



Environmental clearance to Kaleshwaram in violation of law: NGT

Page 8



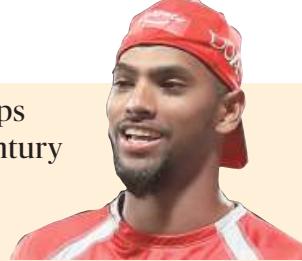
U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Biegun wants Quad group formalised

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Maryam Nawaz booked for holding anti-govt. rally in Pakistan

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Pooran's knock trumps Dhawan's historic century as KXIP stuns DC

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NEARBY



Capital records 3,579 fresh COVID-19 cases

As many as 3,579 fresh COVID-19 cases were reported in the Capital in the past 24 hours, taking the total to 3,66,750, according to a health bulletin released by the Delhi government. Also, 41 more deaths were reported, pushing the toll to 6,081. There are 23,922 active cases in the city.

CITY ▶ PAGE 4

Bar licence of Delhi's Gymkhana Club nixed

NEW DELHI
The bar licence of Gymkhana Club in the national capital has been cancelled for allegedly selling liquor during the lockdown in violation of guidelines as well as other infractions, read an official order. On September 17, the Excise Department had inspected the premises and found a bar sub-store, which had no approval from the department.

CITY ▶ PAGE 3



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OPPORTUNITIES ▶ PAGE 5

Virus still around, PM cautions nation

Follow COVID-19 protocols till vaccine rollout'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

lier slogan, "Jab tak dawai nahi, tab tak dhilai nahi" [Don't lower your guard until a vaccine is found], to stress the point that a "little carelessness can spell grief for the people".

At one point, the Prime Minister appealed to the citizens with folded hands to wear masks, sanitise their hands and maintain social distance as he wanted to see them happy.

Role of media
He also appealed to the media and social media platforms to create public awareness among citizens about the need to be careful.



With the effort of every Indian for the past seven-eight months, the situation today is stable. We should improve upon it and not allow it to deteriorate

This is not the time to get careless or believe that corona is gone or that there is no threat from it. In recent days, we have seen many pictures and videos where people are either lax or stopped being careful. — NARENDRA MODI, PRIME MINISTER

"Until a vaccine against this pandemic is found, we should never allow the fight against corona to weaken... We should not forget that even if the lockdown is gone, the virus has not. With the ef-

fort of every Indian for the past seven-eight months, the situation today is stable. We should improve upon it and not allow it to deteriorate," Mr. Modi said.

"This is not the time to get

Govt. increases poll spend ceiling by 10%

Move follows recommendation by EC

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Law Ministry has increased the ceiling on poll expenditure for Assembly and Lok Sabha elections by 10%. The move follows a recommendation by the Election Commission in view of curbs imposed during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

State-wise ceiling
The notification on Monday will help candidates contesting the Bihar Assembly polls and bypolls to 59 Assembly seats across 11

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

FDI blooms in COVID-19 gloom

Inflows boosted by high stakes investments in Jio

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

States and one LS seat. The ceiling on poll expenditure varies across States, with candidates in Assembly elections in bigger States like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu now allowed to spend up to ₹30.8 lakhs as against ₹28 lakhs earlier.

For a candidate contesting a Lok Sabha poll in these States, the revised ceiling on poll expenditure is now ₹77 lakh instead of the earlier amount of ₹70 lakh.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

to \$27.1 billion by August – 16% higher than that of the first five months of 2019-20. To put that in context, India received about \$50 billion in equity FDI in 2019-20.

Both total FDI and equity FDI viewed in isolation were the highest ever for the five-month period, the Commerce and Industry Ministry said on Tuesday. The increased FDI is a result of FDI policy reforms, investment facilitation and ease of doing business, the Ministry said.

Total FDI inflows surged from \$11.51 billion between April and June to \$35.73 billion by the end of August.

Equity FDI more than quadrupled from \$6.5 billion between April and June

vestments into Jio Platforms, Reliance Industries' telecom subsidiary, from global investors like Google that bet \$4.5 billion on the venture in July.

But this was not the only factor for the turnaround in FDI trends over two months, say experts.

"There have been a lot of private equity investments in the real estate sector, which are expected to continue. Moreover, several existing foreign investors have realised the need to ramp up local supply chains after the pandemic," said Vikram Doshi, partner (tax and regulatory issues) at PwC.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Soldier was helping herders, says China

Indian Army has said he will be returned after the completion of formalities

ANANTH KRISHNAN

China's military has said that it was in touch with New Delhi over the apprehension of its soldier by the Indian Army after he strayed across the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Demchok sector.

The Indian Army said earlier on Monday that Corporal Wang Ya Long had been provided medical assistance, including oxygen, food and warm clothes. It confirmed that it had received a request from the People's Liberation Army (PLA) on his whereabouts.

The Army said that as per established protocols, he would be returned to Chinese officials at the Chushul-Moldo meeting point.

Senior Colonel Zhang Shuili, spokesperson for the PLA's Western Theater Command, said in a statement, "China hopes that India will hand over soon the Chinese soldier who got lost in China."

On guard: An IAF fighter jet flies, amid the prolonged India-China standoff in eastern Ladakh, in Leh on Monday. ■ PTI

India border areas on the evening of October 18 when helping local herdsmen retrieve a yak at their request".

Aid in search'
The PLA, in a statement, said: "The PLA border troops informed the Indian military right after the incident and hoped the Indian side would aid in search and rescue, and the Indian side promised to offer help and return the missing soldier timely after finding him."

The statement said, "The

latest information from the Indian side is that the lost Chinese soldier has been found and will be handed over to the Chinese side after receiving medical examination. We hope that the Indian side will live up to its promise to hand over the missing Chinese soldier as soon as possible and implement the consensus reached by the two sides in the 7th round of Senior Commanders meeting, so as to maintain peace and tranquillity in the border areas."

Following the seventh round of talks on October 12, both sides said in a joint press release they had "a sincere, in-depth and constructive exchange of views on disengagement along the Line of Actual Control in the Western Sector of India-China border areas."

The release said, "They were of the view that these discussions were positive, constructive and had enhanced understanding of each other's positions. Both sides agreed to maintain dialogue and communication through military and diplomatic channels, and arrive at a mutually acceptable solution for disengagement as early as possible. Both sides agreed to earnestly implement the important understandings reached by the leaders of the two countries, not to turn differences into disputes, and jointly safeguard peace and tranquillity in the border areas."

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 8

Misery continues



Water woes: Flood-affected residents searching for their belongings in a flooded housing colony following heavy rain on the outskirts of Hyderabad on Tuesday. ■ AFP REPORT ON PAGE 8

WII scientists anxious about potential funding cut

Finance Ministry has recommended that institute be divested of its status as autonomous body of MoEF

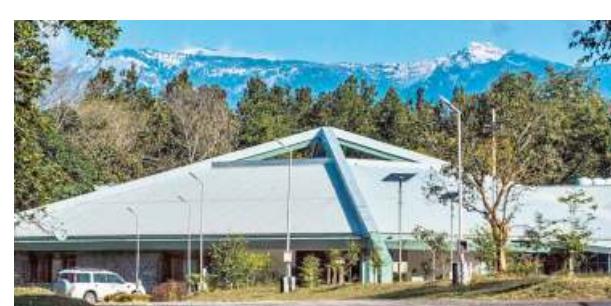
JACOB KOSHY

NEW DELHI

A recommendation by the Finance Ministry to divest the Dehradun-based Wildlife Institute of India (WII) of its status as an autonomous body of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has triggered anxiety among scientists at the organisation.

A letter by the WII Director to the Environment Ministry says that the directive was "unviable" and would affect the institution's ability to be seen as an "unbiased opinion generator" that both government and public sector units consulted for assessing the impact of development projects on wildlife.

The institute has an annual expenditure of ₹34 crore that was sourced from the Environment Ministry. It gener-



In a spot: A view of the main building of the Wildlife Institute of India in Dehradun. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ed only ₹3.5 crore from consultancy and advisory services, which went towards paying pensions to employees appointed before 2004. "The major responsibility of this Institute is to provide advice to MoEF based on scientific information on policy and management of the country's Wildlife

Resources. This role can only be performed and remains relevant as long as the institute remains a part of the MoEF," says the letter signed by institute Director, Dhananjay Mohan. *The Hindu* has viewed this letter.

A scientist with the institution, who declined to be identified, said that the proposal if

implemented would be "the death knell" of the organisation that has 112 employees.

The Finance Ministry move follows a review by its Expenditure Department of 194 autonomous bodies across 18 Ministries. Of them, 109 bodies must be merged into 26, and government must "disengage" from 23, one which is the WII.

Teaching and training
In the case of WII, the government will cut funding to the institute by 25% every year, and it could become a "Deemed University" engaged in teaching and research. The Central government could continue to access WII advisory and training services as a "client". Dr. Mohan's letter, however, said that there were too few students and courses

offered by the institute for it to qualify as a Deemed University, and it had twice been rebuffed by the University Grants Commission on these grounds.

Along with the WII, other autonomous bodies that have been recommended to be disengaged are the Indian Institute of Forest Management, and the Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training Institute.

Other Environment Ministry organisations, such as the Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History will be subsumed within the activities of the Environment Ministry. Some organisations, such as the Society of Integrated Coastal Management and the National Centre for Sustainable Coastal Management, will be merged.

Two AMU doctors 'sacked' over speaking to media in Hathras case

Officials say it's routine affair, deny link to rape-murder case

ANUJ KUMAR

GHAZIABAD

Two doctors of Aligarh Muslim University's Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College and Hospital have alleged that their services have been terminated because they officially gave statements to the media regarding the Hathras rape-murder case.

AMU officials, however, said it was a "routine affair" and had nothing to do with the Hathras case.

Dr. Mohammad Azimuddin Malik said he and his colleague Dr. Obaid Imtiyaz Haque's services as casualty medical officers were terminated by Vice-Chancellor Tariq Mansoor on Tuesday. The termination letter signed by

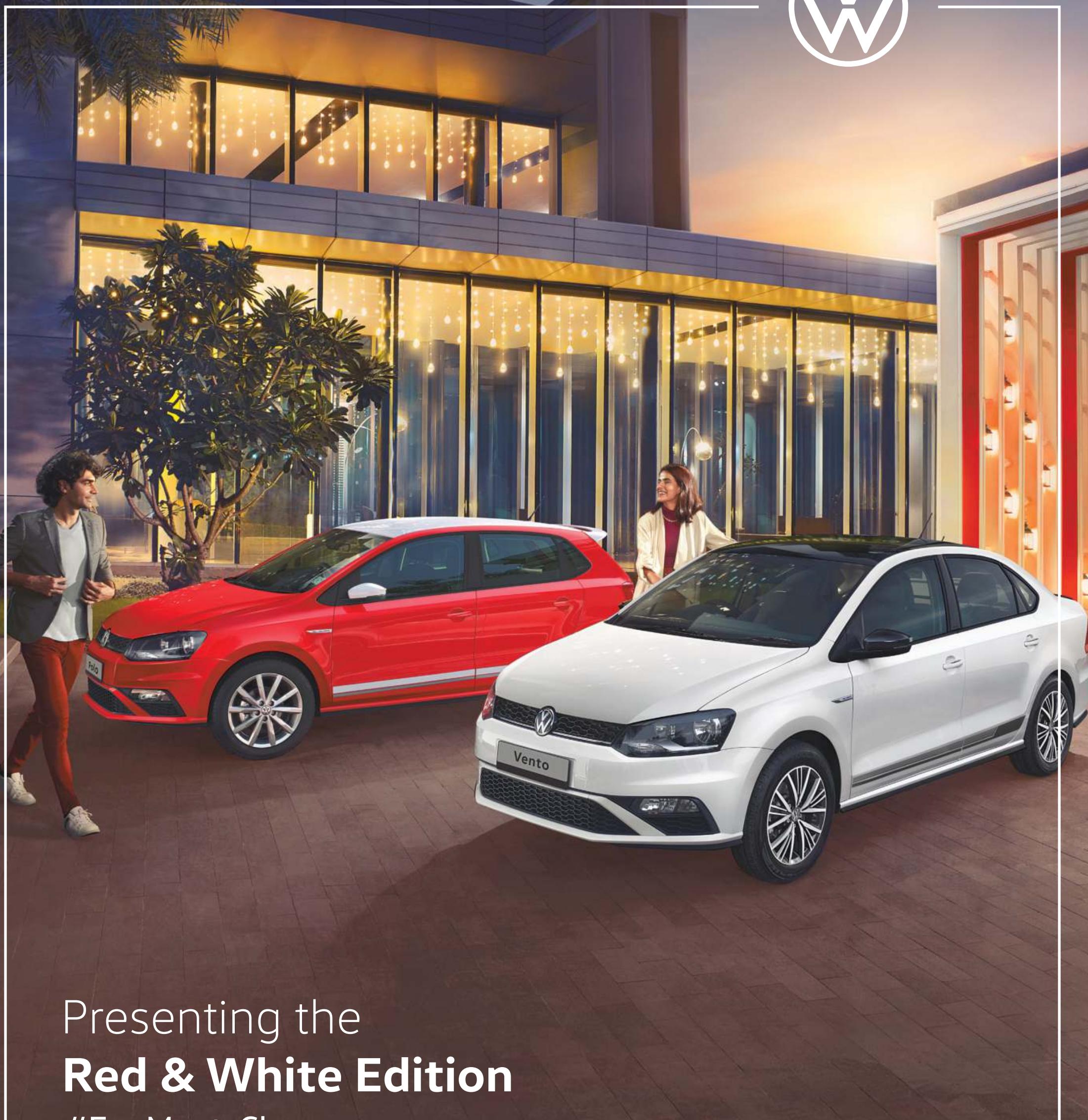
his opinion on the forensic lab report in the rape-murder case got published, he was asked to give a written explanation.

AMU spokesperson Shafeey Kidwai said the V-C was reconsidering the decision, and if the CMO in-charge asked for an extension of their services, it would be taken up. Sources claimed the university's decision to reconsider seemed to be an afterthought because of the medico-legal cases.

Hamza Malik, president, Resident Doctors' Association, demanded that the two doctors should be "reinstated within 24 hours" or else the RDA would take a "big decision".

He further said that after

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Timings
DELHI

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 21	RISE 06:26 SET 17:46
THURSDAY, OCT. 22	RISE 11:16 SET 21:45
FRIDAY, OCT. 23	RISE 06:27 SET 22:43
SATURDAY, OCT. 24	RISE 12:16 SET 23:43
SUNDAY, OCT. 25	RISE 06:27 SET 17:44
MONDAY, OCT. 26	RISE 13:10 SET 23:43

Delhi Weather max min
Delhi City 34 14
Safdarjang 34 14
Palam 33 17

Delhi Palam Today
34°C Pleasant morning with thick smoke haze and warm day likely. Sky would remain mainly sunny.

Delhi Palam Tomorrow
34°C Dry and warm weather with light winds and mainly clear sky.

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THE HINDU

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1,000 Gurugram families left in the dark for 12 hours

Ban on gensets creates havoc; Delhi's AQI to worsen today

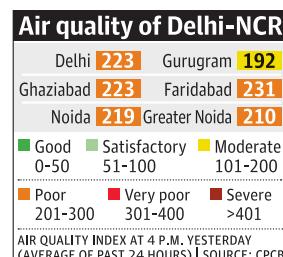
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM/NEW DELHI

Around 1,000 families residing in Ramprasha City, a 450-acre township along Dwarka Expressway in Sector 37D, were forced to go without electricity for nearly 12 hours on Tuesday after the developer turned off the diesel generator.

The Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority has banned the use of diesel generators, with some exceptions, due to a spike in pollution levels.

For the past four years, the residents of the township have depended upon the power supplied by the generator for 10-12 hours daily. As many as 22 residential societies in Millennium City do not have regular power connection and depend on generators.

Ramprasha City's Atrium Condominium Welfare Association president Pradip Rahi said the developer refused to supply power



EPCA on Wednesday with a detailed plan to supply power through the grid in these areas and seek temporary exemption.

The Air Quality Index (AQI) of Delhi was 223 (poor) on Tuesday, and the values for Gurugram and Noida were 192 (moderate) and 219 (poor), respectively, according to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data.

The air quality of Delhi is likely to slightly deteriorate on Wednesday, as per SAFAR. "Delhi AQI is forecast to stay in 'poor' to lower end of 'very poor' category for the next two days," it said.

Over 1,000 fires

The stubble burning fire counts around Haryana, Punjab, and neighbouring regions of Delhi were 1,017 on Monday, as per SAFAR.

The contribution of stubble burning to PM2.5 levels in Delhi was estimated to be around 8% on Tuesday, and is likely to increase.

'Over 1,000 govt. school students cleared JEE, NEET'

CM says students can avail loans and scholarships

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

After a stellar performance in CBSE results, Delhi government school students have set another benchmark with 569 students qualifying in the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) for admission to medical colleges and 443 clearing the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) with 53 of them eligible

for direct admission to IITs, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said on Tuesday.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, these results have emerged as stories of hope, featuring students from humble backgrounds who fought all odds to qualify in these exams with flying colours, he said.

"Of the 569 students who cleared NEET, 67% (379) are girls. I am extremely proud of the fact that girls have performed extremely well," Mr. Kejriwal said at a digital briefing, adding: "At least

443 students cleared JEE Mains and 53 students have qualified for JEE Advanced and have secured a seat for themselves in IITs."

He also told students seeking to pursue higher studies not to be concerned about finance if they had cleared Class 12 and lacked the means to move forward.

"The Delhi government has scholarships to offer and any student, rich or poor, can get a loan of up to ₹10 lakh from the government without submitting any collateral and can exercise their right to education," he said.

Among the successful JEE candidates was Nikhil from RPVV Dwarka Sector 19, whose father runs a cycle repair shop. Tamanna Goyal from RPVV, Rohini Sector II, whose mother is a domestic help, cracked NEET.

"I am apprising you about these students and their background because talent isn't determined by money. If given equal opportunity, children belonging to lower middle-class families have the ability to achieve great heights," Mr. Kejriwal said.

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Gymkhana Club's bar licence nixed

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

The bar licence of Gymkhana Club has been cancelled for allegedly selling liquor during the lockdown in violation of guidelines as well as other infractions, read an official order. On September 17, the Excise Department had inspected the premises and found a bar sub-store, which had no approval from the department.

A hearing was conducted following which a decision was taken to suspend the club's bar licence, said officials. Deputy Excise Commissioner Ranjeet Singh issued the cancellation order on Monday while stating that liquor was issued in April and May to numerous people, including Delhi Police personnel.

Gulfisha's statutory bail plea rejected

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

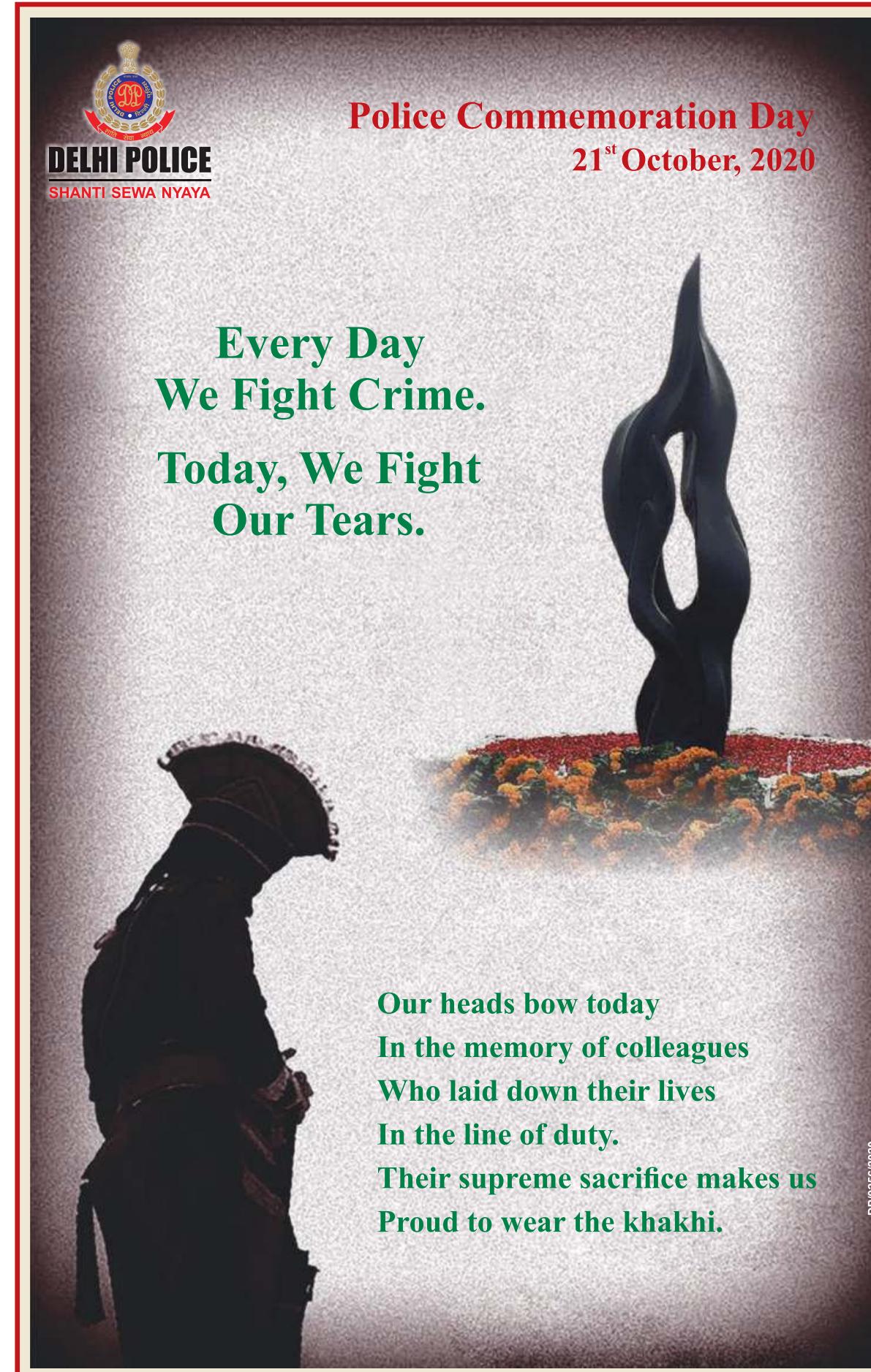
A Delhi court has rejected statutory bail plea of student activist Gulfisha Khatoon, arrested under the anti-terror law UAPA, in a case related to the Delhi riots.

Additional Sessions Judge Amitabh Rawat also rejected similar statutory bail applications made separately by Saleem Khan and Tasleem Ahmed, who also have been charged under the stringent UAPA in connection with the riots.

"There is no merit in the present application," the judge said while dismissing the statutory bail pleas.

Ms. Khatoon, in her plea, stated that she has been in judicial custody for over 183 days. She contended that no chargesheet has been filed by the police and, therefore, she has the right to be released on bail.

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In the memory of colleagues
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Their supreme sacrifice makes us
Proud to wear the khakhi.**



Juvenile held for raping toddler

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

An eight-month-old girl was allegedly raped by a 14-year-old boy in north Delhi's Kotwali, the police said. The teenager has been apprehended.

A senior officer said the matter was reported on October 15 by the victim's mother. She told the police that she, her husband and their daughter sleep on the roof of toilets outside Old Delhi railway station.

The accused and a few other boys also sleep at the same place.

The woman said that on the intervening night of October 14 and 15, she had asked the juvenile to take care of the child for a while as she had some work.

"When she returned, she saw the child crying and the boy was missing. The baby slept with difficulty," the officer said.

Next morning, the mother saw the baby bleeding from her private parts and took her to the hospital where the doctor told her that the girl had been raped. The woman then informed the police. The victim was discharged after treatment.

The accused was produced before the Juvenile Justice Board after which he was sent to an observation home.

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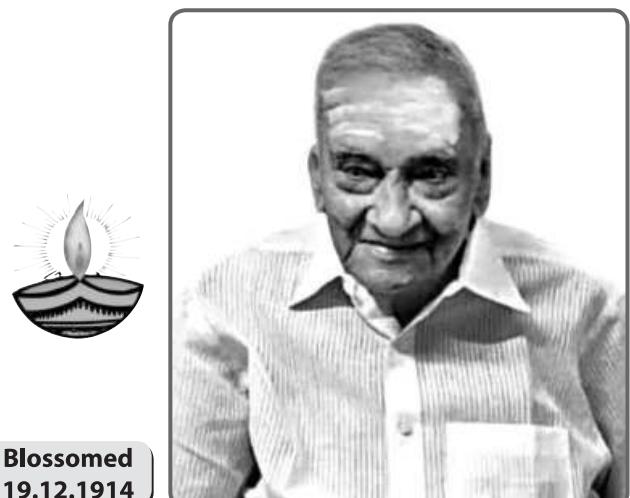
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Daughters: K. Deivanai • AL. Adaikkammai C. Muthu &
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DEATH



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all. He is survived by his wife
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Dr Jayashree Gopal, son-in-law
Dr Paul Ramesh Thangaraj and
grandchildren Siddharth and
Gautham.
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SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Khushi, D/o Sh. Dinesh, R/o: 16/3, Trilokpuri, Delhi,** Age: 17 years, Height: 5'2", Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Built: Medium, wearing Orange colour Suit & Salwar and Chappal in feet, has been missing from her house from the jurisdiction of PS Mayur Vihar, Delhi. In

this regard a FIR No. 449/2020 U/S 363 IPC, dated 04.09.2020 has been registered at P.S. Mayur Vihar, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about her please inform undersigned.

Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in

Fax: 011-24368639
Ph. No. : 011-24368638, 24368641 P.S. Mayur Vihar, Delhi

DP/205/ED/2020 Ph. No.: 011-22711048, 22710335

SHO

Uttarakhand Police Headquarters

12 Subhash Marg Dehradun

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2	Bullet Proof Jacket	DG-3-1(23)-2020	26.10.2020 17:00 Hrs	27.10.2020 11:00 Hrs
3	Bullet Proof Helmet	DG-3-1(24)-2020	26.10.2020 17:00 Hrs	27.10.2020 11:00 Hrs
4	ATV	DG-3-1(21)-2020	26.10.2020 17:00 Hrs	27.10.2020 11:00 Hrs
5	Desktop Computer	DG-3-1(03)-2020	26.10.2020 17:00 Hrs	27.10.2020 11:00 Hrs

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Police HQ, Uttarakhand
Dehradun.

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Bid Identification No. 06 / 20-21 of CEBM, SBB, Laxmiposi

i	Name of Work	Excavation of Paunsa Distributary and its Sub-Minors including Cement Concrete Lining, Service Road and Structure from RD 7212M to RD 8100M
ii	Estimated Cost (Lakh)	Rs. 881.48 Lakh
iii	Period of Completion	18 (Eighteen) Calendar Months
iv	Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	21.10.2020 at 10 AM
v	Last date/time for receipt of bid in the portal	05.11.2020 up to 5 PM
vi	Name & Address of the O.I.T	Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, O/o the CE&BM, Subarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin, Laxmiposi, Mayurbhanj

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal "<https://tendersodisha.gov.in>".

Chief Engineer & Basin Manager
Subarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin,
Laxmiposi
cebmssb2019@gmail.com

OIPR No.32074/11/0007/2021

A-249

A Business Initiative

escorts in air-conditioned buses, monument entry fee and travel insurance for the passengers.

Agriculture Insurance Company of India ties up with IPPB for crop insurance schemes

Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd. (AIC) is a specialised Crop Insurance Company formed by Gol. It is the Market leader in Crop Insurance in India. India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has been established under the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communication with 100% equity owned by Government of India. AIC and IPPB have signed a Corporate Agency Agreement for distribution of AIC's Crop Insurance products through the vast postal network of nearly 1.55 lakh post offices and 3 lakh postal employees in every district, town and village of the country. This strategic tie-up will certainly be a win-win for both AIC and Bank and will ultimately be beneficial mainly to the small and marginal farmers of the country at large. This tie-up will ultimately strengthen and consolidate the PM's vision of "Doubling of Farmers' Income" and "Aatmanirbhar Kisan".

Haryana Vidyut Prasaran Nigam holds Environmental webinar series

On the induction of the Electricity Distribution Corporation, under the Energy Conservation Campaign the inauguration of webinar was held on Friday. Principals of all colleges of Haryana became part of webinar. On this occasion, Vice Chancellor of Kurukshetra University, Dr. Neeta Khanna presided over the webinar. The primary focus of webinar series and energy conservation program will be on environment, technical education, ITI, agriculture sciences , power or energy conservation and other aspects related to environment and society. The conduction of the program and thanksgiving memorandum was done by Shri Rajiv Ranjan CPR / Vigilance.

Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, inaugurated 09 days "Navratri Festival" at Katra. While speaking on the occasion, the Hon'ble Minister appealed the stakeholders of Tourism Sector to come forward and work in synergy for the revival of the Tourism Industry. This will help to boost the economy of the Union Territory of J&K which is stagnated due to COVID-19 pandemic. The Festival is being promoted in a big way by the Tourism Department in collaboration with Jaisalmer and Jodhpur, guided excursions with friendly English-speaking tour

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PUBLIC NOTICE
Public at large are hereby informed that Mr. Harpreet Singh Bhan claims to be the absolute owner and in possession of Proprietary area situated in Sector 165, Block 1, Sector 36, Noida Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. (for short 'property under sale') by rights, title, and interests on the basis of Transfer Deed of Lease Hold Rights dated 13.11.1997, executed by Kelawati as attorney of Dinakaran (and thus attorney of Kewal Kumar Malik, his son). He further claims that property under sale is free from all sorts of encumbrances, claims and litigations of whatsoever nature.

Mr. Harpreet Singh Bhan claims to have lost the aforesaid original Transfer Deed of Lease Hold Rights dated 13.11.1997, alongwith entire chain title documents relating to the property under sale/lease but not limited to. All other letters/replies etc. issued by NOIDA and all intermediary documents executed/issued between the Lease Deed and said Transfer Deed of Lease Hold Rights dated 13.11.1997. Now, Mr. Harpreet Singh Bhan is proposing to sell the property under sale to Mr. Pawan Kumar Gupta and/or his nominees.

If any person(s) has any claim or any kind of claim or whatever nature on the property under sale or any kind of objections about the proposed sale transaction, whether they may lodge such claims or objections with supporting documents, to the undersigned, within 8 days from the date of publication of this notice, otherwise it would be presumed in your favor that there are no subisting claims of any nature whatsoever on the property under sale or no objections to the proposed sale transaction at all.

Mohd. Raees (Advocate)
D/458/2015
R&P Legal Consultants
I-1693, Citterian Park, New Delhi-110019
Mobile: 098154708907
Ph. 011-46063838, 4101803 Extn.106

Advocates & Legal Consultants

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board and District Administration, Reasi with active support of local community, Tour, Travel and Trade Associations, Katra; NGO's etc. This event will give fillip to the promotion of pilgrimage tourism of Katra in particular and Jammu Province in general. In view of the COVID-19 pandemic, it has been decided by the Navratri Festival Committee to celebrate the Festival this year in a simple yet spiritually fulfilling manner by following all COVID-19 protocols.

IRCTC's "Padharo Rajasthan" Deluxe Train tour to start from November

Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited has swung back into action with several tours in the coming months. The first in this series is the 4 nights/5 Days Padharo Rajasthan Tour which will start from Delhi on 18th November 2020 and cover Jodhpur and Jaisalmer. The Deluxe Tourist Train which was launched by IRCTC in 2018 has a host of enviable features including two fine dining restaurants, a modern kitchen, shower cubicles in coaches, sensor based washroom functions, foot massager. The fully air-conditioned train provides two types of accommodation viz. First AC and 2nd AC. The train has enhanced security features in the form of CCTV cameras. For enhanced security, IRCTC has also deployed private Security Guards on the train. In line with the Government of India initiative "Dekho Apna Desh" to promote domestic tourism, IRCTC has planned the tour packages at a very competitive package cost starting from Rs. 23,350/- per person for domestic tourists providing safe and healthy travel during the tour. Government/PSU employees can avail LTC facility on this tour as per eligibility based on the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Finance, Govt of India. The package cost is inclusive of train journey in respective classes booked, all onboard & off board meals, hotel stay/Fresh up arrangements at Jaisalmer and Jodhpur, guided excursions with friendly English-speaking tour guides.

Jammu Tourism board celebrates Navratri festival

Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, inaugurated 09 days "Navratri Festival" at Katra. While speaking on the occasion, the Hon'ble Minister appealed the stakeholders of Tourism Sector to come forward and work in synergy for the revival of the Tourism Industry. This will help to boost the economy of the Union Territory of J&K which is stagnated due to COVID-19 pandemic. The Festival is being promoted in a big way by the Tourism Department in collaboration with Jaisalmer and Jodhpur, guided excursions with friendly English-speaking tour guides.

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e-mail id: ponlaitmd@gmail.com

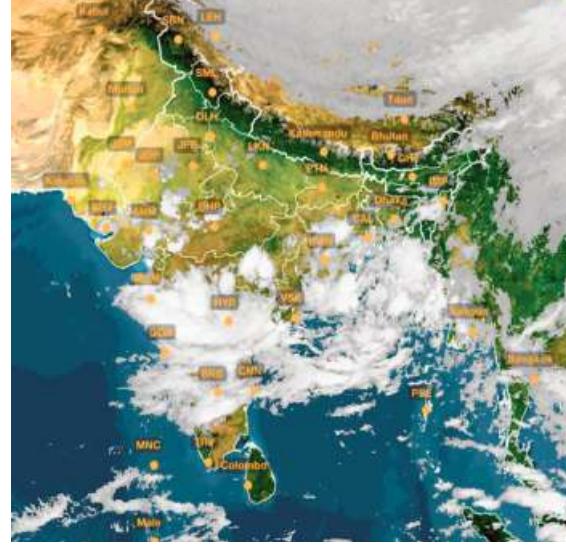
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WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



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

Forecast for Wednesday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Odisha, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, central Maharashtra, Konkan & Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh and Kerala

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	
Agartala	—	35.0	—	26.7	Kozhikode	—	12.8...31.4...	24.2
Ahmedabad	—	36.4	—	26.5	Kurnool	—	0.2...29.5...	25.3
Aizawl	—	28.9	—	17.9	Lucknow	—	34.0...21.2	21.2
Allahabad	—	34.9	—	23.0	Madurai	—	8.5...34.6...	24.4
Bengaluru	—	3.7	—	26.2	Mangaluru	—	31.0...24.4	24.4
Bhopal	—	17.2	—	31.9	Mumbai	—	32.6...26.0	26.0
Bhubaneswar	—	2.2	—	30.0	Mysuru	—	29.0...21.2	21.2
Chandigarh	—	—	—	24.7	New Delhi	—	33.8...13.7	13.7
Chennai	—	26.6	—	28.4	Patna	—	34.7...23.2	23.2
Coimbatore	—	1	—	31.4	Port Blair	—	9...29.1...	24.7
Dehradoon	—	—	—	32.2	Puducherry	—	29.6...24.2	24.2
Gangtok	—	22.2	—	15.7	Pune	—	31.6...21.3	21.3
Goa	—	0.8	—	30.6	Raipur	—	34.6...24.9	24.9
Guwahati	—	34.3	—	23.6	Ranchi	—	32.6...19.1	19.1
Hubbali	—	27.0	—	21.0	Shillong	—	0.3...22.8...	16.1
Hyderabad	—	21.3	—	30.0	Shimla	—	24.0...14.2	14.2
Imphal	—	0.1	—	26.7	Srinagar	—	24.4...2.7	2.7
Jaipur	—	—	—	20.0	Thiruvananthapuram	—	30.3...24.6	24.6
Kochi	—	58.6	—	29.0	Tiruchi	—	13.4...32.4...	25.0
Kohima	—	19.8	—	25.0	Vijayawada	—	9.4...30.2...	25.4
Kolkata	—	—	—	17.0	Visakhapatnam	—	6.3...33.0...	25.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO ₂	NO _x	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	43	.63	.42	.139	.129	—
Bengaluru	8.41	.40	.77	.122	—	■
Chennai	14	.14	.57	.67	—	■
Delhi	22	.95	.71	.289	.290	■ ■
Hyderabad	29	.39	.32	.94	.92	■ ■
Kolkata	.8	.25	—	.212	.174	■
Lucknow	.4	.73	.58	.326	.150	■
Mumbai	—	.21	.147	.69	.112	■ ■
Pune	—	.56	—	—	—	—
Visakhapatnam	12	.18	.14	.18	—	■ ■

Air Quality Code: ■ Poor ■ Moderate ■ Good (Readings indicate average AQI)
SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

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

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

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

BSP will emerge as kingmaker in M.P. bypolls: State party chief

Atrocities against Dalits, custodial deaths among key campaign issues'

SIDHARTH YADAV

BHOPAL

Madhya Pradesh Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) president Ramakant Pippal has exuded confidence that the party would pose a tough fight to the BJP and the Congress in the forthcoming by-election and emerge as kingmaker.

"Voters have lost faith in both the parties," Mr. Pippal told *The Hindu*. "While they voted out the BJP in 2018 as it didn't keep its promises over the years, the Congress betrayed their mandate as they couldn't keep their flock together and defections brought down the government."

In 2018, the BSP secured two seats in the Vidhan Sabha and supported the Congress to form the government along with four independent MLAs and the lone Samajwadi Party legislator. When asked which way the party will swing this time, Mr. Pippal claimed, "We will hold the key to the government. Behenji (BSP president Mayawati) will take a call later." While the BJP requires nine seats to retain government, the Congress needs to bag all the seats to return to power single-handedly.

To canvass for candidates on the 28 seats, nine reserved for Scheduled Castes (SC) and two for Scheduled Tribe candidates, the BSP will raise the issues of continuing atrocities against Dalits, including the Hathras case, custodial deaths in the State, plight of migrant workers in the Gwalior-Chambal region during the lockdown and inability of the Congress to implement 27% Other Backward Classes reservation in government jobs and educa-



BSP workers at a campaign meet in Morena. ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

tional institutions, which has been challenged in court.

The Congress also hadn't kept its promise of dropping cases against Dalit youth for reportedly taking part in the April 2018 protests against the Supreme Court order on the atrocities Act, Mr. Pippal claimed.

This time, two former Congress leaders are contesting on a BSP ticket in the Gwalior-Chambal region. Congress sources said former State Congress Scheduled Castes wing president Mahendra Bodh was likely to be a strong contender against Congressman Phool Singh Baraiya, a former BSP leader, on the Bhander seat.

The BSP enjoyed support in the Chambal and Vindhya Pradesh, especially among Jatavs, said Yatinrao Singh Sisodia, director, Madhya Pradesh Institute of Social Science Research, Ujjain. "The party has a committed vote of 2.5-12% which favours it irrespective of the candidate," he said.

The conservative idea that the BSP's strong performance caused the Congress damage wasn't ap-

plicable to Madhya Pradesh anymore, he said. "Dalits don't just vote for the BSP or the Congress. The BJP, through social engineering, has been able to secure a sizeable non-Jatav vote over the years." According to the CSDS-Madhya Pradesh Post-Poll Survey 2018, the BJP enjoyed the support of 25% SC voters, the Congress 48% and the BSP 19%.

Still, the BSP vote share has declined over the years in Madhya Pradesh, from 7.26% in 2003 to 5.07% in 2018. In the previous election, the party registered its strongest presence in Chambal, securing 13.08% of the vote on 35 seats. Most voters in the 26-35 years age group, at 28%, across the State supported the BSP in the 2018 election, according to the survey.

'Dalits with Congress'

Dismissing the BSP role in the by-election, Congress media in-charge for the Gwalior-Chambal region K.K. Mishra said Dalits would favour the Congress for the pro-poor policies of the erstwhile Kamal Nath government. "We have kept the election promise of waiving crop loans of farmers, including those from the SCs," he said.

Meanwhile, BJP spokesman Panjaj Chaturvedi said Rajya Sabha M.P. Jyotiraditya Scindia and his supporters enjoyed considerable support among the Dalits. "If at all, BSP's strong presence will damage the Congress," he claimed.

The by-elections were necessitated after 25 Congress MLAs, 19 pledging support to Mr. Scindia, joined the BJP, while three seats fell vacant after deaths of sitting MLAs.

HC allows Puri temple to celebrate Durga puja

CORRESPONDENT

CUTTACK

Recognising the importance of the rituals of the Shree Jagannath Temple in Odisha, the Orissa High Court on Tuesday allowed the Satasahi Puja Committee of Puri to go ahead with the Durga puja even as the idol size of the deity is taller than the stipulated size fixed by the State government in September this year had restricted among others, the idol sizes of the deities to only four feet as part of its COVID-19 guidelines.

"As a one-time measure, if the idol of the committee has already been constructed beyond four feet and having connection with the rituals of Shree Jagannath Temple, which has got special status in Od-

isha, this Court does not want to disturb the same and allows the petitioner (Satasahi Puja Committee) to go ahead with puja," said an order delivered on Tuesday by a Division Bench headed by Chief Justice Mohammad Rafiq.

The High Court also directed the Puri district administration to make separate arrangements for immersion.

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For other terms and conditions, candidates are requested to refer the Detailed Advertisements of CRP CLERKS-X dated 01.09.2020, CRP PO/MT-X dated 04.08.2020 and CRP RRBS-IX dated 01.07.2020.

Before registering online, candidates are advised to read the detailed notifications and follow the instructions mentioned therein.

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Mumbai

Date: 21.10.2020

Director



Heckler's veto

Films can be subjected to criticism after their release, but not stymied before they are made

Opposition from sections of Tamils has led to versatile Tamil film star Vijay Sethupathi withdrawing from a planned biopic on the Sri Lankan bowling legend, Muttiah Muralitharan. Opponents mainly from the Tamil film industry and political parties in Tamil Nadu claim that Muralitharan had "white-washed genocide" by not raising his voice against the Sri Lankan state, and warned the actor against playing his character, contending that he would only jeopardise his career and alienate his fan following. It is a shame that these protests have prevented a talented actor from essaying a role based on the story of Muralitharan, who scaled Himalayan peaks in international cricket through talent and determination. Noting the unfair and unrelenting attacks on Sethupathi to the point of accusing him of being a traitor, Muralitharan appealed to the actor to keep out of the biopic. The ultimate decision may have been Muralitharan's own, but it is quite clear that Sethupathi dropped the idea only after the onslaught. The film's motion poster released recently had evoked great expectation among cinema aficionados, especially because of the actor's highly convincing resemblance to the cricketer. Appropriately named '800', in celebration of the number of Test wickets the bewitching off-spinner bagged, the biopic appears to aim at showcasing his rise in the backdrop of the violent ethnic conflict that shook Sri Lanka for three decades.

Exponents of art being cowed down by protests is not new to Tamil Nadu. The real problem in the latest example of popular intolerance prevailing over artistic ventures is that an old chestnut in Tamil Nadu politics – the idea that every Tamil should pass a 'Tamil nationalist' test – has been resurrected to stymie this project too. *Madras Cafe*, a Hindi film, could not be screened in the State after opposition to its portrayal of the LTTE. In 2008, a Sri Lankan producer was forced to give up his footage while he was in Chennai to process his film at a studio. Some of those who demanded that Sethupathi withdraw from the biopic have emphasised that they were merely making an appeal to him, given his past political views in favour of causes that resonate with the people of Tamil Nadu. Whether it was an appeal or a threat, it is a no-brainer that pressure was brought to bear on an artist to give up his professional decision. As for Muralitharan's political views, it may be that some of his remarks were seen as supporting the Sri Lankan Army's triumph over the LTTE and questioning the truth behind the grief of the mothers of the disappeared thousands. However, that is no reason to run down his monumental achievements in his chosen sport. And nothing prevents any detractor from questioning the film's motive or content after its release. It is unfortunate that the heckler's veto has prevailed.

The triumph of hope

Inclusive politics and decisive governance won another term for Ardern in New Zealand

Jacinda Ardern was expected to win Saturday's parliamentary election in New Zealand given that almost all opinion polls had predicted this for the 40-year-old global liberal icon, noted for her inclusive politics and tough handling of the coronavirus pandemic. But it was the margin of the victory that surprised many. Her centre-left Labour Party won 49.1% of the popular vote and is projected to take 64 seats in the 120-member Parliament. This is Labour's greatest victory in almost 50 years and the biggest victory of any party since the nation adopted a proportional representation voting system, which gives assembly seats to any party winning more than 5% vote, in 1996. The Opposition centre-right National Party won 26.8% of the vote and is projected to take 35 seats, down from the 56 seats it won in the previous election. Ms. Ardern, who came to power in 2017 by forming a coalition with the Greens and the nationalist New Zealand First party, faced unprecedented challenges in her first term, from the Christchurch terrorist attack and the White Island volcanic eruption to the COVID-19 outbreak. She herself had turned the polls into a de facto referendum on her government's handling of the pandemic by calling it the 'COVID election'. New Zealand, home to over five million, recorded just 25 pandemic deaths – one of the lowest fatality rates in the world. It has eliminated community transmission by imposing strict lockdowns and brought back relative normalcy before the election.

What makes Ms. Ardern's victory significant is that her brand of politics – socially liberal, economically inclusive and politically democratic – has bucked the trend of conservatives and the anti-immigrant, anti-minority far-right parties making gains in crisis-ridden societies. Offering a new way of governance, she presented herself as an empathetic co-citizen who happens to be running the government. This approach was successfully tested when a far-right terrorist opened fire at two mosques in Christchurch in March 2019, killing 51. She immediately reached out to the country's Muslim minority and backed a Bill that banned most assault style weapons. She has also promised to alleviate child poverty and fight climate change more vigorously. Inclusive politics and a humane approach, coupled with quick decisive actions to tackle crises, transformed her into the most popular New Zealand leader. But the emphatic victory also means great expectations. The lockdowns have had a heavy economic cost – a contraction by 12.2% in April-June. One of the criticisms she faced during the campaign was that she did not have a recovery plan. The COVID-19 threat is still looming large. She will have to prove her critics wrong and live up to the expectations of those who supported her while ruling for, what she said, "all New Zealanders".

Offset dilution in defence, a flawed policy turn

As an episode in India's aerospace industry shows, it can succeed if it is designed and executed correctly



SUNIL MANI & R. NAGARAJ

Recently, the government diluted the "offset" policy in defence procurement, reportedly in response to a Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India's report tabled in Parliament last month. Many contend that the move is a setback for augmenting domestic capabilities or for realising the goal of Atmanirbhar Bharat. But why is it a setback for the goals under Atmanirbhar Bharat? The experience with the procedure in the aerospace industry since 2005 seems to offer useful lessons in redesigning defence offsets.

What is an offset policy? And how is it expected to boost domestic capabilities? What lessons can we draw from a similar system in the aerospace industry? These questions are addressed below.

Offset ties up the ends

Most countries restrict trade in defence equipment and advanced technologies in order to safeguard national interest. Yet, for commercial gains and for global technological recognition, governments and firms do like to expand the trade. Negotiated bilateral sales between countries are a way out of the dilemma. Soft credit often sweetens the deals, with restrictions imposed on use, modification and resale of such equipment and technologies, to protect the proprietary knowledge and exper-

tise embedded in them.

In such trade negotiations, the price of the product is one of the many other factors. Geopolitics and the technical knowhow involved in the equipment weigh-in considerably since the contracts are for the long term, with technological fixities. The product and technology compel buyers to stick to them for: the advantages of bulk purchase, and dependence on the supplier for spares and upgrades. In other words, there is considerable "path dependency" in such choices, rendering the decisions difficult to reverse.

Developing country buyers often lack an industrial base and research and development (R&D) facilities (which take a long time to mature). The price and the terms of the contract often reflect the government's relative bargaining strength and also domestic political and economic considerations.

Large buyers such as India seek to exercise their "buying power" to secure not just the lowest price. They also try to acquire the technology to upgrade domestic production and build R&D capabilities. The offset clause – used globally – is the instrument for securing these goals.

A number of changes

Initiated in 2005, the offset clause has a requirement of sourcing 30% of the value of the contract domestically; indigenisation of production in a strict time frame, and training Indian professionals in high-tech skills, for promoting domestic R&D. However, the policy has been tweaked many times since.

As of November 2019, as in a reply to a parliamentary question,



the Defence Ministry had signed 52 offset contracts worth \$12 billion via Indian offset partners, or domestic firms. The duration of these contracts extends up to 2022.

According to the recent CAG report mentioned above, between 2007 and 2018, the government reportedly signed 46 offset contracts worth ₹66,427 crore of investments. However, the realised investments were merely 8%, or worth ₹5,457 crore. Reportedly, technology transfer agreements in the offsets were not implemented, failing to accomplish the stated policy objective. We are unable to verify the claim as the government has not put in place an automatic monitoring system for offset contracts, as initially promised.

On September 28, the government has diluted this policy further. Henceforth, the offset clause will not be applicable to bilateral deals and deals with a single (monopoly) seller, to begin with.

Setback for defence

Most defence deals are bilateral (as stated above), or a single supplier deal (given the monopoly over the technology). The dilution means practically giving up the offset clause, sounding the death knell of India's prospects for boosting defence production and technologi-

cal self-reliance. The government, however, has defended the decision by claiming a cost advantage. It is a lamentable excuse for the reported policy failure. Price is but one of many factors in such deals, as explained above. The higher (upfront) cost of the agreement due to the offset clause would pay for itself by: reducing costs in the long term by indigenisation of production and the potential technology spill-overs for domestic industry. Hence, giving up the offset clause is undoubtedly a severe setback.

Shortlived in aerospace

The offset policy can, however, succeed, if it is designed and executed correctly, as a parallel episode in aerospace industry demonstrates. Despite the heft of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, India is a lightweight in global civilian aircraft manufacturing, as the public sector giant mostly devotes itself to defence production. The much-touted National Civil Aircraft Development (NCAD) project – to come up with an indigenously designed Regional Transport Aircraft (RTA) – has remained a non-starter from day one.

However, with the introduction of the offset policy in 2005, things changed dramatically. For contracts valued at ₹300 crore or more, 30% of it will result in offsets, implemented through Indian offset partners. As aerospace imports rose rapidly, so did the exports via the offsets, by a whopping 544% in 2007, compared to the previous year. By 2014, exports increased to ₹6.7 billion from a paltry ₹62.5 million in 2005, according to the United Nations Comtrade Database. The offset

clause enabled India to join the league of the world's top 10 aerospace exporters; the only country without a major domestic aerospace firm. The success was short-lived, however. Exports plummeted after the offset clause was relaxed, primarily when the threshold for the policy was raised from the hitherto ₹300 crore to ₹2000 crore, in 2016. The offset exports fell to ₹1.5 billion by 2019. The 2005 policy helped promote a vibrant aerospace cluster, mostly micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) around Bengaluru. The policy dilution undid success. The moral of the story is there for everyone to see.

Aiding self-reliance

Reportedly because of the CAG's critical remarks in its latest report tabled in the Parliament, the government has virtually scrapped the defence offset policy. Thus, India has voluntarily given up a powerful instrument of bargaining to acquire scarce advanced technology – a system that large and politically ambitious nations seek to exercise. There are successful examples to draw lessons from, as the aerospace industry episode demonstrates. India needs to re-conceive or re-imagine the offset clause in defence contracts with stricter enforcement of the deals, in national interest, and in order to aim for 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan', or a self-reliant India.

Sunil Mani is Director, Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram. R. Nagaraj is Professor (retired), Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research, Mumbai. The views expressed are personal

The many bright spots on India's innovation horizon

Recognising the potential, the government is putting in place a framework of collaboration, facilitation and regulation



AMITABH KANT &
SATWIK MISHRA

Innovation rearranges existing elements into permutations and combinations that benefit society. In his *Brahmaputrasiddhanta*, Brahmagupta's marvellous take on his innovation of zero was, "A debt minus zero is a debt. A fortune minus zero is a fortune. A debt subtracted from zero is a fortune. A fortune subtracted from zero is a debt. The product of zero multiplied by a debt or fortune is zero." The Indian innovation of zero fundamentally reordered history. The novel coronavirus pandemic provides an opportunity for similar reordering for posterity.

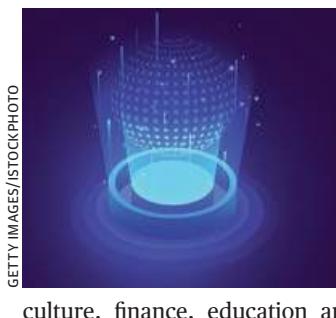
Realistic potential

India is a fertile ground to be a technology-led innovation garage. It is the fastest growing country in terms of Internet usage, with over 700 million users and the number projected to rise to 974 million by 2025. The JAM trinity (Jan Dhan, Aadhaar, Mobile) trinity has 404 million Jan Dhan bank accounts with 1.2 billion Aadhaar and 1.2 billion mobile subscribers. There is a potential to add over ₹957 billion to India's GDP by 2035 with artificial intelligence (AI), according to a recent report by Accenture.

Innovation in India is being structured around the triad of collaboration, facilitation and responsible regulation. It is advanced by cross-disciplinary collaboration. In his famous essay, 'I Pencil', Leonard Read brings forward the wonder of collaboration between people cutting trees, mining graphite, working in factories, marketing, designing and managing,

just to produce a single pencil. Innovation is a recombinant and brings tangential benefits through products and services that may not even have been its initial purpose. The founders of Twitter had set out to make a platform for people to find podcasts; Instagram was first intended to be a sign-in application; CRISPR, or the clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats, which is the transformative gene editing tool, was partly being researched for fixing problems in the yoghurt industry. It won this year's Nobel Prize in Chemistry. The realistic potential of technology for India resonates in the 'Amaralaw' named after Roy Amara, a Stanford computer scientist, who said that "People tend to overestimate the impact of a new technology in the short run, but to underestimate it in the long run."

October 2020 saw two disruptive events that were organised by the Government of India for collaborative knowledge creation. At the Vaishvik Bharatiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV) summit (<https://bit.ly/35aC308>), which was inaugurated on October 2, more than 3,000 overseas Indian-origin academics and scientists from 55 countries, and about 10,000 Indians participated to ideate on innovative solutions to our challenges. The Prime Minister articulated this spirit of knowledge sharing while inaugurating the summit; he called it "a true sangam or confluence of great minds" where "we sit to form our long-lasting association for empowering India and our planet". The concluding session has been planned on October 31. This has been concomitant to the Responsible AI for Social Empowerment (RAISE) 2020 summit (<https://bit.ly/2INODx4>), which was from October 5-9. It was to charter a course to effectively use AI for social empowerment, inclusion, and transformation in key sectors such as health care, agri-



culture, finance, education and smart mobility.

Start-up disruptions

This focus on celebrating innovation has led to several start-ups disrupting the Indian market. The recent winners of the 'Digital India AatmaNirbhar Bharat Innovate Challenge' (<https://bit.ly/3jEr2QV>) Chingari with its video communication tools and MapMyIndia with its elaborative maps, 'Logically', with its news delivery features are becoming household names. Furthermore, Setu, true to its name, is building a bridge to bring banks to people. It has built an application programming interface which allows customers to make small ticket payments without going to the bank. Yelo is offering neo-banking payment and money transfer services online for workers in the gig economy. Niramai (or Non-Invasive Risk Assessment with Machine Intelligence) uses an AI-based thermal imaging portable tool that carries out non-invasive breast cancer screening for women for early detection. This intervention is of great importance as an estimate suggests that one in two affected women in India die due to late detection. Qure.ai uses AI for health-care diagnostics in rural India, tackling challenges such as tuberculosis and now COVID-19. Gramophone offers pricing information from mandis, advice on soil and crop health and access to agricultural inputs via micro-entrepreneurs to farmers in Madhya Pradesh, aiding their operation efficiency. Vernacular.ai

offers a voice-based AI product that can understand up to 10 Indian languages and around 160 dialects. It is helping build virtual, smart, responsive and effective chat assistants suitable for diverse Indian consumers.

Many incentives

Innovation needs risk capital in terms of resources and psychological security for researchers. It needs an environment where it is safe to fail. The government has been building a comprehensive framework to this end. It is incentivising research and development with several schemes such as Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) scholarships, the Ramanujan Fellowship, the Knowledge Involvement in Research Advancement through Nurturing (KIRAN) scheme, Smart India Hackathons (SIH), Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), the Biotechnology Ignition Grant (BIG) scheme, setting up of the Future Skills PRIME (Programme for Reskilling/Upskilling of IT Manpower for Employability) capacity building platform and also the triad of Scheme for Transformational and Advanced Research in Sciences (STARS), Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC) and Impactful Policy Research in Social Science (IMPRESS). The National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems aims to 'catalyse translational research across AI, IoT or the Internet of Things, Machine Learning, Deep Learning, Big Data Analytics, Robotics, Quantum Computing, Data Science'.

Furthermore, the government has been actively facilitating collaborative and light touch regulatory practices to promote innovation and incentivise risk-taking. It has increasingly relied on collaboration, communication and creativity, taking the route of standard and principles adherence. The Re-

serve Bank of India, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India allow for regulatory sandboxes for piloting new ideas. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has recently introduced recommendations for regulating cloud services in India, suggesting a light-touch regulation in collaboration with industry, balancing commercial freedom and principles adherence.

A better life
Walter Isaacson once cited this: "Advances in science when put to practical use mean more jobs, higher wages, shorter hours, more abundant crops, more leisure for recreation, for study, for learning how to live without deadening drudgery which has been the burden of the common man for past ages." Innovation has the potential to build a future where AI will transform education and health care, machine learning and block-chain will make commerce robust and resilient, clean energy will drive our economy, gene-drives would exterminate invasive and harmful species, gene-editing would help us bring back extinct species and reinvigorate depleted ecosystems, quantum computing will raise our processing capability to resolve challenges which seem insurmountable and augmented, and virtual reality will optimistically change the way we interact with the physical world.

Steam engines made us understand thermodynamics, flights made us understand aerodynamics. There is 'in-deed' merit in relentless focus on innovation as it essentially augments ease of living for citizens, dematerialising and democratising products and services.

Amitabh Kant is CEO and Satwik Mishra is a Young Professional, respectively, at NITI Aayog. The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

Have an inquiry

It is painful to read about allegations having been levelled against the seniormost puisne judge of the Supreme Court of India and who is next in line to the high office of the Chief Justice of India (CJI). One cannot allow these allegations and counter-allegations to simply be debated in public without seeking solutions. The only way is for the CJI to appoint a retired judge with outstanding credentials to conduct an inquiry into the allegations. It is needless to

say that if there is no truth in the allegations, then action should follow against the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister. India is going through challenging times and the independence of the judiciary which is essential to ensuring the stability of democracy in the country is at stake. The Supreme Court has to act immediately to restore public confidence in the judiciary. N.G.R. PRASAD, D. NAGASAILA, Chennai

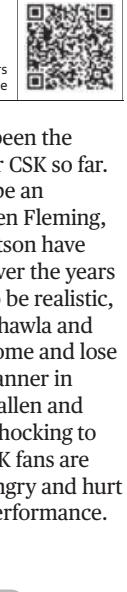
■ The Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister's letter to the CJI, and now in the public domain, is an odd move. Does it behove a Chief Minister's stature to be casting aspersions on the integrity of judges in such a manner? Will this not only erode faith in the judiciary but also undermine its authority? That the issue is sought to be sensationalised is all the more disconcerting. P.K. VARADARAJAN, Chennai

out of a sincere belief that judges will be above board, uphold the sacredness of jurisprudence and deliver impartial and unquestionable judgments. In the case of the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister's letter, one expects the Chief Justice of India to constitute a committee of retired judges with impeccable records to find out the truth within a short timeframe. The judge in question should submit himself before this committee for scrutiny. THARCIUS S. FERNANDO, Chennai

■ If there is an 'immunity' for judges within the system, it is CSK sliding. It is evident that CSK is a pale shadow of 'The team' that won in the past. While the bowling attack was quite good, the batsmen never scored enough runs. The decline of M.S. Dhoni as a batsman has hurt the team's performance, and most of his gambles have failed. It would be unfortunate if he is literally shoved off the stage after performing so well in the past. Such is the fickleness of Indian spectators. ANTHONY HENRIQUES, Mumbai

To read more letters online, scan the QR code

■ IPL 2020 has been the worst edition for CSK so far. There needs to be an overhaul. Stephen Fleming, MSD, Bravo, Watson have been fantastic over the years but they need to be realistic. So too Jadhav, Chawla and Vijay. You win some and lose some but the manner in which CSK has fallen and surrendered is shocking to say the least. CSK fans are disappointed, angry and hurt by the insipid performance. S. RAM, Chennai



Towards fewer deaths in Tamil Nadu

The government should consider adopting a range of measures to reduce the number of COVID-19 fatalities



R. POORNALINGAM

The COVID-19 pandemic is continuing to rage across the world. Europe is trying to tackle the second wave of cases and deaths. Its worried leaders are implementing frantic measures to prevent the spread of the disease and reduce the mortality rate.

India's COVID-19 spread

India is caught in the first wave. It is slowly inching towards beating the U.S. in terms of cases and assuming the no. 1 position in the world, despite the amateurish way in which the U.S. is handling the pandemic. Why has India been unable to achieve what China or other East Asian countries have been able to achieve? One view is that India is not an authoritarian state like China. But India did impose a stringent lockdown in March when the country had just over 600 recorded cases. But now, to save the economy, it has been forced to open up despite having over 75 lakh cases.

Many experts say the lockdown was premature, and the way it was implemented led to the spread of COVID-19 from major urban centres like Mumbai and Chennai to rural pockets in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, etc. Another view is that it did not prevent the spread much but only delayed the peak. Also, with movement restrictions imposed between States and districts, the virus was seen spreading at different rates in different districts and peaking at different times. As a result, India saw an increase in the number of cases and reached the peak in September. Hopefully, the decline in cases will continue. Unlike in Spain, Italy, France, etc., India did not reach the peak rapidly perhaps because districts were compartmentalised. We must now be prepared for the second wave if a vaccine or a proven cure is not found in the near future.

Fortunately, India's mortality rate is not as alarming as in the Western countries; with 1,08,000 COVID-19 deaths till October 10, India's deaths per million is 78, against the world average of 138. The country's younger age profile is cited as one reason. Natural immunity to the virus thanks



The COVID-19 footprint across States AS ON 11-10-2020

State name	Cases in Lakhs	Cases per mn	Deaths	Deaths per lakh
Tamil Nadu	6.51	903	10,187	14
Kerala	2.8	838	978	3
Karnataka	7.0	1,147	9,891	16
Andhra Pradesh	7.5	1,520	6,194	13
Maharashtra	15.17	1,350	40,040	45
India	70.05	5,098	1,08,000	7.8

to large-scale use of malaria drugs and the BCG vaccine might be another. Fortunately, India has suffered low mortality despite poor tertiary healthcare facilities in most States. Whatever may be the reasons, we hope that this holds up till the end. The main issue for policymakers is what can be done at this stage to keep cases and deaths under check.

The Tamil Nadu picture

Let me attempt to answer this question with reference to Tamil Nadu, a State with which I am familiar. The number of deaths due to COVID-19 in Tamil Nadu crossed 10,000 recently. Although the accuracy of this number is questionable, as it is with other States, this is the official figure, and we have to accept it for want of any independent survey. The question is whether the State has done better than others and whether anything more can be done to reduce mortality.

In view of data inaccuracies, a useful measure of mortality is deaths per million/lakh of the population. The data for a few States are furnished in the table above. Surprisingly, Tamil Nadu has not done that well despite excellent tertiary healthcare infrastructure. Tamil Nadu has seen 14 deaths per lakh of the population against the national average of 7.8. This is far higher than Kerala's figure of 3 deaths per lakh of the population. The State must attempt to reduce it to about 6 per lakh or 7 per lakh, below the national average.

It is time to spell out what can be done to contain mortality, given the

possibility of a second wave hitting us with no credible vaccine in place in time. Here are some suggestions. The State government along with many task forces and the best medical brains is already implementing some or many of these ideas.

Suggestions to contain mortality
We have handled the pandemic mostly as a law and order problem, whereas it is primarily a public health issue. Therefore, public health professionals must lead the fight against the virus.

The primary responsibility to prevent the spread lies with the public, most of whom do not seem to care. They must follow the guidelines strictly.

However, the government also has a duty to properly educate them. It could launch an effective media campaign to bring high awareness among the public. My interactions with the public reveal considerable deficiency of information. Printed handouts must be given to every household along with media advertisements. In addition to well-known measures such as wearing masks and physical distancing, the public must be warned of the danger of being in a closed environment. They must be told how to seek timely medical assistance. An independent survey on public awareness should be conducted to create better awareness.

Saving lives is the primary responsibility of the government. It is not that the government is unaware or has not done anything, but it must set a goal so that the number of

deaths per lakh is reduced further. This is achievable if there is a coordinated effort by the State Health Department. A helpline for fever for every city, which is run by medical professionals, would be useful to detect early cases of fever. Doctors may guide patients with fever symptoms through telemedicine. Private medical personnel may also be roped in. Most are now familiar with WhatsApp and can therefore access telemedicine services. This will enhance confidence in the public of handling an episode of fever. Reporting will be better in this arrangement.

Patients could be guided for testing for COVID-19 wherever necessary. In case of a positive result, the patient may be given an option of quarantining at home or a government facility. A trained doctor must take over at this stage and guide the home-quarantined patients towards recovery through telemedicine.

Whenever any patient needs hospital care, he must be able to get immediate admission, with help from government online data on bed availability in public and private hospitals. This bed management requires some effort. The private sector must be persuaded to come on board – the government must avoid any attempt to fix the price. The online system must be accessible to the public and managed by the Health Department to ensure data accuracy. A public health professional may be posted in each hospital to assist patients in admission.

Another important task is to publish standard treatment guidelines. Given the innumerable research findings pouring from across the world, these guidelines cannot be static but modified regularly. This would help all medical professionals to know the latest treatment protocol.

To protect senior citizens who are at high risk, the government could delay renewal of their driving licence, ration cards, etc.

Smooth running of an efficient mechanism is difficult and requires many administrative leaders at different levels. The day a common man can immediately get a free bed in a government hospital or a paid bed in a private hospital is the beginning of our effective control of deaths per lakh of the population. We hope that this day will come soon.

R. Poornalingam is former Health Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu

Flawed Foreigners Tribunal

Cases of suspected foreigners are decided arbitrarily and callously



LEAH VERGHESE & SHRUTHI NAIK

out conveniently for the police and the tribunals given the anxiety in Assam about finding and deporting Bangladeshis. Unlike regular criminal trials where an accused is presumed not guilty and the state has to prove that he committed a crime, the burden of proof under the Foreigners Act of 1946 is on the accused. If a person fails to appear before the Foreigners Tribunal, it can pass an order declaring him a foreigner ex parte, without allowing him an opportunity to defend himself. In all the ex parte orders, the police produced no evidence to indicate that the suspected foreigners were not Indian, yet the latter were declared Bangladeshis.

A desperate search for Bangladeshis

Only in 31 cases were the suspected foreigners allowed to refute the allegations made against them. All these 31 orders were passed by the same tribunal member. The progression of her career as a member of the Foreigners Tribunal gives us an inkling of how the desperate search for Bangladeshis in Assam has tainted the quasi-judicial process of adjudicating citizenship claims. She was appointed as a member of the tribunal in July 2015 on a contractual basis. On June 20, 2017, she was denied an extension along with several other members because she had not declared enough people as foreigners. She was reinstated only after she and the others challenged the termination of their services before the Gauhati High Court.

Since most of the cases analysed were decided ex parte, we expected that these proceedings would have at least been swift. This tribunal took an average of 10 years to dispose of a case. It is interesting to note that 92% of the cases analysed were disposed of in 2018 and 2019 alone. In 82% of the cases, the police gave the tribunal reports of service of notice in 2018 and 2019, although some cases dated as far back as 1999. The cases appear to have been kept in cold storage for several years and disposed of with undue haste in 2018 and 2019. On average, the tribunal took 39 days from the date of receipt of this report to pass an ex parte order.

The tribunal ordered the deportation of the suspected foreigners in 97% of these cases. However, very few, if any, will actually be deported since deportation requires Bangladesh to accept the deportees. Assam's Parliamentary Affairs Minister said only 227 persons were deported between March 13, 2013 and July 31, 2020.

There is an urgent need to make the procedure followed by the Foreigners Tribunal fair and transparent. The claims of 19 lakh people excluded from the National Register of Citizens will go before these tribunals. Their cases cannot be decided arbitrarily and callously as they have been in the past.

Leah Verghese and Shruthi Naik are with DAKSH, a non-profit based in Bengaluru

In the U.S., it could go either way

Candidates ought not to find reasons for complacency

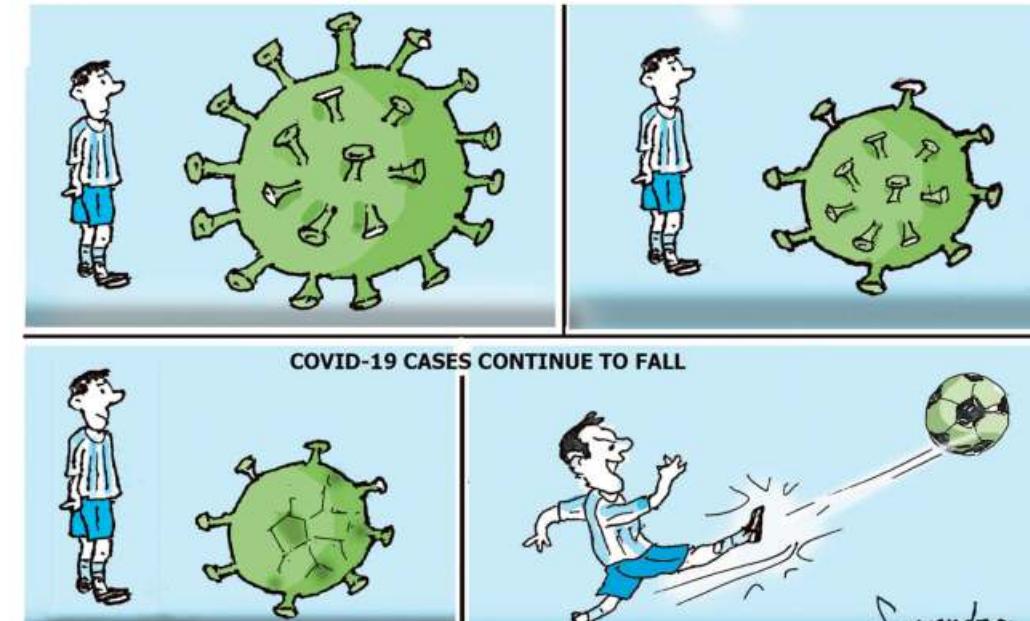
NARAYAN LAKSHMAN

With scarcely two weeks of campaigning remaining before voting day in the U.S. presidential election, it appears that the Democratic challenger, former Vice President Joe Biden, is building a considerable lead over the incumbent, President Donald Trump. However, there are warning signs that the Democrats would be unwise to take the prospect of victory for granted.

First, consider the onslaught of the pandemic, which brought the U.S. economy to its knees. A grinding slowdown in business activity led to a historic high in unemployment levels (14.7%) in April 2020. While the jobless rate has come down since, it has put the spotlight on the federal government's failure to respond with an agile, science-driven pandemic strategy that could have saved lives and refloated the economy.

Many may now consider Mr. Trump a bungling commander-in-chief, who attacked masks, lockdowns and social distancing as Democratic scare tactics. Yet – and this is where it is important to understand the psyche of American society – there is a considerable segment of voters – mostly white, in semi-urban and rural areas, either blue collar workers or small business owners – who genuinely abhor dictats on mask-wearing and dread the crushing economic impact of lockdowns. This is why, even though the latest polls suggest that north of 53% of Americans disapproved of Mr. Trump's performance of his job and only a little more than 41% approved, his approval ratings have remained stable. Not only does this reflect that Mr. Trump likely has a core cohort of supporters who are intensely loyal and will vote for him, it is also driven by the intensifying partisan polarisation of voters – namely the fact that over the course of his term in office, an average of 87% of Republicans have approved of Mr. Trump's handling of the job, compared with an average of only 6% of Democrats.

Second, the election outcome will be driven to a large extent by undecided and independent voters, many of them situated in swing states. Currently, Mr. Biden enjoys a lead in the



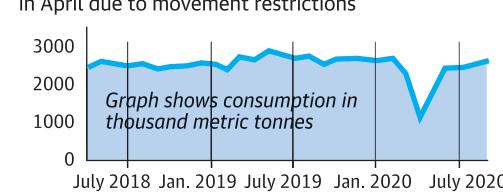
DATA POINT

Fuel on fire

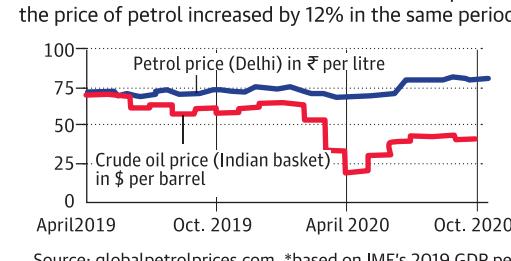
Despite crude oil prices crashing in April, retail petrol prices stayed the same as the Centre's excise duty component recorded multiple sharp increases. With fuel consumption nearing pre-COVID levels now, the government will earn substantial income to augment its dwindling coffers. However, the average Indian citizen, along with the average Pakistani citizen, spends 17% of her income on fuel, the highest share in the world. India is among the few countries that increased their fuel price in the last year despite crude prices crashing

By The Hindu Data Team

1. BACK IN THE BLACK | Petrol consumption in India neared pre-COVID levels in September after crashing in April due to movement restrictions

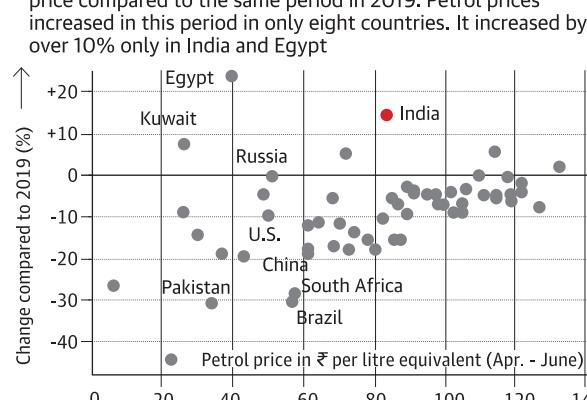


2. FALL & RISE | The price of crude oil in October is 42% lower than what it was at the start of FY21, while the price of petrol increased by 12% in the same period

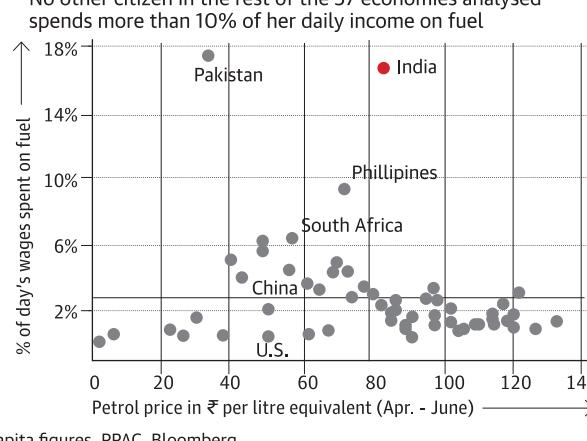


Source: globalpetrolprices.com, *based on IMF's 2019 GDP per capita figures, PPAC, Bloomberg

3. AN OUTLIER | The graph plots the avg. petrol price in April-June 2020 in 59 countries against the change in petrol price compared to the same period in 2019. Petrol prices increased in this period in only eight countries. It increased by over 10% only in India and Egypt



4. LOW AFFORDABILITY | An average Indian, similar to a Pakistani national, spends* 17% of her day's income on fuel. No other citizen in the rest of the 57 economies analysed spends more than 10% of her daily income on fuel



The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO OCTOBER 21, 1970

Why tourists skip India
(From an editorial)

Tourism has become the world's biggest export industry, but India gets a very small slice of this lucrative business. The reason for our failure is not far to seek. We lack hotel accommodation of international standard and our air transport system is defective. The number of hotel rooms now available is less than 10,000 for the whole country, whereas even single cities like Bangkok and Singapore have more accommodation. Rather late in the day, the building of hotels has been speeded up with foreign collaboration (only in Delhi and Bombay) and another 5,000 rooms will soon be available, but the Minister for Tourism wants twice this figure by 1973. The Hotel Development Fund has Rs. 500 lakhs for lending to entrepreneurs but this sum will not suffice. At the Madurai conference of the Tourist Development Council, the Union Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation has drawn attention to the plans afoot to provide tourist attractions in the southern States.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO FROM THE OCTOBER 20, 1920 EDITION AS THERE WAS NO EDITION ON OCTOBER 21

A lecture by Mr. S. Srinivasa Aiyangar

Mr. S. Srinivasa Aiyangar arrived here [Cuddalore] yesterday [October 17], and delivered a lecture, in the Pudupalamayam Reading Room, mainly dwelling on the topic of "Non Co-operation" as resolved upon by the Congress, at Calcutta. The following is a summary of the main points, he forcibly impressed on the audience:- My one gospel, throughout, has been a "united front", in Indian politics. In our circumstances, all parties, Nationalists, whether 'Non-Co-operators', or not, Moderates, and Non-Brahmins, should fuse together and make a united attack on the bureaucracy. The latest cause of disunion is the split among Nationalists over the problem of "Non-Co-operation". Opinion is quite sharply divided, whether the new method will be the shortest cut, or a long wearisome one, to the common goal of Swaraj. Non-Co-operators, should not obstruct dissenting Nationalists from continuing to fight the Government from inside the Council, while Non-Co-operators, having the deeper faith in the new experiment pursue their own ways.

FROM PAGE ONE

Virus still around, PM cautions nation

He said his government was working on a plan "to deliver it to every Indian within the shortest possible time" once these vaccines were ready.

He said while there are nearly 25,000 COVID-19 cases for one million population in countries such as the U.S. and Brazil, India has only 5,500. Similarly, the number of fatalities in India is 83 per million population against more than 600 deaths per million in nations like the U.S., Brazil, Spain and Britain.

Mr. Modi wrapped up his 12-minute speech by wishing citizens for the upcoming festivals including Navratri, Durga Puja, Diwali, Chhath,

Eid-Milad-un-Nabi and Guru Nanak's birth anniversary.

Corona capital: Cong.

Reacting to the Prime Minister's address, the Congress said Mr. Modi must answer for the "failure of leadership". In a joint statement, Congress' Randeep Surjewala and Pawan Khera said India had become the "corona capital" with the highest death rate.

"Kindly tell the country on how to control the volatile situation of the pandemic.... How will he revive the falling economy? Does he have a solution or will he blame it on God?" they asked in their statement.

Punjab formally rejects Centre's three farm laws

It also seeks an amendment to Sections 1(2), Sections 19 and 20 of the Centre's Farmers' Empowerment and Protection Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020. It proposes to add new Sections – Sections 4, 6 to 11.

The Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) (Special Provisions and Punjab Amendment) Bill, 2020, seeks to amend Sections 1(2), 14 and 15 of the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020 to ensure that sale or purchase of wheat or paddy in the State is not allowed below the MSP.

The Essential Commodities (Special Provisions and Punjab Amendment) Bill, 2020, seeks to amend the Centre's 'The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020' by amending Section 1(2) and Section 3(1A) of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

A fourth Bill – The Code of Civil Procedure (Punjab Amendment) Bill, 2020 was also passed, which seeks to insert a provision for exemption of agriculture land not exceeding 2.5 acres from Section 60 of The Code of Ci-

vil Procedure, 1908, which provides for attachment or decree of various properties – moveable and immovable. Given the farmers' apprehensions about attachment-decree of their land as a consequence of enforcement of farming contracts or otherwise, the State government is seeking, through this Bill, to give full exemption to small farmers and others from attachment or decree of land up to 2.5 acres.

All MLAs unanimously voted in favour of the resolution and the Bills, except the two BJP members who were absent from the House during the second day of the special Assembly session. The resolution, which was passed, described the Centre's farm laws and the proposed Electricity (Amendment) Bill 2020 as "anti-farmers" and demanded that they be scrapped.

Chief Minister Amarinder Singh informed the House that he had sought time from the President to raise Punjab's concerns on the farm laws.

Later, he, along with Congress, AAP and Shiromani Akali Dal MLAs met Governor V.P.S. Badnore and submitted the House resolution.

Foreign direct investment blooms in COVID-19 gloom

Mr. Doshi said the numbers would have been even higher if border tensions with China hadn't triggered curbs on their investments into India. China has significant investments in Indian startups as well as the manufacturing sector, any enhancement of which would now need prior government approvals.

Yet, the next few months could see a further spurt in FDI. Firstly, there's Reliance Retail's buyout of Future group at the end of August, which was followed by mul-

tiple global capital infusions into the business – similar to investments into Jio. Those foreign investors' outlays will reflect in September's data and beyond.

Secondly, investments committed under the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for electronics manufacturing, from players such as Apple Inc's suppliers, will begin to flow once approvals come in. Similar investments may be expected in pharma and chemicals under another PLI scheme.

The statement was in response to an anticipatory bail petition filed by Mr. Sivasankar.

Opposing the bail plea, the Customs pointed

into the matter in light of the observations in the present case.

In the judgment posted on its website on Tuesday in a petition filed by one Md. Hayath Udin, a resident of Siddipet district, who is also a farmer affected directly by the project, the Principal Bench of NGT asked the Ministry to constitute the expert committee within a month, and it may complete its exercise within six months thereafter, shouldering the responsibility of monitoring the panel work to the Secretary, MoEF&CC.

The petitioner moved the NGT with a plea to declare the EC granted to KLIP as invalid since substantial work was done by the State go-



Water flowing into the delivery cistern from the pressure pumps of the Kaleshwaram lift irrigation project in Jayashankar-Bhupalapalli district. ■ FILE PHOTO

vernment, project proponent, prior to filing an application with the Ministry for clearance.

"We find that in spite of finding illegality in granting EC, it is neither possible nor desirable to undo what has happened, but accountability needs to be fixed and re-

medial measures taken," the Bench, comprising Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel, Judicial Member Justice S.P. Wangdi and expert member, Dr. Nagin Nanda said in its judgment.

The NGT Principal Bench suggested that the expert committee could assess the

extent of damage caused in going ahead with the project without EC – the period from 2008 to 2017 – and identify the necessary restoration measures.

Further, it could look into relief and rehabilitation measures adopted and required to be further adopted, exa-

Water rises in flooded locality, so does fear

Tuesday's rain added to the misery of residents of Hyderabad's Nadeem Colony

SERISH NANISSETTI

HYDERABAD

Dead rats, sewage, plastic waste, muck and vehicles covered with sludge continue to line the streets in Nadeem Colony on the northern side of the Golconda Fort.

"This is the biggest flood since 2008," says Dastgir, who vacated his house and moved to his relatives' place. "We were evacuated by a boat after two days of the flooding," informs Azghar, a businessman, who moved to his sister's house in Bandlaguda. "I sent my wife to her parents' place and I stayed back to ensure thieves or vandals don't raid the house," says Hanif, who works with an IT major in Gachibowli.

The red alert on Tuesday kept the remaining residents on tenterhooks and their



Test of endurance: Residents of many areas are forced to live amid mud left behind by the flood waters. ■ NAGARA GOPAL

fears came true as water rose again after the spell of rain in the afternoon. "We had to walk in the dirty water to reach my grandmother's house. I was not scared but there were children who were screaming in darkness," remembers Ayaz, a degree student.

It has been 10 days since quite a few residents of Nadeem Colony were forced to move out of their homes and stay with relatives and friends, and wait for the water to recede in their locality. "This colony has the Shah Hatim Talab on the other side. They are releasing sew-

age from Banjara Hills, Paramount Colony, Hakimpet and Shaikpet through the nala. The outlet into the lake is narrow, that's why this flood water is not draining," says Mr. Dastgir, a resident.

Meanwhile, heavy rain lashed many parts of the city on Tuesday, starting around noon, and continuing up to evening hours with varying intensities. Department of Meteorology has predicted thunderstorm accompanied with lightning very likely to occur at isolated places over Telangana over the coming two days, under the impact of depression in Central Bay of Bengal, and the upper air circulation. The depression may deepen, and travel towards northwest in the coming 48 hours and north-northwest in subsequent three days.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami was the first to respond to the Chief Minister's call on Monday and announced a contribution of ₹10 crore to the CMRF. His government also promised to send blankets, mats and other re-

lief material to the affected families. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has contributed ₹15 crore to the CMRF, while West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee announced ₹2 crore for taking up relief and rehabilitation works.

Mr. Rao called the three Chief Ministers and thanked them for their gesture.

My Home Group has announced contribution of ₹5 crore while another construction major Aparna Constructions and Estates Limited has donated ₹6 crore. Film stars Chiranjeevi, Mahesh Babu and Prabhas announced contributions of ₹1 crore each and NTR Junior and Nagarjuna ₹5 lakh each.

Donations pour in for Telangana relief

Three CMs announce contributions

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

HYDERABAD

Donations have started pouring into the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) immediately after Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao gave a call to donors and philanthropists to contribute to the relief and rehabilitation operations in the city, which suffered loss of lives and infrastructure in the recent heavy rains.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami was the first to respond to the Chief Minister's call on Monday and announced a contribution of ₹10 crore to the CMRF. His government also promised to send blankets, mats and other re-

Sivasankar feigned illness to avoid questioning: Customs

Dept. opposes his petition in HC for anticipatory bail

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

KOCHI

M. Sivasankar, former Principal Secretary to the Kerala Chief Minister, feigned illness and got himself admitted to a hospital where his wife worked to avoid questioning by the Customs in connection with the diplomatic channel gold smuggling case, said a statement filed by the Customs before the Kerala High Court on Tuesday.

The statement was in response to an anticipatory bail petition filed by Mr. Sivasankar.

Opposing the bail plea, the Customs pointed



out that the illness had turned out to be fake going by the medical opinion, which said painkillers would take care of his back pain.

In fact, Mr. Sivasankar had executed a *vakkalath*

for the anticipatory bail on October 14. However, the *vakkalath* did not mention the place from where he had signed it. This showed that he had made all plans to pretend illness and get himself admitted to the hospital to avoid questioning.

Besides, his petition for anticipatory bail was not maintainable. It was mandatory under Section 438 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for a person to satisfy the court that he was charged with non-bailable offences and that he feared arrest in connection with the offences. Both these statements were absent in his petition.

Man who threatened magistrate arrested

He wanted to frame his brother-in-law

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU

A farmer from Tiptur in Tumakuru district, who allegedly sent a threatening letter and detonator-like substance to a magistrate of the Special NDPS court and city court on Monday, was arrested on Tuesday.

Fifty-three-year-old Rajashekhar had warned that he would carry out attacks if the accused in a high-profile drug racket case were not released. Halasurugute police said he orchestrated the hoax in an attempt to implicate his brother-in-law.

According to the police, Rajashekhar was eyeing his wife's sister share in the family's property. The two sisters jointly owned 15 acres. "He confessed that he wanted his wife's sister, and decided to get her husband, Ramesh, out of the picture by having him arrested," said a senior police officer.

Rajashekhar had started harassing his sister-in-law before she was married. He was arrested after her father filed a sexual harassment complaint.

Rajashekhar allegedly bribed panchayat officials in Chelur where Ramesh lived to get copies of voter ID cards of Ramesh and his brother. He then wrote the letter and posted it along with photocopies of the voter IDs.

IN BRIEF



Karnataka CPI(M) leader Maruti Manapade dies

KALABURAGI

Karnataka's senior Communist leader Maruti Manapade, 65, died of COVID-19 at a hospital in Maharashtra on Tuesday. He is survived by wife and two sons. A Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader, he was known for his uncompromising struggle against the oppression of toiling masses in the State.

Allow overnight stay of devotees at Nilakal: HC

KOCHI Observing that the COVID-19 safety protocol should not ultimately affect a safe Sabarimala pilgrimage, a Division Bench of the Kerala High Court has ordered that devotees who reach Nilakal at night on their way to or on return from the temple in the Makaravilakku season be allowed to stay overnight at Nilakal.

Stand-off in actor rape case trial continues

KOCHI The stand-off between the prosecution and the trial court considering the actor rape case in Kerala continued, with the special public prosecutor abstaining from the court on Tuesday. Joseph Manavalan, counsel representing the prosecution, informed the additional special sessions court in Ernakulam that a petition seeking the transfer of trial to another court was being filed.

Publicise guidelines on disposal of masks: HC

BENGALURU The Karnataka High Court on Tuesday directed the State government to devise specific guidelines on disposal of used masks by November 3, and give wide publicity to the new directives in the media.

Sanitary workers should be trained in the collection of masks and gloves, the HC said while hearing a PIL petition on COVID-19 management.

Kerala, Karnataka register decline in positivity rate

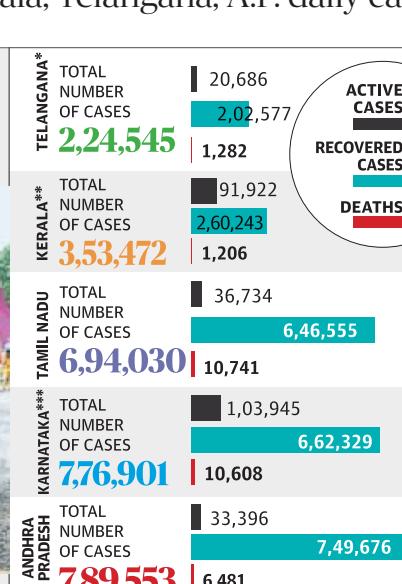
Health experts warn of potential trigger factors in Kerala; Telangana, A.P. daily cases marginally higher

Taking precautions

Testing has been increased throughout the country to contain the virus spread. The graph shows the spread of the pandemic in the southern States



Patient wait: People standing in the rain to give swab samples at a mobile testing centre in Vijayawada on Wednesday. ■ V. RAJU



ed 2,821 cases and 36 of the 66 deaths. Active cases in Bengaluru touched 64,523.

Over the 24-hour period, 98,236 tests were conducted including 23,733 rapid antigen tests, raising Karnataka's test numbers to 68,44,594.

Tamil Nadu reported 3,094 new cases of COVID-19 and 50 more deaths on Tuesday. The State was recording a decline in fresh coronavirus infections in the last few days. The new cases pushed the State's tally to 6,94,030. A total of 36,734 persons were under treatment.

As many as 4,403 persons, including 1,235 persons in Chennai, 328 in Coimbatore and 242 in Chengalpattu, were discharged on Tuesday.

With this, 6,46,555 persons were discharged so far. A total of 10,741 persons have succumbed to the infection in the State.

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

Government hikes poll spend ceiling by 10%

Mr. Doshi said the numbers would have been even higher if border tensions with China hadn't triggered curbs on their investments into India. China has significant investments in Indian startups as well as the manufacturing sector, any enhancement of which would now need prior government approvals.

Yet, the next few months could see a further spurt in FDI. Firstly, there's Reliance Retail's buyout of Future group at the end of August, which was followed by mul-

tiple global capital infusions into the business – similar to investments into Jio. Those foreign investors' outlays will reflect in September's data and beyond. Secondly, investments committed under the production-linked incentive

For voters in Bihar, election promises are just old hat

Whether made by Nitish Kumar or Tejashwi Yadav, the electorate is not ready to take them at face value, given the experience all these years

AMARNATH TEWARY

ROHTAS

In the Bihar election campaign, if Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's promises have largely left voters unenthused, the promise of 10 lakh jobs made by Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Tejashwi Yadav too have few takers.

"These are all promises, only to be forgotten once the election is over ... the figure of 10 lakh jobs itself appears ridiculous and unbelievable," said Santosh Yadav, an unemployed youth at the Narhat village market in Rohtas district. He does odd jobs to earn for his family, including three siblings and parents. Earlier, he was working at a garment factory in Gujarat, but after the lockdown, he returned to his village to take up odd jobs for his family's survival. He wants to go back in a month or so before he gets married. "There is nothing here to do ... if I do not migrate to earn, I'll not get married," he said.

When told that Mr. Tejashwi had promised to provide 10 lakh jobs with his first signature at the first Cabinet meeting, if elected to power, Mr. Santosh Yadav, with a puckish smile, hummed an old Bollywood song: "Kasme wade, par-wafa sab, wade hain, wado ka kya? [All promises, love and loyalty are only promises, what to do about promises?]", before expressing his desire to leave the place to work as a daily wage labourer.

'Needs time to mature'
At Rohtas district headquarters (Sasaram) too, several youth are seen searching for daily work at hotels and shops.

"People promise anything during poll time ... providing 10 lakh jobs is not a mean thing ... I do not take Tejashwi's promise on a serious note," said Ashok Kumar Sahu, who works at a sweet shop near Sasaram. "Tejashwi Yadav is young and he



Centre stage: RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav arriving in Aurangabad district to address a rally in support of a Congress candidate on Tuesday. ■ PTI

IN FOCUS

needs time to be politically mature and counter experienced leaders like Nitish Kumar... only making promises will not do... one has to deliver as well," said Ramesh Kushwaha at Paliganj Bazaar.

At Malliabagh chowk (thoroughfare) in Rohtas, Anand Shankar Singh too did not seem upbeat about the RJD leader's promise.

"I run a cyber café and somehow survive with a family of six people on the meagre daily income. But, yes, given a job would certainly make a

huge difference in my life ... however, I take all this promises of Tejashwi Yadav like the oft-repeated tall talk on the State's growth and development by Nitish Kumar," he said. "Tejashwi Yadav was Bihar's Deputy CM under Nitish Kumar for nearly three years from 2015 to 2017, what

he did then for people like us," he asked and himself responded quickly, "Nothing".

mostly young, returned to Bihar during lockdown after COVID-19 pandemic outbreak ... why we're still forced to migrate from our State even after he has been in power for 15 years?"

Mr. Tejashwi Yadav recently announced that if his party came to power, 10 lakh government jobs would be sanctioned at the very first Cabinet meeting. He also said the State's unemployment rate was around 46.6%, one of the highest in the country.

"There should be a provision by the Election Commission that if someone makes such tall promises in their poll campaign and fails to fulfil them after being voted to power, their election must be declared null and void," said Indrajeet Singh, who works part-time at a petrol pump in Sasaram.

"Someone may ask Mr. Kumar, what has he done for us... he should tell in his election rallies from where and why over 30 lakh people,

mostly young, returned to Bihar during lockdown after COVID-19 pandemic outbreak ... why we're still forced to migrate from our State even after he has been in power for 15 years?"

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"It's cheating the people, isn't it?" said his aide Lakhinder Paswan, while fixing the nozzle of a pipe.

31% nominees in phase 1 face criminal cases

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI

An analysis of election affidavits filed by candidates for the first phase of the Assembly elections in Bihar found that 31% of candidates in the fray have declared criminal cases against themselves, the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) stated in its report.

The report analysed 1,064 out of the 1,066 candidates in phase one of the elections and found that 328 had declared pending criminal cases.

Of the total candidates in phase one, the Rashtriya Janata Dal and the Bharatiya Janata Party had 73% and 72% of candidates respectively with criminal cases against them. Of all the candidates analysed, 23% had declared serious criminal cases against themselves, including rape, murder, assault and kidnapping.

Madhepura evokes a 1990s' air

B.P. Mandal's grandson, Sharad Yadav's daughter contesting in district

NISTULA HEBBAR

PATNA

In the three decades since the implementation of the Mandal Commission recommendations by the V.P. Singh government, the face of heartland politics has changed beyond recognition, and some surnames that dominated those years are in the fray in the Bihar Assembly election, albeit in different ways.

In Madhepura, Nikhil Mandal, grandson of B.P. Mandal, is fighting the polls for the first time, on a Janata Dal(United) ticket. Mr. Mandal, who entered politics via the student union route in Delhi University 20 years ago, took a sabbatical for a stint as a banker. "But I was always interested in being with people and my friends used to call me 'Nokia' because of the tagline, 'connecting people'. In 2005, my father was fighting the polls, and those were scheduled for around March, when banks rarely give leave. It was a stark



Subhashini Raj Rao, left, and Nikhil Mandal

choice before me, and I gave up the job and moved here to get into public service," he says. Then came five years of drifting in Bihar, and some serious existential questions. "My friends told me to meet Nitish Kumarji and when we met, he told me to join his party and I was appointed a spokesperson."

Mr. Mandal says he has faint memories of his grandfather, but has been told that he was, till the end, hopeful of seeing the recommendations made by him implemented by the Government of India. He does not believe, as many do, that India has entered a post-

Mandal politics with the BJP's domination. "What has happened in 30 years is a whole lot of change, but for that change to endure and deepen, the twin forces of education and employment must see tenets of social justice implemented in full measure," he says.

In Madhepura itself, in the Bihariganj Assembly constituency, Subhashini Raj Rao, daughter of former Union Minister Sharad Yadav, is also preparing to make her poll debut on a Congress ticket. Mr. Yadav came into prominence during the JP Movement against Emergency, and has been one of the most important

leaders of the social justice stream of Indian politics. Honed in anti-Congressism, his politics is now pivoting on the question of secularism. Ms. Rao is reflecting that pivot.

"Sharadji has been part of the *mahagathbandhan* and they had launched a platform on communal amity called 'saanjhi virasat' under his leadership. He wants to take the fight against communalism further. Therefore, despite the fact that much of his career was against the Congress, I joined the party," she says.

The two dynasts have made particular political choices, reflecting specific political realities: through Nitish Kumar, who holds on to the social justice plank via his Mahadalit outreach, and another through the Congress, the old bugbear now considered an ally in secular politics *en route* reflecting the journey of 30 years of Mandal and mandir politics.

IN BRIEF



'Opposition makes people fight over caste, region'

LUCKNOW

Kick-starting his campaign in Bihar for the JD(U)-BJP alliance, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday claimed that while the BJP governments worked for all, the Opposition parties believed that a "specific religion" had rights over the nation's resources. He said the opposition made people fight in the name of caste, region and language.

Seizures worth ₹35 crore in Bihar poll so far: EC

NEW DELHI

The Election Commission of India (EC) on Tuesday said seizures worth ₹35 crore had been made in connection with curbing black money in the Bihar Assembly election as on Monday. In comparison, the total seizures in the 2015 Bihar Assembly poll were worth ₹23.81 crore, an EC statement said.

A dozen from BJP in LJP's final list of candidates

NEW DELHI

The LJP released its final list of 42 candidates on Tuesday — 12 of them are former BJP members. So far, over two dozen BJP leaders have been accommodated by the LJP. Meanwhile, LJP president Chirag Paswan's cousin and Lok Sabha MP, Prince Raj, met RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav's mother Rabri Devi. Mr. Raj told reporters that there was no political discussion.

ODISHA STATE MEDICAL CORPORATION LIMITED.
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
Office: Convent Square, In front of Ram Mandir, Bhubaneswar – 751001, Odisha
Website: www.osmcl.nic.in, e-mail: rec.osmcl@nic.in

Advertisement for recruitment

Date: 19.10.2020

Odisha State Medical Corporation Ltd. (OSMCL), Bhubaneswar invites online applications from eligible candidates for filling up the following vacant posts of the Corporation. For details of the post like scale of pay, eligibility criteria selection modalities, general instructions / information guideline for filling up of the online application form, mode etc., the applicants may visit the "online recruitment" section of OSMCL website www.osmcl.nic.in

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Total nos. of posts	Reservation category	Scale of Pay (Pay Band) & Grade Pay
1.	Asst. Manager – IT	1	UR – 1	As per ORSP 2017: Rs 44,900/-, Level: 10
2.	Asst. Manager – Procurement (D & S)	2	UR – 1 ST – 1	As per ORSP 2017: Rs 44,900/-, Level: 10
3.	Asst. Manager – Procurement (Equipment)	2	UR – 1	As per ORSP 2017: Rs 44,900/-, Level: 10
4.	Asst. Manager – QA	1	UR – 1	As per ORSP 2017: Rs 44,900/-, Level: 10
5.	Biomedical Engineer	7	UR – 3 (W – 1) ST – 3 (W – 1) SC – 1	As per ORSP 2017: Rs 56100/-, Level: 12

Interested applicants must fill up the online application form and upload the supporting documents in the "Online Recruitment" section of OSMCL website www.osmcl.nic.in. Submission of online application forms will close on 16.11.2020, 11:59 PM.

After filling up of the online application form, applicants must download the application forms, sign the same and send them along with the supporting self-attested documents only by speed post / registered post to the following address: Odisha State Medical Corporation Ltd., In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, 751001 or before 27.11.2020, 5:30 PM.

Last date of receipt of applications and documents by speed post / registered post is 27.11.2020, 5:30 PM.

Any application received by speed post / registered post after 27.11.2020, 5:30 PM will be rejected.

Envelopes must be superscribed with the name of the post applied for along with the applicant's application number.

Sd/ Managing Director Odisha State Medical Corporation

OIPR No. 10112/11/003/2021

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER & BASIN MANAGER,
SUBARNAREKHA & BUDHABALANGA BASIN,
AT/PO:- LAXMIPOSII, DIST:-MAYURBHANJ**

Government of Odisha "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Bid Identification No. 06 / 20-21 of CEBM, SBB, Laxmiposii

i Name of Work Excavation of Paunisia Distributary and its Sub-Minors including Cement Concrete lining, Service Road and Structure from RD 7212M to RD 8100M

ii Estimated Cost (Lakh) Rs. 881.48 Lakh

iii Period of Completion 18 (Eighteen) Calendar Months

iv Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal 21.10.2020 at 10 AM

v Last date/time for receipt of bid in the portal 05.11.2020 up to 5 PM

vi Name & Address of the O.I.T Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, O/o the CE&BM, Subarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin, Laxmiposii

cebmssbb2019@gmail.com

OIPR No. 32074/11/0007/2021

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal "<https://tendersodisha.gov.in>".

Chief Engineer & Basin Manager

Subarnarekha & Budhabalanga Basin,

Laxmiposii

cebmssbb2019@gmail.com

A-249

TENDER
National Biodiversity Authority
Government of India
5th floor, TICEL BioPark, CSIR Road
Taramani, Chennai 600 113.
Phone : 044-22542777 Fax : 044-22541200

Notice Inviting Tender for Conversion of Animation Short Films into Thirteen Regional Languages

Tender Notification No. NBA/3/291/Gen/20-21/2491

Name of Work Translation & Production of 3 Animation short films into 13 Regional Languages of India.

Earnest Money Deposit amount Rs.30,000/- (Rupees Thirty Thousand only)

Period of Contract 4 Months

Last Date / Time of submission 10.11.2020 upto 15:00 Hrs

Address for submission of Bids The Administrative Officer, National Biodiversity Authority, 5th floor, TICEL BioPark, CSIR Road, Taramani, Chennai 600113. Email: admin@nba.nic.in Phone: 044-22542777/1075/1072

Bid document available in www.nbaindia.org

KOCHI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
Park Avenue, Kochi - 11

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Preparation of DPR for construction of septicage treatment plant for the agglomeration of local bodies in Kochi

Window No. C 138005/2020

IN BRIEF



New DRDO procurement manual released

NEW DELHI Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has released a new Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) Procurement Manual 2020 to encourage more participation by the industry, including startups and micro, small and medium enterprises in research and development and to achieve self-reliance in defence. "It will facilitate the indigenous defence industry," he said.

CBI takes over TRP case probe on U.P.'s reference

NEW DELHI The CBI has taken over the probe into a case of alleged manipulation in the Television Rating Points (TRP), following a reference from the Uttar Pradesh government. The FIR was initially registered against unknown persons at the Hazratganj police station in Lucknow on October 17, based on a complaint from the regional director of an advertising company.

Uproar over sealing of *Kashmir Times* office

SRINAGAR The Jammu and Kashmir administration's decision to seal the Srinagar office of *Kashmir Times* newspaper has evoked strong reaction from the media and regional parties. "Vendetta for speaking out! No due process followed. How preeewish!" its editor Anuradha Bhasin said. The National Conference and the Peoples Democratic Party have also criticised the move.

Reliance Industries issues alert against fraudsters

MUMBAI Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) has issued a fraud alert on its website asking people not to fall prey to a fraudster who has skipped bail conditions and resumed operations to dupe people in the name of the company. "Certain persons masquerading as officials of Reliance Industries Ltd or our group companies are making proposals to companies and individuals using fake email IDs ending with '@ril.vc,'" RIL said.

Be cautious of reinfection: ICMR

Bhargava calls for sustained action even as number of new COVID-19 cases fall

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) on Tuesday called for sustained caution against COVID-19 and pointed out that any negligence could lead to reinfection.

"COVID-19 reinfection in India is currently under investigation and we are collecting data on this. As per the knowledge that we have now, we understand that after COVID-19 infection, antibodies stay in the body for anywhere between three to five months. If the person gets infected again after 90 days, it is called reinfection," ICMR Director-General Balram Bhagawat said.

The government, he noted, was also keenly following the Solidarity trial interim report results, which indicated that remdesivir, hydroxychloroquine, lopinavir/ritonavir and interferon regimens appeared to have little or no effect on 28-day mortality or the in-hospital course of COVID-19 among hospitalised patients.

Monitoring Bihar

Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan, giving an overview of the COVID-19 situation in the country, said a Central team would be deputed to overlook and assist the Bihar government in conducting



Daily grind: Health workers getting samples ready for rapid antigen testing in New Delhi. —SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

50,000 (46,790) for the first time in nearly three months. The new cases were 47,703 on July 28.

No oxygen shortage

Mr. Bhushan said that in the past 10 months since the pandemic began, "India has not faced any medical oxygen shortage and isn't anticipating any problem in the future. However, several measures, including importing medical oxygen, have been planned."

The Ministry said six States accounted for 64% of the total active cases in the country — Maharashtra 23.28%, Karnataka 14.19%, Kerala 12.4%, Tamil Nadu 5.09%, Andhra Pradesh 4.68%, West Bengal 4.62% and the rest 35.75%.

With a high number of patients recovering every day and the sustained fall in the mortality rate, India's steady trend of dipping active cases continued.

The total positive cases of the country as on date were less than 7.5 lakh (7,48,538) and comprised merely 9.85 per cent of the total cases.

Amit Shah meets Nagaland leaders

Naga peace pact is expected to be finalised soon

VIJAYA SINGH
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah had a meeting with Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio and Leader of the Opposition T.R. Zeliang in Delhi on Tuesday to discuss the Naga peace pact that may be finalised soon.

Mr. Rio later met National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Isak-Muivah) chief Thuingaleng Muivah, who has been camping in Delhi since July after refusing to hold any dialogue with Naga interlocutor R.N. Ravi.

Mr. Shah is learnt to have asked Mr. Zeliang to rejoin the Joint Legislators' Forum and endorse the "one solution" resolution of the Naga political issue signed by over 150 civil society groups and individuals on October 15.

In November 2017, the Centre had created the Forum, comprising all the 60-members of the Nagaland Assembly, to assist the Naga peace process.

Mr. Zeliang is also the leader of the Naga People's Front (NPF), the chief Opposition party that had walked out of the Forum in August due to "huge trust deficit".

Peace talks in trouble
The peace talks hit a rough weather in August after Mr. Muivah refused to hold any dialogue with Mr. Ravi, who is also the State Governor. A team of Intelligence Bureau officials was deputed to hold the discussions with the NSCN(I-M). Mr. Ravi and the

NSCN(I-M) signed a framework agreement on August 3, 2015, in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The NSCN(I-M) has been demanding a separate constitution and a flag for the Nagas and the assimilation of all Naga inhabited areas in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur. In 2017, Mr. Ravi included more Naga groups in the dialogue process and signed a preamble with the seven Naga National Political Groups (NNPGs).

Mr. Ravi continues the negotiations with the NNPG.

The NNPG issued a statement on Tuesday, accusing the NSCN(I-M) of delaying the talks.

"After 23 years of political talks, when a negotiator declares that Nagas do not accept the Union of India or the Indian Constitution, it could only mean political dialogue was a circus exercise for personal gains. The much touted FA [framework] agreement of 2015, by the very utterance, becomes invalid. Whether an emotional outburst or otherwise, the organisation owes an explanation to the Naga people. It reeks of a despotic, incoherent, unreliable and anti-people character and mind," said N. Kitovi Zhimomi, convener, NNPG, said in a statement.



Amit Shah. —FILE PHOTO

Govt. refuses to give details of CIC applicants

RTI request has been turned down

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) has received 139 applications for the post of Chief Information Commissioner, which has been vacant for almost two months. However, it has denied a Right to Information (RTI) request seeking further details about the candidates, the search committee members and the short-listing criteria, despite a Supreme Court order directing the government to make such information public.

In July, the DoPT invited applications for the Chief Information Commissioner post. RTI activist Anjali

Bhardwaj subsequently filed a request for information on the number, names and particulars of the applicants. If a search committee had been set up, she asked for the order for its constitution; the names and designations of its members; and the criteria adopted by it for shortlisting candidates.

In its reply, the DoPT said it received 139 applications within the prescribed time. However, it declined to give out any other information, holding that information relating to particulars of applicants is exempted under section 8(1)(j) for RTI Act, 2005, which aims to protect privacy unless the larger public interest is involved.

China on Tuesday asked India to approach ties with Taiwan "prudently and properly", and said it would "firmly oppose" any official exchanges between New Delhi and Taipei.

The statement from China's Foreign Ministry came in response to reports that India and Taiwan were considering going forward with talks on a trade deal. India and Taiwan in 2018 already signed a bilateral investment agreement. India-Taiwan trade ties have expanded since, and Taiwanese firms are prominent investors in India, although India and Taiwan do not maintain formal diplomatic relations.

"It is also the political basis for China to develop ties with other countries. So, we

firmly oppose any official exchanges between countries having diplomatic ties with China and Taiwan or signing any official documents. The Indian side should remain committed to the 'One-China principle' and approach Taiwan-related issues prudently and properly," Mr. Zhao said.

The Chinese Embassy in Delhi raised with India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) the putting up of posters in New Delhi on October 10, wishing Taiwan "Happy National Day", by a member of the BJP, including outside the Chinese Embassy. The posters were taken down following the complaint. The posters followed a note sent by the Chinese Embassy to around 250 journalists asking

them not to refer to Taiwan as a "country" or a "nation" while covering an event to be organised by the Taipei Economic and Cultural Centre in India. The MEA responded to the note, saying "there is a free media in India, that reports on issues that they see fit".

On Tuesday, China reacted guardedly to India's announcement that Australia will join next month's Malabar naval exercise with India, Japan and the U.S.

In a terse statement, Mr. Zhao said, "We have taken note of this development. We always believe that military cooperation between countries should be conducive to regional peace and stability."

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

A second hiding militant was killed in south Kashmir's Shopian on Tuesday, as security forces resumed their operation after a night halt.

An Army spokesman said one more militant was killed, taking the death toll of militants to two in the operation that began on Monday evening in Shopian's Melhoora area.

"The bodies have been retrieved from the encounter site. One AK-47 and one

pistol were recovered from the site," the Army said.

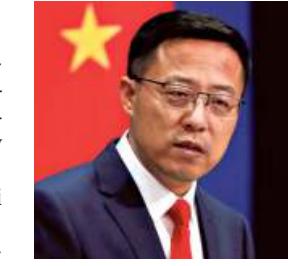
The identity and affiliation of the slain militants were not divulged immediately.

The gunfight started when a joint team of the police, the Army's 55 RR and the CRPF came under fire during a cordon and search operation, launched on specific information about the presence of militants in the area.

In another operation in Pulwama, three militants were killed.

China opposes India-Taiwan trade ties

'One-China principle is a universal consensus of the international community'



Zhao Lijian

The 'One-China principle' is a universal consensus of the international community, including India," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said at a daily briefing, when asked about the report on trade talks.

"It is also the political basis for China to develop ties with other countries. So, we

firmly oppose any official exchanges between countries having diplomatic ties with China and Taiwan or signing any official documents. The Indian side should remain committed to the 'One-China principle' and approach Taiwan-related issues prudently and properly," Mr. Zhao said.

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Another militant killed in Shopian encounter

PHD Admissions

Applications are invited from prospective candidates for admission to the PhD Program at IISER Mohali in the areas of Biological Sciences, Chemical Sciences, Physical Sciences, Earth & Environmental Sciences and Humanities & Social Sciences, for the session beginning in January 2021. Candidates interested in pursuing research in interdisciplinary areas are also encouraged to apply.

Eligibility Criteria: The applicant should have a Masters degree/ B.Tech/MBBS M.Tech with a good academic record (at least a high second class) and should be DSC/CSIR or UGC-NET/ JEST/ GPAT/ ICMR-JRF/ DBT-JRF/ DBT-BINC/ ICAR-NET/ DST-INSPIRE qualified in the relevant subject. Additional details are available in the link: <http://www.iisermohali.ac.in>

Application procedure: Prospective candidates should apply online using the "Online Application Facility" by visiting the website at <http://www.iisermohali.ac.in>. Short-listed candidates will be invited for a screening-test/interview/online interview at IISER Mohali.

Last date: The online application facility will be open till 12.00 noon, October 27, 2020. For further details about the program and research areas, please visit our website: <http://www.iisermohali.ac.in>.

Office of the Director General, Medical Health & F.W., Danda Lakhound, P.O. Gujara, Sahastradhara road, Dehradun, Uttarakhand

Letter No.27P/PPP/07/2020/17685 Dated 17.10.2020

Government of Uttarakhand Short Term E-tender Notice

1. Name of Work- Rehabilitation, Upgradation, Operation & Management of Nephrology Centre in Public Private Partnership at Base Hospital Haldwani & Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya Hospital Dehradun, Uttarakhand. With reference to Tender No. 27P/PPP/07/2020/15181 Dated 23.09.2020 new Short Term Tender is being invited.

2. Date and time of e-publishing of tender- 22/10/2020 till 14:00 PM

3. Closing date of online submission of Tender - 05/11/2020, till 14:00 (IST)

Details of subsequent addendum/corrigendum/cancellation etc. may be obtained from the website <https://uktenders.gov.in>.

4. Portal Registration: The bidder intending to participate in the bid is required to register in the portal using his/her active personal/official email id as his/her Login id and attach his/her valid digital signature certificate (DSC) to his/her unique login id.

For further queries, the bidders may contact through email mhvuttarakhand@yahoo.com and Office of the Director General, Medical Health & Family welfare, Danda Lakhound, P.O. Gujara, Sahastradhara road, Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

DIPR/UK/13585 Director (PPP) Medical Health & F.W., Dehradun, Uttarakhand

but it was too expensive so no more contracting was done," the officer said.

The fence will be integrated with LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) sensors, infrared sensors and cameras among others.

In recent months, the Army has beefed up troops close to the LoC to plug gaps and it has resulted in a drop in infiltration this year. Lt. Gen. B.S. Raju, General Officer Commanding, 15 Corps, said that while the multi-tier anti-infiltration grid remains in place, the first tier has been strengthened. Troops have also been given drones, both big and small, to monitor the exercise.

"I will say that it is our view that in the passage of time, the Quad should become more regularised

and at some point formalised as well as we really begin to understand what the parameters of this cooperation are and how we can regularise it," Mr. Biegun said on a briefing call to reporters on Wednesday.

"That's very important



Hi-tech sensors will be added to the existing fence.

Major officer on the ground said. "This has some rudimentary smartisation. The earlier proposal for a hi-tech fence was to cost around ₹10 crore for 2.4 km. A ₹10 crore type trial was done in the Army's 19 Division last year,

because the type of cooperation that we would gain in the Quad and ultimately in working with other countries in the Indo-Pacific is to have the practice of cooperation in place when we face a crisis, whether that comes in terms of natural disaster, economics, or even security."

Mr. Biegun, who is the second highest U.S. State Department official, was discussing his trip to India and South Asia last week and responding to a question on whether South Korea had been asked to join a "Quad plus" [expanded Quad] grouping. Mr. Biegun said there is no policy to expand the Quad.

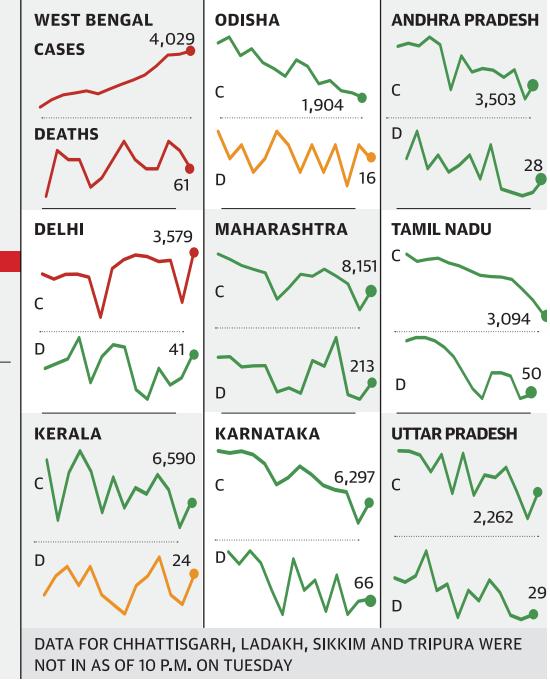
Viral tracker

With 51,076 COVID-19 cases recorded on Tuesday, India's tally stood at 76,45,418. As many as 659 deaths were registered, taking the toll to 1,15,924. A total of 9.61 crore samples were tested as of October 19, according to the ICMR.

NEW CASES AND DEATHS



The graphs depict the new cases and deaths in the last 14 days in select States. If average cases and deaths in the previous seven days are higher than the cases and deaths are rising; if they are lower, then dropping; if they are similar, then cases and deaths are flattening.





Part-SUV, part-hatch, pure thrills

With chiselled good looks and an engine that loves to rev, Audi's Q2 has got the compact luxury crossover balance just right

SHAPUR KOTWAL

A size smaller than the likes of the BMW X1, the Q2 is part-SUV, part-large hatchback and the brand's smallest Q model globally. So, what is it like on our roads?

The Q2's design is quite forward-looking and it boasts of Audi's understated demeanour in spades, be it the shoulder and roofline or the gently bulging wheel arches. There is also the wide rectangular nose with its multiple trapezoidal details. The flanks look like they have been worked on with a giant chisel; the sharp cuts and ridges look especially nice when catching the light. The 'T' shaped pattern in the headlights and tail-lights also work well.

Inside, there is more than sufficient space, the seats are extremely supportive and comfortable. But there is no power adjustment and touch screen: two shocking omissions.

The slightly elevated driving position feels just right. Visibility is superb, and the dash does not seem to be in your face either. The quality of the soft-top dash and the fit and finish of the various chrome elements make this a cabin you want to touch and feel all



SPECIFICATIONS

LENGTH	4318mm
WIDTH	1805mm
HEIGHT	1548mm
WHEELBASE	2595mm
KERB WEIGHT	1505kg
BOOT CAPACITY	355 litres
ENGINE	1984cc, 4-cyls, turbo-petrol
POWER	190hp at 4200-6000rpm
TORQUE	320Nm at 1500-4180rpm
GEARBOX	7-speed dual-clutch automatic

Dressed to impress The Q2 warrants a second glance ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT



down. This happens just when you need it most – like when you need to brake, downshift and get into a corner – and that can be quite frustrating.

Pleasant driving

What is impressive is a suspension that rides silently over bad patches of road. While it is fairly absorbent, there is some amount of stiffness and this shows up over some of the sharper-edged bumps. Also, there is a bit of roll in corners but body control in general is very good. Since there is plenty of grip, you can put the power down quite nicely too. The steering could do with a bit more feedback though; the Q2 begins to understeer if you push harder. Still, the driving experience in general is pleasing and this is a car you just love to drive quickly, be it in a straight line or around a series of nicely meandering corners. The Q2 also comes with a transverse engine, a front-biased setup, and an on-demand AWD system based on a multiplate clutch.

The Q2 comes with a dual-clutch gearbox, which is quick on the draw during regular driving. However, what takes away from the driving experience is that, at times, it can be reluctant to shift

plenty of thrills for the driver. A lot of this is down to its 190hp power output, and its 2.0-litre engine, which is one of the best four-cylinder engines around.

Idle is vibration-free and refined, the response is immediate and does not feel turbocharged. There is no sudden spike in power when the boost comes in, but there is still a clear ramp up after 2,000rpm and all the way to the 6,200rpm redline. There is an enthusiasm here that you would normally find only in a naturally aspirated engine, and though the acceleration does not quite throw you back in your seat, performance is still very urgent.

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AUTO SNIPPETS



Kia Seltos Anniversary Edition launched

Kia has launched the Seltos Anniversary Edition to celebrate the SUV's first anniversary in India. With a starting price of ₹13.75 lakh (ex-showroom, India), the Seltos Anniversary Edition is based on the HTX trim but also has added cosmetic elements. Kia will only offer this iteration of the Seltos for a limited period of time. Cosmetic differences over the standard HTX include revised front and rear bumpers, new side skirts with orange accents, and Raven Black finished alloy wheels with orange-accented centre caps. Engine options include a 115hp, 1.5-litre petrol engine and a 115hp 1.5-litre diesel.



Honda launches Amaze Special Edition

Honda has launched a new special edition of the Amaze, priced at ₹7 lakh (ex-showroom, Delhi). Based on the mid-spec S trim, the Amaze Special Edition costs ₹12,000 more than the former and has a 7-inch touchscreen infotainment system with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto, unique seat covers, a sliding centre front armrest, body graphics on the doors and a Special Edition badge. Other equipment on offer includes dual airbags, ABS, rear parking sensors, power adjustable and foldable wing mirrors, height adjustable driver's seat and steering mounted audio controls.



BMW 2 Series Gran Coupé launched

BMW has launched its smallest four-door sedan, the 2 Series Gran Coupé, in India with prices starting at ₹39.30 lakh (ex-showroom, India). BMW has chosen to launch the model with just a diesel engine for now; a petrol powertrain is expected later. The 2 Series Gran Coupé sports a typical, new-age BMW look with the front fascia dominated by a bold kidney grille and raked headlamps with double-barrel LED signatures. The profile is in line with larger Gran Coupés with a sloping roofline that ends in a fastback-like rear section with a heavily sculpted boot lid and slim 'L-shaped' LED tail lamps. Unlike other BMW sedans, which feature a longitudinal engine layout and rear-wheel drive setup, the 2 Series Gran Coupé gets a transverse engine and front-wheel drive configuration.

Q AND A WITH HORMAZD



ECU kit for Honda Civic diesel
I plan on buying the new Honda Civic diesel. I liked the way it handled, but it didn't feel as swift as older models. Is it a good idea to add an ECU kit to the new model or modify the engine?

Rahul Suresh, Tiruchi

• You could add a piggyback ECU to drive an aggressive map as per your liking or get a remap done to extract maximum performance from the 1.6-litre iDTEC engine. However, none of these are recommended on a brand-new car as you would stand the risk of losing the warranty on the entire vehicle after modification. Although the all-aluminium Honda diesel engine has robust internals, such core modifications must only be undertaken after the warranty period is over. We would suggest investing elsewhere, but you have fairly limited choices in this car segment.

Looking to upgrade
I own a 2018 Tata Hexa XTA but would like to upgrade to a better one. Which one do you recommend?

B Rathish, Sholinghur

• The Hexa is the best Tata product but it has been discontinued. There is no replacement for it, and we suggest you hang onto your Hexa. You could wait for the Tata Gravitas which also has three rows but, it won't be as comfortable. Another option is the Ford Endeavour, but it is more expensive.

Hormazd Sorabjee is the editor of Autocar India.
Mail your feedback and queries to
roadshow@thehindu.co.in

The new Hornet is not an eye wash with fancy bodywork, but a truly improved version



RISHAAD MODY
Honda's new Hornet 2.0 is not just a replacement with incremental improvements, it also gets a bigger engine along with a new chassis and the promise of a sportier character. While the overall silhouette is similar, most of the body panels have been changed for India.

The LED headlamp is redone while the gold-coloured USD fork is unique in this segment. A new engine cowl also adds to the sporty stance. With its larger tank extensions, the body looks taut and muscular but the tank still holds the same 12 litres of fuel. The ignition key slot is now placed at the front of the fuel tank. A new split-seat setup creates a sportier appearance, and the quarter panels at the rear have a more interesting design.

Facing the rider is a negative LCD display with five levels of adjustable brightness, two trip meters, a battery voltage meter and a gear-position indicator. However, the side plastic panels feel a little flimsy and the body-coloured mirrors are quite tacky. The riding position is upright; the seat height is decent and should suit riders of most sizes.

Displacing 184.4cc, this fuel-injected engine is not only 22cc up on the old bike but also produces more power and torque. However, it is quite a simple two-valve, air-cooled, SOHC unit that has the same smooth feel and whiny intake sound that is typical of small-capacity Hondas.

Better than average
Peak power is rated at 8,500rpm and you do feel the engine starting to get a little flat above this. Nevertheless, the engine pulls cleanly from low revs, and there is a nice surge that develops when you cross

Sporting flair to the fore



SPECIFICATIONS

ENGINE	184.4cc, single-cylinder, fuel-injected
MAX POWER	17.3hp at 8500rpm
MAX TORQUE	16.1Nm at 6000rpm
GEARBOX	5-speed
L/W/H	2047/783/1064mm
WHEELBASE	1355mm
WEIGHT	142kg
GROUND CLEARANCE	167mm
FUEL TANK CAPACITY	12 litres
BRAKES (FIR)	276mm disc 220mm disc
FRONT SUSPENSION	USD fork
REAR SUSPENSION	Monoshock

6,000rpm. Midrange performance is clearly the goal and the Hornet 2.0 feels punchy at moderate speeds. The 5-speed gearbox is smooth and light as is the clutch action, and you will appreciate both within the city.



Honda has also kept the gearing quite short and the engine doesn't mind low speeds in higher gears.

What comes as a surprise is how quickly the new Hornet wants to lean into corners. The low 142kg kerb weight helps, but this bike is eager to change direction and the fact that it now runs fatter tyres than before has had no negative effect on its agility. Perhaps, the only thing that still feels a little too soft is the bite from the front disc brake, as the lever needs a hard pull to slow down in a hurry.

At ₹1.27 lakh (ex-showroom), the Hornet costs just ₹1,500 less than the TVS Apache RTR 200 and about ₹2,700 less than the Bajaj Pulsar NS 200. It's refreshing that Honda hasn't simply made another humdrum commuter with fancy bodywork.

Bigger and better The new Hornet boasts a sportier character
■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

SB VIJAYA MARY

Just when you think you have seen the best of the lockdown music productions, there comes another one demanding attention. To mark International Coming Out Day (October 11), India-born British pianist, singer and songwriter Shayan Italia has released his second video, 'Sha La La', a 'Hinglish' (Hindi and English) single with 65 artistes to drive the message 'love without boundaries'. "I've never looked at the world by country, religion, caste or culture. There are no borders for me in creativity," explains Shayan.

Excerpts from an interview:

Was the song influenced by Carpenters and Vengaboys?

• The Carpenters definitely. 'Yesterday Once More' is a classic and one of my late mum's favourites. My purpose of creating 'Sha La La' was that not only must it be relevant in today's age, but also audio-visually bring something thought-provokingly fresh and insightful to the world of new-age Indian pop music, which I believe, if steered in the right direction, could acquire a global audience like mainstream Spanish music has today.

Did you have any apprehension before finalising the storyboard that contained sensuous visuals?

• Muni Agarwal, the video's director, and I lived with the storyboard for nine months before taking it to the floor to shoot the video. If you access the concept page of the 'Sha La La' website, you will understand exactly how the storyboard flows in six distinct parts. I have always written songs or made videos on what feels right to me; I have never considered public opinion. To me the ideology of "Love. Without boundaries." is a universal one.

Do share how the large team of creatives,



A global coming out song

Shayan Italia's video 'Sha La La' demonstrates how creativity transcends boundaries



technicians and artists have come together for this project.

• The song was recorded at some of the world's best studios [where I have been recording since I was a boy].

Universal story
(Above) Shayan Italia; (left) a still from the poster of 'Sha la la' • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

These include Air, Metropolis, Abbey Road etc in London. I tend to record certain parts in certain studios to get a specific sound. I also like recording some parts to tape and then converting it digitally. The Hindi vocals were recorded at Purple Haze studios in Mumbai, [and on a ribbon mic might I add, which is very difficult to sing into]. The music features a plethora of legendary talent whose contribution to the international music industry is unquantifiable. I personally mastered the track using analogue equipment. I cannot stand how some new-age stuff is mastered. It is so loud and deafening, even at lower volumes! Music for me has to possess dynamics.

The video features ace production house Benetone Films with local talent from Mumbai. It was shot in Bangkok, Thailand. A lot of recce and casting work was done remotely, then on-ground before the video was shot. It was a very intensive back-to-back three-day shoot. The 21-strong cast makes it a truly international project. This again was very important for me to achieve with this song.

Any inclination towards Bollywood?

• I believe I could contribute to an Indian film in setting a theme or song that would resonate with the audience, with its melody broken down into various parts throughout the film [like the theme of *Titanic*]. For now, my focus is on growing 'Sha La La' and launching a wellness app soon. But if a big production house wanted, I would definitely explore the opportunity. It just can't be conventional. I don't do conventional.

Bicycle journalism

The news documentary series *Corona Cyclips* unpacks stories from a 600-km cycle journey of two journalists covering the migrant labour crisis during the pandemic



On the road
Dibyaudh Das (left)
and Sruthin Lal • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

PRAVEEN SUDEVAN

the people coming into the State," says Sruthin.

Sruthin says travelling in cycles helped them get such stories. He calls it 'slow journalism', wherein one stops, observes and investigates upon noticing something interesting. His colleague concurs. "A lot of people helped us because we were on cycle. I think they could relate to us. It's not the same as getting out of an AC car and putting mics in front of them. It was also easy to access some villages that wouldn't have been possible with bigger vehicles. It saved us from having to look for fuel as well during the lockdown."

The journey, amidst a heatwave and a raging pandemic, was expectedly arduous. "My whole body was sore after the first day," says Dibyaudh. "But we were live-blogging our journey. We shared stories of people who were in need of help, and noticed immediate feedback. A lot of people got help. That kept us going."

The reverse migration of labourers from cities to their hometowns was largely a story of heartbreak. Tens and thousands of them traveled over 100 miles on foot, without food, for days. *The Guardian* called it "the greatest exodus since partition". The documentary, apart from capturing this, also covers moments of benevolence.

"Throughout our journey, we saw people – Panchayat workers, officials, *dhaba* owners – providing food and water to labourers. In Vrindavan, for instance, we met some villagers who make *tulsi malas* for a living. Their livelihoods were hit badly due to the lockdown. But they came together to help the migrant labourers. They pooled in money and food grains and fed

Another concern they had was COVID-19 itself. "In May, the villages were largely uninfect. Since we were travelling from cities and towns, we were doubly careful about not contracting the virus and spreading it in the villages," says Dibyaudh. The entire documentary has been filmed using a mobile phone. "We carried a tripod, but it wasn't needed much," says Sruthin, "You don't need a lot of resources to tell a story. That was our biggest takeaway. All you need is a mobile phone. With social media, you can create an immediate impact as well."

The labourers' stories, Sruthin feels, have already been forgotten. "The media and the people seem to have moved on from the issue. I hope this documentary's release serves as a reminder."

The docuseries can be viewed on the Asaville YouTube channel.

Hundred ways to say 'I LOVE YOU'

"You know, I personally did believe that. Maybe not dead perhaps, just that we don't have time for it. But the more I spoke to people, the more I realised that it's not dead, it has just evolved."

For over 50 years now, the westernised idea of romance – chocolates, flowers, violins – has elbowed its way into our imagination. "My understanding of romance had been the commercial version we have seen in pop



culture," she says, adding that this made her pit love against romance. "After over 20 interviews, I understood that there is a lot more to it."

The podcast is divided into eight episodes of music; food; wedding; travel; film, TV and literature; social media; and mind, heart and body. In the film section, for instance, Kaneez speaks to Imtiaz Ali, Anupama Chopra and Anu-

ja Chauhan about how chemistry is built between characters, what the common tropes are and the most iconic couples. The podcast also gets on board neurologists like Dr Siddharth Warrier to explore the biological and psychological aspects of falling in love.

"Everyone experiences romance differently," says Kaneez, adding, that she especially loved observing how romantic people can get about their passion too. "You should hear Ranveer Brar describing his most romantic meal. 'A dollop of ghee, a drizzle of chilli oil and crushed papadam'. I was like oh my God how do you make khichdi so sensual?"

But, with the easy availability of options on dating apps becoming greater than ever, do we value people lesser? Have our expectations from our partners changed?

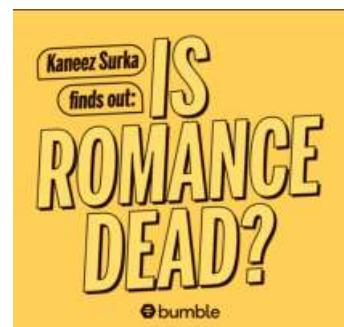
"In one of the interviews, I did question if our fast-paced life of meeting so many new people was why romance was dying a little bit. But once it gets pointed out to you, you understand that no, it's evolving for us to have more op-

tions. It is the same way not just with love, but also our careers; the things we buy. That is just the pace of the whole world, I am not saying it's a good or a bad thing, but when everyone's doing it, it becomes the culture," she says.

As for our expectations, Kaneez believes they are more a result of age. "Marriage for instance, is not important anymore for me. Like, I am watching *Tidying Up with Marie Kondo* right now and I think I need a partner who can live a minimalist life and let go of things. I think about practical compatibility more than anything else now."

For now, the comedian has taken to dating via apps, and is horrified at the common phenomenon of 'ghosting'. Having experienced it once, she says, "I know I sound like a complete dating noob, but where are your manners! All you need to do is say 'I don't think this is going anywhere. I really enjoyed chatting with you, but I think it's time for me to move on, all the best with your life.'"

Coming to think of it, an auto-fill option with that very text would not be bad. Is Bumble listening?



Looking for chemistry? Kaneez (right) brings in guests from all walks of life in the podcast • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Kaneez on a quest to understand the idea of romance through music, food, films, travel and books. Guests from different walks of life, include singers Vishal Dadlani and Nikhil D'Souza, chefs Ranveer Brar and Pooja Dhingra, filmmaker Imtiaz Ali, costume designer Neeta Lulla and more.

So, what is the result? Is romance dead? Kaneez answers with a laugh,

+ In her new podcast *Is Romance Dead?* produced by Bumble, comedian Kaneez Surka dissects how our ideas of courtship have evolved

SWETA AKUNDI

In one of the funnier moments of Kaneez Surka's new podcast, *Is Romance Dead*, the improv comedian considers changing her career to an international spy. "I can find out so much with so little information," she says. "Who is that hot-type you bumped into while buying *bainagan* [brinjal]? Is that guy ghosting you or really doing a social detox?" – Kaneez masi will have the answers.

The episode, titled 'Social media and romance', in which she dissects if social media takes the magic and mystery out of dating, is the first in this series produced by Bumble. The podcast (which can be streamed in all platforms) sees

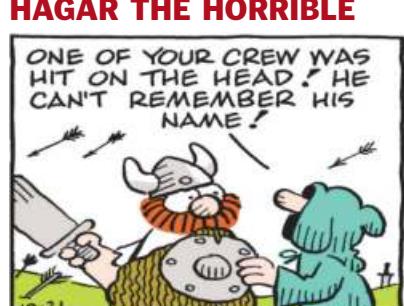
POOCH CAFE



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



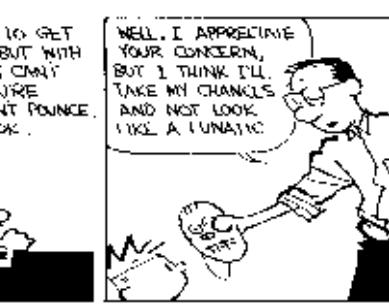
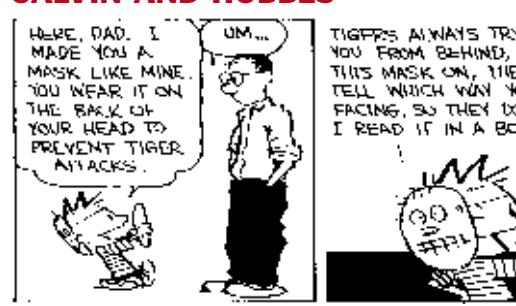
PEANUTS



TIGER



CALVIN AND HOBBES



Fauci is a terrific guy but not a team player, says Trump

But he adds that he gets along with the nation's top infectious disease specialist

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON

A day after claiming that the American people were tired of listening to Dr. Anthony Fauci, President Donald Trump insisted on Tuesday that he gets along with the nation's top infectious disease specialist while also complaining that the doctor, who has clashed with him at times over the coronavirus pandemic, was not a "team player."

Mr. Trump's strained relationship with Mr. Fauci has political overtones as the President defends his record on the coronavirus issue just two weeks before Election Day. Polls show him trailing Democrat Joe Biden in key battleground States, but Mr. Trump says he's confident of victory.

"He's a nice guy," Mr. Trump said of Mr. Fauci in a telephone interview with 'Fox & Friends' from the White House ahead of an evening rally in Erie, Pennsylvania. "The only thing I say is he's a little bit sometimes not a team player," Mr. Trump said, denying that the two were "at odds".

The President late on Monday wound up a western swing facing intense pressure to turn around his campaign and hoping for the type of last-minute surge that gave him a come-from-behind victory four years



Booster dose: President Donald Trump speaking at a campaign rally in Tucson, Arizona. ■ AP

ago. But his inconsistent message, another rise in coronavirus cases and his attacks on experts like Mr. Fauci could jeopardise his final efforts to appeal to voters outside his most loyal base.

"I'm not running scared," Mr. Trump told reporters during the trip. "I'm running angry. I'm running happy, and I'm running very content 'cause I've done a great job."

Mr. Trump's aggressive travel comes as he plays defense in States he won four years ago, though the Republican President insisted he was confident as he executed a packed schedule despite the pandemic.

Seeking to shore up the morale of his staff amid growing private concerns that he is running out of time to make up lost ground, Mr. Trump blasted his government's own scientific experts as too negative, even as his handling of the pandemic, which has killed more than 220,000 people in the U.S., remains a central issue to voters.

"People are tired of hearing Fauci and all these idiots," Mr. Trump said. "Every time he goes on television, there's always a bomb. But there's a bigger bomb if you fire him. But Fauci's a disaster."

Mr. Trump and Mr. Biden

will face off in the final debate this week.

Mute button

The debate will feature a mute button to allow each candidate to speak uninterrupted, the organisers said, looking to avoid the disruptions that marred the first matchup. The Trump campaign voiced objections to the change – made after the President repeatedly talked over both Mr. Biden and the moderator at last month's debate in violation of its agreed-upon rules – but said the Republican would still take part in the Thursday night event.

(With Reuters inputs)

Thailand shuts down news site linked to ex-PM

It was under fire for coverage of protests

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BANGKOK

A Thai news outlet connected to exiled former premier Thaksin Shinawatra was ordered to close on Tuesday over its coverage of anti-government protests that have rocked the capital for nearly a week.

Voice TV, a website partly owned by Mr. Thaksin's family, was one of four media organisations under investigation.

Thousands of protesters have massed daily in the capital since last week, flouting an emergency edict prohibiting gatherings of more than four people.

The largely leaderless

youth movement is calling for the resignation of Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha – a former army chief and mastermind of a 2014 coup – as well as a re-writing of the military-drafted Constitution they say rigged last year's election in his favour. They are also calling for the reform of the kingdom's powerful and ultra-wealthy monarchy.

Media freedom is important but in some cases there are some media outlets disseminating distorted information that is inciting unrest," Mr. Prayut said after a court order following a complaint from the Digital Economy Ministry.

The controversial 20th Amendment aimed at enhancing the Sri Lankan President's powers cleared its first hurdle when the country's Supreme Court cleared it for passage. However, it identified four clauses that is said would require approval by the people at a referendum.

Informing Parliament of the top court's position on Tuesday, the Speaker said the proposed sections, including those exempting the President from being answerable to Parliament and providing him immunity from lawsuits, were against public sovereignty, and the

reform needed approval in a public referendum, unless the sections are amended in line with the court's determination.

The Supreme Court's determination came consequent to 39 petitions filed by

Counting extension allowed in U.S.

SRI RAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON

In a victory for Democrats, the Supreme Court of the U.S. declined to stay a Pennsylvania Supreme Court order allowing some postal ballots received for up to three days after Election Day to be tallied, provided they are postmarked by November 3. Republicans had approached the U.S.'s top court for an emergency stay on the extended counting period – a special accommodation for the pandemic.

Both President Donald Trump and his Democratic opponent Joe Biden are hoping to win this crucial swing State, which Mr. Biden is leading overall, as per polls. Mr. Trump won the State by less than a percentage point in 2016.

A stay on the Pennsylvania Supreme Court order permitting extended counting would have needed the assent of at least five U.S. Supreme Court judges. With Chief Justice John Roberts siding with the liberal judges, the Bench was tied four and four. As is normal for emergency rulings, no reasoning was provided by the court.

The ruling renews focus on how election-related judgments will go with a new potential justice – Amy Coney Barrett (a Trump nominee) – who could be confirmed by the U.S. Senate as early as next week in time for the elections.

Sharif's daughter booked for holding anti-govt. rally

She called Imran a puppet of the Army

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LAHORE

Former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's daughter and Opposition Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's vice-president, Maryam Nawaz, was on Tuesday booked along with more than 2,000 party members for holding an anti-government rally in Lahore.

The rally by the 11-member Opposition alliance Pakistan Democratic Movement was held here on October 16 before the Gujranwala public meeting. Ms. Maryam had openly called Prime Minister Imran Khan a "coward, selected and puppet" in the rally, saying he hid behind the Army to cover up his *nalaika* (bad governance).

She dared the "selected" Prime Minister to arrest her as she is not afraid of going to jail.

The Pakistan Army, which has ruled the country for more than half of its 70 plus years of existence, has hitherto wielded considerable power in the matters of security and foreign policy.

Husband named in FIR

The First Information Report (FIR) was registered for chanting slogans against the government and the state institutions, causing trouble for citizens, blocking roads, using loudspeakers and microphones, and violating coronavirus standard operating procedures.



Maryam Nawaz

Ms. Maryam's husband Capt. (retd) Mohammad Safdar was also named in the FIR. He was earlier arrested in Karachi for allegedly violating the sanctity of Quaid-e-Azam mausoleum. He was later released on bail.

Probe ordered

Pakistan Army chief Qamar Javed Bajwa on Tuesday ordered an inquiry into the "incidents" that took place in Karachi.

Shehbaz Sharif sent to jail

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LAHORE

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) chief and Opposition Leader in the National Assembly, Shehbaz Sharif, was sent to jail on Tuesday in a money laundering case.

Mr. Shehbaz, the younger brother of three-time former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, was arrested by the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) on September 28 after a court here rejected his bail application in the Rs 700 crore money laundering case.

Next day, the 69-year-old former Chief Minister of Punjab province was sent on a physical remand by an accountability court.

On Tuesday, an accountability court of Lahore rejected the NAB's plea seeking further extension to his physical remand.

'No questions asked'

Mr. Shehbaz told the court that NAB didn't ask any questions about money laundering during his three weeks detention.

Talking to reporters, Mr. Shehbaz criticised the Imran Khan government for arresting Mohammad Safdar, son-in-law of Nawaz Sharif.

Mr. Shehbaz also termed unholy alliance of Imran Khan and NAB behind political victimisation of opposition leaders. He has been shifted to Kot Lakhpat jail in Lahore.

'Amendment needs referendum'

Sri Lanka's top court identifies clauses in legislation that need public approval

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO



Gotabaya Rajapaksa

Opposition parties and civil society groups, challenging the 20th Amendment Bill, based on arguments that "it impacts the sovereignty of the people" and seeks to make the judiciary and legislature "subservient" to the executive.

Unbridled powers

Following up on its poll promise, the Rajapaksa administration introduced the 20th Amendment Bill in order to roll back the 19th Amendment, a 2015 legislation that clipped presidential powers and empowered Parliament.

As per the proposed Bill, the President will have unbridled powers, while the Prime Minister's office will

be reduced to a ceremonial one. Though Opposition parties have expressed fear that the Bill threatens to reduce the legislature to a "rubber-stamp Parliament", wider Opposition emerged more recently, including from members of the influential Buddhist clergy, Catholic bishops and the National Christian Council.

While it remains to be seen what amendments the government might bring in, the Bill will be debated in Parliament on Wednesday and Thursday. If the four provisions cited by the Supreme Court are suitably amended, the Bill can be passed with a two-thirds majority.

Russia offers U.S. freeze on N-warhead numbers

It wants arms reduction deal extended

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MOSCOW

Russia said on Tuesday it was ready to offer the U.S. a mutual one-year freeze on the number of nuclear warheads held by both countries in order to extend a landmark arms reduction deal due to expire next year.

"Russia offers to extend the New START by one year and is ready to take on a political commitment with the United States to freeze the number of nuclear warheads both sides have for this period," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

Russian President Vladimir Putin last week proposed extending by one

year the New START treaty, which caps the number of nuclear warheads held by Washington and Moscow and expires on February 5, +

The White House described the proposal as a "non-starter" unless accompanied by a freeze on the number of nuclear warheads.

The Ministry said the suspension could only take place on the understanding that there were no "additional" demands from the U.S.

But it added the extra time gained could be used for talks on the future control of nuclear weapons.

China's super rich got \$1.5 tn richer during pandemic: report

The country now has a total of 878 billionaires

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BEIJING

China's super wealthy have earned a record \$1.5 trillion in 2020, more than the past five years combined, as e-commerce and gaming boomed during pandemic lockdowns, an annual rich list said on Tuesday.

An extra 257 people also joined the billionaires club in the world's number-two economy by August, following two years of shrinking

membership, according to the Hurun Report.

The country now has a total of 878 billionaires. The U.S. had 626 people in the top bracket at the start of the year, according to Hurun in February global list.

The report found that there were around 2,000 individuals with a net worth of more than 2 billion yuan (\$300 million) in August, giving them a combined net worth of \$4 trillion.

Jack Ma, founder of e-commerce titan Alibaba, once again topped the list after his wealth surged a whopping 45% to \$58.8 billion as online shopping firms saw a surge in business.

He was followed by Pony

Ma (\$57.4 billion), boss of gaming giant Tencent who made an extra 50% despite concerns about his firm's U.S. outlook after it was threatened with bans there over national security fears.

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH APEWIDC, VIJAYAWADA

No: 9-76, Sai Fortune Heights, Block-A, Vaddeswaram, Guntur (DT) - 522 502

National Competitive Bidding

e-procurement Notice Inviting Tender

e-mail: apewidc.mdpeshi@gmail.com, Phone No: 9704701236 & 08645295758

NIT No: 77/MD/APEWIDC/VJA/2020-21 Dated: 20.10.2020

Tenders are invited on e-procurement from Original Equipment / Product manufacturers of Green Chalk Boards @ an ECV of **Rs.56.64 Crores** to the Government Schools (Educational Institutions) in Andhra Pradesh.

Submission of Tender through Online: From 20-10-2020 to 04-11-2020 up to 16.00 Hrs and opening on : 04-11-2020 at 16.30 Hrs. And **Display & Finalization of Samples on or before 03.11.2020 @ 5.00 PM (no Relaxation of time unless specifically notified)** at HO APEWIDC. For all details, visit e-procurement Platform @ www.apewidc.gov.in.

Note: Changes / Modifications if any will be communicated through the above e-Procurement platform only.

Sd/- Managing Director, APEWIDC, Vijayawada

Door No: 9-76, Sai Fortune Heights, Block-A, Vaddeswaram, Guntur (DT) - 522 502

Government of India
BHABHA ATOMIC RESEARCH CENTRE

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed Tenders are invited by Deputy Establishment Officer(R-IV), Bhabha Atomic Research Centre on behalf of the President of India from reputed and experienced advertising agencies in two parts (Part A-Techno-Commercial Bid and Part B- Financial Bid) for the following work

Tender No. BACR/PD/10(1)/2020-R/IV

Name of the work Release of various advertisements in Print Media meant for tender notices, recruitment notices and other classified advertisements directly to newspapers empanelled with DAVP at DAVP approved rates.

Estimated cost (Approx.) ₹ 2.5 crore

Earliest Money Deposit ₹ 5 Lakh

Cost of Tender Document ₹ 1500/- (non-refundable fee payable in the form of Demand Draft/Pay order drawn in favour of "Accounts Officer, BARC" payable at "Mumbai")

Period of contract 24 Months

Security Deposit 2.5% of Tendered Value (to be recovered from bills)

Performance Guarantee 5% of Tendered value in the form of DD/BG (before commencement of work within 15 days of receipt of work order)

Last Date and Time for sale of Tender Downloading 02/11/2020 at 1700 Hrs

Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tender 12/11/2020 at 1400 Hrs

Date and time of Opening of Tender 13/11/2020 at 1500 Hrs at North Gate Reception

2. Tender documents along with agreement incorporating terms and conditions and eligibility criteria can be downloaded from BARC Website <http://barc.gov.in/tenders>. Quotes against downloaded documents are to be submitted along with non-refundable tender fee. EMD and tender fees as above should accompany the quote in separate envelopes with superscription of content without which quote is liable to be rejected.

3. Prospective bidders viewing this notice are required to constantly monitor our web site <http://barc.gov.in/tenders> for any amendments/corrigendum that may be issued from time to time. No separate amendment will be

MARKET WATCH

	20-10-2020	% CHANGE
Sensex	40,544	-0.28
US Dollar	73.49	-0.16
Gold	50,860	-1.70
Brent oil	42.55	-1.12

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	348.95	+1.40
Asian Paints	2118.50	+48.40
Axis Bank	493.95	+1.00
Bajaj Auto	3004.20	+24.20
Bajaj Finserv	5951.85	+29.25
Bajaj Finance	3362.15	+5.05
Bharti Airtel	405.00	+3.30
BPCL	343.35	+3.30
Britannia Ind	3553.15	+219.30
Cipla	764.30	+0.30
Coal India	113.65	+1.05
Divis Lab	3085.75	+7.65
D Dr Reddy's Lab	5071.15	+13.00
Eicher Motors	2194.45	+3.70
GAIL (India)	85.70	+1.75
Grasim Ind	777.20	+4.05
HCL Tech.	879.65	+34.90
HDFC	2015.30	+16.20
HDFC Bank	1223.95	+20.40
HDFC Life	571.00	+0.50
Hero MotoCorp	3237.60	+11.10
Hindalco	180.80	+1.90
Hind Unilever	2173.10	+4.70
ICICI Bank	414.60	+2.50
IndusInd Bank	625.25	+1.85
Infosys	1137.50	+11.60
Indian Oil Corp	75.05	+1.75
ITC	167.45	+0.80
JSW Steel	318.70	+5.20
Kotak Bank	1368.80	+7.90
L&T	917.30	+14.40
M&M	602.25	+4.80
Maruti Suzuki	6844.60	+7.35
Nestle India Ltd.	1625.55	+159.40
NTPC	80.65	+1.00
ONGC	67.40	+1.90
PowerGrid Corp	157.20	+2.55
Reliance Ind	2155.90	+20.30
SBI Life	800.75	+2.45
State Bank	203.05	+0.95
Shree Cement	21184.80	+82.55
Sun Pharma	486.35	+2.70
Tata Motors	129.65	+1.40
Tata Steel	392.40	+3.10
TCS	2739.00	+27.45
Tech Mahindra	849.85	+25.70
Titan	1233.50	+4.70
UltraTech Cement	4544.35	+29.75
UPL	455.95	+7.50
Wipro	346.75	+3.55

EXCHANGE RATES

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	73.26	73.58
Euro	86.49	86.87
British Pound	95.04	95.46
Japanese Yen (100)	69.40	69.71
Chinese Yuan	10.97	11.02
Swiss Franc	80.68	81.04
Singapore Dollar	53.98	54.23
Canadian Dollar	55.59	55.84
Malaysian Ringgit	17.64	17.74
Australian Dollar	51.56	51.80

Source: Indian Bank

IN BRIEF

Indian Bank, IIT-M in pact for start-up funding	
CHENNAI	Public sector lender Indian Bank, in collaboration with IIT Madras Incubation Cell (IITMIC), has unveiled 'Ind Spring Board,' an initiative for funding start-ups.
Under the MoU, IITMIC will refer start-ups with proven technology and established cash flows to the bank. The bank, in turn, will extend loans of up to ₹50 crore to these units, said a top official at the Chennai-based bank.	
Jio, Qualcomm complete tests for 5G product	NEW DELHI
Qualcomm and Reliance Jio said they had aligned efforts to fast-track development and roll-out of an indigenous 5G network. Using Qualcomm technology, Jio has indigenously developed a 5G RAN product that has achieved ultra-high throughputs. The product had been tested by a tier-1 carrier in the U.S., said Mathew Oommen, president, Reliance Jio. PTI	
TVS Motor, Disney unveil SuperSquad scooter	CHENNAI
TVS Motor, in association with Disney India's consumer products business, on Tuesday unveiled the SuperSquad Edition of its NTorq 125 scooter, inspired by Marvel's Avengers. The scooter comes in 3 colours — Invincible Red, Stealth Black and Combat Blue, inspired by Iron Man, Black Panther and Captain America respectively. It is priced at ₹85,922 (ex-showroom, Tamil Nadu).	
Sterlite Power secures ₹2,070-cr. debt funding	MUMBAI
Sterlite Power Ltd. on Tuesday said it had achieved financial closure for its Vapi II North Lakhimpur Transmission Ltd. (VNLT) project by securing the entire debt funding of ₹2,070 crore from the Power Finance Corporation Ltd. The closure has been achieved within four months of the SPV acquisition of the project, said Sterlite Power, which acquired VNLT SPV in June.	

HUL net rises 9% on rural sales

FMCG firm cautiously optimistic about demand; declares ₹14 interim dividend

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MUMBAI

Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) major Hindustan Unilever Ltd. (HUL) reported a 9% increase in second-quarter net profit to ₹2,009 crore, aided by a robust performance in rural markets while demand in urban areas, especially in metropolitan cities, remained muted.

Sales climbed 16% to ₹11,276 crore. However, excluding the impact of the merger of GSK Consumer Healthcare and the acquisition of 'VWash' (a hygiene product), turnover rose by 3%.

Double-digit growth
"Health, hygiene and nutrition, forming about 80% of our portfolio, grew in double digits [during the quarter],"

'Sales of manufacturing firms shrank 41% in Q1'

Numbers reflect lockdown impact: RBI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

MUMBAI

Aggregate sales of private sector manufacturing companies recorded a sharp contraction of 41.1% year-on-year in the first quarter of 2020-21, reflecting the impact of the pandemic-induced lockdown, an RBI analysis on Tuesday said.

The data on the performance of the private corporate sector during the first quarter of 2020-21 has been drawn from abridged quarterly financial results of 25,361 listed non-government non-financial (NGNF) companies, the RBI said.

"Aggregate sales of 1,619 manufacturing companies recorded a sharp contraction of 41.1% [y-o-y] in



Weak urban trends: Demand in urban India, especially in metro cities, has been muted, says CMD Sanjiv Mehta ■ REUTERS

the company said in a regulatory filing.

"In the context of a challenging economic environment, our growth has been competitive and profitable," said CMD Sanjiv Mehta.

"Our operations and service levels are now back to pre-COVID-19 levels and we

have accelerated the pace of digitising our operations," Mr. Mehta added.

"The economic outlook has improved given the various initiatives taken by the government and Reserve Bank of India. In our sector, rural markets have been resilient and providing robust

performance but the demand in urban India especially in metropolitan cities has been muted and uncertain. We believe that the worst is behind us and we are cautiously optimistic on demand recovery," he said.

The soaps to packaged foods maker declared an interim dividend of ₹14.

During the quarter ended September 30, the company's household care business did well across all segments led by continued penetration gains. But consumption of laundry products were affected due to confined living in metros.

HUL said while the health, hygiene and nutrition businesses performed well, discretion and out-of-home products lagged as a result of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

'Bidders may get leeway on Air India debt'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI

In a bid to resurrect the privatisation process for Air India, the Centre plans to give flexibility to investors to decide on the carrier's debt, an official said.

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HUL said while the health, hygiene and nutrition businesses performed well, discretion and out

Kings' resurgence continues with impressive win over Capitals

Pooran's rapid fifty trumps Dhawan's historic unbeaten hundred; Rahul's men have now beaten the top three teams back to back and climbed to fifth on the table

IPL 2020

SPORTS BUREAU

The pitches are slowing down in the United Arab Emirates, but nothing seems to be affecting Shikhar Dhawan.

The Delhi Capitals opener scored his second successive hundred (106 n.o., 61b, 12x4, 3x6), but the effort couldn't prevent Kings XI Punjab, which had suffered a Super Over defeat the last time the two sides met, from tasting sweet revenge.

Riding on Nicholas Pooran's 28-ball 53 (6x4, 3x6), KXIP chased down the target of 165 with six balls to spare at the Dubai International Stadium on Tuesday.

Gayle's cameo

Although K.L. Rahul and Mayank Agarwal did not fire, Chris Gayle turbocharged the chase with 29 off just 13 balls (3x4, 2x6).

DC captain Shreyas Iyer had the arsenal to restrict Gayle – R. Ashwin has an excellent record against him – but pacer Tushar Deshpande was introduced ahead of the off-spinner.

The youngster leaked 26 runs, with Gayle tonking him all around the park for three fours and two sixes.

Eventually, it was Ashwin who went through the big man's gate – it was the fifth time he has dismissed Gayle in the IPL.

Audacious strokeplay

But Pooran and Glenn Maxwell (32, 24b, 3x4) added 69 for the fourth wicket to close in on the target, with the



Swinging away: Nicholas Pooran's 28-ball 53 contained six fours and three sixes. ■ BCCI/IPL

former constantly advancing the game with audacious strokeplay.

Indeed, Pooran's six off Marcus Stoinis over long-on was perhaps the shot of the match.

Kagiso Rabada (two for

27), Axar Patel (one for 27) and Ashwin (one for 27) did apply the brakes, but it wasn't enough. As a result, Dhawan's splendid innings ended up on the losing side.

Having made an unbeaten 101 against Chennai Super

Kings in the previous game, the southpaw became the first batsman to score back-to-back hundreds in IPL history.

Dhawan propped up the DC innings, doing the bulk of the scoring, as Prithvi Shaw's



The 5000 club

	Innings	Runs	HS	Avg.	SR	50s/100s
Virat Kohli (RCB)	178	5759	113	38.65	131.36	38/5
Suresh Raina (CSK/Gujarat Lions)	189	5368	100*	33.34	137.11	38/1
Rohit Sharma (Deccan Chargers/MI)	192	5158	109*	31.45	130.74	38/1
Shikhar Dhawan (Delhi Daredevils/MI/Deccan Chargers/SRH/DC)	168	5044	106*	35.02	126.70	39/2
David Warner (Delhi Daredevils/SRH)	135	5037	126	43.05	141.05	46/4

After the KXIP-DC match on Oct. 20

miserable run continued, and Shreyas Iyer, Rishabh Pant and Stoinis couldn't really get going.

Making inroads

KXIP made inroads in the middle overs and its bowling effort in the second half of the innings meant DC was

"about 10 runs short", as per Shreyas' estimate in the post-match ceremony.

Mohammed Shami (two for 28) was excellent again for KXIP.

With the victory, Rahul's men moved to fifth, with eight points, while Shreyas' side remained on top.

SCOREBOARD

DELHI CAPITALS

Prithvi Shaw c Maxwell b Neesham 7 (11b, 1x4), Shikhar Dhawan (not out) 106 (61b, 12x4, 3x6), Shreyas Iyer c Rahul b M. Ashwin 14 (12b, 1x6), Rishabh Pant c Mayank b Maxwell 14 (20b, 1x4), Marcus Stoinis c Mayank b Shami 9 (10b), Shimron Hetmyer b Shami 10 (6b, 1x6); Extras (lb-1, w-3); 4; Total (for five wkt. in 20 overs): 164.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-25 (Shaw, 3.2 overs), 2-73 (Shreyas, 8.3), 3-106 (Pant, 13.4), 4-141 (Stoinis, 17.3), 5-164 (Hetmyer, 19.6).

KINGS XI BOWLING

Maxwell 4-0-31-1, Shami 4-0-28-2, Arshdeep 4-0-30-0, Neesham 2-0-17-1, M. Ashwin 4-0-33-1, Bishnoi 3-0-24-0.

KINGS XI PUNJAB

K.L. Rahul c Sams b Axar 15 (11b, 1x4, 1x6), Mayank Agarwal run out 5 (5b), Chris Gayle b Ashwin 29 (13b, 3x4, 2x6), Nicholas Pooran c Pant b Rabada 53 (28b, 6x4, 3x6), Glenn Maxwell c Pant b Rabada 32 (24b, 3x4), Deepak Hooda (not out) 15 (22b, 1x4), James Neesham (not out) 10 (8b, 1x6); Extras (lb-1, nb-1, w-6); 8; Total (for five wkt. in 19 overs): 167.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-17 (Rahul, 2.2), 2-52 (Gayle, 5.2), 3-56 (Mayank, 5.5), 4-125 (Pooran, 12.3), 5-147 (Maxwell, 15.5).

CAPITALS BOWLING

Sams 4-0-30-0, Rabada 4-0-27-2, Axar 4-0-27-1, Deshpande 2-0-41-0, R. Ashwin 4-0-27-1, Stoinis 1-0-14-0.

Toss: DC; **MoM:** Dhawan.

KXIP won by five wickets with one over to spare.

Next assignment

DC: Oct. 24 vs. KKR
Abu Dhabi: 3.30 p.m. IST
KXIP: Oct. 24 vs. SRH
Dubai: 7.30 p.m. IST

Team may have run out of juice, says Fleming



Despondent: The Super Kings players' body language says it all. ■ BCCI/IPL

S. DIPAK RAGAV CHENNAI

Following its seven-wicket loss to Rajasthan Royals, seventh from 10 matches, Chennai Super Kings' path to the playoffs now looks remote and coach Stephen Fleming conceded that the team is running out of juice with its ageing squad.

"It's fair to say looking at the table now that this team may have run out of juice," said Fleming after the loss pushed the team down to the bottom spot.

If you're looking at a

three-year cycle, we won the first year; lost off the last ball last year. We always thought that the third year with an ageing squad would be difficult. And Dubai (UAE) has challenged us with a whole new set of requirements," he added.

Bravo out for two weeks
Dwayne Bravo, who suffered a right groin injury against Delhi Capitals on Saturday, has been ruled out for two weeks. He is likely to miss the remainder of the league stage.

If you're looking at a

We must keep believing:
Buttler

P.K. AJITH KUMAR KOZHIKODE

Jos Buttler made it all look easy.

On a surface where others struggled to keep the scoreboard ticking, he scored a 48-ball 70 to guide Rajasthan Royals to a badly-needed victory against Chennai Super Kings.

And he did that not in his more accustomed role as an opener, but in the middle-order. "I enjoy both the roles," the star batsman from England said. "I am happy to play wherever the team needs me."

The win allowed Royals to maintain hopes of a place in the playoffs, but they may have to win all the remaining games. "It's very clear what we have to do," Buttler said. "We have to stay very tight as a group and trust each other more, trust our method of playing. We must keep believing."

It needed KKR nine
games, and a change of captaincy, to realise the true potential of the star pacer from

KKR looks to make amends

Had suffered a big loss to RCB in the first leg



Different moods: Russell's form and fitness is a big worry for Morgan. Right: de Villiers has been in good touch. ■ BCCI/IPL

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ABU DHABI

Kolkata Knight Riders has finally found its 'mojo' with the late inclusion of tearaway pacer Lockie Ferguson and it would look to avenge its first leg rout by Royal Challengers Bangalore in the IPL here on Wednesday.

It needed KKR nine games, and a change of captaincy, to realise the true potential of the star pacer from



New Zealand, and when the Eoin Morgan-led side finally brought him in, he blew away Sunrisers Hyderabad with his relentless pace and variations.

Ferguson made the difference to KKR's ordinary show, returning figures of three for 15 (four overs) and two for two off three balls in the Super Over.

A. de Villiers' incredible 73 not out off 33 balls, which

led to an 82-run loss not many days ago, will be still fresh in the minds of KKR players.

However, KKR is still struggling with Andre Russell who capped yet another flop show with the bat. The opposition bowlers seem to have found out his weakness for short balls. If his poor form was not enough, he has picked up some niggles and it would not be a bad ploy to give him a breather.

It will be an MI-DC final, says Aakash Chopra



Former India batsman Aakash Chopra expects MI and DC to square off in the final of IPL 2020.

"I find them very balanced, even though Delhi is now having a fair bit of injury worries. They still have enough resources. I see Delhi-Mumbai as finalists," said Chopra on the *Tissot Presents Sportstar Extras* T20 Time show.

While Chopra predicts RCB to be the third team to make the playoffs, he feels that the competition will be stiffer for the fourth spot. "There will be a scamper for that [fourth] berth. There are quite a few teams that are there, and in the end, it may not be about which is the best of the remaining teams," he said. "The teams with fewer holes will reach the final four and not necessarily the one with the steadiest ship."

Chopra, who played for Kolkata Knight Riders in IPL 2008, says the tournament was like nothing that he had

seen before. "I remember walking out on the field for an IPL game and asking myself and the people around whether we were there to play cricket. Because that was the first time the loudspeakers were at their loudest," he recalled.

The full interview can be watched on:
youtu.be/QCsPoGtaKh8

SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to puzzle 13071

B	A	R	R	A	G	E	M	A	S	S	I	V	E
N	A	O	I	V	O	E							
T	A	N	G	P	I	N	E	L	A	B	D	O	Y
A													

TV PICKS

Champions League: Sony Ten 2 & Six (SD & HD), 10.25 p.m.; Sony Ten 1, 2, 3 & Six 12.30 a.m. (Thursday)

IN BRIEF



Zimbabwe coach Rajput skips Pakistan tour

KARACHI Zimbabwe's Indian cricket coach Lalchand Rajput has not travelled with the team for a tour of Pakistan. In his absence, bowling coach Douglas Hondo will take charge of the team. PTI

Hero World Challenge golf event cancelled

ALBANY (BAHAMAS) The annual Tiger Woods-hosted Hero World Challenge golf tournament, scheduled to take place from December 3 to 6 here, has been cancelled due to travel restrictions imposed amid the COVID-19 pandemic. PTI



Doping charges against Eid Naser dismissed

LONDON The doping charges brought against Bahrain's women's 400m World champion Salwa Eid Naser, 22, have been dismissed, Athletics Integrity Unit announced on Tuesday. She was provisionally suspended in June and charged with failing to meet 'whereabouts' criteria. AFP



Lister becomes first COVID-19 substitute

AUCKLAND Auckland medium pacer Ben Lister on Tuesday became the first COVID-19 substitute in cricket, replacing teammate Mark Chapman in the Plunket Shield First Class championship. The 26-year-old Chapman, who has represented New Zealand in six ODIs and 24 T20Is, reportedly felt sick on Monday, following which he underwent COVID-19 test. PTI

Love downs

Anuj in a thriller

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI Love Kukreja fought hard to oust former champion Anuj Uppal 21-32, 32-42, 40-17, 7-40, 58-53, 40-11; Sunil Kumar bt Sandeep Gulati 25-16, 38-0, 3-46, 39-0, 39-27; Altamash Saif bt Monu Choudhary 36-0, 37-6, 39-13, 12-43, 7-36, 9-55, 41-36.

Extended bio bubbles can cause 'extreme burnout': Morgan, Holder

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA DUBAI Eoin Morgan and Jason Holder have expressed their reservations about players spending long periods of time in bio-secure bubbles, warning that it can lead to "extreme burnout". Both Morgan and Holder have spent time in bio-secure bubbles over the

Jimenez is Wolves' hero

West Brom and Burnley play out a goalless draw

EURO LEAGUES

REUTERS
LONDON

A Raul Jimenez shot that took a heavy deflection off the head of Leeds United midfielder Kalvin Phillips gave Wolverhampton Wanderers a hard-fought 1-0 away win in the Premier League on Monday.

Leeds dominated possession in the opening half, firing crosses into the box at a variety of angles and threatening from set pieces without creating much in the way of clear-cut chances.

Wolves improved greatly in the second half and had a Romain Saiss goal ruled out for offside before Jimenez drifted in from the right and cut back to shoot.

Phillips attempted to head clear, but only succeeded in wrong-footing his goalkeeper.

The victory put Wolves sixth on nine points from



Yay! Jimenez is ecstatic after netting Wolves' winner. AP

five games, behind Leicester City and Arsenal on goal difference. Newly-promoted Leeds is 10th with seven points.

Promoted West Bromwich Albion and Burnley fought out a 0-0 draw after both sides missed chances to register a first win of the season in a pulsating clash.

In Serie A, Genoa held on for a 0-0 draw away to Verona despite having its squad decimated following a COVID-19 outbreak at the club.

The results:

Premier League: Leeds 0 lost to Wolves 1 (Jimenez 70); West Brom 0 drew with Burnley 0.

Serie A: Verona 0 drew with Genoa 0.

EB names 22 Indians in its squad

Jeje and Balwant to be part of the forward line

ISL

AMITABHA DAS SHARMA
KOLKATA

SC East Bengal has named 22 Indians in its squad for the upcoming Indian Super League season. The signings include star forward Jeje Lalpekhlua and the likes of Balwant Singh, Narayan Das, Eugeneson Lyngdoh and Mohammad Rafique.

Jeje, who spent six seasons with two-time champion Chennaiyin FC, is ready to resume action after recovering from a knee surgery he had in May 2019.

"I am hungry to play football again after a prolonged break due to injury. I cannot wait to don the red and gold colours and give my best every time I take the field," Jeje said.

The signings for the ISL leaves out certain names who had completed pre-sea-

son contracts with the erstwhile administration of the East Bengal, which has since been taken over by Shree Cement.

The new club management has assured to honour the contract of those players, numbering about six, if they fail to find any clubs in the ensuing I-League season.

East Bengal's domestic players for ISL: Goalkeepers: Sankar Roy, Debjit Majumder, Mohammad Rafique Ali Sardar, Mirshad Kootapuna; **Defenders:** Gurtej Singh, Narayan Das, Samad Ali Mallick, Lalram Chullova, Mohammed Irshad, N. Rothen Singh, Abhishek Ambekar, Rana Gharami; **Middlefielders:** Sehnaj Singh, Bikash Jairu, Eugeneson Lyngdoh, Yunniam Gopi Singh, Wahengbam Angousana, Mohammad Rafique, Moirangthem Loken Meitei, Surchandra Singh Chandam; **Forwards:** Jeje Lalpekhlua, Balwant Singh.

Narayan Das played all the 18 matches for Odisha FC last season, while Eugeneson began with a lot of promise after joining ATK in the 2017-18 season. Lyngdoh joins East Bengal after spending a season with Bengaluru FC.

"East Bengal is a club with a lot of history and I am thrilled to be a part of that legacy in its hundredth year," Lyngdoh said.

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