design and represent the national capital city. For example, at present India Gate erected by the British in the Central Vista in the early 20th century prominently signifies Delhi. The proposed iconic structure being built in the independent India should now become a new symbol of the Capital."

The structure should be built to last, like the Iron Pillar in Qutub Minar, it said, adding that it should use indigenous materials in keeping with the government's vision of "Atmanirbhar Bharat" or self-reliant India. The project is expected to be completed by August 15, 2022 to commemorate 75 years of Independence.

Indian citizens and organisations would be able to apply for the competition, which will have a prize of ₹5 lakh for the winning entry. The deadline for entries would be December 11.

Among the requirements

for the design, the CPWD asked: "The structure should be iconic in design and represent the national capital city. For example, at present India Gate erected by the British in the Central Vista in the early 20th century prominently signifies Delhi. The proposed iconic structure being built in the independent India should now become a new symbol of the Capital."

The structure should be built to last, like the Iron Pillar in Qutub Minar, it said, adding that it should use indigenous materials in keeping with the government's vision of "Atmanirbhar Bharat" or self-reliant India. The project is expected to be completed by August 15, 2022 to commemorate 75 years of Independence.

Indian citizens and organisations would be able to apply for the competition, which will have a prize of ₹5 lakh for the winning entry. The deadline for entries would be December 11.

Among the requirements

for the design, the CPWD asked: "The structure should be iconic in design and represent the national capital city. For example, at present India Gate erected by the British in the Central Vista in the early 20th century prominently signifies Delhi. The proposed iconic structure being built in the independent India should now become a new symbol of the Capital."

The structure should be built to last, like the Iron Pillar in Qutub Minar, it said, adding that it should use indigenous materials in keeping with the government's vision of "Atmanirbhar Bharat" or self-reliant India. The project is expected to be completed by August 15, 2022 to commemorate 75 years of Independence.

Indian citizens and organisations would be able to apply for the competition, which will have a prize of ₹5 lakh for the winning entry. The deadline for entries would be December 11.

Among the requirements

for the design, the CPWD asked: "The structure should be iconic in design and represent the national capital city. For example, at present India Gate erected by the British in the Central Vista in the early 20th century prominently signifies Delhi. The proposed iconic structure being built in the independent India should now become a new symbol of the Capital."

The structure should be built to last, like the Iron Pillar in Qutub Minar, it said, adding that it should use indigenous materials in keeping with the government's vision of "Atmanirbhar Bharat" or self-reliant India. The project is expected to be completed by August 15, 2022 to commemorate 75 years of Independence.

Indian citizens and organisations would be able to apply for the competition, which will have a prize of ₹5 lakh for the winning entry. The deadline for entries would be December 11.

Among the requirements

for the design, the CPWD asked: "The structure should be iconic in design and represent the national capital city. For example, at present India Gate erected

YSR STEEL CORPORATION LIMITED (Erstwhile AP HIGH GRADE STEELS LIMITED)

Ref No: 61/YSRSCL/RFP/2020 Dated: 12.11.2020
Global Notice: Request for Proposal (RFP) for Setting-Up of a Steel Plant through a Joint Venture (JV) Route

Andhra Pradesh has been the front runner in driving India's economy and it is now ready to open a new chapter in its growth story by establishing a Steel Plant of up to 3 MTPA capacity at YSR Kadapa District. Being one of the key commitments to the new state of Andhra Pradesh in the AP Reorganisation Act, 2014, establishing a Steel Plant at Kadapa has been a dream for the people of Kadapa District. Leveraging various key factors mentioned below, the Project is set to drive the desired growth in the region fulfilling the aspirations of the people.

- 3500 acres of undisputed land, ► Proximity to Krishnapatnam Port & Ramayapatnam Port
- Dedicated supply of upto 2TMC water per annum, ► Proximity to raw material sources
- Uninterrupted power supply and ► Access to major auto and industrial hubs
- Connectivity by a 4-lane road & rail, ► Centrally located to access major South Indian urban centres.

In order to make this dream a reality, YSRSCL (erstwhile APHSL) was incorporated and the Hon'ble Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for YSRSCL (erstwhile APHSL) in YSR Kadapa District, which happens to be his home district.

As we embark on this development, we seek our potential partners who can collaborate with YSRSCL for setting up the Steel Plant at Kadapa through a Joint Venture route.

The project details can be seen in the RFP document available in our website link: <https://aphighgrade steels.com/tenders.php>

This is a Global Notice Requesting Proposals (RFP) from such interested companies willing to collaborate with us in this mega-project.

Instructions:

1. The RFP document is available at <https://aphighgrade steels.com/tenders.php>
2. To participate in the RFP Process -
a. fill the registration form as given in the website.
b. pay the processing fee of Rs.3,54,000/- (including GST of 18%).
3. Send the above details to both: shanmohan.sagili@aphighgrade steels.com and srikanth.suda@aphighgrade steels.com

For further clarifications, please contact:

Shri Shan Mohan S, IAS, Managing Director, YSRSCL (erstwhile APHSL)
10th Floor, APIIC Towers, Mangalagiri, Guntur Dist, AP - 522 503
Phone: +91 9513387589.

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता का कार्यालय पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमण्डल संख्या-२, गिरिहीड़

शुद्धि पट्र

एतद् द्वारा सूचित किया जाता है कि पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमण्डल संख्या-०२, गिरिहीड़ के अंतर्गत आमंत्रित ई-प्रोक्रामेट निविदा सुचना सं- DWSD/RPWS/GIRIDHI-2/2020-21 (Keshwari and Adjoining Villages Rural Pipe Water Supply Scheme) जो PR No-235495 (Drinking Water & Sanitation)2020-21_D द्वारा प्रकाशित है, जिसे अपरिवार्य कारणों से निम्न प्रकार संशोधित किया जाता है :-

क्र०	विवरण	पूर्व में प्रकाशित तिथि/समय एवं राशि	संशोधित तिथि एवं समय
1	प्राक्कलित राशि (लाख में)	1582.79 Lac	1311.48 Lac
2	अंग्रहन राशि (लाख में).	15.83 Lac	13.12 Lac
3	वेसाइट पर निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि एवं समय	17-11-2020 at 4:00P.M	17-11-2020 at 4:00P.M
4	प्री-बैड मिटिंग की तिथि एवं समय	13-11-2020 /12:30 PM	24-11-2020 at 12:30 PM
5	विड प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय	28-11-2020 up to 4:00P.M	03/12/2020 at 04:00 P.M
6	अंग्रहन की राशि एवं परिमाण विपर का मूल्य (हार्ड कॉम्प की) जमा करने की तिथि एवं समय	01-12-2020 up to 4:00P.M	05/12/2020 at 04:00 P.M
7	निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय	02-12-2020 up to 1:00P.M	07/12/2020 at 01:00 P.M

नोट:- (1) अन्य सर्व यथावत रहेंगे।

(2) यह शुद्धि-पत्र परिमाण विपर का भाग होगा।

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता
पेयजल एवं स्वच्छता प्रमण्डल
संख्या-०२, गिरिहीड़

PR 235733 Rural Development (20-21)_D

Tel. No. 01704222373 HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

e-mail: ee-pao-hp@nic.in

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The Executive Engineer HP PWD Paonta Sahib, Distt. Sirmour HP on behalf of Governor of HP invites the Item rate bids, in electronic tendering system from the eligible class of contractors registered with HP PWD for the works as detailed in the table.

Sr. Name of work No.	Estimated cost (Rs)	Starting Date for downloading Bid	Earnest Money	Deadline for submission of Bid
1. C/o link road from Shamsherpur to Nawada via Heepur Matratlon Rampurhat road Km. 0/0 to 7/270 under NABARD RIDF-XVI, SH-F/C, Missing cross drainage works. Metalling Tarring, side drain, Papelaps and road sign boards including five years maintenance).	Rs. 3,03,61,000/-	21-11-2020 16:30 HRS	Rs. 6,00,000/-	03-12-2020 17:00 HRS
2. Improvement of road including metalling and tarring and cross drainage works on Jammiwala to Bodhwala bridge via Rihala Basti Jamamwala to Khadar Basti in Gram Panchayat Pardoni, Tehsil Paonta Sahib, District Sirmour (HP). Sh- C/O 5/7 mtrs wide road including retaining walls, earth filling, C/O cross drainage works, P/L granular Sub-base, WBM Grade-II and III, Premix Carpet Surfacing, Cement concrete pavement road, C/O essential parapets and drains in Km. 0/0 to 2/576) under NABARD RIDF-XXV.	Rs. 2,13,61,000/-	21-11-2020 16:30 HRS	Rs. 4,26,000/-	03-12-2020 17:00 HRS

The bidders are advised to note other details of Tenders from the department website www.hptenders.gov.in. Executive Engineer HP PWD, Paonta Sahib, Distt. Sirmour HP. On behalf Governor of Himachal Pradesh Tel/Fax: 01704-222373, E-mail: ee-pao-hp@nic.in

HP /4351/20-21

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता का कार्यालय

राष्ट्रीय उच्च पथ प्रमण्डल, धनबाद - 826001, (संयुक्त कार्यालय भवन पसिरार)

दूरभाष : 0326-2313339, e-mail: eehdhanbad-jhr@nic.in

शुद्धि पट्र

इस कार्यालय की निविदा Tender Reference Number-NH/Dhanbad/07/2020-21 जो पीपी आर० संख्या 235370/Road/20-21-D द्वारा दीके समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित है, कि EPC NIT के वर्णित अनुरूपद को निम्न रूप से संशोधित किया जाता है:-

Document	Subject	Serial No.	Previous	Corrected
EPC NIT	NIT	1	The complete BID Document can be viewed/downloaded from official portal of the CPPP website https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app/ from 11.11.2020 (upto 11:00 Hrs.IST). Cost of RFP Document -Rs. 10,000/- for work specified above shall be paid through online Challan in the shape of Online payment on NTRP Portal- https://bharatashok.gov.in/ /Ministry/app.on or before 11.12.2020 (upto 11:00 hours IST). Bids received online shall be opened on 16.12.2020 (at 11.30 hours IST). Bid through any other mode shall not be entertained.	The complete BID Document can be viewed/downloaded from official portal of the CPPP website https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app/ from 12.11.2020 to 11.12.2020 (upto 17.00 Hrs.IST). Bidder must submit its Financial bid and Technical Bid at https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app/ on or before 11.12.2020 (upto 17.00 hours IST). Bids received online shall be opened on 16.12.2020 (at 11.30 hours IST). Bid through any other mode shall not be entertained. However, Bid Securing declaration, (Appendix II) document fee, Power of Attorney and Joint Bidding Agreement etc., shall be submitted physically by the Bidder on or before 14.12.2020 (at 11.00 hours IST), Please note that the [Ministry/Authority/Executive Agency] reserves the right to accept or reject all or any of the BIDs without assigning any reason whatsoever.

अन्य सभी सूचनाएँ एवं शर्त यथावत रहेंगी।

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता,
राष्ट्रीय उच्च पथ प्रमण्डल, धनबाद

PR 235727 (Road)20-21#

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA CORRIGENDUM

SR. NO. NAME OF BOARD CORP./AUTH OLD REFERENCE/NIT NO. NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL

1	HPGCL, PANCHKULA,	21/CE/PLG/WYC/SPP-271/VOL-IV DATED 08.09.2020	THE DUE DATE OF BID SUBMISSION IS EXTENDED UP TO 07.12.2020 TILL 13:00 HRS AND OPENING OF PART-I (TECHNO-COMMERCIAL BID) SHALL BE ON 09.12.2020 AT 11:00 HRS. (PLEASE CHECK DEPARTMENT WEBSITE FOR FURTHER DETAILS).	www.hpgcl.org.in	0172-5023425 cplg@hpgcl.org.in
2	HPGCL HISAR	2020_HBC_147025_1_NIT NO. 332/RGTPP/MM-1/TOE-12593 DT. 06.10.2020	CORRIGENDUM-1ST LAST DATE OF BID SUBMISSION 20-11-2020 EXTENDED TO 17.00 HRS SUPPLY OF CAUSTIC SODA LYE FOR ALL THREE POWER GENERATING STATIONS OF HPGCL TO RGTPP, KHEDAR, CORRIGENDUM-1ST LAST DATE OF BID SUBMISSION 17.11.2020 UP TO 17.00 HRS.	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9315164637 mm1.rgtp@hpgcl.org.in
3	HPGCL HISAR	2020_HBC_148831_1_NIT NO. 41/ROTARY-II/M&P-594/RGTPP/2020-21 DT. 26.10.2020.	WORK OF OVERHAULING OF FANS, RAHS AND ASSOCIATED DUCTING INSTALLED IN UNIT-II, RGTPP DURING FORTNIGHTLY MAINTENANCE OF 600 MW UNIT-II RGTPP, KHEDAR, HISAR.	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9355084343 xenmp.rgtp@hpgcl.org.in
4	HPGCL HISAR	2020_HBC_148836_1_NIT NO. 43/HEATER JACKET-II/M&P-597/RGTPP/2020-21 DT. 26.10.2020.	CORRIGENDUM-1ST LAST DATE OF BID SUBMISSION 17.11.2020 UP TO 17:00 HRS. HAZARD ASSESSMENT STUDY BY EXPERTS TESTS AND INSPECTION OF HEATER JACKETS IN ESP HOPPERS INSTALLED IN UNIT-II DURING FORTHCOMING OVERHAULING OF 600 MW UNIT-II RGTPP, KHEDAR, HISAR.	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9355084343 xenmp.rgtp@hpgcl.org.in
5	HPGCL HISAR	2020_HBC_148839_1_NIT NO. 44/ECT-II/M&P-598/CE/CD-1/TOE-12593 DT. 26.10.2020.	CORRIGENDUM-1ST LAST DATE OF BID SUBMISSION 17.11.2020 UP TO 17:00 HRS. HAZARD ASSESSMENT STUDY BY EXPERTS TESTS AND INSPECTION OF HEATER JACKETS IN ESP HOPPERS INSTALLED IN UNIT-II DURING FORTHCOMING OVERHAULING OF 600 MW UNIT-II RGTPP, KHEDAR, HISAR.	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9355084343 xenmp.rgtp@hpgcl.org.in
6	HPGCL,PANIPAT	(NIT NO.CH-24/XPL/EE/UNIT-7/25/VOL-XVI) SUB- RENEWAL OF FIRE & SPECIAL PERILS (FOOD, STROM, CYCLONES, TYPHOONS, TEMPS, ETC.) WORKS FOR HYGRO-CLIMATIC LIGHTING ETC) POLICY INCLUDING EXPENSE FOR UNIT-5,784 AT PTPS, PANIPAT	LAST DATE OF ONLINE BID SUBMISSION IS EXTENDED UPTO 19/11/2020 (13:00 HRS) DUE DATE FOR OPENING OF E-TENDER (TECHNICAL BID)- 20/11/2020 AT 11:00 HRS. (SOCIETIES & CONTRACTORS)	www.hpgcl.org.in	0180-2566015 xenmpctplg1@gmail.com
7	HVPNL, HISAR.	NIT NO.30-CWD/2-VOL-XI/HVPN/2020-21 DATED:-28/10/2020	LAST DATE OF ONLINE BID SUBMISSION IS EXTENDED UPTO 19/11/2020 (13:00 HRS) DUE DATE FOR OPENING OF E-TENDER (TECHNICAL BID)- 20/11/2020 AT 11:00 HRS. (SOCIETIES & CONTRACTORS)	www.hvpn.org.in	0172-2583799 prohvpn@gmail.com
8	HVPNL, HISAR.	NIT NO.27/CWD-2/VOL-XI/HVPN/2020-21 DATED:-16/10/2020	LAST DATE OF ONLINE BID SUBMISSION IS EXTENDED UPTO 19/11/2020 (13:00 HRS) DUE DATE FOR OPENING OF E-TENDER (TECHNICAL BID)- 20/11/2020 AT 11:00 HRS. (SOCIETIES & CONTRACTORS)	www.hvpn.org.in	0172-2583799 prohvpn@gmail.com
9	HVPNL, HISAR.	NIT NO.28/CWD-2/V			

ACT EARLY REPORT EARLY SAVE LIVES

दिल्ली सरकार
आप की सरकार

Delhi Government is committed to bringing down mortality due to COVID-19.
Citizens can play their part by reporting early for testing, diagnosis and treatment.

THE FOLLOWING SYMPTOMS CAN BE INDICATIVE OF COVID-19:



Fever



Cough



Fatigue



Shortness of breath



Cough with phlegm
(expectoration)



Muscle pain
(myalgia)



Rhinorrhea,
sore throat



Diarrhoea

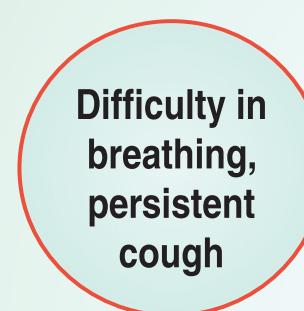


Loss of smell (anosmia) or
loss of taste (ageusia)

ACTION

Get yourself tested at the nearest Govt. Health Facility (Point of care: Delhi Govt. Dispensaries, MCD, NDMC & Aam Aadmi Mohalla Clinics), COVID Testing Centres or authorized labs. The list of COVID Testing Centres and authorized labs is available at www.delhifightscorona.in/labs

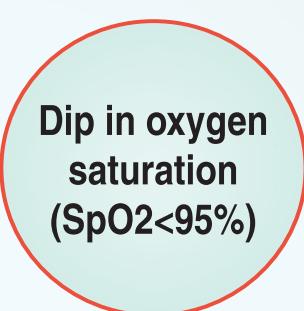
IF YOU ARE COVID-19 POSITIVE AND HAVE THE FOLLOWING SYMPTOMS



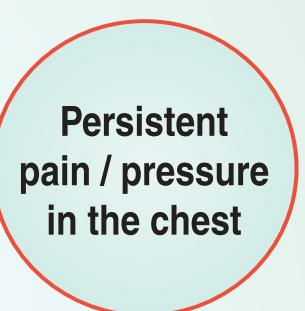
Difficulty in
breathing,
persistent
cough



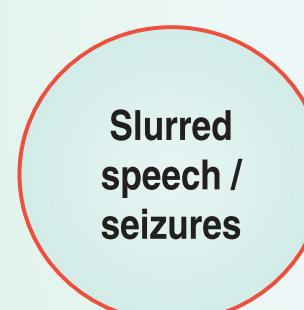
Persistent
high
fever



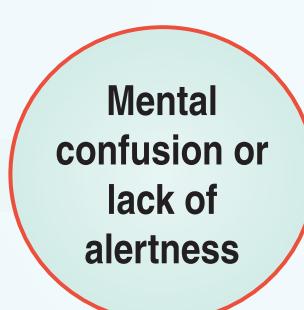
Dip in oxygen
saturation
(SpO2<95%)



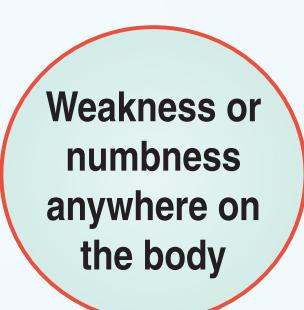
Persistent
pain / pressure
in the chest



Slurred
speech /
seizures



Mental
confusion or
lack of
alertness



Weakness or
numbness
anywhere on
the body



Any bluish
discolouration
of the limbs
or face

ACTION

Report immediately to your nearest COVID-19 Hospital or contact 102, if you require an ambulance. The list of COVID-19 Hospitals is available at www.delhifightscorona.in/hospitals

Timely reporting can save your life and the lives of those around you

“

To defeat Corona we must all come together to act quickly and effectively. So if you have any symptoms, please come forward for a test as soon as possible. With your help we will win this battle.

– ARVIND KEJRIWAL
Chief Minister, Delhi

”



दिल्ली सरकार
आप की सरकार

Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of NCT of Delhi



For one and all

Instant protection of personal liberty must be the norm, and not dished out on priority basis

The Supreme Court has struck a blow for personal liberty, granting interim bail to television anchor Arnab Goswami through an order that one wished was also passed in the case of many others incarcerated without sufficient cause, and with the same priority, consideration and speed. The arrest of the garrulous supporter of the ruling party at the Centre by a regime in Maharashtra opposed to it did seem an unwanted exercise in law. The accusation that Mr. Goswami and two others abetted the suicide of an inferior designer by denying him payments due to him was indeed something that could have been investigated and prosecuted, if evidence was found, without arresting them. It was always a good case for bail. However, it is not clear why the court did not allow the regular bail process to pave the way for their freedom. Mr. Goswami rushed to the Bombay High Court even before the Sessions Court could hear the matter. The High Court cannot be faulted for rejecting his bail request, as he had an effective alternative remedy in the form of a regular bail petition before the lower court. It is quite common for superior courts to ask remand petitioners to exhaust their remedy before lower courts first. Even those arrests in which political vendetta or misuse of power is quite demonstrable, the Supreme Court has granted bail only after courts below had dismissed them on merits.

In Mr. Goswami's case, the Sessions Court was due to hear his bail petition around the same time the matter was before the High Court. Therefore, it is somewhat strange that the petition was posted immediately for hearing and that interim bail, pending a reasoned judgment, should be granted on the same day. Further, Justice D.Y. Chandrachud's observation, "If we don't interfere in this case today, we will walk on a path of destruction," seems out of place in a case that clearly does not relate to Mr. Goswami's journalistic work. Surely, a scrutiny of why such consideration or sympathy has not been shown for others held mainly for their political beliefs or journalistic work is warranted. It is no idle whataboutery to point out that it was only recently that the apex court turned down a petition for bail on medical grounds for lawyer-activist Sudha Bharadwaj to the High Court with a gratuitous observation, "You have a good case on merits. Why don't you file a regular bail application?" One hopes the detailed judgment would shed light on the circumstances in which the Supreme Court can override regular bail hearings in lower courts; and on whether it is expected that magistrates and sessions judges should also grant same-day interim bail in appropriate cases. The Court's recent record of evading and postponing hearing on many matters concerning fundamental rights and constitutional questions that affect the rights of large sections of society is a veritable story of judicial abdication. It is somewhat galling to note that its gladiatorial zeal for personal liberty is demonstrated in so selective a manner.

Extended lease

The IPL remained a success as a television spectacle despite the bio-bubble

The Indian Premier League that concluded in Dubai on Tuesday night, reiterated Mumbai Indians' (MI) dominance over the last decade while also granting a hat-trip to the latest challenger – Delhi Capitals (DC). MI won its fifth title, a record that is well ahead of Chennai Super Kings' share of three trophies. As finals go, the summit clash was underwhelming. Reduced to 22 for three in 3.3 overs, DC had to play catch-up all through the contest despite the rugged efforts of skipper Shreyas Iyer and Rishabh Pant, who both scored a fifty each. DC's 156 for seven in 20 overs hardly tested the eventual champion as Rohit Sharma's men coasted to a five-wicket victory in 18.4 overs. Rohit himself played the lead hand through a measured 68. There are whispers lingering about his strained hamstring, but it should heal by the time he reaches Australia for the Test series that commences on December 17. MI thrived on its overall supremacy: Ishan Kishan, Quinton de Kock, Suryakumar Yadav, veteran Kieron Pollard, Hardik Pandya, Jasprit Bumrah, Trent Boult, and the final's surprise packet Jayant Yadav, all contributed to the team's cause. Meanwhile, DC qualified for its maiden final and largely rode on Shikhar Dhawan (618 runs) and this edition's highest wicket-taker, South African spearhead Kagiso Rabada, who dismissed 30 batsmen.

Among the rest, Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) and Royal Challengers Bangalore made it to the play-offs while the bottom-half featured Kolkata Knight Riders, Kings XI Punjab, CSK and Rajasthan Royals (RR). CSK's failure was a rare blip for a franchise that previously always made the last four. With a core group of seniors nearing the finish-line, the Chennai outfit under M.S. Dhoni has to rebuild with an infusion of youth. Hosted in West Asia while the coronavirus pandemic lurked in the background, the IPL's 13th edition was a pure television spectacle with social-distancing norms and the bio-bubble. Hearteningly, the league continued to shine a light on unsung heroes be it SRH's T. Natarajan or RR's Rahul Tewatia with the former, a left-arm pacer, gaining a berth in India's Twenty20 unit. Even regulars such as Kings XI captain K.L. Rahul, who topped the aggregate with 670 runs, relished their hits in the park after the COVID-19 lock-downs were gradually lifted. But, the desert sands weren't entirely about the men lofting a six or casting stumps, as towards the end, the Women's T20 Challenge was held with Trailblazers prevailing over Supernovas in a tense final. This might seem as tokenism for now but a start has been made and women's cricket needs more of this fare as it strikes roots and slowly acquires commercial heft.

Like long COVID, there is long Trump

The rise of Donald Trump should have spurred a more honest national self-reflection in the U.S.



VARGHEESE K. GEORGE

The COVID-19 pandemic has had the paradoxical effects of reinforcing U.S. President Donald Trump's politics on the one hand and contributing to his electoral defeat on the other. Mr. Trump had everything going for him until the novel coronavirus arrived. It disrupted his campaign for a second term, but ironically, reinforced a wide spectrum of his politics – travel restrictions, national manufacturing, economic nationalism, and, most significantly, belligerence towards China. The winning campaign of the President-elect, Joe Biden, put Mr. Trump on the mat for his COVID-19 response, but it also appropriated his 'America First' agenda in manufacturing and anti-China rhetoric.

The universal liberal euphoria over Mr. Trump's electoral defeat is based on flawed reasoning as was the desolation over his victory in 2016. Ahead of the 2016 presidential election, there were two types of challenges to the neoliberal political and economic order. Bernie Sanders, a self-declared democratic socialist, offered a more structured critique of the American neoliberal order than Mr. Trump's scattergun approach. Mr. Trump's cocktail of cultural and economic nationalism inebriated the nation but it turned victorious also because the establishment would rather deal with it than the Sanders model. Mr. Trump convinced the poor that they had shared interests with America's wealthiest and their enemies were other poor people of different co-

lour or religion.

Mr. Trump's savage cultural politics, ego and bluster became the focus of the opposition to him and the underlying reasons of his appeal were overlooked by design or debility. Trumpian cultural politics was countered with liberal cultural politics – of sexual, ethnic and religious minorities, of gender rights, topped up with environmentalism.

Cultural vs. economic worries

Studies and surveys claimed to have empirically established that cultural anxieties, not economic dispossession, were the driver of Mr. Trump's politics. One such 'study' found 68% of white working-class voters apparently believed the "American way of life needs to be protected from foreign influence". Who in the world would say 'no' if such a question is framed! And, this in a country that is upfront about the exceptionalism of their way of life! Such dubious 'evidence' of cultural anxieties became the basis of liberals dismissing the political responses of the 'non college-educated whites' as little more than racism. Cultural anxieties are real for sure, but they work in conjunction with other factors.

Surveys this year too asked respondents to assign an order of priority to a bunch of issues – say COVID-19, immigration, economy, race relations – on the baseless assumption that these are isolated factors. Someone can be opposed to migration and be hostile to other communities because the economy is battered due to COVID-19 or they were infected.

It bears repeating that material conditions and situations shape political behaviour. Those who consider the human body as an inviolable space now support a mask mandate; those who are generally supportive of free movement of



people across borders, now want laws that force people to lock up in their homes. To tell the working class that they must lose their jobs today to avoid an environmental apocalypse 50 years later is bad enough; to assume that those who are incapable of caring about the environment are actually agitated over their grandchildren living in a more diverse country is logical fallacy.

Trump's electoral legitimacy

Another mainstream response to Mr. Trump's victory was to question the legitimacy of his election itself by linking it to Russian influence operation and calling into question the utility of the Electoral College mechanism itself. A key purpose of inserting intermediaries between the voters and the chief executive in a representative democracy is to stall mobocracy and make the process more thoughtful. This creates anomalies, such as Mr. Trump winning the presidency without winning the popular vote, and the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi winning 55% Lok Sabha seats with 37% popular votes concentrated in a limited area. In India, if a party can win 272 Lok Sabha seats each with a margin of one vote, it can rule the whole country regardless of what happened in the other 271 seats.

But dismantling of the intermediaries in a representative democracy is a dream, not of the pluralist. It seeks to divide and rule the press by creating an artificial distinction between the new-age digital media (the stand-alone news portals which are already struggling to stay afloat) – which is the media of the future, the media of the millennial generation – and the older print and TV news media.

The explanation that the print media have the oversight of the Press Council of India and the TV media of the News Broadcasters Association (NBA), and therefore the digital media needed a regulatory framework – no less than that of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting – is both lame and laughable. Because, first of all, there is no comparison between the Press Council of India and the NBA as professional bodies on the one hand and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on the other. We know, for instance,

that of the demagogue. Representations are anyway also linked to the size of the population – the distribution of the EC votes shifts according to the changes in population distribution

It is ironic that those who stand for pluralism base their argument on popular vote – which is actually a call for demagogic. The ability of the uneducated to choose for themselves has been questioned ever since democracy debates began, but it is paradoxical when it comes from a position that speaks for pluralism. Echoing in the liberal derision of the white working class, paradoxically again, is the European coloniser view of the earlier inhabitants of the continent as soulless, primitive creatures whose opinion mattered little. A moral superiority is assigned to the high-skilled, technologically advanced, resourceful immigrants recruited from around the world, and constantly arriving on the coasts, over the wretched and the wrecked in the hinterlands. To inoculate from Trump politics, a different strain of the same affliction is being used. It is now Mr. Trump's turn to return the favour, which he generously will, by questioning the legitimacy of Mr. Biden's election. Neither party trusts the election system unless it wins.

Media's troubling response

The American media's response to the rise of Mr. Trump has been equally troubling. While one segment became his unabashed promoters, the self-styled mainstream media, with isolated exceptions, took it upon itself to bring him down.

The American media's unquestioning deference to the country's security establishment is historical, but under the Trump presidency, that became even more intense. It is good that the President gets questioned, but it is certainly not good that his opponent does

not get questioned. Long-held principles of journalism were thrown out of the window. In its willingness to fall for numerous unsubstantiated stories about the President and in the refusal to truthfully examine Mr. Biden's track record, the U.S. media thought nothing mattered more than saving democracy from Mr. Trump. It is likely that the U.S. media will handle Mr. Biden with kid gloves while it continues to investigate Mr. Trump. This double standard lends credibility to the view that a cartel of vested interests controls the U.S.

What Biden must address

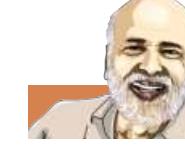
The presence of Mr. Trump in the White House should have spurred a more honest national self-reflection, but the elites who could have led this, pivoted to do the exact opposite. Once all the crises were pinned on Mr. Trump, there was no other end to pursue, other than his defeat. He became the excuse to avoid any relook of the neoliberal order. All that burden is now on Mr. Biden, who has made a good start by reaching out to the white working class during his campaigning.

The liberal ecosystem of the U.S. had gone into a cytokine storm – immune overreaction that causes more harm than the affliction itself such as in COVID-19 – in response to Mr. Trump. Mr. Biden benefited from it, but now he needs to calm it. He needs to address the morbidities of America – the trust deficit in the country's election system, the brutality of its economic order, the chaos of its cultural politics. Or else, Trump politics will linger around as a restless ghost. In defeat, the support for Mr. Trump swelled by eight million votes, compared to 2016. Like Long COVID, there is Long Trump.

vargheese.g@thehindu.co.in

Media regulation that is quite over the top

Bringing digital media under the I&B Ministry nips in the bud the promise of combative journalism



SASHI KUMAR

The government's move bringing online news and current affairs portals along with films and audio-visual programmes made available by online content providers" under the Ministry of Information and Broad-

casting is as brazen as it is witty. Brazen, because this is an attack on the free press, targeted at a section that has been bold and forthright in speaking truth to power.

Brazen, because this comes from a party, many of whose leaders' claim to fame is that they were in the vanguard of the JP movement and fought the attack on the press during the Emergency under Indira Gandhi. And now they themselves set out to make the media institutionally captive.

Wily, because, it is clubbing the only sector of the media which has pre-censorship, namely films (through the Central Board of Film

Certification), with the news media which has so far, at least officially, not been subject to pre-censorship, although media practitioners know the grave post-publication consequences of airing news or views critical or adversarial to the government of the day.

Making the press unfree

It neatly hijacks matters before the Supreme Court of India relating to freedom of the press and freedom of expression to arm the executive with control over the free press, thereby essentially making it un-free.

The instant case is that relating to Sudarshan News, in which hate speech is being disingenuously sought to be passed off as freedom of the press. The government's initial response was to ask the Court to look at regulating digital media rather than the mainstream TV channels. So the case itself has become tricky – if a TV channel indulging in hate speech is to be brought to book, it must be at the cost of regulating the media. And regulation – other than self-regulation – is nothing but censorship. In fact the excuse given by the go-



vernment for this annexation of the digital media by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is that the self-regulation proposals given by the sector (the mandate and representativeness of the organisations in this sector which made these proposals are questionable in the first place) were not satisfactory.

It, similarly, also hijacks another public interest litigation in the Supreme Court relating to content on "Over The Top" (OTT) platforms not being subject to regulation or official oversight to bring that sector too under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Court as alibi

In other words, what we are seeing is these cases before the judiciary being made an excuse, and the au-

thority itself being made an unwitting alibi, to erode freedom of the press and freedom of expression, which are a fundamental right and a basic feature of the Constitution that no executive or legislature can tamper with or nullify.

It seeks to divide and rule the press by creating an artificial distinction between the new-age digital media (the stand-alone news portals which are already struggling to stay afloat) – which is the media of the future, the media of the millennial generation – and the older print and TV news media.

The explanation that the print media have the oversight of the Press Council of India and the TV media of the News Broadcasters Association (NBA), and therefore the digital media needed a regulatory framework – no less than that of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting – is both lame and laughable. Because, first of all, there is no comparison between the Press Council of India and the NBA as professional bodies on the one hand and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on the other. We know, for instance,

how independent and free news on Doordarshan and All India Radio is even under the so-called autonomous corporation, Prasar Bharati.

Fate of digital media

The fate of the digital media under the control of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting leaves little scope for hope, and dooms the sector for both the media practitioner and the media entrepreneur and for the startups that have been the new vibrant face of contemporary journalism. The move is tantamount to nipping in the bud a promise of combative journalism. It makes our democracy the poorer for it. This move must be seen for what it is – politically and morally decrepit – and must be legally challenged as unconstitutional and autocratic. One cannot resist wondering whether, at this rate, the government will next bring the social media under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Where does one stop stopping free speech?

Sashi Kumar is Chairman, Asian College of Journalism and Asiaville Interactive digital portal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Governing Netflix

There is no doubt that "Over The Top" and other digital platforms have become very popular. But one cannot ignore that fact that most have 'bold content', sleaze and fake news. With an eye on ensuring more viewership, they do not shy away from crossing the limits of civility. While control is necessary, the government must limit its role to curbing undesirable content.

Ds. D.V.G. SANKARARAO,
Nellore, Andhra Pradesh

■ Many of the shows and short films are loaded with violence and obscenity. With smartphones and tabs now in the hands of the children because of online classes it becomes even easier for them to be led astray. There are also instances of content peddling religious hatred.

T. ANAND RAJ,
Chennai

■ The regulations will have to be a balancing act so as not

to destroy cinematic liberty. They should also not be used as a tool to suppress political criticism. Such platforms are an emerging space for young talent especially as

Bollywood has been accused of nepotism. With the pandemic having hit theatre viewership, OTT platforms have come to the rescue of connected players. Sponsors have begun exploring this new and emerging market.

ROHAN DIXIT,
New Delhi

■ The fact that 19 lawmakers, who defected from the Congress party to the BJP have been elected again from the same constituencies in the by-election in Madhya Pradesh, illustrates that the voter-public do not attach much importance to the ideologies or policies of the party concerned but seem to be carried away by the personal influence and social status of the defectors. No amount of anti-defection laws will be effective and this menace will continue

without check unless the voter himself realises that defection is immoral and a blatant betrayal.

D. SETHURAMAN,
Chennai

■ Struck off the syllabus It is so unfortunate to read the snippet (Page 1) and report (Inside pages), "After ABVP objects, university withdraws Arundhati Roy's book", November 12) – that Tamil Nadu's Manonmaniam Sundaranar University has buckled under pressure from the Akhil Bharatiya Vidhyarthi Parishad and removed from its postgraduate English syllabus, the book, *Walking with Comrades*.

As someone who studied in the same university and as a professor of English for over two decades, I feel that the decision takes away the right of students to experience academic freedom and to get used to multiple narratives that are a part of our nation's construct. The book offers some academic, social, political and psychological perspectives on the plights of

indigenous and tribal peoples which we cannot afford to ignore. A student will be aware of the evils of communalism, capitalism and right-wing politics. The struggle of marginalised people in their attempts to restore their right to dignity, land, ideology and livelihood should inform and influence the consciousness of our nation. India already has a low score in the international Academic Freedom Index – an AF of 0.352 – which is below Pakistan (0.554), Ukraine (0.422) and Somalia (0.436). In this context, the decision is yet another blow against academic freedom.

S.A. THAMEEMUL ANSARI,
Kyalpattinam, Tamil Nadu

■ One can only say that the university's decision is flawed. A book which was not banned by the government is material that can be studied and subjected to criticism by students and the faculty within the classroom. It is strange that politically motivated student groups can dictate terms to

university authorities. It is clear that the decision to include the book in the syllabus was made in 2017. So, what happens to those who studied the text so far? Will they be 'labelled' and 'tainted'?

M. XAVIER,
Vallioor, Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu

Can the right to work be made real in India?

PARLEY

It can be made workable if there is political will and fiscal resources

As economies around the world struggle to recover from the double whammy of a pandemic and a lockdown, unemployment is soaring. In India, the land of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), the promise of jobs and the politics of unemployment have a long history. Can a citizen demand work as a right, and is it the state's responsibility to provide employment? Reetika Khera and Amit Basole discuss the possible policy approaches to the right to work, in a conversation moderated by G. Sampath. Edited excerpts:

What is the legal status of the right to work internationally and in India?

Reetika Khera: The right to work was a big topic of discussion after World War II, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights includes the right to work in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. In India, we don't have a constitutional right to work. But what we do have is MGNREGA. This is a step in the direction of a right to work, but it is a statutory right. Under MGNREGA, a person can hold the state accountable for not fulfilling the right by demanding an unemployment allowance. But if the law is amended or withdrawn, the right vanishes.

Is the right to work relevant as a concept any more given that most countries have embraced the market economy? India has been seeing a declining jobs-to-GDP ratio, and mostly jobless growth, with labour also subject to the laws of the market.

Amit Basole: It is precisely under these circumstances that this right becomes important. The term 'right to work' is often used in the context of unemployment or lack of availability of work. But there is also another sense of it, which is the right to earn my livelihood without any obstruction. In both these senses, what we have seen in the past few decades is that the path of development not only does not create adequate employment opportuni-

ties, it also actively dispossesses or displaces people from their means of livelihood. So, on the one hand, displacement and dispossession, and on the other, failure to create new jobs make it all the more important to imagine the right to work in a creative way and make it legally enforceable.

RK: These are basic questions for policymakers that don't get enough attention. For instance, GDP growth can come from both an increase in the manufacture of weapons of mass destruction as well as from the manufacture of medicines. Similarly, we rarely discuss per capita GDP growth; most discussion centres on overall growth even though from the vantage point of people's welfare, the former matters more. Distribution issues are buried in subtle ways. For a labour-abundant country like India, I'm not sure how much policy sense it makes to encourage capital-intensive methods of production. It made sense in the countries in which these techniques of production evolved since they were labour-scarce. But more and more automation in a country like India is likely to lead to jobless growth. Such fundamental questions about our growth strategy need further deliberation.

How exactly do we make the right to work, work?

RK: One approach is Decentralised Urban Employment and Training, or DUET, which has been around for some time. The idea here, like with MGNREGA, is to create new employment opportunities so that those who are unemployed may be gainfully employed and earn a dignified living. This dignity is supposed to come from work conditions, such as being paid a fair wage and having regulated work hours, and also from the social value of the work that people do – useful things such as repairing school buildings, cleaning parks, and so on.

For DUET, urban local bodies can issue job vouchers to certified public institutions such as schools and universities for pre-approved tasks. These institutions can only use the vouchers to hire labour for pre-defined tasks – e.g. painting school



SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

buildings, repairing broken furniture, and so on. A whole range of skills can be accommodated. So this is a workable agenda, but to make it workable, we need not only political will, but also fiscal resources.

AB: The right to work is not only about lack of adequate work but also the profound lack of public goods and assets, in urban India generally. It is the state's responsibility to provide these public goods.

AMIT BASOLE

state generating its own work – for public goods, education, health-care, administration, etc.

To be sure, for all these things which the state is supposed to do, it should generate its own employment. But at the same time, it's also supposed to safeguard people's employment. That includes everything, from ensuring that street vendors have vending zones, and fish workers are protected, to ensuring that farmers have viable incomes – all of this comes broadly under the right to livelihood or right to work. One small part of this can be an employment guarantee, but by no means is it the only thing.

Speaking of the state's responsibilities, the Rashtriya Janata Dal in Bihar poll manifesto promised 10 lakh government jobs. As a measure towards the right to work, how feasible is this approach where the state is the major employer?

RK: The RJD manifesto, so far as jobs are concerned, has appealing elements. It picks up on the issue of vacant posts in government jobs. These are posts that are sanctioned but not yet filled. Many of these are essential services – teachers, nurses, ASHA workers, anganwadi workers, doctors, etc. So, not only will it create employment, it will also hopefully fill the void in essential public services.

In this context, people often

cite the example of Thailand, which has a universal basic healthcare system that is labour-intensive. It solves two problems at the same time: it builds social infrastructure, and creates jobs. Is this something India can adopt?

AB: Absolutely. It is incumbent on the state to provide basic services such as health, education and housing, and in providing them, employment is generated. There may be some disagreement on whether it is the state itself that should provide, or if there should be room for private provisioning. But I don't think people disagree that we need to expand spending on these things. We are nowhere near countries that are comparable in GDP per capita, such as Vietnam, and countries that spend much more on public goods as a percentage of their GDP. We should do that. That will create jobs.

The government has whittled down 44 labour laws into four labour codes that labour organisations have criticised as a dilution of workers' rights. Where there is a dilution of rights 'in work', as it were, how does it matter whether or not there is a right 'to work'?

AB: You are right to ask if it is at all worth raising the right to work question when very fundamental rights 'in work' are being violated, and violated not only for lack of legislation, but also because of labour legislation being diluted. In terms of the labour code changes, one thing to remember is that India is a labour surplus economy. In the capital-labour bargaining process, labour is structurally weak in India, which means it is incumbent on the state to provide that support to labour. But the state has been doing the opposite; it has abdicated a fundamental responsibility in that sense.

RK: Over the decades, there has been a dilution of worker rights in India. A key point that is often lost in public debate is that, to the extent that protective labour laws exist/existed in India, they apply to a minuscule sliver of the labour force, say, people in permanent government jobs. For the rest, there is very little legal protection, very poor awareness of the protections that exist, and weak implementation. Yet, the

mainstream narrative is that all labour in India is pampered. The labour codes that have just come into being are likely to further this process of weakening the position of labour in the Indian market.

AB: Just to connect this to what we were saying about employment guarantee earlier, an effective employment guarantee programme can be an excellent solution to the structural weakness of labour. So, given the constraints in state capacity when it comes to enforcing labour laws, tightening the labour market is a great way to ensure that workers are treated well. That is how a good employment guarantee programme would function as far as the rights 'in work' are concerned. If the state steps in and significantly reduces the surplus labour, particularly in the casual market, it automatically creates the conditions for better treatment of workers.

From a philosophical perspective, as human beings, isn't a demand for the right to work setting the bar too low? We were speaking of dignity earlier – shouldn't the demand really be for right to leisure rather than right to work?

RK: A poster from the World War II period says 'eight hours of work, eight hours of leisure, and eight hours of rest'. That was the original demand. Perhaps the correct way to view this is that if you guarantee a good eight hours of work, then automatically you are guaranteed that the rest is for you to enjoy your life, or the fruits of your labour.

AB: There is this 19th century book by Paul Lafargue called *The Right to be Lazy*, which was a response to the right to work campaign going on at that time, and his point was, why are we asking for the right to work, we should be asking for the right to be lazy! This is a live debate in Marxian political economy. The right to work essentially plays into capitalism and the work ethic – the right to work is the right to be exploited by capital. And that is a perfectly fair point of view. If you are really looking at the future of humanity, then one cannot take a narrow perspective. Work should be fulfilling, work should be creative, and work has to be put in its place, which is hopefully a very small place.



Reetika Khera
is Associate Professor of Economics at IIT-Delhi



Amit Basole
is Head, Centre for Sustainable Employment, Azim Premji University, Bengaluru



Scan the QR code to listen to the full interview online

A deal for the post-Brexit era?

Britain views the trade pact with Japan as a gateway for its entry into the TPP-II

GARIMELLA SUBRAMANIAM

The trade agreement sealed in October between the U.K. and Japan gives the former breathing space when it exits the European Union (EU) on December 31, the day that will mark the end of the transition period.

Selling point

For the U.K. government, politically, the biggest selling point of the trade pact, which is modelled on the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement, is continuity of access to Japan's agricultural market. The largely symbolic nature of those terms have allowed Japan to proclaim to the domestic agricultural lobbies that no new quotas have been offered to the U.K.'s farm producers under the latest deal. The catch lies in the compromise wherein, the U.K. would be allowed to avail of unused tariff rate quotas on a large number of products covered in the EU-Japan trade agreement. While the availability of quotas is bound to fluctuate each year, the proposal seems more attractive in relation to exports of cheese. It provides for a progressive annual increase in quotas, potentially creating an opening for U.K. producers. On the flip side, there is provision for a corresponding decrease in duties, which would equally be an incentive for more exports from the continent.

While the U.K. has not won major concessions compared to the EU on farm quotas from Japan, Tokyo has likewise not managed to secure the elimination of British tariffs on cars sooner than (in 2026) under the deal with the EU. The agreement has some flexibility on rules of origin and data sharing, besides recognition for additional number of geographical indications. But the Japanese have emphasised the considerable stakes in an EU-U.K. deal, as the country's businesses based in the U.K. rely on European supply chains.

An example

The absence of preferential trading terms in agriculture is just one aspect of the difficulties in the first major post-Brexit deal that London, understandably, wants to make an example

of, to strike accords with other countries. The U.K.'s international trade and Brexit departments are sparring over whether too much was conceded to Japan in relation to state aid rules on ailing companies and subsidies. If indeed any onerous terms have been agreed on with the latter, the U.K. would face pressure from the EU to extend similar conditions in a future relationship, especially as these are part of the EU-Japan accord. Britain's Conservative government, however, has laid great emphasis on wresting control of state aid rules from Brussels, as it equates Brexit with the restoration of national sovereignty.

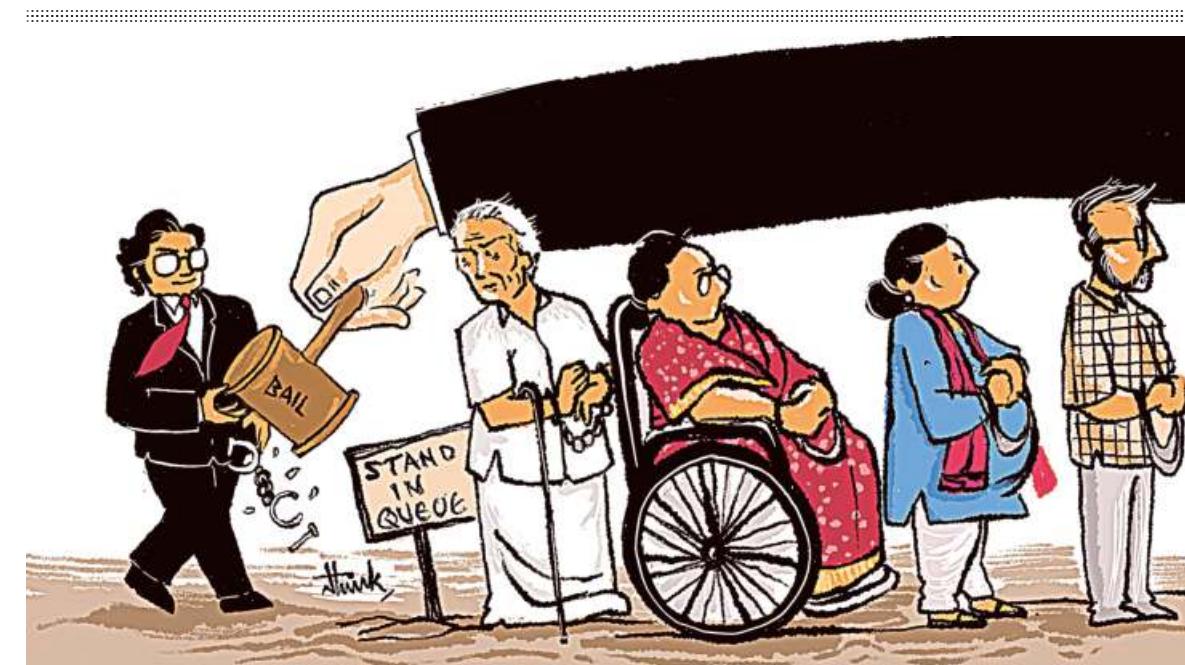
Conversely, the EU insists on maintaining a regulatory level-playing field as a basic condition for any trade agreement in order to safeguard the integrity of its lucrative single market. It has resisted comparisons with the bloc's agreement with Canada pertaining to state aid as inappropriate, given the geographical proximity between the EU and the U.K. unlike Canada. The opposition Labour Party has moreover pointed to an increase in the gap in projected benefits to the U.K. between the initial scoping study and the government's impact assessment of the final deal with Japan. As per the latter, of the £15.66 billion increase in bilateral trade, 83% of the projected benefits would accrue to Japan. In any case, the overall gain from the pact is a modest 0.07% boost to the U.K.'s GDP, compared to loss of trade after leaving the EU.

A new reality

Britain views the trade pact with Japan as a gateway for London's entry into the 11-member Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP-II). It reflects the government's recognition of the new and complex reality, wherein Britain must strike out on its own as it engages with countries around the world.

But London's recent law to override crucial provisions in the 2019 EU withdrawal agreement is clearly out of step with such an endeavour.

garimella.subramanian@thehindu.co.in



NOTEBOOK

The point of covering an election

Election reportage is not merely about gauging the political mood in a place

SOBHANA K. NAIR

While covering elections, self-doubt has been my constant companion. In Bihar, where I had gone to cover the recent Assembly polls, certain questions would haunt me every evening: Was I asking the right questions? Was I finding enough diversity in terms of caste, sex and religion to ensure that I had covered the entire spectrum of voters? And so on.

Those who knew I was out in the field would text me that question that reporters are accustomed to being asked: "So, who do you think is winning?" And that would fill me with new questions and doubts: Does reporting also include predicting the winner? How can I be audacious enough to extrapolate the voices from one part of the State to the entire electorate? Would it make me a lesser reporter if I conceded that I wasn't sure?

During my interviews, I often found voters holding forth eloquently on issues like institutionalised corruption, the incremental growth of infrastructure, the shortage of teachers in schools and of medicines in hospitals. But the moment I asked them about their voting preference or posed a vague question about which way the political wind was blowing, most of them would clam up.

The dominant castes, who are vocal even otherwise, would provide answers. But the most popular reply was, "Dekhenge jo jeet raha hogा usi ko vote de denge" (We will vote for the one who is winning). However, many others would stand silently in a corner, keenly listening to those speaking but their faces giving away nothing. In this election, it was these silent voters who made the difference. There were a few instances where such voters would walk up to me

as I was leaving to whisper that they did not agree with the popular perception. But that was all. Yes, I could have used the law of averages: listen to the vocal voices and record the silences to join the dots. At several places I was asked whether I was from a 'survey agency'. And that made me wonder: Is a reporter a mere collator of opinions, statistics and preferences?

The answer to some of these questions came to me on the last day. On the way to the airport, for one last round of vox pop at Kishanganj district, I stopped at Muzzabari village. The road was essentially a dirt path. I met a 23-year-old called Rafeena Khatum who had a 20-day-old son in her arms and a three-year-old clinging on to her saree. Her eldest was playing at a neighbour's house, she said. She and I could barely converse. She spoke Surjapuri, a Seemanchali dialect more akin to

Bangla, while I spoke Hindi. The infant in her arms had small red rashes all over his body. I asked her if she had taken him to the local dispensary or ASHA centre. She said 'no'. Her husband was a tailor who worked at a garment factory in Mumbai. He had gone back to the metropolis once the travel restrictions were lifted. All three children were born at home with only Rafeena's sister-in-law assisting her during childbirth. There were no modern medicines, no doctor, no visits from ASHA workers. It is not as if this is unique to Bihar or rare. But it still shocked me deeply. "I didn't have complications, so women like me don't need to visit hospitals. And who has the money anyway?" she said.

Election reportage is as much about gauging the political mood in a place as it is a rendezvous with the many different faces of India.

The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 13, 1970

Bill for abolition of awards

The Lok Sabha to-day [November 12, New Delhi] took up for consideration a private Constitution Amendment Bill by Mr. J.B. Kripalani (Ind) for the abolition of the practice of conferring awards like Bharat Ratna and Padma Bhushan by the Government. Mr. Kripalani said that Article 18 of the Constitution prohibited the conferring of titles on Indian citizens by the State. Not only foreign governments but even a government of the people could use the practice to offer inducements and corrupt the people. The late Sardar Patel, speaking in support of the Article had said that the government "should have no authority to give inducements or to corrupt people in order to build up its party or to derive strength by unfair means". By calling the present titles as "awards" the Government was trying to circumvent the article. This was a violation of the Constitution.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO NOV. 13, 1920

Archaeology in Madras

(From an editorial)

One of the results of national awakening in India is the increasing interest among Indian research scholars to acquire thorough knowledge of ancient Indian civilisation. The attempts of the Government Archaeological Survey have resulted in considerable success; but the work done within the short period of the activities of the department is nothing when compared with what is yet to be done in future. The Superintendent of the Archaeological Survey Department, Southern Circle, Madras, in his annual progress report for the year 1919-20 observes that there are yet a number of ancient sites in this Presidency that should be excavated by the department but the difficulty is to find time for this kind of work as it means going into camp and remaining in one place for two or three months at a time with the result that the conservation and inspection work suffers in consequence. The demand is therefore made by the Superintendent for an assistant or even a "competent clerk of works" and it should be favourably considered as he himself is of opinion that much more might then be done in the direction of excavation than is possible at present. The work of conservation appears to have been attended to. The allotment for the year was Rs. 33,000 and the total sum spent was Rs. 37,819-9-10. Rs. 4819-9-10 was thus spent in excess of the budget allotment, it is said.

FROM PAGE ONE

Government rolls out ₹1.19 lakh crore stimulus

The definition of 'new employee' has been kept flexible to include anyone who was part of the EPF net earlier, but had lost their job between March 1 and September 30, 2020.

This may help improve such workers' re-employment prospects.

As per the Finance Ministry, this benefit will apply to all such 'new employees' earning monthly wages less than ₹15,000.

EPF contributions

For firms with more than 1,000 employees, the Centre will bear half of the EPF contributions (24% of wages), while for smaller firms, it will bear the entire EPF contribution.

To be eligible for the scheme, firms registered with EPFO having more than 50 employees must hire at least five new workers, while those with less than 50 employees must hire a minimum of two workers.

"This benefit will get credited upfront in Aadhaar-linked EPF accounts of eligible new employees. This will cover nearly 99.1% of all establishments and an estimated 65% of all those employed under the formal sector will be covered by this benefit," the Minister said.

To boost urban housing and create jobs, an additional allocation of ₹18,000 crore has been made for the PM Awas Yojana over and above the ₹8,000 crore allotted in the Budget.

Ms. Sitharaman said as many as 78 lakh additional jobs are expected to be generated from this, apart from boosting steel and cement demand significantly.

Sops for home buyers

"We are providing income tax relief for developers and home buyers as there is quite a lot of inventory in the real estate sector. At the moment, on the differential between the circle rate and the agreement value – you get 10% relief. We have decided to increase the differential from 10% to 20% till June 30, 2021 for only primary sales of residential units of value up to ₹2 crore," the Minister said.

"We expect a lot of clearance of inventory and peo-

ple will be able to pay less as the differential gap will be reduced. This will help the middle class which wants to buy when the housing sector is sitting on inventories," she said, adding that amendments will be made to Section 43 CA of the Income Tax Act.

Stressed sectors

While extending a ₹3 lakh-crore emergency credit line guarantee scheme announced earlier for micro, small and medium enterprises till March 31, 2021, the Finance Minister also announced a credit guarantee plan for stressed sectors as well as healthcare.

"Entities in 26 stressed sectors identified by the K.V. Kamath Committee, plus healthcare sector with credit outstanding of above ₹50 crore and up to ₹500 crore as on February 29, 2020, would now be able to avail 20% additional credit for a period of five years, with a moratorium of one year on principal repayment," Ms. Sitharaman said.

As per the Kamath committee, the stressed sectors include auto components, construction, gems and jewellery, hotel and restaurants, iron and steel, real estate and textiles.

To help 40,000 firms

Soumya Kanti Ghosh, group chief economic adviser, State Bank of India, said the scheme could help as many as 40,000 firms but if the overall amount under the scheme stays at ₹3 lakh crore, that could be a constraining factor.

So far, ₹2.05 lakh crore of liquidity has already been sanctioned under the scheme.

Separately, to free up working capital for contractors bidding for public projects, the Centre has decided to reduce the performance security payable on individual contracts to 3% from the prevailing 5% to 10% of project value.

The earnest money deposit requirement to bid for tenders is also being replaced by a bid security declaration for a period of one year, with the Minister expressing hope this will give them more room to bid for building infrastructure projects.

The mandate is in our favour, says Tejashwi

The RJD leader said he would be embarking on a "thanksgiving" journey soon.

Earlier, victorious *Mahagathbandhan* candidates and leaders of alliance parties met at RJD leader Rabri Devi's 10 Circular Road residence, where they elected Mr. Yadav leader of the alliance.

Meanwhile, Mr. Kumar vi-

sited the JD(U) headquarters in Patna on Thursday evening to meet leaders and mull over the future strategy.

Decision on Nov. 13

Addressing mediapersons, he said the decision on the formation of the next government would be taken possibly on November 13, when all four NDA partners would meet.

Kerala watches cautiously as fresh cases register a decline

Test positivity rate in the State drops to 9.68%; Karnataka daily positivity at 1.83%; A.P. also records low positivity of 2.24%

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala's COVID-19 case graph appeared to show signs of a dip, as new cases reported on Thursday dropped to 5,537 from the testing of 57,202 samples. The test positivity rate dipped to 9.68%.

Public health experts, however, cautioned that it would take several peaks and

till date to 1,796. Andhra Pradesh added 1,728 cases on Thursday. For the first time in four months, less than 10 deaths were reported, as nine fatalities were recorded.

The number of samples tested moved closer to 90 lakh, as 77,148 samples were tested with a positivity rate of 2.24%. The overall test positivity rate was 9.51%. Chittoor reported three new deaths while Krishna reported two new deaths. Anantapur, East Godavari, Guntur and West Godavari reported one fresh death each and the remaining seven districts reported no new deaths.

Telangana recorded 1,015 COVID-19 cases on Wednesday. The number of cases dropped from 1,196 on November 10.

However, the number of

tests too dropped from 44,635 on that day, to 40,603 the next day.

The State saw fewer fatalities with three deaths reported on November 11. The

tests too dropped from 44,635 on that day, to 40,603 the next day.

The State saw fewer fatalities with three deaths reported on November 11. The

tests too dropped from 44,635 on that day, to 40,603 the next day.

The State saw fewer fatalities with three deaths reported on November 11. The

tests too dropped from 44,635 on that day, to 40,603 the next day.

The State saw fewer fatalities with three deaths reported on November 11. The

tests too dropped from 44,635 on that day, to 40,603 the next day.

The State saw fewer fatalities with three deaths reported on November 11. The

tests too dropped from 44,635 on that day, to 40,603 the next day.

The State saw fewer fatalities with three deaths reported on November 11. The

tests too dropped from 44,635 on that day, to 40,603 the next day.

The State saw fewer fatalities with three deaths reported on November 11. The

tests too dropped from 44,635 on that day, to 40,603 the next day.

The State saw fewer fatalities with three deaths reported on November 11. The

tests too dropped from 44,635 on that day, to 40,603 the next day.

The State saw fewer fatalities with three deaths reported on November 11. The

tests too dropped from 44,635 on that day, to 40,603 the next day.

The State saw fewer fatalities with three deaths reported on November 11. The

tests too dropped from 44,635 on that day, to 40,603 the next day.

The State saw fewer fatalities with three deaths reported on November 11. The

tests too dropped from 44,635 on that day, to 40,603 the next day.

The State saw fewer fatalities with three deaths reported on November 11. The

tests too dropped from 44,635 on that day, to 40,603 the next day.

The State saw fewer fatalities with three deaths reported on November 11. The

tests too dropped from 44,635 on that day, to 40,603 the next day.

The State saw fewer fatalities with three deaths reported on November 11. The

tests too dropped from 44,635 on that day, to 40,603 the next day.

The State saw fewer fatalities with three deaths reported on November 11. The

tests too dropped from 44,635 on that day, to 40,603 the next day.

The State saw fewer fatalities with three deaths reported on November 11. The

tests too dropped from 44,635 on that day, to 40,603 the next day.

The State saw fewer fatalities with three deaths reported on November 11. The

tests too dropped from 44,635 on that day, to 40,603 the next day.

The State saw fewer fatalities with three deaths reported on November 11. The

tests too dropped from 44,635 on that day, to 40,603 the next day.

The State saw fewer fatalities with three deaths reported on November 11. The

tests too dropped from 44,635 on that day, to 40,603 the next day.

The State saw fewer fatalities with three deaths reported on November 11. The

tests too dropped from 44,635 on that day, to 40,603 the next day.

The State saw fewer fatalities with three deaths reported on November 11. The

tests too dropped from 44,635 on that day, to 40,603 the next day.

The State saw fewer fatalities with three deaths reported on November 11. The

tests too dropped from 44,635 on that day, to 40,603 the next day.

The State saw fewer fatalities with three deaths reported on November 11. The

tests too dropped from 44,635 on that day, to 40,603 the next day.

The State saw fewer fatalities with three deaths reported on November 11. The

tests too dropped from 44,635 on that day, to 40,603 the next day.

The State saw fewer fatalities with three deaths reported on November 11. The

tests too dropped from 44,635 on that day, to 40,603 the next day.

The State saw fewer fatalities with three deaths reported on November 11. The

tests too dropped from 44,635 on that day, to 40,603 the next day.

The State saw fewer fatalities with three deaths reported on November 11. The

tests too dropped from 44,635 on that day, to 40,603 the next day.

The State saw fewer fatalities with three deaths reported on November 11. The

tests too dropped from 44,635 on that day, to 40,603 the next day.

The State saw fewer fatalities with three deaths reported on November 11. The

tests too dropped from 44,635 on that day, to 40,603 the next day.

The State saw fewer fatalities with three deaths reported on November 11. The

tests too dropped from 44,635 on that day, to 40,603 the next day.

The State saw fewer fatalities with three deaths reported on November 11. The

tests too dropped from 44,635 on that day, to 40,603 the next day.

The State saw fewer fatalities with three deaths reported on November 11. The

tests too dropped from 44,635 on that day, to 40,603 the next day.

The State saw fewer fatalities with three deaths reported on November 11. The

tests too dropped from 44,635 on that day, to 40,603 the next day.

The State saw fewer fatalities with three deaths reported on November 11. The

tests too dropped from 44,635 on that day, to 40,603 the next day.

The State saw fewer fatalities with three deaths reported on November 11. The

tests too dropped from 44,635 on that day, to 40,603 the next day.

The State saw fewer fatalities with three deaths reported on November 11. The

tests too dropped from 44,635 on that day, to 40,603 the next day.

The State saw fewer fatalities with three deaths reported on November 11. The

tests too dropped from 44,635 on that day, to 40,603 the next day.

The State saw fewer fatalities with three deaths reported on November 11. The

tests too dropped from 44,635 on that day, to 40,603 the next day.

The State saw fewer fatalities with three deaths reported on November 11. The

tests too dropped from 44,635 on that day, to 40,603 the next day.

The State saw fewer fatalities with three deaths reported on November 11. The

tests too dropped from 44,635 on that day, to 40,603 the next day.

The State saw fewer fatalities with three deaths reported on November 11. The

tests too dropped from 44,635 on that day, to 40,603 the next day.

The State saw fewer fatalities with three deaths reported on November 11. The

tests too dropped from 44,635 on that day, to 40,603 the next day.

The State saw fewer fatalities with three deaths reported on November 11. The

tests too dropped from 44,635 on that day, to 40,603 the next day.

The State saw fewer fatalities with three deaths reported on November 11. The

tests too dropped from 44,635 on that day, to 40,603 the next day.

The State saw fewer fatalities with three deaths reported on November 11. The

tests too dropped from 44,635 on that day, to 40,603 the next day.

Chirag to go on yatra to thank voters

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

Lok Janshakti Party president Chirag Paswan will take out a 'Dhanyavad Yatra' in the last week of November to thank voters for supporting his 'Bihar first, Bihar first' campaign.

The party made the announcement on Thursday, two days after the Bihar Assembly election results were declared. The party won the Matihani seat by a margin of 333 votes, while it was on second position in nine others. "This was the first time our party decided to go solo in the elections. And we got love and support of 25 lakh Bihar voters for our agenda of 'Bihar first, Bihar first'. I will be visiting each district of the State, to thank the people," Mr. Paswan said.

Only BJP can look into role of LJP, says Nitish

JD(U) admits impact of Paswan's move

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

PATNA

Janata Dal(U) president and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Thursday said "only the BJP can look into" the role the Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) played in the Assembly election.

During the election campaign, LJP chief Chirag Paswan had repeatedly said that he had put up candidates against JD(U) nominees to "dethrone" Mr. Kumar as Chief Minister.

"This time, some people created confusion successfully," Mr. Kumar said without mentioning Mr. Paswan.

"The media, the National Democratic Alliance and our party men have been watching this. The media has been writing on this. My party will also see how our votes were divided and what went wrong. They [the LJP] did damage to BJP candidates also but more to the JD(U). Only the BJP can look into this. We are allies and work together," Mr. Kumar told presspersons at the

INTERVIEW | JYOTIRADITYA SCINDIA

'I feel completely at home in the BJP... I am an ordinary worker'

Rajya Sabha member Jyotiraditya Scindia says he left the Congress because of the 'anti-people policies' of the previous Kamal Nath government

VARGHESE K. GEORGE

BJP leader Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, whose switch from the Congress led to a change of government in Madhya Pradesh in March, credits the Shivraj Singh Chouhan government's development-oriented plank for the recent byelection victories in the State.

Are you happy about the Madhya Pradesh byelection results or you had hoped it to be better than this?

■ People have spoken very clearly. People have reposed their resounding faith in the BJP government led by Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan. I had said way before the election that there is a lot of diatribe and a lot of low-level language being used by the Congress, and that the people would respond. And people have spoken now. It is a resounding verdict. Twenty-

seven of the 28 seats that went to the polls were held by the Congress. The BJP has won 19 out of the 28. We lost one or two by a very small margin. It is a thumping vote of confidence for the BJP government.

What makes the BJP so successful? Critics say it is the money, religious politics, misuse of State machinery...

■ Very clearly, this a verdict in favour of the BJP government. In the past six months,

Shivraj Singhji and I, and the whole team, have worked very hard to look at the blueprints for the State's development.

Whether it is for the farmers, or students, or women ... across the board. We have developed constituency-level blueprints. Our plank is a development-oriented one, as opposed to the Kamal Nath-Digvijaya Singh duo's legacy of a corruption-ridden, 15-month government, which had completely abdicated its responsibility to the people.

You seem happy to have left the Congress?

■ I left the Congress because of the very anti-people policies of the government in M.P. I am part of the BJP as



C The BJP is a cadre-driven, meritocracy-driven party, committed to development

an ordinary worker under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Mr. J.P. Nadda and Mr. Amit Shah and Shivraj Singhji in the State.

We have a proactive, positive attitude towards uplifting the conditions of M.P.

and providing a plank for development and progress.

What do you want to, or hope to, do next?

■ My calling in life always has been one of a public servant, not a politician. I think that is pretty apparent in my two decades of public life. For me, it is always about finding a place in people's hearts by working for them selflessly.

Will you be focusing on M.P. or looking at playing a role at the Centre?

■ I am a public servant. My role is that and my goal is that. Whatever responsibility is entrusted with me, whatever route is ordained for me, I will try and fulfil that role.

Do you feel at home in the BJP?

■ Oh, completely! It is a party that is cadre-driven, meritocracy-driven, it is a party that is committed to development and progress for the country as a whole.

It is a party that is not alien to me – don't forget that it is a three-generation-old relationship from my grandfather to my father to me.

Are you in touch with your former friends in the Congress – are they still your friends? What do you tell them?

■ I don't think politics should blur relationships. I have seen politics from the early 1980s when I was a

child. It was a completely different environment.

When I was in the Congress, I had a good relationship with a lot of those in the BJP. I don't think party lines should make or break relationships.

Your former party is struggling and appears to be in a free fall. Why do you think it is so?

■ I don't want to be a commenting on, or be prescriptive about, a party of which I am not a member any longer.

The fact that they lost the confidence of the people of India – it is their problem. I am going to focus on my political party, which is the BJP and work day and night for the party.

J&K may see triangular fight in DDC election

Gupkar alliance, BJP and J&K Apni Party to contest

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

Farooq Abdullah leads the Peoples Alliance for Gupkar Declaration.

Jammu and Kashmir is all set to see a triangular contest between the Peoples Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), the J&K Apni Party (JKAP) and the BJP in the coming maiden eight-phase District Development Council (DDC) polls, also the first elections since the removal of the special status last year.

The Gupkar alliance – an amalgam of seven political parties including the National Conference (NC), the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), the Peoples Conference, the Congress and the CPI(M) – on Thursday announced a first joint list of candidates for the first phase, starting from November 28.

The list was approved by PAGD chief Farooq Abdullah after days of haggling over seat sharing between the alliance partners. "The ap-

proved PAGD candidates have filed their papers," PAGD spokesman and PC chief Sajad Lone said.

The alliance has fielded 27 candidates, including 21 from the NC, four from the PDP and two from the PC for the first phase. The BJP has also announced a list of 89 candidates, including 24 women, and fielded them in constituencies spread in all 20 districts of the Union Territory.

"People of Kashmir have understood the situation. They can't be fooled. If our party wins the polls, J&K will see development," BJP State general secretary Ashok Koul said.

The JKAP, a party that was floated post August 5 last year and managed to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is also contesting from most of the constituencies.

"We welcome the decision taken by the Gupkar alliance regarding the polls. It took [the NC founder] the late Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah 22 years to realise the right track, while the alliance chose the right path in less than a month. It was good to see leaders associated with the PAGD shunning the emotional slogans," JKAP president Altaf Bukhari said. The DDC polls are considered crucial for all the parties to strengthen and retain traditional base at the grassroots.

Postmen to help with life certificates

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions on Thursday introduced a chargeable doorstep service for submission of Digital Life Certificate (DLC) through postmen, bringing relief to lakhs of Central government pensioners.

The India Post Payments Bank of the Department of Posts and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) have launched the initiative of the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW).

The facility to submit life certificate online via Jeevan Pramaan Portal was launched in November 2014.

"In order to make this facility available across the country, DoPPW roped in the India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) and utilised its huge network of postmen and gramin dak sevaks in providing doorstep facility to pensioners," it said.

'An attempt to suppress RBI's gloomy forecast'

Cong. blames Centre for 'recession'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

history. Mr. Modi's actions have turned India's strength into its weakness," Mr. Gandhi said on Twitter.

Negative growth
"I am afraid the remaining quarters of 2020-21 will also record negative growth rates," Mr. Chidambaram said at a virtual press conference along with his party colleague Jairam Ramesh.

It is therefore surprising that the Finance Minister should quote the RBI as predicting the economy will register a positive growth rate in the third quarter."

Mr. Ramesh said the government's latest announcement was not likely to help the economy in the current financial year. In a Facebook post, CPI MP Binoy Viswam said the Centre's package was a hoax.

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike

Office of the Executive Engineer, Pukkleshinagar Division, BBMP Office Building, Robertson Road, Frazer Town, Bengaluru.

No.EE/PN/TEND/06/2020-21

Date: 12-11-2020

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER

(Two Cover System) (Through GOK e-Procurement Portal Only)

The Executive Engineer, (Pukkleshinagar Division), BBMP, on behalf of the Commissioner, BBMP, invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/Railways/MES/National Highway or any State Government Organisations for the construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Approx. Value of Work (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)
1.	Development of Roads & Drains in Mother Therasa School & Surrounding area in Ward No.32, Kavalbyrasandra (2nd Call).	100.00	200000/-
2.	Development of Roads & Drains in BDA Layout & Surrounding area in Ward No.32, Kavalbyrasandra (2nd Call).	100.00	200000/-
3.	Development of Roads & Drains in MM Layout & Surrounding area in Ward No.32, Kavalbyrasandra (2nd Call).	100.00	200000/-
4.	Development of Roads & Drains in Rathan Singh Layout & Surrounding area in Ward No.32, Kavalbyrasandra (2nd Call).	100.00	200000/-
5.	Development of Roads & Drains in Adarshnagar & Surrounding area in Ward No.32, Kavalbyrasandra (2nd Call).	100.00	200000/-
6.	Development of Roads & Drains in Brindavan Layout & Surrounding area in Ward No.32, Kavalbyrasandra (2nd Call).	100.00	200000/-
7.	Improvements to Roads & Drains in K. G. Halli Police Station opposite Roads in Kushalanagar & Surrounding area in Ward No.31.	70.00	140000/-
8.	Improvements to Roads in BDA Layout & Surrounding area in Ward No.32, Kavalbyrasandra.	60.00	120000/-
9.	Asphalting to Pillanna Garden Main Road & Surrounding area in Ward No.60.	60.00	120000/-
10.	Asphalting to Richards Park & Surrounding area in Ward No.60.	60.00	120000/-
11.	Construction of RCC Drains & Other development works in C.L. Ramaiah Layout & Surrounding area in Ward No.32, Kavalbyrasandra.	100.00	200000/-
12.	Development of Roads & Drains in Ambedkar Layout 1st, 2nd Cross & Surrounding area in Ward No.32, Kavalbyrasandra.	100.00	200000/-

Calendar of Events: (1). Tender Documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka from: 20-11-2020 at 4:00 p.m. (2). Pre bid meeting will be held on 23-11-2020 at 4:00 p.m. (3). Tender must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on 05-12-2020 before 4:00 p.m. (4). Technical bids will be opened on : 07-12-2020 at 4:00 p.m. Further particulars can be obtained from the above office during working hours on working days or from website: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/-, Executive Engineer, Pukkleshinagar Division, BBMP.

COVID-19. DO NOT PANIC, BE AWARE



JAWAHARLAL NEHRU CENTRE FOR ADVANCED SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

(An Autonomous Institution under Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India – A Deemed University), Jakkur Post, Bengaluru-560064, Karnataka, INDIA

Advertisement No: JNC/AO/15/2020

11th November 2020

MID-YEAR RESEARCH ADMISSIONS 2020

JNCASR invites applications for admission to Research Programmes [Ph.D./M.S.(Engg.) / M.S (Research)] in Sciences and Engineering from students who have qualified in NET-JRF offered by CSIR/UGC/DBT/ICMR/INSPIRE/GATE/JEST/GPAT.

Applicants are advised to visit the website www.jncasr.ac.in/admit for detailed information about the programmes, eligibility criteria, etc. The last date for submission of online applications is 30th November 2020.

Sd/-,

Administrative Officer

VIJAYAWADA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (VMC)

'e' Procurement Notice No.CE-10/VMC/AE/2020-21, Dt.12-11-2020

S. No.	Name of the work	No. of Call	Estimate Amount Rs. in Lakhs
1	Construction of new Shopping Complex at Lorry stand in Bhavanipuram with Reverse Tendering Process	1 st Call	280.00
2	Providing CC pavement & Footpath from Chitti Nagar Junction to Ganapathi Rao road Junction (Nehru statue) in Division Nos.32, 34, 35 & 37 with Reverse Tendering Process	1 st Call	350.00
	Total 2 Works		630.00

Contact: Super

IN BRIEF



Vagir, fifth Scorpene submarine, launched

NEW DELHI
The fifth Scorpene conventional submarine, Vagir, being built by the Mazagon Docks Ltd. with technology transfer from France was launched into water on Thursday. Work would now begin on Vagir for setting up various equipment. After harbour and sea-acceptance trials, it will be delivered to the Navy.

Stones hurled at Bengal BJP president's convoy

KOLKATA
Miscreants hurled stones at the convoy of West Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh and other leaders in Alipurduar district, triggering protests in Kolkata and other districts. Protesters also waved black flags as the convoy passed through Jaigaon. The BJP blamed the Trinamool Congress for the attack.

Twitter seeks time to resolve Leh issue

NEW DELHI
In the wake of a notice by the government of India for showing Leh as part of Jammu and Kashmir instead of the Union Territory of Ladakh, Twitter has sought time till November end to resolve the issue, *The Hindu* has learnt. The Ministry of Electronics and IT sent the notice to Twitter on November 9.

Top ULFA (I) leader surrenders in Meghalaya

GUWAHATI
The most wanted leader of the banned United Liberation Front of Assam-Independent or ULFA (I) after its fugitive chief Pares Baruah has surrendered. Drishti Rajkhowa alias Manoj Rabha, the deputy commander-in-chief of ULFA (I) approached the Army at Dilsengre village in Meghalaya's South Garo Hills district on Wednesday.

Journalist assaulted by pradhan's family in U.P.

LUCKNOW
A local journalist in Lalitpur was allegedly assaulted by the family of a village pradhan after he raised questions about the illegal use of machines for MNREGA work instead of employing labourers. Vinay Tiwari had his hand and leg fractured in the assault and was left with bruises all over his body.

Doctors told to examine Varavara Rao on video

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI
The Bombay High Court on Wednesday ordered that a video examination of 81-year-old poet Varavara Rao, currently lodged at Taloja Central Jail, be conducted by a team of doctors of Naavati Hospital.

A Division Bench of justices A.K. Menon and S.P.

Kochhar's bail plea rejected

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI
The special PMLA court on Thursday rejected the bail petition filed by businessman Deepak Kochhar, husband of former MD and CEO of ICICI Bank Chanda Kochhar.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY SIGNAL & TELECOMMUNICATION MADURAI DIVISION E-Tender Notice No. U-SG-11-2020-21, DATED: 11.11.2020
Senior Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, Southern Railway, Madura Division for an on behalf of the The President of India invites E-Tender for the following work as per detailed tender notice given in our e-tender portal www.ireps.gov.in. The tenderers intending to apply need to get enrolled in the e-tender portal www.ireps.gov.in and only online tenders will be accepted. The cost of tender form & EMD are made only on online gateway payment through multiple banks, net banking, debit card & Credit card. The date of closing is 07.12.2020 at 15.00 hrs. All relevant credentials & supporting documents are to be scanned and uploaded along with the offer.
Name of the Work: PA System Provision in Madurai Division
Divisional Railway Manager (S&T)
MADURAI DIVISION
Follow us on: twitter.com/GMSRailway

SOUTHERN RAILWAY MATERIAL MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT, CHENNAI-600 008 E-Tender Notice For the supply of stores No.32/2020, Dated:11.11.2020
Southern Railway has implemented an e-system. All advertised tenders will be dealt through e-procurement system only. No manual offer/postal offer will be entertained. These tenders can be accessed under the link www.ireps.gov.in →SR→ COS
E.Tender No.: 82/20/5270/EOT
Description: S U P P L Y AND COMMISSIONING OF SMPS
Tender Closing date & Time: 03.12.2020 @14.30 Hrs
Important Notice to Vendors: e-procurement is in the link : www.ireps.gov.in
Dy. Chief Material Manager/ Construction Egmore, Chennai-600 008
Follow us on: twitter.com/GMSRailway

More to join Covishield trial

Serum Institute, ICMR complete enrolment of 1,600 volunteers for Phase 3 study

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

The Serum Institute of India (SII) and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) on Thursday announced the completion of enrolment for Phase-3 clinical trials of Covishield in India.

"The ICMR and the SII have further collaborated for clinical development of Covaxov (Novavax) developed by Novavax, the U.S., and upscale by the SII," said an ICMR release.

The ICMR had funded the clinical trial site fees, while the SII funded other expenses of Covishield.

At present, the SII and the ICMR are conducting Phase 2 and 3 clinical trials of Covishield at 15 different centres across the country. The enrolment of all 1,600 participants was completed on October 31, 2020.

Covishield has been developed at the SII Pune laboratory with a master seed from Oxford University/AstraZeneca. The vaccine made in



For common good: A volunteer taking the Covishield vaccine against COVID-19 in Visakhapatnam. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

the U.K. is currently being tested in large efficacy trials in the U.K., Brazil, South Africa and the U.S.

Promising results: ICMR

"The promising results of the trials so far give confidence that Covishield could be a realistic solution to the deadly pandemic. Covishield is by far the most advanced vaccine in human testing in India. Based on the Phase 2/3 trial results, the SII, with the help of the ICMR, will pursue the early availability

of this product for India. The SII has already manufactured 40 million doses of the vaccine, under the at-risk manufacturing and stockpiling licence from the DCGI," said the release.

Novavax had initiated its late phase trials in South Africa and the U.K. and would soon commence the same in the U.S. "The SII has received the bulk vaccine and Matrix-M adjuvant from Novavax and will soon fill and finish them in vials. This vaccine formulated at SII

(Covaxov) will be tested in a Phase-3 trial in India and an application for the same to regulatory authorities will be made soon by the ICMR and the SII," the release stated.

Commenting on the association, Adar Poonawalla, CEO of Serum Institute of India, said: "The ICMR has played a huge role in coming forward and strengthening India's fight against COVID-19. The collaboration will further aid us in putting India at the forefront of developing an immunogenic and efficacious vaccine."

ICMR Director-General Dr. Balram Bhargava said, "At present, India plays a prominent role in vaccine development and manufacturing globally."

The partnership would see scientists of both entities facilitating the advancement of regulatory approvals for Covishield and Covaxov while ensuring strict adherence to all the requisite scientific, ethical and regulatory standards, he added.

India, ASEAN to expand trade despite RCEP walkout

PM calls for review of pact at summit with 10-member bloc

SUHASINI HAIDAR

NEW DELHI

India and ASEAN countries said they would explore ways to increase trade between them despite India's exit from the 15-nation Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement.

The RCEP free trade agreement, which India walked out from a year ago, is expected to be signed on November 15, between China, Australia, South Korea, Japan, and 10 Association of South East Asian (ASEAN) nations. However, they are expected to leave in a clause allowing India to rejoin at a later date.

"As far as India is concerned, we did not join RCEP as it does not address the outstanding issues and concerns of India. However, we remain committed to deepening our trade relations with ASEAN," said MEA



Narendra Modi ■ PTI

secretary (East) Riva Ganguly Das, briefing journalists about the 17th ASEAN-India virtual summit that Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed on Thursday.

MEA officials declined to comment on whether the subject of RCEP was discussed during Thursday's summit.

However, they said Mr. Modi had called for an "early review" of the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement

(AITGA), and "underlined the importance of diversification and resilience of supply chains for post-COVID economic recovery."

Mr. Modi also announced \$1 million contribution to the ASEAN COVID-19 recovery fund.

In his address at the summit, Mr. Modi also highlighted India's "Indo-Pacific policy" as an area of convergence for ASEAN and India. According to Ms. Das, all countries stressed the importance of "a rules-based order in the region including through upholding adherence to international law, especially the UNCLOS.

The leaders affirmed the importance of maintaining and promoting peace, stability, safety and security in the South China Sea, in particular freedom of navigation and overflight," she said, in reference to China's naval aggression in the region.

India on Thursday hit out at Pakistan for omitting the names of the "masterminds" of the 26/11 Mumbai attacks from a consolidated list of "most wanted/ high-profile terrorists", and asked Islamabad to "show sincerity" in delivering justice to the families of 166 victims of the attacks 12 years ago.

"While the [Federal Investigation Agency's] list includes a select few members of the Lashkar-e-Taiba, a United Nations-designated terror entity based in Pakistan, including the crew members of the boats used to execute the 26/11 attacks, it glaringly omits the mastermind and key conspirators of the heinous terror attacks," said Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Anurag Srivastava.

The list made it clear that Pakistan had all the evidence it needed to prosecute those who planned the Mumbai at-

India, China had candid discussions, says MEA

'Both sides pushed for settlement of outstanding issues'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

India and China held frank discussions and exchanged views on disengagement at all friction points in the Western Sector of India-China border areas during the November 6 senior military commanders talks, said an official of the Ministry of External Affairs.

Commenting on the association,



Point of discord: The Pangong lake in Ladakh. ■ AP

the months-long tension.

Mr. Srivastava said, "India and China have agreed to maintain dialogue and communication through military and diplomatic channels,

and, taking forward the discussions at this meeting of the senior commanders, push for the settlement of other outstanding issues."

"The talks were candid, in-depth and constructive and both sides exchanged views on disengagement at all friction points along the Line of Actual Control in the western sector of India-China border areas," said Mr. Srivastava elaborating on the talks held between senior commanders to resolve

tual Control in eastern Ladakh, beginning with the North Bank of Pangong Tso.

Multiple sources had confirmed that the proposal from the Chinese side put forward during the talks on November 6 includes pulling back their troops and equipment from Finger 4 to Finger 8 on the North Bank. Chinese official media, however, denied on Thursday that such a "disengagement plan" is being discussed. *Global Times* termed the reports "inaccurate."

26/11 masterminds not in Pak. list'

FIA dossier mentions only a select few Lashkar members, says India

VIJAYA SINGH
SUHASINI HAIDAR

NEW DELHI

India on Thursday hit out at Pakistan for omitting the names of the "masterminds" of the 26/11 Mumbai attacks from a consolidated list of "most wanted/ high-profile terrorists", and asked Islamabad to "show sincerity" in delivering justice to the families of 166 victims of the attacks 12 years ago.

"While the [Federal Investigation Agency's] list includes a select few members of the Lashkar-e-Taiba, a United Nations-designated terror entity based in Pakistan, including the crew members of the boats used to execute the 26/11 attacks, it glaringly omits the mastermind and key conspirators of the heinous terror attacks," said Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Anurag Srivastava.

The dossier says that all the wanted men are part of "defunct" Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), a Pakistan-based terror outfit.

The dossier says that all the wanted men are part of "defunct" Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), a Pakistan-based terror outfit.

Trial yet to be concluded

Based on the evidence provided by India and amid international pressure, the FIA registered a case on February 12, 2009, under various sections to probe the attacks.

The report, compiled by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA), mentions 19 Pakistanis in its "most wanted" list of terrorists who were involved in planning and providing financial help in the Mumbai attacks. It was released on Wednesday.

The 19 include Amjad Khan. The FIA dossier describes him as a "crew member of ex Lashkar-e-Taiba (boat Al-Hussaini and boat Al-Fauz), who also purchased boat Al Fauz, which was used during Mumbai terror attacks." It says, "He also purchased Yamaha Motor boat engine, life jackets, inflatable boats etc. from ARZ water sport Karachi, these things were used in Mumbai attacks and recovered by Indian authorities. Place of Birth Multan, CNIC No. 36302-0426632-3".

As reported by *The Hindu* (Nov. 24, 2018), the U.S.'s Federal Bureau of Investigation sent one of its agents to the Yamaha Motor's headquarters in Japan to seek help in tracing the person who bought the engine. The FBI found that the shop owner in Karachi sold eight such engines to Amjad Khan, a LeT financier. Ten LeT terrorists from Pakistan had set off on one of the boats to carry out the attacks.

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan Race Course Road
Bengaluru – 560 001. Phone No. 080-22265383
website : www.kiadbd.in

No. IADB/ENGG/541/2020-21 Date: 10.11.2020

CANCELLATION OF TENDER

In furtherance to this office tender notification published in newspapers on 05.11.2020 vide No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-31/7468/2020-21 Date: 04.11.2020 for the work of Maintenance of Road No.2 to 20 and Filling of pot holes in road no.1 at Narasapuram Industrial Area, Kolar District is hereby cancelled.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.

Wear Mask | Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOARD
INVITATION FOR TENDER - 2ND CALL (Through e-Procurement Portal Only)

BWSSB invites tenders in Two Stage System from eligible tenderers for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (Design), 9th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, D Block, K.G. Road, Bangalore - 560 009. IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(D)/ACE(MIS & T)/TA/879/2020-21 Date : 04-11-2020

Work of Automation, Security Suit and Remote Data Monitoring & Network Management with Operation and Maintenance for 3 Years.

Amount put to tender: Rs. 112.44 Lakhs, E.M.D.: Rs. 1.687 Lakh.

The Last date & time for receipt of completed tender document is on 16-12-2020 upto 4.00 pm. Bids will be opened on 18-12-2020 at 12.00 pm.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Design)

Office of the Chief Engineer (Kaveri), 5th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore - 560 009. IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(KT)/TA10/2020/2646/2020-21 Date : 09-11-2020

Work of Modification of Existing Manually Operated Double Girder Overhead Travelling Crane to Electrically Operated Travelling Crane at CWSS Stage I, II & III Pumping Stations at T.K. Halli, Harohalli & Taganji (7 Nos.). Amount put to tender : Rs. 1,85,90,900/- EMD : Rs. 2,79,000/-

The Last date & time for receipt of completed tender document is on 16-12-2020 upto 3.00 pm. Bids will be opened on 18-12-2020 at 4.00 pm.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Kaveri)

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-Procurement can be obtained by logging on to : https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in. For further details, contact the office of the undersigned during working hours.

DIPR/DDU/RO 1637/4Winds/2020-21

Have Covid-19 Symptoms ? Contact, Apathamitra Helpline 14410

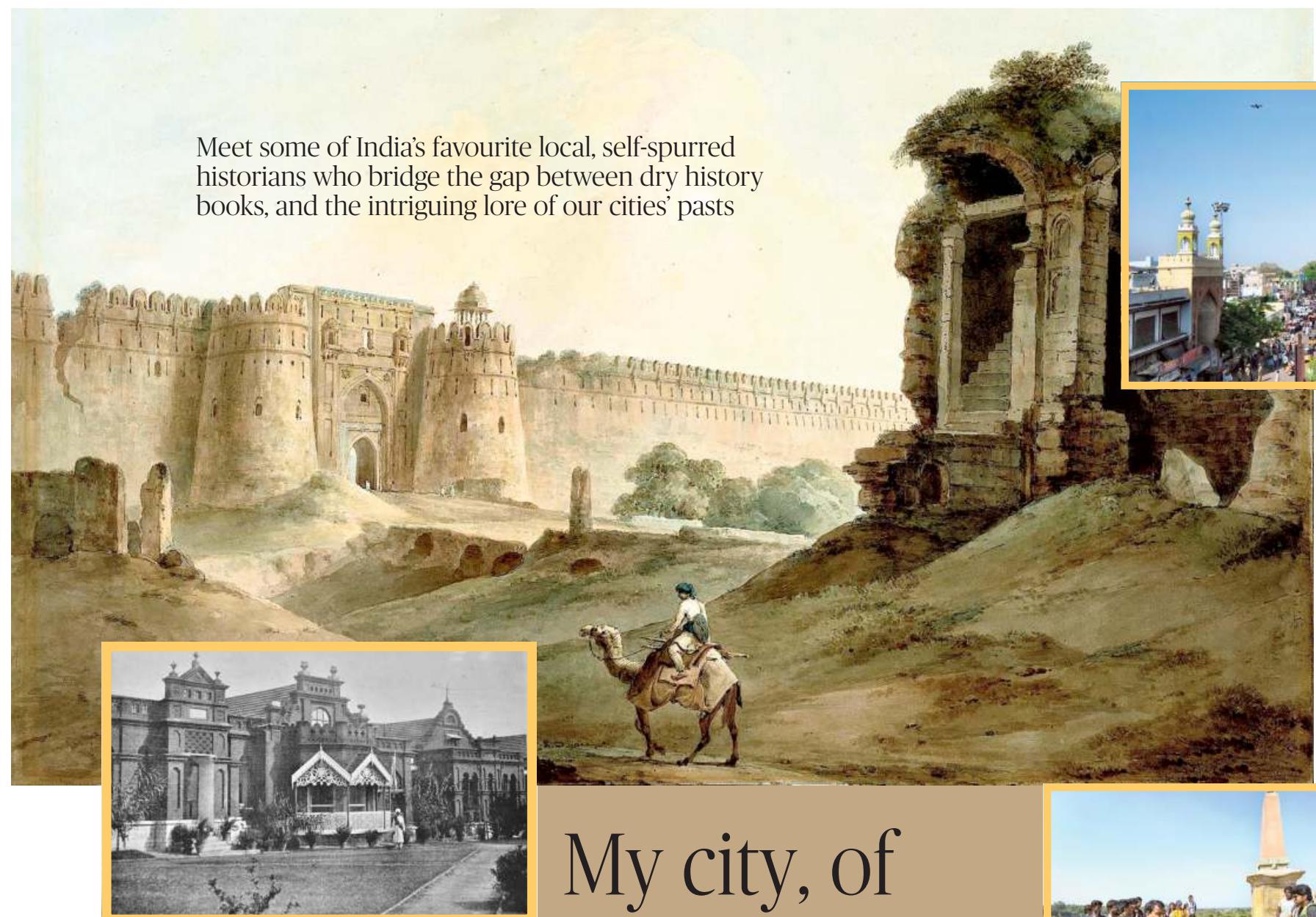
Wear Mask | Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

KARNATAKA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Central Offices, Stores And Purchase Dept., K.H. Road,
Shanthinagar, Bengaluru - 560027

NOTICE INVITING TENDER NO. 02 DATED: 11.11.2020

Tenders (Pre-qualification and/or commercial offers) through e-procurement portal (https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in) are invited for supply the following goods / services:

Tender No.	Nomenclature	Tender Value in Lakhs Rs. (Approx)	Last date for submission of tender @ 17:00 Hrs
G-04/20-21	Procurement of Lubricants	1300.00	28.12.2020
G-05/20-21	Supply and Installation of CCTV surveillance system	600.00	18.12.2020
G-06/20-21	Procurement of Liquid Urea	500.00	18.1



PRIYADERSHINI

Did you know that nearly 250 years before Chennai became a centre for medical tourism, its hospitals – like the Government General Hospital (1664), the Eye Hospital (1819), Institute of Mental Health (1794) – pioneered medical advancements? That Bengaluru was a textile and arms manufacturing centre before it came to be known as the Garden City? That the Bezoras goats of Hyderabad's droppings were as valuable as Golconda diamonds? Or that the spirit of Warren Hastings is rumoured to still visit Kolkata's Writer's Building at midnight?

Such interesting tidbits of history often remain buried in academic documentation or people are often unaware of stories behind places in the city they call home. This gap is bridged by local historians, many self-taught, who host guided tours and storytelling sessions around monuments, streets and bazaars. They cull out interesting facets from books, libraries,

architectural records and grandma's stories to put together cohesive, lively histories for growing audiences seeking information on the cities they visit, as well as the ones they call home.

In New Delhi, Swapna Liddle has been conducting walks in the capital for the last two decades. Armed with a PhD in History, she frequently lectures in colleges. "Heritage walks have been on in Delhi since the 1990s. Probably the earliest group to start them was the Conservation Society, a group of academics and architects. In the late 1990s, the India Habitat Centre (IHC) started including heritage walks in their programme calendar and their popularity grew. This was followed by INTACH in the mid-2000s and since then many people have started doing walks. Many of these are commercially a success too," says Swapna who has trained many walk leaders and designed walks. According to Swapna, a lot of Delhi's rich history is found in Persian and Urdu

My city, of yore



Bridge through time (Clockwise from top) A painting of the Purana Qila, Charminar in Hyderabad, Basav and V Sriram leading their respective walks, a photograph of old Bangalore

▪ M VEDHAN, K MURALI KUMAR AND SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



ry of Bengaluru. In 2011, he started Historywallahs, which curates content for museums and Government organisations. In 2012, he began conducting heritage walks in Bengaluru and Mysore. As these walks became more popular, he found a growing awareness on the value of heritage.

"Though the Karnataka Government is yet to come up with strong legislation on preservation of monuments, Bengaluru's citizen engagement with heritage is high and acts as a safety net," says Basav who has made several short documentaries on the city, the latest being on the Kolar Gold Fields.

Chennai-based businessman V Sriram's interest in history was kindled by his stint in Kolkata and New Delhi where he was educated. He returned to Chennai in 1993 and came under the influence of renowned chronicler S Muthiah. He pioneered heritage walks in Chennai; the first in 1999 had 35 participants. He had completed 80 different routes until the pandemic called a halt. Well-known monuments form 20% of the walks; the rest cover lesser-known aspects of the city.

"When people try to re-imagine the present, they often call upon 'history' to justify their positions. History is a potential field for contestation because in popular imagination, our perception of the past is often closely tied up with our ideas about our identity in the present," Swapna states.

Bengaluru-based filmmaker and writer Basav Biradar agrees: "Historians should come forward and interact with the general public as history is an important space to be in. It is evident that it can be used to misinform."

On his return from the US in 2010, he began to study the histo-

texts that were difficult to access due to paucity of translated material. Her research is based on primary as well as secondary sources like original documents and published books.

+ participants. He had completed 80 different routes until the pandemic called a halt. Well-known monuments form 20% of the walks; the rest cover lesser-known aspects of the city.

"Chennai may be a colonial town but its various temples show an enduring historical life via the Pallava, Chola and Vijayanagar rulers before the arrival of the colonials," he says pointing to the loss of precious heritage. In 2008, the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA) identified 50 homes of heritage value, where historically distinguished personalities had resided. Today just 10 remain; the rest have been consumed by land developers.

When speaking of facts, Sajjad Sajid believes that "there is a residual element of truth in the most improbable, impossible legends

and stories." The Hyderabad-based historian's definition of history is not the straight and the narrow but includes oral histories, stories, legends and myths. His family's roots in the city go back to around 600 years and his paternal family is descended from the Sufi poet Qazi Mahmud Behri.

Sajjad, a civil engineer, is currently a visiting faculty at the University of Hyderabad where he teaches Islamic art and architecture of Deccan and is consultant to the Aga Khan Trust's project of restoring the Qutub Shahi tombs.

The tales that were

VN Venugopal in Kochi has a scrapbook of stories on Kerala, collected over the last 35 years. A conversation with Venugopal is replete with stories of events, characters, and places often offering small details like the dress code or cars used during an event or the material procured for building a bridge.

He recalls watching Sir RK Shanmukham Chetty, the Dewan of the Cochin State, plant two dividi saplings in 1944. One of the huge umbrella-like trees was brought down in June 2020 by the Kochi Smart City Mission Limited (CSML) to make way for drains and footpaths.

In Kolkata, Anthony Khatchaturian's popular Colonial Ghost Walk, has a macabre tinge and was inspired by the night walks in London. "I stitched together 75% history with 25% of ghost stories associated with these heritage buildings," says Anthony, launching into the story of how the spirits of two murdered Anglo-Indian women still haunt New Market at night and why the sound of the piano is still heard at Garstin Place, or how the sounds of a carriage ring out at midnight at Writer's Building.

Originally a three-hour walk, the Colonial Ghost Walk was restarted with COVID-19 protocols from November 6. "We now cover the four-kilometre route that begins in New Market and ends at Writer's Building in cars," says Anthony. Of Armenian descent, he belongs to the Galstaun family who were property developers till 1947 and constructed famous Kolkata landmarks like Queen's Mansion, Nizam Palace and Freeman's Lodge.

With important personalities like British Prime Minister Boris Johnson having been on his walks, Anthony emphasises on "the need to think beyond text books to enable history find its correct target, value and meaning."

Growing old with Shikari Shambu

Kalia the crow, Suppandi and Tantri the Mantri celebrate a milestone as *Tinkle* turns 40 years old. You grew up with them, now take a trip down memory lane with co-founder Subba Rao

GOWRI S

In 1980, during an editorial meeting, when *Amar Chitra Katha*'s Anant Pai, aka Uncle Pai, suggested making the fortnightly comic book series a weekly, associate editor Subba Rao was baffled. "I told him that we will, in another one or two years, completely run out of the pool of stories," Rao remembers, laughing.

So, as a counter suggestion, Rao presented the idea of a comic digest comprising non-mythological stories (so that it looks different from ACK), compiled from various parts of the country. "Mr Pai was not sure in the beginning, but he asked me to work on the details and I put together a format," he continues over phone from Mumbai. On that day, *Tinkle*, the children's magazine with a tagline 'where learning meets fun', was born. Forty years on, the magazine and its characters that have for long become household names, continue to thrive.

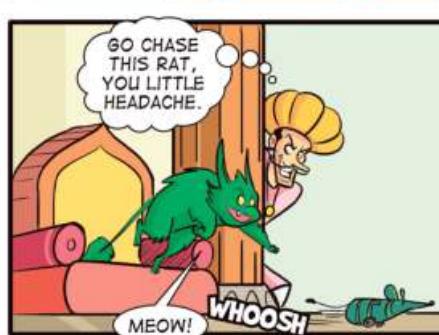
Watering the seed

"In a way, *Tinkle* owes its birth to my grandmother. Many of the stories I heard from her in Coimbatore made its way into the early issues of the magazine," he continues fondly, adding, "My son was hardly three years old at the time and the stories I told him would also surface on the magazine." While he was the chief storyteller for *Tinkle*, Luis Fernandez was in-charge of the scripts and Kamala Chandrakant, editing: this was the core team, supervised by Uncle Pai, of course.

Though the initial decision was to start off with folktales, the editorial team soon shifted



Evolving over time (Left) Panels from *Tinkle*'s Anniversary issue and Tinkle Gold, (below) Subba Rao ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



its focus to creating original characters. Rao often asked his team, "Where is our answer to Detective Moochawala [an eponymous character created by Indian cartoonist Ajit Ninan]?" And one day, Rao was watching *The Lucy Show* (an American sitcom of the 1960s) on television, when a character struck him. "Lucy's husband was a big-time hunter. And, I found one of the episodes around this character, extremely funny."

Inspired by Lucy's husband, upon discussion with the team, the answer to Detective Moochawala took form: Shikari Shambu, the cowardly hunter who is perceived by the rest of the world as courageous, conceptualised by Fernandes and visualised by cartoonist Vasant B



Halbe. Then, came Kalia, the Crow. "We used to have lunch in our editorial office in Colaba. Everyday, promptly at 1 pm, a crow would come to the window. Luis used to feed the crow," remembers Rao. And, thus the crow became a character created by Luis and visualised by Pradeep Sathe.

Interestingly, Suppandi, on the other hand, was created by a reader, whom Rao managed to coincidentally meet years later. Through a 'write-in' contest, Suppandi, the lovable simpleton visualised by Ram Waerkar, arrived at *Tinkle* and refused to leave (we are not complaining). Tantri the Mantri (who last year became the king after 35 years of plotting), Anwar and Mooshik followed soon after.

Since then, many editorial and design changes have characterised the 40-year-old *Tinkle* to the magazine that it is today. As characters like Shikari Shambu and Tantri live on, a crop of new characters has also found its ground under the sitting editor-in-chief Rajani Thindia: Super Weirdos (superheroes with weird powers), WingStar (a young crime fighter from Mizoram), YogYodhas (warriors who use yoga poses to fight evil)... the list goes on.

Inclusivity is key

Rajani took over as editor-in-chief, 10 years back. "At the time, there were some things I wanted to do: like making the new characters more regular and also making the magazine

balanced," says Rajani. And to that end, strong female characters started making an entry into the main narratives.

"Gender roles are shaped from childhood, right from when a child reads a pronoun. And, when we think of a doctor or an engineer, we would immediately think of a male figure," says Rajani.

Another focus of hers is on diversity: regions, festivals and cultures from across the country are featured. For instance, WingStar's protagonist is from Mizoram. And, through Super Weirdos, she wished to draw attention to the oddities and quirks in one's behaviour which are most often perceived as an embarrassment.

How do they tide through the pandemic? The lockdowns sort of opened the doors to digital possibilities, says Rajani. They immediately shifted focus to their app which was launched last year.

"Content-wise, on the app, we had to make it into a weekly. Because we are on the app, we do vlogs of editorials, host quiz shows, give general knowledge trivia and so on," says Rajani, adding, "Uncle Pai's vision for *Tinkle* goes 'of, for and by children'. So, it was important to have their voices on the platform."

Rajani adds that the platform, in fact, does not matter. "Tomorrow, if even the stories come in a hologram, they are still stories."

Rao agrees, "Ultimately, you must know how to tell a story."

A live party will be streamed on the Facebook page *Tinkle Comics Studio* at 5 pm today. There will also be a game show at 11 am, November 14, on the *Suppandi and Friends* channel on YouTube.

Creative beyond their walls

The ongoing Today At Apple virtual sessions feature a diverse mix of Indian artistes, including musician Aditi Ramesh and photographer Prarthna Singh

DIVYA KALA BHAVANI

Photographer Prarthna Singh and lawyer-turned-singer Aditi Ramesh are part of the first body of artistes who usher in Today At Apple into India. The sessions usually take place in the retail locations but this year, they both admit, they will miss out on the pre-pandemic, offline setting. Prarthna explains, "Usually, at these kinds of events, you meet the people and get a feel of the space. And after the talk, you don't just leave, you grab a drink, have conversations with people who are curious about what you chatted about – it's more social. But it is still exciting!"

Aditi and Prarthna are appreciative of the diversity factor. Today At Apple does not feature the names one would expect; there are people across the board in terms of experience and style.

Prarthna conducted a chat about her portrait photographic series *Champion* and *The Wrestlers*, which looked at the lives and practices of India's female fighters. The hour-long virtual event covered Prarthna's experience developing a rapport of trust with the wrestlers including Sarita Pooja, Lipashki and others. "I made it clear I wouldn't approach the session as a tips-and-tricks kind of session. The backstories of these projects are far more interesting and unique to audiences at these kinds of events," puts forth Prarthna.

Rajani was prepared for a year of touring in Turkey and the UK, meeting other musicians, playing at a festival in Taiwan, and more. But the pandemic halted all that. So when Apple approached her for their debut Today At Apple sessions, she was elated, pointing out that the session has a different structure. "Unlike a social media live where you interact with the comments, this is more interactive but not like an interview," she explains. "This is look-



Learning from experience Aditi Ramesh ▪ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ing deeper at my creative process and hopefully have people want to create their own music after the session. It's not going to be a planned talk, and it'll be moderated by [radio presenter] Mae Mariyam Thomas, whom I like."

Aditi is keen to make sure her session is both practical and inspiring, and this comes from a point of empathy. "When I started out, I didn't know where and how to start: recording music, marketing music, everything was learned through trial and error."

Over the lockdown, she released 'Sambar Soul', which quickly became a must-have in playlists. It is a song of persistence against labels, boxes and other constraints, and is deeply personal. She recalls being unable to go to a studio for the recording; she created a soundproof space using pillows and made the best of it. Always adapt, she advises.

Prarthna and Aditi are ready to take on a five setting when things are safe again, but are excited at these opportunities. Aditi adds, "Virtual events increase the scope of those attending."

Aditi Ramesh's session will take place on November 26 at 8 pm. Visit: <https://apple.co/illuminatingcreativity>.



Rapping for RELIEF

Meet K Nigavirthan, the friendly neighbourhood rapper from Chepauk in Chennai. Known for his politically-charged songs, he recently released his debut Tamil album, 82 D

SRIVATSAN S

K Nigavirthan was in Class XI when his teachers punished him. He was asked to leave the classroom and made an example of in front of his classmates. He never felt a sense of regret; instead, he turned this familiar high school episode into a rap song called 'Against My School'. That day, a rapper was born.

"When you listen to rap, you invariably become a writer. That is how addictive and accessible the genre is," says Nigavirthan, 25, who, like many hip hop artistes from the city, was ushered into this world via Malaysian rappers Yogi B and Dr Burn – "I chanced upon them on Facebook and used to listen to their songs on loop. We had a rap competition among our friends. They were my biggest influences."

Nigavirthan has been an unofficial rapper since school, but became a name to reckon with, when his

'Digital Moonji', a song which was critical of the hydrocarbon extraction project in the delta districts of Tamil Nadu, gained prominence on social media. He has been putting out a range of independent Tamil songs – on critical issues and from his personal life – on his YouTube channel since 2016, thanks to D Vinoth, a sound engineer who discovered Nigavirthan's talent and motivated him to write.

The idea to release a full-fledged album has always been Nigavirthan's goal. Growing up in Chepauk's Lock Nagar in Chennai, the D Block was where he discovered friendship and love.

It was also the place that awakened him to socio-

political realities; 82 D Block was his address, the place that gave him an identity, "I wanted the place I grew up in, to be the face of my album," he says, about his 82 D album, which was released recently on iTunes and other streaming platforms. He credits Rayappan Francis of Ray App Studio – which, according to him, is akin to an underground club

The way I am Rapper K Nigavirthan on the need to voice anger

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ran's boyhood; his school days, introduction to rap, life in Lock Nagar, the time he was offered to write for films, albeit without credits. The latter half is a sharp commentary on social issues.

For instance, 'Machi Tea Sollu' may come across as a seemingly innocuous song on tea, but it speaks of a larger issue: the hike in milk prices. "The job of an artiste is not just to entertain. They have to be socially-aware and need to voice out for the commoner. This is my core philosophy," he says.

That makes sense if you listen to 'Don't Touch', an expression of his anger towards the Kathua murder case of 2018. Nigavirthan says he was advised to trim the explicit content, "But I wanted to retain those bits because I didn't want to dilute the anger. In

fact, a female friend of mine said I shouldn't even use the word 'rape' in the song," he says, adding that he has been actively taking part and writing songs for protests against injustice.

Nigavirthan no longer lives in Lock Nagar, though he has not lost touch with his friends. "I met a friend after a long time and we were discussing memories of growing up in the streets. That's how much D block means to us." He has shot a video for the title track 'D Block', which will be out on YouTube on November 24.

A graphic designer, Nigavirthan has not yet decided to take up rapping full-time, although he admits he spends most of his time thinking about it or writing structures, in his mind.

"Unlike in Mumbai, there is very little scope for artistes who are into rap [in Chennai]," he says, "Though I have a job, it is rapping that gives me satisfaction. It's like a balm."

Politics of art

The album is a mixed bag of eight songs, the work for which was completed a year-and-a-half ago. The first part is mined from Nigavith-

have approached me with a reference of a role that I played in some film and they want to slot me in a similar character in their film. I don't prefer that."

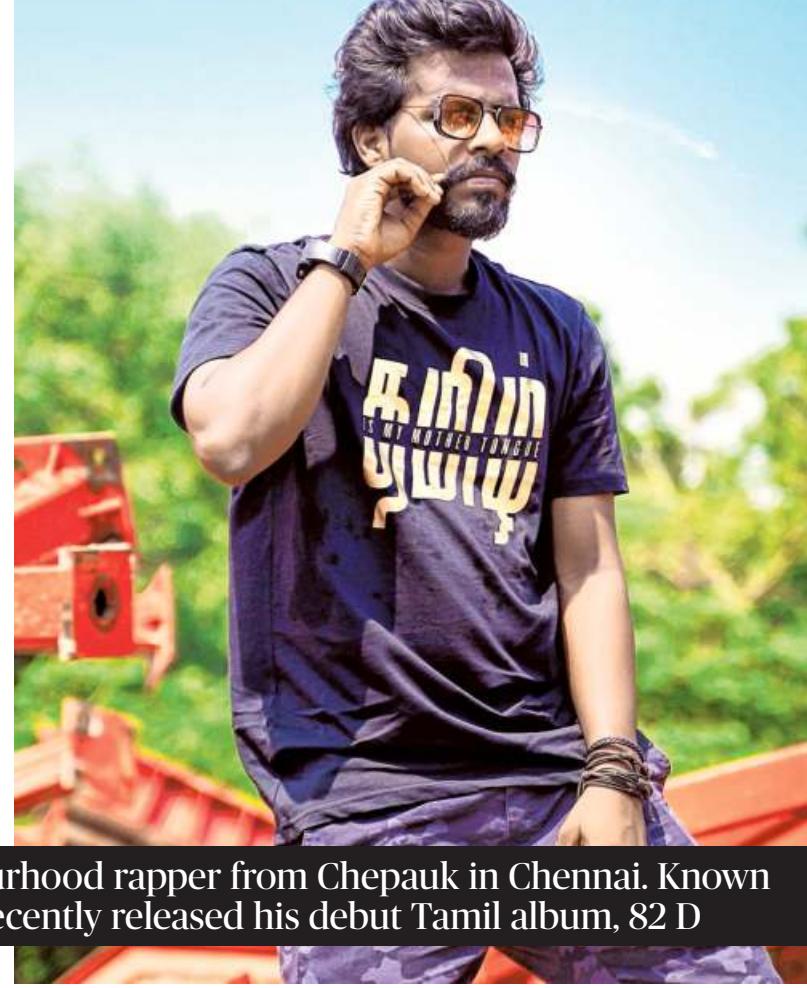
Deep dive

Even so, playing a mother is no mean task since the character's arc depends on the film's genre: meaning, playing mother to Suriya in *Soorarai Pottru* is starkly different to playing one to RJ Balaji in a comedy like *Mookuthi Amman*. Urvashi, however, wants filmmakers to explore more angles to a female character. The change, she believes, will happen when directors think beyond superficial writing. "What importance a woman is afforded in society is what will reflect in films. Patriarchy tells women to not hold individual opinions and that her only objective is to get married, give birth, look after the husband and leave the critical thinking to male members. And so in a movie, too, we rarely explore the mom's character traits."

The reason, she believes, that this remains the case even in 2020 in Tamil cinema is not for want of female writers. "It is just that the easiest way of doing business is to make a film about a hero," she says, adding, "Why are most 'family audiences', the majority of whom are women, watching TV serials? If our directors observe the pattern, they will realise that the numbers of women coming to theatres went down because there is seldom any importance attached to a female character in most films."

Her transition from playing girl-next-door roles in the '80s to now playing "mom-next-door" roles, as she puts it, has followed an interesting trajectory. Urvashi may even be appearing in more number of mother roles than she prefers, something she indirectly hints at: "I don't like to repeat myself. Several times, filmmakers

Mookuthi Amman streams on Disney+ Hotstar from November 14



Between Wascally Wabbit's début single and Mali's latest release, Chennai's musicians are getting more playful with their musical styles



In the groove Aravind, Vinay and Vikram; (below) Mali

■ KARTHIK RAJAGOPAL, MADHAVAN PALANISAMY AND SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Let the bunny years set you free

MEGHNA MAJUMDAR

is no saying if the band's other songs will follow suit.

All he can say is that it will be created off the reins.

Maalavika Manoj, too, is in favour of trying out different kinds of sounds as an artiste, which is why her latest track, released last week, sounds different from her recent 'Absolute' and 'Age of Limbo', with fewer challenges for her softly powerful voice and a more straightforward, gentle composition.

Mali admits as much: "It's not a super-ambitious performance song. I feel this is going to have more longevity, instead of being an instant hit. It's a good driving song, a good 'playlist-able' song."

The shift, she says, is deliberate: "My music is largely described as pop. But pop is such a wide genre; it borrows from everything. You can have rock-sounding, classical-sounding, synth-sounding songs that are all pop. And, if I wrote the same kind of song over and over again, I might just give up music and turn to gardening instead, like an actual *mali* (gardener)," she says with a laugh.

'Mundane' is about her decision to take up music as a career in the first place. She penned the lyrics years ago, right after graduation when her friends were solidifying their career paths.

"I kept asking them, how are you so sure?" she recalls, adding that her choice was between pursuing what she loved and earning less money than she could have or "choosing the more mundane lifestyle with a steady pay".

The soft song with its mellow bridges addresses this dilemma, and also hints at something Mali spells out for us in this interview: "People think of being in this state of indecisiveness as failure. It is not."



Short, simple and effective

Bollywood actors explain the charm of short films and why less time is not an impediment for a compelling tale

SANGEETHA DEVI DUNDOO

Short films often are stepping stones to feature films; there are enough success stories in film industries to prove that. However, there is also a category of established filmmakers and actors, who opt to be a part of shorts, occasionally, to tell strong stories.

So, Anurag Kashyap directing a short, or actors of repute such as Naseeruddin Shah, Nawazuddin Siddiqui or Manoj Bajpayee acting in one does not come as a surprise. These films are also quickly lapped up by netizens. "Whether I choose a feature, web series or a short, I look for stories that can be clutter breakers," says Bajpayee, speaking on the sidelines of a panel discussion held in Mumbai to launch LSF Evening, an initiative by Royal Stag Large Short Films platform. Under normal circumstances, the panel discussions would have been hosted in different cities. This year, a series of discussions were filmed in Mumbai and will be available to view soon on Zee network and Royal Stag Large Short Films YouTube channel.

Moderated by Mandira Bedi, the panel featured actors Saif Ali Khan, Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Samantha Akkineni, Divya Dutta, Sayani Gupta, Shweta Basu Prasad, Tisca Chopra, Nirajan Iyengar and Shivani Raghuvanshi besides Manoj Bajpayee. Its focus was the emerging trends in Indian cinema, the collapse of



commercial and indie barriers, and the changes brought about by COVID-19 on storytelling.

"The audience has shown a great appetite for content and the onus is on us to deliver," says Bajpayee. Some of the short films Bajpayee has featured in are *Kriti*, directed by Shirish Kunder and co-starring Radhika Apte, *Zahir* with Dia Mirza and *Ouch* with Pooja Chopra. "I try to select a story that shakes me up. Within a short duration, the story has to be narrated effectively to impact the viewers."

Actor Tisca Chopra had turned producer with the short film

Chutney (2016). Her short film *Rubaru* marks her directorial turn. Starring herself alongside Arjun Mathur, the film will stream on the Large Short Films YouTube channel later this month.

"*Rubaru* talks about what it entails to be an artist and the struggle for relevance."

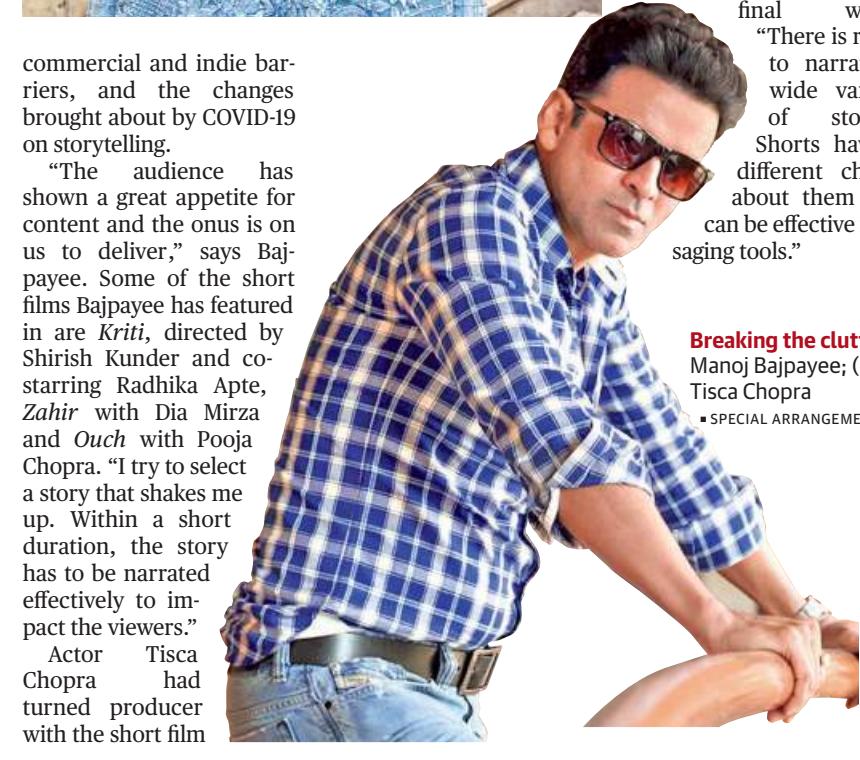
Her crew finished shooting in February and were on a break, intending to regroup for post-production a few weeks later. However, it turned out to be a six-month break thanks to lockdown. Looking back, Tisca says, a short film entails enormous preparation where everyone in the crew has to hit the bull's eye for each shot. "You can't afford to say *kal dekh lenge* because you have to usually finish the film in three or four days," she says, adding, "Short films are a great way to get introduced to new creators. *Chutney* clocked 131 million views on YouTube and was a rewarding experience."

Actor Sayani Gupta, who stars in the acclaimed short *Shameless*, has the final word.

"There is room to narrate a wide variety of stories. Shorts have a different charm about them and can be effective messaging tools."

Breaking the clutter Manoj Bajpayee; (left) Tisca Chopra

■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



Mum's THE WORD

Actor Urvashi, who is a part of both big ticket Deepavali releases on OTT, draws parallels between the importance afforded to females in film and in society

PRADEEP KUMAR

With two films of hers releasing this Deepavali, Urvashi has made a steady re-entry into mainstream Tamil cinema. It is not that the 51-year-old actor has anything left to prove considering her body of work. However, being a part of *Soorarai Pottru* and *Mookuthi Amman* is reassurance for the industry's top filmmakers that the quality performer in her is intact even as she enters the fifth decade of a long career.

In both films, Urvashi plays the

mother to the central character. "*Mookuthi Amman* focusses almost all its runtime on this family: a mother, her three daughters and son, and her fath-

er-in-law," says Urvashi.

Playful mind

Produced by Vels Film International, *Mookuthi Amman* marks the directorial debut of NJ Saravanan and RJ Balaji. If you are wondering what it is like working with a man who has gained the affection of cricket fans in Tamil Nadu with his interesting commentary during the recently-concluded IPL, it is as you would imagine. "Balaji is very playful. In the middle of the shoot, as I walk into the set after preparing myself to play a serious scene, he would switch to commentator mode. I have wondered 'what sort of a director is this boy?'" she smiles.

Her transition from playing girl-next-door roles in the '80s to now playing "mom-next-door" roles, as she puts it, has followed an interesting trajectory. Urvashi may even be appearing in more number of mother roles than she prefers, something she indirectly hints at: "I don't like to repeat myself. Several times, filmmakers

Mookuthi Amman streams on Disney+ Hotstar from November 14



Biden speaks to Indo-Pacific leaders

President-elect reassures countries of America's commitment; he picks Ronald Klain as Chief of Staff

SRI RAM LAKSHMAN

WASHINGTON

Leaders of Japan, South Korea and Australia joined the list of heads of States or governments who have held congratulatory phone calls with U.S. President-elect Joe Biden, a recognition that Mr. Biden will be in the Oval Office after January 20 even as President Donald Trump has not conceded the U.S. presidential election.

With Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, Mr. Biden underscored his deep commitment to the defense of Japan. With Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison, Mr. Biden outlined the partnership between the two countries since the First World War, the Biden-Harris transition team said.

With both leaders, Mr. Biden discussed the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, economic recovery, protection against future global health threats, tackling climate change and strengthening democracy. Mr. Biden told Mr. Morrison that he looks forward to "maintain-

ing a secure and prosperous Indo-Pacific region".

Mr. Suga and Mr. Biden discussed their "shared commitment" on a number of issues, including a commitment to "reinforce the U.S.-Japan alliance as the cornerstone of a prosperous and secure Indo-Pacific region".

The Quad grouping of countries – India, the U.S., Japan and Australia – was strengthened during the Trump administration, largely as a response to China's growing assertiveness and adventurism in the region, including along the Line of Actual Control with India. The Biden administration's approach towards this informal grouping, as well as with China, will be closely watched by India.

Security and prosperity

On a similar call with President Moon Jae-in of South Korea, Mr. Biden "observed that he looks forward to working closely with President Moon on other shared challenges, from North Ko-



Moving forward: Joe Biden addressing the media at the Queen Theater in Wilmington, Delaware, on Tuesday. ■ AP

rea to climate change", as per a readout of the phone call. Mr. Biden referred to the U.S.-South Korea alliance as "the linchpin of security and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region", as per his transition team.

Mr. Trump has had three face-to-face meetings with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un – an unprecedented step for an American President – in order to negotiate a peace deal, but talks came to a standstill over issues around American sanctions on North Korea and the latter's programme to develop nuclear weapons.

South Korea is looking to the U.S. for assistance with ways to denuclearise the Korean Peninsula and also to resolve issues around the presence of 28,500 American troops in the country. Mr. Trump had asked South Korea to pay more towards the troops and a cost-sharing agreement that expired in 2019 has not been renewed.

Chief of Staff

Mr. Biden's future administration continued to take shape in other ways too. On Wednesday, Mr. Biden announced that his former top aide Ronald Klain would be

his new Chief of Staff. Mr. Klain, a Democratic operative, worked with Mr. Biden in the 1980s. He has served as Chief of Staff to two Vice-Presidents – Mr. Biden himself and Al Gore. Mr. Klain led the White House's Ebola response during the Obama administration.

Mr. Biden said Mr. Klain's "capacity to work with people all across the political spectrum is precisely" what he will need at the White House as he seeks to bring the country together again.

The President-elect and team are preparing for the transition without being able to coordinate with the existing administration, which could lead to certain challenges in terms of preparedness when the new President takes office at noon on January 20. For instance, Mr. Biden has also started receiving intelligence that is shared in the President's Daily Brief and this could be a potential national security risk. Mr. Biden is expected to announce other Cabinet picks in the coming weeks.

U.K. accuses China of treaty breach

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Britain accused China of breaking its international treaty obligations, after four pro-democracy lawmakers were ousted from Hong Kong's legislature on security grounds.

Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said the new rules to disqualify elected assembly members was "a clear breach of the legally binding Sino-British Joint Declaration".

China begins work on rail line up to Arunachal border

It will link Sichuan province with Nyingchi in Tibet

ANANTH KRISHNAN

China has begun work on a strategically significant railway line – its second major rail link to Tibet – that will link Sichuan province with Nyingchi, which lies near the border with India's Arunachal Pradesh.

Mr. Biden said Mr. Klain's "capacity to work with people all across the political spectrum is precisely" what he will need at the White House as he seeks to bring the country together again.

The President-elect and team are preparing for the transition without being able to coordinate with the existing administration, which could lead to certain challenges in terms of preparedness when the new President takes office at noon on January 20. For instance, Mr. Biden has also started receiving intelligence that is shared in the President's Daily Brief and this could be a potential national security risk. Mr. Biden is expected to announce other Cabinet picks in the coming weeks.

The importance of the project, Chinese experts said, is two-fold. Like the Qinghai-Tibet railway line, which in 2006 connected Lhasa to the hinterland, this will be the second such route linking the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) to the hinterland. Secondly, it will run right up to Nyingchi near the border with India, which it will link to both Lhasa and Chengdu, the provincial capital of Sichuan. The entire line will run from Chengdu to Lhasa, connecting the two capitals of TAR and Sichuan and cutting the journey from 48 hours to 13 hours.

Fast track

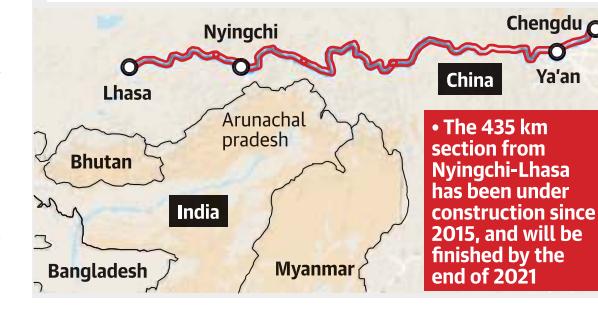
Zhu Weiqun, a senior Party official formerly in charge of Tibet policy, who earlier headed the Ethnic and Religious Affairs Committee of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, or upper house, was quoted as saying by State media that

Rail to border town

China's planned railway line will run from Lhasa in Tibet to Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan province, connecting both the places to Nyingchi, a city near the Arunachal Pradesh border

- The first segment of the line within Sichuan province, from Chengdu to Ya'an, was completed in December 2018

- Work on the 1,011 km section from Ya'an to Nyingchi, which was formally launched this week, will be finished in 2030



• The 435 km section from Nyingchi-Lhasa has been under construction since 2015, and will be finished by the end of 2021

the railway will help "transport advanced equipment and technologies from the rest of China to Tibet and bring local products out".

"If a scenario of a crisis happens at the border, the railway can act as a 'fast track' for the delivery of strategic materials," he said.

Xiong Kunxin, an academic at the Tibet University in Lhasa, told the *Global Times* that the railway "is also of great significance in safeguarding national unity and consolidating border stability". "As the railway runs near China's southwest border areas, it will largely improve the efficiency and convenience of military personnel and material transportation and logical supplies," he said.

The first segment of the line within Sichuan province, from Chengdu to Ya'an, was completed in December 2018. Work on the 1,011-km section from Ya'an to Nyingchi, which was for-

mally launched this week, will be finished in 2030. Mr. Xi said, "the difficulty involved in the construction is rarely seen elsewhere, due to the complex geological and climatic conditions and fragile ecological environment along the railway."

Under construction
The 435-km section from Nyingchi-Lhasa segment has been under construction since 2015, and will be finished by the end of next year. State media reported as much as 75% of this section consists of 120 bridges and 47 tunnels, with a designated speed of 160 km/h.

This includes a 525-metre-long bridge across the Yarlung Zangbo river, as the Brahmaputra is called in Tibet, which has been built at a height of 3,350 metres. The official Xinhua news agency said this makes it the world's highest concrete-filled steel tube arch railway bridge.

nearly \$1.5-billion currency swap facility.

Earlier this month, the Communist Party of China and the ruling Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP, or People's Front) came together for an 'Advanced Seminar on Governance Experience' in Colombo.

Meanwhile, in a curious development earlier this week, the State-run *Daily News* on Monday reported that President Xi Jinping and President Gotabaya Rajapaksa spoke on Zoom.

However, the Chinese Embassy denied the story in a tweet. When contacted, the Presidential Media Division in Colombo declined comment.

Vaccine 'cavalry' coming, but must remain cautious: Fauci

Close to reaching a threshold in trials, says Moderna



Anthony Fauci
"literally on the threshold of being announced".
Moderna, which is co-de-

veloping its vaccine candidate with the U.S. National Institutes of Health, says it is close to reaching a threshold in trials to apply for an emergency use authorisation from U.S. regulators.

"The cavalry is coming, but don't put your weapons down," Dr. Fauci said by video-link to the Chatham House international affairs think-tank in London.

U.K. accuses China of treaty breach

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Britain accused China of breaking its international treaty obligations, after four pro-democracy lawmakers were ousted from Hong Kong's legislature on security grounds.

Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said the new rules to disqualify elected assembly members was "a clear breach of the legally binding Sino-British Joint Declaration".

China chairs meet with S. Asian partners amid COVID-19

It holds a virtual conference with Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan



Luo Zhaohui
cooperation among the four nations in pandemic response and economic recov-

ery.

Sri Lanka's State Minister for Regional Co-operation Tharaka Balasuriya, Bangladeshi Foreign Secretary Mamsud Bin Momen, Nepalese Foreign Secretary Bharat Raj Paudyal, Pakistani Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood

joined the recent online discussion, chaired by Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Luo Zhaohui.

"The Five Parties" agreed to advance Belt and Road cooperation to "boost post-COVID-19 economic recovery and development", and concurred that countries linked by land ports should establish joint response mechanisms in border areas, apart from committing to greater information sharing and international cooperation, according to the press release.

China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) had figured prominently in the July virtual discussion, too, when State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi proposed ex-

tending the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to Afghanistan and moving forward on an economic corridor plan with Nepal.

Growing engagement
The two virtual meets appear part of China's growing engagement in the region, in the wake of the global pandemic.

Meanwhile, in a curious development earlier this week, the State-run *Daily News* on Monday reported that President Xi Jinping and President Gotabaya Rajapaksa spoke on Zoom.

However, the Chinese Embassy denied the story in a tweet. When contacted, the Presidential Media Division in Colombo declined comment.

Trump is not conceding defeat; what's next?

President's campaign seeks to stop battleground States from certifying votes

STANLY JOHNY

U.S. President Donald Trump has not conceded defeat to his Democratic rival Joe Biden in the November 3 presidential election. Mr. Trump has alleged voter fraud and mounted legal challenges in several swing States. And he is not alone. Most elected Republican party officials are yet to acknowledge that Mr. Biden has won the election.

What is Trump's plan?
According to the results announced so far, Mr. Biden has won 279 electoral votes against Mr. Trump's 214. A candidate needs 270 votes in the 538-vote Electoral College to win the presidency. But these are not official results. There is a lengthy electoral process before the official results will be announced on January 6.

It appears that the Trump campaign's plan is to block certification of results from key battleground States. The campaign has filed lawsuits in Pennsylvania, Michigan and Arizona, asking courts to prevent State officials from certifying the vote. These three States have 47 elec-

toral votes among themselves, which Mr. Biden has either won or is leading, according to the media. The Electoral College is mandated to meet on the first Monday after the second Wednesday in December, which falls on December 14 this year. All election disputes in States are required to be resolved six days before the Electoral College date (the 'safe harbour' deadline), which is December 8.

The Trump campaign has alleged fraud but has not produced any evidence, at least to the public, so far. So, many experts believe the courts are unlikely to stop States from certifying results. In that case, the Electoral College will elect Joe Biden the 46th President of the U.S. But what happens if the disputes in the three States – Pennsylvania, Michigan and Arizona – remain unresolved by December 8? In such a scenario, the State legislatures can step in.

All the three States have Republican-controlled legislatures. So, if these States are stopped from certifying the results in the event of unresolved disputes, the Trump campaign would want the Republican

controlled State legislatures to send Republican electors to the Electoral College, who could vote for Mr. Trump on December 14. Even if that happens, there is a problem. Two of these three States – Pennsylvania and Michigan – have Democratic Governors and they could reject the list prepared by the legislatures and send their own. This means conflicting lists from the States would go to Congress.

Conflicting lists
After the 1876 presidential election, the Republican and Democratic parties disputed the results. Democrat Samuel J. Tilden got more popular votes and was on the cusp of the Electoral College victory against the Republican Rutherford Hayes. Results in three States – Florida, Louisiana and South Carolina – were disputed. As results remained

unresolved, these States sent duelling lists of electors to the Electoral College, triggering a constitutional crisis. Congress appointed a Commission to resolve the disputes. Tilden finally conceded defeat after the Republicans agreed to withdraw federal troops from the South and end the post-civil war Reconstruction (the Compromise of 1877), and Hayes became the 19th President of the U.S.

After the 1876 dispute, Congress passed the Electoral Count Act in 1887. The Act mandates that if conflicting lists are sent, each chamber of Congress can separately decide which list should be counted. The Republicans are now controlling the Senate and the Democrats have a majority in the House. So, it is possible that the chambers disagree on the lists. In that event, it is not clear what happens next. If Congress cannot agree on the lists of electors, the U.S. Supreme Court could be asked to step in. Or, some legal scholars say, Vice-President Mike Pence, as the President of the Senate, could take a call. In such an uncertainty, there are three possibilities: if the Democrats' list is picked, it would lead to a Biden victory; if the Republican list is counted, Mr. Trump could retain power; if votes from the

disputed States are excluded from counting, no candidate will have the majority (270 votes) to win the presidency.

Contingent election
If no candidate gets a majority in the Electoral College, Congress will hold a "contingent election" – the House will choose the President and the Senate the Vice-President. The U.S. had held contingent elections thrice in the past – in 1801, 1825, and 1837. In the vote for Vice-President, each Senator has a vote. In the election for President, not all Representatives could vote. Each State delegation in the House will get a single vote (District of Columbia does not have a vote) – which means the party that controls more States will have a majority. Currently, the Republicans control 26 of the 50 State delegations, while the Democrats have 22.

Even if the electoral process drags on to this stage, the whole process has to be completed before January 20, the constitutionally mandated Inauguration Day for the new President. If a new President is not elected by January 20 noon, the House Speaker – Democrat Nancy Pelosi – would become the acting President.



Donald Trump

EXPLAINER

controlled State legislatures to send Republican electors to the Electoral College, who could vote for Mr. Trump on December 14. Even if that happens, there is a problem. Two of these three States – Pennsylvania and Michigan – have Democratic Governors and they could reject the list prepared by the legislatures and send their own. This means conflicting lists from the States would go to Congress.

Conflicting lists
After the 1876 presidential election, the Republican and Democratic parties disputed the results. Democrat Samuel J. Tilden got more popular votes and was on the cusp of the Electoral College victory against the Republican Rutherford Hayes. Results in three States – Florida, Louisiana and South Carolina – were disputed. As results remained

Happy Deepavali From Co-optex
30% Festival Offer

Shop Online : www.cooptex.gov.in

I Enjoy the ULTIMATE FREE DELIVERY OFFER Anywhere in India with in 3 days (48-72 hrs)! Interest free credit facility to all Government / Public / Private Organizations staff. Special rebate rate extended for credit sales also.

We invite you to our nearest showroom:

- Khan Market : 2461 1861
- Cannaught Place : 2336 4283
- Karolbagh : 8800340751
- Lucknow : 2288892

Showrooms are open on all Holidays.

www.facebook.com/cooptex www.instagram.com/cooptexindia

DIPR/1094/DIS/2020

MARKET WATCH

	12-11-2020	% CHANGE
Sensex	43357	-0.54
US Dollar	74.64	-0.37
Gold	50057	-0.11
Brent oil	44.39	-0.31

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	368.05	-3.55
Asian Paints	2171.80	-9.90
Axis Bank	599.70	-8.95
Bajaj Auto	3017.45	-5.65
Bajaj Finserv	7026.20	81.40
Bajaj Finance	4298.30	29.50
Bharti Airtel	479.85	1.25
BPCL	394.65	0.65
Britannia Ind	3515.30	22.55
Cipla	739.70	-2.65
Coal India	122.10	-3.75
Divis Lab	3367.05	13.90
Dr Reddys Lab	4826.85	-55.30
Eicher Motors	2350.75	24.05
GAIL (India)	93.05	0.10
Grasim Ind	826.95	23.85
HCL Tech.	324.70	-1.35
HDFC	2322.10	7.80
HDFC Bank	1371.70	-18.25
HDFC Life	630.40	6.95
Hero MotoCorp	3085.80	25.65
Hindalco	208.60	4.55
Hind Unilever	2192.10	6.95
ICICI Bank	476.70	-9.85
IndusInd Bank	769.20	-18.75
Infosys	1117.75	-4.75
Indian Oil Corp	85.30	0.30
ITC	188.00	2.70
JSW Steel	338.00	-4.75
Kotak Bank	1754.75	-53.10
L&T	1073.20	13.75
M&M	632.70	-50.50
Maruti Suzuki	6836.85	-20.50
Nestle India Ltd.	16718.60	21.00
NTPC	90.80	-2.10
ONGC	71.55	-0.80
PowerGrid Corp	189.50	-0.15
Reliance Ind	1980.00	-17.20
SBI Life	837.75	-1.80
State Bank	226.80	-7.40
Shree Cement	23441.60	574.05
Sun Pharma	509.25	3.20
Tata Motors	151.20	0.25
Tata Steel	473.15	-0.80
TCS	2671.05	-16.75
Tech Mahindra	843.25	5.75
Titan	1278.10	3.40
UltraTech Cement	4846.10	22.30
UPL	429.60	-6.10
Wipro	345.55	-1.20

EXCHANGE RATES		
Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on November 12		
CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	74.45	74.77
Euro	87.94	88.32
British Pound	98.10	98.52
Japanese Yen (100)	70.72	71.03
Chinese Yuan	11.25	11.30
Swiss Franc	81.43	81.78
Singapore Dollar	55.21	55.46
Canadian Dollar	56.98	57.23
Malaysian Ringgit	18.01	18.10
Australian Dollar	54.12	54.36

Source: Indian Bank

IN BRIEF



Zydus completes phase 2 trial of COVID-19 therapy

NEW DELHI
Zydus Cadila on Thursday said it has successfully completed a phase 2 clinical trial in COVID-19 patients with its biological therapy, 'Pegili-lep', and will now begin phase 3 clinical trial. The drug firm said Pegylated Interferon alpha - 2b significantly increased viral reduction and reduced the need for supplemental oxygen in moderate COVID-19 patients. PTI

PUBG to unveil game for India, commits \$100 mn

NEW DELHI
PUBG is set to make a comeback in the country with PUBG Corp. on Thursday announcing it was preparing to unveil PUBG Mobile India and that it would invest \$100 million in India. In September, the Centre had blocked 118 mobile apps, including PUBG, terming them prejudicial to the sovereignty of the nation. PUBG had said it would take up publishing responsibilities within India. PTI

Indigo Paints to float ₹1,000-crore initial offer

MUMBAI
Pune-based Indigo Paints Ltd. has filed a draft red herring prospectus with SEBI to raise approximately ₹1,000 crore. There would be a fresh issuance aggregating to ₹300 crore and an offer for sale of up to ₹8,40,000 equity shares of face value of ₹10 each by Sequoia Capital through its two funds SCI Investments IV and SCI Investments V and promoter Hemant Jalan.

RBI to hold simultaneous purchase, sale of G-Secs

MUMBAI
The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Thursday said it will conduct simultaneous purchase and sale of government securities under Open Market Operations (OMO) for an aggregate amount of ₹10,000 crore each on November 19. The decision was taken after a review of the current liquidity and financial conditions, the Reserve Bank said in a statement. The result of the auctions will be announced on the same day. PTI

Oct. retail inflation accelerates to 7.61%

Elevated vegetable prices keep price gains above 7% for a second straight month

REUTERS
NEW DELHI

India's retail inflation remained above 7% in October for a second straight month as vegetable prices stayed at elevated levels, worrying policymakers, who are struggling to pull Asia's third-largest economy from a deep slump.

October's retail inflation of 7.61% was higher than the forecast of 7.3% in a Reuters' poll of economists. It was 7.27% in September, official data showed on Thursday.

Retail inflation has remained above 4%, the middle-point of the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) target of 2%-6%, for more than a year, giving little room to cut interest rates.

India's economy is likely to enter a technical recession



Monsoon mayhem: Excessive rainfall in some States and COVID-19 disruptions have delayed harvesting of onions. ■AP

for the first time in its post-independence history, as a nowcast in an article in the RBI's bulletin sees a contraction of 8.6% in the July-September quarter.

The country reported a 23.9% contraction in the

April-June quarter.

Two consecutive quarters of contraction are described as a recession.

The main factor leading to higher inflation was elevated food inflation, which stood at 11.07% in October com-

pared with 10.68% in the previous month.

'Likely to persist'

"High food inflation despite easing restrictions and improving mobility numbers indicates the problem is more complex and likely to persist in the near future," said Anagha Deodhar, economist at ICICI Securities.

Disruption from the COVID-19 pandemic and excessive rainfall in States such as Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh have damaged and delayed the harvesting of onions – a key ingredient in Indian kitchens – alongside other vegetables.

Ms. Sitharaman said floods in some areas had led to an uptick in prices of perishable goods, and the Centre was taking steps for their better preservation and providing weather proof storage, particularly for onion and potato.

Working on steps to control price rise: FM

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday said perishable goods were putting upward pressure on inflation and the government was working on both short and medium-term measures for controlling price rise.

Ms. Sitharaman said floods in some areas had led to an uptick in prices of perishable goods, and the Centre was taking steps for their better preservation and providing weather proof storage, particularly for onion and potato.

Moody's narrows 2020 GDP contraction to 8.9%

Growth outlook for 2021 raised to 8.6%

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Rating agency Moody's Investors Service has revised upward its forecast for India's GDP for calendar year 2020 to an 8.9% contraction from its earlier projection for a contraction of 9.6%.

Similarly, India's GDP forecast for calendar year 2021 has been revised upwards to 8.6% growth from the 8.1% projected earlier, the agency said in its latest global macro outlook report released on Thursday.

"India's economy had the biggest contraction, 24% year-over-year in the second quarter, as a result of a long and strict nationwide lockdown. Restrictions have eased only slowly and in phases, and localised restrictions in containment zones remain. As a result, the recovery has been patchy," Moody's noted in its report titled 'Nascent economic rebound takes hold globally but recovery will remain fragile'.

If the steady decline in new and active COVID-19 cases since September is maintained, further easing of restrictions may help, Moody's said. "We therefore forecast a gradual improvement in economic activity over the coming quarters. However, slow credit intermediation will hamper the pace of recovery because of an already weakened financial sector," it warned.

Rate cut scope limited

Moody's vice president-senior credit officer Madhavi Bokil said that the scope for additional rate cuts was limited in most emerging market economies (including Brazil, India and Indonesia), and that she did not expect emerging market central banks to carry on with quantitative easing

measures once the recovery strengthens. The agency stressed that geopolitical and trade risks would remain a key focus in the year ahead as the relationship between the U.S. and China, had deteriorated. "Moody's does not believe that the Biden administration would differ materially with regard to these issues," it said.

"For other countries, the pandemic shock has also led to both economic and national security concerns about supply-chain vulnerabilities and economic dependencies. The emphasis of various governments on shoring up domestic productive capacities can also be viewed as an attempt to reduce their co-dependence on the global economy."

Overall, G-20 economies were expected to collectively contract 3.8% in 2020, followed by 4.9% growth in 2021 and 3.8% growth in 2022, Moody's said, stressing that its baseline forecasts assumed that difficulty in controlling the virus would hinder the gradual process of recovery in the short term.

The agency expects pandemic management to improve over time, allowing for steady normalisation of social and economic activity. Hence, the virus is expected to become a less important macroeconomic concern throughout 2021 and 2022, it said.

Grasim to sell fertilizer arm for ₹2,649 crore

Indorama is buyer; 'focus is on core'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The board of Grasim Industries Ltd. has approved the divestment of the company's fertiliser business, Indo Gulf Fertilisers by way of a slump sale to Indorama India Pvt. Ltd., a subsidiary of Indorama Corporation Pte. Ltd., Singapore for a lump sum cash consideration of ₹2,649 crore.

"This consideration is commensurate [with] the strength and future potential of the business," Grasim said in a statement.

Indo Gulf Fertilisers is engaged in manufacturing, trading, and sale of urea and other agri inputs with a 1.2 million tonnes per annum urea manufacturing plant at Jagdishpur in Uttar Pradesh.



This divestment would enable Grasim to pursue growth opportunities in its core businesses, it said.

Dilip Gaur, managing director, Grasim Industries, said: "The divestment is a strategic portfolio choice and unlocks value for shareholders. It is in line with the strategic thrust of the company to focus on core businesses".

October fuel demand rises by about 2.5%

REUTERS

India's fuel demand rose about 2.5% in October compared with a year earlier, data from the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell of the oil Ministry showed on Thursday.

Consumption of fuel, a proxy for oil demand, totalled 17.78 million tonnes, the data showed. Demand for diesel, widely used for transportation as well as for irrigation needs in India, climbed 7.4% year-on-year to 6.99 million tonnes. Sales of gasoline, or petrol, rose about 4.3% to 2.65 million tonnes.

Cooking gas, or liquefied petroleum gas, sales increased about 3% to 2.42 million tonnes, while naphtha sales rose 15% to 1.3 million tonnes.

Focus on 4 markets, two business lines

business units, service lines and nine geographies with four strategic market units (SMUs) and two global business lines (GBLs)," he said.

The four SMUs would comprise Americas 1, Americas 2, Europe and Asia Pacific Middle East Africa (APMEA). While Americas 1 and Americas 2 are organised by sectors, Europe and APMEA are structured by geography, Wipro said.

Mr. Delaporte said Srinivas Pallia will lead Americas 1, Angan Guha Americas 2, N. Bala will oversee APMEA while the leader for Europe will be named in the coming weeks. "They will be supported by a Chief Growth Officer," he added. While one GBL covers engineering and application services, the other includes Cloud and digital operations.

"Since 2019, we have been investing about ₹50 crore-₹60 crore a year in enhancing the plant's capacities and on technology. Next fiscal onwards, we will invest ₹100 crore-₹120 crore a year," said Rahul Kumar, CEO, Lactalis India.

The funds would be used to set up a new powder plant, increase production capacity of Prabhatis cheese plant and on the procurement side, he said.

"Last year, our revenue [was] ₹3,500 crore and next fiscal, our aim is to touch ₹4,500 crore," Mr. Kumar added.

"Effective January 1, 2021, we will replace the current structure of seven strategic

Apurvi opts to train during Diwali

The core group of Indians have dispersed for a festival break



New normal: Apurvi Chandela wearing a mask and a protective apron before boarding a flight to Bengaluru for training. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

SHOOTING

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI

It is Diwali time! The core group of Indian shooters, training at the Dr. Karni Singh Range in Tughlakabad, has dispersed for a festival break for a week.

The world record holder and former World No. 1, Apurvi Chandela, however, has opted to fly to Bengaluru and train with coach Rakesh Manpat.

Forced change

The situation back home due to the coronavirus forced Apurvi to change her plans and utilise the time on hand.

"We will have a week of quarantine on return from home. It would have been a long break. I am using new gear after streamlining my food. I am getting used to it.

It is perhaps the worst attire for me to pose

So, I thought it was important to continue training and stay in that mode," said Apurvi.

She had travelled in her family car for the camp in Delhi, after months of training at home in Jaipur. She was taking a flight after about nine months, to Bengaluru.

With the new normal of face mask, face shield and the protective apron for air travel, it was indeed some experience for Apurvi, after she had competed in Europe in the early part of the season.

"It is perhaps the worst attire for me to pose," said Apurvi jokingly.

Fruitful training

It was fruitful training with shooting in the morning ses-

sion, followed by fitness work outs during the camp. Apurvi also spent time reading books.

After being quite active at home, being occupied with a variety of activities, Apurvi was happy to train her focus on shooting in the team atmosphere and get into her groove during the camp.

Having won two World Cup gold medals last year in authoritative fashion, Apurvi was set for the challenge of the Olympics before it was postponed. Now, she is tuning herself well, keeping herself flexible to the demands of the situation and responding appropriately.

So, the holidays and festive atmosphere at home can wait for Apurvi as she gets into another spell of serious training.

Champions do manage their time in the best possible way.

Fit and healthy Kapil Dev happy to be practising golf

It is beautiful to be back, having fun and playing with friends, says the cricket legend

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Two weeks after undergoing an angioplasty, World Cup-winning former India captain Kapil Dev was back to playing golf, a sport he took up passionately after bidding adieu to cricket.

The 61-year-old had said that he would like to get back to playing golf as soon as the doctors allowed him and, on Thursday, he was seen teeing off at the Delhi Golf Club.

"You can't express in words what fun it is to be back on the golf course or a cricket ground. It is beautiful to be back at the



Kapil Dev.

■ TWITTER

video message on his Twitter handle.

Avid player

Kapil has been an avid amateur golfer since his retirement from international cricket back in 1994 and also taken part in many events over the years.

Last month, he suffered a heart attack and was rushed to a hospital where he underwent an emergency angioplasty.

He was back home in a couple of days and since then has kept his fans posted and updated about his health status and also started his job as an analyst for a television channel.

Woman power in INRC

Bani and Pragathi to lead Team Vasundhara

MOTORSPORTS

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM
HYDERABAD

K. Vasundhara of Vasundhara Diamond Roof Pvt. Ltd. (Hyderabad) will become the first woman owner of a team in the Champions Yacht Club-FMSCI Indian National Rally Championship 2020.

"Team Vasundhara", comprising renowned women rallyists Dr. Bani Yadav of Gurugram and Pragathi Gowda of Bengaluru, will compete in the INRC 3 classification as well as aim for glory in the overall championship in Volkswagen Polo



K. Vasundhara.
■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

1.6 with MRF Tyres.

"It is a huge moment for Indian motorsports as for the first time we have a woman owner promoting an

It is... the first time we have a woman owner promoting an all-woman team

VAMCY MERLA
Promoter of INRC

all-woman team. We have always strived for more women's participation and towards bringing in more women enthusiasts," Vamcy Merla, promoter of INRC and director of Champions Yacht Club, said.

The INRC 2020 will begin on December 15 in Arunachal Pradesh and move South with three rounds in Coimbatore, Hampi and the season-finale in Bengaluru.

The United World Wrestling (UWW) took the decision late on Tuesday and is now planning to organise an 'Individual World Cup' as a substitute event. The UWW had set a benchmark requiring participation from at least eight of the top-10 nations from the 2019 edition and 70 percent of total ath-

UTHRAGANESAN
NEW DELHI

Indian wrestlers have been dealt another blow in their preparations for the Tokyo Olympics with the year-end Wrestling World Championships officially called off for not meeting the minimum participation criteria.

The United World Wrestling (UWW) took the decision late on Tuesday and is now planning to organise an 'Individual World Cup' as a substitute event. The UWW had set a benchmark requiring participation from at least eight of the top-10 nations from the 2019 edition and 70 percent of total ath-

letes for the event to go ahead. National federations had to confirm their interest by November 5.

Rising cases

The rising cases of COVID-19 across Europe had earlier forced USA and Japan to withdraw participation with Cuba joining them last week, weakening the field and forcing the cancellation of the Worlds, scheduled from December 12-20 in Belgrade. While dates for the Individual World Cup are yet to be finalised, the event is unlikely to be held before next year.

"We want to see our ath-

letes can compete in a world class event," UWW president Nenad Lalovic said in a statement.

The cancellation has left Indian wrestlers with no competitive outing since the Asian Championships in late February. Deepak Punia (86kg) and Ravi Dahiya (57kg), both qualified for Tokyo, had planned to travel for the Poland Open last week but withdrew due to health and travel restrictions. Bajrang Punia's coach Emzarios Bentinidis had earlier indicated they might travel to USA to train after Punia's wedding on November 25 if the Worlds were

cancelled.

The Wrestling Federation of India had earlier deferred selection trials and is now unsure of the national championships, scheduled from December 18-20 in Gonda, as well.

"We will make the call on Nationals soon. The UWW decision came only last night so we have to now work out something for our wrestlers. However, it is likely that any competition will be held online in 2021 now. Once the dates and schedule for the Individual World Cup are decided, we will plan accordingly," WFI secretary Vinod Tomar said.

W Series at eight F1 races next season

ASSOCIATED PRESS
PARIS

The all-female W Series will be showcased at eight Formula One races next season in a push for greater diversity in motorsports, organisers said on Thursday. It has yet to be decided at which of the races the W Series will also be held.

"We believe it is incredibly important to give everyone the chance to reach the highest levels of our sport," F1 managing director of motorsport Ross Brawn said.

"Their partnership with Formula 1 next season shows our determination and commitment to showcase their exciting series and the importance of building greater diversity."

British driver Jamie Chadwick won the inaugural W Series race in Hockenheim, Germany, last year. This season was cancelled because of the pandemic.

Belihu, Gemecu to defend titles

Elite field for Airtel Delhi half marathon to be run on Nov. 29



Andamlak Belihu



Tsehay Gemecu

Amedwork Walelegn.

Among the women, Tsehay Gemecu would be looking to improve her personal best of 66:00 she timed last year. Her biggest challengers would be compatriots Yalemzer Yehualaw, who was just one second slower last year to place second, and Netsanet Gudeta, the 2018 World champion.

"This has been a difficult

year for everyone and I have been training alone much more than I am used to. Finishing fifth at the World half marathon championships in Poland last month assured me I am in good shape," Belihu said.

With a second place finish on debut in 2017, a win would make the 22-year-old the most successful runner in the event.

Gokulam to play in IFA Shield

P.K. AJITH KUMAR
KOZHIKODE

Gokulam Kerala is set to return to competitive football soon. The team will play in the IFA Shield tournament in Kolkata, most likely to be held in December.

It is among Asia's oldest tournaments, with a history dating back to 1893. For decades it was among the most prestigious events in the country, but it was turned into an Under-19 affair in 2016.

Plans upset

The organisers had planned to make it a senior tournament again earlier this year and there were talks of conducting it in April. But the coronavirus outbreak upset the plans.

Mohammed Sporting, Indian Arrows and Peerless SC, the reigning Calcutta Football League champion, are also expected to play.

Sonepat and Indore to hold all three table tennis Nationals

TTFI to foot all expenses, including for COVID testing

RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI

Continuing its concerted efforts to get competitions back on track, the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI), on Wednesday, rolled out a set of guidelines for players and officials for the National championships scheduled from early January.

Following a virtual meeting with representatives of all affiliates, the TTFI firmed up Sonepat and Indore as venues for the National championships – cadet & sub-junior, junior & youth and senior championships.

Dates to be decided

The championships dates are yet to be decided. As reported earlier, there will be no team championships or doubles events.

Affiliates have been given time until December 15 to

These are challenging times and it is not fair to expect the hosting association to raise sponsorship funds

M.P. SINGH
TTFI secretary-general

complete State championships and send in names of selected players. Once the TTFI receives the names of participants, it will seek the necessary permission from the Sports Authority of India to go ahead with the Nationals.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, TTFI secretary-general M. P. Singh revealed, "Unlike in the past, when the host association met the expenses, this time the federation will foot the bills."

"These are challenging times and it is not fair to expect the hosting association to raise sponsorship funds. Therefore, the federation

has come forward to bear the financial burden, including the expenses for over a thousand COVID tests."

He said TTFI was committed to ensuring safety and health of the players, officials.

The cadet and sub-junior championships could be in February-March after the other two Nationals.

SOPs issued
To help affiliated units hold the State championships, the TTFI had issued detailed guidelines and standard operating procedures, based on norms laid down by the government, he said.

With a steady rise in the number of COVID cases in several parts of the country, the hosting district associations would be required to follow the latest set of guidelines from the States, if any, along with the TTFI guidelines.

Richardson, Siddhant sizzle

NEW DELHI: Jack Richardson and Siddhant Sharma scored all the goals in guiding Sona Polo to a 10 goals

to 8-1/2 win over Jindal Panther in a league match of the Sir Pratap Singh Cup 14-goal polo tournament at the Jaipur Polo ground.

Meanwhile, in the DGST Trophy six-goal event, Cavalry Red and Army Service Corps (ASC) made the final.

The results: Sir Pratap Singh Cup (league): Sona Polo 10 (Sharka 4) bt Jindal Panther 8-1/2 (Simran Shergill 6, Abhimanyu Pathak 2).

DGST Trophy (semifinals): Cavalry Red 9 (Aman Singh 5, Vishal Chauhan 4) bt Cavalry Black 3-1/2 (M.S. Chouhan 2, Arjun Patil, handicap 1/2); ASC 12 (Dhruv Godara 6, Salim Azmi 5, Ravinder Mang) bt RVC/Allan 3-1/2 (A.P. Singh 2, handicap 1-1/2).

The Briton needs only to prevent his Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas outscoring him by eight points to retain his crown and, in the eyes of many including former Ferrari rival Felipe Massa, move on to become the most successful in FI history.

A seventh championship would draw him level with Massa's erstwhile Ferrari team-mate Michael Schumacher for titles, but with the record for wins, poles and podiums, as well as consecutive points finishes, he

will in many eyes already be the "greatest of all time".

Brazilian Massa, who himself missed out on a title triumph when Hamilton claimed his first in Sao Paulo in 2008, has no doubt that the Englishman, whose contract expires later this year, will deserve that soubriquet and a salary to match it.

"Lewis can really be the best of the best and everybody will say that for years and years, or maybe decades, or whatever," he told the F1 Nation podcast.

"So, I think he is just preparing his two or three-year contract, which I think he deserves."

"What he is doing... He shows that he definitely deserves it – to be different to all of the other drivers in terms of everything and even in terms of salary."

DELHI ROUND-UP

Centuries by Shantanu, Abhiraj

Centuries by Shantanu Yadav and Abhiraj Singh helped Turf Academy beat Uday Gupte Academy by 196 runs in the Turf Youth Cup under-13 tournament.

The scores: Turf Academy 315/3 in 40 overs (Shantanu Yadav 118, Abhiraj Singh 114, Lakshay Khatri 50) bt UGA 119/8 in 40 overs (Kairav Singhani 36).

Shraddhanand College posts win

Sumit Mathur top-scored with 53, while Himachal's Ranji player Mayank Dagar picked up three wickets as Swami Shraddhanand College beat SS Sports Club by 57 runs in the Unique T20 Cup.

The scores: SSN College 162/7 in 20 overs (Sumit Mathur 53, Shivam Gupta 45, Amit Kumar 33 n.o., Suraj Kumar 3/35, Sandeep Kumar 2/31, Ayush Kumar 2/37) bt Skillz Academy 170 in 39.4 overs (Ayush Kumar 36).